

WELCOME TO SISSINGHURST CASTLE GARDEN, FARM, LAKES AND WOODLAND

- In the 15th century, a large mansion was built to replace an earlier moated stone house by the local Baker family, who were related by marriage to the Sackville of Knole.
- Today, the brick front range, c1490, and the Tower, c1565, still survive.
- From 1750-1763 Sissinghurst Castle was used to house French prisoners of war, after which two thirds of the buildings were demolished.
- Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson bought Sissinghurst Castle Garden in 1930. They set about rescuing it and planning a new garden.
- 800 people visited the garden when it first opened in 1938. The proceeds raised £25,145.6d and Vita nicknamed visitors "shillings", as one shilling (5p) was the admission price.
- In 1967 Sissinghurst was passed to the National Trust.

THE ELIZABETHAN BARN -

- Built in the early 17th century and restored in 1995.
- Used for the storage, milling and mixing of grain and with what are now the restaurant and shop formed part of a complex of agricultural buildings.
- The barn reflects the importance of the farm surrounding the garden and castle, which continues today.

TO FIND OUT MORE

Visit the Oast House Exhibition, which tells the historical, personal and horticultural story of the estate and the garden. Guidebooks are on sale at the ticket office and shop.

COUNTRYSIDE WALKS

There are two walks starting at the National Trust shop. The shorter 'lakes walk' takes about 30 minutes at a gentle pace. The longer, way-marked 'woodland walk' is about 1 mile, and takes you through ancient, often secluded, woodland forest, where there are many wild flowers and animals. There are other unmarked paths through the woods which you are welcome to explore.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

- 1 The Granary Restaurant (licensed) serves hot and cold meals, teas, coffees and light refreshments. Open throughout the season as well as autumn and winter prior to Christmas. Please telephone 01380 710704 for opening details.
- 2 The picnic area is on the grass in front of the garden entrance on around the lakes. There is a designated dog free picnic area with benches and tables near the car park.
- 3 Less-able visitors are welcome to borrow the manual wheelchairs which are available on request. For your own safety and those of other visitors, please be aware that only two wheelchairs are admitted at any one time, due to crowding and tight spaces. Large powered wheelchairs can only be used in the front courtyard. Restaurant and shop are accessible. Accessible WC.
- 4 Braille and Large Print guides are available (free) on request.
- 5 Lavatories are situated adjacent to the ticket office and at the restaurant.

- 6 The National Trust shop offers a wide range of products. Plants (when available) are sold in the plant shop near the car park. Open some days in the restaurant as well as autumn and winter opening. Please telephone 01380 710703 for opening details.

- 7 Baby changing facilities available in the lavatories adjacent to the ticket office. We ask visitors with infants to carry their own nappies. Baby-carriers are available (free) at the ticket office. We regret that pushchairs and prams are not permitted in the garden, due to the narrow paths and tight spaces.

- 8 Dogs are welcome on leads on the estate, but not within the garden (except guide-hearing dogs). Please ask a member of staff where the nearest dog bowl point is.

- 9 Large bags and other bulky items may be left at the ticket office.

- 10 Sharp-heeled shoes can damage fragile floors - please wear alternative footwear.

- 11 Garden Stewards are on duty in the garden at most times and are pleased to assist on most questions - please ask.

- 12 Amateur photography is welcome in the garden, but not inside the buildings. For the convenience of all visitors, tripods are not permitted.

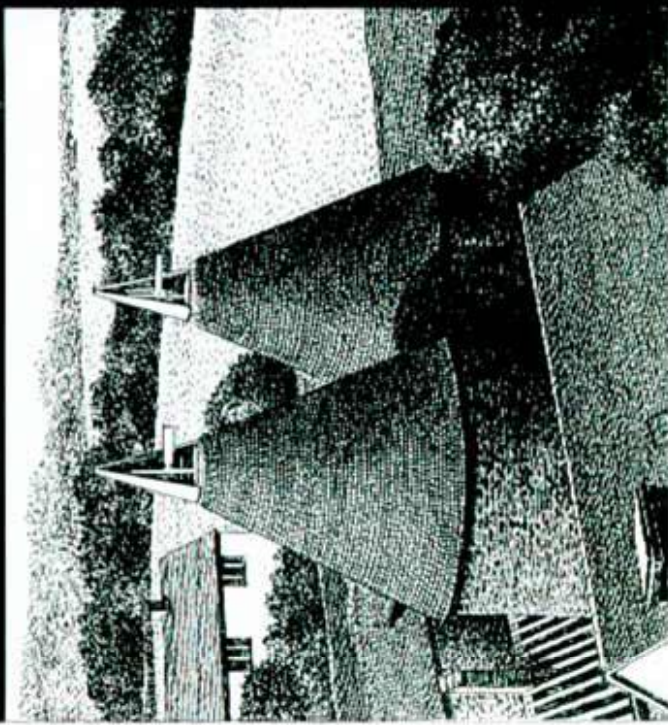
First Aid There are qualified first-aiders on duty at all times, please ask if you need any help. If you see a bee swarm, please stay calm.

Steps Please take care on the shallow steps in the garden and those in the Elizabethan Tower. Paths may be very slippery when wet.

Lakes The moat and lakes are deep in places with steep banks - no swimming please.

Plants Many plants in the garden are poisonous, including some in the Herb garden. Please do not pick them.

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Welcome to Sissinghurst Castle Garden

'These mild gentlemen and women who invade one's garden after putting their silver token into the bowl... are some of the people I most gladly welcome and salute'.

VITA SACKVILLE-WEST

How to make the most of your visit
Please ask if you need any further help