

Access Statement

Please find outlined below information which endeavours to ensure an enjoyable visit to Bowood for all visitors regardless of whether they may be affected in some way by a medical condition, disability, impairment, or specific learning difficulty.

Disabled visitors

- ◆ Bowood House welcomes visitors with disabilities and we do all we can to ensure you are able to enjoy as much as possible of all Bowood has to offer. We do however strongly recommend that you are accompanied by an able bodied companion. The following advice is based on this assumption.
- ◆ We suggest people with disabilities telephone the Estate Office on 01249 812102 before a visit so that we may give you full details of access, to ensure that your visit will be safe, comfortable and enjoyable.

Admission Charges

- ◆ Disabled visitors and their designated companion receive 50% discount off the admission prices to Bowood House and Gardens and Rhododendron Walks.
- ◆ No charge is made for wheelchair users visiting the Rhododendrons Walks.

On arrival

- ◆ There are three car parking spaces designated for disabled visitors in our main car park, close to the Temple Gate Coffee Shop. On arrival, please advise security or admissions staff if you require car parking at the House. You will be given a car pass and directed to the House where you will be met by security staff to assist you into the House. Please note that to use this facility car keys are required to be left with security staff.

Wheelchair Availability

- ◆ We have two manual wheelchairs which are available for visitors to borrow for the duration of their visit. These are available on a first come first served basis. We therefore recommend you telephone in advance to check availability and book.

Visually Impaired

- ◆ Braille guides to the House are available.

Toilets

- ◆ There are adapted unisex lavatories in the Temple Gate Coffee Shop and in the House.

Shop and Catering facilities

- ◆ The Terrace shop, House restaurant, Temple Gate Coffee Shop and Bothy Party rooms (booked parties only) are all fully accessible to wheelchair users, although space is limited in the party rooms.

Assistance dogs

- ◆ Working assistance dogs are welcome at Bowood.

Bowood House

- ◆ The ground floor of the House is fully accessible via a ramp from the Terraces; this area includes the Library, Laboratory, Orangery, Chapel, New Hall and Sculpture Gallery. Access to the upper exhibition rooms is not available for those in a wheelchair. A DVD tour of the upper exhibition rooms is available to view: please speak to security staff who will arrange this for you.
- ◆ In the event of an evacuation; designated companions are responsible for the evacuation of disabled persons in their care under the direction, and with the assistance of Bowood personnel.

Pleasure Grounds

- ◆ There are marked paths of compacted gravel through the Pleasure Grounds which provide access to the lake and upper and lower terraces separately.
- ◆ These routes can be viewed on the map which is available to download.
- ◆ Visitors should be aware that some of these routes have sharp gradients and are over difficult terrain.

Rhododendron Walks

- ◆ Wheelchair users can enjoy views over the Rhododendrons via a tarmac road; access into the woodland walks is by way of grass paths.
- ◆ These walks provide a sensory environment which is particularly suited to those with visual or hearing difficulties.

Adventure Playground and Soft Play Palace

- ◆ We regret that, owing to the nature of the play areas access to the majority of the equipment is limited for wheelchair users.

The above information is as accurate as possible and includes as much detail as possible for the Access Statement, however, all feedback is very welcome to continually improve on the information provided. If further assistance is required, please call 012149 812102.