

# Information for Visitors 2017

## **Important note for tour organisers:**

**Little Sparta is not a suitable destination for people with breathing or walking difficulties.**

**There is a walk of ~700m (about half a mile) from the car park to the garden, uphill on a stony farm track.**

## **Accessibility**

It is often possible, but strictly by prior arrangement, for private cars to drive up the track if a member of the party cannot manage the walk. Please contact Laura Robertson on [contact@littlesparta.co.uk](mailto:contact@littlesparta.co.uk) in advance of your visit to discuss access. Parking at the top of the track is severely limited and there are no passing places on the track.

**New for 2017, we now have an electric buggy for the use of visitors; pre-booking is recommended.**

## **Driving Directions**

From Edinburgh - Follow the A702 as far as Dolphinton, where there is a right turn to Dunsyre. Follow signs to Dunsyre (about 3 miles). About a mile after passing through Dunsyre, Little Sparta's car park is on the right hand side.

From Glasgow - Leave the M8 at junction 6 for the A73, then turn left onto the A721 at Carluke; continue to Newbigging where there is a left turn to Dunsyre. After about 3 miles, and before you reach Dunsyre, Little Sparta's car park is on the left.

## **SatNav Warning**

For satnav users, the postcode is ML11 8NG, but be sure to turn in at our car park and not one of the neighbouring farms. SatNav may direct you to turn off the road near a dilapidated phone box: do NOT follow this instruction. Our car park is about a mile closer to Dunsyre, directly adjacent to the road. If you don't see a sign saying Little Sparta, you are in the wrong place.

## **Plan Your Visit**

There is a walk of ~700m (about half a mile) from the car park to the garden uphill on a stony farm track. Little Sparta is not a suitable destination for people with breathing or walking difficulties.

Little Sparta – the garden of Ian Hamilton Finlay

Wear sensible shoes and dress appropriately for the weather on the day as you will be outdoors at all times. Consider bringing a sun hat, umbrella and insect repellent.

Allow at least 90 minutes actually in the garden in order not to feel rushed or that you have to miss anything. Remember to allow 10-15 minutes each way for the walk to and from the car park.

There is a lavatory in the garden, but no refreshments or picnic areas. Consider bringing a bottle of water if the weather is hot. Some relevant books and postcards are available to purchase.

The trustees ask parents to ensure that children do not climb on the art works in the garden.

Dogs are not allowed.

## **Admission**

Adults - £12.50

Students/pupils in full time education - £7.50 – over 18s please show proof of matriculation

A tour group rate is available; please book in advance [contact@littlesparta.co.uk](mailto:contact@littlesparta.co.uk)

**We hope to be able to accept electronic payments at the garden in 2017 – subject to system testing.** Cash or cheques in GBP are accepted. Payment in advance can be arranged by BACS.

For groups we ask the group leader / guide to co-ordinate the payments for the whole group in order to minimise the time taken for the admission process.

## **Photography**

Copyright on all images of works resides with the Estate of Ian Hamilton Finlay, whose executor, Pia Simig, can be contacted on [wildhawthornpres@btconnect.com](mailto:wildhawthornpres@btconnect.com).

## **Out of Hours Visits & Tour Groups**

There is a minimum fee of £120 for visits outwith our published open hours. Please contact Laura Robertson on [contact@littlesparta.co.uk](mailto:contact@littlesparta.co.uk) to discuss potential out of hours visits.

## **Head Gardener's Tours**

These are available on Wednesday and Friday afternoons only, for an additional fee of £50 per group.