

The Historical Houses Tour



Island Hall



Chinese Bridge, Godmanchester

The Historical Houses Tour at a glance

Morning: Island Hall, Godmanchester and Godmanchester Guided Tour

Lunch: Grafham Water Visitor Centre

Afternoon: Kimbolton Castle

Walking requirement: Some walking required if your group wishes to take the Godmanchester Guided Tour.

Grafham Water Visitor Centre is approximately 20 minutes drive from Island Hall.

Morning: Island Hall, Godmanchester

Island Hall is a large riverside mansion built of red brick with stone dressings, with a symmetrically designed frontage of seven bays. It was built in the late 1740s by John Jackson Esq, Receiver General of Huntingdon.

To find the Hall by coach, come off at junction 23 on the A14, and drive into Godmanchester. Island Hall is on Post Street, in the centre of town. It is set on the banks of the River Great Ouse, overlooking the ornamental island from which it takes its name. Beyond is Portholme, reputedly the largest water meadow in Britain and designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is also of Special Scientific Interest. There is approximately 1.5 acres of formal garden with a large river frontage, and a 2 acre ornamental island on the river, linked to the mainland by a Chinese bridge.

A visit to the house includes an informative tour of the garden.

Opening times: May to September (excluding August).
Times by prior arrangement.

Average visit time: One hour to two hours thirty minutes.

Max. group: 57

Coach parking: At Island Hall the coach can reverse and park in the driveway.

Contact: Mr Christopher Vane Percy or Lady Linda Vane Percy on 01480 459676, who will send you an information pack and booking form.

Catering: Tea and cakes or lunch can be provided by arrangement.

Notice required: 1 month, but it's a private house so it may not always be available for visits. However, the owners will do their best to accommodate you.

Toilets: 2 toilets (one on ground level).

Cost: £4 per head (when over 30 people). £4.50 per head (when 10 - 30 people). Under 10 people min. charge £45 per group (sorry, no children under 13).

Disabled facilities: Ramp to the ground floor. Toilet on ground floor. For those with visual impairments, a talk by one of the owners of the house will make for an interesting visit. For those with hearing impairments, there is a detailed leaflet which will provide you with most of the information you will want to know about the house. Visitors with guide dogs welcome. Assistance available.

Godmanchester Guided Tour

The group may also like a guided tour of Godmanchester with an experienced tour guide. Alternatively, if you would prefer the group to have a self guided tour, Godmanchester Town Walks are available. In both cases, please call Huntingdon Tourist Information on 01480 388588, and they will provide you with more details.

A guided tour can be scheduled to your group's time requirements. Tickets are £2 per adult, £1 per child with a minimum group size of 10.



Lunch: Grafham Water Visitor Centre

After a busy morning, lunch at Grafham Water Visitor Centre, which is 2 miles west of the A1 roundabout at Buckden. The Visitor Centre has a large restaurant and a gift shop to enjoy.

Opening times:	All year by arrangement
Average visit time:	1 hour if the group just wants to have lunch or 3 to 4 hours if the group would like to take a walk or a cycle ride around Grafham Water. The Cycle Centre is on the opposite side of the car park from the Visitor Centre.
Max. group:	57
Min. group:	No minimum
Coach parking:	Ample coach parking outside the Visitor Centre.
Contact:	The Visitor Centre Manager on 01480 812154 for details about the Visitor Centre and catering. Call 01480 812500 for details about Grafham Water Cycle Centre.
Notice required:	2 weeks
Toilets:	Ample toilet facilities
Disabled facilities:	There is good access to the Visitor Centre and a wheelchair accessible toilet. Assistance available. Visitors with guide dogs welcome.



Grafham Water

Afternoon: Kimbolton Castle

Kimbolton is approximately 7 miles through the villages of Perry and Great Staughton. When you reach a T junction turn right onto the B645. Keep driving into the village. Thereafter, please follow instructions which will have been given to you by staff at Kimbolton Castle.

Kimbolton Castle, originally a mediaeval castle, underwent many changes before the Great Rebuilding by Vanbrugh, Hawksmoor and Adam, as the country house of the Dukes of Manchester. The Castle's most famous resident was Katherine of Aragon, who died there in 1536, and small sections of the Tudor house have survived. Although the Castle now belongs to Kimbolton School, visitors can still see the impressive range of State Rooms, with an outstanding set of murals by Pellegrini. A new Castle Heritage Room traces the Castle's complex history.

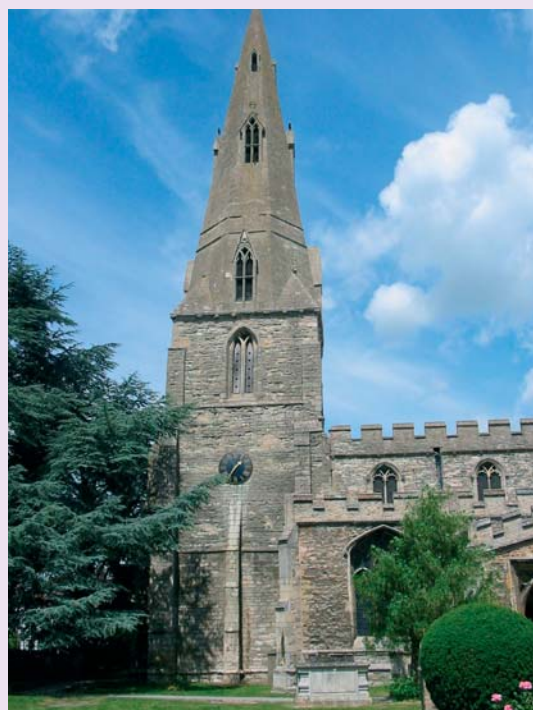
For further details, look at www.kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk and click on buttons called Castle History and Castle Visits.

If the Castle is unavailable for a group visit, Mrs Nora Butler may be able to provide a tour of Kimbolton village, which is steeped in centuries of history. Visitors may also like to complete the Kimbolton Town Walk - copies of which are available in the parish church (which is the only English church with a Tiffany window) - or mooch around the lovely shops on the High Street. If you do not visit the Castle, there is one toilet (with wheelchair access) in the church, which is available to groups on pre-booked tours.

Opening times:	All year by arrangement
Average visit time:	One hour thirty minutes
Max. group:	57 (split into 2 groups)
Coach parking:	Details provided on booking
Contact:	Mrs Nora Butler, BA 01480 860505 ncb@kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk
Notice required:	1 month (subject to Kimbolton School usage).
Toilets:	Ample toilet facilities in the Castle.
Cost:	The group tour is £3.50 per head, minimum charge of £50.
Disabled facilities:	Access to the State Rooms is difficult for visitors with limited mobility and there is no wheelchair access. If advanced warning is given, the tour can be modified to reduce number of stairs to be climbed. For visitors with hearing difficulties, laminated sheets outlining the main points of the tour are available on request. No hearing loop. Registered guide dogs are allowed in the grounds and State Rooms.



Kimbolton Castle, Pellegrini Murals



St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton

Please phone each attraction prior to your visit. Thank you.