

Petworth House and Park Group Bookings Pack

Information for Adult Groups.



What Petworth House and Park has to offer:

- Inspired by Baroque palaces of Europe, the 17th-century Petworth House displays one of the finest art collections in the care of the National Trust. State rooms in the House feature a vast collection of paintings and sculpture, including artwork by Van Dyck, Turner, Reynolds and Gainsborough.
- Petworth House's history has been created by one family over 900 years, with the collection highlighting a journey through history including the Gunpowder Plot and Napoleonic Wars. Collection highlights include the earliest English globe in existence, dating to 1592, and carvings by Grinling Gibbons.
- The Servants' Quarters, including the Historic Kitchens, show a glimpse into the life of the people who worked here.
- Outside, the Pleasure Garden features formal borders, woodland walks, and architectural features, such as the Ionic Rotunda. The 700-acre Deer Park, which was transformed in the 1750s and early 1760s by the landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, is home to ancient trees and fallow deer.

Spanning 900 years of history and passing through just one family, Petworth House came from humble medieval origins before being transformed during the 17th century into a grand mansion to rival the palaces of Europe. With influential guests including royalty and celebrated artists, Petworth's rich history has left its mark through the centuries. Not your average country house home, the family line remains unbroken, and descendants still live at Petworth House today.

Welcome

On arrival our staff will:

- Supply you with a map and give you the opportunity to purchase a more comprehensive guide.
- Supply further information about Petworth House and Park to enhance your visit.
- Scan membership cards.

On arrival we ask that only the organiser of the group attend our main welcome area to let our welcome team know of your arrival – the organiser will be asked how many National Trust members in the group and how many non-members. Payment should be made at the time by the organiser in one payment.

The toilet block is located by the reception car park.

At Petworth House and Park, we offer a mobility buggy for transport between the car park and the House. The car park is 700 metres from the entrance to the House, the buggy is available from the main car park to the courtyard outside reception and can accommodate wheelchairs. Wheelchairs are available at the reception point, and all showrooms are accessible for wheelchair users as they are all at ground level. The buggy, however, has limitations, it can carry a max of 5 passengers, and takes approximately 10 minutes for a round trip (with a coach of 30 people all needing assistance, the final 5 passengers could potentially be an hour behind the first).

Alternatively, the Church Lodge entrance (GU28 0AD) can be used as a drop off only for groups with a greater need of assistance. The coach can stop in the bay for visitors to depart and enter via Church Lodge entrance, the coach can then park in the allocated coach parking at the main car park and return later to the bay at Church Lodge in order to collect the passengers.

Please provide any accessibility needs when booking so that we can tailor your visit to suit the needs of the group.

The Driver of the coach is eligible to a free coffee voucher to be picked up by the organiser when checking in.

How to plan and book your group visit

Contacting us

Group Bookings,
National Trust,
Petworth House and Park,
Church Street,
Petworth,
West Sussex,
GU28 0AE

Tel: 01798 342207

Email: petworthgroupbookings@nationaltrust.org.uk

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

Sat Nav: GU28 9LR

How to book

We ask all groups to book in advance.

The discounted group admission price is only available to groups of 15 or over who book in advance.

For group reduction to apply all admission fees must be made as one payment on the day of your visit by the organiser.

- Contact us to discuss your plans and check dates and times are available.
- You'll find helpful staff ready to assist in planning your visit for maximum enjoyment.
- Return the completed booking form to confirm your booking.
- **Please contact us at least 2 weeks before your visit with final visitor numbers.**

When you contact us to book, we will need the following information:

- Name of group
- Name of group contact
- Visit date
- Arrival time
- Departure time
- Approximate group size
- Contact details (address, phone number and email if available)

To help us ensure you enjoy your visit we:

- Spread the group arrival times throughout the day
- Accept groups Monday to Sunday—**groups must arrive no later than 2.00pm**
- We do not take bookings on **Bank Holidays** or over **Bank Holiday weekends (includes Good Friday)**
Booking for winter is limited so contact us for more details

Payment

- The admission fee for all non-National Trust members must be paid on arrival.
- We are unable to accept payment in advance. We accept credit cards, debit cards, cheques and cash.
- **National Trust members FREE - (Members will need to present their membership card on the day of visit in order to gain free entry).**

