

# WESTONBIRT

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM



## Great reasons to visit Westonbirt

### Great reasons to visit Westonbirt:

#### Spring spectacular

From April to June, Westonbirt is awash with spring colour. Visitors are treated to a vibrant, ever-changing display of spring blooms, from magnolias and rhododendrons to woodland plants and wildflowers. See our website for what is flowering and when.



#### Shady summer glades

In summer, shiny new leaves range from cool lime green to the pinks and reds of the Japanese maple trees. In warm weather the green leafy rides and secluded glades provide respite from the sun. Late August is a time to celebrate Westonbirt's trees with our signature summer Bank Holiday event, Treefest.



A journey into the world of trees

For details of what each season has to offer your group, visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-groups](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-groups)

# Perfect for groups through all seasons



## Outstanding autumn colour

Autumn is one of our most popular times of year. A blaze of world famous colour from the magnificent National Japanese Maple Collection, along with many other trees and shrubs from around the world makes Westonbirt the best place in the UK for autumn colour.



## An Enchanted Christmas

Take a stroll through the magical illuminated trail every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening in the weeks running up to Christmas. Attracting thousands of visitors with dazzling new lighting design each year, not to mention a host of carol singers, stalls, delicious food and of course Father Christmas!

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# Botanical highlights

16,000 trees and shrubs • More than 2,500 species from around the world • 80 champion trees • Over 100 rare or endangered species •



→ **Magnolia**  
*Magnolia x wieseneri*



→ **Native bluebell**



→ **Great white cherry**  
*Prunus 'Tai-haku'*



→ **Camellia**  
*Camellia japonica*

## Spring

As February turns to March we see the first flowering of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Throughout the arboretum the magnolias begin to flower including the splendid *Magnolia campbellii* (some of the tallest specimens in the country). Early flowering cherries begin to bloom, among them *Prunus sargentii*. By mid-April flowering is in full swing with a display from *Rhododendron williamsianum* with its unusual

heart shaped leaves and a mass of pink bell-shaped flowers.

In Silk Wood, spring brings a spectacular blooming of native flowers including celandines, wood anemones and primroses. In late April to early May the glades are flooded with a sea of bluebells, and in Maple Loop, the new leaves of the Japanese maples open in a surprising array of bright colours.



→ **Eucryphia glutinosa**



→ **Indian horse chestnut**  
*Aesculus indica*



→ **Japanese strawberry tree**  
*Cornus kousa*



→ **Tulip tree**  
*Liriodendron tulipifera*

## Summer

Among the most beautiful flowering trees are the Indian horse chestnuts, *Aesculus indica* and the golden chain tree, *Laburnum x watereri*.

In mid-summer (July normally) the magnificent tulip trees *Liriodendron tulipifera* are in flower. Late summer flowers include *Stewartia*, a relative of the tea plant, with its beautiful rose-like flowers.

Equally stunning are the Japanese strawberry trees *Cornus kousa*, whose numerous flowers deck the drooping branches before giving rise to the fruits that give the tree its name.

In Silk Wood a number of unusual orchids can be seen including an impressive display of greater butterfly orchids on Palmer Ride.

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→ **Spindle fruit**  
*Euonymus*



→ **Japanese maples**  
*Acer palmatum*



→ **Clerodendrum trichotomum**



→ **Sumach**  
*Rhus trichocarpa*

## Autumn

The glorious spectacle of turning leaves and colourful fruit is one of the main reasons for Westonbirt's popularity.

By mid-September the first signs of colour can be seen in some of the spindles *Euonymus* and full moon maples *Acer japonicum*. Persian ironwood *Parrotia persica* is particularly conspicuous as it turns through yellow and orange to a deep plum-purple. The American sweetgum *Liquidambar styraciflua* is equally colourful.

A long-time favourite is katsura *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*. As the leaves begin to turn they release a mouth-watering scent of candyfloss into the air. Japanese maples dominate the autumn show, with over 300 varieties producing a dazzling display. They are joined in late October/early November by the native oaks and beech changing colour – the combined result is a sight to behold.



→ **Red dogwood**  
*Cornus alba*



→ **Paper-bark maple**  
*Acer griseum*



→ **Witch hazel**  
*Hamamelis*



→ **Western red cedar**  
*Thuja plicata*

## Winter

The strong outlines of evergreens and conifers ensure that the arboretum's landscape retains shape and interest.

Serbian spruce *Picea omorika*, cedar of Lebanon *Cedrus libani* and Incense Cedar *Calocedrus decurrens* display a variety of shapes, colours and texture. Hollies are the most conspicuous of the broad-leaved evergreens for their glossy leaves and berries. Various dogwoods display a variety of stem colours; the red of *Cornus alba*

and yellow/green of *C. stolonifera* 'Flaviramea' often planted together for best effect. Among the winter flowering trees are the witch hazels *Hamamelis*.

In Silk Wood Cornelian cherry *Cornus mas* forms a large spreading shrub and the striped bark of the snake-bark maples are to be admired including *Acer davidii*. New planting in the cherry collection adds to the winter and spring interest of this popular area.

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## Find your very own acer or just sit down for lunch

Acer japonicum Ac  
This variety of Full Moon  
lovely tree but



### Visit our Plant Centre

Selling a wide range of trees, plants and a good selection of books and gardening accessories.

Open 7 days: 10am – 5pm



### Maples

Offering delicious hot lunchtime meals and cold snacks.

Open every day 10am – 5pm

### Courtyard Cafe

Outdoor tasty snacks and lunchtime meals.

