Visit to Spencer House
27 St James's Place, London SW1A 1NR

Monday, 01 February 2027 at 11.00 am

Cost: £29.50

Includes a private tour, led by an expert guide

Travel to/from London is not included in the cost

BOOKING FORM

We have organised a private guided tour of Spencer House, a magnificent eighteenth-century Neoclassical townhouse overlooking Green Park, owned by the Spencer family. The building suffered bomb damage during the blitz and a period of decline from post-war commercial use. In 1985, however, the financier and philanthropist Jacob Rothschild took on the lease and conceived one of the most remarkable restoration projects of the late twentieth century, recreating the historic interiors and returning the House to its former elegant splendour. It contains some of the most beautiful eighteenth-century rooms in the country. The Grade One listed building was officially reopened in 1990 by Diana, Princess of Wales, a direct descendant of the First Earl and Lady Spencer.

The House was built between 1756 and 1766 for John, later First Earl, Spencer and his wife, Georgiana. In terms of design, it embodies a significant shift in taste during the period, with the architect John Vardy initially responsible for the elevations and ground-floor rooms in the Palladian tradition. But in 1758, James 'Athenian' Stuart was appointed to complete the project. He designed the sumptuous interiors of the first-floor state rooms in the Neoclassical style, taking inspiration from Greek antiquity and antique Roman interiors. The 'Painted Room' is regarded as one of the earliest and most influential examples of Neoclassical style in Europe.

Programme: Meet from 10.50 am at Spencer House. The tour starts at 11.00 am and will last about one hour fifteen minutes. St James's Place is a cul-de-sac located on the west side of St James's Street, about a ten-minute walk from the nearest Underground Station, which is Green Park on the Victoria and Piccadilly Lines.

Please note space on this visit is limited—the maximum group size is fifteen.

Accessibility: Spencer House is an accessible venue but please let Jane know in advance if you have any access requirements so that Spencer House may be fully prepared.

Please return the form by post or email, or hand a copy to Jane Pearson, Cob Cottage, The Street, Great Tey, Colchester CO6 1JS Email: drjanepearson@gmail.com Tel: 01206 210855, Mob: 07541 728442

Name(s): Email:

Mobile Telephone:
Contact Name & Number in Case of Emergency:

PAYMENT: We now have a SumUp card-reader for payments at meetings. Otherwise, please pay by BACS or cheque: **£29.50 per person.** Please make cheques payable to **The Arts Society Colchester**. If you wish to pay online, please notify Jane when the payment is made. The BACS details are below:

Account Name: The Arts Society Colchester
Sort Code: 60-06-06
Account Number: 56448821
Reference: SPENCER HOUSE

Refunds available only until 14 January 2027