

# Nymans Group Booking Pack

1 January 2019 – 31 December 2019  
Information for adult groups



## What Nymans has to offer

- Our Grade II\* listed garden is one of the great 20<sup>th</sup> Century gardens with beauty, colour and interest all year round.
- A fascinating collection of beautiful and rare plants from all over the world
- The charming Messel family rooms in the house.
- The story of the creative Messel family which includes the first Lord Snowdon's mother, Anne, Countess of Rosse and her brother the theatrical designer, Oliver Messel.
- Romantic ruins.
- Wonderful views of the Sussex High Weald.
- Ancient woods, lakes, avenues and cascades.
- One of the National Trust's most environmentally friendly gardens
- A selection of drinks and home-made food.
- Nymans Shop selling a large range of products, some locally sourced.
- Nymans Plant Centre selling a wide selection of plants including 'The Nymans Collection' grown in our on-site nursery.
- A range of services to help you enjoy your visit; welcome leaflet, guided tours, mobility buggy tours



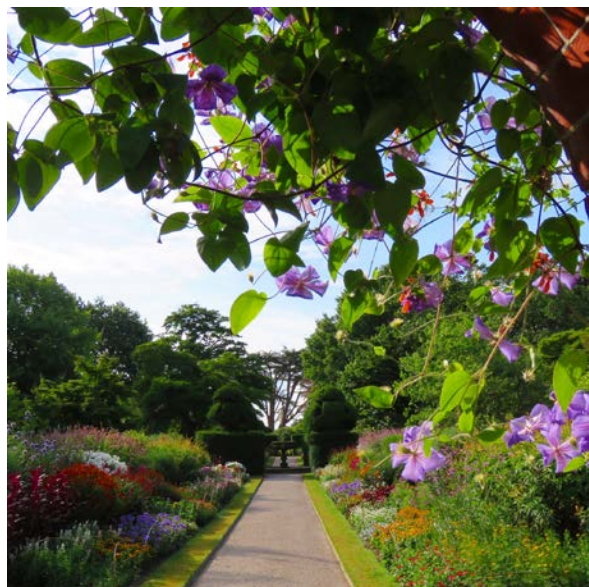
## Nymans map







## Garden and Woods



With a changing palette of colours throughout the seasons, Nymans is a place of innovative garden design with rare and unusual plant collections of national significance.

The garden is 33 acres of formal garden and 20 acres of informal garden, which includes the Wild Garden and Arboretum.

There are many areas of the garden each with its own character and interest.

275 acres of ancient woodland full of wonderful trees and landscape.

Our staff and volunteers are happy to answer any questions you may have.

## House



The House partially destroyed by fire in 1947 is a romantic backdrop to the Grade II\* listed garden. The Messel family's eye for beauty extends to its intimate exteriors, where you can discover their stories, from the Countess of Rosse and Oliver Messel to the photographer Lord Snowdon.

**The ground floor of the Messel family home at Nymans is open to visitors.**

**Open 1 March to 4 November 11.00am-4.00pm**

Upstairs in the house our gallery has exhibitions throughout the year. (the gallery closes for short periods during changeover of exhibitions, please check when you book your visit.)

**There are volunteer stewards to help you enjoy your visit.**

## Welcome

On arrival our staff will

- Greet your group on the coach, and give a brief introduction to Nymans.
- Supply you with a map and give you the opportunity to purchase a more comprehensive guide.
- Supply further information about Nymans to enhance your visit.
- Give details of activities for adults and families (trails etc).

## Guided tours and walks

Guided tours and walks are available and are led by our experienced and knowledgeable garden guides. Choose a time convenient for your group when advance booking your tour. The tours include seasonal highlights, including stars of the Nymans collection. The guide will also share the Nymans story, which includes a brief history of the Messel family and their home, how the gardens were created and how it is being cared for now.

**Guided tours/walks for groups must be booked in advance - Group guided tours are unavailable on Sundays**



## Shop

The large shop has one of the most extensive ranges in the National Trust . There is a wide range of gifts and souvenirs available. We support local producers of wine and beer, preserves, honey & biscuits.

We sell local arts and crafts including products made from wood from our estate. Once through Visitor Reception the Shop & Plant Sales on on the right.

## Plants for sale

- Nymans Shop includes one of the largest plant centres in the South East region selling a wide range of plants and garden related items. The Nymans Collection are plants propagated by the Nursery team at Nymans, often from plants seen in the garden, thus enabling visitors to 'take home a little

piece of Nymans'. The Nymans Collection availability will vary depending on the time of year.

