



How To Get Here



By road (M8) or rail from Glasgow to Wemyss Bay, then Calmac ferry to Rothesay (www.calmac.co.uk)

OR

Scenic route via Loch Lomond/Arrochar/Colinton, then ferry to Rhu, north end of Bute. Then 11 miles by road to Ascog Hall

For further information and group bookings please contact:

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 Ascog
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ADMISSION PRICES

Adults and Senior Citizens	£4.00
Accompanied Children	FREE
Season Ticket	£10.00

OPEN Easter to October
 Daily 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Partial wheelchair access with assistance
 Tea/Coffee upon request, weather permitting
 No dogs please except guide dogs



Ascog Hall Fernery, 1879. Reproduced from the *Gardeners Chronicle*

ASCOG HALL GARDENS AND VICTORIAN FERNERY



*Visit Bute's Unique
 Victorian Jewel*



The House

Ascog Hall, a harled Scottish baronial mansion with fish scale slated turrets, was built in 1843.

In 1862 it was altered by the prominent Scottish architect John Honeyman under the instruction of Alexander Bannatyne Stewart, a prosperous Glasgow merchant with Rothesay roots, benefactor and Convener of Bute County and a keen cultivator of orchids; a memorial statue of Bannatyne Stewart stills stands today in Rothesay's water front park.

After WW2 the house and grounds fell into decay until in 1986 extensive renovations were begun.

The Fernery

In 1870 Edward La Trobe Bateman, the designer of the Botanic Garden in Melbourne Australia, had returned to Scotland and was subsequently commissioned by Bannatyne Stewart with the landscaping of Ascog Hall gardens and the construction of a fernery.

In 1997 the fernery was uncovered in a dilapidated and ruinous state but still with one survivor from the original fern collection: a *todea Barbara* or King Fern. This was an amazing find due to the fern's great antiquity, a Gardeners' Chronicle article of 1879 had already dated this specimen to be more than 1000 years old.

With a grant from Historic Scotland this renowned sunken fernery was rebuilt to the original design and replanted with the help of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Its impressive and rare collection of ferns lends an ambience that is guaranteed to captivate every visitor.

The Garden

The nurturing climate of the warm Gulf Stream provides excellent growing conditions for a plethora of native and exotic perennials and many rarely seen shrubs and trees in Ascog Hall's sheltered garden.

The garden is divided into 'rooms' providing colour and interest throughout the season. The botanical year starts with blue bell and wild garlic, candelabra primulas, snakeshead fritillaries and meconopsis while a diversity of rhododendrons and azaleas offer an eye catching display of colour in May and June.

Summer is marked with a plenitude of colour and fragrance in the rose garden while other rooms offer hostas, gunnera, giant lilies, tree ferns, phormiums and yuccas, all lending an exotic air to the garden.

Bright colours of multifarious leaves and berries close the season in autumn.

The marshy area of the main lawn has been left untouched for wild flowers and native hardy orchids to grow and spread. In contrast the formal water garden is a tranquil spot, allowing for a moment of contemplation.

Leading off the gardens, a magnificent arched entrance to the coach house ruin features the Stewart motto and monogram of Alexander Bannatyne; imagine how this Victorian philanthropist treasured his horses.

Plant labels and information boards on the history of Ascog Hall and Grounds will hopefully satisfy the inquisitive mind.

We hope you enjoy your visit and please take time to discover!

