



Green Island Gardens Group Bookings Information Pack



Park Road
Ardleigh, Colchester
Essex, CO7 7SP

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GREEN ISLAND GARDEN GROUP VISIT FAQ

Why visit Green Island Gardens?

Green Island Garden is a 20-acre garden in Ardleigh, near Colchester, featuring many unusual plants, designed for year-round interest. Due to the unique micro-climate Green Island enjoys, we are able to grow many plants of borderline hardiness. The woodland provides shelter so the temperatures is often up to 5°C warmer in summer and 5°C cooler in winter - so the snow lasts just that little bit longer. The gardens have been professionally designed by Fiona Edmond, MA Cantab Dip Hons ISGD, with a passion for trees and shrubs, plants for scent and rarely seen plants.

When is Green Island Gardens open?

January, November and December: 10.00 to 16.00 Tuesday to Saturday

February, March & April- October: 10.00 to 17.00 (or dusk) Tuesday to Saturday and 11.00 to 16.00 Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Day & Evening visits outside these hours are available by appointment.

Where is Green Island Gardens?

Green Island Gardens is situated outside the village of Ardleigh, 3 miles NE of Colchester. The easiest way to find us is via our postcode - CO7 7SP - keyed into google maps. Please note some inbuilt satnavs do not recognise this address, therefore we recommend only using google maps.

CARS

From A12 south (Chelmsford) Take the exit signposted for A120 Harwich and Clacton, immediately filter off to the left towards Colchester and do not go down onto the A120. At the roundabout take the third exit towards Colchester called Ipswich Road. Go through a set of traffic lights and at the first roundabout take the first exit. Follow the road all the way to a mini roundabout. take the second exit and go to another mini roundabout where you will turn left onto Bromley Road. Follow the road for a couple of miles and you will go over the A120 on a bridge. Go past Slough Lane on the left and take the next left which is Park Road. Green Island Gardens will be first on the right.

From A12 North (Ipswich) Take the exit signposted for Dedham and B1029. Follow the B1029 into Dedham. At the T junction opposite the church turn right still on the B1029. Follow this road all the way to Ardleigh. At the crossroads with the church on the left go straight across still on the B1029. Go over the level crossing, round a sharp left-handed bend and continue half a mile. Turn right into Park Road and Green Island Gardens is the last place on the left.

From Frinton, Walton and Clacton. Take the A133 to Frating. At the traffic lights turn right on the B1029 towards Great Bromley. Follow to Great Bromley and go straight across at the crossroads still on the B1029. Follow through the village and past the church. After a couple of miles, you will go past Colchester Road on the left at the Cross Inn. Continue to the next turning left which is Park Road and Green Island Gardens is last on the left.

From Harwich Take the A120 towards Colchester. Turn off left towards Great Bromley and little Bentley. Follow to the crossroads in Great Bromley and turn right onto the B1029. Follow through Gt Bromley and past the Cross Inn on the left. Park Road is the next Road on the left

after Colchester Road. Green Island Gardens is last on the left

From Colchester; Take the A137 towards Manningtree (called Harwich Road) At the first mini roundabout ignore the signs for Ardleigh and turn right onto Bromley Road. Follow this road out of Colchester for a couple of miles. You will go over the A120, and past a turning to the left called Slough Lane. Park Road is the next turning on the left and Green Island Gardens is first on the right.

COACHES

From A12 South Follow as for cars until you reach Green Island Gardens. Continue past the entrance to the end of Park Road. Turn right onto the B1029 and follow to the next turning on the right at the Cross-Inn pub. Turn right and follow the Colchester Road for a mile or so. There is a small country lane on the right before a wooded area. the entrance to the gardens is 200 yards after the small lane.

From A12 North Follow as for cars except do not turn right into Park Road. Continue along the B1029 until the next turning right called Colchester Road. Take this turning right and follow for a mile or so. there is a small country lane on the right just before a wooded area. The coach entrance to the gardens is about 200 yards on the right after the small lane.

How much does it cost?