Opening Times

Pleasure Gardens						
March - October	10-5	M	T	W	T	F
Servants' Quarters						
March - October	10:30-4.00	M	T	W	T	F
House						
Free flow March - October	10:30-4.30 (last entry to House is 30 mins before it closes)	M	T	W	T	F
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last admission: 30 mins before closing time. • Closed 24th & 25th December. 						
Audit Room Café, Shop & Second-hand Bookshop						
March - October	10:30-4:30	M	T	W	T	F
	Admission (Gift Aid)	Admission (Standard)			Group Rate (15+)	
Adult	£23.10	£21			£19.50 *	
Child	£11.60	£10.50			-	
Family (Up to 2 adults and 3 children)	£57.80	£52.50			-	
Family 1 adult (up to 1 adult and 3 children)	£34.70	£31.50			-	

Admission Prices

*To qualify for **Group** rates, you **MUST** book in advance.

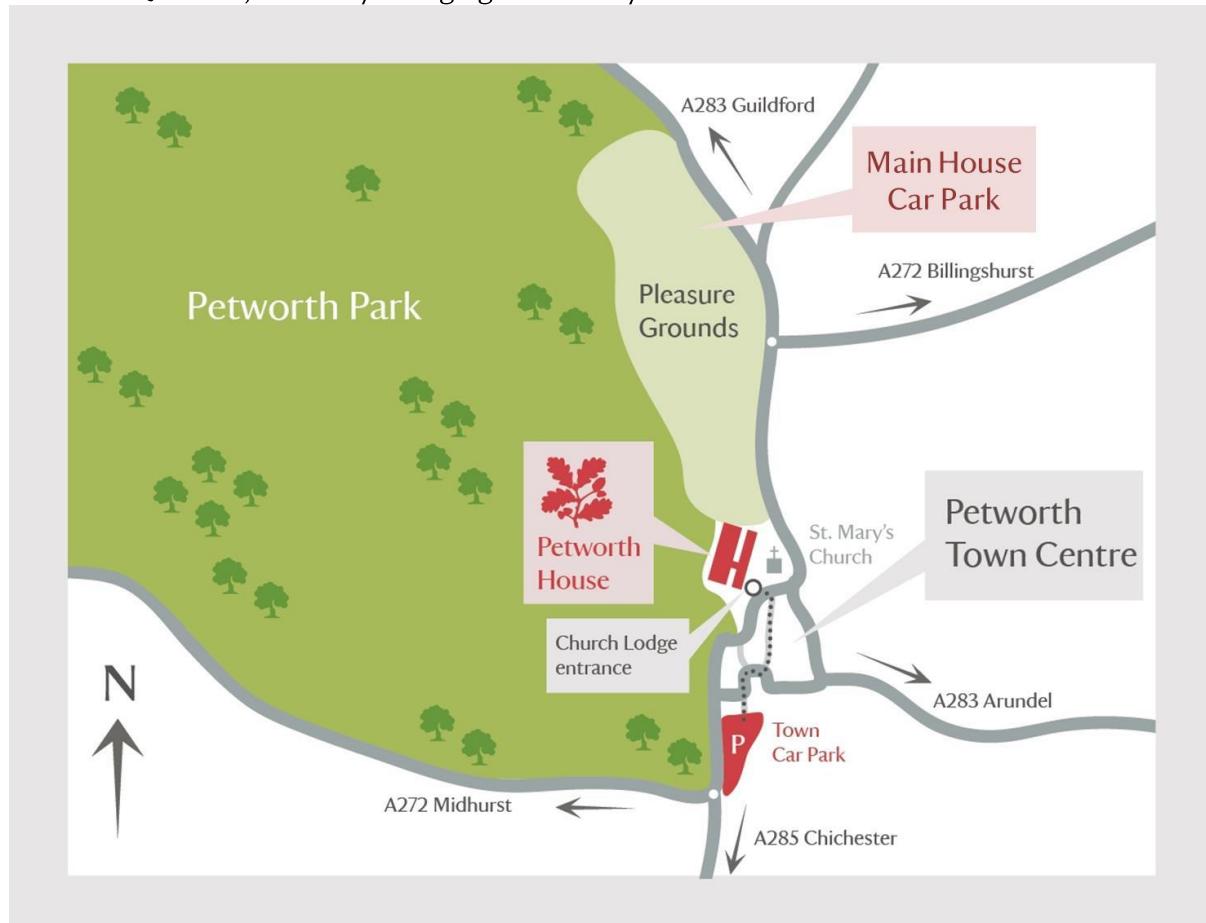
**November-February: Opening times and admission prices vary - check website or call our Group Bookings team for more information. December Bookings limited

