

BUCKLER'S HARD

Group Visit Guide 2024

*Where time flows
differently*



HISTORIC RIVERSIDE VILLAGE

bucklershard.co.uk/groups
New Forest | Hampshire



Welcome to Buckler's Hard



Buckler's Hard is a village on the banks of the Beaulieu River, midway between Beaulieu and the Solent. It was originally planned as a sugar port in the 1720s but actually flourished as a naval shipbuilding centre, providing ships for Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. After 100 years as a shipyard, the village became a sleepy backwater until its charms were discovered by Edwardian tourists. Despite the interruption of two World Wars, in which the river played its part, tourism gave Buckler's Hard a new lease of life. Today, the Museum along with historic cottage displays tell the history of the village from its earliest days to the present time. I hope you enjoy your visit here.

Montagu of Beaulieu

The Village

Take time to amble down the high street and watch the boats sailing by on the Beaulieu River, one of the few privately owned estuaries in the world. Relax by the banks of the river which has been carefully conserved for over four centuries and is rich with wildlife and take a stroll past the orchard, where apple trees are in full blossom in the spring. The fruit is picked each autumn and used with apples from other orchards on the Beaulieu Estate to make Beaulieu Apple Juice.

If you're keen to learn more about the heritage of Buckler's Hard, you can discover the history of the village in the Museum and Visitor Centre or catch a river cruise (Easter - October) along the Beaulieu River.

The Shipwright's Cottage

Step through the door of the reconstructed Shipwright's Cottage to be transported back in time to the 18th century.



St Mary's Chapel

Once a residence and then the village school, a sign and statue provide clues to what really lies behind the door of this Chapel.



Visitor Centre and Museum

Discover the history of this unique 18th century shipbuilding village in the Museum.

Originally founded as a free port for the trading of sugar, Buckler's Hard actually flourished as a naval shipbuilding centre and has become famous for building warships for Nelson's Navy, including three vessels that took part in the Battle of Trafalgar.

For a small charge visit the Museum at the Visitor Centre to discover the fascinating story of the village, its residents, and the ships they built.

Entry prices for the Museum can be found on the [Helpful Information page](#).

The Nelson Connection

Learn how warships were built for Nelson's Navy, including his favourite, *Agamemnon*. See models of the Buckler's Hard ships which took part in the Battle of Trafalgar and view Nelson artefacts.

Historic Cottage Displays

See how villagers would have lived and worked in the early 1800s and compare the cramped home of a labourer's family with the more spacious shipwright's cottage in the village. Plus listen to local gossip in The New Inn...

The War Effort

Learn about activity on the river during WWII, including the important role Buckler's Hard played in the D-Day landings. Be sure to check out a film presentation to discover the story of Buckler's Hard at war.

HMS Agamemnon - Navigating the Legend

HMS Agamemnon was built at Buckler's Hard from 2,000 oaks and launched there in 1781. Don't miss the *HMS Agamemnon - Navigating the Legend* exhibition in the Shipwright workshop.

New Free Art Exhibition

From Easter 2024, our new free exhibition, *The Art of Buckler's Hard*, featuring art portraying the village through the centuries as well as artwork from the semi-final of the Sky Arts Landscape Artist of the Year 2023 that took place in the village last summer.



The Buckler's Hard Story Guided Tour

Embark on a journey through maritime history and explore the rich heritage that has shaped this historic village. Your expert guide will lead you down the village high street, sharing tales of shipbuilding, naval prowess, and the lives of those who called Buckler's Hard home.

Discover the art of shipbuilding that fuelled the Royal Navy during the 18th and 19th centuries, as you explore the preserved shipwright's cottage and the master shipbuilder's house. The tour also includes a visit to the Museum, where artifacts, interactive exhibits, and engaging displays bring to life the stories of sailors, merchants, and shipbuilders.

£35

1 hour



Combine your visit to Buckler's Hard with a great value joint ticket to include a visit to Beaulieu. See [Helpful Information page](#).

Beaulieu River Cruise

Why not enhance your visit with a relaxing cruise down one of the only privately owned rivers in the world? Between Easter and October, this tranquil cruise wends its way along the Beaulieu River, accompanied by commentary which delves deeper into the history and wildlife that inhabits its picturesque banks.



Sailing times

When booking the River Cruise, please select one of the following sailing times:

11.00, 11.45, 12.45, 13.30, 14.15, 15.00, 15.45, 16.30 The maximum number of passengers is 50.

