

EXPLORE



Group Visit Guide

Retford Park



Built in the 1880s,
Retford Park is a place
of great heritage significance
and natural beauty



Visitors enjoy the gardens at any time of year



Retford Park, Bowral

The elegant Victorian Italianate residence and former home of James Fairfax AC is surrounded by pristine gardens and framed by an arboretum of towering trees. The gardens are a wonder to walk through at any time of the year and feature a patchwork of immaculate hedges and garden rooms, an intricate knot garden, herbaceous border, flourishing orchard and a striking Modernist pool pavilion.

The grounds burst with brilliant seasonal colour in autumn and spring. In the summer months, huge oaks trees provide a shady canopy for a picnic and in the colder months the 'winter walk' comes to life with fragrant daphne, delicate snowdrops, witch hazel, bergenia and honeysuckle. Scattered throughout the grounds is an impressive collection of sculptures by noted Australian artists.

The striking 'Portuguese Pink' mansion and its extensive collection of fine antique furniture, significant artworks, beautiful soft furnishings and superb decorative arts, reflects the 50-year ownership of James Fairfax, well-known champion of the arts and generous philanthropist. He ensured Retford Park was preserved for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations by gifting his historic home and its magnificent gardens to the National Trust (NSW) in 2016.

Located in the Southern Highlands, Retford Park is 90 minutes' drive from central Sydney and just five minutes from Bowral town centre.



GETTING TO RETFORD PARK

Address

1325 Old South Road, Bowral, NSW 2576

By car

Head up Merrigang Street from Bong Bong Street, the main street in Bowral.

Follow to the end of Merrigang and turn right at the 'T' intersection.

Watch for the Retford Park white gate, the second driveway on the left.

Be guided through hectares of natural wonder and beauty



Pool Pavilion designed by renowned modernist architect Guilford Bell



Discover an array of gifts and keepsakes at the White Cottage Gallery and Shop



House tours led by passionate guides

Group Visits

Retford Park offers groups of 20 people or more a number of different options to suit your itinerary and budget.

1 STEP INSIDE Guided house tour

\$25 per person | Allow 90 minutes

Unlock the secrets of this remarkable home on an intimate tour of the formal and private spaces inside. Highlights of the house collection include original artworks, fine antique furniture, decorative arts and lush soft furnishings. Allow time before or after your tour for a self-guided stroll through the gardens.

2 GARDEN RAMBLE Guided garden tour

\$25 per person | Allow 60 minutes

There is so much more to the stunning garden than first meets the eye. Experienced garden guides will show you seasonal highlights, extraordinary plants and 'living antiques', the impressive collection of outdoor sculptures and the striking modernist pool pavilion. Garden ramble tour does not include access to the house.

3 QUICK PEEK Self-led garden visit

\$15 per person | Allow 45 minutes

Explore the beautiful formal gardens and vast arboretum at your own pace, with the help of a printed map. A good option for those with a tight schedule. Starts with an introduction and orientation at the White Cottage Gallery and Shop.

4 THE FULL EXPERIENCE Guided house tour and guided garden tour

\$45 per person | Allow 2.5 hours

Go behind the scenes on a fully guided tour of both the house and the gardens to discover the many layers of history of Retford Park, from its agricultural origins with the Hordern family, to its magnificent transformation into a 'gentleman's estate' by James Fairfax.

Retford Park is a must-see with over thirty hectares of natural wonder and beauty surrounding the elegant Victorian Italianate homestead

Make a day of it

Plan your trip to include lunch, a visit to the Southern Highlands Regional Gallery, and the delightful Harper's Mansion.

NGUNUNGGULA AND HEARTH BY MOONACRES CAFÉ

Within the grounds of Retford Park are Ngununggula (Southern Highlands Regional Gallery) and Hearth by Moonacres café. Located in the former Dairy and Vet Clinic buildings, both venues are a short walk (approx. 200 metres) from Retford Park House.

Ngununggula

(02) 4861 5348

hello@ngununggula.com

ngununggula.com

Hearth by Moonacres café

(02) 4861 6629

hearth@moonacres.com.au

moonacres.com.au/hearth

HARPER'S MANSION

A short drive away (approx. 20 mins) is National Trust property Harper's Mansion. Overlooking the nearby town of Berrima, Harper's Mansion was built in 1834 by local publican James Harper and later owned by the Catholic Church. The house was restored by the National Trust from 1978 and is furnished in colonial style. Harper's Mansion is set in two acres of gardens made for strolling, full of cool climate heritage plants and featuring a heritage rose garden and one of the largest hedge mazes in Australia.

