

# Kingston Lacy

## Group Visits to Kingston Lacy

Thank you for your enquiry about visiting Kingston Lacy. We hope that you'll find everything in this guide to help you plan an enjoyable visit. Please read the following information and complete the enclosed booking form, returning it to us by email. We shall then send you an email confirming the date and details of your Group Visit.

### Kingston Lacy Opening Times 2019

<b>HOUSE</b>	<b>Open Every Day</b>
1 March – 27 October 2019	11.00 - 5.00, 7 days a week
<b>PART OF HOUSE: For Exhibition or Seasonal Experience Only</b>	
1 January – 28 February 2019	11.00 – 4.00, 7 days a week
28 October – 24 November 2019	11.00 – 4.00, 7 days a week
29 November – 31 December 2019	11.00 – 4.00*, 7 days a week
<b>Garden, Park, Shop and Café</b>	
Open All Year	10.00-4.00**, 7 days a week

**Last admission to house one hour before closing.**

**House: open by timed entry tickets only, with limited places available on the day. Some rooms and areas may close at short notice (please check before visiting).**

**\*Christmas Experience: Wednesday through to Sunday, house open to 6 and garden (with light displays) to 7.00. Everything closed 16 January and 25 December. \*\* Closes at 6 in main season (1 March to 28 October).**

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Our house is open to all visitors daily; please see our website for public opening times. Please note that house entry is by timed ticket only and the group price list below is for 2019.

Step inside the home of one of the most powerful families of Dorset and discover the history of Kingston Lacy and the flamboyant Bankes family. See one of the finest private collections of paintings in Britain with works by Rubens Van Dyck, Tintoretto, Titian and Brueghel. Also, step back thousands of years and discover the largest private gentleman's collection of genuine Egyptian relics in the UK.

Go for a wander around our gardens and parklands at Kingston Lacy and look out for the ancient Egyptian obelisk, transported all the way to Dorset with the help of the Duke of Wellington, marvel at the Japanese Garden or explore the restored Victorian kitchen garden.

**Enjoy the shelter of the woodland walks, walk amongst the oldest known herd of Ruby Red Devon cattle in the world and let the kids discover the play areas.**

## House Tours (March to October)

All house tours last approx. 60 mins and cost £2.50 a head (recommended for those over 12 years of age).

Due to the small size of many of the rooms these tours are only available before the house opens to the public with the first tour beginning at 10.00 am and last tour beginning at 10.40 am. Up to 15 people per tour and subject to availability.

## House Tour options:

**Tour One** – An introduction to the Bankes family and their incredible home

**Tour Two** – An exploration of an incredible artwork collection and the stories it has to tell



## **Garden Tour Options (March to October)**

All garden tours last approx. 60 mins and cost £2.50 a head. Up to 20 people per tour and subject to availability.

**Tour One** – Kingston Lacy formal gardens; enjoy this overview of the gardens and countryside with treasures, hidden corners and seasonal plants weaved into the Bankes family story.

**Tour Two** – Escape to the orient and explore the Japanese garden; a visit to this area of the garden tells the story of our conservation work, also step into the tea garden to experience its spiritual nature.

### **Take time out for a bite to eat**

The Stables Café at Kingston Lacy is open during property opening hours. Enjoy hot and cold drinks, wholesome soups, light bites, cream teas, fresh cakes, sandwiches and cooked lunches (hot food is served 12.00 pm – 2.30 pm). We strongly recommend that groups book lunch or refreshments in advance (the Coach House can be reserved for groups if available). If you opt for a free-flow lunch or afternoon tea and choose not to book, please be advised that the café can be extremely busy and you may have to queue.

If you fancy a picnic, you are very welcome to collect sandwiches or a take away cream tea from our café, which can also be booked in advance. Alternatively, please bring your own and enjoy relaxing on the south lawn.

**Please indicate on the booking form if you would like to book refreshments or food.**

## **Accessibility**

Our golf buggy, driven by volunteers, runs from the car park to the house, shop, restaurant and a short distance into the gardens. We also have a limited number of self-drive mobility scooters, conventional wheelchairs and mountain trikes. Please indicate on the Group Booking Form under Access requirements if you would like any of these; we will confirm if we can accommodate you.

