Shaw House
Group Tour FAQs

Shaw House Information

What are the options and costings to visit?
There are three group visit options to choose from. This option is selected in advance when booking your visit.

Option 1 | £12pp | Includes...
- A guided tour of the main rooms of Shaw House.*
- A detailed view of the Dressed for Shaw costume exhibition.
- A viewing of the main exhibition rooms of the House.

Option 2 | £16pp | Includes...
- A guided tour of the main rooms of Shaw House.*
- A detailed view of the Dressed for Shaw costume exhibition.
- The opportunity to see areas not usually open to the public.
- A viewing of the main exhibition rooms of the House.

Option 3 | £22pp | Includes...
- A guided tour of the main rooms of Shaw House.*
- A detailed view of the Dressed for Shaw costume exhibition.
- The opportunity to see areas not usually open to the public.
- A viewing of the main exhibition rooms of the House.
- Entrance to the Bake House situated beneath the café. This room is usually only open on four days of the year. Entry is via a ladder – for accessibility information please enquire.

**Please note: Some rooms may be in private use and not available for view on the day. For an exclusive tour outside of our public opening there will be an additional flat fee of £150.*

What will we see on our tour of the House?
This depends on the tour option chosen in advance. All options include viewing the main rooms of the House that are accessible on the day, as well as access to the grounds, gift shop and café.

Built in 1581, Shaw House has over 400 years of history to share. The House was a family home for over 360 years before becoming a school and now a conference and meetings centre as well as heritage venue. Due to changes through the years, the rooms are now empty of historic furniture. On the day of your tour, the guide will take you through the historic rooms painting a picture of years gone by and sharing historical anecdotes about those who lived and worked at the House.

For access to areas not usually open to the public, such as the second-floor corridor, basement tunnel or Elizabethan bakehouse, please select the relevant tour option upon making your booking.

How long will the tour last?
The standard tour (option 1) will last between 60 – 90 minutes. Your group is then welcome to remain on site within our opening times to enjoy the grounds or to revisit rooms at leisure. Tours including additional areas will last approximately 30 – 60 minutes longer.

Will all rooms be available?
Most rooms will be available during your visit. As with all dates during our public opening, some rooms may be in private use and therefore unavailable. When booking, we will do our best to ensure most rooms are available. Exclusive private tours, outside of our opening hours, can be arranged at an additional fee.

What exhibitions will be on?
Our permanent exhibition room will be open to view showcasing historical artefacts from the Houses' history. In addition, we have our Dressed for Shaw costume exhibition and a temporary exhibition room which is updated every couple of years. During the summer months, the grounds are host to a sculpture exhibition.

For more information, or to view our full programme of events please visit our website www.westberkshireheritage.org/shaw-house or email shawhouse@westberks.gov.uk.

Can we take photographs inside the House?
Yes, photographs are permitted for personal use in most rooms. There are two rooms where photography is not permitted; our exhibition rooms on the first floor. This will be highlighted to you on the day. For commercial enquiries, please contact Shaw House directly.

Accessibility

What is accessibility like for visitors with disabilities?
We warmly welcome visitors with disabilities. Most areas are accessible with step free access, the only exception being two rooms on the ground floor. There are internal lifts that provide access to the first floor and basement toilet facilities. We also welcome assistance dogs for people who are visually impaired, people who are deaf or hard of hearing and disabled people.

Due to the nature of the historic 16th century building, there are areas of uneven ground, low doorways and steps that are not immediately obvious. We advise bringing appropriate items of support and wearing suitable footwear. For more information, contact Shaw House directly ahead of your visit.

Is there disabled parking available?
We have a limited number of disabled parking available for blue badge holders. This is located on the east side of the House and is sign posted from Church Road. Entry is through the historic gate with a max height and width of 3.1m, please take care if driving through this entrance.

Is there any sensory information available?
We have a sensory map available to view on our website www.westberkshireheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Shaw-House-Ground-Floor-Sensory-Map.pdf

Group Numbers

What are the minimum / maximum numbers permitted for a group tour?
Minimum numbers for a group tour would be 10 people, with the maximum being 60. Larger groups can enquire and, subject to availability, could be accommodated.

When do you require final numbers?
Final numbers for your group tour are required one week (seven days) prior to your visit. This is then the fee you are required to pay on the day.

Payment

How and when do we make payment?
Payment is made on the day of your group tour with cash or card at our Reception. You will need to pay for the numbers given one week (seven days) prior to your visit.

What if someone cancels their place within seven days of the visit?
The final numbers given one week (seven days) prior to the visit is the total payment fee required on the day. If your numbers drop within the week, payment is still required for the full numbers given.

What is your cancellation policy?
Should your group cancel within one week (seven days) of the booking, a 50% fee will be requested for the final numbers that had been provided.

Catering

Can I purchase a coffee from your café on the day?
Absolutely! Our café will be open on the day selling light refreshments including cold drinks, sandwiches, cream teas, homemade cake and snacks, subject to availability.

Can we include a lunch for our group?
A variety of buffet or canapés options are available at an additional fee. Please discuss this when making your booking.

Additional information

How do we find Shaw House?
Shaw House, Church Road, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DR
T: 01635 279279 E: shawhouse@westberks.gov.uk

Shaw House is ideally situated in tranquil surroundings on the north side of Newbury, within an hour's journey of London, Bristol, Oxford and the South Coast, and just five minutes from the M4/A34 junction. It's a 25-minute walk from Newbury town centre and is accessible by public transport.

If following a satnav, please use the postcode and then brown tourist signs when nearer the House.

Our what3words are riders.drama.dairy.

Is parking included and can we arrive by car?
We advise arriving by car or minibus due to the parking and height restrictions on site. There is free car parking in our main car park with over 100 spaces available. Minibuses are welcome, as long as they fit through the gate restrictions (main car park max height 2.3m, historic gate max height 3.1m). We do not have coach parking on site, however limited coach parking is available approximately 5-minute drive away at The Wharf in Newbury.

Is there a guidebook available?
Yes, you can purchase a guidebook from our on site or online gift shop for £4.50. Other booklets and gifts are available to purchase.