## Refreshments

- Once through Visitor Reception the Café is immediately visible
- The Café is licensed and offers hot and cold beverages including tea, coffee, bottled cold drinks, wine and beers. A variety of cakes, scones, biscuits, sandwiches, salads, snacks, meals and ice creams are available.
- Hot and cold homemade lunches are served between 12.00noon – 2.30pm.
- Vegetarian options are available.
- Children's options are available.
- Please note that we cannot reserve tables.
- The café is self-service.
- The café has seating for 110 inside and 90 outside.
- The tea garden kiosk is open daily, weather permitting
- Our horse trailer 'Morning Star' serves hot and cold beverages, ice creams, sandwiches, scones and snacks in the courtyard next to the house, weather permitting.

## Picnics

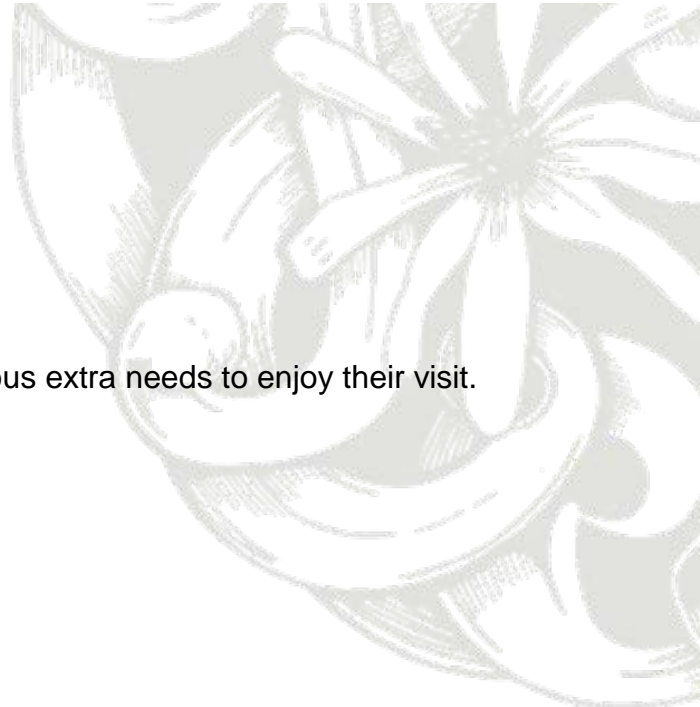
- You're welcome to picnic anywhere in the garden. The café itself and tea garden are reserved for customers eating food purchased from the café.
- Staff in Reception can suggest good locations.



## Second-hand book shop

Our well-stocked second-hand bookshop is located in the Green Shed in the Top Garden





## Extra help

We offer a range of services to help visitors with various extra needs to enjoy their visit. Please see section '**Access for All**'.

## Publications

### Nymans colour souvenir guide book

Our colour souvenir guide book will help you make the most of your visit. It contains a map, is packed with stunning images of the garden and house and includes the history of Nymans and the Messel family. Available from Visitor Reception and the Shop.

### Nymans – the story of a Sussex garden

An in-depth history of Nymans and the people who lived and worked here. Available in the Shop and at the House.

### The Nymans Story – The Messel Family

A 28 page booklet about the Messel family including a family tree and photographs. Available in the Second-hand Bookshop, and the House.

### Anne Messel – The Story of a bright young thing

An 8 page booklet about Anne Messel including a family tree, **available from the House**

### The Nymans Story – Oliver Messel

A 28 page booklet about one of the most talented members of the Messel family. Available in the Second-hand Bookshop and the House.

### Nymans Website – [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans)

For events listing, news and projects and advice of how best to enjoy Nymans.

For the latest news and project updates on what's happening at Nymans, check out our **Facebook** page at Nymans.NT and **Twitter** at NymansNT.

# How to plan and book your group visit

## Contacting us

Group Bookings  
National Trust  
Nymans, Staplefield Road,  
Handcross  
West Sussex  
UK  
RH17 6EB

Tel **01444 405250**  
Email [nymans@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:nymans@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
Website [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans)

## How to book

We ask all groups to book in advance. The discounted group admission price is ONLY available to groups which book in advance.

