



WELCOME TO TRAUTTMANSDORFF – Garden season 2025

We look forward to welcoming you to Trauttmansdorff, and hope you enjoy your visit!
Please carefully read this info sheet with some important information for your organised school/student group-visit to the Gardens.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Supervisors

Those in charge are responsible for supervising the students throughout the visit, during didactic activities and guided tours. There must be at least one supervisor per every group of 15 pupils/students.

When visiting Trauttmansdorff, please note:

- No walking in the flowerbeds
- Some of the plant species are poisonous and must not be touched
- Do not feed the animals
- No ball games
- Maintain respectful behaviour towards other visitors
- Ensure that pupils/students do not lean over or play on the railings.

What you need to bring on a day in Trauttmansdorff:

- Appropriate outdoor clothing:
 - Good shoes
 - Warm clothing: even in spring and autumn, since the garden is shaded and stays cold for most of the morning hours.
- Cushion for sitting on the lawn, or stone steps during activity breaks
- Water bottle for refilling at the fountains
- Writing utensils needed for didactic activities

PLANNING YOUR VISIT AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directions and parking

By train to Merano railway station; from there bus line 1B or 4. The current timetable can be found at: www.sasabz.it. Free bus parking spaces (P1, P4) are available.

Entry procedures for school tours and student groups

Those taking part in organised visits should remain in the tour bus, or assemble in front of the Visitor Centre, until their tickets have been collected at the ticket office. In case there are queues, please contact our staff at the InfoPoint. Hand out the entry passes individually before the students/pupils enter through the group/online ticket gate. Pass through ticket control as a group to facilitate access and avoid congestion.

Have you booked a guided tour or didactic activity?

The ticket office will inform you of the exact meeting point on the day of your visit.

Any delays in arrival should be reported to the ticket office as soon as possible (Call +39 0473 255620).

Please note that in the event of late arrival, we cannot always guarantee your existing booking.

Cancellations, and changes of schedule are accepted – but no later than 5 working days before the date of reservation. Didactic activities and guided tours usually terminate within the Trauttmansdorff grounds.

Allow an extra 10-15 minutes at the end of your visit to reach the exit on foot.

Free admission for teachers and youth group leaders

Bus drivers, teachers and youth group leaders get free admission and guided tours if they supervise a group of children.

INFORMATION ABOUT TRAUTTMANSDORFF

THE GARDENS OF TRAUTTMANSDORFF CASTLE

Covering a surface area of 12 hectares, the Gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle are home to plants coming from all over the world, planted on the slopes of a natural amphitheatre with an altitude difference of more than 100 metres. The result is a stunning 360° view of over 80 garden landscapes present in the Gardens as well as the surrounding mountains and the spa resort town of Meran.

The Four Garden Worlds

The Gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle are divided into four thematic areas:

- The Forests of the World with miniature forests of America and Asia
- The Sun Gardens with enchanting Mediterranean landscapes
- The Water and Terraced Gardens showcasing elements of European landscape architecture, with stairways and waterways
- The Landscapes of South Tyrol offering a view of the traditional cultivated landscapes of South Tyrol

Artist pavilions, experience stations and a highly varied fauna

Distributed throughout the Gardens are ten pavilions where the various themes of the botanical universe are artistically interpreted. There are also experience stations, such as the Viewing Platform designed by the South Tyrolean architect Matteo Thun, the Aviary, The Grotto with the multimedia show about the genesis of life, and the Adventure Bridge, just to name a few. The Gardens are also populated by a multicoloured fauna.

TRAUTTMANSDORFF CASTLE AND THE TOURISEUM

In the heart of the Gardens stands Trauttmansdorff Castle that today hosts the Touriseum, the Provincial Museum of Tourism that tells in a highly entertaining manner the 250 years of history of tourism in the Alps.

The Empress Elisabeth

The most famous guest at Trauttmansdorff Castle was certainly the Empress Elisabeth – also known as Sissi – who stayed at this mansion for many months in 1870 and again in 1889 as a place of retreat and relaxation. In 2008 a permanent exhibition was set up in the rooms once occupied by the Empress to tell the story of her visits to Meran and to Trauttmansdorff Castle.



TIPS FOR AN ENTERTAINING AND RELAXING VISIT

ORIENTATION IN THE GARDENS

Walking circuits and panoramic trails

Free orientation maps are issued on entry, marking the four trail circuits and panoramic paths. After crossing over the pedestrian bridge, you'll come to an illustrated info board showing an overview of the Trauttmansdorff gardens. Along the paths are also bulletin boards, with specific information about the various zones.

Barrier-free complex

All of the walkways – except for the panoramic trail that leads to the “Matteo Thun’s Binoculars” – can be accessed by wheelchairs and children’s pushchairs. The trails that do have architectural barriers are indicated by stairs or by a sign indicating that wheelchairs are not allowed. Electric wheelchairs can be booked in advance, and are free of charge. Pupils with disabilities are charged the same entry fee as everyone else, and are entitled to an assistant at no extra cost. Kindly ask for an info sheet containing all the relevant information.

Many washrooms throughout the area

The grounds are well served by various rest areas, indicated on the information flyer and at every crossing. There are washrooms also at the Visitor Centre and after the footbridge (close to the main entrance) on the left. We suggest using the latter structure because the rest rooms of the Visitor Centre are usually crowded.

Where does what bloom?

The flora in the Gardens vary almost from one week to the next. On the day of your visit, you can check where the most blooming floral areas are located on the screens at the Visitor Centre or on the website www.trauttmansdorff.it.

TRAUTTMANSDORFF IN ANY WEATHER: OUR TIPS

On rainy days

Trauttmansdorff Gardens stay open even on rainy days: The Glass House, the Grotto, Botanical Underworld, the Tube Cottage and numerous artistic pavilions offer shelter from the rain. Explore the Touriseum at Trauttmansdorff Castle, and also take time to visit the temporary exhibitions.

Please note that access to the panoramic platforms is forbidden in bad weather conditions. Booked guided tours and didactic activities take place in all weathers.

On hot summer days

On mornings, visit the areas of the Gardens located to the right of the footbridge and enjoy the shady areas of the woods (e.g.: Fern Valley with its refreshing waterfall), the Castle with the Touriseum and the Botanical Underworld that is kept at a constant temperature of about 18°C throughout the year.



EATING AND DRINKING

The Schlossgarten Restaurant

The restaurant has a seating capacity of 140, with another 200 places on the covered panoramic garden terrace next to the castle. A menu for group visits is available by prior arrangement. Call +39 0473 232350. Please note: Food from outside may not be brought into the restaurant area!

Palm Café

Located close to the Water Lily Pond, the Palm Café (seating 70 guests) offers an assortment of homemade cakes and desserts, tastings of regional cuisine and ice cream specials.

Drinking water

Within the complex, visitors will find fresh, high quality drinking water dispensed via drinking fountains, in the rest rooms and at the various drinking water distribution points.

Rest areas and picnic areas

The many rest areas invite visitors to stop and rest, like the picnic area that is equipped with picnic tables and benches, the Sissi terrace, the platform on the Water Lily Pond, the South Tyrolean Vineyard, the Palm Beach and the terrace on the lake with comfortable deckchairs.

Emergencies

In an emergency, please contact any member of our staff.

International emergency number: 112.

Please inform the ticket personnel by calling the internal emergency number +39 0473 255628.

We hope everyone enjoys an entertaining and relaxing visit
of the Gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle in Meran!