



# Stratfield Saye House

Wednesday 24 July 2024

By Coach - Cost £41



The Wellington Memorial



Stratfield Saye

Stratfield Saye House and Estate are situated in Hampshire, south of Reading, home to the Dukes of Wellington since 1818. After the Battle of Waterloo the first Duke - the Great Duke - received a considerable sum of money from a grateful nation to enable him to buy a house worthy of his new status. He chose Stratfield Saye. Lacking funds to build a stately home along the lines of Blenheim Palace, he was content with the existing dwelling. Today the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke and family live here. This is a house full of mementoes to the Great Duke but at the same time very much a comfortable family home.



The Great Duke

You will be able to admire the magnificent Funeral Car, housed in the Wellington Exhibition which charts his military and political life, and listen to a talk about his funeral.

There is a gift shop and tearoom but food must be booked in advance.

There will be time to visit the grounds of Stratfield Saye House and explore Copenhagen's Oak Tree and Grave, the House Kitchen Garden, Pleasure Grounds to roam and more.

See overleaf as well for Stratfield Saye's own summary

## Group Tour Information

In the heart of the English countryside on the Hampshire/Berkshire border, you'll find the elegant, but intimate, Stratfield Saye House, home to the Dukes of Wellington since 1818.

After the Battle of Waterloo the First Duke of Wellington or the Great Duke as he was universally known, was regarded as the saviour of his country and of Europe. A grateful nation voted a substantial sum of money to enable him to buy a house and an estate worthy of a great national hero. After considering many far grander properties, he chose Stratfield Saye.

Stratfield Saye House does not compare in either size or grandeur with the other great ducal houses and it was the Great Duke's intention to build a huge palace in the north-east corner of the park, but fortunately the money was not available. He therefore set about making his home convenient and comfortable and, as a very practical man, he was well satisfied with the results.

The House today is lived in by the 9th Duke of Wellington and his family. Whilst the Great Duke's wonderful collection of pictures are at Apsley House, which was given to the nation by the 7th Duke in 1947, Stratfield Saye House contains a fascinating collection of paintings and furniture purchased by the Great Duke with many mementos of his occupation of his modest country home.

Visitors' remark on its special atmosphere which is best summed up by something said by the great interior decorator the late John Fowler to the 8th Duke after walking round the House. He said "I feel that the Great Duke only left here twenty five years ago". When reminded of this comment on a subsequent visit he said "Did I say twenty five years ago? I meant five".

A warm welcome awaits you and we hope that you will also feel the same as John Fowler