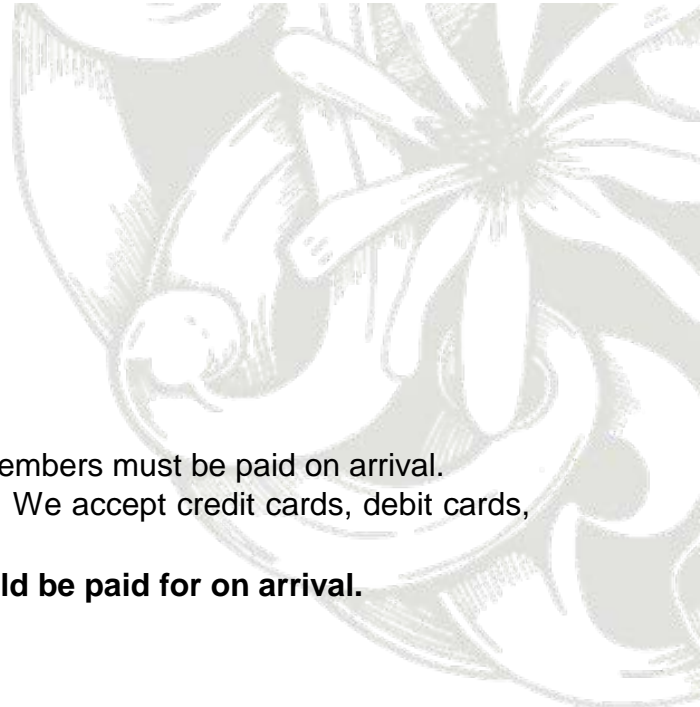
- **For group reduction to apply all admission fees must be made as one payment on the day of your visit.**
- Contact us to discuss your plans and check dates and times are available.
- Staff can help you plan your visit to make sure it's a success.
- Return the booking form with any necessary payment to confirm your booking.
- **We do not send any confirmation after this.**

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** – on **Sundays we are unable to provide and groups must arrive no later than 11.00am**
- We do not take bookings on **Bank Holidays** or over **Bank Holiday weekends (includes Good Friday).**



## 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.
- **If you have booked a guided walk this should be paid for on arrival.**

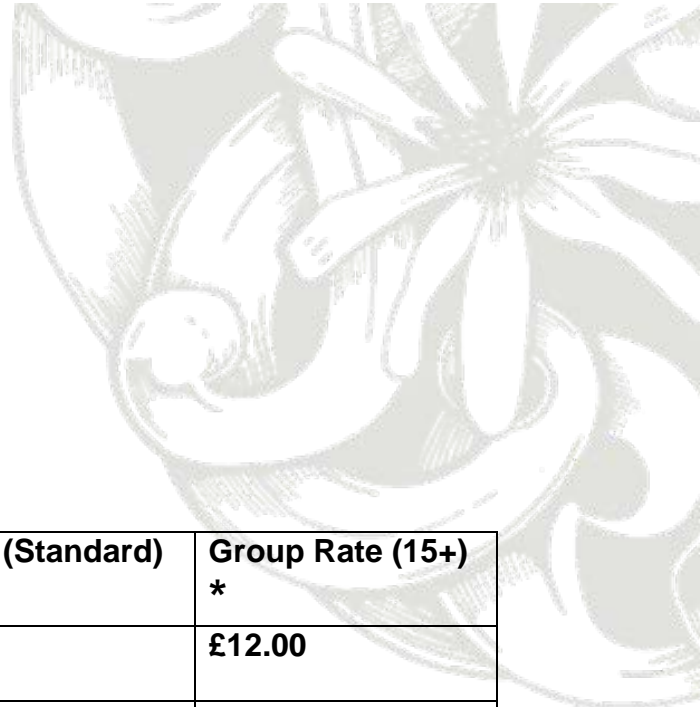
## Opening times 2019

<b>Garden, woods, cafe, shop and plant centre, second-hand bookshop</b>								
1 Jan – 3 February	10–4	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
4 February – 4 November	10–5	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
5 Nov – 31 Dec	10–4	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<b>House</b>								
4 February – 28 February	11–4 Tours only throughout the day	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1 March – 4 November	11-4	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last admission: 30 mins before closing time</li> <li>• <b>Closed 24 &amp; 25 December.</b></li> </ul>								

**Gallery**– open every day all year 11.00pm-4.00pm (closes 3.30pm from 5 November to 3 February). Last admission 30 minutes before closing time.