There is an accessible toilet in the laundry courtyard. The gardens and parkland feature gravel paths. There is level access to the ground floor of the house only, which includes two rooms and a virtual tour. Electric wheelchairs, mobility buggies and pushchairs are not admitted to the house for conservation reasons. Garden tours are fully accessible for wheelchair and mobility scooter users.

## **A sample itinerary**

As a rough guide for planning your day, here is our suggested line-up of timings and activities. On arrival, please remain on the coach, where you will be greeted by our visitor welcome team and given a short introduction to Kingston Lacy. If members can have their membership cards ready as they disembark, these will be dealt with speedily. The person responsible for any required payment for entry can then accompany our team member to the reception building to pay.

**10.00 am** – arrive at Kingston Lacy car park and see note above to assist with a quick transition through reception. You can buy souvenir guide books at the shop and collect a house guide or foreign translations of house guides from the house entrance.

**10.30 am** – house tour, led by one of our passionate volunteers who will tell you some of our fascinating stories.

**11.30 am** – take some time to enjoy the rest of the house in free flow.

**12.30 pm** - refreshments and lunch, head to our stables café to enjoy your pre-booked lunch or pick up a picnic and relax on the lawns.

**1.30 pm** – garden tour, led by our garden guide volunteers who will bring these beautiful outdoor spaces to life for your group.

**2.30 pm** - explore the wider gardens and parkland, there are acres to enjoy.

**3.00 pm** - afternoon tea, take time to pop into our café and enjoy tea and cake. and browse the plants and souvenirs in our shop, in the main courtyard.

**4.00 pm** – depart, head back to the visitor car park to board your coach.

### **To make a booking for your Group Visit**

Please follow these simple steps:

- You have now received your group information guide and booking form (Should you need further copies please download them from our website).
- Next, please complete the form, detailing all of your requirements and return by email.
- We will confirm receipt of your booking request and will then get in touch to confirm your booking or to notify you if any of your requests cannot be met due to availability.
- Please be aware that we have space for a maximum of two coaches in our car park at any one time and require a minimum of **one month's notice for your booking**. We know that it might be difficult for you to confirm final group numbers in advance of your visit. We therefore ask that you contact us **two weeks prior to your booking**, to confirm your final numbers including **the number of National Trust members**. This enables us to welcome you and reduces the time you may have to spend waiting in reception.
- **Please note that there is a minimum charge for 15 people per Group Booking.**
- **Please note that bookings can only be confirmed once we have received your booking form.**
- **We no longer take Group Bookings on Sundays, over school holidays, school half terms, bank holidays and Easter weekend.**

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## Altering or cancelling your booking

Should you need to cancel your booking or make any changes to the details of your booking, please let us know a week in advance.

In case of a delay in arrival or a last minute change on the day, you can call our Group Bookings team directly on **01202 843736** on the morning of your visit from 8.00 am.

We reserve the right to turn away group visits that have not followed the above Procedure. Coaches may not be accepted and standard pricing will be applied for all in the group including Members and vouchers will not be applied.

## Getting in touch

For all general group visit enquiries please email **[groupbookingkingstonlacy@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:groupbookingkingstonlacy@nationaltrust.org.uk)** or call the property on **01202 843736**.

Please return your group visit booking form:

By email to: [groupbookingkingstonlacy@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:groupbookingkingstonlacy@nationaltrust.org.uk)

By post to: Group Bookings  
Kingston Lacy  
Wimborne  
Dorset  
BH21 4EA



# Kingston Lacy

## Group Rate Price List

**Minimum of 15 people per group to qualify for group rates.**

National Trust members gain free entry but charges for tours and catering apply.

Whole property entry (adult): £13.70

Whole property entry (child): £6.80

All tours (adult and child): £2.50

These prices are valid for 2019 only.

Under 5s gain free entry.

Requests for refreshments and lunches will be forwarded to our Food and Beverage Team who will contact you to discuss your requirements and advise prices.

Hire of access equipment and parking is free of charge.

Free entry is granted for group organizers.

Free refreshment vouchers are provided for coach or minibus drivers.

**Payments can either be made in advance via Business Support by ringing 01202 843736, or you can pay on the day at visitor reception.**

**Please make one single payment as a group by cash, card or cheque.**

**We look forward to welcoming you to Kingston Lacy.**

