



**LONGLEAT**

# Your Guide for Groups







## **Bring your group to share our history, heritage and habitat**

Whether you're organising a tour, coach trip, visit for a special interest group or for families and friends, we're here to help you create the perfect day out.



Please contact us on **01985 844400**  
for pricing or visit **[www.longleat.co.uk/groups](http://www.longleat.co.uk/groups)**



# Benefits of visiting as a group

**We are pleased to offer groups of 15+ a range of discounts and benefits including:**

- Discounted Day Tickets
- Free Coach Driver Ticket and meal voucher for each coach/tour operator
- Monetary spending vouchers available
- Exclusive catering options\*
- One free Organiser Ticket for groups of 30+
- Free all-day coach and car parking
- Dedicated group booking team 9am – 5pm

*\*Minimum numbers apply*



# Unforgettable safari adventures

Back in 1966, Longleat opened the first Drive-Through Safari outside of Africa with lions roaming the Wiltshire countryside. The lions were soon joined by other wild animals throughout the decades.

Today the Estate is home to more than 120 species, many critically endangered or vulnerable, and is committed to ensuring ongoing conservation to protect these animals for the future.

Throughout your visit you can spot these species, great and small, with three different safari experiences to choose from.

Enjoy a Drive-Through Safari to meet the famous lions of Longleat, monkeys, giraffes and tigers, a Walking Safari to explore on foot. As well as setting sail on the Jungle Cruise, our Boat Safari, sailing past gorillas, hippos and noisy sealions ready for a tasty fish or two!

Within your day there are lots of opportunities for up-close encounters and spectacular sights as you get to know our host of amazing residents.



# Suggested *itineraries*

You can explore at your leisure and there are optional extras which can be pre-booked. To help plan and make the most of your day, we would recommend these itineraries, however the times of each are flexible to suit you.

**Pre-book  
catering, monetary  
vouchers and Guided  
House Tours with  
our team**

🕒 *Day Ticket, recommended: Full day*

## 10am – Arrival

Head off on an adventure in your coach, through our Drive-Through Safari. Stop off at the African Village and visit our band of African Painted wild dogs, ring tailed lemur and spot giraffes.



## 1pm – Lunch

Enjoy your pre-booked catering, picnic in the sunshine or grab a hot meal from our restaurant

## 2pm – House Tour

Step inside Longleat House for your self guided tour and marvel at the majesty, learn about it's 450 years of history.



## 3pm – Explore

Spend some time in our Walking Safari where you'll discover koalas, red pandas, meerkats and lorikeet feeding. Don't forget the Jungle Cruise boat trip before you depart for the day.



# Suggested *itineraries*

🕒 *House & Gardens, recommended: 2–3 hours*

**Contact  
us about the  
Treasures House  
Tour for your  
group**

## 9:30am – Arrival

Arrive and step straight into Longleat House for an exclusive guided tour before the doors open for the day.



## 10:45am – Garden

Explore the beautiful formal gardens and enjoy the Capability Brown designed landscapes.



## 12pm – Lunch

Relax with tea and cake from our café, before boarding your coach for departure.



There are so many ways to enhance your day and make the most of your visit to us. For more suggestions or to discuss a bespoke day for your group please contact the team on [groups@longleat.co.uk](mailto:groups@longleat.co.uk)



## International and special interest groups

We're delighted to welcome guests from all over the globe to experience the phenomenal history of Longleat.

We can offer our Day Tickets or House & Gardens Ticket options or we will happily build bespoke itineraries to include tours and experiences to meet the interests of your group.

Bring your special interest group on our Treasures House Tour, an intimate guided tour through Longleat House, focusing on the highlights of the Longleat Collection. The tour will spotlight Longleat's rarest and most significant objects and works of art, which would be at home in any national museum or gallery.

**Contact us  
to build your  
bespoke  
itinerary**



# Uniformed and youth groups

The next generation are our future, and we will help to create memories with specially tailored days.

Groups can learn whilst having fun, discovering new and exciting facts about our animals, heritage and with immersive attractions, there's plenty to do for all ages.

Uniformed guests such as Scouts, Guides and Youth Groups can take advantage of additional benefits including free leader tickets and discounted pack lunches.\*

Celebrating a significant occasion, anniversary or working towards a badge? Contact our Sales Team on 01985 845425 to discuss venue hire and ways to make your day extra special.

