Sissinghurst Castle Garden

Historic, poetic, iconic, a refuge dedicated to beauty and a world renowned garden.

Group booking information 2019
Visiting as a group to Sissinghurst Castle Garden couldn't be easier, get in touch to discuss your requirements or take a look below.

Sat within the ruins of a great Elizabethan house, framed by the rich Kentish landscape of woods, farmland, lakes and streams, the famous garden with romantic pink brick tower is the result of creative tension between the formal design of Harold Nicolson and the abundant planting of his wife, Vita Sackville-West. The layers of colour, intimacy of different garden rooms and rich herbaceous borders are the epitome of an English garden and provide an ever changing picture throughout the seasons.

Making a booking

Call us on (0044) 01580 710700 or email on sissinghurst@nationaltrust.org.uk and we'll check the availability for your chosen date.

To qualify for our group offer there must be a minimum of 15 visitors and the group must be booked in advance.

Due to the available coach parking space we limit the number of group visits each day and we operate a timed coach arrival system, with the first coach arrival time being 11:00am.

Time and date slots can sell out quickly and we suggest that you provisionally book your group in up to one year in advance to avoid disappointment. A provisional booking will be made and a form sent to you to complete. We'll do our best to accommodate your time and date preference but may need to suggest an alternative if they have already been taken.
Please have the following ready when you contact us.

- contact details (name of group, address, phone number and email address if possible)
- details of group leader
- visit date
- **coach arrival time** (not garden entry time)
- approximate group size
- group catering requirements

The minimum number for group catering is 15 and all members of the group must choose from the same menu in advance of their visit.

Final numbers and menu choices must be confirmed in advance and full payment made on arrival. Please complete and return a copy of the booking form at your earliest convenience. Once we've checked everything over we'll send you a confirmation.

**On the day**

It's important that the driver or group leader contacts us 15 minutes before arrival on **07746 934366** to avoid congestion on our narrow drive. When you arrive you will be welcomed by one of our car park team who will show you to your parking space. They will then board the coach, scan the National Trust members cards and provide them with garden entry tokens. The group leader should make their way to visitor reception to pay for the non-National Trust members to receive entry tickets. Payment should be made as one transaction: we accept cash, credit or debit cards, cheques or travel company vouchers. The group is then free to go straight to the garden.

If you have booked catering, your group should go to the restaurant at the pre-booked time and the group leader should make themselves known to a member of staff. You will be directed to your seating while the group leader makes a single payment for the pre-ordered meals. We have a buggy available from the main car park to transport you to and from various points on our site if any of your visitors suffer with mobility issues. If you need further assistance we have wheelchairs for loan at visitor reception. A map of the garden showing accessibility routes is available at the entrance to the garden.
A few things to note..

Due to the narrow paths in the garden it is not possible to lead a guided tour within the garden.

If your tour leader or guide wishes to give you more information we ask that this is done outside of the formal garden area.

If you have any questions during your visit please don't hesitate to ask a member of staff or volunteer.

We have picnic benches situated by the vegetable garden or spaces down by the lakes if you wish to bring your own food.

Due to conservation reasons we are unable to allow picnics in the garden.

Opening times and admission prices for group visits (main season only)

Please note the earliest coach arrival time available is 10:30am

Garden

09 March - 31 October 11:00 - 5.30,
Last admission 4:45pm
7 Days a week

Catering and retail outlets

09 March - 31 October 10:00 - 5.30
7 Days a week

Admission prices

Group (15+) £13.10 Adult £6.55 Child
Things to see and do..

The Garden
First created in the 1930's by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, the garden is the result of creative tension between Harold's formal design and his wife Vita's abundant planting. They created exuberant planting schemes, layers of colour and high scent and it's now looked after by a team of gardeners and many volunteers. Look out for regular updates from the team on the blackboard at the garden entrance.

The Library
The library was converted from the farm stables. Take the weight off your feet and relax on the sofa soaking up the atmosphere. Home to around 11,000 books, we have the third largest library in the National Trust and one of the most significant in-situ twentieth century book collections in the country.

The Tower
With 78 steps to the top; the tower is worth the climb for the views alone. Built in the 1560's it was then the centre of the Sissinghurst estate, it now houses an exhibition space. On the way up be sure to look into Vita's personal writing room.

The Estate
We've 450 acres to explore and there's something for everyone to see. From a short mile (1.6km) walk passing our two lakes, to a more adventurous three mile (4.8km) walk taking in all of the estate.

The Vegetable Garden
The vegetable garden is managed using organic principles and much of the seasonal salad, vegetables and soft fruits grown here are used in the granary restaurant.
The Granary Restaurant and Old Dairy Coffee Shop

Why not pre-book your morning coffee, lunch or cream tea in our restaurant? If you prefer not to pre-book, visitors can enjoy a lunch prepared from our seasonally changing menu. Hot food can be found in the restaurant between 12pm and 3pm as well as coffee, tea and cake all day. Our coffee shop is housed in the former cow sheds with hot and cold drinks, light bites and ice cream, as well as our second-hand book shop.

The Gift Shop and Plant Shop

Once the piggery, this lovely old building now houses a huge array of products. Whether it's a gift or a treat for yourself, you're sure to find something amongst the accessories, books, cards and preserves. We've got our own range of products inspired by the garden too so you can pick up, greeting cards and prints of local artist's work, a whole range of rose garden inspired jewellery, a cottage garden mug or tea towel.

'You have plants in the paths: you have plants trained over almost every square inch of wall; and where there's a gap, Vita encourages plants to grow in the walls.'

In your garden, The Observer, 1950

The plants for sale are grown on site in the nursery by our two propagators and a team of volunteers. For a true piece of Sissinghurst Castle Garden be sure to take a look at the range on show.