National Trust Membership

Members of your group can join the National Trust on arrival at Petworth House and Park and enjoy free access to over 300 historic houses, 200 gardens, 240,000 hectares of countryside and 900 miles of coastline. Please ask staff in reception about joining the National Trust.

Parking

Parking is available for a maximum of 2 coaches. The coach parking is on the right side just after you enter the main gate of the car park, you will need to follow the road round to access this safely. When the coach arrives the toilets are located by the reception in car park as well as in the Servant's Quarters, and baby changing facilities by the Audit Room Café.



- The car park is locked promptly at closing time
Both House and Park car parks are located on the A283;
- Travelling through the Town Centre for the Church Lodge entrance is not suitable for very long vehicles as there is a sharp right-angled bend. Coaches of 2 axles (up to 12 metres in length) can negotiate this bend and most coaches visiting us do so, however, longer coaches in excess of 12 metres are likely to get stuck and should take an alternative route and proceed to the Main Visitor Car Park.
- An alternative route for coaches travelling from the south of Petworth is; 1. A 285 to Petworth 2. Just before Petworth, turn right on A283 to Fittleworth (Haslingbourne Lane) 3. Follow signs for HGV turning right at Edgdean (A283) 4. Follow signs for HGV turning right onto Kingspit Lane (opposite The Welldiggers Arms) 5. Turn left onto A272 for Petworth 6. At mini-roundabout, turn right (back on A283) and follow the signs for the Main Visitor Car Park
- From the north of Petworth taking the A3, at Milford, take the A283 heading south, past Northchapel to Petworth. Follow the brown signs for 'Petworth House Main Car Park' which is on the right.

The Church Lodge entrance is in the town centre (Sat NAV: GU28 0AE). The main car park (Sat NAV: GU28 9LR) for Petworth House is 700 yards from the House.

Arrival & Welcome

- Please will group leaders/organisers report to reception as soon as you arrive.
- Please ask your group to either stay on the coach until admission has been arranged, or for a meeting point to be set up a by the toilet block.

Guided Tours

The House and its collection are managed by our wonderful band of volunteers who are always eager to share their vast knowledge with our visitors including groups.

Whilst we are unable to offer group tours, we offer a free program of public tours most weekdays (excl. public holidays) which are available to all our visitors on a first-come, first-served basis on arrival together with 10-minute Highlight talks which all our visitors can listen to. Our tours and talks are subject to change and **limited in availability**, however, volunteers are always available in each room to answer any questions you may have about the art and collection.

If you would like to sign up to join a tour, please visit house reception to find out what tours are running and to book your time slot.

Catering

Hot and cold homemade lunches are served between 12.00noon – 2.30pm.

The Audit Room Café is self-service, and we are unable to reserve tables in advance or on the day of your visit. There may be queues and limited space during busy times for large groups.

Vegetarian, Vegan and Free From options are available.

In addition to **The Audit Room Café**, our **Pod** is open on the North Lawn by the entrance to the Fire Engine House, serving hot drinks and snacks.

House

The car park is 700 metres from the entrance to the House, there is a buggy available from the main car park to the courtyard outside reception that can accommodate wheelchairs.

Toilets

Toilets located in the car park and Servants' Quarters. Accessible toilets available at both points.

Health & Safety

We actively and regularly monitor and assess all potential hazards for visitors to this property. If you have any concerns regarding this, we will be happy to answer your questions in advance of your visit.

The main hazards we have identified are:

- Stone steps and paths slippery when wet or icy.
- Vehicles in the pleasure grounds and courtyard.
- Deep water in the Upper Pond and Lower Pond located in the Deer Park.