30 mins

Prices for the River Cruise can be found on the Helpful Information page.

The Captain's Table

Enjoy a delicious breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea at The Captain's Table.

We ask that groups pre-book any meals (including afternoon tea) in advance. You can request a menu by emailing groups@bucklershard.co.uk



Gift Shop

Why not treat yourself to a souvenir from your day out at Buckler's Hard. From preserves and sweet treats to nautical and nostalgic memorabilia, there is something for everyone. Be sure to check out the gift shop, which is free to enter, located in the Visitor Centre.



HELPFUL INFORMATION

Buckler's Hard is a peaceful and historic riverside village on the banks of the Beaulieu River with a museum recounting its shipbuilding heritage. Pre-booked groups of 15+ can take advantage of our group rates:

Buckler's Hard Museum

ADULT: £4.80 SENIOR: £4.40 CHILD: £3.20 (5-16yrs)

Buckler's Hard Museum with River Cruise

Easter to October only

ADULT: £10.00 SENIOR: £9.00 CHILD: £7.75 (5-16yrs)

Buckler's Hard Museum PLUS Beaulieu

Visit Buckler's Hard and Beaulieu

ADULT: £22.75 SENIOR: £21.50 CHILD: £13.75 (5-16yrs)

FREE Coach parking for paying visits. For details email groups@beaulieu.co.uk

Buckler's Hard Museum with River Cruise PLUS Beaulieu

Visit Buckler's Hard and Beaulieu - Easter to October only

ADULT: £27.00 SENIOR: £25.75 CHILD: £17.50 (5-16yrs)

FREE Coach parking for paying visits. For details email groups@beaulieu.co.uk

Terms & Conditions: Regrettably, we cannot offer refunds following a cancellation. Beaulieu Enterprises Ltd reserves the right to withdraw or amend the content or time of tours without notice as circumstances dictate. All prices quoted are inclusive of VAT at the prevailing rate. Beaulieu Enterprises Ltd reserves the right to amend gross prices at the time of payment following any subsequent changes in the rate of VAT.

ACCESSIBILITY

Due to the historic nature of Buckler's Hard, some areas are less accessible to visitors with mobility impairments. The site includes gravel pathways, narrow doorways, a steady descent to the riverside and stairs inside the buildings. For further information on accessibility, visit bucklershard.co.uk/plan-your-visit. Please contact us to discuss your needs before you book.



BOOKING

01590 614645
groups@bucklershard.co.uk

John Montagu Building
Beaulieu | New Forest
Hampshire | SO42 7ZN

OPENING TIMES

Open daily from 10am

Average
Visit
2-5
Hours



Group Visit Guide 2024



Beaulieu

Where marvellous group days out are enjoyed *together*

beaulieu.co.uk/groups NEW FOREST, HAMPSHIRE, SO42 7ZN

GREAT SAVINGS
FOR GROUPS
OF 15+

WELCOME TO BEAULIEU



Beaulieu is best known as the home of the National Motor Museum which contains over 285 historic and modern vehicles, but we have much else to interest and entertain our guests. First of these is the Montagu family home, Palace House, in which the history of the estate is told, going back to 1538. For those who haven't visited more recently, there are additional rooms to see including my late father's library, the Victorian Kitchen and an exhibition on the artwork of my late mother. Stepping further back in time, you can explore the ruins of Beaulieu Abbey and learn more about the Royal foundation in our Abbey exhibition. But that's not all, there are the gardens to explore or view from the Monorail, an exhibition of Beaulieu's role in training secret agents during WWII and, if you haven't seen enough cars in the Motor Museum, the World of Top Gear. It's a complete day out which I hope you'll enjoy.

Montagu of Beaulieu

NEW FOR 2024

SECRET ARMY EXHIBITION

A new display has opened in the Secret Army Exhibition commemorating two Beaulieu-trained agents who served in France as members of the Special Operations Executive. Francis Suttill (code name 'Prosper') headed the biggest SOE network in France, while Yvonne Rudellat (code name 'Jacqueline') was one of his couriers. The display recounts what happened to them after they finished their training at Beaulieu and were sent into Occupied France to undertake clandestine warfare.



The display was researched and curated by Lady Montagu in close collaboration with surviving relatives of the two agents, and features previously unseen family photos. This is the first display ever specifically devoted to these two agents, and includes two short films examining the personalities and private lives of both individuals, in an effort to show the real people behind the exploits, and the sacrifice they made.