**NB** the Gallery closes for a period between exhibitions. Please check when you book your visit.





## Admission Prices

	Admission (Gift Aid)	Admission (Standard)	Group Rate (15+) *
Adult	£15.40	£14.00	<b>£12.00</b>
Child	£7.70	£7.00	<b>£6.00</b>
Family (up to 2 adults and 3 children)	£38.50	£35.00	-
Family 1 adult (up to 1 adult and 3 children)	£23.10	£21.00	-

• **National Trust members FREE - (Members will need to present their membership card on the day of visit in order to gain free entry).**

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

## National Trust Membership

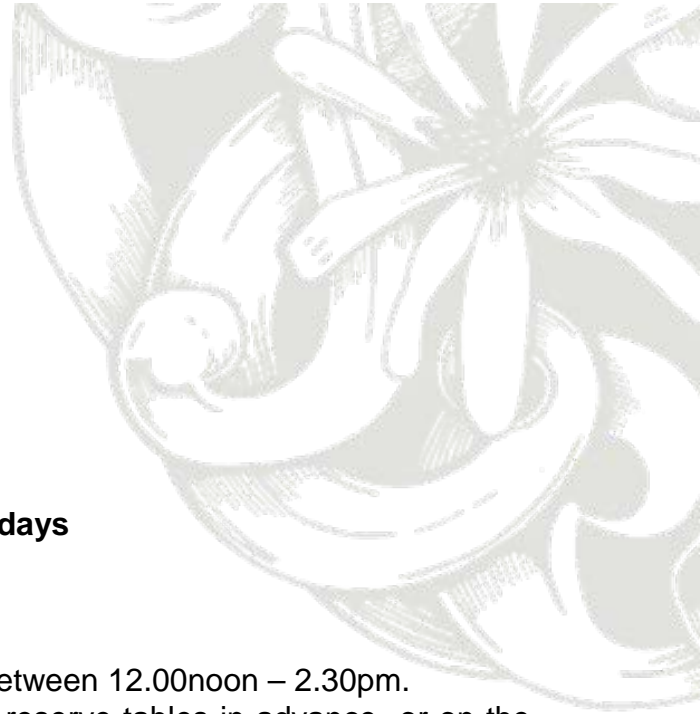
Members of your group can join the National Trust on arrival at Nymans and enjoy free access to over 300 historic houses, 200 gardens, 240,000 hectares of countryside and 700 miles of coastline. Please ask staff in Reception about joining the National Trust.

## Parking

- Parking is available for a maximum of 4 coaches.
- The coach parking is **on the left side** just after you enter the main gate of the car park. Please ensure the coach does not continue further into the car park as it will be unable to turn easily.
- The car park is locked shortly after closing time.

## Arrival & welcome

- Please will group leaders report to Reception as soon as you arrive.
- Please ask your group to stay on the coach until admission has been arranged.
- Groups will be welcomed on the coach by a member of Nymans staff and directed to an alternative entrance to avoid queues.



## Guided tours and walks

- Duration between 1 – 1½ hours
- **Must be booked in advance**
- Cost £3.20 per person
- Subject to the availability of guides.
- **We are unable to offer guided tours on Sundays**

## Catering

- Hot and cold homemade lunches are served between 12.00noon – 2.30pm.
- The café is self-service and we are unable to reserve tables in advance or on the day of your visit
- We ask that you advise us of your catering requirements on your booking form.
- If possible please stagger your visits to the cafe as we have limited capacity.

## House

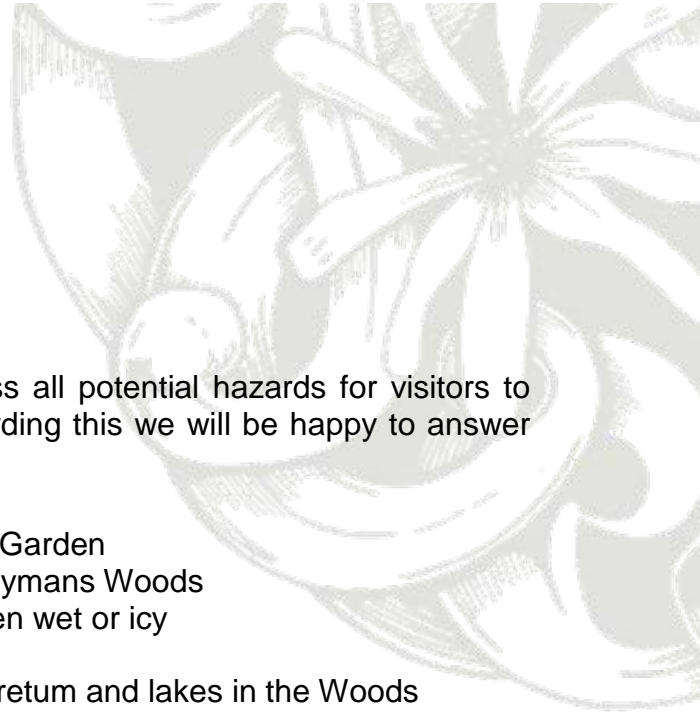
- The house is in the heart of the garden and is about a 10-15 minute walk from Reception.
- We suggest your group allows about 20 minutes to view the rooms.
- The house can become overcrowded if groups arrive at the same time – please help us by staggering your groups arrival at the house.