Please refrain from entering the water in Petworth Park. The water quality isn't tested and there is a high risk of waterborne diseases and toxins in standing water. There are also underwater obstructions and no lifeguards to watch over your safety; swimming is not permitted.

In the event of an emergency please inform any member of staff. If there is an accident or near miss when visiting the property, please let us know so that we can record the details.

House and an Art Gallery

Inspired by the imposing palaces of Europe, Petworth House was rebuilt in the 17th century with grand state rooms designed to display wealth, taste and royal connections. Arranged as they were when the 3rd Earl of Egremont lived here, see the state rooms of this English 'Versailles' just as visiting artists like JMW Turner did. Across the courtyard you can explore more about life 'below stairs' in the Historic Kitchens of the Servants' Quarters.

Discover the State Rooms

These rooms were never intended for everyday living so inside you'll find few domestic furniture arrangements; instead, the opulent rooms display one of the finest art collections in the care of the National Trust. The more lived-in part of the house is where today Lord and Lady Egremont continue a tradition of unbroken occupancy.

The Oak Hall

Since at least 1743 this has been the guest entrance to the mansion, and in 1764 this room was called the 'Picture Staircase' as 34 pictures were hung here.

The Somerset Room

Named after the 'Proud' 6th Duke of Somerset (1662-1748) who bought several of the paintings that originally hung here, this room would have formed part of the Duke's much larger Servants' Hall. In 1795 this room was split in two, with half becoming the Square Dining Room.

The Square Dining Room

A watercolour of this room by JMW Turner in 1827 shows it was densely hung with pictures by the 3rd Earl. The team at Petworth used this painting to reconstruct the picture hang of the Earl's design, together with his choice of wall colour.

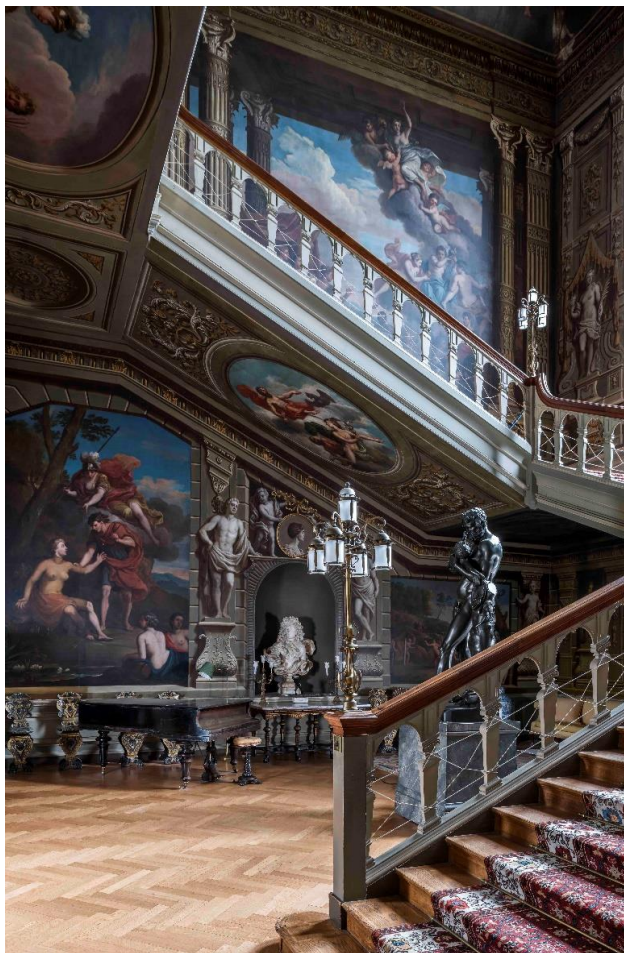
The Square Dining Room is also home to a large group of Van Dyck portraits acquired by the 10th Earl of Northumberland (1602-1668). One is a portrait of the 10th Earl's father, known as the 'Wizard Earl', who was imprisoned in the Tower of London for 16 years.





