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Inverewe Garden and Estate

Information for schools



Inverewe Garden is set on a peninsula on the shores of Loch Ewe, within the Wester Ross National Scenic Area. It is renowned for its exotic plants which flourish here on a latitude that is more northerly than Moscow. The garden's profusion of plants is due to clever tree planting that shields the garden from salt winds and storms, combined with the Gulf Stream which brings warm seawater currents to the shores of the sea-loch.

The 54 acre Garden sits within Inverewe Estate which itself comprises over 2,000 acres of open moorland and woodland. The Estate offers excellent opportunities for discovering the natural history of Wester Ross.

The school visit offers opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence

- Garden:
 - Teacher led tours can be booked - all ages are welcome, from nursery to teens. (Orientation map provided and there are way-markers).
 - There's lots to discover, including the Wildlife Garden and woodland paths.
 - Safety Warning (for younger pupils): there are ponds within the garden.
- Estate Activities:
 - Ranger led walks can be booked – all Learning Levels welcome.
 - Walks will be adapted to suit the requirements of your class – please discuss these with the Ranger when booking.
 - Possible study areas include shoreline, woodland, wetland.
 - There are opportunities to consider plant life, minibeads or food chains - or watch shoreline birds from the Wildlife Hide.
 - Forest School can be offered.
 - The Wildlife Hide (on Loch Ewe shore) accommodates up to 15 pupils.

Resources for schools

- Illustrated guidebook (for sale on site).
- Display panels about the Mackenzie family and Inverewe (in the Visitor Centre).
- Orientation leaflet (and way-markers) within garden.

Planning your visit

- To book: please contact the Inverewe property manager for a booking form.
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment.
- The garden is available for school visits throughout the year – but the Visitor Centre, Restaurant and Toilets are closed in the winter season.
- NOTE: For safety reasons, teacher-led visits must be booked (so NTS staff are aware that your pupils are in the garden).
- Ranger led walks on the Estate can be booked all year round.

For more information, visit www.nts.org.uk/Learn

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Planning your visit (continued)

- Maximum class size: Garden: No limit as long as there is a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 pupils. Estate Walks: 30 pupils, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 pupils.
- Access: about 70% of the Garden is accessible for wheelchair users. Some paths are steep. The orientation map shows suitable paths. Please do phone to discuss your requirements – we will do our utmost to accommodate your pupils.
- Toilets: (April - October) at the Visitor Centre, including a fully accessible toilet.
- Refreshments: The restaurant is open April - October. Light lunches and children's lunch boxes can be bought there. Most pupils bring picnics to eat outdoors. There are no wet weather facilities (so we advise you to keep the coach for the duration of your visit).
- Clothing: should be appropriate for outdoors. The woodland paths in the garden can be muddy, as well as the Estate walks - pupils should wear stout shoes if possible.
- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers should prepare their own RA for the visit.
- There is more information about planning a visit to a Trust site on the NTS Learn website: www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_plan.php
- For more information about Inverewe, please go to: www.nts.org.uk/Property/Inverewe-Garden-Estate/

Charges

- There is no admission charge for schools with NTS educational membership.
- Non-members are welcome but there is an admission charge of £2 per pupil.
- Accompanying adults are admitted free.
- All class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site.
- Membership: please apply at Inverewe - or go to the NTS Learn website: www.nts.org.uk/Learn/schools_membership.php

During your class visit

- Tours of the garden are teacher led.
- Garden tours: usually last 1.5 - 2 hours.
- Garden tours: coats and bags can be stored in the reception area.
- Estate walks are led by NTS ranger staff.
- Estate walks: the length of your visit will depend on the programme booked – please discuss your requirements with the Ranger.
- Estate walks: a class of 30 pupils will be split into 2 groups.
- All Walks: Teachers are responsible for pupils and their behaviour.
- Schools may take photos/ films.
- Pupils are welcome to visit the shop, in small groups and with teacher supervision.
- On arrival, please report to the admission desk at the Reception area.

Getting to Inverewe

- Inverewe is situated on the A832, one mile from Poolewe, and 50 miles north-west of Ullapool (A835).
- Coaches can park in the car/coach park beside the garden entrance.

For more information and a booking form, please contact Inverewe

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