



# Pre-visit visual guide



# Wakehurst

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# Opening hours and contact information

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## Welcome to Wakehurst, Kew's wild botanic garden.



Explore 535 acres of gardens, valleys, woodlands, meadows and wetlands.

### Garden opening times:

March – October: 10am – 6pm (last entry 5.30pm)

November – February: 10am – 4.30pm (last entry 4pm)

**Tel:** 01444 894066

**Email:** [wakehurst@kew.org](mailto:wakehurst@kew.org)



# How to get here by public transport

**Bus:** Route 272 stops outside Wakehurst (Monday to Saturday only).



**Train:** Haywards Heath (six miles away) is the closest station. Exit the station and turn right for the Perrymount Road bus stop.



## How to get here by car

**Address:** Ardingly, Haywards Heath, Sussex,  
RH17 6TN



On the B2028, south of Turners Hill and north of Ardingly.

### Parking is free for:

- garden entry ticket holders
- Kew and Wakehurst members

Parking charges apply to National Trust members.



## Entrance – Visitor Centre

Enter Wakehurst through the Visitor Centre. This is a busy space with lots going on.

**Hear** other visitors chatting in our busy shop and café.

**See** lots of things on display in the shop.

**Smell** the food from the café.

Wheelchairs are readily available and you can book a mobility scooter in advance to collect from here.



## People who can help

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**There are lots of staff and volunteers who can help you on your visit.**



**Look** out for anyone in a Wakehurst uniform and a lanyard with their name on.



These people can **help** you if you're stuck, lost, worried or need somewhere **quiet** if you're feeling overwhelmed.

The staff also have radios, which you might **hear**.



# Dogs at Wakehurst

**Dogs can enjoy Wakehurst too.  
They are allowed in certain areas.**



Dogs have to stay on short leads and keep to the red paths shown on the map. The big area in the middle of the gardens is just for people!

You may **see** dogs in the Visitor Centre when you arrive, or in the Stables Kitchen.

## Key

- |   |                               |   |                |   |         |
|---|-------------------------------|---|----------------|---|---------|
|  | Designated dog walking routes |  | Water bowls    |  | Toilets |
|  | Off-lead area                 |  | Dog waste bins |   |         |
|  | Steep areas on the path       |  | Steps          |   |         |



# Explorer Rucksacks (updated seasonally)

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**Explorer Rucksacks** are available from the Visitor Centre (£4 hire charge).

## Three packs are available:

- Nature Explorer (Suitable for under-6s)
- Discovery Explorer (Suitable for 6 – 8 years)
- Expedition Explorer (Suitable for 8+ years)

Adults may need to lend a hand with some of the activities.





## Places to eat

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**Seeds Café** (in Visitor Centre): Teas, coffee, cakes and sandwiches.



### Opening times:

March – October: 10am – 5.15pm

November – February: 10am – 4.15pm

### Stables Kitchen and Pantry:

Full lunch menu, hot drinks and snacks to eat inside or take away.

### Opening times:

March – October: 10am – 5pm

November – February: 10am – 3.45pm

Tree Trunk Trek (picnic area)

Labyrinth (picnic area)



## Toilets with wheelchair access

- Visitor Centre
- Millennium Seed Bank
- Stables Kitchen
- Past the Walled Garden



Unfortunately we do not currently have any toilets with a hoist or bench.



## ★ Suggested highlights

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- Water Gardens
- Himalayan Glade viewpoint
- American Prairie
- Labyrinth
- Rock Walk
- Tree Trunk Trek
- Bloomers Valley
- Wetlands Boardwalk



## Quiet spaces

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Because Wakehurst is so big, you'll always be able to find a quiet space.



