

EXBURY GARDENS



& STEAM RAILWAY

EXBURY GARDENS - THE ROTHSCHILD COLLECTION OF RHODODENDRONS, AZALEAS, CAMELLIAS, RARE TREES AND SHRUBS

GROUP ORGANISER MANUAL 2010

Created by Lionel de Rothschild in the 1920s, Exbury Gardens in the New Forest near Beaulieu is a stunning realisation of his inspiration, offering 200 acres of natural beauty and horticultural variety.

NEW FOR 2010

From mid-Spring, the Exbury Engine Shed will be open for the first time to railway visitors on a daily basis, with a walk-through exhibition titled "The Dream That Became Steam." Group visitors can pre-book tickets for the railway and exhibition at a discount, when booked with gardens admission.

New interpretation will be displayed in the Gardens, giving background information and quirky facts on the collection of plants and trees, and the history of Exbury and the Rothschild family.



OPENING TIMES FOR 2010:

Saturday 13th March –
Sunday 7th November
10am – 5pm last admission.
Gates close 6pm or dusk if earlier.

Please call for winter opening arrangements.

VISITING TIMES

We recommend you allow a minimum 2½ - 3½ hours to explore the Gardens (but up to 5 – 6 hours in the spring), plus time spent in the restaurant and on the railway.

View Exbury's award-nominated website showing images of current flowering conditions and helpful group information.

	Adults/Seniors/ Concessions/ Students	Children 3-15	Children under 3	Railway extra (under 3's free)	Rover ticket (extra for unlimited travel)	Buggy (30/45min tours)	The Exbury Experience (for bookings in March and 7 June onwards)
Group* prices 2010	£7.50	£1.50	FREE	£3.00 if booked in advance, £3.50 if purchased on day of visit.	£1.00	£3.50/£4.00	£13.50 adults £6.00 child

* **Group** = 15 or more people

Meet and Greet £35; **Senior Guide Tour** £55; **Head or Senior Gardener Tour** £80. Guided tours are for a maximum of 25 people per guide (50 for Meet and Greet). For description of tour options, see page 2. Group Organiser receives free entry into the Gardens and a ride on the Steam Railway. Coach drivers are entitled to £5 cash, free entry into the Gardens and a train ride for each group admitted to the Gardens, plus a meal in Mr Eddy's Restaurant.



GARDEN FLOWERING TIMES

March: Daffodils, heathers, camellias and magnolias
April: Magnolias, rhododendrons & primroses – full colour
May: Rhododendrons, azaleas, bluebells, wisteria – full colour
June: Water Gardens, candelabra primulas and *Stewartias*
July: Summer Lane Garden (Railway) and wild flowers
August: Hydrangeas, *eucryphias* and shady riverside walks

September: Herbaceous beds & exotic flowers in Sundial Garden

October: Autumn colour of maples, sweet gums & dogwoods, nerines & National Collection of *Myssa* and *Oxydendrum*

November: Late Autumn colour

Please check the Exbury website www.exbury.co.uk for up-to-date information and photographs of flowering conditions.

GUIDED TOURS

Available only by prior arrangement when booking, in conjunction with Gardens' entry

Meet & Greet £35 (a 30 minute introduction to the Gardens and their history, with a gentle stroll towards Home Wood)

Senior Guide Tour £55 (a 1½ / 2 hour tour of the Gardens, visiting the best of the colour)

Head or Senior Gardener Tour £80 (for the more specialist group – looking at Exbury's tree and plant collection – these can focus on special aspects of the collection on request, and last up to 2 hours)

THE EXBURY GARDENS STEAM RAILWAY



The popular Exbury narrow gauge steam railway takes visitors on a magical journey around the northeast corner of the Gardens and through the Summer Lane Garden planted with bulbs, herbaceous perennials and grasses. The journey lasts 20 minutes and features include a bridge, tunnel, viaduct and Exbury North Halt. NEW FOR 2010: Walk through exhibition in Exbury Engine Shed: The Dream That Became Steam – included in railway admission. Trains depart Exbury Central regularly from 11am*. Tickets can be ordered in advance using the Group Booking Form at a discounted rate of £3.00, or can be purchased on arrival at the Gardens for £3.50. (* During quieter periods running of railway may be restricted, with timings advertised at the gate). Ask about our special "Railwayman's Package" for groups, and the Exbury Footplate Experience – learn to drive your very own locomotive! Individuals only, price £235.