Open daily from March to December  
10am – 5pm



### Browse in the Gift Shop

Offering a wide range of special handcrafted gifts and products, many from the local area.

Open 7 days: 10am – 5pm



### Picnic area

Benches amongst the trees, near coach parking.



### Why Westonbirt?

- Free coach parking
- Coach drop-off point
- Coach driver lunch voucher
- Meet and greet service
- Toilets near drop-off point
- Accessible site for all abilities

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# WESTONBIRT

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## Guided tours for anyone, any time of year



### **Tour A: Old Arboretum**

An introduction to the beauty and complexity of this superb collection of trees, coloured with fascinating glimpses into the lives of the Holford family who created the arboretum in the 19th Century.

Easy walking and suitable for wheelchairs.



### **Tour S: Silk Wood**

Reaching into the rich variety of colour and landscape of our native woodland and ornamental plantings, in an area encompassing the oldest and youngest parts of the arboretum, enriched with the human history of our relationship with trees.

Woodland walking and unsuitable for wheelchairs.

## **Guided Tours**

Westonbirt's knowledgeable Volunteer Guides offer popular tours lasting 1½ to 2 hours. Sturdy waterproof boots are recommended!

The cost for one of our guides is £30 for up to 25 people in addition to the normal admission.

Proceeds to the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum charity.  
Registered Charity No. 293190.

## **Inspirational walks through Westonbirt**

Use our free leaflets to follow a selection of trails through the arboretum throughout the year.

### **Native Tree Trail (1 hour):**

Discover the remarkable story of our native trees through our interactive trail.

### **Seasonal Trails (1 hour plus):**

Each season, we prepare two special trails (one in the Old Arboretum and one in Silk Wood) which provide visitors with the chance to explore our beautiful surroundings.

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# WESTONBIRT

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## Coach & groups booking form

### Group details

Name of group: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Leader's name: .....

Leader's mobile number: .....

Email: .....

Coach/travel company: .....

### Visit details

Arrival time: .....

Date of visit: .....

Wheelchairs required: Yes  No

Wheelchair numbers required: .....

Manual: ..... Mobility Scooter: .....

Approximate number in group:

Adults: ..... Seniors: ..... Children: .....

Disabled visitors: ..... Carers: .....

Total: .....

For guided walks, please use booking form overleaf.

### Group prices (10 people+)

	Adults	Concessions	Children 5+
Dec-Feb:	£4	£3	£1
Mar-Nov:	£6	£5	£2
Treefest:	£8	£7	Free
Enchanted Christmas	£7	£6	£4

Under 5s go free. Pre-booked guided walk £30.  
Walks payable in advance to 'Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum', please use booking form overleaf.

### Payment method (please tick)

Payment on day:

Invoice company:   
Coach companies only please

Pre-payment cheque attached:

Value of cheque: £ .....

Payable to Forestry Commission

As group organiser it is my responsibility to tell my group members that Westonbirt is an outdoor venue and that suitable clothing and shoes for walking on grass should be worn.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Please return this form to Helen Daniels, Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, Tetbury, Glos GL8 8QS.

### Confirmation office use only

We look forward to welcoming: .....

On: .....

Arriving at: .....

Wheelchairs required:  Company invoice:

Pre-payment made:  Payment on arrival:

Amount: ..... Guided walk:

# WESTONBIRT

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the friends  
of Westonbirt  
Arboretum

## Guided tour booking form

Please book at least a month in advance to avoid disappointment. Tours cost £30 for groups of up to 25 people in addition to normal admission. Proceeds to the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum charity.



### Tour A: Old Arboretum

Easy walking on grass and hardcored paths. Wheelchair users will have to remain on paths and must be accompanied by a carer or pusher. The Old Arboretum is a dog-free zone.



### Tour S: Silk Wood

Includes mild gradients and woodland paths, which may be muddy, so waterproof footwear is strongly recommended. Not suitable for wheelchair users.

### Tours

Choice of tour:  Tour A: Old Arboretum  
 Tour S: Silk Wood

#### Time tour to commence:

(Please arrive at least 15 minutes before start time to enable your group to visit toilets etc. Leaders should report to Great Oak Hall on arrival to meet your guide.)

#### Number in group:

(If over 25 people, you will need to book two guides.)

#### Main interest of the group:

(Our guides are all experienced volunteers, many with special areas of expertise that may suit the interests of your group.)

Is your group English speaking? Yes  No

### Arrival

We will arrive by:  Coach/minibus  
 Individual cars

(At busy times vehicles may have to queue on entry.)

#### Additional information:

(E.g. mobility restrictions or wheelchair users in your group.)

### Payment

I enclose a cheque for £

Made payable to 'The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum' charity. This must be paid in advance to secure your booking and is non-refundable if you cancel your trip.

Unfortunately the Friends do not have credit or debit card facilities.

You can contact the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum on **01666 881222** for late arrival purposes.

### Group information

#### How to get to us:

- 3 miles SW of Tetbury on A433 (Tetbury to Bath Road).
- 10 miles NE of junction 18 of M4 and SE of junction 13 M5.

#### Drive times:

- 2 hours from London.
- 1.5 hours from Birmingham and Cardiff.
- 45 mins from Bristol and Cheltenham.
- 30 mins from Bath.

#### Visitor accessibility:

Paths throughout the arboretum are accessible to wheelchairs. A limited supply of wheelchairs are available – reservation line: 01666 881218, open 9am – 5pm. For safety, please ensure all members of your group have flat

shoes suitable for walking on grass which can be muddy at times.

#### Opening times:

Open all year, admissions 9am - 4pm (closed Christmas day and Boxing day).

**Free coach parking** on site.