



**Group travel at Penshurst Place:
Prices remain the same for popular group tours in 2016**

Penshurst Place in Kent is holding its group prices for 2016, and continuing its popular programme of special interest tours.

The stately home can tailor tours to cover topics such as portraiture; textiles; medieval life; architecture; art; politics; furniture; and porcelain. Groups can book a 'Behind the Scenes' tour, featuring the head housekeeper, and find out how a great House is kept looking its best.

All of the special interest tours for groups are led by senior guides and can be combined with a delicious hot lunch or cream tea for a special offer price. It is also possible to pre-book a delicious afternoon tea with a non-guided visit.

Group packages are available combining trips to Penshurst Place with visits to other local attractions such as Tunbridge Wells; Penshurst Farmers' Market; the Weald of Kent Craft & Design Show in May and September; and Hever Castle.

Built in 1341, Penshurst Place was seized by Henry VIII in 1521, who stayed at the house while courting Anne Boleyn who lived at Hever Castle.

The Tudor trail between the two properties is a popular historical route for walkers and cyclists. The house and grounds have also formed the backdrop to films and TV programmes such as *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *Wolf Hall*.

The House:

The Baron's Hall, built in 1341, is regarded as one of the best examples of medieval domestic architecture in the country. It was built with the intention of impressing all who visited, as it still does today! Within the medieval and Tudor staterooms you will find a fine collection of portraits, tapestries, furniture, porcelain and armour.

The Gardens:

The historic gardens were laid out in Elizabethan times and are considered to be among the most beautiful in England and are definitely one of the oldest. Over a mile of yew hedging separates this 11 acre walled garden into a series of 'rooms'. Each garden room offers an abundance of variety in form, foliage and bloom from Spring to Autumn.

The Place:

Enjoy a visit to The Toy Museum and take a wander in the Woodland Trail or parkland estate. Replenish your energy in the Garden Restaurant where group lunches and teas



can be booked in advance at special reduced group rates. Finish your visit in our refreshingly different Gift Shop with a wide selection of unusual gift ideas and souvenirs.

Special Interest Tours:

- Behind The Scenes: Head Housekeeper's Tour – Meet the Head Housekeeper to find out how a great House is kept looking its best. On weekdays in the winter months enjoy seasonal refreshments afterwards around the Baron's Hall fire.
- Design Your Own Tour – Penshurst Place's senior guides offer a range of specialist tours to appeal to your group. Subjects include portraiture, needlework and textiles, politics, furniture, china and porcelain.
- Seasonal Tours – A limited number of 'Old Christmas Traditions' tours are available upon request during December, when the Baron's Hall is decorated for the festive season.

Annual Events at Penshurst Place:

- Glorious Gardens Week
Sunday 5 to Sunday 12 June 2016
Enjoy a week of special garden events in early June. Celebrate the stunning 100 metre Peony Border in bloom and the sea of colour in the newly re-designed and Blue & Yellow Border.
- The Weald of Kent Craft and Design Show
May Bank Holiday, Saturday 30 April to Monday 2 May 2016
& Friday 9 to Sunday 11 September 2016
Step into the creative world of contemporary and traditional crafts, displayed and demonstrated by artist craftsmen.

Opening Times:

House:

- Weekends from 13 February to 20 March, 12noon to 4.00pm
- Daily from 25 March to 30 October, 12noon to 4.00pm
- Group House Tours by appointment all year

Gardens:

- Weekends from 13 February to 20 March, 10.30am to 6.00pm, or dusk if earlier
- Daily from 25 March to 30 October, 10.30am to 6.00pm, or dusk if earlier

Gift Shop:

- 1 January to 12 February, 10.30am to 4.30pm



- 13 February to 30 October, 10.30am to 6.00pm, or dusk if earlier

Garden Restaurant:

- Weekends 13 February to 20 March, 10.30am to 5.00pm or until Gardens close
- Daily from 25 March to 30 October, 10.30am to 5.00pm or until Gardens close

Porcupine Pantry:

- Open daily from 9.00am to 6.00pm. Winter closing may be earlier, check website for details

Maize Maze:

- Daily from 16 July to 4 September, then 10 & 11 September, 10.30am to 6.00pm (Last entry 5.00pm)

Playground:

- Open when Grounds open

Group Prices for 2016:

- Non-guided visit to House & Gardens: Adults £8.50, children £5.00
- Gardens only: Adults £7.50, children £4.50
- House OR Garden Tours: Adults £10.50, children £5.50
- Combined House & Garden Tours: Adults £17.00, children £10.00
- Head Gardener Tours: additional £70.00 per group

Prices are for groups of 15+ people and include entry to House & Grounds

For more information, please email wendyw@penshurstplace.com

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For further press feature information please contact Jacqui Green at JGMPR Jacqui@jgmpr.com – for urgent requests her mobile is 07885 270349. For further general press information and jpeg photographs email: lucy@penshurstplace.com or contact Lucy McLeod, Marketing Executive at Penshurst Place: 01892 870307.



Notes to editors:

BACKGROUND TO PENSHURST PLACE & GARDENS

Set in the beautiful Weald of Kent, Penshurst Place and the Estate have stood on the banks of the river Medway since the 14th century, when the awe-inspiring medieval Baron's Hall was built as a country retreat for the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John de Pulteney. Used as a location for many a large film and small screen productions, Penshurst Place has a unique place in history – with literary connections from Sir Philip Sidney, Ben Jonson to Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The property was owned by many Dukes and Nobles with Royal blood in their veins, until King Henry VIII forfeited it from the previous owner, the Duke of Buckingham in 1521. It was then used by Henry and his friends as a hunting lodge. In 1552 the property was gifted by Edward VI to a member of the noble courtier family, the Sidneys, in whose family's hands it has been ever since – and is currently owned by Philip Sidney, 2nd Viscount De L'Isle MBE, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent.

The historic gardens are as old as the house, with records dating back to 1346. These enchanting formal gardens were laid out in Elizabethan times and have remained remarkably true to their early design. Over a mile of yew hedging separates this 11 acre walled garden into a series of self-contained 'rooms'. Each garden offers an abundance of variety in form, foliage and bloom, which ensures a continuous display from Spring to Autumn. The Herbaceous Borders have recently been redesigned into the stunning Jubilee Walk.

In the House, alongside the unique and stunning Baron's Hall, built in 1341, there are a series of staterooms containing an impressive collection of portraits, tapestries, furniture, porcelain and armour. In addition, visitors will enjoy a reminder of bygone childhoods in the Toy Museum, a delight for all ages.

Our Garden Restaurant, managed by Leith's serves a delicious selection of hot and cold lunches; and is where you can enjoy the perfect afternoon tea. Our Porcupine Pantry cafe is an alternative to the Restaurant serving freshly baked hot and cold pastries. Both can also be booked for group lunches and light refreshments. Our wonderful Gift Shop, *free to visit all year*, has a wide selection of gifts.