THE BRABAZON RESTAURANT

Step into The Brabazon Restaurant, freshly refurbished and ready to host group visitors from Easter 2024. Enhance your experience with our bespoke group catering offering. From coffee and cake, to two course meals, there's something to suit all tastes. Further information can be found inside this brochure.



A ticket to Beaulieu includes entrance to all of these attractions...

NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM

Over 285 vehicles tell the story of motoring in Britain from its pioneering origins to the present day. From the earliest motor carriages to classic family saloons, displays include historic sporting motors, modern rally cars, F1 racers, a rustic 1930s country garage, and Land Speed Record Breakers. Plus explore the new In Focus Gallery showcasing special exhibitions of motoring heritage throughout the year.

PALACE HOUSE

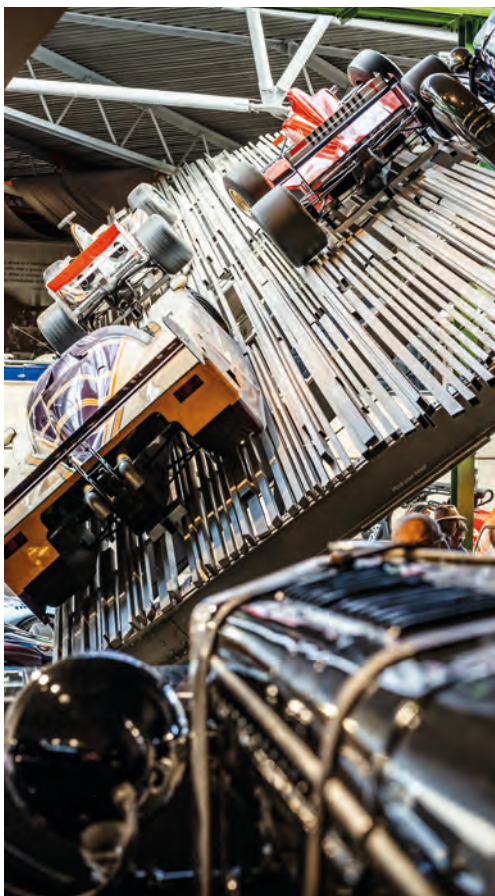
Home of the Montagu family since 1538, Palace House was built around the Great Gatehouse of Beaulieu Abbey. Explore this fantastic Gothic styled Victorian country home as costumed guides give you a flavour of life 'below stairs' and share with you the fascinating history of the house and the generations who have lived there.

BEAULIEU ABBEY AND EXHIBITION

This once thriving Cistercian Abbey was destroyed on the orders of King Henry VIII in 1538 having been founded by King John three centuries before. The conserved ruins of this once vast medieval Abbey include an exhibition on its history and the monks who once lived and worked here.

WORLD OF TOP GEAR

The World of Top Gear features vehicles from every era of the BBC *Top Gear* challenges, including old favourites like the Reliant Robin Space Shuttle, as well as exhibits from filming with Paddy McGuinness, Chris Harris and Freddie Flintoff.



GROUNDS AND GARDENS

Lose yourself in Beaulieu's gardens, from the formality of the Victorian Flower Garden to the picturesque serenity of the Mill Pond Walk. The Victorian Kitchen Garden still supplies the house with seasonal vegetables and in spring the Wilderness Garden is carpeted with a colourful mass of snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and bluebells.

SECRET ARMY EXHIBITION

Uncover Beaulieu's World War Two history as a top secret 'finishing school' for members of the Special Operations Executive, where hundreds of agents completed their training before embarking on dangerous missions in enemy territory. Plus see a newly opened display curated by Lady Montagu in close collaboration with surviving relatives of the two agents, and features previously unseen family photos.

ON SCREEN CARS

The car's the star in this ever changing exhibition of TV and film favourites. Includes Mr Bean's Mini, Del Boy's van, and Doctor Who's favourite car, Bessie.

MONORAIL AND VETERAN BUS

Enjoy unlimited rides around the park on the open top Veteran Bus and Britain's oldest Monorail, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024.



GROUP GUIDED TOURS

Group tour bookings must be made
at least 4 weeks before visiting

With a range of attractions guaranteed to cater for a variety of interests, Beaulieu is an ideal group-friendly destination for visits to the New Forest.