Harper's Mansion

(02) 4877 2071

harpersmansion@nationaltrust.com.au

nationaltrust.org.au/places/harpers-mansion



Ngununggula, the Southern Highlands Regional Gallery. (Photo by Tonkin Zul)



Facilities

More information to assist you plan a great day out for everyone in your group.

Parking

Free parking for cars and coaches is available on site.

Accessibility

It is a 100 metre walk from the car park to the main entry at the White Cottage.

Entry to the White Cottage Gallery and Shop and the main house is via steps. There are currently no accessibility ramps.

Within the main house there are two flights of stairs to reach the first floor.

Gravel paths enable level access to most areas of the garden.

Bathrooms

We currently have only three toilets available. Please factor in enough time to enable your group to use the toilets before your tour; or make a convenience stop before arriving at Retford Park.

White Cottage Gallery and Shop

The White Cottage features a changing program of exhibitions by local artists and is included in your visit. Allow some time to browse the beautiful range of gifts, books and keepsakes at the shop. All purchases support the conservation and care of National Trust (NSW) properties.



CATERING OPTIONS

Hearth by Moonacres – onsite café

Offering a choice of seasonal best produce.
Morning tea and lunch options available.
Pre booking is recommended for groups.

Self-catering

Bring your own lunch to enjoy in the beautiful park surrounds.

Other local options

Ask us about local venues for large groups of 40+.

There is something to charm and delight garden enthusiasts and young explorers all seasons of the year



Group Visit Terms and Conditions

All bookings are made with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) (ABN 82 491 958 802). By booking a visit with us you are deemed to have agreed to these Group Visit Terms and Conditions (which constitutes the entire agreement between you and us) and your booking will be accepted by us on this basis. The services to be provided are those referred to in your booking confirmation email and invoice.

Payment

1. Invoices will be issued for all payments and payments must be made by direct transfer or by debit/credit card. American Express is not accepted. Only a single payment as per invoice will be accepted.
2. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required to confirm your booking.
3. Final numbers for your group required at least 10 days prior to the date of visit. The balance of payment will be confirmed and invoiced based on these final numbers.
4. Full payment is required before your visit.
5. Group tour leaders, coach drivers and carers acting in that capacity during a group visit are entitled to free admission to the property on the day of the group's visit.
6. National Trust Membership discounts will be applied subject to Members showing proof of Membership upon arrival. Please advise when confirming final numbers if any of your group are National Trust Members.

Group sizes

7. Minimum group size of 20 people applies. Guided tours of the house have a maximum capacity of 30 people at one time. Groups of 30+ may need to factor in time to allow for two or more consecutive house tours.

Amendments to bookings

8. Any request to change your booking must be made in writing, by emailing retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au
9. Changes to dates and session times are subject to availability.
10. On the day of the visit, should the number of visitors be less than the minimum number required, the cost will remain at minimum number. Should the number of visitors be greater than the number booked you will be invoiced for the additional visitors.

Cancellation and refund policy

11. Cancellations must be made in writing to retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au.
12. If you cancel your booking within 10 days of your visit, or if you fail to arrive on the scheduled day, no refunds apply.
13. The National Trust of Australia (NSW) reserves the right to cancel your visit should the need arise. If we cancel your booking, payments made may be applied to a mutually agreed alternative date or you may request a refund. In circumstances where the cancellation is due to external events outside our reasonable control, refunds will be less any unrecoverable costs.

Arrival times

14. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled booking time to allow for check-in. In the event of late arrival, please contact Retford Park on (02) 4861 1933. We cannot guarantee guide availability if groups arrive later than the booked time.

Weather impacts

15. For the safety and comfort of our visitors, it may be necessary to close the property in the event of extreme weather conditions. If this should happen your booking will be rescheduled or fully refunded.

COVID-19

16. We expect all group visitors to operate their trips in accordance with the Government's COVID-19 guidelines.
17. The safety and wellbeing of our visitors is of the utmost importance to us and we are continually monitoring and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic situation as it evolves. We will notify you as soon as possible should we need to amend or cancel your booking in line with updated Government advice.

