

Visual Story



I am going to visit Chatsworth. Chatsworth is a big house in the countryside. It also has a large garden and a farmyard that I can visit while I am here. I can choose where I would like to go. There are different tickets I can choose on the website. If I buy a ticket to see inside the house, this also includes the garden. Or I can choose to only visit the garden or Farmyard. The park and Stand Wood are free to access if I would like to spend the day outside. I can find nature trails and things to do on the Chatsworth website.

Book your tickets & prices: <https://www.chatsworth.org/visit-chatsworth/book-tickets/>

Family visits and free activities to download: <https://www.chatsworth.org/visit-chatsworth/visitor-information/plan-your-visit/family-day-out/>

Accessible Chatsworth & maps: <https://www.chatsworth.org/visit-chatsworth/visitor-information/accessibility/>

If I choose to go inside the house this story will help me get familiar with some of the spaces in the house so that I feel more comfortable when I get there. The staff at Chatsworth are very friendly and there are always people to ask for help during my visit.

Helpful tips when I am inside the house

- The house might be busy. The house might be loud 🗣️, bright ☀️ or dark 🌑. Each room feels different. Ceiling heights are different through the house and can be low, high, covered in paintings or patterns.
- There are clocks in the house that chime – I may hear a *ding* 🔔 while I am walking through the house.
- I can borrow a **sensory bag** at the entrance desk. There are fidget toys, ear defenders and sunglasses I can use to help me stay calm while I walk around the house. I can use mood cards to share how I am feeling at any time 😊😐😞
- There are quiet spaces and rest stops along the route. I can go here if I need a break. If I am struggling in any room, I can speak to a member of staff. They will help me find the nearest quiet space. I can skip rooms if I want to.
- Sometimes there are groups of adults or school children on a tour in the house – up to 20 people. They are with a Guide. I can walk past them or I can wait for them to go ahead of me.
- **I can skip any room I don't feel comfortable in or I can ask to leave the house if I do not feel happy.** I can ask a member of staff to help me to a different room or take me to the nearest exit.
- There are labels that explain some of the works and rooms. I can read these if I like. There are large print copies of the labels in each room. I can ask a guide to show me where.



The house has a route to follow – there are some arrows to show me which way to go. Here is an example of a sign on the route.



There is a lift to each floor. I can ask a member of staff to help me get to this lift. It will take me up or down to each floor along the route.



Sensory Bags

These are available at the entrance hall desk. Inside the Sensory bags are fidget toys to help keep me calm and distract me if I am feeling overwhelmed. I can also ask for **ear defenders and sunglasses**. I can use these if it is too loud or bright for me. I can use mood cards to share how I am feeling at any time 😊 😐 😞. If I want to swap fidget toys or remove any items from the bag, a member of staff will help me. I will give this back to a guide before I enter the gift shop.



Objects & Art in the house

There are a lot of valuable objects in the house. Some of these objects are old and we need to keep them safe and clean. I cannot touch the objects and paintings on display. There are things I can touch – there are some activities along the way that invite me to touch. If I am not sure about what I can or cannot touch I can ask a member of staff.



While I am in the house there are chairs I can sit on for a rest. There are some chairs that I cannot sit on because they are part of the collection and might be old or fragile. They have a spiky plant on them – this is to let me know not to sit down on it. I can ask a member of staff if I am not sure or if I need a seat - no one will be angry if I sit on the wrong chair.



Arriving at Chatsworth

This is the car park kiosk

If I travel by car to Chatsworth, I will meet a person in the car park kiosk and will show them our ticket or booking confirmation. We will park the car and walk towards to entrance gates. If I arrive by bus I will walk from the Bus Stop to the entrance gates.



These are the toilets

Before I go inside the house, I can use the toilet. There is no public toilet inside the house (but I can ask a Guide if I do need the toilet once inside - they will help me).



This is the café and locker room

I can buy a drink or lunch at the café. I can put my bag in a locker in the room next to the café if a member of staff tells me it is too large to carry in the house. I need a £1 coin or a trolley coin for the locker. When I collect my bag later, I will get my coin back. My bag will be safe in the locker while I am in the house and garden. If I am with a group, my group leader can get a key for a large locker from our visitor team at the entrance gate.



This is the entrance gate that leads to the house. A member of staff will say hello to me at the gate and check my ticket. I will walk through the gates towards the entrance of house.

This is a member of staff. They wear a uniform. If they are outside they may wear an overcoat to keep warm and dry. They will help me. I can ask them questions. It is fine to talk to them at any time.



This is the drive that leads to the house. I will walk down this drive towards the house. There are sculptures along the drive.



At the end of the drive I will see the entrance to the house. I can walk through this doorway. I will go inside the house through this door. If it is busy I may need to wait outside for a few minutes.