For 2024 entry costs £9.00. For groups of over 20 visitors, we offer a discounted rate of £8.50/adult April 1st - October 31st, and £8.00/adult February, March, & November.

(Please note: RHS memberships and Gardeners World 2 for 1 discounts do not apply when making a group booking)

What is the best time of year to visit?

- Green Island Gardens is the perfect garden to visit all year round. Open for 11 months of the year there is always a new and exciting plant to see.
- February features snowdrops and hamamelis in the woodland with a wonderful display of scented flowering winter shrubs as well.
- March/April, bulbs time, plus a wide range of camellias and many unusual woodlanders such as Trillium
- May is a riot of colour with azaleas and carpets of Bluebells and Tulips.
- June/July/August, the main beds start to fill with colour, peonies bloom, and the water gardens are spectacular
- October/November fill with colour, thanks to our highly acidic soil the wide range of Acers and other autumn colouring shrubs setting the grounds ablaze



How much time would you recommend for a visit?

With 20 acres to see, you could spend an entire day at Green Island Gardens, but at minimum we would recommend between 3-4 hours. Many groups combine Green Island Gardens with other gardens in the area. If this is something that your group would like to do, we would recommend limiting the visits to one other garden, for the comfort of the groups.

Why do we need to pre-order food?

We request a pre-order for groups over 10 for a few reasons, mainly to ensure that we have sufficient supplies, as our food is based on fresh produce, we have to specially order in extra supplies to cater for a larger number, especially if there are specific dietary requirements. Secondly, our team is very small often only 1 or 2 members of staff will care for the tearoom & food preparation. Without a pre-order, lunches would take a significantly longer time to prepare resulting in very long wait times, for your group as well as our other customers. We understand that this requirement is additional work for the organiser but strongly believe that it positively enhances the whole garden visit experience for your group.

Do you have catering facilities?

Yes! Our tearoom can cater for 50+ people with our everyday menu offering homemade cakes and light lunches. For special occasions, we have cream teas and traditional afternoon teas, which can be pre-ordered at the time of booking.

Light lunches (toasties, soup, baguettes & jacket potatoes) start at £6.50

Cream tea (scones, jam, cream & tea/coffee) £8.00

Afternoon tea (sandwiches, scone, jam, cream, cake & tea/coffee) £14.00

For groups we offer a special £4.50 cake & tea/coffee, this discount is only available at the time of booking and has to be for a minimum of 20 people or for the whole group if less than 20. We request that any catering required for your group be pre-ordered if group is over 10 visitors. If you cannot supply a pre-order or wish to allow your group to order at their own leisure, we do request that you mention possible catering requirements.

How long is a guided tour?

The tour is led by Fiona or one of her knowledgeable staff, and consists of a brief history of the house and gardens, followed by a walk around the main borders, water gardens, woodland gardens, seaside garden and finally the Japanese garden and terrace during which Fiona explains the development of the gardens over the last 20 years and points out many of her unusual plants. In total allow 1 1/2 hours with Q&A's afterwards, cost £60.00

The tour is best suited to groups of up to 20 people, sometimes more than one tour can be run at a time to cater for groups over 20.

Are you disabled friendly?

Yes, we are. The grounds are mostly flat, with only one or two slight inclines and steps. For ease of entry into buildings we have temporary ramps, a dedicated disabled toilet and wheelchair that is available for use.

Is there a shop?

Yes! The nursery has a wide variety of plants for sale, all of which can be seen in our gardens. Inside the tearoom there is a wide display of photographs and cards for sale.

Do you have parking facilities?

Yes. For regular vehicles entry is on Park Road, follow the signs down the drive, parking is the large lawn on the right opposite the tennis court. For coaches, entry is on the Bromley Road side of the property as this entry has a higher clearance, parking will be on the left opposite the tennis court.

Can I take photos?

Photos can be taken at Green Island Garden, provided that the photographs are not for commercial purposes. We do ask that if any images are uploaded to the internet that you mention or tag Green Island Gardens- we love seeing photos from our visitors!

