



THE BEST OF ENGLISH GARDENS

INCLUDING THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
MAY 16TH - 25TH 2023

Nowhere in the world is the passion for horticulture expressed more vividly than in Britain, where gardens have served as inspiration for painters, writers, and poets for centuries. From great country estates to miniscule inner-city gardens, the British use their exceptionally long growing season to fullest advantage, and we've timed our visit accordingly, to bring you *The Best of English Gardens*.

This is your invitation to see some of England's most famous gardens at a time of year when color runs rampant. We'll visit the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship garden at Wisley, Kiftsgate and Hidcote Manor. Royal schedules permitting, we'll also take a private tour of Prince Charles' estate at Highgrove. We'll explore Christopher Lloyd's gardens at Great Dixter, which offer up innovative ideas set against a backdrop of topiary, mixed borders, and natural ponds. Additional highlights include time in the Georgian city of Bath, and visits to many other magnificent gardens, including Sissinghurst, Iford Manor and Stourhead.

Back in London we'll conclude with a full day at the Chelsea Flower Show. Our tour includes membership in the Royal Horticultural Society so that we can attend on members-only day when the crowds are slightly smaller than on the public days. And there will be free time in London to explore famous sights, museums and galleries you may wish to view, from the Tate to the tiny Museum of Garden History.

This spring, join fellow garden lovers for a stroll through *The Best of English Gardens*. At a relaxed pace, with wonderful meals, first-class hotels, and a panorama of magnificent blooms unfolding before us, it's a quintessential celebration of springtime.



GREAT DIXTER



THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA GARDEN
CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2016

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$4790
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$1150

Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

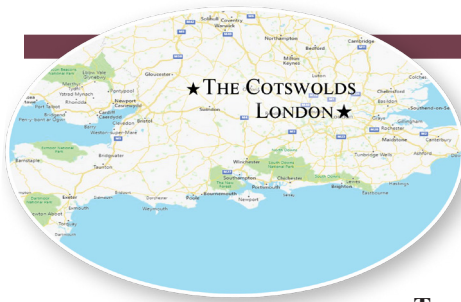
HOTELS:	8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 5 dinners
GUIDES:	Discover Europe tour guide throughout and local guides at Great Dixter and Wisley
BAGGAGE:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person
TICKETS:	Membership in the Royal Horticultural Society and entrance to the Chelsea Flower Show
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

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TUESDAY, MAY 16TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city to London Heathrow. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17TH- Upon arrival, you'll be met for the transfer to our hotel in Windsor. After checking in, there will be time to unpack and relax, before taking an excursion to nearby Savill Garden, created by Sir Eric Savill in the 1930s, in Windsor Great Park. This evening, we will gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

THURSDAY, MAY 18TH - This morning we head for the hills - the Cotswold Hills. Our first visit along the way is to Pettifers Garden. Pettifers has taken some 15 years to create, but continues to evolve, and has a peaceful feeling that comes with the extraordinary views over the landscape. Now mature, this is a plantsman's garden with plenty of interest all year round. We continue through the east Cotswolds to the village of Whichford, where we visit the Whichford Pottery. This family business has been making garden pottery for 40 years now and is licensed by the RHS to provide a special series of commemorative flower pots and planters. After a break here for lunch we visit Rousham. This landscape garden is a place of pilgrimage for students of the work of William Kent (1685-1748). Rousham represents the first phase of English landscape design and remains almost as Kent left it, one of the few gardens of this date to have escaped alteration. A short drive brings us to our hotel, where we'll have time to unpack and relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**



A COTSWOLD STREETSCAPE

FRIDAY, MAY 19TH - A leisurely start this morning with a beautiful drive through the Cotswolds' quintessentially English landscape of honey-colored villages and green meadows. After lunch in a nearby country pub, we'll visit the Hidcote Manor garden, England's foremost 20th-century garden, where a series of horticultural "rooms" has been created, each different in color, character, and intention. Next, we'll visit the beautiful Kiftsgate Court gardens, home of Heather Muir, a pioneer in the rediscovery of shrub roses (including the celebrated rambling *Rosa filipes* "Kiftsgate"). The evening is free to dine at the local pub. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

SATURDAY, MAY 20TH - Our first stop today will be Iford Manor, home of the Peto Garden. This unique Grade I Italianate garden was designed by Harold A. Peto, who lived at the Manor from 1899 - 1933. From here we head for the city of Bath, where we will visit the Roman Baths, perhaps the best-preserved Roman remains in Britain. After free time for lunch, we continue on to the village of Stourton, where we'll walk around the magnificent Stourhead Gardens, which surround a series of peaceful lakes in the middle of a 2,650-acre estate nestled among rolling hills. We return to our hotel in the Cotswolds where dinner awaits us. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**



STOURHEAD

SUNDAY, MAY 21ST - This morning begins with a visit to Barnsley House and masterpiece garden created by Rosemary Verey, one of the most influential gardeners of the 20th century. We'll have a tour with one of the head gardeners and gather for lunch at the Village Pub. You'll have an opportunity to see how the ideas and designs from her many books and articles are reflected everywhere in this glorious space. From here, it's a short drive to Highgrove, HRH Prince Charles' private estate, where we enjoy a private tour, subject to availability. The evening is free. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

MONDAY, MAY 22ND - Leaving the Cotswolds, our first stop is to Wisley. The 240-acre flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley is the jewel in the crown of the RHS and has been a living encyclopedia for gardeners for the past 100 years. We'll have time for lunch, then tour the garden's highlights, and have free time to browse the Wisley store. From here we will continue on to our hotel in London where dinner awaits us. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

TUESDAY, MAY 23RD - Today we visit Great Dixter for a tour of the garden of Christopher Lloyd, who devoted his life to developing one of the most exciting and experimental gardens of our time, incorporating medieval buildings, yew topiary, and a tapestry of mixed borders (including the famous Long Border). Then it's on to Sissinghurst, rescued in 1930 by poet/novelist Vita Sackville-West and her husband, historian Harold Nicolson, who bought the romantic ruins and began to create the gardens (10 gardens spread over a 6-acre area). Harold, a classicist, utilized the walls and buildings that were already in place, while Vita devised the inspired planting schemes, grouping plants according to color, texture, and season. The evening is free for you to dine at one of the city's many fine restaurants.

(B) OVERNIGHT: LONDON

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH - Today we spend a full day at Britain's most famous spring garden event, the Chelsea Flower Show, where our membership in the Royal Horticultural Society allows us to attend on members-only day. The show gardens, each an exquisite jewel of design and execution, are designed by the finest international horticulturists. Spend as much time as you choose among the inspiring exhibits and make your way back to the hotel in your own time. This evening we gather for a farewell dinner at our hotel.

(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON

THURSDAY, MAY 25TH - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**