THE EXBURY EXPERIENCE

(AVAILABLE FOR BOOKINGS IN MARCH AND FROM 7 JUNE ONWARDS EXCEPT GHOST TRAIN DATES)

Let your group explore the best of Exbury with our simple and great value Exbury Experience ticket. Consisting of entrance to the Gardens, 30/45 minute buggy tour with commentary and anecdotes, 20 minute steam railway journey around the Summer Lane Garden and across the Rock Garden, plus the chance to discover Exbury's mighty leviathans on a walking

trail, the Exbury Experience is limited to one group per day. Groups booked on the Exbury Experience also receive vouchers for 10% off purchases in the gift shop, plant centre and Mr Eddy's Restaurant and Tea Rooms based on a minimum spend. Minimum number – 15; maximum number – 45. Price: £13.50 per head (£6 children).

BUGGY TOURS

Our chauffeur driven buggies (7 passengers plus driver) are available throughout the year and give a lively tour of the Gardens with commentary and anecdotes. Organised on a numbered ticket system, up to 4 buggies work during the high season. Numbers for the buggies are collected from a dispenser inside the Gardens entrance, with payment made direct to the driver. In the high season,* buggies cannot be pre-booked.



However, groups may pre-book buggies as part of The Exbury Experience package. The buggies are extremely popular and there can be lengthy waits on busy days in May. However, there is plenty of seating available at the buggy halt, which is directly next to the gift shop and plant centre. During quieter periods running of buggies may be subject to restrictions, advertised at the gate.

(*High Season is 1 April - 6 June)



THE EXBURY MAIZE MAZE Daily During Summer Holidays

Can you solve the puzzle of the Exbury Maize Maze? Trek through a jungle of maize plants; you'll have to solve all manner of clues and riddles in order to unearth your booty! With over 2 miles of twisting pathways in our 6 acre field it will test your navigational skills and keep you fit along the way! There are courtyard puzzles and games, refreshments and picnic area



– the Exbury Maize Maze is a great day out for all the family. The Maze is located opposite the main exit to the Gardens and a separate fee is payable. Joint admission tickets for Maze and Gardens are available. Open daily from 10:30am– 4:00pm last admission throughout the summer holidays. For all enquiries please telephone 023 8089 1203.

CORPORATE EVENTS, WEDDINGS AND BIRTHDAY PARTIES



Exbury Gardens provides a delightful setting for marquee events for between 50 – 400 people. The Gardens are licensed to host civil weddings in three venues – the Exbury Engine Shed (200 persons);



Mr Eddy's Restaurant (200 persons) and the Five Arrows Gallery (60 persons). The Exbury Gardens Railway can be chartered for birthday parties or special occasions (*see our website for more information*).

ACCESS FOR ALL

Exbury Gardens is widely accessible, with the majority of pathways on level ground. Wheelchairs are available on a first come, first served basis, free of charge. The buggy tours and the steam railway are a good way of seeing the Gardens with your feet up!

The steam railway has 4 wheelchair friendly carriages. The restaurant, plant centre and gift shop are all accessible and a leaflet summarising accessibility is available on request. Main toilets have wheelchair access. Baby changing facilities are available.

CATERING AT EXBURY



Dine in comfort at Mr. Eddy's Restaurant and Tea Rooms. Our caterers, Pabulum, would be delighted to discuss group lunch menus for your party. Early morning tea/coffee and pastries; lunches and afternoon cream teas may all be booked for your group. Pabulum can be contacted on **023 8089 8737** during Gardens' open hours. A selection of menus can be found on the Exbury website www.exbury.co.uk The Tennis Court Tea Garden will be open daily during the high season and for limited hours during the low season, serving a selected range of refreshments within the Gardens.