### These are some recommended quiet spaces:

- Labyrinth
- Wetlands Boardwalk
- Pinetum
- Bloomers Valley
- Coronation Meadow (in season)



# Time to walk to locations within Wakehurst

## Average time to walk from the Visitor Centre to:

- Mansion Gardens: 5 mins
- Iris Dell and Water Gardens: 10 mins
- Himalayan Glade viewpoint: 15 mins
- Tree Trunk Trek: 20 mins
- Wetlands Boardwalk: 25 mins



## Wildlife at Wakehurst

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**See** and **hear** the pheasants. They are noisy and loud.



**See** the sheep. They help push the seeds down and keep the grass short.



**See** and **hear** the ducks and geese. They can be protective of their babies (in spring).



**Fact:** A shepherd looks after the sheep and cows.



## Millennium Seed Bank (inside)

The Millennium Seed Bank is the most biodiverse place on the planet. Here we collect and store wild seeds from all over the world.



Visit the exhibition space. This area can get busy, but you can look through the glass first and see.

**See** the scientists working in the labs.

**Touch** the screens for more information.



## Millennium Seed Bank (outside)

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**See** different UK habitats.

**Touch** the three stone ball sculptures.

**See** the outside water parterre.





# Things to see in the Mansion Gardens

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- Mansion
- Stables Kitchen
- Mansion Lawn
- Croquet Lawn
- Mansion Pond
- Winter Garden
- Walled Gardens



## Winter Garden

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**Walk** through the garden (beautiful in winter).

**Smell** the highly scented daphne plants.

**Fact:** There are 33,000 plants in the Winter Garden.



## Walled Gardens

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This is a **quiet**, peaceful space.

