

Guidance for Group Visits to Chiswick House and Gardens 2026

Chiswick House and Gardens is one of the most glorious examples of 18th-century British architecture and landscaped gardens, with over 300 years of discovery, inspiration and delight. For more information about the House please see: **Appendix A – Brief History of Chiswick House and Gardens** or visit our website: [Our Story - Chiswick House & Gardens \(chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk\)](https://www.chiswickhouseandgardens.org.uk)

I. Booking information

Please complete and return the booking form at least one month before your visit so that we can confirm availability and issue your invoice.

Private group tours and visits run throughout the year.

Guide books can be pre-ordered for **£4 each** and collected on arrival.

Standard Group Visits	Includes	Duration	Price per person
House & Garden Tour		2.5 hours	£28.25
House Tour		75 mins	£25.00
Garden Tour		75 mins	£14.60
Self-Led House Visit	House admission with own guide. Also contains audio guide options (including foreign languages).	90 mins	£21.00

Premium Experiences

Experience	Includes	Price per person
House & Garden + <i>Ionic Temple Tour</i>	House Tour, Garden Tour and exclusive access to Ionic Temple	£38.00
House & Garden + <i>Ionic Temple</i> + <i>Prosecco</i>	House Tour, Garden Tour, Ionic Temple experience and Prosecco	£50.00

(Please wear appropriate outdoor shoes for Garden and Ionic Temple Tours. Ground can be uneven.)

Add-ons

Item	Cost
Guide Book (pre-order)	£4.00 each

Group Size Information

Requirement	Details
Minimum group size	10 people
House Tour capacity	Groups over 25 will be split into groups.
Discounts	English Heritage and Art Fund discounts do not apply to private guided tours.

Booking, payment and cancellation terms

- Return your **booking form at least one month before** your visit. Payment is due at least 14 days before your visit.
- If timely payment is not received, we reserve the right to **cancel your booking**.
- You may change numbers, change date or cancel up to 7 days before your visit. Email changes to groups@chgt.org.uk.
- Within 7 days of the visit date we will endeavour to accommodate changes to the number in your group and/or the date of your visit where possible.
- Bookings made less than 7 days before the visit can be changed or cancelled within 24 hours of



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confirmation. After that, your organisation must pay the confirmed cost.

- No refunds are given for lower attendance or no-shows. Your organisation remains liable for confirmed charged activities.
- You may increase numbers if places are available. Email groups@chgt.org.uk and we will send a revised confirmation and invoice.
- On the rare occasions on which we cancel visits due to unforeseen circumstances, we will contact you as soon as we can and offer alternative visit dates or a full refund.
- Disruptive behaviour affecting the safety of visitors or causing damage to exhibitions may result in a group being asked to leave. We will not provide a refund in these circumstances.
- We accept no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to personal items brought into the House or Gardens.

2. Access and travel

- Accessible entrance to the House is via the shop (via a ramp) or via the external portico steps.
- There is no lift to the first floor. Internal staircases are **narrow stone** spirals; the most accessible stairway is outside the building.
- You are welcome to borrow a **wheelchair** during your visit.
- There is static seating throughout the House, and portable fold-out chairs are available.
- An **accessible bathroom** is at the top of a shallow ramp and another is located at the café.
- Mobility scooters are permitted to be used in the gardens but not in the House.
- Please let us know in advance of any access requirements members of your group may have, including accessible parking.

Travelling to Chiswick House & Gardens

- **Public Transport:** Turnham Green & E3 Bus, or Chiswick station & fifteen-minute walk, or Hammersmith & 190 Bus.
- **Car parking:** Use the public pay-and-display car park from the A4 westbound. Height limit: 2.2m. It is cashless, so pay via the PayByPhone app. The House is a 10-minute walk through the gardens.
- **Coach drop-off:** Coaches cannot park in the gardens. Use one of the two drop-off points shown on the map.
 - Approaching from the A4 westbound, there is a coach layby next to the Linen House on the A4 between Hogarth House and Sutherland Road. Coaches can drop passengers off here and direct them down Dukes Avenue to be able to access the grounds.
 - Approaching on the A316 (Burlington Road), just south of the Hogarth roundabout, there is a bus stop where coaches can pull in and drop off passengers. Stop ID: 75899.
<https://goo.gl/maps/irZfVsvKbyoRUuxWA>
- Passengers should walk from the drop-off point to the Great Chertsey Road Gate to approach Chiswick House. Routes are marked on the map below in a dotted blue line. Each is a 10-15 minute walk at average speed.



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3. Arrival

- Go to the **front of Chiswick House**.
- The best **route** to the House is via Great Chertsey Road Gate.
- For private guided tours, **wait** in the forecourt. The Duty Manager will meet you there.
- If visiting during public open days, please enter through the shop at the rear of the House.

