



## ***Springtime in England with the Chelsea Flower & Garden Show***

***May 12<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023***

### **Day 1- Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**D**

Welcome to England! We meet our driver and executive coach this morning at the London Heathrow Airport and travel into Surrey for a visit to **Wisley**, the flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society and one of the great gardens of the world! Wisley houses one of the largest plant collections with 240 acres of diverse gardens, an extensive arboretum, a spectacular glasshouse and the newly opened RHS Hilltop. This state-of-the-art science building is surrounded by three spectacular new gardens that embrace the latest ideas in horticulture, as well as a new Trials Garden. There'll be time for lunch and to look around the well-stocked garden center. Lots of inspiration to be had here!

### **One Warwick Park Hotel Royal Tunbridge Wells- 3 nights**

### **Day 2- Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**BL**

This morning we visit **Great Dixter**, the family home of the late, great gardener and garden writer Christopher Lloyd. This garden is renowned for its bold and daring color combinations and its innovative plantings. Later, we visit **Pashley Manor Gardens**, a quintessential English garden. Pashley offers a sumptuous blend of romantic landscaping, imaginative plantings and fine old trees, fountains, springs, and large ponds. We'll enjoy a delicious, locally sourced lunch in their café, followed by a guided tour of the gardens. We continue to the charming spa town of **Royal Tunbridge Wells** for some free time to explore the rich heritage and stunning architecture.



### **Day 3- Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

**B**

This morning we visit **Igham Mote**, a lovely 14-acre garden surrounding a picturesque medieval moated manor house C1320. In the afternoon, visit **Hever Castle**, once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry V111 and mother of Elizabeth I. These award-winning gardens feature the magnificent Italian Garden with its classical statuary, many water features and cool, shady grottos.

#### Day 4- Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

**BLD**

Today we depart for Salisbury but first, we visit **Sissinghurst Castle Garden**.



Writers Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson fell in love with Sissinghurst and created this world-renowned historic garden in the 20<sup>th</sup> c. We travel on from Kent into Surrey passing through the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty before arriving at **Ramster Garden**. This beautiful woodland garden is famous for its stunning spring color, with over 25 acres of peaceful woodland, views of lakes and hillsides, filled with color and interest.

#### Mercure Salisbury White Hart Hotel- 2 nights

#### Day 5- Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

**BL**

The medieval city of **Salisbury** is known for its stunning cathedral, captivating history, and ageless beauty. We spend our day here with a guiding walking tour, a visit to the cathedral and some free time to explore on our own.

#### Day 6- Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

**BD**

Today we visit **Stonehenge**– one of the wonders of the world and the best-known prehistoric monument in Europe. We continue to the Georgian City of **Bath** for lunch and some time to enjoy this elegant city. Later this afternoon, we tour **Iford Manor Gardens**, a 2.5-acre terraced garden filled with inspiration! Steep flights of steps link the terraces with pools, fountains, urns, colonnades, and statues. (Note –this garden is on a steeply terraced hillside, access can be difficult for some). We'll enjoy a private guided tour of the main garden and an exclusive visit of the family's own 1.5-acre private gardens not usually open to the public.



#### Hare & Hounds Hotel Cotswolds- 3 nights

#### Day 7- Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

**BL**

We spend our day in 2 delightful gardens with lunch in a pretty village pub.

**Kiftsgate Court Garden** is perched on the edge of the Cotswolds with wonderful views and was created by 3 generations of women. The garden features rare plants and shrubs including the world famous *Kiftsgate rose*. The wonderful **Hidcote Garden** is an Arts and Crafts-inspired Garden with intricately designed outdoor spaces to explore in the Cotswold hills. This fabulous garden was created by talented American horticulturist Major Lawrence Johnston and is characterized by its colorful outdoor 'rooms' that are full of surprises.

### Day 8- Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

**BD**

Today we travel through picturesque villages and visit a private garden with free time in the beautiful and historic village of **Burford**. In the afternoon, we explore **Bourton House Garden**, an award-winning 3-acre garden surrounding an 18th century Manor House and 16th century Tithe Barn. Bourton House Garden features terraces and wide herbaceous borders with stunning plants, texture, and colorful combinations, a topiary walk, a White Garden and several spring-fed water features including a raised basket pond from the Great Exhibition of 1851. A raised 18th century walk provides an enticing visual link to the Cotswold landscape beyond.

### Day 9- Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

**BLD**

Today we visit **Blenheim Palace**, a World Heritage Site with over 300 years of history and home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family. Created over the centuries by esteemed garden designers such as Henry Wise and Achille Duchêne, the beautiful Formal Gardens reflect a journey through the styles of the ages. The Formal Gardens surround the Palace, and they include the majestic Water Terraces, the Duke's Private Italian Garden, the tranquil Secret Garden with all its hidden treasures, the Churchill Memorial Garden, and the beautifully delicate Rose Garden.



