

Pre-visit visual guide



Wakehurst

Opening hours and contact information

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



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

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**.



Explorer Rucksacks (updated seasonally)

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

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

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



Quiet spaces

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

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)

See different UK habitats.

Touch the three stone ball sculptures.

See the outside water parterre.



Things to see in the Mansion Gardens

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



Winter Garden

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

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.



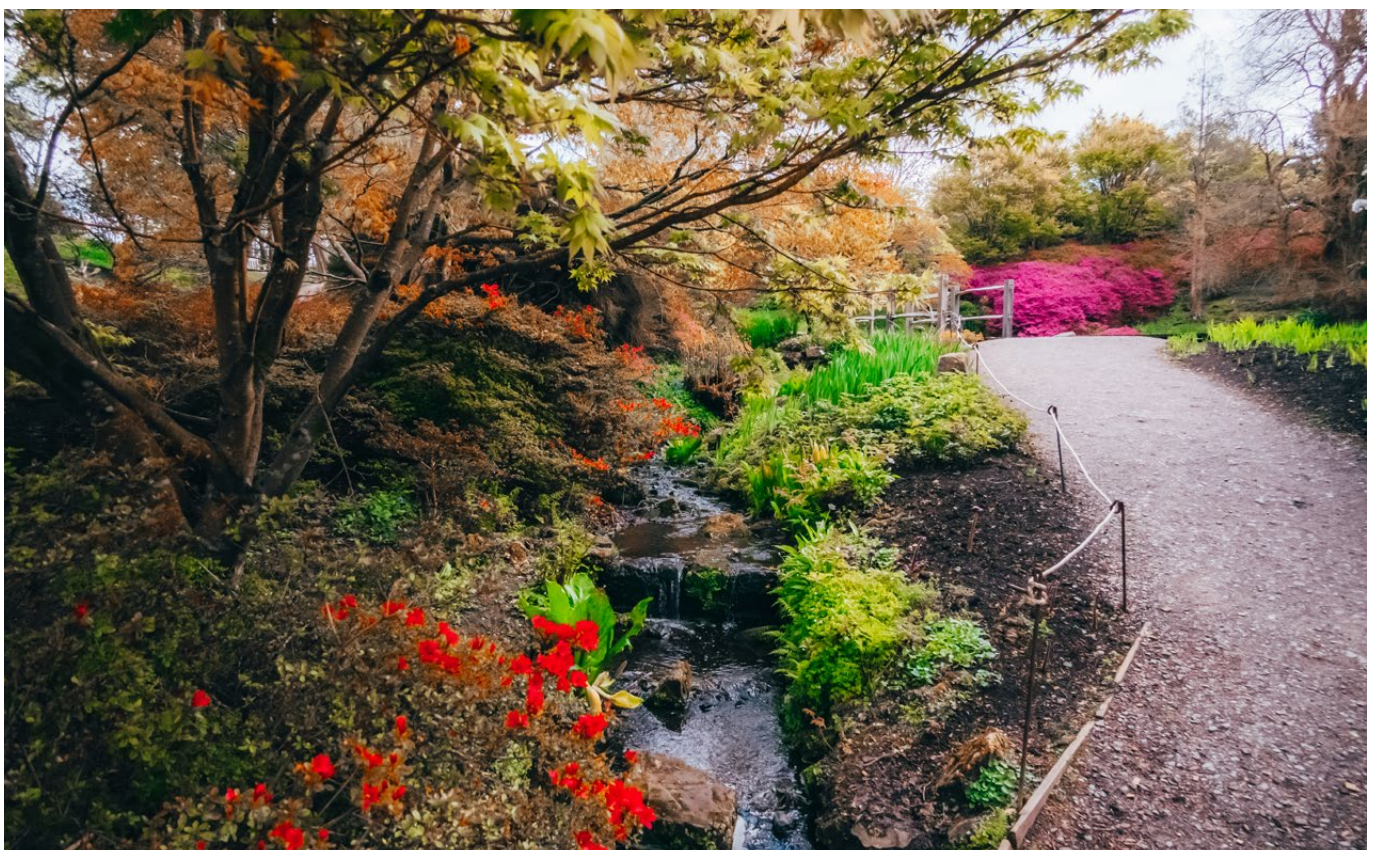
★ Water Gardens

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

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

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

See wild-collected plants from across Asia.