The Marble Hall

Originally the main entrance and known as the Hall of State, a formal drive led important visitors directly to this beautiful room. It has changed little since it was completed in 1692 and offers a wonderful view across the 'Capability' Brown parkland.



The Beauty Room

The portraits in this room feature women who were part of the close circle of cousins and friends of the 6th Duke and Duchess of Somerset, who rebuilt Petworth House into a Baroque palace. Some of these portraits, which were painted by Swedish artist Michael Dahl (1659-1743) in the late 1690s, were originally full-length but the 3rd Earl of Egremont rolled up the lower part of each canvas to create a shrine below to the leading figures and events of the Napoleonic Wars. These portraits are now in the process of being restored to their full length.

The Grand Staircase

After a fire in 1714, Louis Laguerre painted a series of symbolic murals on the ceilings and walls of the Grand Staircase. They feature Elizabeth, sole heiress of the Percy family, who married the 'Proud' Duke in 1682, enabling the transformation of Petworth with her inheritance.



The Carved Room

This magnificent room is named for the intricate wood carvings by Grinling Gibbons that now frame its pictures, including a famous portrait of Henry VIII from Holbein's studio. Writer and antiquarian Horace Walpole (1717-97) visited Petworth in 1749 and wrote that he saw 'the finest carving of Gibbons that ever my eyes beheld'. You can also get up close to some of Turner's Sussex views, painted here in the early 19th century.

The Red Room

Red has always been a popular colour on which to hang Old Master pictures. This scheme was created by the 3rd Earl in 1806 and restored in 2002 by the team at Petworth, who also reinstated the picture hang according to a watercolour by Turner.



The North Gallery

In the 18th century the 2nd Earl of Egremont built this gallery extension to house his collection of classical sculptures. His son enlarged the gallery and added more contemporary art to the collection, including works by Turner and Blake.

The Chapel

The Chapel is the best-preserved interior from the medieval Petworth. The 6th Duke of Somerset went on to transform it with grand Baroque flourishes including the carved curtain and carved cherubs' heads.

The Servants' Quarters at Petworth House

Built in the mid-18th century, the Servants' Quarters have changed little since Victorian times. The building would once have accommodated around 40 live-in servants, who were needed to support the large estate. In 1829 alone these kitchens served nearly 30,000 guests.



Rooms to see in the Kitchens

- **Scullery:** This room is dominated by the Victorian low-pressure twin-flue steam boiler that produced steam to power the equipment in the kitchen and to heat water.
- **Still Room:** Maids used this room to prepare tea trays and other light refreshments for the family and their guests.
- **Winter Dairy:** Built as part of an extension in 1891 along with the meat larder, these rooms are partly underground to make them cool.
- **Larder:** Before the north end of the Servants' Quarters was extended this was the main larder, later becoming a general food preparation and storage area.
- **Pastry Room:** Away from the heat of the main kitchen, this room provided ideal working conditions for the making of pies, biscuits, cakes and pastries.

Petworth's private rooms During certain parts of the year you can visit some of the domestic rooms used today by Lord and Lady Egremont. Due to the private nature of these rooms, visitors are kindly asked not to take any photos. Opening Times will be between 10:30 to 1:45.

The White and Gold Room and the White Library

Opening Mondays from March
Enjoy the White and Gold Room, which features mid-18th century decoration, and four Van Dyck portraits of English Countesses, thought to be among his best works. The White Library displays J.M.W Turner's wonderful painting of Petworth House viewed from across the upper pond.

The Petworth House Guest Bedrooms

Open Wednesdays from March
See Mrs Wyndham's Suite, which contains the Petworth State Bed, an English rococo masterpiece of the 1750s, as well as the Trellis and Belzamine Suites.

The Pleasure Gardens

The garden at Petworth House was designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown during the 18th century. Brown removed the formal features that had previously existed here and introduced colourful informal planting, winding paths and impressive monuments with views over the surrounding landscape. Open all year round, you're welcome to bring your dog on a short lead to enjoy the garden with you.

Finding your way

The Pleasure Garden lies between the car park and the House. As you make your way through the garden to the courtyard you can enter the House just as guests of the past would have done.

