



ARDGOWAN HOUSE
CASTLE & GARDENS

AN OWNER-LED PRIVATELY GUIDED HOUSE TOUR

INTRODUCTION:

Ardgowan House, Castle and Gardens is a magnificent 76 room privately owned stately home on the West coast of Scotland, steeped in history and tradition.

Remarkably, Ardgowan has remained in the possession of one family – the Shaw Stewarts – since 1404, having passed through 27 successive generations.

While Ardgowan House is not open to the public, the present day custodians Sir Ludovic and his wife Lady Shaw Stewart greatly enjoy welcoming privately arranged group tours into their home – affording their guests a rare glimpse into the grandeur, realities, and occasional absurdities, of life in “Scotland’s most beautiful private house”.

Tours are personally guided by Sir Ludovic, who counts among his direct ancestors both King Robert the Bruce and Pocahontas. As a former art dealer and now a historian, writer and storyteller, Sir Ludovic weaves together a tale of family lore, scandal, romance, intrigue and mystery – embedding the fascinating narrative of Ardgowan through the centuries within the larger sweep of Scotland's electrifying history.

Tour guests not only experience Ardgowan's incredible story of revival and redemption, but – through their interest and engagement – help to build the estate's next chapter as a place where the past is a living presence, and the future is a chapter still being written.



PRICING

An exclusive use owner-led tour which includes behind the scenes access to the private quarters, reception rooms, gallery and shop.

Duration: 1hr 40 minutes

2026 Retail Price: **£36.00 GBP** per participant

Children [12 and under] are 50% of the adult price

Please Note: Discounted trade rates are applicable for tour operators. Please see our Tour Operator Rate Brochure for further details

ADDITIONAL EXTRAS

Tea/Coffee & Shortbread in the Willow and Myrtle Rooms can be added for a supplementary charge of **5.50 GBP** per participant

A “High Tea” of Tea/Coffee, sandwiches, biscuits and home baking in the Willow and Myrtle Rooms can be added for a supplementary charge of **12.50 GBP** per participant

Post tour drinks receptions can be arranged. Price on enquiry

Please Note: The addition of food/beverages adds a minimum of 25 minutes on to the tour time

FINE PRINT

MAXIMUM CAPACITY

We can accommodate up to 45 participants per tour excluding tour guides

FREE ENTRY

The tour guides and coach drivers are FOC as standard

MINIMUM BOOKING NUMBER

We have a minimum booking number policy of 23 adult participants per group or the equivalent spend if numbers are below 23 adult participants

BOOKING CONFIRMATION

Final numbers, dietaries and allergies must be confirmed no later than 7 days prior to the event day

PAYMENT

Following receipt of an invoice we require payment to be made in full by BACS 7 days prior to the event day

OUTSIDE FACILITIES

We have free parking, easy access and a suitably sized turning circle for large coaches as well as parking for up to 30 cars

INDOOR FACILITIES

We have a platform lift to the first floor, accessible toilets and baby changing facilities as well as complementary wifi

HOW TO BOOK

Email is our preferred means of contact: events@ardgowan.co.uk



HOW TO FIND US

ADDRESS

Ardgowan House
Inverkip
Greenock
Renfrewshire
PA16 0DW

We are based near Inverkip and Greenock on the West coast of Scotland

15 minutes from the Greenock Cruise Ship Terminal

40 minutes from Glasgow City Centre

30 minutes from Glasgow Airport

120 minutes from the Cairnryan Cruise Ship Terminal

www.ardgowan.co.uk

TESTIMONIALS

“Scotland’s Downton Abbey”

The Glasgow Herald

“The best excursion I have ever been on - and I have been on a lot!”

Miriam B, Cruise Ship Passenger

“....I felt like I had stepped onto the set of Pride and Prejudice in the very best way. It was simultaneously grand and warm. Our host was charming and knowledgeable, sharing lots of interesting facts during the tour and making us all feel super welcome. I couldn’t recommend Ardgowan highly enough!

Tessa, Google review

“Time travelling at Ardgowan House...a highlight of our journey

P.S. Smithsonian Institute

“Among the many excursions and tours we have experienced, this is our favourite...I believe this tour will just keep getting better!

Chris R, Trust Pilot

“....I have never taken the time to provide comments however I must today. What a wonderful, knowledgeable host. Treated us like family, opening his home. Just an amazing experience, highly recommended for all who enjoy abit of history...”

Bonnie, Google Review

“The experience of our visit was my favourite thing during that two and a half week tour of the UK, Ludo’s stories of his family and his home made it all come to life”

Terry & Debbie, California

“Outstanding! A must visit! the owner gives a tour of the house and history of the family stretching back centuries”

Miriam B, Cruise Ship Passenger

“Incredibly enriching experience...I recommend this activity without hesitation even if you are not a history buff

Carlos R, Trust Pilot

“An extraordinary guided tour given by Ludo”

Susie C, Accompanying Tour guide

“If you’re touring near Glasgow, make this stop a priority. Old Scotland will come alive!”

N.E. Philidelphia, Trust Pilot