

Burghley

Visiting Burghley House  
- Garden of Surprises  
and Sculpture Garden

*A Visual Story*



# Visiting the Garden of Surprises and Sculpture Garden

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I am going to visit Burghley House, which is a big house next to the town of Stamford. It also has a large garden, and an Adventure Play area that I can visit while I am here.

## Choosing My Adventure 🍀 🎫

I can choose where I would like to go. There are different tickets I can choose on the website:

If I buy a ticket to see inside the House, this also includes the Gardens and Adventure Play area.

I can also choose to only visit the Gardens and Adventure Play area.

The Parkland is free to access if I would like to spend the day outside.

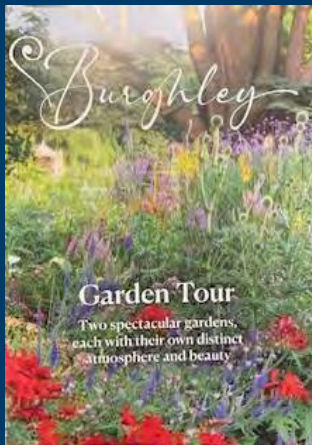
Check prices and book your tickets: [Burghley House](#)  
[| Day Ticket Prices](#)

# Helpful tips whilst visiting

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The Garden of Surprises and Sculpture Garden might be busy. There might be loud noises as other children and families are visiting too 🗣️. There will be bright areas ☀️ and shaded areas under the trees 🌳.

- I must stay with my friends and family who have brought me, at all times.
- If I need some quiet time, I can rest on a bench or find a calm spot under a tree where it's quieter and more peaceful.
- I must not climb on the Sculptures in the Garden; they are part of the Collection and may get damaged.
- Although tempting, the water features are not for me to splash in.
- The flowers are just for looking at. The Burghley Gardeners work hard to make them grow and I must not pick them.



I will be given a Garden Tour booklet when I arrive.

This has some helpful information about the garden and map to help me find out where to go.

This is mine to keep, I do not have to give it back when I have finished my visit.

# Arriving at the Garden of Surprises and Sculpture Garden 🚗 🌸

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As I arrive at Burghley House, I might hear the gentle hum of car engines as other visitors park their cars. The gravel underfoot may crunch as I step out, and I might feel a breeze on my face. Birds may be singing in the trees, and I might notice the scent of fresh grass or flowers nearby

I follow the crunchy path from the car park to the Gardens entrance; I hear the excited chatter of other families all around me. I may have to wait in line at the ticket kiosk so that other families can have their tickets checked. When it is my turn, I go to the ticket kiosk and a friendly member of staff says hello to me and checks my ticket. I will know they are a staff member as they will have a Burghley House uniform on. It is okay to speak to staff members at any time if I need help.

# The Garden of Surprises 🍷 🌿

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I am ready to start my adventure, and I head through the bushy arch into the Garden of Surprises. The ground here is smooth and hard. I may hear the sound of my footsteps as I make my way into the garden.

The sound of water fills the air, and I see a row of little fountains ahead of me. I can't touch the water as there is a cover over them, but I watch as the lights change colour and listen to the sounds they make. I like the sound – it's soothing.

I may catch a glimpse of my reflection as I walk past a large mirror hidden behind an old tree. I have only just started my adventure, and I am already excited by what I see!

# The Garden of Surprises 🏠 🌿

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I move on to find a huge cauldron! I watch as it starts to steam — I hope there's nothing cooking in there!

Near the cauldron are large pictures of trees. I stand and watch them as water falls down over them. Little leaves move in the flow.

I like to watch the water and see the leaves move.

# The Garden of Surprises

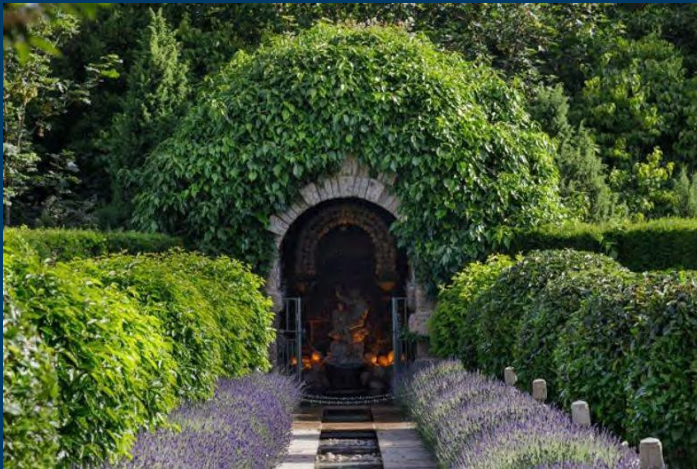


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Every corner I turn, there is something new to see!

There is a water rill running down the path, with lovely rows of lavender growing on either side. The smell of the flowers is wonderful, and I see bees buzzing busily from one bloom to the next.



At the end of the path, it looks like there's a cave – I want to go and explore!

# The Garden of Surprises 🍷 🌿

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I turn another corner and spot a swirly fountain, spraying water in a fun pattern. I can hear the splash as the water hits the ground – it sounds like soft rain.

Just around the bend, hidden behind a bush, is a large tube of bubbles which lights up! The bubbles rise and sparkle. This is fun to watch, and it makes me feel quite peaceful.

I follow the path up a slight ramp. I run to the top so I can see the whole of the garden. From up here, I feel like I am the King.