## Woods

- There are three circular way-marked routes of varying lengths.
- Allow ½ - 1½ hours for a walk around this extraordinary part of the estate.
- To make the most of your visit we recommend first obtaining a Woodland Walks Guide.
- Please note that there are steep slopes and steps in places. The paths are seasonally muddy and appropriate footwear is recommended.

## Toilets

- **All toilet facilities are the entrance point.** There are visitor toilets in the car park, and next to the café
- Accessible toilets are located in the car park and next to the café. We recommend that visitors with wider wheelchairs or motorised wheelchairs use the facilities in the car park.
- There are baby changing facilities in the accessible toilets.



## 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:
  - Crossing the busy road to the Wild Garden
  - Some steep and uneven paths in Nymans Woods
  - Stone steps and paths slippery when wet or icy
  - Vehicles in the garden
  - Deep water in the pond in the Arboretum and lakes in the Woods

## Emergencies

- 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.

## Getting to Nymans

**Sat Nav:** postcode is RH17 6EB

### By road

Coming from Brighton & south:

- Take the A23.
- Near the top of Handcross Hill, Nymans is signposted on brown signs:
  - Turn left into slip road off A23
  - At roundabout turn right.
  - After crossing A23 road turn right at next junction
  - Turn left into the main entrance Nymans car park on Staplefield Road

Coming from London, M25 & north:

- Take the M23
- Just past Crawley M23 becomes the A23
- Past the Pease Pottage services turn and Nymans is signposted on brown signs:
  - At roundabout go straight over
  - At next roundabout go straight over
  - Go through Handcross village
  - At the end of the High Street bear left (Staplefield Road)
  - Turn left into the main entrance Nymans car park on Staplefield Road.

### By public transport

Please ask us for information about getting to Nymans by public transport.



## Access for All

We try to make a visit to Nymans accessible to as many people as possible. Nymans is a Grade II\* listed garden. It was the Messel family home and would always have had gravel or hoggin paths. We are trying to keep the feel of a family garden and to preserve the historic authenticity. **We recognise that some of our surfaces may be problematic for wheelchair users**

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

### Parking

- There are 10 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 Reception. Booking in advance is recommended – please tell us on your booking form.

### All access route

- Access information can be found on our welcome leaflet. Please ask at our Reception for further advice. The majority of our paths are gravelled, please see above

### Café

- There are tables in the café and outside for wheelchair users.
- There are some chairs with arms in the café.
- Large handled cutlery is available on request
- Ramp available on request to assist with access over the small step into the café

### House

- The show rooms, with the exception of the Library, are accessible to wheelchairs via a ramp at the public exit.
- Owing to limited space within the show rooms access is limited to 2 wheelchairs at one time.
- Powered mobility vehicles are not permitted in the House although motorised wheelchairs are. There is a wheelchair available for visitors arriving in a powered mobility vehicle.
- No wheelchair access to the Gallery on the first floor of the house.

### **Mobility buggy – Garden and Woods**

We run two different mobility buggy tours on most days: each tour lasts approximately 1 hour, please contact us for further information

- The Garden: (three a day, **11.00am, 1.15pm & 3.00pm**)
- The Woods: (three a day, **10.45am, 1.00pm & 2.45pm**)
- Please note that there may be reduced mobility buggy tours from November-March
- Both tours start at Reception
- Each tour takes 4 less mobile visitors.
- The Garden tour stops near the House if visitors want to get off and walk back.
- The tour takes just over 1 hour.
- Booking in advance is strongly advised - please tell us on your Booking Form.



*National Trust/JohnMillar*