

GARDEN CLUB  
OF VIRGINIA

# Historic Garden Week

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Do Historic Garden Week (HGW) tours sell out?

Normally tours do not sell out. However, all tours open for 2021 have reduced their capacities significantly to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for both the visitors as well as the hosting volunteers. Additionally, most tours are offering timed tickets, or selling a morning or an afternoon ticket, to further make certain social distancing can be properly maintained while visiting featured properties. Due to these additional precautions, tours cannot admit visitors before their arrival time and if late, cannot guarantee attendance due to capacity restrictions.

### Are face masks required?

COVID-19 has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. In response, the Garden Club of Virginia (GCV) has established health and safety policies as well as protocols to try to minimize the spread of COVID-19 during Historic Garden Week 2021. All Garden Club of Virginia members, volunteers, homeowners and tour visitors will be required to



wear face masks while participating in any aspect of Historic Garden Week. This applies to both interior and exterior spaces.

### Are tickets available on tour day?

Probably not. We hope and expect that tours will sell out before Historic Garden Week 2021 begins. All tours are different because they are locally hosted and produced by different member clubs, but most have limited their touring capacity significantly for 2021. A few have reserved a limited amount of tickets that will be available for sale on their tour day (by credit card only). To avoid disappointment, purchase your tour tickets early via our website. Individual tours can be contacted directly if you have questions about availability of tickets on tour day(s). For contact information, visit the tour's individual webpage: [www.vagardenweek.org/main/tours](http://www.vagardenweek.org/main/tours)



### Where can I pick up a Guidebook? Are they free?

Guidebooks are available at various locations around Virginia. For a list of outlets, [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org). The Guidebook is free at these locations. You may also purchase a Guidebook online or by sending a check before March 26, 2021 to the Garden Club of Virginia, 12 East Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219 in the amount of \$20. The cost of the Guidebook covers shipping and handling for this 160+ page publication.

### Where do we go first? Where do the tours start?

Start at the Tour Headquarters location listed in the Guidebook for each tour. To access a digital version of the 2021 Guidebook with complete logistical information regarding all tours, access it here: [vagardenweek.org/main/guidebook](http://vagardenweek.org/main/guidebook). The Headquarters location is where you show your ticket, pick up a map or local brochure of the touring area, can ask questions and use the facilities, and generally, get oriented.

### Where do we park?

Parking is available at Tour Headquarters locations. If the tour is a walking tour, this is the best place to park. Many neighborhoods cannot accommodate the additional traffic associated with Historic Garden Week tours that require driving to each location. In these cases, use designated parking areas marked with HGW signage. Do not block residential driveways. Please check individual tour webpages available at [vagardenweek.org/main/tours](http://vagardenweek.org/main/tours) for Google Maps of each touring area.

### Are there restrooms available on tours?

There are no public restroom facilities at tour properties, but restrooms are often available at the Tour Headquarters or other designated locations in the tour area.

**Can we visit all the tours over the 8 days of Historic Garden Week?** Sadly, it is not physically possible to attend all the tours over the course of Historic Garden Week. Visit the "Suggested Itineraries" page of our website, [vagardenweek.org/main/tours-plan-your-visit](http://vagardenweek.org/main/tours-plan-your-visit) to help you organize your visit and minimize driving between tour areas.



request for those choosing not to attend. The GCV is a non-profit organization. Tours are held rain or shine, except for tours that are inaccessible due to weather conditions. Please check social media for last minute changes to any of the tours offered this April.

 **Facebook**  
Historic Garden Week in Virginia

 **Instagram**  
historicgardenweek  
#GCV #GCVirginia #HGW #HGW21

### What flowers will be blooming during Historic Garden Week?

Virginia is often at its height of springtime blooming during Historic Garden Week. The tours cover three different hardiness zones and weather is always a factor. Rest assured, however, that Mother Nature never disappoints. Visitors can expect to see tulips, peonies, iris, azaleas and dogwood. If it's been cool leading up to tours, there might be daffodils, camellia, wisteria and redbud too. If it's been warm, you might enjoy roses and hydrangea.

### Are the tours handicapped accessible?

Historic Garden week properties are private and therefore are not handicapped accessible; those with physical limitations should be advised.

### May children attend Historic Garden week tours?

Children 17 years of age and under must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Tours are produced and hosted by 48 different member clubs of the Garden Club of Virginia. While most tours are not geared towards very young visitors, some are more conducive than others. Unfortunately, due to limited capacity of tours for 2021, we cannot offer discounted tickets for children this spring. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause.

### Where do the proceeds go?

Tour proceeds fund the ongoing restoration and preservation of Virginia's most iconic historic public gardens and landscapes, as well as other lesser-known sites across the state. To date, the GCV has completed projects at nearly 50 locations. In addition, ticket sales fund a research fellowship program in landscape architecture that documents two significant gardens each year. For more information, about this inspiring work that dates back to the GCV's first landscape restoration in 1930, visit [gcvirginia.org/main/historic-restorations](http://gcvirginia.org/main/historic-restorations)

### We've never been on Historic Garden Week. How do we pick a tour, or tours?

That's a great question, and there is a different answer for each tour! If your time is limited by date, start with the tour schedule [www.vagardenweek.org/main/tours](http://www.vagardenweek.org/main/tours) here and read a summary of each tour by clicking on each tour option. If you'd rather stay in one area of the state and enjoy the tours by Region, you can read about them in the five travel stories included in *Historic Garden Week – The Magazine*, organized geographically: [vagardenweek.org](http://vagardenweek.org)

### Is photography allowed?

Photography of any kind, including via cell phone, is prohibited inside tour properties, and some tours prohibit exterior photography as well. Please abide by signage. Many of the host garden clubs post professional quality pictures of the stunning flower arrangements on their Historic Garden Week Facebook and Instagram accounts.

### What if it rains? And what is your refund policy?

Due to the unique circumstances involving COVID-19, for Historic Garden Week 2021 only, cancellation of tour tickets with a full refund is available through 4 p.m. on Monday, April 5, 2021. This popular event is supported by a very small staff, therefore, cancellations after this date and time cannot be accommodated. However, ticket purchases can be converted to tax-deductible donations at the purchaser's

## SAFETY

For your comfort and safety, please wear flat walking shoes, no spiked heels, and watch for steps and uneven surfaces as you visit the homes and gardens

- Pets — except service animals — are not permitted.
- No smoking.
- No strollers, backpacks or large bags.
- The Garden Club of Virginia, its member clubs and owners of the properties are not responsible for accidents occurred on the tours.



*With so many tours to choose from this spring, there is something for everyone.*

Visit [VaGardenWeek.org](http://VaGardenWeek.org) for a complete listing of all tours, suggested itineraries, maps and to purchase tickets.