

Enjoy a memorable day out at Wakehurst Place, one of the world's finest botanic gardens and home to the Millennium Seed Bank Project.

Set in the beautiful High Weald of Sussex, Kew's country garden is a living green museum where you can walk the world's plants in 80 minutes.

Every season brings a new experience. There is so much to enjoy in the 500 acre estate, from extensive ornamental gardens and water features to temperate woodland trees from around the globe and wetland conservation.

The exhibition in the Wellcome Trust Millennium Building, home to the Millennium Seed Bank, gives a unique insight into the world's most important conservation project. The aim is to safeguard thousands of endangered plant species by storing their seeds.

Visiting Wakehurst Place

It is best to plan your day in advance. We suggest leaving a minimum three hours just to see the main features at Wakehurst Place, a whole day if you want to really explore.

The Information Line gives a wealth of up-to-date information including times, entry prices, events and seasonal features. The Kew website is also packed with information which will help you to plan your visit.

Opening times

The Gardens and Millennium Seed Bank exhibition open every day at 10.00am, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Closing times vary from 4.00pm in winter to 7.00pm in summer. It is worth visiting the buildings first, as these close earlier than the Gardens.



Information sheet **W I I**

Admission charges

Call the Information Line for our current rates, or visit our website. Gift passes, season tickets and Friends' membership are available. Discounts are given to all groups of ten or more paying visitors, either 10 per cent on the gate, or more on receipt of advance payment. Call the Group Booking line for details.



Above: **Elizabethan Mansion and pond**

Below left: **The Water Gardens**

Good food at Wakehurst Place

You will find a wide choice of food on offer at Wakehurst Place, ranging from hot meals with beer and wine, to tasty snacks, sandwiches, salads and ice creams. Alternatively you are welcome to bring your own picnic to enjoy in the Gardens.

Stable Restaurant

The licensed Stable Restaurant is adjacent to the Mansion. It is open from 10.00am for morning coffees and a range of snacks, lunches and afternoon teas. Groups may book a separate restaurant area. A BBQ also operates in the summer months.

Shops

The gift-shop at Wakehurst Place sells a wide selection of books and exclusive gifts including stationery, fashion, china and prints. Films, batteries and wet weather wear are also available. The garden shop sells seeds, bulbs, plants, garden ornaments and accessories.



Contact details

Information Line 01444 894066
Fax 01444 894069
E-mail wakehurst@kew.org
Website www.kew.org
Address Royal Botanic Gardens,
Wakehurst Place,
Ardingly, West Sussex
RH17 6TN

(International dialing: +44)

Group Bookings 01444 894067
Tour Line 01444 894004
Restaurant 01444 894040
Press Office 01444 894018
Shops 01444 894072
Friends of Kew 01444 894035
Education Dept 01444 894094

Getting to the gardens

The Gardens are located on the B2028 between Ardingly and Turners Hill. From the M23 take Junction 10 and follow the brown direction signs.

Trains

Wakehurst Place is approximately six miles from Haywards Heath and eight miles from East Grinstead – both are served by main line rail services.

Bus routes

Regular buses from Crawley, Haywards Heath, and East Grinstead serve the Gardens.

For more public transport information, call Traveline on 0870 608 2 608.

Parking

There is limited free hard-standing for car and coach parking. Additional car parking is available in summer months. Several dedicated parking bays are available for disabled drivers who may, with prior arrangement, drop-off close to the restaurant and Mansion. Some wheelchairs are available.

Tours

A range of garden and themed tours operates throughout the year. Details of times and prices are updated regularly on the tour line. Tours may be pre-booked for groups. Special needs and interests may be catered for. Seasonal events include tours of the extensive bluebell woods in springtime, and the very best of autumn tints through October. There are also guided walks of the Loder Valley nature reserve on summer weekends and bank holidays.



Millennium Seed Bank

The Millennium Seed Bank Project is the largest international conservation initiative ever undertaken. This world-wide collaboration aims to safeguard 24,000 plant species from around the globe against extinction. It has already successfully secured the future of virtually all the UK's native flowering plants.

Based in the specially designed building, housing state-of-the-art laboratories as well as the seed vaults, botanists are working with global partners to ensure future generations have access to the current range of plant species.

The Orange Room interactive exhibition area focuses on plant biodiversity. A massive seed wall shows the enormous diversity of seeds, from tiny orchids to the huge double coconut.



Visitors can watch seed research and processing in action (especially on weekdays) through floor-to-ceiling windows which look right into the heart of the Project's work.



Please remember Wakehurst Place's plants are valuable specimens and visitors are requested not to damage them and not to climb the trees. Similarly bicycles, ball games or any sporting activities are restricted to the recreation area adjacent to the car park. However, unlike many gardens, you are welcome to walk on the grass! To preserve the peace and tranquillity of the Gardens, so much enjoyed by visitors, the use of radios and personal stereos are not permitted. No animals are allowed, except assistance dogs.

Photography and painting in the Gardens

Visitors may use tripods or easels in the Gardens on weekdays only. Permission to film, photograph or paint in the Gardens for commercial purposes must be obtained in advance through the commercial development office.

Education

Parties of students in full-time education (children and adults), including teachers and lecturers, are admitted free during term-time, except at weekends. Free admission is by voucher only, which may be obtained from the education department by application at least two weeks in advance to make a booking. Within school groups, there must be at least one teacher, or other adult, for every 10 children.

The education department provides a range of services and programmes for

both adults and schools. Details are available of current INSET availability, study days, outreach education for schools, or activity sessions.

Supported education visits are available to cover various elements of the curriculum from KS1 to post-graduate learning. Wakehurst Place provides facilities including the purpose-built Seaboard Study Centre and an education laboratory. Booking and payment should be made at least six weeks in advance. Details from the education department.

Join the Friends of Kew *Enjoy the benefits of becoming a Premier Friend of Kew*

- Unlimited free entry to Wakehurst Place and Kew Gardens
- Kew Magazine quarterly
- Free passes to bring guests to Wakehurst Place or Kew Gardens
- Programme of special events and 'behind-the-scenes' tours
- Discounts at RBG Kew shops
- Free entry to fourteen other gardens throughout the UK

Your membership will support Kew's important research and international conservation work.

