

EXPLORE



# Group Visit Guide

## Experiment Farm Cottage







# Experiment Farm Cottage is the fascinating site of Australia's first convict land grant to James Ruse in 1789



Discover early farming equipment in the cellar

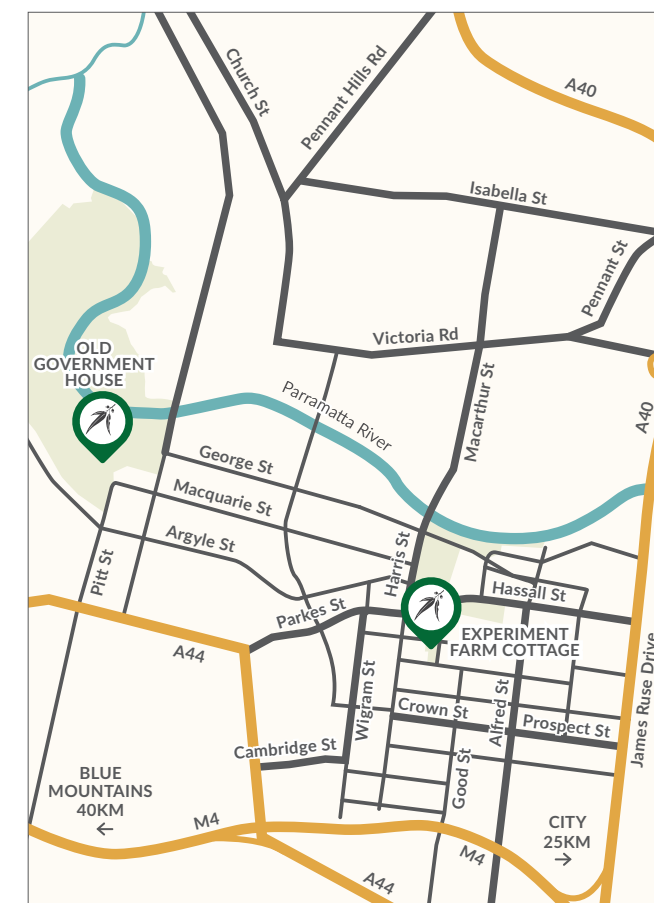
## Experiment Farm Cottage, Harris Park

Experiment Farm Cottage marks the site of the first land grant in Australia and is situated on the lands of the Burramattagal people in Harris Park.

Given to James Ruse in 1789, it is named for the self-sufficiency experiment that proved European crops could be grown in Australian soil.

Today, the Indian-style bungalow, built in c1835 by Surgeon John Harris, gracefully sits amongst elegant cottage gardens and is furnished to reflect the early colonial period with rare pieces from the National Trust's collection.

Located in Harris Park, Experiment Farm Cottage is centrally located, 30 minutes' drive from the City of Sydney and in close proximity to the M4 Western Motorway. There are also excellent public transport links by train.



### GETTING TO EXPERIMENT FARM COTTAGE

#### Address

9 Ruse Street, Harris Park, NSW 2150.

#### By car

Parking available in the car park accessed from Ruse Street or in nearby streets.

#### By coach

Please drop off on Alice Street

#### Public transport

10 minute walk from Parramatta or Harris Park stations.



The cottage features early colonial furniture and decorative arts



Learn about the lives of James Ruse and John Harris



Explore the surrounding heritage area of Harris Park



Discover the Physic garden



## Group Visits

Experiment Farm Cottage offers groups of 20 to 30 people a number of different options to suit your itinerary and interests.

### 1 HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR Guided House and Garden tour

**\$10 per person | Allow 60 minutes**

Find out more from our expert guides about this historic site of Australia's first land grant to James Ruse in 1790 and Surgeon John Harris.

### 2 THE FULL EXPERIENCE Guided House and Experiment Farm Cottage tour plus Exhibition visit

**\$20 per person | Allow 3–4 hours including transfer time**

Why not also take a guided tour of our sister property Old Government House and make a day of it? Just 10 minutes' drive from Experiment Farm Cottage you will hear the tales of the ten governors include Governor Macquarie, who ruled from this World Heritage Listed building. (Transport not included.)

#### GUIDE BOOK

For group visitors the property guide book is on offer at a reduced price of just \$5 (usual price \$10). Full of interesting facts and images the guide book is also a nice souvenir of your visit. If you visit both Experiment Farm Cottage and Old Government House you can purchase both guide books for just \$9.

#### How to book a group visit

- To discuss your group visit, call us on (02) 9635 8149 or email us at [ogh@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:ogh@nationaltrust.com.au)
- To make a booking, email your Group Visit Booking Request form on page 10 to [ogh@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:ogh@nationaltrust.com.au)





Old Government House



Norman Lindsay Gallery



S.H. Ervin Gallery



Everglades House & Gardens

## Make a day of it

Plan your visit to include more than one National Trust property.

### OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE

A short drive away (approx. 10 minutes) is National Trust property Old Government House. World Heritage Listed and situated on lands of the *Burramattagal* people, this is the oldest surviving public building in Australia and was built by convicts. Old Government House became the decision making centre of the colony and served as the grand 'country residence' for the Governors of Australia. Today this elegant Georgian house stands in 200 acres of parkland overlooking the Parramatta River. It is home to the National Trust's premier colonial furniture collection, early textiles and significant homewares from the time of the Governors.

Each year there is a different exhibition upstairs with topics ranging from the Parramatta River, convict artisans, scientific discoveries, and colonial links to textiles. The exhibition runs from March to November with latest details available on the National Trust website.

**Old Government House**  
(02) 9635 8149  
[ogh@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:ogh@nationaltrust.com.au)  
[nationaltrust.org.au/places/old-government-house](https://nationaltrust.org.au/places/old-government-house)

### OTHER NEARBY PROPERTIES ARE:

**S.H. Ervin Gallery**  
(02) 9258 0173  
[sheg@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:sheg@nationaltrust.com.au)  
[nationaltrust.org.au/places/s-h-ervin-gallery](https://nationaltrust.org.au/places/s-h-ervin-gallery)

**Lindesay**  
(02) 9363 2401  
[lindesay@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:lindesay@nationaltrust.com.au)  
[nationaltrust.org.au/places/lindesay](https://nationaltrust.org.au/places/lindesay)

**Everglades House & Garden**  
(02) 4784 1938  
[everglades@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:everglades@nationaltrust.com.au)  
[nationaltrust.org.au/places/everglades-house-gardens](https://nationaltrust.org.au/places/everglades-house-gardens)

**Norman Lindsay Gallery**  
(02) 4751 1067  
[nlg@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:nlg@nationaltrust.com.au)  
[nationaltrust.org.au/places/norman-lindsay-gallery](https://nationaltrust.org.au/places/norman-lindsay-gallery)





# Facilities

More information to assist you plan an enjoyable outing for everyone in your group.

### Parking

Free parking for cars is available in the Experiment Farm Cottage car park. Free coach parking is available on Alice Street.

### Accessibility

Coaches are able to drop off on Alice Street, just 100 metres from the Cottage.

The front entrance to the Cottage, is via a short series of steps. Easier access is to the rear with two steps. Accessibility ramps are available if needed.

The ground floor of the house is all one level. There are steps down to the cellar.

### Bathrooms

Toilets are available at the rear of the Cottage.

### Cottage Verandah

Relax under the verandah before or after your visit.

### Souvenirs

A small number of souvenirs are available for sale.

Alternatively if you book a joint visit do allow some time to browse the beautiful range of gifts, books and keepsakes at the Old Government House shop. All purchases support the conservation and care of National Trust (NSW) properties.

### CATERING OPTIONS

#### Self-catering

Bring your own lunch and relax on the verandah or pack a picnic and make a day of it in our cottage garden.

#### Other local options

Great choice of Asian restaurants nearby in Harris Park. Ask us about local venues for groups.

From top: Explore the garden, the bedroom features a 1850s four poster bed, the cottage is furnished with a range of decorative arts.



# Group Visit Terms and Conditions

All bookings are made with the National Trust of Australia (NSW) (ABN 82 491 958 802). By booking a visit with us you are deemed to have agreed to these Group Visit Terms and Conditions (which constitutes the entire agreement between you and us) and your booking will be accepted by us on this basis. The services to be provided are those referred to in your booking confirmation email and invoice.

### Payment

1. Invoices will be issued for all payments and payments must be made by direct transfer or by debit/credit card. American Express is not accepted. Only a single payment as per invoice will be accepted.
2. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required to confirm your booking.
3. Final numbers for your group required at least 10 days prior to the date of visit. The balance of payment will be confirmed and invoiced based on these final numbers.
4. Full payment is required before your visit.
5. Group tour leaders, coach drivers and carers acting in that capacity during a group visit are entitled to free admission to the property on the day of the group's visit.
6. National Trust Membership discounts will be applied subject to Members showing proof of Membership upon arrival. Please advise when confirming final numbers if any of your group are National Trust Members.

### Group sizes

7. Minimum group size of 20 people applies. Guided tours of the house have a maximum of 30 people at one time.

### Amendments to bookings

8. Any request to change your booking must be made in writing, by emailing ogh@nationaltrust.com.au.
9. Changes to dates and session times are subject to availability.
10. On the day of the visit, should the number of visitors be less than the minimum number required, the cost will remain at minimum number. Should the number of visitors be greater than the number booked you will be invoiced for the additional visitors.