Protecting the collection and property

18. Access to the house is by guided tour only.
19. For the protection of our historic collections and properties, large bags and backpacks are not permitted inside our buildings. There are a limited number of lockers for bag storage on site. The National Trust (NSW) takes no responsibility for stored belongings.

Video, sound and photography

20. Photography is permitted. Video or sound recording is not permitted inside the house or on guided tours.

Insurance

21. Group visitors are covered by National Trust (NSW) Public Liability Insurance. In case of specific concern on the day, please immediately contact the manager or tour leader.

Catering

22. Group bookings for the onsite café, Hearth by Moonacres, must be made directly with the café on 4861 6629. Bookings are strongly recommended.

Trading Terms

23. Group visits are not available on NSW public holidays; and not all tour options are available every day the property is open.
24. Confirmation of a booking request is subject to property and staff and volunteer availability and payment of a non-refundable deposit.

Safety

25. Please take care when exploring the gardens: there is loose gravel on the paths, some paths are uneven or have slopes which may become slippery in wet weather.
26. If visiting with children, please be aware that the gardens contain open water including a swimming pool and canal. All children under 15 years must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Group Visit Booking Request

To request a group booking please complete this form and email to retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au

VISITOR INFORMATION

Group name:	Group size (minimum 20):
Contact name:	
Contact email:	
Contact phone:	
Contact name and phone details on the day (if different from above):	

BOOKING DETAILS

Day:	Date: / /
Estimated arrival time:	We offer two group sessions per day: Morning session: earliest arrival 10am, latest departure 1.30pm Afternoon session: earliest arrival 2pm, latest departure 4pm
Estimated departure time:	

GROUP VISIT OPTIONS (please select one)	Price per person	Number of people (minimum 20)	Total
STEP INSIDE: Guided house tour (allow 90 minutes) Experienced guides will show you the house and highlights of the collection of artworks, antiques and decorative arts	\$25		\$
GARDEN RAMBLE: Guided garden tour (allow 60 minutes) Discover the secrets of the gardens with a guided tour covering seasonal highlights and outdoor sculpture collection	\$25		\$
QUICK PEEK: Self-guided garden visit (allow 45 minutes) Self-guided garden visit with map provided	\$15		\$
THE FULL EXPERIENCE: Guided house and guided garden tour (allow 2½ hours) Only available for groups arriving by 11am	\$45		\$
TOTAL			\$

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

As representative of the above group, I confirm that I have read and accept the terms and conditions outlined in the Group Visit Guide.

Print Name:	Signature:
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Booking confirmation	Not all tour options are available every day the property is open. Your booking and a schedule for your visit will be confirmed in writing.
Payment	Invoices will be issued for all payments. A non-refundable deposit is required to confirm your booking. Final numbers are required at least 10 days prior to the date of visit. The balance of payment will be confirmed and invoiced based on these final numbers. Full payment is required before your visit. Please see full terms and conditions attached.
Group size	Minimum group booking number is 20 people. Maximum of 30 people in the house at any one time. Large groups may be split into smaller groups within the house and gardens.
Arrival times	We cannot guarantee guide availability if your group arrives later than the confirmed time.
Opening hours	Retford Park gates open at 10am and close at 4pm.
Coach/car parking	Main Entry is at 1325 Old South Road, Bowral. We recommend you use this street address (rather than 'Retford Park') for GPS directions. Free onsite parking for cars and coaches.
Accessibility	There are steps up to the house and two flights of stairs separated by a landing to the first floor. There is no lift within the house. There are no ramps or wheelchair accessible toilet facilities. Access to the house and gardens from the car park is pedestrian.
Wet weather	There are limited undercover areas in the grounds. Visitors should be prepared for all weather events.
Directions from Bowral	The main entry to Retford Park is at 1325 Old South Road, Bowral, between the intersections with Merrigang and Bowral Streets. The main entry is marked by a modest white picket fence. Once through the gates, head up the driveway and follow the signs to the parking area. Please note, it is almost one kilometre between the front gate and the main house.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Booking taken by:	Date taken:	Confirmation date:
Program confirmed:	Invoiced:	Payment received:



Teardrop garden fountain

Contact us

1325 Old South Road, Bowral, NSW 2576
retfordpark@nationaltrust.com.au
(02) 4861 1933

For information about our opening times and special events, visit nationaltrust.org.au/places/retford-park

 @RetfordParkNationalTrustNSW

 @nationaltrustnsw