★ American Prairie

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

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

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**.

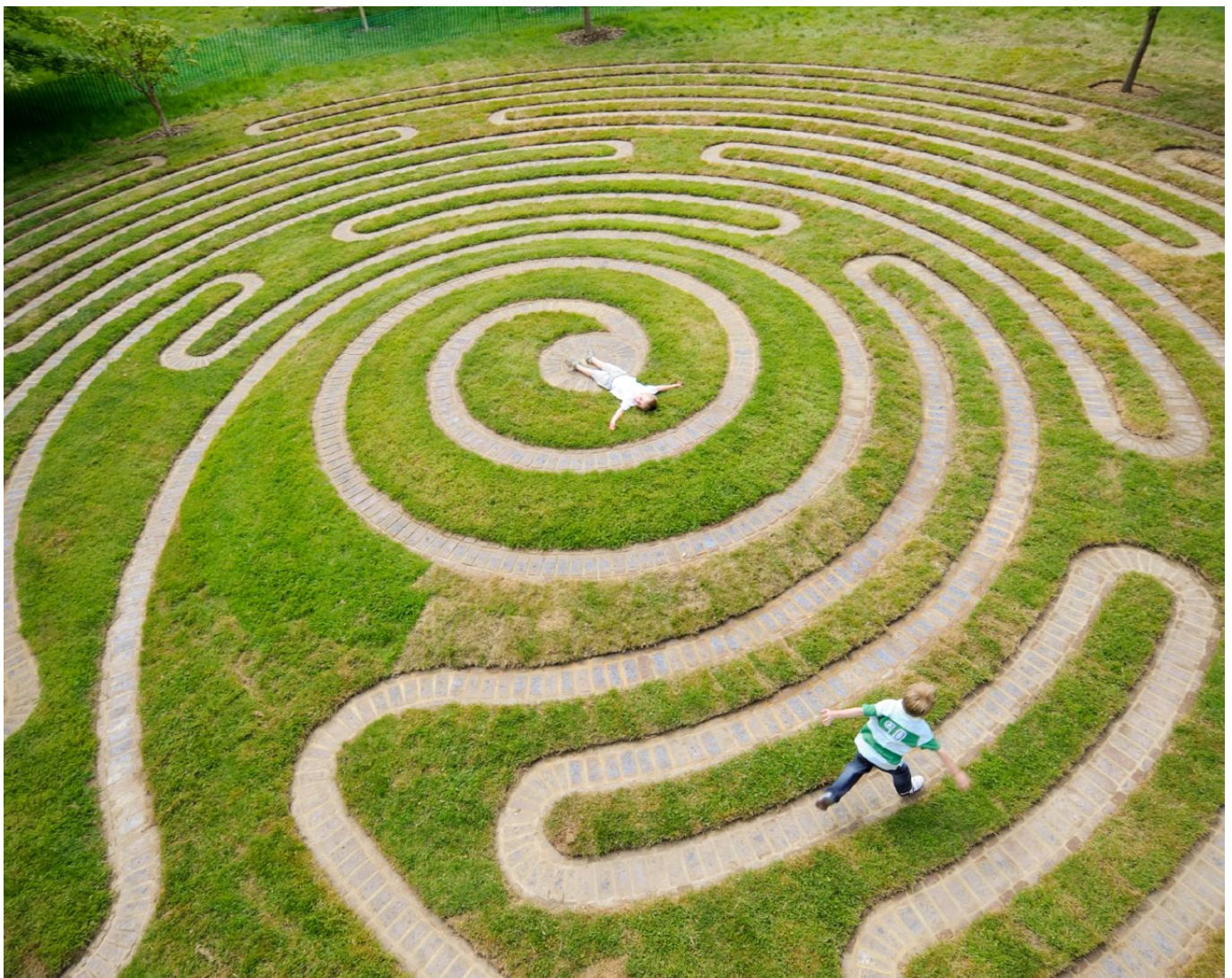
Walk the floor-level brick maze.

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

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)

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

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.



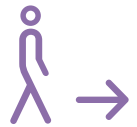
Loder Valley Nature Reserve

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

This guide was created in consultation with