Entrance Hall

This is the Entrance Hall. When it is cold the fireplace is lit to keep us warm. There is a painting on the ceiling and stone pillars. Also in this room is the Ticket Desk.

This is the **Ticket Desk**. A member of staff will ask me if I have a ticket and show me to the desk or their colleague.

If I have a pre-booked ticket a member of staff will scan it – this is in the booking confirmation email I received when I booked online.

I can also buy a ticket here if I did not book one in advance.

I can ask the person at the desk for a **Sensory Bag** to use while I am in the house. I will return this to a member of staff when I reach the gift shop at the end of the route in the Sculpture Gallery.



I can buy a guidebook here if I want to. This has information about the house and the history of the family who live here.

There are some leaflets that I can take – these are free:

- There is a leaflet called Gorgeous Nothings. This is about the exhibition.
- There is a leaflet called Naturally Curious. This has children's activities for the house and garden.
- There is a site map. This shows you where things are outside. I can ask the guide if I am not sure which leaflet to take. I can take all three leaflets if I like.





Ground Floor

On the ground floor I will be welcomed by a guide. I will walk along a short corridor to get to the Painted Hall. There are some paintings on the walls and a patterned marble floor.



Painted Hall

I will go into the Painted Hall. There is lots to see in the Painted Hall. There are paintings on the walls and the ceiling. It is a very big room with high ceilings and it can be busy with people. The floor is black and white and there are big glass doors.

There is a big dress made out of ceramic in the middle of the room. I cannot touch the dress but I can walk all around it.

Inner Court

I can look out at the Inner Court. There are flowers in pots. I cannot go outside.



The Grotto

This space is smaller and darker than the painted hall. I can hear a trickle of water from the little fountain inside.

I will walk down the corridor. It is narrow here. There are paintings, statues and fire places to look at. I cannot touch any of these. There are windows looking onto the inner court.



Oak Room

The next room I will visit is the Oak Room. The walls and the ceiling are wood and the ceiling is low. I can see the garden through the window. There are cases with books and art that I can look in.



Chapel

The next room is the chapel. There are some paintings on the walls and ceilings.

There is a film and music playing in this room, it is dark with two big screens. The film has images in it that might be upsetting. I do not have to go into this room if I do not want to. I can leave the Oak Room using the same door I came in through.

After this room, I will go back in to the Chapel Corridor, through the Grotto and Painted Hall and go up the stairs. **If I need to use the lift I can ask a member of staff in the Painted Hall to help me.**



Great Stairs

These are the Great Stairs. I will walk up the stairs to the landing. At the top of the stairs I can look at the Painted Hall.

I will walk up the next flight of stairs to the next floor. There are different ceiling heights and a balcony at the top of the stairs. On the balcony there are chairs I can sit on for a rest.



First Floor

If I use the lift, I will be guided to the Great Stairs balcony or I can ask to miss out Scots Passage and the guest bedrooms and go straight to the **Green Satin Room** described below.

Guest Bedrooms

I will go into a set of rooms called the guest bedrooms. I can ask a guide to skip these if I want to and go straight to the Green Satin Room.



The first room is bright yellow. It has paper flowers on plinths. I cannot touch these but I can look at them.

The second room has lots of pictures of flowers on each of the walls. It has a big bed.

Quiet Space

If I need to take a break and need a quiet space, I can ask the guide to show me the Green Satin Dressing Room. This is a quiet space, off the route, where I can relax.



Green Satin Room

This room has two big windows and a view of the garden. There is a large painting of what Chatsworth and its garden used to look like.

There is a table in the green satin room where I can sit and draw. I can use the paper and pencils and draw the objects on the table or people in my group. I can sit here as long as I like. I can take my drawing with me or leave it on the table.

I will go through the door and into the Great Chamber.



This is the **Great Chamber**. It is a large room with wooden walls, a wooden floor and a painted ceiling. It has windows looking into the garden. The doors are very large and are open for me to walk through. There is a large mirror in the corner of the room.

There is lot to see here. There is a painting, a dress, and lots of painted vases.



Chambers

I will walk through the large doorway into four more rooms. Each room is different and they are quite dark. They all have decorated walls and ceilings and some paintings on the walls. I will walk through the **State Drawing Room** and **State Music Room**. I can pause to look at the objects.

State Bed Chamber

This room has a large red bed in it and objects on display. I cannot touch or lean on these but I can look.



State Closet

At the end of the corridor I will walk into the State Closet. This is a small and dark room with decorative plates on the walls, a fire place and a large hanging chandelier.

There are books and a drees on display.



Old Master Drawing Cabinet

This room is very small and dark, and has no windows. It has pictures on all four walls. I can walk through it or I can stop and look at the pictures.