Select from one of our fascinating guided or special tours, available to groups of a maximum of t

THE GRAND TOUR

An in-depth tour taking in the buildings and history of Beaulieu; the Abbey founded in 1204 and Palace House, the intimate family home of the Montagus. See exquisite paintings, antique furniture and stunning architecture as you explore a fine example of a Victorian styled country house, including the late Edward, Lord Montagu's private library, the restored Victorian Kitchen and *The Art of Belinda, Lady Montagu*.

Max group size of 20 people **2 hours** **£45**



twenty people. The Brabazon Restaurant caters for groups, whether that be a simple soup and a sandwich or a two course meal. We will happily work with you to create a tailored programme for your group, regardless of size or needs.

PALACE HOUSE

Find out about life above and below stairs in the ancestral home of the Montagu family. Learn of its history; from its monastic origins to the present day, and the lives of past generations who have lived and worked here. See exquisite paintings, antique furniture and stunning architecture as you explore a fine example of a Victorian styled country house, including the late Edward, Lord Montagu's private library, the restored Victorian Kitchen and *The Art of Belinda, Lady Montagu*.

Max group size of 20 people **1 hour** **£35**



PALACE HOUSE SOIRÉES

After being greeted with a glass of homemade mulled punch you will be entertained by house staff with traditional songs around the piano. For the perfect day out combine a soirée with the **Palace House Tour** (separate charge applies, soirées are not available from 14 Dec to 5th Jan 2025).

Max group size of 20 people **1 hour** **£200**

BEAULIEU ABBEY & EXHIBITION

Discover what life was like in the Cistercian Order at Beaulieu Abbey as the monks and lay brothers went about their daily tasks. Find out why the Abbey was founded in the New Forest, how it was built and its importance to the local community for providing food, clothing, sanctuary and even health care.

Max group size of 20 people **1.5 hour** **£35**

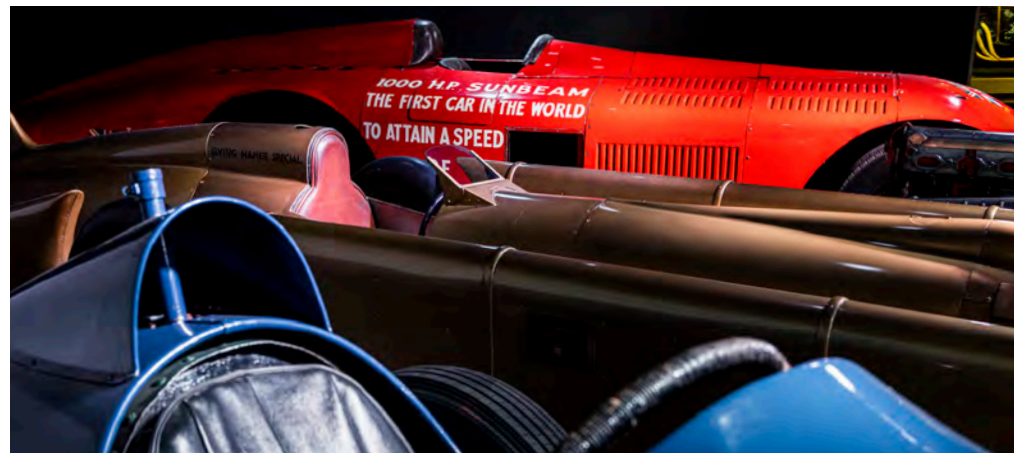


MOTORING HISTORY

The ultimate tour for those wishing to get to grips with the story of motoring on the roads and circuits of Britain. Hear the stories of motoring pioneers, motor sport champions and Land Speed Record Breakers. Enter a garage from the 1930s and wander through our In Focus Gallery.



Max group size of 20 people **1 hour** **£35**



SPECIAL TOURS

THE ENGINEERS TOUR

With over 90 years experience between them, join Doug Hill, Chief Engineer, or Ian Stanfield, Senior Engineer, as they give a behind the scenes tour of the Museum and its Workshop.

Limited weekday availability — book early Max group size of 20 people **1 hour £200**



BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

There's more to the National Motor Museum than the museum itself. Go behind the scenes in the Collections Centre as our knowledgeable museum curators tell stories from the past, and how they keep and maintain a varied collection of almost 1.9 million automotive objects. These tours offer an exciting opportunity for all those who are interested in heritage and exploring how motoring has become such an integral part of our everyday lives.