**Walk** through flowering plants inspired by an English country garden (best in summer).

**See** the sundial and see if you can tell the time of day when the sun is shining.



## The Mansion Lawn and Pond

**Walk** around the Mansion Lawn and Pond (beautiful in autumn).

**See** the still water.

**See** the tall trees surrounding the Mansion Pond reflected in the water.



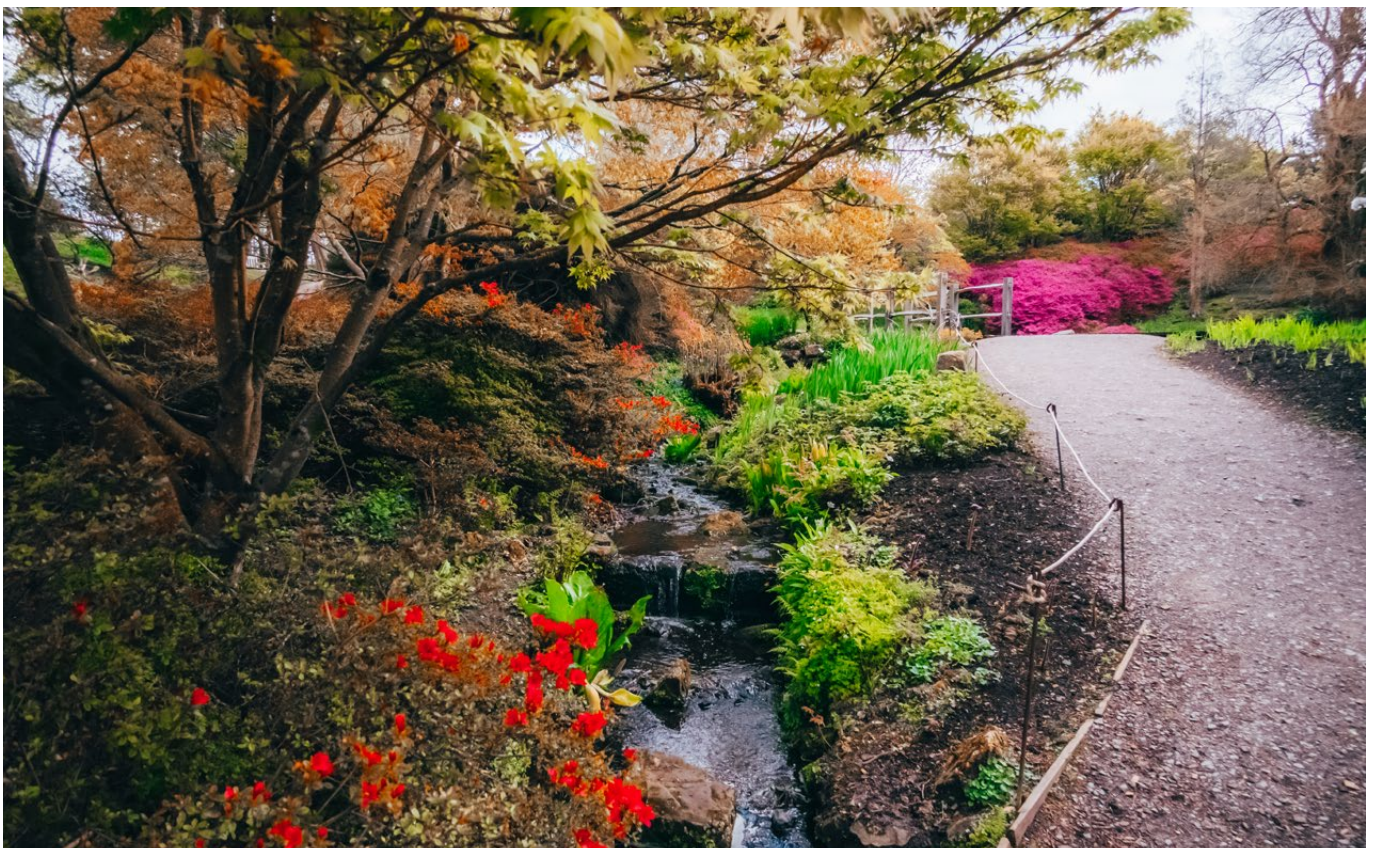
## ★ Water Gardens

Explore the gardens full of light, sounds, textures and colours.

