



Historic Houses Handbook 2024

Immerse yourself in the wonders of hundreds of independent historic houses, castles, and gardens — including exclusive tours and unique places to stay



2025 Issue Media Pack

How to use this book

One book, three types of access

We want this book to inspire you to pay us a visit — so we've listed all the ways you can do that, in one place, to get your imagination going.

Make sure you're aware of which section of this book you're looking at. We list three **different** ways you can see inside our homes and gardens. They all work differently.

Section one: free for members

Those of us listed in the first part of this book offer you free access on days when we open to the public for visiting. Some of us might have to change our offers during the year, though, so always check with us before travelling.

Section two: Invitation to View

Houses in this section are generally private, but the owner will schedule occasional tours to places or parts you can't otherwise see. Usually they'll show you round themselves. These tours are listed on our website when they're announced. Remember, even Historic Houses members have to pay for this very special experience.

Section three: historic stays

Unlike 'museum' houses, many of us also offer the chance to stay the night in our homes. In some places you can take a guest room

and have breakfast alongside owners and families, while others might let you hire the whole house for the celebration of a lifetime. All bookings and payments are made directly with houses.

What3words

All too often, a farm drive, locked gate, or stable block shares the same post code as a visitor car park or ticket kiosk; satnav can lead the unsuspecting astray. That's why we've partnered with the app **what3words** to provide accurate locations for you. Where you see three random words preceded by /// and separated by dots, they are the exact address of a three-metre by three-metre spot that is precisely where you need to head. For example,

///shops.chap.ranges is the exact location of the visitor carpark entrance for Abbotsford. The free app is available to download at what3words.com/products/what3words-app/

Our fold-out map

A map accompanies this book, marking both houses that are free to members and those that offer pre-booked private tours (which are not free for members). There is also a zoomable and searchable map on our website.


OUR INSURANCE RECOGNISES THE WHOLE PICTURE

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Nothing tells a nation's story like its homes.

Historic Houses represents Britain's largest collection of independently owned, lived-in, historic houses, castles and gardens.

Historic Houses annually prints an A5 perfect bound, full colour, 148 page handbook with a print run of 55,000+.

The Handbook is used and referred to constantly. It's a source of inspiration for planning days out and holidays. Its with members when at home but also on their travels and when on holiday either, in the coat pocket or in the car. The Handbook is there when people are thinking about booking accommodation, choosing other tourist destinations, memberships, buying equipment or luxuries related to holidays and days out in Britain (clothing, food and drink, etc).

Read extensively by our 75,000 members who visit historic houses and gardens, book tours and accommodation in historic venues. In addition, it also reaches 1,500 historic house owning members which includes virtually all the finest historic houses and estates in Britain.

Our members collectively represent a large and financially significant market.

The Handbook provides inspiration and ideas of historic houses and gardens for people to visit. 26 million visits are made to Historic Houses member properties each year.

GREAT COLLECTORS

Sir Edward du Cann (1924-2017)

OSCAR NEMON (1906-1985)

Sir Winston Churchill, the original bronze maquette for the statue in the Palace of Westminster

Sold for £250,000*

Alongside regular auctions the experts at Duke's carry out specialist valuations for inheritance tax assessment and insurance throughout the UK and abroad. Duke's also advise on Heritage issues, acceptance in lieu of tax, sales under the cultural gifts scheme and private treaty sales to the nation.

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*inclusive of buyers premium





Invitation to View Tours

Photo by Will Pryce © Elton Estates Co Ltd.




KEY TO SYMBOLS


 Reachable by public transport with moderate walking


 Mostly wheelchair accessibleⁱ


 Garden tour only

 Pet friendlyⁱ


 Greeted or guided by the owner

 Exclusive tours for members

 Light refreshmentsⁱⁱ

 Substantial mealⁱⁱⁱ

 Offers historic stays

 Including alcoholic beverage

i. Check the property's website for detailed step-free access coverage and pet policy.

ii. Light refreshments: Beverage with cakes, biscuits, or small sandwiches.

iii. Substantial meal: hot food or a cold savoury buffet in addition to light refreshments.

The Readership

- Typically fall into the Mosaic groups C (Country Living) or B (Prestige Positions). They tend to be affluent homeowners, often retired and living comfortably.
- More than half live in houses with four or five bedrooms.
- 90% are aged 46 or over; 78% are aged 56 or over
- 26 million visits are made to Historic Houses member properties every year (to put that in context, 24.5 million visits are made to National Trust historic houses each year).

Visitors to historic houses and gardens, interested in events, art, architecture, history and culture, lifestyle products, home improvements, gardening, cars, food and drink.

Historic House Handbook Circulation: 50,000 - 55,000 +

- 37,000+ members households (75,000+ individual members)
- 1500+ house members who are historic house owners.
- 10,000+ new member households throughout the year.



Handbook Advertising Rates 2025

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Cover positions may be available, price on application.

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Copy requirements: high resolution (press ready) PDF with CMYK images and postscript fonts embedded.

Advertising agency discount 10%. All advertisement rates are plus VAT.

Please note that all advertisements are vetted by Historic Houses and should be supplied to the publishers for approval well in advance of the publication date.

For more information, please visit historichouses.org or hall-mccartney.co.uk

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