

THE HARLEY GALLERY

WELBECK ABBEY STATE ROOM TOURS 2020

Welbeck Abbey has been home to the Dukes of Portland and their families since 1607. Welbeck is one of the great traditional landed estates. It extends to 15,000 acres, much of which sits within Sherwood Forest, with Welbeck Abbey at its heart. The Abbey was founded as a monastery in 1153. Bess of Hardwick's youngest son, Sir Charles Cavendish, acquired Welbeck in 1607, and since then the estate has continued to be handed down through the family.

THE TOUR

On arrival, please park in the main car park and check in for your tour at The Portland Collection. Tour visitors will be collected from The Portland Collection by coach and taken, through the 5th Duke of Portland's Victorian village, to Welbeck Abbey. The coach will depart promptly, please arrange to arrive in good time. Unfortunately, latecomers cannot join the tour.

The tour last approximately an hour and a half. Extended tours last two and half hours. We strongly advise that visitors wear comfortable footwear as there is limited seating available on the tour. We kindly ask that stiletto shoes are not worn in the house. There are no toilet facilities at the Abbey. Toilets, refreshments, shopping and exhibitions can be found at The Harley Gallery and Portland Collection. Please also be aware only small handbags are permitted but we do provide lockers for secure storage.

The tour takes in the grand State Rooms which have been host to royalty, aristocracy and statesmen. The State Rooms are decorated with objects and artworks from The Portland Collection; an internationally significant collection. Works on show at Welbeck Abbey include pieces by Sir Peter Lely, John Wootton and Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Visitors can also enjoy Welbeck Abbey's architecture which has evolved over the generations. The tour includes the Countess of Oxford's soaring plasterwork ceiling in the Gothic Hall, and the Duchess of Portland's State Rooms remodelled by Sir Ernest George, c. 1905.

The Welbeck Abbey State Room Tours are managed by The Harley Foundation which was set up by Ivy, Duchess of Portland in 1978.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will I receive confirmation of my booking?

Your confirmation will be emailed, or can be posted

What is the difference between a regular tour and an extended tour?

The extended tours last approximately 2.5 hours, giving visitors longer in each room to appreciate the interiors in more detail. They do not include any additional rooms of Welbeck Abbey.

Will I see any of the underground rooms?

No, the State Room tour does not include any of Welbeck's underground rooms or tunnels.

Can I drive directly to Welbeck Abbey?

Please do **not** drive directly to Welbeck Abbey. Visitors are asked to park in the main car park by The Harley Gallery and proceed to the Abbey by coach. This will take you through the Victorian Welbeck Village built by the Fifth Duke of Portland in the 1860's.

Why is the house only open for a few days during the summer?

Welbeck Abbey is a private family home.

Can I take photographs of the Abbey and in the State Rooms?

No photography is permitted during the tour.

What do I do if I miss the coach?

We regret that tickets are not refundable or transferable. Please arrange to be at The Harley Gallery in good time for your tour.

Can I take my handbag on the tour?

You may take small handbags on the tour but we regret that large bags are not permitted. If in doubt, please ask your guide when you check in. We provide lockers for safe storage.

What time should I arrange my transport for?

Please arrive 15 minutes early, as latecomers cannot join the tour after it has left The Portland Collection. We recommend booking your return travel at least 3 hours after the start time for your tour, in case of unforeseen delays.

Are these tours suitable for children?

Tours are not recommended for children. We also do not allow prams or pushchairs at the Abbey. We advise visitors that you will be on your feet for a long time as there is limited seating. There are also no changing facilities.

Why is there a wheelchair friendly tour?

Welbeck Abbey still remains a private home and due to their being several staircases in the house, one wheelchair friendly tour is scheduled for disabled visitors to enjoy without encountering the stairs.

I have booked tickets but now cannot attend?

[Tickets are non-refundable.](#) However, if you would like to give your tickets to a friend or family member, we are happy to change the names on your booking. Please call 01909 501700 to let us know.