Down Hall

HOTEL | SPA | ESTATE

98 bedrooms

12 function rooms

Kitchen Garden & 110 acres

45 minutes from London

Down Hall's impressive historic mansion, intimate luxury spa and elegant function spaces make the venue the ideal place for hosting meetings and events.

Set within 110 acres of outstandingly beautiful park and woodland and located just 45 minutes from central London and 15 minutes from Stansted Airport. The hotel is conveniently located less than 10 minutes from M11 junction 7a.

Facilities

We are delighted to offer an array of exciting amenities at our hotel, ensuring that all guests have a memorable and enjoyable stay.

Woodland Walk: Discover the tranquillity of our 110 acres, from our manicured gardens or venture deeper into the forest using our walking maps.

Giant Chess: Challenge your colleagues to a friendly competition with our giant chess set.

Activity Field: Our expansive grounds feature a spacious activity field ideal for team building, from woodland trails to archery to inflatables and more.

Tennis & Padel Courts: We offer hard-court tennis facilities suitable for players of all skill levels. Tennis rackets and balls are available free of charge from our Reception.
We offer one Padel court on site, Padel is a fun and fast-paced sport that combines elements of tennis and squash.

Gym: The gym features a wide range of innovative gym and exercise equipment from leading fitness provider, Technogym, alongside a great selection of free weights and exercise balls.

Eden Spa: With four luxury treatment rooms, a hydrotherapy pool, sauna, steam room and relaxation areas, the Eden Spa offers a tranquil escape from day-to-day life where you can relax the mind, revive the body and soothe the soul. *Please note the spa is an additional charge*

Restaurants & Bars

Garden Room Restaurant (for up to 10): Enjoy a leisurely dinner at our 2 AA Rosette Garden Room restaurant, which serves exciting dishes from a modern English menu prepared with ingredients from our Kitchen Garden.

The Terrace: The combination of a well-designed outdoor bar, comfortable furniture, and heaters ensures that guests can make the most of this space, regardless of the weather conditions, all whilst taking in the beautiful views of the landscaped gardens and fountain.

The Fox Bar, Lounge & Grand Hall: The Fox Bar is the ideal place to enjoy an aperitif before dinner, a digestif after your meal or a night cap before bed. The Grand Hall with modern updates and elegant touches, blends timeless charm with contemporary luxury into an inviting lounge to unwind during your stay.

Private Dining: We offer a range of banqueting menus including a daily lunch menu, and three course dinners in our beautiful private dining rooms. Why not explore our upgrade packages for conference groups to BBQ (20 people+) or street food (50 people+). Our BBQ menu includes options such as 8oz flame grilled burgers, Cumberland sausage rings and Josper smoked BBQ pulled pork. Our street food menu offers choices including a stone baked pizza bar, classic British fish and chips or traditional paella cooked al fresco.

The Woodland Table

An immersive outdoor dining experience in the heart of nature; This is not just a meal, it's an experience, situated in one of Essex's most beautiful and unexpected outdoor settings.

Step through the gates of our historic walled garden and discover The Woodland Table – a dining concept rooted in nature, seasonality, and togetherness. Surrounded by the bounty of our two-acre kitchen garden, this unique setting invites guests to reconnect with food, with one another, and with the land that nourishes us.

Dine under open skies and rustling leaves, where rustic wooden tables and hand-crafted benches made from our own estate's felled trees set the stage for a truly special gathering. Flickering fire pits warm the evening air as our chefs cook over open flames, filling the garden with the scent of woodsmoke, herbs, and flame-grilled produce harvested just steps away.

Each event is designed around the season, showcasing the freshest ingredients from our garden, estate, and trusted local suppliers. Expect thoughtfully curated sharing platters, vibrant vegetables, garden herbs, and estate-inspired cocktails made with our very own Down Hall Garden Gins and vodka.

Package includes a welcome cocktail, a selection of delicious canapes, followed by a four-course meal, and finished with fresh mint tea.
Available for groups of 20 to 60 guests.

Accommodation

Down Hall offers 98 beautifully designed bedrooms reflecting grandeur and elegance.

Residents can enjoy complimentary use of the gym with sauna and steam room located in the West Wing. The Eden spa with hydrotherapy pool, sauna, steam room, relaxation areas and treatments rooms is the ideal place to unwind, please note this facility is an additional charge and pre-booking is highly recommended.

Set within 110 acres there are a host of walking routes to enjoy, walking maps can be provided by Reception. A tennis court and paddle tennis court are available to enjoy, rackets can be provided by the hotel.

Complimentary wifi and parking is included.