4. During your visit

- Do **not** touch **furniture, paintings or wall hangings**.
- **Photography** is permitted only in certain areas of the House – please check signs in each room.
- **No** pens, colouring pencils, pastels, charcoal to be used in the House.
- Explorer Maps are free. Self-led groups can also use a **free audio guide**.
- For café seating or pre-orders, contact Chiswick Café:
chiswick@colicci.co.uk.
- If you would rather bring a **packed lunch**, we have a **Picnic Area** (see map).

Please let us know how your visit went by emailing groups@chgt.org.uk.

Appendix A: Brief History of Chiswick House and Gardens.

Chiswick House and Gardens is one of the most glorious examples of 18th-century British architecture and landscaped gardens, with over 300 years of discovery, inspiration and delight.

Two Georgian trendsetters, the architect and designer William Kent and his friend and patron Richard Boyle, the third Earl of Burlington, created the House and Gardens between 1725 and about 1738.

Influenced by their travels on the Grand Tour, they rejected the showy, Baroque style fashionable in England, in favour of a simpler, symmetrical design based on the classical architecture of Italy. Together they broke down the rigid formality of the early 18th-century garden to create a revolutionary, natural-looking landscape. Chiswick, the birthplace of the English Landscape Movement, went on to influence gardens from Blenheim Palace to New York's Central Park.



Image: 'A View of Chiswick House from the South-West', about 1729, by Pieter Andreas Rysbrack. © Historic England Photo Library

After the earl's death in 1753, the estate passed to the Dukes of Devonshire by marriage – Burlington's daughter Charlotte married the 4th Duke of Devonshire. In 1788, their son the 5th Duke decided to demolish the old Jacobean manor house, which once stood on the site, and make a proper mansion of the villa by adding substantial wings. Both the 5th and 6th Dukes remodelled Burlington's gardens.

From the 1860s onwards, the Devonshires let the house and gradually moved the historic contents to their main residence at Chatsworth House, where many items remain today. Edward Prince of Wales rented the house and hosted his mother Queen Victoria, members of the royal family, and guests from across the world at his garden parties. The Tuke brothers turned Chiswick House into a mental health institution from 1892 to 1928 – they were early pioneers of talking therapies.



Image: Exterior view of the front elevation of Chiswick House, before demolition of the wings, 1947. Source: Historic England Archive

By the 20th century, the House and Gardens were in decline and in 1929 the reduced estate was sold to Middlesex County Council. In 1948, ownership of the house passed to the Ministry of Works, which embarked on a restoration campaign aimed at returning the villa to its original size and design and the gardens to their original layout. Following a major restoration project, which finished in 2010 with £12m support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, London Borough of Hounslow and English Heritage Trust formed the independent Chiswick House and Gardens Trust to unify the care of the House and Gardens.

Art and Culture

Art and culture have always been at the heart of Chiswick House and Gardens – from Lord Burlington’s collection to artists today. Rather than a conventional home, Chiswick House was a bold architectural experiment. It also provided an exquisite setting for Burlington’s collection of paintings, specially designed furniture and souvenirs from his European travels. The lavish interiors of the first floor, the ‘piano nobile’, were hung with richly coloured velvet. These wall coverings have been re-created in the Blue Velvet Room, Lord Burlington’s private study, which is hung with hand-woven blue silk velvet.



Image: An inlaid marble and gilt pine table, about 1725, possibly designed by William Kent. © Historic England Photo Library

In the 18th century, the velvet hangings would have been almost obscured by a huge number of paintings. Lord Burlington was one of 18th-century Britain’s greatest art collectors and his support of designers, artists

and musicians earned him the title 'Apollo of the Arts', bestowed on him by the historian and writer Horace Walpole. By the early 1890s, Chiswick had largely been cleared of its collections, but from the mid-1950s onwards some pieces have returned. Today the Upper Tribune provides the best example of Burlington's original picture hang.



Image: Painted ceiling in the Red Velvet Room. © André Pattenden

The interiors were decorated in collaboration with William Kent who designed furniture especially for Chiswick, such as a set of carved and gilt chairs which he made unusually small to suit the proportions of the villa. They have a scallop shell motif carved on the top rail – a motif that almost became Kent's trademark and which is also found on the tables in the Gallery. The tables have inlaid marble tops, purchased by Lord Burlington while he was on the Grand Tour in Italy.

William Kent was also responsible for the painted ceilings at Chiswick. His ceiling in the Red Velvet Room shows Mercury, representing commerce, directing Abundance (who holds a cornucopia or horn of plenty) to the three visual arts – Architecture, Sculpture and Painting.

Lady Burlington formed a close friendship with Kent who she affectionately referred to as 'Kentino'. He helped her to redecorate the Garden Room on the ground floor of the house, now known as the Summer Parlour. The work was carried out at Lady Burlington's own expense. The ceiling painting includes owl motifs which were part of her family crest, clearly marking the room as her space.

In the late 18th century, after the construction of the wing buildings, Chiswick House was redecorated to reflect the 5th Duke and Duchess Georgiana's taste. The new furnishings, some of which can be seen in the Bedchamber, were in the Anglo-French, neo-classical style, and created an impression of lightness and elegance.