Once you have explored the garden at your leisure you can enter the Deer Park through the iron Tijou Gate beside the house. Please take note of the closing time of the gate if you've parked in the main visitor car park for Petworth House, as these gates are the only way back.



The Iconic Rotunda

Constructed in 1766 at the suggestion of Brown, the Rotunda is similar in style to the Temple of Vesta in Trivoli, Italy. When seen from below, the Rotunda symbolises the difficult and steep path to fame. Designed as one of the two focal points in the Pleasure Garden, it offers panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

The Doric Temple

The temple was relocated from the Deer Park to the garden by Brown in the 1750s before being moved to its current location in 1875. Based on the Doric temples of Greece it is designed to evoke dignity, nobility and antiquity. Today it houses a memorial to Henry Scawen Wyndham (1915-1942), who died in action at El Alamein during the Second World War.

The garden here was historically known as the Pleasure Grounds. This was a popular garden style during the Georgian period where the family and their guests could walk privately or socialise, perhaps over tea or a game of croquet.

During this period, plant collecting in the Americas was becoming popular and pleasure gardens around the country became areas to showcase plants brought to Georgian England from overseas. Alongside being a supporter of the arts, the 3rd Earl of Egremont here at Petworth was a patron of plant collectors and he used the Pleasure Garden to display his own collection of North American trees and shrubs.

Deer Park



The 700-acre Deer Park at Petworth is one of the finest surviving and unspoilt examples of an English landscape designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Boasting far-reaching views of the South Downs, the historic park is an ideal place to escape the crowds, take an invigorating walk and let the children run wild. Petworth Park is open for you and your dog to enjoy every day of the year.

Ancient trees at Petworth

Petworth Park is home to an assortment of ancient and veteran trees, some of which are nearly 1,000 years old. Here are some highlights to look out for:

- Three ancient oak trees, one of which was a sapling during the Norman conquest of 1066 and is likely older than any of the buildings at Petworth.
- The 'Beelzebub' oak dates back to 1779 and marked the parish boundary; it has been suggested that its name came from the superstition that land outside the parish was dangerous.
- Sweet chestnuts up to 600 years old, some gnarled and twisted from lightning strikes.
- A hollow common lime tree, at least 500 years old but able to continue as a hollow shell for hundreds more.

How the park is managed

The grounds are managed sustainably for wildlife and are protected under a Higher-Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England. Please be mindful of the environment and follow the Countryside Code when you visit.



A historic herd

The magnificent herd of fallow deer have called Petworth Park home for over 500 years; they were reportedly hunted by Henry VIII on his visit to Petworth in the 1520s. Today between 700 and 800 deer grace the parkland. You may be able to glimpse a few as you explore.



Audit Room Café

Set in the atmospheric Servants' Quarters, the Audit Room Café serves a range of delicious homemade food and drink options. Seating is available both inside and outside so you can enjoy your pitstop whatever the weather.

The café serves a range of hot and cold drinks and food, including sandwiches, pasties and light meals. You'll also find something to satisfy your sweet tooth with different cakes and scones to choose from. You can sit in the café or order a takeaway to enjoy outside in the Pleasure Garden where courtyard seats and benches are available.

Refreshments

- Situated next to the Church Lodge reception the café is immediately visible.
- The café offers hot and cold beverages including tea, coffee, bottled cold drinks.
- A variety of cakes, scones, bakes, sandwiches, salads, snacks, meals and ice creams are available.
- Hot and cold homemade lunches are served between 12.00noon – 2.30pm.
- Vegetarian/Vegan/Free From options are available.
- Children's options are available.
- Please note that café is self-service, and we cannot reserve tables.

Our Pod serves hot and cold beverages, ice creams, sandwiches, scones and snacks located on the North Lawn and is open daily (weather permitting).

A varied history

By taking a seat in the café and enjoying the refreshments on offer you are continuing a long tradition of merry making here. Originally built as a sculpture gallery in 1836, the room later became a space for hosting large dinners for tenant farmers and even Christmas parties for the servants.

Allergen information

Most of the food and drink served is prepared on site in our kitchen, using a wide range of ingredients. As a result, we can't guarantee that any of our food and drink products are completely allergen free.