EXBURY PLANT CENTRE AND GIFT SHOP

Take home a souvenir of Exbury and bring some colour to your garden! The Exbury Plant Centre stocks a wide range of the very finest rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, plus an excellent selection of roses, alpines, herbaceous plants, pots

and composts. The Exbury Gift Shop sells a wide range of Exbury souvenirs, including guidebooks, videos and puzzles, postcards and gift cards, jams, chutneys, railway goods and an excellent range of gift ideas for all.

PROMOTE YOUR TOUR FREE OF CHARGE

Would you like us to publicise your trip to Exbury Gardens on the Exbury website? We receive a large number of telephone calls about organised trips to the Gardens, and we would like enquirers to visit our website and see an up-to-date list of tours departing for Exbury from around the country.

They may be able to book with you! Please tick the box on the booking form if you would like us to include your trip – we will state name of party; date; departure point and time, and contact number / e-mail address.

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GROUP ORGANISER BOOKING FORM 2010

	Adults, OAPs & Concessions	Children 3-15	Children under 3	Railway extra (under 3's free)	Rover ticket (extra for unlimited travel)	Buggy (30/45min tours)	The Exbury Experience (for bookings from 8 June onwards)
Group* prices 2010	£7.50	£1.50	FREE	£3.00 if booked in advance, £3.50 if purchased on day of visit	£1.00 subject to availability	£3.50 / £4.00	£13.50 adults £6.00 child

*A group constitutes 15 people or more and the "Group concessionary admission prices" to the Gardens are as above.

Group Organiser receives free entry into the Gardens and a ride on the Steam Railway. Coach drivers are entitled to £5 cash, free entry into the Gardens and a train ride for each group admitted to the Gardens, plus a meal in Mr Eddy's Restaurant. Buggy tickets should be purchased on the day of your visit and are not pre-bookable.

If refreshments are required, please contact our caterers on 023 8089 8737 or e-mail: catering@exbury.co.uk

Name of Organisation.....

Contact Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... Fax.....

E-mail.....

Date of Visit..... Number in Group..... Approx time of Arrival.....

Adults at £ 7.50 each = £

OAPs at £ 7.50 each = £

Children at £ 1.50 each = £

Railway Ticket at £ 3.00 each = £

Meet and Greet – £35 per party

Senior Guide Tour – £55 per party

Head or Senior Gardener Tour – £80 per party

Maximum of 25 per guide, but 50 for Meet & Greet



INCLUSIVE PACKAGES - LOW SEASON ONLY*

- The Exbury Experience**
 £13.50 per adult; £6.00 per child
 The simple, easy way to enjoy the very best of Exbury Gardens. Available on a first-come, first-served basis, we can only offer one Exbury Experience Group Booking per day. Minimum number – 15, maximum number – 45 (*not available on Ghost Train dates*).
- Railwayman's Package**
 £29.50 per adult (includes a 2 course lunch)
 Minimum number – 15.



(*Low Season is March and 7 June - 7 November)

PAYMENT

Payment for groups should be made on arrival at the Gardens. The Group Organiser or coach driver should approach the group counter (High Season) or gate (Low Season) and pay for all Garden admissions before allowing groups to disembark. Your group should be advised that buggy tickets (and Railway tickets, if not purchased in advance) should be purchased independently once in the Gardens.

EXBURY WEBSITE

Do you wish us to promote your tour free of charge on the Exbury website? YES / NO

Please advise what prompted your booking to the Gardens:

- Recommendation Internet listing
- Previous visitor Group Travel Fair (please specify).....
- Advertisement Other (please specify).....

The following information is available free of charge:

Please send me:	Quantity
2010 Exbury Gardens leaflets	
Exbury Gardens Map Guide*	
Exbury Gardens Accessibility Maps*	
Exbury Gardens posters A4	
Group Lunch menus	

Please return to:
The Estate Office
Exbury Gardens
Exbury
Hampshire SO45 1AZ

Tel: **023 8089 1203**
 Fax: **023 8089 9940**

or visit our website and complete a booking form online:
www.exbury.co.uk (our staff will ring to confirm booking details)

Tick box if you wish to receive details of future events and news from Exbury Gardens

(*Up to x6 copies can be mailed out. These leaflets will form part of your welcome pack on arrival.)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