### Cancellation and refund policy

11. Cancellations must be made in writing to ogh@nationaltrust.com.au
12. If you cancel your booking within 10 days of your visit, or if you fail to arrive on the scheduled day, no refunds apply.
13. The National Trust of Australia (NSW) reserves the right to cancel your visit should the need arise. If we cancel your booking, payments made may be applied to a mutually agreed alternative date or you may request a refund. In circumstances where the cancellation is due to external events outside our reasonable control, refunds will be less any unrecoverable costs.

### Arrival times

14. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled booking time to allow for check-in. In the event of late arrival, please contact Old Government House on (02) 9635 8149. We cannot guarantee guide availability if groups arrive later than booked time.

### Weather impacts

15. For the safety and comfort of our visitors, it may be necessary to close the property in the event of extreme weather conditions. If this should happen your booking will be rescheduled or fully refunded.

### Protecting the collection and property

16. For the protection of our historic collections and properties, large bags and backpacks are not permitted inside our buildings. The National Trust (NSW) takes no responsibility for stored belongings.

### Video, sound and photography

17. Photography is permitted. Video or sound recording is not permitted inside the house or on guided tours.

### Insurance

18. Group visitors are covered by National Trust (NSW) Public Liability Insurance. In case of specific concern on the day, please immediately contact the manager or tour leader.

### Catering

19. Not applicable

### Trading terms

20. Group visits are not available on NSW public holidays and not all tour options are available every day the property is open.
21. Confirmation of a booking request is subject to property, staff and volunteer availability and payment of a non-refundable deposit.

### Safety

22. Please take care when exploring the property: there is loose gravel on the paths, some paths are uneven or have slopes which may become slippery in wet weather.
23. All children under 15 years must be supervised by an adult at all times.





# Group Visit Booking Request

## EXPERIMENT FARM COTTAGE

To request a group booking please complete this form and email to ogh@nationaltrust.com.au

VISITOR INFORMATION	
Group name:	Group size (minimum 20):
Contact name:	
Contact email:	
Contact phone:	
Contact name and phone details on the day (if different from above):	

BOOKING DETAILS			
Day:		Date:     /     /	
Estimated arrival time:	Group tours can be booked from 10am with last tour starting at 3pm.		
Estimated departure time:			
GROUP VISIT OPTIONS (please select one)		Price per person	Number of people (minimum 20)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR: Guided House and Garden tour (allow 60 minutes)</b> Expert guides will help you discover this historic site of Australia's first land grant to James Ruse in 1790 and Surgeon John Harris.		\$10	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>THE FULL EXPERIENCE: Guided Experiment Farm Cottage and Old Government House tours plus Exhibition visit (allow 3–4 hours)</b> Fully inclusive guided experience of both properties and self-guided exhibition visit. Transport not included.		\$20	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>GUIDE BOOK: Experiment Farm Cottage</b>		\$5	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>GUIDE BOOK: Experiment Farm Cottage and Old Government House</b>		\$9	

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS	
As representative of the group, I confirm that I have read and accept the terms and conditions outlined in the Group Visit Guide.	
Print Name:	Signature:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION	
Booking confirmation	Not all tour options are available every day the property is open. Your booking and a schedule for your visit will be confirmed in writing.
Payment	Invoices will be issued for all payments. A non-refundable deposit is required to confirm your booking. Final numbers are required at least 10 days prior to the date of visit. The balance of payment will be confirmed and invoiced based on these final numbers. Full payment is required before your visit. Please see full terms and conditions attached.
Group size	Minimum group booking number is 20 people. Maximum of 30 people in the house at any one time.
Arrival times	We cannot guarantee guide availability if your group arrives later than the confirmed time.
Opening hours	Group visits are available 10am to 4pm with last tour at 3pm.
Coach/car parking	Coaches are able to park free of charge on Alice Street. Car parking in the Experiment Farm Cottage car park via Ruse Street.
Accessibility	The front entrance to the Cottage is via a short series of steps. Easier access is to the rear with two steps. Accessibility ramps are available. The ground floor of the house is all one level. There are steps down to the cellar.
Wet weather	There are limited undercover areas in the grounds. Visitors should be prepared for all weather events.

OFFICE USE ONLY		
Booking taken by:	Date taken:	Confirmation date:
Program confirmed:	Invoiced:	Payment received:







Discover the site of the first colonial land grant  
Front cover: Experiment Farm Cottage (photo by Rick Stevens)

---

## Contact us

9 Ruse St, Harris Park NSW 2150  
[ogh@nationaltrust.com.au](mailto:ogh@nationaltrust.com.au)  
(02) 9635 8149

For information about our opening times and special events, visit [nationaltrust.org.au/places/old-government-house](https://nationaltrust.org.au/places/old-government-house)

 @ExperimentFarmCottage  
 @nationaltrustnsw