If you have an allergy or intolerance and would like ingredient information about the food and drink served, please ask the staff, who will be happy to help.



Servants' Quarters Shop

Situated in what was the Upper Servants' Dining Room, our shop is full of beautiful homeware, accessories and gifts for all ages. Find a range of souvenirs to remind you of your visit to Petworth, including a selection of products featuring an intricate Petworth design by Brighton-based artist Sarah Jones. Products from local makers are also available, including local honey, food and drink, wooden home accessories, felt brooches and pictures of some of our amazing trees.

Petworth plant sales

Before you leave us, stop off at the car park reception area to see our plants and garden accessories. We stock many of the plants that you will find in Petworth's Pleasure Garden so that you can take a touch of our floral beauty back to your own garden. All the plants are UK-grown and 100% peat free. Peat bogs are amongst the rarest and most fragile environments in the UK, and we've been committed to selling peat-free plants for over 10 years. We also have a small number of plants that have been propagated and grown on site.

Petworth House Shop

Discover a range of art and history books that complement the works of the painters and makers displayed throughout the house and tell the stories of the people who lived here. You will also find paints, sketching materials and other art products to help you create your own masterpieces.

The book 'Grinling Gibbons: The Painter in Wood' by Peter Thuring is available exclusively from us. To arrange for purchase and postage please email petworth@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01798 342207.

Second-hand Bookshop

Located opposite the Servants' Quarters Shop, in what was the Lower Servants' Dining Room, the second-hand bookshop is run entirely by volunteers and all the money raised goes towards the conservation of the beautiful House and Park.

From works of fiction to reference books, children's books, DVDs and a selection of special collectible titles, there is something for everyone.

You're welcome to take a seat in the bookshop and enjoy a takeaway coffee from the café while you browse.

We're always grateful for donations of good quality books, and you can bring your books to the Servants' Quarters Shop during open hours. For any large donations, please email petworth@nationaltrust.org.uk to arrange delivery.

Picnics

You're welcome to picnic anywhere in the Deer Park, or on our outdoor picnic tables in the courtyard. The café itself is reserved for customers eating food purchased from the café. Staff in reception can suggest other good locations for your picnic.



Access for all

We try to make a visit to Petworth accessible to as many people as possible. Petworth House and Park is a Grade I* listed property.

All Access Route

Welcome leaflet includes a garden map highlighting the main path, path surfaces, benches, slopes, steps, mobility buggy collection points and toilet locations. House and Servants' Quarters map highlights steps, available ramps, toilets and room locations.

Access information can also be found on our website under facilities and access. Please ask at our reception for further advice.

Seating Available

Wooden benches positioned throughout the garden, wooden benches and tables and chairs in courtyard, tables and chairs in Café and second-hand bookshop, and stools in the house.

Assistance Buggy

A mobility buggy is available from the main car park to courtyard outside house reception. This buggy can accommodate wheelchairs.

Steps/uneven terrain

Uneven terrain and steps on some pathways in the Pleasure Garden (noted in welcome leaflet map) and across Petworth Park. In the House there are steps to access bedrooms, Chapel and higher view at Grand Stairs. Also, to view Winter Dairy, Meat Larder and Estate Offices. Stairs at Audit Room Café (lift available) and Church Lodge reception (ramp available).

Parking

There are 12 dedicated accessible parking bays.

Less mobile visitors can also be dropped off from cars and minibuses near to reception.

Wheelchairs

There are manual wheelchairs available at all three reception points. There is no need to book prior to your visit.

Braille (Guide or Menu)

Braille house guide and map with tactile images available from House reception.

Induction Loop

Located across the whole property at all till points.

Large Print (Guide or Menu)

Large print guidebook of house available from House reception.

Level Access to Shop

Level Access/Terrain

Rooms in Petworth House are on the ground floor with level access (steps to bedrooms). Some steps to access rooms in the Servants' Quarters. The Pleasure Garden has some uneven and sloped pathways, accessible map showing surfaces, steps and slopes available from visitor reception.

Ramped Access/Slopes

Ramp to Church Lodge reception available upon request. Petworth House ground floor access.

We offer these services to help visitors with special needs enjoy their visit, all of which are FREE.