



Green Island Gardens 2017 Group Bookings Information Pack



Green Island Gardens
Park Road
Ardleigh, Colchester
Essex, CO7 7SP

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ISLAND GARDEN GROUP VISIT FAQ

Why visit Green Island Gardens?

Green Island Garden is a 20 acre garden in the Colchester district featuring many unique plants, designed for all year round enjoyment. Due to the naturally formed micro-climate Green Island Gardens is able to grow plants that ordinarily struggle survive, we often have temperatures 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 love for the obscure and unusual plants.

When is Green Island Gardens open?

We are open 10am - 5pm every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from February 1st - November 30th. We also open every Bank Holiday Monday during these months plus every Saturday between April and August. Group visits are available outside these hours by appointment.

Where is Green Island Garden?

Green Island Gardens is outside the village of Ardleigh, east of Colchester. The easiest way to find us is via our postcode - CO7 7SP - keyed into a satnav or smart phone.

CARS

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.

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.

Frinton, Walton 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 pub. Continue to the next turning left which is Park Road and Green Island Gardens is last on the left.

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

Colchester Take the A137 towards Manningtree (called Harwich Road) At the first mini roundabout ignore the signs for Ardleigh and turn right onto the 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

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.

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 2017 entry costs £6.50/adult and £2.50/child, however for groups over 20 visitors we offer a discounted rate of £6.00 adult and £2.00/child.

What is the best time of year to visit?

As mentioned Green Island Gardens is the perfect garden to visit year round. Open for 10 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 set the grounds ablaze

The best time of year just depends on what you wish to see.

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 2-3 hours.

Many groups combine Green Island Gardens with another Garden 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 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 £5.00

- * Cream tea (scones, jam, cream & tea/coffee) £6.00

- * Afternoon tea (sandwiches, scone, jam, cream, cake & tea/coffee) £10.50

For groups we offer a special £3.00 cake & tea/coffee and £5.00 cream tea available at the time of booking, we request that any catering required for your group be pre-ordered

How long is a guided tour?

The tour led by Fiona 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&As afterwards.

The tour is best suited to groups of 20-25 people, several tours can be run simultaneously to cater for groups over 25.

Are you disabled friendly?

Yes we are. The grounds are mostly flat 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, we have both plants, photographs and cards for sale. The nursery has a wide variety of plants for sale many 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 up loaded to the internet that you credit them to Green Island Gardens.

LIGHT LUNCHESES MENU

Homemade soup of the day - £5.50

Served with freshly cooked bread rolls and butter

Freshly cooked baguette - £5.50

Tuna Mayonnaise

Ham & Tomato

Ham & Cheese

Cheese & Pickle

Prawn & Marie Rose (£0.50 supplement)

All baguettes are served with homemade salad

Toasted Sandwich - £5.00

Cheese

Cheese & Tomato

Ham & Cheese

Cheese & Pickle

All toasted sandwiches are served with your choice of white or brown bread & homemade salad

Jacket Potato - £6.00

Note: Jacket potatoes are cooked to order, please order 1 hour in advance

Tuna Mayonnaise

Cheese

Chilli Con Carne

Baked Beans

Extra filling (£0.50 supplement)

All jacket potatoes are served with homemade salad

For groups over 25 we do ask that lunch orders be pre-ordered to ensure a speedier service

GREEN ISLAND GARDEN GROUP VISIT BOOKING FORM

Group Contact _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email address _____

Date and time _____

Number of people _____

Is catering required? please specify _____

Guided tour required @ £30.00? _____

Total costs for visit _____

Note: all money to be collected by group organiser and settled on entry to the gardens

£20.00 non refundable deposit paid _____

Note: Please make cheques payable to 'Green Island Gardens'

Please tick to acknowledge

Visitors are asked to take care when visiting the gardens. Decking and stepping stones may be slippery as may the steps to the tree house. The owners cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur during the visit. Parents are asked to keep children off the trampoline, climbing frame and swings as we cannot be held responsible for any accidents. Cars are parked at the owners risk.

Coaches **MUST** enter the exit gate as the entrance drive is too narrow. This is entrance is located on the Bromley Road side of the gardens.

Signature _____

Return this form and deposit to:

Green Island Gardens

Park Road

Ardleigh, CO7 7SP