



Spetchley Park
— Gardens —



Berkeley Castle
and Butterfly House

ONE FAMILY... TWO HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS

A VISIT TO SPETCHLEY PARK GARDENS AND BERKELEY CASTLE

Discover the history of the Berkeley's, one of the oldest families in England, with a day exploring our two very different but very beautiful Estates. The magnificent Berkeley Castle founded in 1153 by the first Lord Berkeley, which is the oldest medieval castle in the UK to have been occupied by the same family from its inception to this very day. Spetchley Park Gardens has also been home to the Berkeley family, and for over 400 years successive generations have lovingly collected and planted rare plants from around the world creating one of the largest private collections of plant varieties outside the major botanical gardens.



Start your day at the historic and beautiful gardens of Spetchley Park in Worcestershire. Set within 30 acres Spetchley is proud to be a garden for all tastes; it's a wondrous display of plants, shrubs and trees woven into a garden of many rooms and vistas all with a fascinating story to tell. Ellen Wilmott, the renowned horticulturalist and plants woman was instrumental in helping her sister, Rose Berkeley, design and plant the garden. Enjoy wonderful walks through formal and informal herbaceous borders, sweeping lawns and woodland glades, and take in the views across the lake to the deer park and Malvern Hills. Please note that the house is not open to the public.

After your visit join the M5 and drive south to **Berkeley Castle**, approximately 45 minutes away. Set within the Vale of Berkeley, on the edge of the Cotswold Escarpment you will find yourself transported through time as you enjoy the splendour of this enchanted Castle. If you have not visited before, this building will come as a revelation.

Although a medieval fortress, it is still a real home, lived in by the Berkeley family for nearly 900 years and comfortably furnished in the styles of many centuries. It has a warm and friendly atmosphere and, despite the fact that the flag on its battlements rises some 100 feet above the surrounding meadows, once you step through the Great Doors into the Inner Bailey the castle is still intimate in scale.



Wander amongst the plants and free-flying tropical butterflies in The Castle Butterfly House, open from the beginning of May until the end of September.

The terraced gardens contain many rare and unusual trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Time should be allowed to walk along the terraces to the Lily Pool and fountain, to enjoy the sights and the scents.

Itinerary

- 10.00 am** **Arrive at Spetchley Park Gardens**
Welcome, morning coffee/tea and biscuits in The Old Laundry Tea Room
- 10.30 am** **Explore the Gardens**
Join one of our fabulous Guides for an informative tour of some of the most beautiful parts of our 30 acre historic gardens. The Guided Tour takes approximately 1 hour leaving time to visit our extensive Plant Sales and Gift Shop.
- 12:00 pm** **Depart for Berkeley Castle**
Lunch in The Yurt Tea Rooms - The Garden Room
- 13:45 pm** **Guided Tour of Berkeley Castle**
Enjoy a Tour of the Castle, and soak up hundreds of years of history. See the cell where Edward II was held before his gruesome murder at the Castle. Hear how Berkeley Castle became the inspiration for Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and so much more! The Guided Tour takes approximately 1 ¼ hours leaving you time to enjoy the Butterfly House located within the old walled Kitchen Garden and to stroll around the terraced gardens and lawns.
- 16:00 pm** **Depart**

Facilities

Disabled Toilets, Gift Shop, Plant Sales Area, Tea Room and Designated Coach Parking.

Price

£28.00 pp, which includes Guided Tours of both Spetchley Park Gardens and Berkeley Castle, morning refreshments and a pre-booked afternoon lunch.

Lunch Voucher to the value of £7 and Free Admission to both venues for the Coach Driver

Tour Availability

Tour available for groups of 15+ on Sunday or Wednesday April - September 2019, Sunday only during October.

Accessibility

The Castle aims to be as accessible as possible to all. Unfortunately due to the ancient nature of the building the first floor rooms are inaccessible for wheelchair users due to steps and staircases. We would be very happy to offer a ground level tour only with ramps – by prior arrangement. Spetchley Park Gardens has limited wheelchair accessibility due to the nature of the environment, mobility scooters are available to hire by prior arrangement. Guide and Hearing Dogs are welcome.

How to Book

To discuss your visit, please contact Helen Berryman

Tel. 01453 512991

Email: helen.berryman@berkeley-castle.com

Website: www.spetchleygardens.co.uk

www.berkeley-castle.com

Location

Spetchley Park Gardens is situated 5 minutes off of the M5, Junction 7

Berkeley Castle is 10 minutes off of the M5, Junction 13

Groups are required to use own coach/car transport between attractions