**Hear** the water running down the streams and waterfalls.

**See** the rudd and the three bright orange carp (types of fish) that live in the open ponds.

**See** the beautiful flowers on the magnolia trees (in spring).



## Iris Dell

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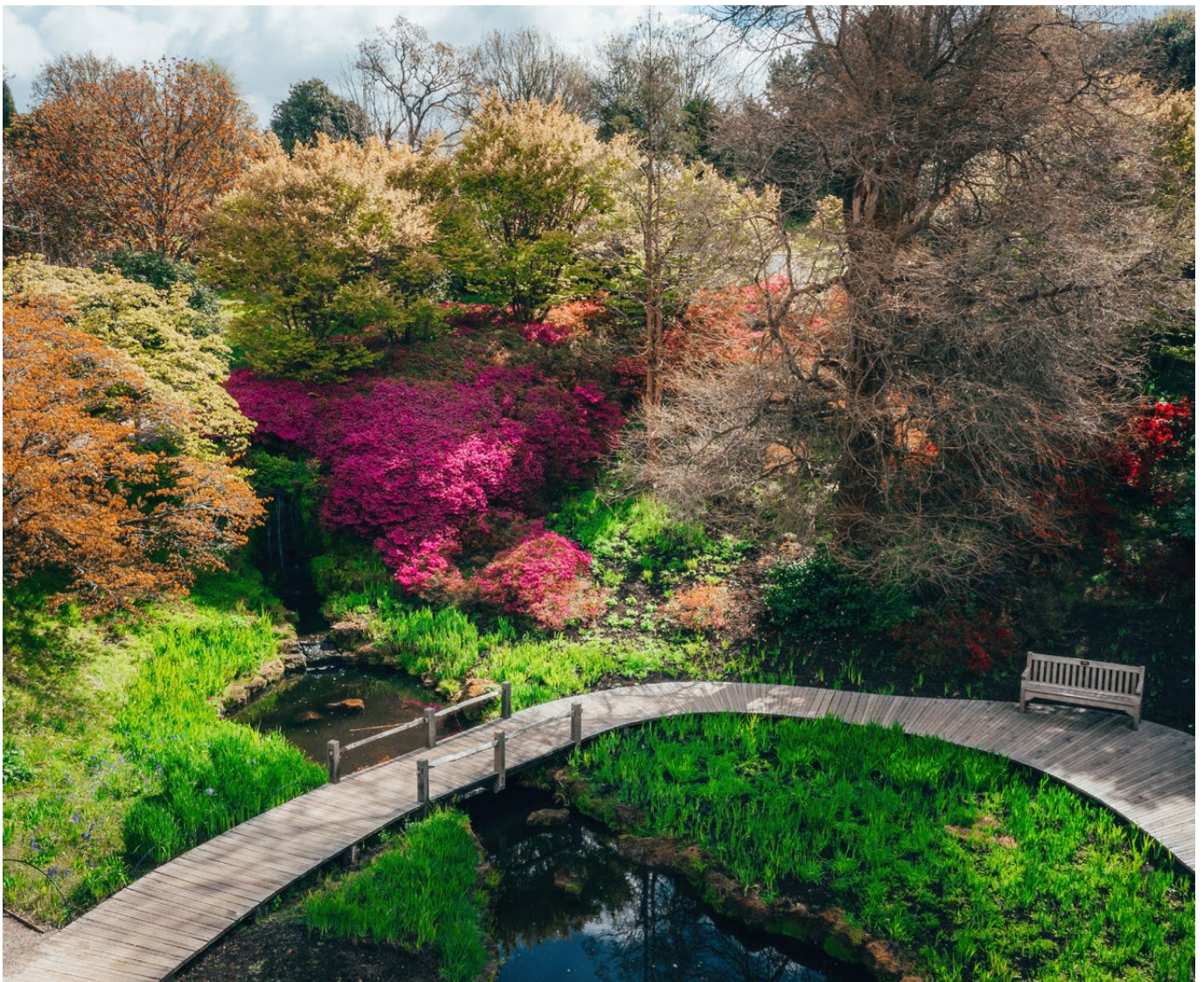
**Sit** down in this quiet, peaceful space.

**See** the colourful iris flowers and daffodils (in spring).

**Hear** the water rushing down the waterfall.

**See** the iris in all shades of purple (end of June).

**See** the reflections in the water.



## Children's Walled Garden

**Walk** along the gravel path and take a seat in the Mansion's original kitchen gardens (open seasonally).

**See** the vegetables growing, including strawberries, pumpkins and courgettes.

**Smell** the herbs used for cooking.

**Grow** your own. Sometimes you can plant a seed in the potting sheds and take it home to grow.



## Mud Kitchen

This is a **play space** in the Children's Walled Garden (open seasonally).

**Play** with pots, pans, teapots and cookie cutters and get creative (and dirty) in the Mud Kitchen.





## Asian Heath Garden

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**Walk** through the garden full of plants and trees from China, Japan and Korea.

**See** wild-collected plants from across Asia.



## ★ American Prairie

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The American Prairie is close to the Mansion, so easy to access facilities.



**Walk** along the paths that take you through the flowers and grasslands.



**See** the grass which can grow up to eight feet tall (in season).



**See** the sculpture called Fire Seed.

**Look** out and see the views across Wakehurst.



## Southern Hemisphere Garden

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**Walk** through the garden of rare and wonderful plants from the other side of the world.

**See** wild-collected plants from the southern hemisphere (7,000 miles away).



## Himalayan Glade

**Walk** through the Himalayan Glade in Westwood Valley.

The path is narrow at points and with small hills and dips, similar to China's mountainous regions.

**Look** at the view over Wakehurst from the viewing platform.



## ★ Himalayan Glade viewpoint

**Sit** on the benches.

**Look** out over the valley.

**See** lots of different birds eating from the bird feeders.

**Hear** the different birds' songs and sounds.

There are unmade paths of bark chippings and mud.