# The Garden of Surprises 🏺 🌿

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As I walk along the path, I find a strange-looking object in the middle of a circle – it's a sundial!

It stands tall on chunky stone legs, like a tiny castle. I walk around it slowly. The top is smooth and shiny, with patterns and numbers carved into the surface. There's a long metal arm sticking up and casting a shadow across the top.

I notice the sunlight hitting it just right, and the shadow points to a number. This is how people used to tell the time – using the sun!



I run my hands gently over the carvings. They feel warm from the sun and a little bumpy beneath my fingers.

I take a moment to stand still beside it, feeling the sunshine on my face and listening to the garden sounds all around me.

# The Garden of Surprises 🍷 🌿

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Now I find myself at the Mirror Maze. It's shiny and bright, and I can see my reflection in so many places – in front of me, beside me, even behind me! I take a careful step forward, but bump gently into the glass. Oops! I giggle. It's tricky to know which way to go.

I can see lights bouncing around and I can hear the sound of footsteps echoing off the glass. It feels a bit funny in here – exciting and a little confusing – but I know I can find my way through.

Once I've found the exit to the Mirror Maze, I see steam rising from the Moss House – there might be a dragon sleeping in there!

I'm feeling brave. I know there's no such thing as real dragons... so I go in! As I step inside, I'm sprayed with a cooling mist. It's light and refreshing – it doesn't make me too wet, just cools me down.

I follow the path all the way around, looking carefully, just in case I spot a tail or a puff of smoke... but when I come out the other side, not one dragon to be found!

# The Garden of Surprises 🏰 🌿

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Next, I see a corridor of trees that I want to explore.

There are four tall towers, and as I get closer, I notice buttons I can press. I feel curious – I wonder what will happen when I try them?

I start with the first button on the Fire tower – and suddenly, steam begins to rise! I gasp in surprise, then smile. That was exciting!

I move to the Earth tower and push its button. The tower slowly starts to turn. It feels magical, like I've just discovered a secret.

I'm really enjoying this, so I hurry over to the next one.

The Wind tower blows bubbles into the air – I laugh as I try to catch and pop them before they float away. It feels playful and fun.

Finally, I press the button on the Water tower. It sprays a soft mist – not enough to make me wet, just cool and refreshing. I feel calm and happy.



# The Garden of Surprises



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I follow the path and soon hear the sound of splashing water ahead.

In front of me is a tall wall of fountains – a curtain made of water! It shoots up from the ground and falls in a straight line across the path. It looks like there's no way through without getting soaked!

But then... the water suddenly stops... I smile – this is a magic fountain curtain! It knows when someone wants to go through.

I take a deep breath and step forward. Just as I walk through, the water stays off – I don't get wet at all! It feels clever and exciting, like part of a secret adventure.

Once I'm through, the fountains start again behind me, splashing and dancing in the sunshine. I feel proud, happy, and full of wonder from everything I've seen.

# The Sculpture Garden 🌸 🌺 🗿

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I am now entering a different part of the Gardens – the Sculpture Garden!

I am excited to see the different pieces of art. I can find out more about them in my Gardens Guidebook.

# The Sculpture Garden 🌸 🌺 🗿

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It's quieter in the Sculpture Garden.

I take my time here. There is a crunchy gravel path that I can walk on to take me all the way through the garden. It sweeps up and down. I do not have to stay on the path, I can wander on the grass, and I can take a picnic to enjoy in there too.



There are lots of flowers as I wander through, I hear birds tweeting in the trees and see insects going about their business.

# The Sculpture Garden 🌸 🌺 🗿

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The path winds slowly between tall hedges and smooth lawns. I spot sculptures all around me – some are big and bold, others small and delicate. They're made of stone, metal, and even wood.

Some are shapes I recognise – animals and people! I stop to look at each one. I wonder what they are, or what they might mean.

It makes me feel calm and thoughtful.

# The Sculpture Garden 🌸 🌺 🗿

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Whilst wandering through the garden, I come across the Icehouse.

This is where the butlers used to collect ice for the big house – before fridges were invented! I'm glad I don't have to do that now... I've got a freezer in my kitchen!

When I first see the Icehouse, it looks a bit spooky. The doorway is dark, and I'm not sure if I want to go in. But if I'm feeling brave, I can peek inside. I see a big, deep room – this is where all the ice would have been kept, nice and cold. It feels cool and quiet, like a secret from the past.

# The Sculpture Garden 🌸 🌺 🪨

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If I need to take a break and need a quiet spot, I can head up the bank towards the lake. It is very peaceful up there and there are benches I can sit on if I need to.

I look across the lake and watch as the light dances across the surface. I may see swans and ducks paddling about and if I look really hard into the distance, I may see sheep grazing in the pastures across the way.

The sound of the water is soothing, and I take a moment to think about my adventures at Burghley so far today.

# The end of my adventure 🌸 🌺 🪴 🌿

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Now I've reached the end of my journey through the Garden of Surprises and Sculpture Garden.

I've explored twisting paths, watched the fountains, discovered hidden places, and seen so many exciting and peaceful things. I've used my eyes, ears, hands, nose – and even my imagination!

I feel proud of all the exploring I've done. I've felt brave, curious, calm and joyful. As I head back through the archway, I take one last look behind me and smile.

What a magical garden – full of surprises at every turn and I can't wait to come back again soon.

*Burghley*

Thank you