DATE RECEIVED

CONFIRMATION DETAILS SENT YES / NO

PAYMENT RECEIVED YES / NO



EXBURY GARDENS AND STEAM RAILWAY EVENTS PROGRAMME 2010

The following events are just a flavour of the many events and exhibitions taking place at the Gardens during 2010. Usual admission fees apply except for ticketed events marked*:



Sat 13 March – Wed 31 March – Lachenalia Exhibition
 Fri 2 April – Sun 6 June – Four Seasons Artists Exhibition, Five Arrows Gallery
 Sat 3 / Sun 4 / Mon 5 April – Easter at Exbury

MAIN EVENT: Mon 19 April – Mon 31 May – The Glory of the Garden – see Exbury at its spectacular best
Sun 13 June – Sun 25 July – Helen Simpson Art Exhibition
MAIN EVENT: Sat 31 July – Sun 1 August – Exbury Tea Festival – Tastings, talks and trails – in fact everything about Tea!
Sat 28 August – Chapterhouse open-air theatre production – Pride and Prejudice* 7.30pm
Fri 1 Oct – Sun 31 Oct – Nerine Exhibition and Wild Autumn Art display, Five Arrows Gallery
MAIN EVENT: Sat/Sun 2/3 October – Steam in the Gardens – The smell of steam, the colours of autumn – perfect for a great day out
MAIN EVENT: Sat 9 Oct – Sun 7 Nov – Festival of Autumn Colour. – Exbury's renowned autumn colour and National Collections offer wonderful photographic opportunities
MAIN EVENT: Mon 25 – Sun 31 Oct – Exbury Ghost Train* - A Phantomime for Halloween week! Dare you ride?!! Great fun for all. Listed "No 1 Halloween Treat in the Country," The Guardian.
MAIN EVENT: Sat 11/12, Sat/Sun/Mon/Tues 18, 19, 20, 21 Dec – Exbury Santa Steam Specials* – Musical train rides, mince pies and hot punch, presents for children and a Christmas trail to follow round the Gardens

Check the Exbury website for details of other events, Head Gardener Breakfast Walks, trails, car rallies and for news of exciting exhibitions.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:

Moonhills – New Forest ponies are in abundance here, a Forestry Commission site on the delightful Summer Lane approach road to the Gardens. 1½ miles from the Gardens.

Lepe Country Park – A favourite Hampshire Country Park; on the sea, with fabulous views over to the Isle of Wight. 2½ miles from the Gardens. Visit website at www.hants.gov.uk

The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. 3 miles from the Gardens. Visit website at www.beaulieu.co.uk

White Horse Ferries, Hythe – check out the website for details of "Big Ship" sailing times – why not combine a visit to Exbury with a trip on the Hythe Ferry and get close to the great ocean liners. 6 miles from the Gardens. Visit website at www.hytheferry.com
 Please check the Exbury website www.exbury.co.uk for listings of other New Forest attractions and useful websites. Enquire for combination tours with partner New Forest Attractions, including nearby Buckler's Hard, or visit www.thenewforest.co.uk



HOW TO GET TO EXBURY

20 minutes south of Junction 2, M27 West. Take the A326 following the brown tourist signs to Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway. Approximate driving times: Southampton 30 minutes; Bournemouth 45 minutes; Oxford 1 hour 30 minutes; London 2 hours.

From early summer to the end of the summer holidays, the New Forest Open Top Tour Bus is scheduled to visit the Gardens up to eight times a day. For more info call 023 8061 4459 or visit www.newforesttour.info

CONTACT INFORMATION

Exbury Gardens and Steam Railway
Exbury, Southampton SO45 1AZ
Tel: 023 8089 1203 Fax: 023 8089 9940
 24 hour information line: 023 8089 9422
 Box Office: 023 8024 5750
 Website: www.exbury.co.uk
 e-mail: nigel.philpott@exbury.co.uk
 Mr Eddy's Restaurant and Tea Rooms: 023 8089 8737
 e-mail: catering@exbury.co.uk
 Plant Centre and Gift Shop: 023 8089 8625

Exbury Gardens Ltd
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