



Enjoying your stay at Mears Ashby Hall

Everything you need to get the most out of your stay

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Arrival

Where We Are

Property Name: Mears Ashby Hall
Address: Wilby Road
Mears Ashby
County: Northamptonshire
Postcode: NN6 0DY

Check in and check out

Contact name for check in: Clive or Pamela Hilton
Contact number for check in: 01604 810341 or 07836529408

Check in time: 4pm

Check out time for 2 night weekend booking: 4pm Sunday
Check out time for 3 night weekend booking: 10am Monday
Check out time for 7 night week bookings: 10am Friday

Arrival

Getting To Us

The best postcode to use with satnav is: NN6 0DY

Nearest train station and distance: Wellingborough, 5.5 miles, 10 minute car journey

Reliable taxi service: Phoenix Cars
www.phoenixcars.co.uk
01933 225533
01604 499993

Directions

From the south:

Come off at junction 15 on the M1, heading towards Northampton. Travel on the A45 for about 9 miles, and take the exit at junction 10, heading towards Castle Ashby. Travel on the B573 for nearly 3 miles, and as you pass large farm houses on your right, take the right onto Wilby Road. Travel down this road, following the right hand bend. The entrance to Mears Ashby is through the iron gates and over the cattle grid, in between honey-coloured stone walls.

From the north:

Travel right the way through the M6 until it feeds into the A14. Travel on the A14, and come off at junction 2 towards Market Borough on the A508. Travel down this road for about 5 miles, then at the roundabout take the first exit towards Scaldwell and Holcot. After the roundabout, take the first right onto Scaldwell Road, then take the first left onto Holcot Road. Travel on this road, going over Pitsford water, then through Holcot, and then at the roundabout, go straight over, 2nd exit, towards Mears Ashby. Drive down Holcot Lane into Sywell, taking a quick left-right, then follow the road into Mears Ashby. At the crossroads, go straight over, and follow the road as it bends right. The entrance to Mears Ashby is through the iron gates and over the cattle grid, in between honey-coloured stone walls.

Cooking & dining - chef services

You'll find our top recommendations below. If you do discover any other gems please do let us know and we will share them with other guests visiting the property.

Chef Services

Sarah Hollowell

Tel: 01604 861983, sarah@goodyscakecompany.co.uk

Having prepared food for events at the Victoria & Albert Museum and the McLaren F1 team, the wonderful Sarah Hollowell can swoop into your home and prepare a stunning meal for you to enjoy. Based in Northamptonshire, she uses ingredients which are locally sourced.

Cooking & dining - great places to eat & drink

Recommended pubs:

The Elwes Arms

37 High Street, Northampton NN3 9DT (10 minute drive)

Attractive thatched 16th century village pub with lots of real ales and some tasty pub grub. There's a pleasant terrace outside that can be enjoyed in the spring and summer months.

The Stag's Head

1 High Street, Great Doddington, Wellingborough NN29 7TQ (10 minute drive)

Welcoming pub with extensive beer, ale and wine menus. Pool table and other various games are available.

The White Horse

Walgrave Rd, Northampton NN6 9QX (15 minute drive)

Friendly village pub with changing ales and a good wine menu. Staff here are particularly friendly, and the views of the church in summer from the beer garden are gorgeous.

Restaurants

The Red Lion

Main Street, East Haddon, Northampton NN6 8BU (25 minute drive)

Res: 01604 770223

This golden sandstone, thatched 17th century coaching inn is a stylish gastropub that still retains its charming warmth as a local ale house. The food is delicious - expect smoked mackerel pâté and coconut and cauliflower curry. Very popular, so we advise you book a table in advance.

The Pheasant at Keyston

Keyston, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE28 0RE (25 minute drive)

Res: 01832 710 241

Well heeled and comfortable, The Pheasant is warm and welcoming, bursting with character, serves stunning food, and makes guests feel very much at home. The food can be adventurous - smoked rock eel makes an appearance on the menu - or it can be simple, like the roast corn-fed chicken with fondant potato. Again, very popular so we advise you ring ahead.

Rushton Hall

Desborough Road, Rushton, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN14 1RR (25 minute drive)

Res: 01536 713001

This Grade-I listed stately home, nestled deep in the countryside, is a opulent Hotel and Spa, and is also home to wonderful restaurant. Once the medieval seat of the Tresham family, the grounds are steeped in history. Commence first with cocktails in the Great Hall, then meander past tapestry-lined hallways to the restaurant, where you can expect dishes like polenta with black truffle, olives and quail eggs, brill with samphire, cockles, fennel and angolotti and iced apple parfait with honeycomb crumble.