Only available Monday - Friday. Subject to availability Max group size of 20 people **1 hour £200**



FALCONRY

Meet Lord Montagu's official falconer and discover the history of falconry at Beaulieu that can be traced as far back as the 11th century. The tour finishes with a demonstration of the birds of prey in flight in the grounds of 13th century Beaulieu Abbey.

Limited availability — book early **1.5 hours £200**



THE VICTORIAN KITCHEN

Meet the Victorian Cook, Mrs Hale, in the recently restored Palace House kitchen, and hear stories of long hours and hard work in the kitchens, from where the organisation of the Victorian household revolved.

Max group size of 20 people **1 hour £35**



THE VINEYARD

Grapes have been grown at Beaulieu since medieval times. Between April and October, take a guided tour of the vineyard and find out how the vines are grown before sampling the wine they produce.

45 mins £150



Guided tours will not take place on busy events days. Tours must be booked and paid for **one month** in advance of your visit. The Vineyard Tour must be booked six months in advance. Please note: appropriate footwear must be worn in the vineyard as ground is uneven. There are no lavatory facilities on this tour.

GROUP DINING SPECIAL OFFERS

THE BRABAZON RESTAURANT

The Brabazon Restaurant offers a wide range of hot or cold food and drinks, from light snacks to filling main courses. Morning coffee, lunches and afternoon teas can be booked in advance for your group. The following group dining special offers are available when booked in advance as part of your group booking (subject to availability).

Set Two-Course Lunch from £25.00 per person

Choose a main course and a dessert with either tea or coffee for all your party to enjoy when you book your visit. Request our full menu to see an extensive range of local dishes made with fresh ingredients and mouth-watering desserts to complete your meal.

Soup & Sandwich from £12.50 per person

Perfect for grabbing a quick bite to eat allowing more time to explore. The *Soup of the Day* is often made using produce from Palace House gardens and the wider Beaulieu Estate, served together with a selection of homemade sandwiches.

Cream Tea from £6.95 per person

Take a break and enjoy one of our popular cream teas, including a pot of tea with a homemade scone, Fruits of the Forest jam and Dorset clotted cream.

Canapé Reception from £15 per person

A delicious selection of five canapés per person for groups of 25 or more.



Please note that these offers are only available to groups visiting weekdays during school term-time.



CHRISTMAS at BEAULIEU

Bring your group to Beaulieu in November or December to celebrate Christmas in the unique surroundings of Palace House and Beaulieu Abbey.



BEAULIEU CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Join us for a sumptuous two-course or three-course Christmas meal in the Brabazon Restaurant. Available on selected weekdays during November and December, book early to avoid disappointment.

Set Two-Course £25 per person

Set Three-Course £35 per person



HELPFUL INFORMATION

Beaulieu is a marvellous day out that can be enjoyed, together. All of our attractions are included in one inclusive ticket and pre-booked groups of 15+ can take advantage of generous group rates:

Adult: £18.50 Senior: £17.50 (60yrs) Child: £10.50 (5-16yrs)

Children under 5yrs are admitted free of charge

Free Parking

**Average Visit
4-5 Hours**

FOOD & DRINK

Group dining must be booked in advance. Request the menu to make your selection. Please note that group dining offers are only available on weekdays during school term-time unless otherwise stated.

SHOPS

Our main shop in Visitor Reception offers a selection of gifts and souvenirs including a wide range of model cars, books and motoring gifts. Alternatively, in the Palace House Kitchen Shop you can buy homemade cakes, biscuits and preserves or treat yourself from a quality range of gifts including silverware, china sets and more.

ACCESS

Beaulieu is committed to a policy of accessibility, providing excellent access in and around the site with lifts, ramps and broad pathways where possible. We regret that it is not possible for wheelchairs to access the Monorail, Veteran Bus, or the first floor of the Domus and Palace House. Manual and powered wheelchairs can be booked in advance for use free of charge. Please contact us to discuss your individual requirements and the viewing alternatives available for visitors with mobility impairment. For more information regarding accessibility please visit beaulieu.co.uk/plan-your-visit/accessibility

BOOKING

T: 01590 614645

E: groups@beaulieu.co.uk

John Montagu Building | Beaulieu

New Forest | Hampshire | SO42 7ZN

OPENING TIMES

Open daily from 10am (except Christmas Day)

Closes 6pm (June-September)

5pm (all other times)



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