## Pinetum

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**Walk** through the woodland of tall conifer trees from all around the world.

**Smell** the scent of pine.

**Touch** the spiky pines needles.

**Look** out for the tree carving of a deer.

This is an unmade path made of bark chippings and mud.



# ★ Labyrinth

This is a **play space**.

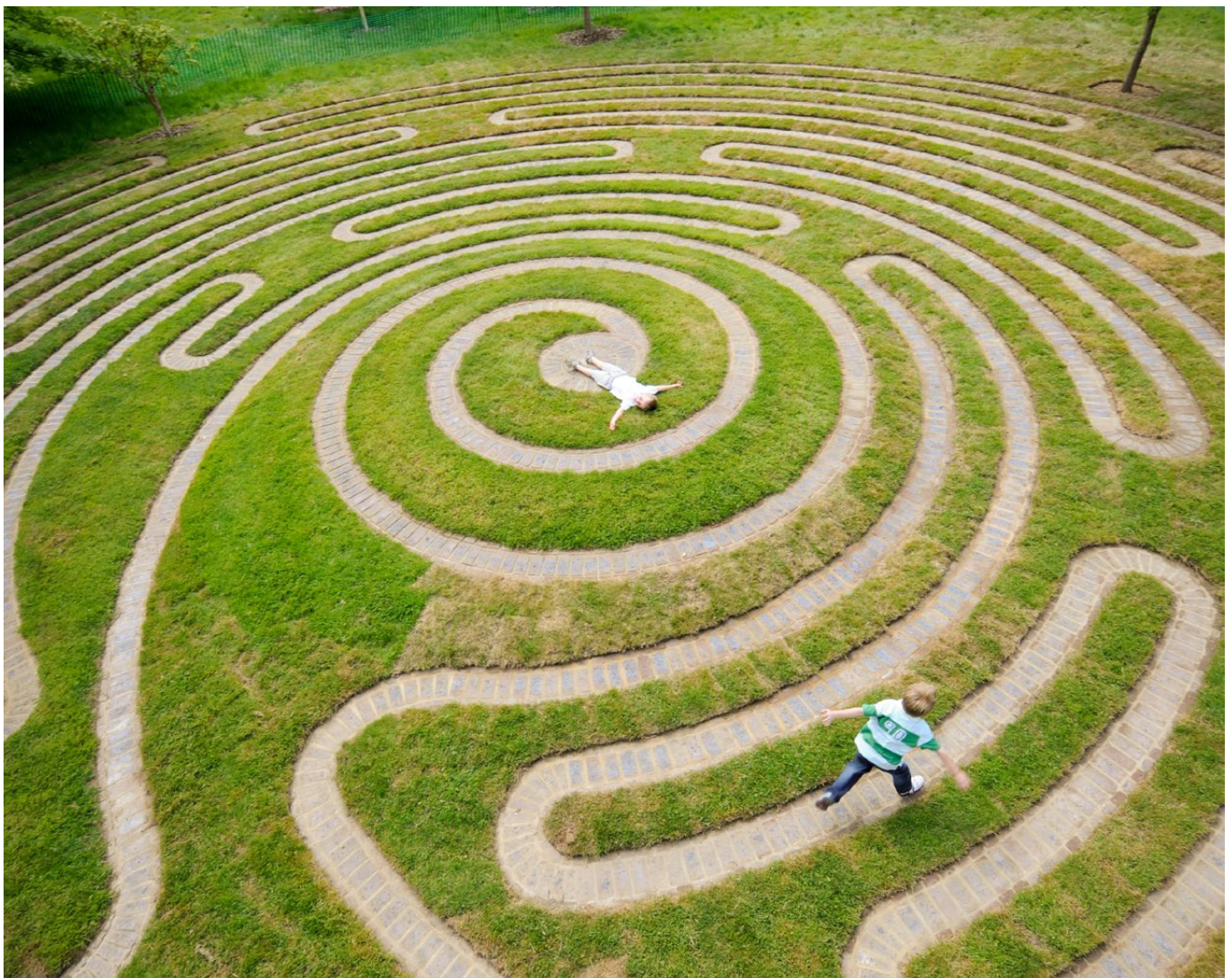
**Walk** the floor-level brick maze.