Cooking & dining - great places to eat & drink

Best places to eat out with children

ASK

10 Saint Giles' Square, Northampton NN1 1DA (15 minute drive)

Res: 01604 230891

Pizza Express

6 Derngate, Northampton NN1 1UB (15 minute drive)

Res: 01604 232060

Frankie & Bennys

Unit 1, Plot Q Riverside Retail Park, Northampton NN3 9HU (12 minute drive)

Res: 01604 403250

Best Takeaways

The Chippery, 38 The Square, Northampton, NN6 0NA. Tel: 01604 812869

The Mandarin House, 44 High St, Northampton, NN6 0JG. Tel: 01604 810422

Helal Balti House, 80 Main Rd, Northampton, NN6 0HJ. Tel: 01604 812277

Cooking & dining - shopping for food

Best local supermarket

Beckworth Emporium

Glebe Road, Mears Ashby, Northants, NN6 0DL (3 minute drive/25 minute walk)

Tel: 01604 812371

The wonderful Beckworth Emporium has everything you need for your stay, from day-to-day groceries, fresh fruit and veg, to local and international cheeses.

Butchers

Hambletons Butchers at Beckworth Emporium

Beckworth Emporium, Glebe Road, Mears Ashby, Northants, NN6 0DL (3 minute drive/25 minute walk)

Tel: 01604 810117

Found in Beckworth Emporium, the family-run Hambletons deals in good quality meats and poultry. Be sure to try their pork pies!

Larger supermarkets

Sainsbury's

260 Northampton Road, Wellingborough NN8 3GZ (5 minute drive)

Waitrose

Crown Park, Northampton Road, Rushden NN10 6AR (15 minute drive)

Things to do - activities and pampering

Our top recommendations for activities and pampering are below.

Clay pigeon shooting

It is possible to shoot clays on site at Mears Ashby. Please contact the house owner, Clive, on 01604 810341, to arrange a time to do this.

Stanwick Lakes

About 10 miles from Mears Ashby is Stanwick Lakes, a sprawling natural complex complete with a wildlife reserve, boating lakes, adventure playgrounds and much more. You can plenty of days here trying lots of different activities

Cycling & Cycle Hire

Cycling is an excellent way to discover much of Stanwick Lakes, with around 7 miles of cycle paths to explore. Cycle hire is available onsite, where you can rent out adult bikes, children's bikes, tandems, buggies, trailers and child seats. For more information, visit this website: www.ajcycles.co.uk/stanwick-lakes-bike-hire

Fishing

There are also 6 fishing lakes at the south end of the site, where there's plenty of opportunities to catch carp and mallard. Contact Philip Dunn on 07974 300015 or visit www.stanwicklakesfisheries.com for more information.

Canoeing

Canoe2

Ditchford Lock, Ditchford Road, Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 1RL (12 minute drive)

Tel: 01604 832115, web: www.canoe2.co.uk

The River Nene is a beautiful stretch of water that meanders its way through Northamptonshire and beyond. The best way to experience these calm waters is to travel by boat. Canoe2 is a great company that hires out Canadian canoes for 2 hours, half days and one day trips.

Driving experiences at Silverstone

Silverstone Circuit

Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 8TN (35 minute drive)

Tel: 0844 3750740, www.silverstone.co.uk

Nothing can quite beat Silverstone, the home of British motor racing. Throughout the year, the dedicated team of professionals at the track offer tasters and lessons, tuition and experience days in Formula 1 cars, rally cars and motorbikes. Activities include skid control, Audi racing, bespoke driving experiences - you can even bring your own car along and try it out on the track!

Things to do - activities and pampering

Golf

Collingtree Park Golf Club

90 Windingbrook Lane, Northampton NN4 0XN (20 minute drive)

Previous two-time host to the British Masters, Collingtree is a sterling course stretching over a whopping 7,000 yards.

Overstone Park Hotel, Golf & Leisure Resort

Billing Lane, Overstone, Northampton, NN6 0AS (10 minute drive)

Tel: 01604 647666

Rapidly gaining a reputation as one of the best golf courses in Northamptonshire, Overstone Park welcomes visitors 7 days a week and offers a competitive green fee tariff.

Paintballing

Delta Force

Fermyn Woods Country Park, Lyveden Road, Brigstock, Kettering NN14 3HS (30 minute drive)

Tel: 0844 4775115

The UK's premier paintballing company, which offers events for any size of group. Hens, stags, corporate, families are all welcome and catered for.

