Chawton House, near Alton in Hampshire, was known to Jane Austen as the ‘Great House’, as it was owned by her brother Edward. Jane lived in a cottage on his estate and would stroll up to ‘dawdle away’ many an hour in the grand Elizabethan manor and its picturesque gardens.

Today it is a charity housing many treasures, including Austen heirlooms, such as the dining table at which Jane would have enjoyed family meals, and an extensive collection of early women’s writing.
**House Tour** (1 hour, 15 minutes)

Learn how the estate has evolved over the years, was saved from Cromwell’s destruction by a toddler, and in the following centuries provided a secure home for Jane Austen in one of its cottages.

Discover the many captivating secrets of the ‘Great house’: spot the superstitious anti-witch marks on the 16th century fireplace; uncover a message in a bottle from a Victorian squire; search a painting for hidden Regency graffiti, and explore a unique collection of women’s writing in the library.

**Exhibition Tour** (1 hour)

We host a series of special exhibitions each year. In these special tours a member of the curatorial team will guide you through the books, objects and their stories.

Recent exhibitions have included *The Art of Freezing the Blood* (on Mary Shelley, Jane Austen and the gothic literature that influenced them); and *Jane Austen’s Reading* (which displayed the books Jane Austen read, as well as those that inspired her). See chawtonhouse.org for current exhibitions.
**Walled Garden Tour** (45 minutes)

Journey along two Edwardian terraces and through a fragrant rose garden before entering ornate iron gates to explore the orchard, cutting and herb gardens.

Your Guide will discuss each of these areas and talk about the inspiration and development of the herb garden in particular. Learn about the historic fruit trees in the orchard, medicinal plants and their uses and how we work to bring together the garden, house and library collection.

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**Full Garden Tour** (1 hour, 30 minutes - bring your boots!)

From a secluded fernery, an abundant orchard and fragrant rose garden, to a rambling wilderness, hidden ha-ha and avenue of Lime trees: the Chawton House garden is packed with features that make the most of its picturesque surroundings.

Your Guide will discuss the English Landscape Movement and how our garden has changed since the early 1700’s. You will stop at all of these key features and more, to learn about their history, as well as future plans.
Prices:

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<tr>
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<th>Groups of 1-10</th>
<th>Groups of 10+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House/Exhibition/Full</td>
<td>£12.00pp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden tour (per tour)</td>
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<td>House &amp; Gardens</td>
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Refreshments:

Whether you’re looking for a hot tea or something more substantial, we can offer a range of catering options.

Depending on group size we can cater for a light sit-down meal or a buffet lunch in one of our historic rooms.

Tea/Coffee packages start from as little as £3.60pp, Lunches from £10.50pp, Cream Teas also available.

Parking:

With prior notice, we can accommodate up to 38-seater coaches in the house car park. Parking for larger coaches is available nearby.

There are blue badge parking spaces in the house car park.

Further information and booking:
groups@chawtonhouse.org / 01420 541010