

HISTORY BUFFS | FULL DAY

Welcome to Cheekwood. Once the family home of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, this extraordinary 1930s estate, with its historic mansion and 55 acres of cultivated gardens and expansive vistas, today serves the public as a botanical garden, arboretum, and museum. The tour options below will give you ample time to learn about the Cheek family history and opportunities to experience the artistic beauty of Cheekwood.

- ❖ The **Martin Boxwood Gardens** were designed in the late 1920s by Bryant Fleming, the architect who also designed the elegant mansion. The terraced gardens with extensive plantings of boxwood transport visitors to another time and place. These original Cheek gardens include a wooded stream, reflecting pool, fountains, and a stone grotto.
- ❖ Not to be missed, the iconic **Wisteria Arbor** is celebrated for its breathtaking views of the **Reflecting Pool** and the surrounding Warner Parks.
- ❖ Move inside the **Cheekwood Mansion**. Construction began in 1929 and the family moved in just before Thanksgiving of 1932. Get a glimpse of what their lives were like by viewing the **Historic Period Rooms**. Originally, the 36-room house (excluding service quarters) included eleven bedrooms, twelve bathrooms, and two elevators. While the bedrooms no longer exist, guests can tour the Drawing Room, Library, Loggia, and Dining Room, among other restored spaces.
- ❖ When the Cheek's daughter Huldah and her husband donated Cheekwood in 1957, they were adamant the museum have gallery space to display art, including works from the recently defunct Nashville Museum of Art. Highlights on view in the **Permanent Collection Galleries** include William Edmondson sculptures, Andy Warhol and Jamie Wyeth's portraits of each other, fine examples by American impressionists Childe Hassam and William Merritt Chase, and works by The Eight, an early twentieth-century artist collective in New York City.
- ❖ Time for lunch. **Café 29** is in the former garage space in the Frist Learning Center and offers a casual, made-to-order menu. During your lunch break take a moment to learn about the Cheek family's connection to Maxwell House Coffee.

- ❖ Visit **Stable Block** and restored **Tack Room** in Frist Learning Center to see the horse stables, where Leslie Sr. and Huldah kept their prized horses, Platinum and Rosewood.
- ❖ Stroll through the **Bradford Robertson Color Garden**. This garden reflects the universal love of color as a design element in flowers and foliage, and the displays change seasonally.
- ❖ Enjoy quiet contemplation in the **Blevins Japanese Garden (Shōmu-en)**. *Shōmu-en* translates to “pine-mist forest.” This garden transcends cultures by connecting Eastern garden design with the native Tennessee landscape.



Thank you for visiting Cheekwood. For more information on programs, special events and membership visit [cheekwood.org](https://www.cheekwood.org).