Adventure sports

Avalanche Adventure

Welford Road, Sibbertoft, Leicestershire LE16 9U (30 minute drive)

Tel: 01858 880613, www.avalancheadventure.co.uk

Lots of adreniline fuelled activities to stuck into here. There's adventures in off-road Land Rover driving, quad biking, archery, glider flights, hovercrafts and more. Visit the website to find out more and ring them with the number we've provided to book.

Indoor skydiving, surfing and rock climbing

Twinwoods Adventure

Twinwoods Business Park, Thurleigh Road, Milton Ernest, Bedfordshire MK44 1FD (30 minute drive)

Tel: 0845 2002960, www.bodyflight.co.uk

Skydive, surf, rock climb - all in the warmth of indoors!

Pampering

At the Grade-I listed Rushton Hall (Desborough Road, Rushton, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN14 1RR, 25 minute drive), the **Stableyard Spa** (Tel: 01536 714910) has a whole host of pampering treatments for you to experience. You can either spend 4 hours utilising the pool, steam rooms, saunas and fitness suite, or spend the whole day being pampered with numerous facials, massages, manicures and pedicures. For more information visit www.rushtonhall.com/stableyard-spa/spa-days

For pampering in the comfort of your property, there is a range of treatments available from a local therapist including massage, pedicure, manicure, etc. Please book well in advance. Enquire via www.mypersonalsanctuary.co.uk, via telephone number 01625 540 557 or email enquiries@mypersonalsanctuary.co.uk.

Top things to do with children

Our top recommendations for outings with children are below.

Stanwick Lakes (15 minute drive)

There's plenty to do at Stanwick Lakes - not just cycling and fishing. There's also an amazing wooden adventure playground and assault course, complete with looking tower, giant slide, moat and stream and water wheels to play with.

Lazer Maze

30 Church Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 4PA (10 minute drive)

Tel: 01933 441300

Plenty of fun to be had here, with over 2,700 square foot of space and top-of-the-range lazer guns.

Bugtopia at Greentrunks Garden Centre

Loddington Road, Great Cransley, Kettering, NN14 1PY (15 minute drive)

Get up close to some of Nature's weird and wonderful. Handle millipedes, bearded dragons, chameleons and more.

Northampton and Lamport Railway

Pitsford & Brampton Station, Pitsford Road, Chapel Brampton, NN6 8BA (20 minute drive)

Step back in time and travel in style on a chugging steam train!

Icarus Falconry Centre

Holdenby House, Northampton NN6 8DJ (25 minute drive)

www.icarusfalconry.co.uk

Family-run business situated at Holdenby House that give excellent bird of prey shows. Birds include black eagles, burrowing owls, vultures, buzzards to name a few.

Top places to visit and shop nearby

Northampton - 20 minute drive

The Northamptonshire's county town is a sprawling, yet compact, collection of winding roads, high street shops and grand architecture. The one way road system means that it's a nightmare to navigate through, but once in the centre there's plenty of retail therapy to enjoy.

Beckworth Emporium - 3 minute drive

This has previously been mentioned before in the food section, but we want reiterate it even more! As well as stocking fresh fruit and veg, the Emporium has a lovely garden centre, plus a restaurant/cafe that's perfect for an afternoon tea.

Castle Ashby - 15 minute drive

www.castleashbygardens.co.uk

If there's one thing that Northamptonshire has is a lot of beautiful stately homes and gardens. Castle Ashby is no exception to this rule: a sublime 16th century castle with grounds designed by Capability Brown. There's some beautiful Italian gardens and Orangery, a butterfly and secret garden, and an arboretum and Nature trail. On top of that there's a menagerie that includes meerkats and marmosets.

Althorp House - 25 minute drive

www.spencerofalthorp.com

Steeped in history, the gorgeous 16th century Althorp House is home to the prominent Spencer family, and home to the final resting place of Princess Diana. It has one of the finest private collection of art, ceramics and furniture in the world. The gardens are perfect to stroll around in, and a visit to the Round Oval lake, to overlook the tomb of the Princess of Wales, is particularly pertinent.

Boughton House - 30 minute drive

www.boughtonhouse.co.uk

Boughton House is another beautiful stately home with some quite unusual - yet nevertheless stunning - sculpture gardens. It's also home to a fine collection of art and furniture from around the world.