**See** the view that looks over the valley.

There is a **picnic area** here.

This is a **quiet** and open space.

You can access the Labyrinth via the boundary path and keep away from all busy routes.



## Coronation Meadow

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**Walk** through the beautiful meadow full of flowers and grasses.



**Smell** the wildflowers (in summer).



**Sit** on one of the seven carved wooden seats and look out over the meadow.



**Fact:** Coronation Meadow was created in 2015 to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.





## Westwood Valley

**Walk** through the woodlands inspired by the eastern Himalaya.

**See** rhododendrons, birch trees and magnolias.

**Look** out and see the landscape across Wakehurst.

There is a steep path leading to Westwood Valley (not suitable for wheelchairs).



# Westwood Lake (in Westwood Valley)

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**Find** the lake at the bottom of Westwood Valley.



**See** the still, peaceful water of the lake.



**Hear** the loud ducklings (in spring).

**Look** out over Wakehurst at the viewpoints around the lake.



There are made and unmade paths around the lake which may be uneven, with steps and slopes.



## ★ Wetlands Boardwalk

**Walk** over the water and reedbeds on the wooden walkways.

**See** the birds and wildlife from the observation hut (via unmade path).

This is a **quiet**, peaceful place and a nice spot for lunch.

**Sit** in the covered wooden shelter.

There are made and unmade paths which may be uneven, with steep slopes leading up to the wetlands.



## Horsebridge Wood

**Walk** through the woodlands based on a North American landscape.

**See** plants and trees from California and the Pacific Coast.

**Touch** the bark of a redwood tree.

**Sit** in the Story Seat which looks like a giant pinecone.



## Bethlehem Wood

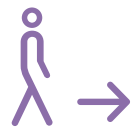
**Walk** through the tranquil woodland of silver birch trees.

**See** the silvery bark on the trees.

**Rest** in the shade of the trees (in summer).

**See** the carpet of bluebells (mid April).

There are made paths and steep paths (not suitable for wheelchairs) here.



## ★ Rock Walk

**Hike** along this amazing Rock Walk.

**See** shafts of light and deep shade.

**Fact:** The sandstone rocks are 140 million years old.

This is an unmade path made of bark chippings and mud with steps leading up to it.



## **Bloomers Valley**

**Explore** the local grasslands of the British Isles.

**See** the beautiful variety of meadow flowers (in season).

**Hear** the humming and buzzing of insects.

This is a big open space.



## Coates Wood

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**Walk** the woodland path and see trees from Australasia and South America.

**See** the spiky monkey puzzle trees and Wollemi pine trees known as 'dinosaur trees'.

There are made and unmade paths which may be uneven, with steps and slopes.

There are steep hills leading up to the viewpoint (not suitable for wheelchairs).





## ★ Tree Trunk Trek

This is a **play space** in Coates Wood.

**Hop** across the wooden tree trunk stepping stones.

**Climb** the tree trunk climbing wall.

**Hear** the popping of the eucalyptus seeds (in summer).

There is a **picnic area** here.



## Loder Valley Nature Reserve

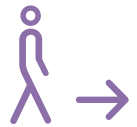
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**Explore** over 3.5 miles of walking trails.

**Look** out for wildlife, such as small mammals and water birds.

Pick up the additional **Loder Valley trail leaflet** and **access code** at the Visitor Centre.

**Walk** up into the Loder Valley Nature Reserve from the Wetlands Boardwalk.



# Thank you

We hope you enjoy  
your visit to Wakehurst.



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Royal Botanic Gardens  
**Kew**

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