*\*Terms & Conditions apply*





## Food & drink

Exploring really works up an appetite, so why not pre-book some catering for your visit! Take your pick for your group\*:

- Monetary vouchers to the value of your choice, from £2.50
- Light lunch in The Cellar Café  
*(exclusive options available)*
- Afternoon Tea in The Cellar Café  
*(minimum numbers apply and selected dates only)*
- Hot drink and a breakfast roll or a cake voucher



*\*Pre-booking essential*

# Seasonal Events

Each year, we host an action-packed programme of seasonal events, from hot air balloons and aerial displays at Icons of the Sky to half term family fun and our iconic winter spectacular, The Festival of Light.

These special events are included in your group Day Tickets during all event periods, making your visit even more of an adventure!



Find out about this year's calendar of events and exciting dates for the diary at [longleat.co.uk/events](https://longleat.co.uk/events)

# Also part of our estate...

## Cheddar Gorge & Caves

Cheddar Gorge is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is home to a beautiful mosaic landscape, along with two of Britain's oldest show caves.

Enjoy the spectacular multi-media experience Yeo's Journey – The Power of Water which tells the story of how our caves were formed. Discover where Cheddar Man's 10,000 year old skeleton was found and climb the 274 steps of Jacob's Ladder plus much more.

Discounted Group Day Tickets and a variety of perks are available. We also offer pre-bookable cave and cake tickets, student and youth group tickets. We can't wait to see you – call us on **01934 742343** or email [info@cheddargorge.co.uk](mailto:info@cheddargorge.co.uk) to book.





## Did you know we boast *many* literary connections?

With seven libraries and more than 44,000 books in Longleat House, it is a treasure trove of the written word and ancestors of the 8<sup>th</sup> and current Marquess of Bath are even said to have inspired Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

Another ancestor of the present Marquess, William Thynne, was the first real editor of the works of that 'Father of English Literature', Geoffrey Chaucer. William Thynne was the uncle of Sir John Thynne, the builder of Longleat, and produced an edition of Chaucer's works in 1532. An extraordinary volume of some of the

original manuscripts he used for this is preserved at Longleat.

And that's not all, legendary author Jane Austen could have been one of the many day-trippers who visited us as practices in place at the estate when she was alive do feature in her novels.

Day visitors were invited to sign their name in a book and an early entry has recently been identified as that of Jane Austen's nephew, the Rev. J.E. Austen, who later wrote the first major biography of her life, A Memoir of Jane Austen, 1870.

Mr. Newcomen the American  
Minister & Lady.  
24/5 Bond St. London. & Mr. Houston - Spain.  
#  
24. Mr. Olwin & Party, Blackheath

The Longleat archives show the fashionable Regency pursuit of visiting a grand country house and grounds described in *Pride and Prejudice* was flourishing at Longleat where the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess was one of the first to open his front door to well-to-do visitors.

Her works were clearly popular at Longleat.

A newly discovered invoice shows the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquess purchased Mansfield Park as soon as it came out, in May 1814, from Hatchard's bookshop in London (reputedly a haunt of Austen herself) for 18 shillings – it cost six shillings per volume and came out in three.

O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? – Longleat should probably be the answer to that famous line.

It seems the Bard was inspired by a real-life love affair in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The star-crossed lovers were Thomas Thynne, 16-year-old

grandson of Sir John who built Longleat and Maria Tuchet, whose mother came from a rival family, the Marvins, who fell in love and married on the night they met in 1594.



In 1979 historian and lecturer Alison Wall first suggested that these English circumstances may have shaped Shakespeare's plot.

There is compelling evidence that Shakespeare was inspired by the Thynne-

Marvin feud, in writing his new version of this old tale, and it would have been very fresh inspiration: it is thought the play was composed in 1595–6 and published (unofficially) in 1597.

We are also home to one of the very few copies of Shakespeare's First Folio remaining in private possession.

**Book a guided House Tour today and find out more about these fascinating tales.**

# How to book

Visit [longleat.co.uk/groups](https://longleat.co.uk/groups) to book tickets for 15 – 32 guests. For groups larger than 32, groups travelling by coach/minibus, or to discuss bespoke tours and extras, please contact our dedicated team.

# How to find us



**The Estate Office, Longleat**  
**Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7NW**

01985 844400  
[groups@longleat.co.uk](mailto:groups@longleat.co.uk)  
[longleat.co.uk/groups](https://longleat.co.uk/groups)