

PAINSHILL BIRTHDAY PARTIES - FACT SHEET

What is Painshill and what does it have to do with my birthday party?

Painshill is a historic garden, which is great if you like fairytale temples, mysterious ruins and a grotto made from crystal. What makes it great for our birthday parties is the stunning woodland and wildflower meadows where our parties are based, providing the space, resources and inspiration for some really good fun. As a garden, Painshill also has a wide range of facilities that can be tricky to come across in any old woods (including coffee!).

Timings

Summer: 10am-12 noon or 1pm-3pm

Winter: 10.30am-12.30pm

The first 1½ hours is the led activity followed by half an hour for your party food.

Facilities

We have a lovely room in our Education Centre with views out to our 'wilded area' and the river. The building has drinking water, cups, toilets and is adjoined to our woodland picnic and activity area, all of which is all yours for the duration of the party. In addition, there is a natural play area, a tearoom serving hot and cold food, free parking, wifi, gift shop and some of the finest landscape vistas in England.

Who is Adam? Why is he leading the party?

I'm Adam and I'm running the party because it is the best fun ever! It also helps that I am a qualified Forest School leader, bushcraft-trained, the Head of Education at Painshill and have been running outdoor activities for children for a very, very long time. I also have Paediatric and Expedition First Aid training and a sizable First Aid Kit and folder of risk-benefit assessments; all of which shouldn't be necessary but it's good to know! I also have a rather fabulous pirate costume if you are a fan of pirate-themed parties!

What to wear? What to bring?

You and your guests and all the mums, dads, granny's, granddads and distant relations will be outside in the woods (hopefully) for the whole party. If it's rainy bring waterproofs, if it's sunny bring a sun hat and sun cream, if it is cold layer up to the max. If you're not sure what the weather is doing then bring all of the above (we have cloakrooms!). If children are not suitably clothed, either they may not be able to join in or it will affect the places we go and the things we do, which would be sad.

DO definitely bring actual shoes or preferably boots. Bring waterproof boots if it is wet or autumn, winter or spring.

DON'T wear sandals, flip-flops, crocs, no shoes at all, 5" stilettos (people have tried!). Mums and Dads this means you too!

DO ideally wear long sleeves and trousers - even in summer to protect you from the flora and fauna.

DON'T wear vests or short shorts.

DO bring essentials like a water bottle, sun cream, and spare clothes if needed.

DON'T bring your own bushcraft tools and equipment like pen knives or fire-lighters.

Good old British weather! Actions and contingencies

You will have a room to eat in and dry off. If it is drizzly or "a bit rainy", the party activities will go ahead as normal, possibly keeping under the cover of trees or putting up tarps or using the Outdoor

Shelter where necessary. If the weather really isn't playing fair, there is a room to escape to and a variety of indoor natural art and craft activities.

Cancellations/amendments/payment

We cannot offer refunds or cancellations unless Painshill is closed due to exceptional circumstances but will try to find another date for your visit, subject to availability. We do not ask for a deposit but full payment will be required at least 7 days before the party.

Booking a show-round

You are very welcome to make a pre-visit before the party to have a look around and meet Adam, subject to us being able to pin him down!

Setting up and packing down

The birthday family can use our staff entrance and car park on Portsmouth Road, Cobham, KT11 1JE, to drop off food/accessories, while the guests will park on Between Streets, Cobham in our Visitor Car Park (KT11 1AA). You can arrive up to 30 minutes early to set up and have 30 minutes grace to pack up and say goodbyes.

Rubbish and recycling

Our recycling is very limited here so while we are happy to dispose of yucky, leaky rubbish we would urge you to take all recyclable waste home, use organic, decomposable (non-plastic) disposable party-ware or re-useable party ware that can be washed at home.

Supervision and behaviour management

Adam will be the only member of staff and parties will require responsible adults to supervise. Adam's role is as a guide and he is not responsible for the disciplining of children. That said, Adam has lots of experience in keeping a wide variety of children engaged and enthused. If children's behaviour is deemed to be putting any persons at risk the party will be stopped and either the party may have to be brought to an end, behaviour modified or children excluded. If any guests have special needs that require extra supervision or mobility difficulties please let us know full details in advance and we urge parents or carers of these children to join us during the party.

Food glorious food and party bags glorious party bags

For £5.00 per head we can provide lovely lunch boxes. Contact us for details of what is included, find out how we can accommodate dietary requirements or allergies. To order lunch boxes please email or call us 7 days in advance. If you would rather bring your own food or order takeaway, there is no additional cost but Adam will require a slice of pizza if pizza is ordered. Pre-booked party bags are available from our wonderful Gift Shop at an additional cost – again please contact us for details.

We look forward to seeing you on the special day!