Useful information

Mears Ashby Hall at a glance

Bedrooms and Bathrooms

- Sleeps up to 18, with room for a couple more on guest beds
- Nine bedrooms, three of which have ensuite bath or shower rooms
- Two family bathrooms
- Downstairs WC

Cooking and Dining

- Dining table seats comfortably 20
- Dining to seat a further 12 is available in the adjoining room on request
- Fantastic chef available for a special meal or throughout the weekend
- Drop-off meals available
- Five oven Aga and six ring gas hob
- BBQ
- Outdoor paella maker
- Table and chairs on terrace
- Great dining nearby
- Online deliveries

Where We Are

- The postcode is NN6 0DY
- Based in the village of Mears Ashby
- The nearest train station is Wellingborough, an 11 minute drive
- 47 minutes from London
- The nearest airports are Luton and Birmingham
- Plenty of parking available

Things to Do Inside

- TV with Sky
- DVD Player
- Playstation 4
- Library
- Selection of board games
- Chess set
- iPod Dock
- Wi-fi

Useful information

Things to Do Outside

- 11 acres of gardens and parkland
- Hot tub available at an additional charge of £250 (must be booked well in advance to confirm availability)
- Paddock with stream
- Small lake with boat which guests can use with prior permission
- Tennis court
- Football nets
- Basketball net
- Trampoline
- Games barn with table tennis table, table football, air hockey and darts board

Activities

- Country pursuits available nearby, including clay pigeon shooting and game shooting depending on season
- Horse Riding
- Cycling and nature walks at Pitsford reservoir
- Pampering and beauty treatments at the house

Top Things to Do Nearby

- Beckworth Emporium
- Castle Ashby
- Woburn Abbey
- Althorp

Top Things to Do for Children

- Silverstone
- Bugtopia
- Jungle Parc

Payment Process

- We take a one third deposit at the time of booking
- The balance is due three months before the date booked

Cautionary Deposit

- £2,000 refundable deposit for 3 nights. For longer periods, please enquire.

Useful information

House Restrictions

- We regret, no pets please
- Up to 30 extra day and evening guests at an additional charge of £1,000
- Hen parties welcome
- Stag parties welcome

Arrival and Departure

- Check in 4pm
- Check out 4pm on a Sunday
- Check out 10am on other days

What's included

- Linen
- Towels
- Branded toiletries
- Welcome hamper
- Essentials
- Utilities

Hot Tub Usage

We hope you'll enjoy using the hot tub. We want to make sure it is as safe as possible for everyone, so we ask all guests to ensure that the following guidelines are respected. These guidelines are designed to meet basic health and safety regulations, so ensure that all members of your party have read the rules regarding the use of the hot tub.

1. Swimming costumes are obligatory and you may need to bring your own towels
2. You must shower before entering the hot tub to remove any skin oils, make-up, hair products etc. This is vital to ensure a clean and healthy hot tub. If this rule is abused the hot tub may need to be closed for several days so that the water can be thoroughly refreshed. In the event of closure, no refund will be made and cleaning costs will be charged to your party.
3. Outdoor shoes and coats must be taken off around the hot tub area.
4. No alcohol or smoking is allowed in the hot tub.
5. Do not bring any form of glass into the hot tub area.
6. Do not bring in any electrical equipment into the hot tub area where you could be in contact with water.
7. Before using the hot tub, please take out the chlorine dispenser. Put it back in when everyone has left the hot tub.
8. Do not over-occupy the hot tub as this will lead to water spillage and will cause the hot tub to stop working. This is because the filter needs to be covered with water to work.
9. Children must be supervised in and around the hot tub and must not use it without an adult present. Some children can overheat; please seek medical advice if this occurs.
10. Please keep noise levels to an acceptable level. The hot tub is a place of peace and relaxation – be mindful that there are neighbouring properties.
11. It is safer and more enjoyable to use the hot tub with another person. We advise against using the hot tub alone without a member of your group knowing of your whereabouts.
12. On leaving the hot tub, please switch off all jets and lights and make sure that the hot tub is sealed with the cover provided.
13. Please note that you must not use the hot tub if you are suffering from an infectious disease or you have an open wound or sore that cannot be covered by a waterproof plaster.
14. You must not use the hot tub within 48 hours of suffering any stomach illness.
15. Certain medical conditions can be affected by the hot tub, particularly those involving extremes of temperature. You are advised to consult your doctor if you are pregnant or suffer from any of the following: heart disease; circulatory problems; high or low blood pressure; diabetes; or any other condition that affects your body's ability to react to heat.
16. Prevent taking any medication which may affect your circulation or your ability to react to heat.

Guest Reviews

"Just want to say thank you for our holiday at this stunning house. A lot of long enjoyable nights were spent around the paella pan making dinner – we're definitely going to get one for ourselves! The interiors were gorgeous, the land was vast, and plenty of things to do in the area. We never wanted to leave! Already planning on coming back again next year." - **Samantha**