



Seward House Museum Photo Shoot Policy and Agreement

About Your Seward House Museum Photography Shoot

Congratulations on choosing the Seward House Museum for your photography needs. Whether you are using the Museum for wedding pictures, an engagement, family photographs, celebrating a graduation, a prom, or any other occasion, we are pleased to offer you a setting capable of framing memories and mementos to last a lifetime. A session at the Seward House comes complete with a Museum staff person to ensure an optimal personalized experience. Since the SHM's public schedule is often busy, it is advisable to plan ahead with the Museum's Director of Development, Maria Coleman, in advance of your private visit. Maria can be reached at 315.252.1283, ext. 3, or at development@sewardhouse.org.

The Seward House Museum features a pair of unique backdrops, which may be booked individually or in combination. They are:

Inside the Historic House at 33 South Street

The historic interior of the Seward House Museum is breathtaking. The two hundred year old structure is not only remarkably well preserved, but contains an inimitable collection of original furniture décor, woodwork, and fixtures that flow together in an elegant mosaic from the American past. Though the atmosphere is deeply historic, it is also warm and inviting. The home retains its spirit of a family dwelling, blending the intimacy of cozy lived-in space with a stately splendor. Among the popular sites for posing are the grand staircase and around the immaculate 1872 Steinway Piano, surrounded by fine artwork. But the house has rooms to enchant all tastes and styles. From the opulence of the Formal Parlor, to the book-lined Library, the decadent Dining Room, the regal Drawing Room, several charming bedrooms, or even the nooks and crannies of the sizeable Servant's Wing, the interior of the Seward House offers something for everyone. With sufficient notice and safeguards in place, your Seward House Museum escort can take your party behind many of the rope-lines to help craft the perfect photo shoot.

Majestic Grounds and Gardens

The two acre property surrounding the Seward House includes a variety of idyllic outdoor views. The iconic silhouette of the yellow-bricked home lends itself nicely as a majestic background, especially its gracious Italianate south porch veranda or griffin-adorned front steps. Likewise, such historic exterior buildings as the stone barns, gazebos, and Mr. Seward's summer house are often used to frame an elegant outdoor scene. For a touch of nature, the SHM's sprawling grounds and gardens offer a treasure trove of possibilities. Depending on the season, beauty can be found in abundance: rose gardens, ample flower beds, wandering botanical pathways, marble benches, copses of tall shade trees, original historic statuary, 1840s-era accent fences, and a Victorian fountain and pool, among



others. While the gardens bloom brightly in spring and shine in summer, they are transformed with pumpkins and autumnal signs of harvest in autumn and festooned with cheery decorations for the holidays. Even the snows of winter are made lovely on the Seward House grounds.

Rules and Policies

A Seward House Museum staff member will be assigned to each photo shoot group. We are a public garden so there is no guarantee of privacy during the times that we are open to the public. If your photo shoot is not after hours in the Museum, please note that there will be public tours taking place in the house and Museum staff will do their best to make your photo shoot as private as possible. Food and drink will not be permitted in the Museum during the photo shoot. Photo shoots within the Museum are limited to 20 people or less in a group. Photos can be taken outside the historic barns, but no photography is permitted inside these spaces. Each photo shoot is for a 1.5 hour time slot – any requests for an increase in that time must be made 2 weeks before your appointment.

Cost

Below is the donation amount for the photo shoot spaces available at the Seward House Museum:

Museum: \$200

Gardens and Grounds: \$75

Museum and Gardens/Grounds: \$250

The deposit necessary to reserve a date is 50% of the total cost and is due at the time that the Rental Agreement is signed. The balance is due one week before the photo shoot.

Directions and Parking

The Seward House Museum is located in Auburn, NY, approximately 8 miles south of the village of Weedsport, Exit 40 off the New York State Thruway, Interstate 90, approximately 25 miles west of Syracuse, and 50 miles east of Rochester.

Take Route 34 south until you enter the city limits of Auburn. Route 34 becomes North Street until it crosses Genesee Street, at which it changes to South Street. After the next traffic light heading south, with City Hall to your left, the Seward House is located immediately on the right.

There is limited free parking behind the Museum. Additional parking spaces are available on South Street and in the parking garage on Lincoln Street.

Visitors who use wheelchairs and/or walkers may enter through the handicap entrance at the rear of the house.

Public restrooms with accessibility features are available.