Can I bring my dog?

Unfortunately, dogs are not permitted at Green Island Gardens except for assistant dogs.

Can I bring a picnic?

You are welcome to bring a picnic with you; we have a dedicated picnic area by the car park with picnic tables that you are welcome to use. Food is not allowed to be consumed within the gardens. Please kindly take any rubbish home with you.

LIGHT LUNCHES MENU

Homemade soup - £7.00

Served with freshly baked bread roll and butter

Freshly cooked baguette - £7.50

Ham & Tomato

Ham & Cheese

Cheese & Pickle

Cheese & Tomato

Tuna Mayonnaise (£1.00 supplement)

Prawn & Marie Rose (£1.00 supplement)

Served with side salad

Toasted Sandwich - £6.50

Cheese

Cheese & Tomato

Ham & Cheese

Cheese & Pickle

Served with your choice of white or brown bread & side salad

Jacket Potato - £8.00

Tuna Mayonnaise (£1.00 supplement)

Cheese

Chilli Con Carne (£1.00 supplement)

Baked Beans

Extra filling (£1.00 supplement)

Served with side salad

Salad - £8.00

Ham

Cheese

Tuna Mayonnaise (£1.00 supplement)

Prawn & Marie Rose (£1.00 supplement)

Bread roll and butter £1.00

Ploughman's platter, with cheese, ham, tasty chutney, salad and roll - £9.00

(This proves very popular with groups and can be served efficiently)

As all food is freshly prepared. We do request that groups over 20 pre-order lunches 1 week in advance. This allows us to ensure that we have sufficient supplies staff and can provide a speedier lunch service.

GREEN ISLAND GARDEN GROUP VISIT BOOKING FORM 2024

Group Name: _____

Group Contact: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Date: _____ Time of Arrival: _____

Expected Time of Departure: _____

Number of Visitors: Please select appropriate month and group size

Apr - Oct: Group 20+ qty @ £8.50 = _____ Or <20 qty @ £9.00 = _____

Feb, Mar & Nov: Group 20+ qty @ £8.00 = _____ Or <20 qty @ £8.50 = _____

Catering Requirements: Tea & Cake qty @ £4.50 = _____

(Includes tea or coffee and any cake from the selection in the tearoom)

Cream Tea qty @ £8.00 = _____

(Includes 2 scones, jam, cream and endless refills of tea and coffee)

Afternoon Tea qty @ £14.00 = _____

(Includes fresh sandwiches, cream tea and homemade cakes, with endless refills of tea and coffee)

Ploughman's Platter with cheese & ham qty @ £9.00 = _____

Lunch (pre-order required for groups of 10+ with at least 1 week notice):

number _____

Guided tour required @ £60.00 (20 persons max)? _____

(Please bear in mind the walking ability of your group when booking a tour and notify us of any concerns)

Total costs for visit _____

Please circle preferred: To be paid in advance or on entry to the gardens

£20.00 non-refundable deposit please circle: Cheque (+£1.50 admin), Bank Transfer

How did you hear about Green Island Gardens? _____

Please tick to acknowledge

- Final numbers and requests to be phoned or emailed through a minimum of 3 days prior to visit.
- Visitors are asked to take care when visiting the gardens. Decking, stepping stones and tree house may be slippery. Please keep off the trampoline, climbing frame and swings. The owners cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur during the visit. Cars are parked at the owner's risk.
- Coaches MUST enter the exit gate on Bromley Road as the entrance drive is too narrow.

- Please include our group into the Green Island Gardens mailing list

Signature _____

Payment types accepted:

- Cheque - Payable to Green Island Gardens

(NB: £1.50 charge for payment by cheque)

- Bank Transfer - Sort: 20-22-67 Acc:
53792404

(Please use group name + date of visit as reference)

- Cash

Please return your booking form:

Post: Green Island Gardens

Park Road

Ardleigh, CO7 7SP

Email: office.greenislandgardens@gmail.com