

## GUIDED TOURS

The house is shown with guides and stewards in the rooms. Guided tours are available to booked groups at 10.30am or 3.30pm daily and can be tailored to your individual requirements. Alternatively, you can make use of our new, informative audio guide, available at a special discounted rate when prebooked by groups.

## CONSERVATION TOURS

The Stable Courtyard at Burghley, designed and built by Capability Brown, forms a centre of excellence for conservation and restoration that is second to none in this country. The presence of such talented workmanship allows Burghley to make significant improvements to the preservation of its fine art collection. These skilled conservators are available to take you on tours of the State Rooms with particular focus on the work they have done in the house.

**Furniture** – Anthony Beech, Furniture Conservator will take you on a tour of the house with focus on the furniture collection, current and past conservation projects and the challenges of caring for historic furniture.

**Silver** – Silversmith and Goldsmith Barry Witmond can give you an insight into how Burghley looks after its silver collection as well as the construction of the famous Burghley wine cistern.

**Paintings** – Mike Cowell of Burghley Fine Art Conservation has conserved and cleaned many of the paintings in the collection as well as undertaking the mammoth job of cleaning Verrio's masterpiece the Heaven Room. He will show you how he achieved the results, the before and after of his work, and also reveal what is hidden under the paint using a UV lamp and an infra-red vidicom camera.

**Works of Art** – Alexander Hammond has a very varied job dealing with many objet d'arts in the collections, from tortoiseshell and ivory to mother-of-pearl and coral. A tour with Alex can uncover some of the hidden gems in the collection.

**Sculpture** – our resident Sculptor and local artist Rob Fogell restores sculpture as well as making new pieces. He can show you how sculpture is created and restored as well as giving you some background to the most interesting pieces in the collection.

**Textiles** – Shelia Landi and Alison Fairhurst of the Landi Company Ltd are both textile conservators with wide experience of major projects at Burghley and other national institutions. They can share with you the history, manufacture and care of the many textiles in the collection emphasising either the state beds or tapestries.

## OPENING TIMES

The house is open daily (excluding Fridays, but including Good Friday) from **20th March to 31st October from 11am to 5pm**. The last admission is at 4.30pm. The house will be closed for four days from 2nd-5th September during the Burghley Horse Trials.

## DISABLED ACCESS

Parking is available near the House entrance and there are disabled toilet facilities. Access to the restaurant and State Rooms is via two chair lifts. Please telephone in advance so that we may assist you with your visit.

## GROUP ADMISSION CHARGES

House & Gardens	£10.00
Gardens only	£5.40
House & Gardens including guided tour	£11.50
House & Gardens including prebooked audio guide*	£12.00
House & Gardens including conservation tour	£20.00

Please note that our group rate is the cheapest rate that we offer, and is discounted from our senior rate. All tours must be prebooked and are subject to availability.

\*This is discounted from our normal audio guide rate and is subject to availability.

## GIFT AID: GIVE A LITTLE, HELP A LOT

Burghley House is a charitable trust; by paying an extra £1 we can reclaim the tax and use it for the benefit of the House and collections. As this is an individual choice, we will distribute information for you to give to your group on the day of their visit. We appreciate your support in this.



# BURGHLEY GROUP VISITS



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ENGLAND'S GREATEST  
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BURGHLEY OFFERS A  
UNIQUE GLIMPSE OF THE  
WAY GREAT HOUSES HAVE  
BEEN INHABITED SINCE THE  
TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH

MIRANDA ROCK

# WELCOME

For as long as I can remember, Burghley has filled people with awe and inspiration. So much more than a house, Burghley offers a unique glimpse of the way great houses have been furnished and inhabited from the time of Queen Elizabeth to the present day. Earlier generations of my family have endowed this magical place with beautiful treasures and it is a privilege for all of us who live and work here to share them with you.

