



GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

At Hillsborough Castle & Gardens



Please help us

As an independent charity that generates all our own funds, we are facing unprecedented challenges in the face of the Coronavirus. We have lost the vast majority of our income, and we face serious challenges ahead. If, like us, you love the palaces and believe in what we do, we welcome any support you are able to give us to sustain the charity through this difficult period. Joining our community of members or making a donation is an investment in their future – so visitors can continue to enjoy them for centuries to come.

Thank you.

You can also donate by Text:

Text HILLS to 70085 to donate £5

Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message

hrp.org.uk

Historic Royal Palaces is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (No. 1068852)

Your safety is important

The safety of our staff and visitors is our primary concern. Please respect social distancing at all times, and make use of the handwashing and hand sanitising facilities. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable visit.

Please take extra care with children when visiting areas of the gardens that contain water features, such as streams, ponds and the lake.

Accessibility

We welcome visitors of all abilities and most paths are accessible but there are some steep inclines. If you wish to stay in the flat Walled Garden, there will be an anticlockwise circular route in operation.

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GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

At Hillsborough Castle & Gardens

EXPLORE HISTORY, SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND
INSTAGRAM VIEWS IN OUR GARDENS SUMMER TRAIL



WELCOME TO HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE & GARDENS

Our Head Gardener, Claire Woods, takes you on a one-way route around our summer highlights and most Instagrammable views! She has selected some of her favourite plants to look out for and top seasonal tips.

The Garden Walk is 2.1. km



Estimated time 30 minutes



Pea & bean supports

1. The Walled Garden

The garden was built in the 1760s with warm brick walls to grow fruit trees. The oldest trees are on the west wall and still produce a good crop of pears 100 years after they were planted. This kitchen garden supplied the house with fruit and vegetables right up until the mid-1970s.

Claire says “look out for the beautiful pea and bean supports hand woven by our gardeners.”

2. Lady Alice’s Temple

Colonel Arthur Hill built this romantic folly for the wedding of his sister Lady Alice. It’s the perfect spot to admire the views down Moss Walk and up Yew Tree Walk.

Claire says “Lady Alice’s Temple is designed as a focal point - it is so important in garden design to lead the eye through the garden and along vistas. Even the smallest garden should have a focal point.”

Lady Alice’s Temple



3. Lost Garden

In the 1830s the natural stream was enhanced with waterfalls, an island and exotic planting. By the late 20th century it was completely overgrown. Now restored, it has three distinct areas of planting – the Chinese glade, the central area with southern hemisphere plants, and the top representing an Irish bog, planted with native species.

Claire says “The stream is the perfect place to watch and listen to birds. You might see the flash of a kingfisher, or hear the woodcock or the great spotted woodpecker as it knocks on the trees. Study the stream – you may see grey wagtails or a dipper.”

Grey wagtail



4. Lady Alice’s Pond

This mirror pond was created by building a small dam across the stream. On a still day you will see wonderful reflections of the temple.

Claire says “Look out for the *Gunnera manicata*. This majestic plant was imported from Brazil but is now classed as an invasive alien. People call it giant rhubarb but it’s not even a distant relative - in fact it’s more closely related to box.”

Gunnera manicata



5. Yew Tree Walk

Marking the line of the old Moira Road, this broad walk frames the view from the terrace to Lady Alice’s Temple. It is lined with *Taxus baccata* ‘Fastigiata’ planted in about 1860. The hugely overgrown yews were radically pruned in 2015.

Claire says “Come back in the Spring to see our spectacular bulb display! Volunteers helped us plant 30,000 bulbs here in 2016.”

Yew Tree Walk



6. Jubilee Parterre

This garden has variously been planted with Victorian bedding plants, roses in the twentieth century and then became a topiary garden for the Queen’s Jubilee in 2012. Shortly after Historic Royal Palaces took over in 2014, it was re-styled again into a flower garden with a mix of shrubs, perennials and roses.

Claire says “As the lime trees around the outside of the garden grow in the coming years we will pleach them – tying in and training young shoots to make a hedge on stilts.”

7. The Granville Garden

This is the garden of Lady Rose Bowes-Lyon, aunt to Elizabeth II and wife to the second governor Lord Granville. The layout hasn’t changed since the 1940s but the planting has been renewed. Look out for the pink rose called ‘Silver Jubilee’ and the white rose in the centre is ‘Madam Speaker’. This year we have planted new scented roses by David Austin.

Rose ‘Silver Jubilee’



Claire says “Look through the gate to the great *Rhododendron arborea*, possibly ‘Cornish Red’. This is in fact one plant that held the Guinness Record as the biggest in the world for many years. Currently over 45x25m across and over 15m tall, it was planted over 100 years ago. Visit us in late April/early May to see it in full bloom!”

8. The Big Oak

This turkey oak *Quercus cerris* is thought to be about 250 years old, planted when the house was first built.

Claire says “I love looking up into the canopy where you can see that branches have naturally grafted together to form windows. Look out for the huge burr at the base - an abnormal growth probably caused by an old injury”

9. The Glen



The Glen

As you walk down the Red Acer path, you are in the heart of the eighteenth-century garden. The stone sides of the stream have stopped it meandering over the Glen floor for the last 250 years. The woodland picnic area, in the trees just off the wiggly walk, is a great place to climb, balance, jump or just sit.

Claire says “If you look to your right you can see the tall spires of the conifers in the pinetum, and to your left the beautifully striped grass. This was one of Mo Mowlam’s favourite places and some of her ashes were scattered here.”

10. Moss Walk

This beautiful Moss Walk was originally a path to the old burial ground. Once the lime trees were planted and cast their shade over the area, the grass died out allowing the mosses to grow unhindered. It is such a delicate surface, we ask visitors not to walk on it.

Claire says “In the spring, the birds love the Moss Walk. They pull it up to search for food and gather moss to build their nests.”



Moss Walk