

National Trust Press Release

Stourhead - a world-famous garden and Palladian mansion house

- Stourhead is a world-famous landscape garden with a lake set among lawns and classical temples, surrounded by trees and sweeping views.
- One of the first grand Palladian-style villas to be built in England.
- Garden buildings include the Temple of Flora, the Temple of Apollo and the Pantheon, which was inspired by the Pantheon in Rome.

When Stourhead first opened in the 1740s, a magazine described it as ‘a living work of art’. The landscape garden has at its centrepiece a magnificent lake reflecting classical temples, mystical grottoes, and rare and exotic trees, and offers a day of fresh air and discovery.

Inside the house, visitors can uncover the fascinating history of Stourhead house with an Italian ‘Grand Tour’ adventure and enjoy the unique Regency library, Chippendale furniture and inspirational paintings. The Palladian house is set amid ‘picnic perfect’ lawns and extensive parkland.

“Stourhead is timeless in its beauty and arguably the finest example of the English landscape garden, boasting majestic temples, serene lakes, and verdant woodlands.” explains Philip Niemand, General Manager at Stourhead. “Nestled in Paradise valley and created by grandfather and grandson nearly 300 years ago, Stourhead invites you into a world of elegance and serenity. The grandeur of the Stourhead house delights with elegant architecture and opulent interiors telling tales of bygone eras, whilst the stunning garden is curated to evoke emotion and inspire awe. From captivating vistas to hidden grottos, Stourhead offers an unforgettable journey through art, nature, and history. Visitors quickly discover why this iconic destination is celebrated as a masterpiece of landscape design and a true gem of British heritage.”

A new exhibition for 2025, ‘Inspired by Stourhead: From home to living work of art’ is now open inside Stourhead house and the garden temples. Celebrating what inspired the Hoare family to create the Stourhead we see today, and how Stourhead has, in turn, inspired art and culture over the last 300 years.

“It’s no surprise that Stourhead has been a source of inspiration for art and culture since its inception,” explains Jennifer Parker, House and Collections Officer. “From sketches and paintings by J.M.W Turner to Hollywood films, the beauty of Stourhead has captivated so many. Each showroom has been reimagined to tell the stories of Stourhead and its creation, as well as encouraging visitors to tell us what has inspired them about visiting this special place.”

Stourhead is open daily, except for Christmas day. Please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wiltshire/stourhead to discover more.

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Images:

Images can be downloaded [here](#). Only to be used in conjunction with this press release. Credit and caption as per file name.

About Stourhead

Stourhead is a Palladian house and world-famous landscape garden. When it first opened in the 1740s, a magazine described it as 'a living work of art'. The world-famous landscape garden has at its centrepiece a magnificent lake reflecting classical temples, mystical grottoes, and rare and exotic trees, and offers a day of adventure.

The history of Stourhead can be uncovered in the house with its unique Regency library, Chippendale furniture, and inspirational paintings. The Palladian house is set amid 'picnic perfect' lawns and extensive parkland (2,650 acres), where chalk downs, ancient woods and farmland are managed for wildlife.

About the National Trust

In January 2025 the National Trust marked its 130th birthday by launching its new 10-year strategy People and Nature Thriving.

This strategy, which will guide the charity's work and direction from 2025-2035 and beyond, focuses on three key goals:

- Restore Nature
- End unequal access to nature, beauty and history
- Inspire more people to care and take action

The plans follow the largest public consultation ever carried out by the National Trust, with more than 70,000 people – including members, volunteers and industry partners – sharing their views on the Trust's work and direction. Read more about the National Trust's strategy [here](#).