This afternoon, we explore **Rousham House and Gardens**. Rousham is completely unspoilt and uncommercialized – no tea room and no shop – just glorious gardens to explore. One of England's most important gardens, Rousham represents the first phase of English landscape design and remains almost as its designer William Kent left it. Many of the features that delighted its 18th century visitors are still there for 21st century visitors to enjoy. A favorite of many great garden designers, in his 'Around the World in Eighty gardens' Monty Don says, "Kent is the great genius of eighteenth-century garden design and Rousham is his masterpiece, one of the greatest gardens in the world".

### Richmond Hill Hotel- 4 nights

### Day 10- Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

**BL**

This morning we enjoy a panoramic **sightseeing tour of London** with our London Guide, passing famous sights such as Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral and The Tower of London. In the afternoon, we explore **Hampton Court Palace** and enjoy a guided tour of the Palace and Gardens. Experience the public dramas and private lives of Henry VIII, his wives, and children in the world of the Tudor court. Admire the Great Hall and Tudor Kitchens. Hampton Court Palace's world-famous gardens include 60 acres of spectacular formal gardens and 750 acres of parkland, all set within a loop of the river Thames.





**Day 11- Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Today we visit the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Housing the world's most diverse collection of living plants, **Kew Gardens** is London's largest UNESCO World Heritage Site and is also a world-leading scientific research center. Wander through beautiful glasshouses such as the iconic Palm House, home to an exotic rainforest; explore different climate zones at the Princess of Wales Conservatory or be amazed by the giant lily pads at the Waterlily House. For a bird's-eye view of the gardens, walk along the 59ft Treetop Walkway. Enjoy floral displays from more than 60,000 plants along the Great Broad Walk Borders or take in some of the 14,000 trees in the colorful Arboretum. Later, we visit **Chelsea Physic Garden**, London's oldest botanic garden, containing a unique collection of around 5,000 different edible, useful and medicinal plants that have changed the world. This garden was established in 1673 by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London.

**B**



**Day 12- Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>**



Today enjoy a full day at **RHS Chelsea Flower Show!** It's Member's Day – open only to members of the Royal Horticultural Society. Chelsea is the world's most prestigious flower show and inspires millions of gardeners each year. Its innovative garden designs give enthusiastic gardeners plenty of ideas to take home.

**BD**

**Day 13- Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>**

After breakfast and check out, we transfer to London Heathrow for our return trip home.

**B**

*Please note that the gardens and visits included in this itinerary are subject to availability. If a visit is not available, a suitable alternative will be found and will be finalized closer to departure. At each visit, the group will be hosted as specified.*

**B= Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner**  
**RHS= Royal Horticultural Society**

**Inclusions:**

- 12 nights' accommodations in 3-4-star hotels
- breakfast daily and other meals where specified
- air-conditioned coach with professional driver
- all sightseeing and garden visits' entry fees per itinerary
- local guides per itinerary
- all taxes
- Royal Horticultural Society membership
- tour manager Dee Montpetit travelling with group at all times

**Land costs:**

Tour is priced in Pound Sterling (GBP) and final payment will reflect the actual cost.

Price is based on double occupancy with a **minimum of 20** participants:

GBP per person- 4020 based on today's rate of exchange (September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022):  
USD \$4295 per person

For 15-19 tour participants:

GBP per person- 4416 based on today's ROE (September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022):  
USD \$4720 per person

Single supplement:

GBP 1271...based on today's ROE (September 26, 2022):  
USD \$1456

**Airfare:**

Airfare is not included, but if you need help, please contact me. British Airways has nonstop service for around \$900 roundtrip at the moment. Please arrive early morning on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Payment schedule and cancellation policy:** A \$1500 per person deposit is due at time of reservation. The deposit is nonrefundable.

Final payment is due March 1st and is non-refundable. A check is the required method of payment for the deposit. For final payment, a 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Please make checks payable to **Direct Travel** and send along with your reservation form to the address below:

**Ma Petite Tours**  
**9614 180th ST SE**  
**Snohomish, WA. 98296**

**Insurance:** Insurance is highly recommended. Please contact me directly for pricing as it is based on the final itinerary cost (including airfare). Note that with most policies, you must include with your deposit or within 2 weeks of deposit if you would like pre-existing coverage. Insurance can be paid by credit card for no additional fee.

**Documentation:** You will need a valid US Passport with at least 6 months' validity from the return date to enter England. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

Please complete the attached reservation form and send your deposit to secure your reservation.

**For more information, contact:**

Dee Montpetit at 425-208-6515 or

email: [dee@mapetitegardens.com](mailto:dee@mapetitegardens.com)

**COVID:** You must be full vaccinated to travel in our group. Please enclose proof of vaccination with your reservation form and deposit.

## Springtime in England with Chelsea 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person and phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Passport Information:

Passenger One: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal name as it appears: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger Two: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal name as it appears: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### Special Requests:

Single requesting share: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical: \_\_\_\_\_