Room types include:

- Classic Rooms
- Executive Rooms
- Prestige Rooms
- Estate Patio Rooms
- Estate Family Rooms
- Feature Room
- Deluxe Room
- Suite
- Master Suite

Watch our video to explore the venue here

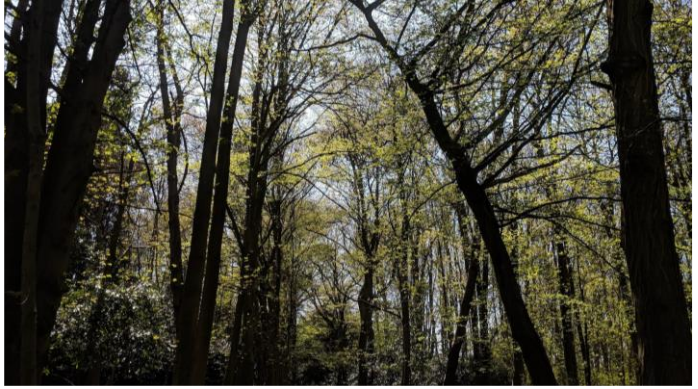
Sustainability

From seed to plate:
We have developed a two-acre kitchen garden which provides an abundance of fruit, vegetables and salad used by our team of Chefs. We change our menus seasonally in order to best utilise ingredients from the kitchen garden. Any excess produce is given to team members to avoid waste. Outside of our on site produce we source as much of our ingredients as we can locally, using the very best produce from Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Suffolk.

Recycling of materials:
We are zero to landfill. All waste materials including food, glass, paper and cardboard, metal are recycled or composted.

LED lighting:
All lighting has been converted to LED bulbs which are up to 80% more efficient than traditional lighting. 95% of the energy in LED's are converted into light and only 5% is wasted as heat. Lights are switched off in meeting rooms, bedrooms and back of house areas when not required.

Conference Incentive:
If 50% or more of your delegates arrive to your event by public or shared transport, we will plant 5 trees in the estate.
*T&Cs apply. Ask your Events Co-ordinator for more information



Sustainability

EV chargers:
We have 6 electric vehicle chargers for guests to use on site during their visit.

In-house green team:
We have implemented a dedicated team to explore and actively implement CSR within the hotel. The green team meets on a regular basis to work in initiatives and schemes to ensure the hotel keeps moving forward with being sustainable, environmentally aware, community driven and charitable.

Water:
We use recycled glass water bottles for our conferences and in-house guests, filled from our own in-house water plant. These are sanitised and refilled onsite.

Down Hall produce:
We offer our own Down Hall Garden Gin and Vodka made from botanicals and Douglas fir foraged in our grounds. We have bees on site producing honey and thriving in our estate.

110 acres:
We are set within 110 acres of woodland, parkland and formal gardens. We have developed a 5 year woodland management plan and are committed to stocking our grounds with additional trees, flora and fauna.

Charity:
Our chosen charity is Grove Cottage, we actively fund-raise to support this cause.

History

1021 - We know from records that Down Hall was one of ten medieval manors in the Parish of Hatfield Broad Oak that were already considered ancient at the time

1323 - Robert Taper is the first person we can name as having been in possession of the manor of Down Hall in the early 1300s

1536 - At the beginning of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, Hatfield priory was dissolved and all tithes and patronages, including that of Down Hall, were granted to Barking Abbey. Ownership transfers to William Glascock on purchase of a miscellaneous land lot.

1536-1720- Down Hall passes down the Glascock family line until it is sold to Matthew Prior with investment from Edward Harley.

1720 – Prior commissioned James Gibbs to design a new house and Charles Bridgeman to replan the garden. At the time of Priors passing the gardens have been complete by works on the house have not begun.

1741- Down Hall is purchased by William Selwin. On passing the property to his son Charles, the Tudor dwelling is taken down and rebuilt it in a handsome, substantial manner albeit in a plain classical style. The total transformation of Down Hall was completed in 1777 though some original Tudor fireplace mantels and door surrounds were retained and which can still be found at the hotel today.

1873 - To reflect the importance of Down Hall as being the administrative heart of the Selwin/Ibbetson kingdom, in 1871 Frederick Pepys Cockerell was commissioned to replace the existing mansion with a sumptuous new one in the Italianate style. At the time of completion in 1873, Down Hall was a particularly striking example of the best concrete work of the period.

1914 - At the start of World War 1, the house became a Red Cross Auxiliary hospital. In February 1919 the Hospital was closed and Down Hall returned to a family home.

1932 - Down Hall was sold in late 1930, possibly early 1931, and re-enters the annals of history in 1932 as Downham school, an upmarket boarding school for girls. Some notable ladies that attended Downham include: Pamela Harriman, Anne Clarissa Eden and Frances Shand Kydd - mother of Diana, Princess of Wales.

1973 In 1973, St Ouen Antiques had bought the property and announced an opening in early 1974 at 'Down Hall' with a display of English and Continental period furniture and fine art.

1986 – Down Hall is bought by Veladail Hotels, owners of the estate to this day. Over the ensuing years, they have invested millions of pounds in restoring the house to its former glory as well as sympathetically modernising and updating the property to create the contemporary, country mansion you see today. All the public rooms are named after some of the people contained in this timeline, so when you are walking around the hotel, or indeed the estate, we hope you will imbibe some of the unique and fascinating history of Down Hall that goes back over 1,000 years.

Down Hall

HOTEL | SPA | ESTATE