South Sketch Gallery

I am now in a long, bright room with light green, stripy walls. There are large paintings on the walls and two big sparkly chandeliers on the ceiling.

There are minerals to look at and a dress in a case at the end of the corridor. I can walk down the corridor and back or go straight into the next corridor.



West Sketch Gallery

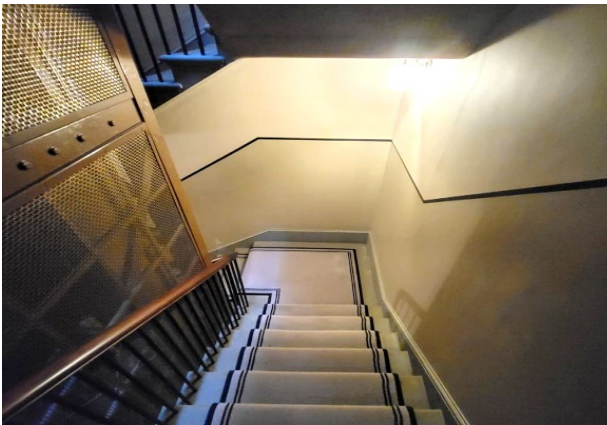
I will walk through this long, narrow room. There are tables made from natural stone. There are lots of paintings on the walls and some statues of people's faces. There are objects in cases on the tables.



North Sketch Gallery

I am now in another long, bright room lined with mirrors on one side and a textured wall on the other side. This is a piece of ceramic art.

I cannot touch the walls but there is a plinth that I can touch to feel the ceramic texture. I can ask a Guide to show me this.



At the end of the room there are stairs and a lift to go back downstairs. There is a Guide here to help with the lift or direct the way.

There are some pictures on the walls to look at as I walk down the stairs.



North Wing

At the bottom of the stairs, I am now on the **Oak Landing**. I can see a high wall with lots of paintings of people. There is a bright green table and two balconies. I can look down into the Painted Hall from this balcony.

There is a panel with two speakers on the landing. I can listen to people talk about one of the paintings.



Ante Library/ Library

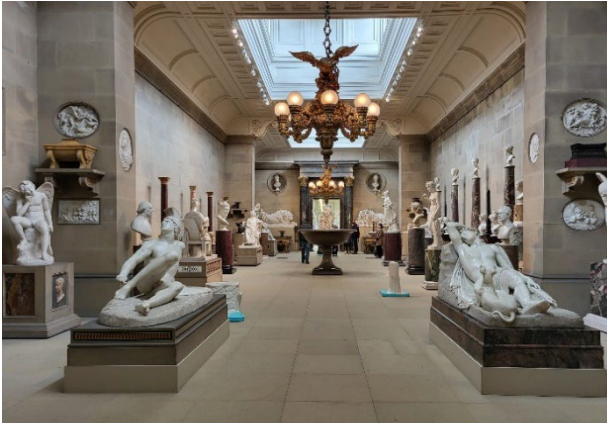
I will walk into the Ante Library. There may be lots of people. There is a grand piano and a window looking onto the garden.

If I look to my right I can see inside the Library. There are thousands of books in here but I cannot go inside. There is a metal gate across the entrance.



Great Dining Room

This room contains a large dining table with chairs. On the table there are plates and glasses. On the walls, there are very large paintings of people, and large windows looking into the garden. It has a curved, patterned ceiling. There is a Guide to answer questions.



Sculpture Gallery

This is the last room on the route. It is large and much cooler than the other rooms. It is full of white sculptures of people. There are easels with paintings on them.

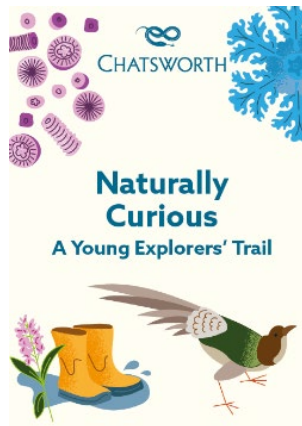
Before I leave the Sculpture Gallery and enter the shop, I will return my red Sensory Bag with its belongings to the Guide in this room.



The End

I am now at the end of the house route. I will leave the room and walk into the gift shop.

This shop can be busy. I can walk through the shop to go out into the garden or I can look at things in the shop. The exits to the garden are marked on the glass doors.



I can go and enjoy the garden, stop for a break or go out of the garden gate to collect my bag from the locker store if I used one. I can return to the garden. I will show the staff at the garden entrance my ticket on my way back into the garden.

If I picked one up in the entrance hall, I can turn over my Naturally Curious family trail leaflet and use the activities suggested for the Garden.