

## What's on at Stowe House

Stowe House opening times vary and admission charges apply; please see our website [www.stowehouse.org](http://www.stowehouse.org) or ask at New Inn for details. Stowe House hosts a calendar of events throughout the year including specialist tours, lectures, concerts and a range of seasonal events for all the family. Free family fun trails and family craft activities are available during the school holidays; see our website for more information about forthcoming events at the House. There may be alternative car parking arrangements for some events.

## Weddings and Events

For information about holding weddings and events at Stowe House, please see our website [www.stowe.co.uk/events](http://www.stowe.co.uk/events) or telephone 01280 818282.

## Group Visits

Groups (15+ people) are welcome throughout the year; pre-booking is essential. There is a discount for pre-booked groups and catering is available on request.

## Find Out More

Stowe House, Stowe, Buckingham MK18 5EH  
Tel **01280 818166** 24-hour recorded information line  
Tel **01280 818002** visitor services Mon-Fri during office hours  
Email [houseinfo@stowe.co.uk](mailto:houseinfo@stowe.co.uk)  
[Facebook Stowe House](#) | [Twitter @StoweHouse](#) | [www.stowehouse.org](http://www.stowehouse.org)

National Trust Stowe Garden information  
Tel **01280 817156** | [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe)

If you would like this information in an alternative format please telephone 01280 818002.



Stowe House Preservation Trust works closely with our partners onsite The National Trust and Stowe School.

Stowe House Preservation Trust would like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, World Monument Fund and all the public and private donors for their help and support in the continued restoration of Stowe House.

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Stowe House Preservation Trust is an independent registered charity, number 1066272



## HOW TO FIND US

Please enter the estate through the National Trust entrance at New Inn and enjoy your Garden visit while making your way to the House. SatNav users follow National Trust entrance postcode MK18 5EQ. Estate 3 miles NW of Buckingham via Stowe Avenue, off A422 Buckingham/Banbury Road. Oxford 18 miles, Northampton 16 miles, Milton Keynes 14 miles.



Stowe House is opened and run by the Stowe House Preservation Trust which is a separate organisation to the National Trust Stowe Gardens.

## HOUSE ACCESSIBILITY &

Stowe House is fully accessible. Due to the layout of the estate we advise that you make us aware of your access requirements in advance of your visit so that we can arrange parking adjacent to the House and assist you. Telephone 01280 818002 during office hours or email [houseinfo@stowe.co.uk](mailto:houseinfo@stowe.co.uk). Alternatively please speak to the National Trust reception staff upon arrival at New Inn.



# STOWE HOUSE

*Discover the hidden secrets inside*



# Stowe House – Discover the hidden secrets inside...

If you had power and riches, how would you use them?

In the 18th century, the powerful Temple-Grenville family chose to create an idyllic landscape filled with temples. Amidst these enchanting gardens, they built the most lavish temple of all, Stowe House. This temple was so grand that even Queen Victoria was bewildered by its interiors. Filled with astonishing rooms imitating ancient worlds and classical ruins, the House reflects the flamboyant and colourful characters of its creators. Ceilings and walls decorated with hidden messages and mythology hint at the family's former power and glory. But wealth and power do not last forever. Excessive spending led to bankruptcy. Extravagant parties, royal visits and Italian Grand Tours gave way to scandal, intrigue and eventually abandonment. The richest family in England became the greatest debtors in the world.

In 1922, in the face of demolition, Stowe School saved the building from certain destruction. Unlike the loss and decline of many English country houses, Stowe House found a new and revived use for the 20th and 21st centuries as a school for boys and girls.

Stowe House Preservation Trust was established in 1997 to restore the House and share this special place with the world. We work in collaboration with the National Trust and Stowe School to open Stowe to you as a complete estate. Come inside the House to see the results of one of the most pioneering restoration projects of the 21st century and see inside one of the most excessive homes in England!





# STOWE HOUSE

Follow one of these trails through the gardens into the grandest temple in the landscape:

New Inn to Bell Gate  
500m (0.3 miles) 15 minutes

Green  
800m (0.5 miles) 20 minutes

Pink  
1060m (0.7 miles) 25 minutes

Blue  
1351m (0.8 miles) 30 minutes



## Discover the temples and visit Stowe House

### 1 Lake Pavilions

Spot the similarities between these little buildings and the colossal House across the lake. The columns with triangular pediments were inspired by ancient Roman temples. Similarly, the House has amazing rooms that imitate the insides of ancient Roman and Egyptian temples.

### 2 Cascade and Lord Chatham's Urn

As you stroll past the Cascade, admire the views across the lake and the Urn that commemorates Prime Minister William Pitt, Earl of Chatham. Often credited as the creator of the British Empire by conquering India, Canada, the West Indies and West Africa, his portrait can be seen inside the House.

### 3 Temple of British Worthies

Lord Cobham was a powerful politician and Stowe is filled with hidden political messages and intrigue. This temple contains the strongest political message through its selection of the greatest personalities from British history. Cobham recorded his own influential role in British history with a dazzling scene on a ceiling inside the House.

### 4 Temple of Ancient Virtue

The family were ambitious politicians who fought for Liberty. Many of the family's political ideas were based on the law and philosophy of ancient civilisations. Like this temple, the architecture and decoration of the interiors of the House also celebrate ancient civilisations.

### 5 Rotunda

The Rotunda contains a dazzling copy of the Medici Venus. Venus was the Roman goddess of love and beauty. She also appears beautifully painted on the ceilings inside the House along with a myriad of other enchanting gods, goddesses and mythical beasts including mermen and griffins.

### 6 Statue of King George II

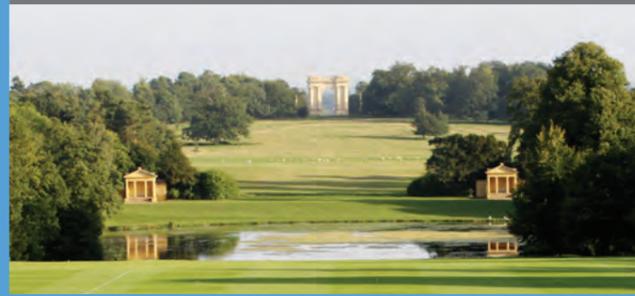
King George II so disliked Earl Temple that when he bestowed the Earl with the Order of the Garter he threw the insignia to his ankles like a bone to a dog.



## The finest view in England

On the impressive South Front Portico take a seat on one of our 250-year-old benches and admire one of the finest views in England. This breathtaking vista symbolises the righteous path through life towards death at the Corinthian Arch and the ascent to heaven at the spire of Buckingham church in the far distance. Don't worry if you can't see the spire - it was moved to spite the family during a bitter rivalry!

Above the colossal portico doors is a relief of Bacchus stroking his lion. As the Roman god of wine, revelry and festivities, he was represented on the ceilings and walls inside the House to show off the luxurious and extravagant lifestyles of the family. To see him in a variety of drunken festivities enter the House through the visitor centre.



## Kids go free all year round!

Themed children's crafts and activities are available during the school holidays! See our website for more details.



## Top five House highlights

- 1 Scandal** - Discover the scandal of the Duke who amassed the greatest debts in the world.
- 2 Excess** - Marvel at our amazing domed ceiling inspired by the ancient Pantheon in Rome.
- 3 Celebrity** - Find out why Queen Victoria thought this palace was too luxurious even for royalty.
- 4 Childhood** - See inside the school where Christopher Robin from Winnie the Pooh spent his childhood.
- 5 Delight** - Be enchanted by the scenes of nature in the State Music Room.