## THE STATE ROOMS

Burghley was built between 1555 and 1587 by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Elizabeth I and remains a Tudor house at heart. Its elaborate roofline of cupolas and obelisk clock tower dominates arguably the grandest of all the Elizabethan 'prodigy' houses. The original soaring Tudor kitchen provides a breathtaking start on a tour through eighteen State Rooms.

In the seventeenth century John 5th Earl of Exeter embarked on an ambitious programme of modernisation, transforming the Tudor long galleries into suites of rooms and purchasing more than 300 'modern' Baroque pictures and works of art during four grand tours around Europe. The Italian muralist Antonio Verrio was also employed by the 5th Earl to decorate the ceilings of his new state apartments culminating in the magnificent schemes of Heaven and Hell. After such extravagance, it was not until the second half of the eighteenth century that the family finances recovered sufficiently to enable Brownlow, 9th Earl of Exeter, himself a Grand Tourist, to further enrich the House. Engaging the services of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the 9th Earl completed the unfinished 'George Rooms' of his ancestor and relandscaped the gardens and park.

The last great phase of improvements took place in the nineteenth century under Brownlow, 2nd Marquess, in anticipation of the visit of Queen Victoria in 1844. Much of the furniture was gilded, and the Great Hall renovated with parquet flooring and stained glass panels in advance of the elaborate banquet held in her honour.



## GARDEN OF SURPRISES

In addition to his acknowledged intelligent and astute statesmanship William Cecil was renowned as an avid creator of beautiful gardens at his houses. The garden he developed at Theobalds, his house in Hertfordshire, was particularly well known with walks, avenues and objects of interest which included fountains with concealed pipes to spray passers-by, a maze, statues, grottoes, a sundial and obelisks.

The Garden of Surprises is an acknowledgement of William Cecil's love of gardens and uses classical design with a modern interpretation to replicate a style of garden found during his lifetime.

The Burghley Sculpture Garden is dedicated to exhibiting innovative sculptures made using traditional and contemporary techniques. The unique landscape of the garden allows for an extensive range of pieces to be exhibited together; including figurative and abstract sculptures in diverse media. A harmonious relationship has developed where neither sculpture nor horticulture dominates. This creates a stunning environment in which visitors can appreciate contemporary art, whilst meandering along pathways lined with ever-changing displays of natural beauty.

## THE BREWHOUSE

The entrance to Burghley takes you into the old Brewhouse which has been transformed into a modern visitor interpretation centre where you can see 'Ancestors in the Attic', an audio visual introduction to the House and the family that still live here.

The Brewhouse is also home to the Treasury where the 2010 Exhibition is 'Art in Miniature' showing some exquisite works of art all in a miniature form. In late 16th-century England, limning, or the art of painting in miniature, was considered by many to be the highest form of pictorial art. 'Art in Miniature at Burghley' is centred on the world-class miniature paintings that form part of the Burghley Collection. There are examples by the most prestigious artists of this genre including Samuel Cooper; John Hoskins and Isaac's son and pupil, Peter Oliver.

Complementing the miniatures in their setting are examples of miniature works of art of all kinds: ceramics, silver, jewellery, scientific instruments and even furniture. These illustrate the timeless fashion for craftsmen in many fields to produce objects on a tiny scale as demonstration of their skills. A particularly topical and exciting inclusion is that of the 'Buckingham China.' These two miniature jars have just been proved to be the earliest examples of true porcelain to be manufactured in the West.

## EATING & SHOPPING

Throughout your day we can provide for your catering needs. The Orangery Restaurant with the attached Rose Garden provides a complete self service restaurant serving morning tea and coffee, full lunches, sandwiches, soup and afternoon tea. Groups can reserve seating for the self service restaurant, or prebook three course lunches. The Garden Café situated near the gardens entrance, can provide take away sandwiches, snacks and hot drinks, whilst Burghley Gift Shop and Garden Shop provide gifts and souvenirs for all ages.