

Chelsea Flower Show & English Garden Tour



May 23rd to June 3rd, 2012
Privately escorted by Julia Guest

This peak blooming-season journey through enchanting West Country and verdant Southeast of England adds a new and unique dimension to the garden tour genre. Nearly all the gardens we visit have either been designed by, or are intimately connected with famous horticulturists. From the homes and haunts of some of the greatest influences in gardening today, the tour visits memorable examples of garden design and plant selection anywhere. In those private you will meet the owner/gardener to enjoy the 'personality of the place'. The history and evolution of English Gardening is fascinating and relevant to those who love gardens & gardening. We hope to make it come alive for you and to give you a stimulating and exciting, yet affordable, experience.

Wednesday, May 23 **Departure to England**

Your international flights are not included in this tour; it is recommended that you contact Julia to arrange travel coordination.

Thursday, May 24 **London**

Transfer to Kensington and your hotel, or make own arrangements to join there. Remainder of this day is at leisure and we'll get together for supper.

Friday, May 25 **London (B)**

Full day to enjoy the 'Paris fashion catwalk of gardening' – a short walk we'll take together through London's leafy suburbs to the **Chelsea Flower Show**. Return on your own and evening at leisure.

Saturday, May 26 **London – Village of Broadway (B,D)**

Our private coach takes us out of London into The Cotswolds which holds much attraction for garden lovers. We'll visit the magnificent 18th Century landscape garden of **Rousham Park**, this is a garden which holds many surprises and contrasts. Welcome dinner this evening at our hotel in this historic village.

Sunday, May 27 **Village of Broadway (B)**

Hidcote Manor is the creation of Laurence Johnson and the influence of this eclectic garden comes apparent as the week unfolds. **Kiftsgate Court** is a delightfully feminine garden and a real beauty for its profusion of flowers, its borrowed view, and of course the Kiftsgate rose.

Monday, May 28 **Village of Broadway (B,L)**

At **Barnsley House** we'll take a tour with a gardener around this former home of the remarkable Rosemary Verey. Now a luxurious hotel, we will have lunch which is an inclusion of the tour. **Bourton**

House is a Christie's "Garden of the Year" recipient and has been a well-kept secret.

Tuesday, May 29th **Broadway to Bath (B)**

A visit to **Stancombe Park** is a private visit permitted because of the many previous tours Julia has arranged – there is a romantic past which Mrs. Barlow will explain and we'll stay for tea and cake while we visit with her.

Time to spend in Bath enjoying the many sites (Jane Austen Museum and the Roman Baths are a short walk from our centrally located hotel) and perhaps a comedic evening walking tour.

Wednesday, May 30th **Bath (B)**

What a day! **Hestercombe** is the masterpiece of Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, recently immaculately restored – followed by the lovely and mysterious formal garden of **Mapperton**, located in a secret valley in the Dorset hills.

Thursday, May 31st **Bath to Leatherhead (B)**

Westward-bound and a full day ahead; **Stourhead** is an icon of garden taste – a mid 18th Century landscape garden enriched with superb ornamental buildings and woodland planting – you've seen it in the movies, now see and experience the place!

We'll continue to **The Manor at Upton Grey** to meet and take tea with Rosamund Wallinger who recreated this acclaimed Gertrude Jekyll garden. Still westward, a visit to **Bury Court** for the late afternoon light will leave you breathless. Two gardens, one by Piet Oudolf and the other a Christopher Bradley-Hole creation – owner John Coke will walk us around.

Our hotel is in a quiet spot with a National Trust forest right next door; an enjoyable respite after the exciting day.

Friday, June 1st

Leatherhead (B, L)

Visit **Gravetye Manor**, the home and garden creation of the Father of the Naturalistic Garden – William Robinson. Now a very deluxe Relais & Chateau hotel, we'll have a relaxing tour followed by lunch. Then for a complete contrast, **Sussex Prairie Garden** is a breathtaking display of colourful planting inspired by meadows and prairies.

Saturday, June 2nd

Leatherhead (B, D)

Just when you thought it couldn't get better – today we visit the most iconic of English gardens – **Great Dixter** and **Sissinghurst**. Great Dixter is associated with Christopher Lloyd and Sissinghurst is Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson. And here is where the history of English gardening will all fall into place. With ample time, picnic lunch and some time in the Oh-so-English town of Rye make this an amazing end to an amazing tour.

Tonight a farewell dinner will be held at our hotel.

Sunday, June 3rd

Departure from England

We'll make a visit to **RHS Wisley** today; seeing the English do what they love the best – visiting a famous public/educational garden and the best garden bookstore you'll see. Early afternoon transfer to Heathrow for departing flights.

Julia Guest has been a Certified Travel Consultant in West Vancouver for the past 30 years during which time she has escorted many tours of her own design. Her own love of gardens led to a collaboration in 1988 with landscape designer Ron Rule, resulting in many garden tours to England and Northern France. With celebrated author Des Kennedy, Julia has hosted garden/discovery tours: to New Zealand in 2005 & 2006; China 2007; England 2008; A tour to India in 2010 focused on horticulture and to England, Julia guided a private tour for a garden club in 2007, a Women With Wings tour in 2008 & 2010 and Great Gardens of France in 2011.



Pricing:
(land only)
\$5250.00

Single Supplement: \$1210.00
Subject to currency
exchange rates

Visit historically significant gardens related to:

Christopher Lloyd
Vita Sackville-West
Edwin Lutyens
Gertrude Jekyll
Laurence Johnson
William Robinson
Rosemary Verey



Tour inclusions:

- Escorted by garden tour leader, Julia Guest
- Private transportation with professional driver
- Full day at The Chelsea Flower Show in London
- Entrance & fees to gardens shown
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- 2 nights Millenium Bailey's Hotel, London
- 3 nights The Broadway Hotel, Broadway in The Cotswolds
- 2 nights Bath Abbey Hotel, Bath
- 3 nights Bookham Grange Hotel, Leatherhead in Surrey

Tour exclusions:

- International flights
- Beverages and meals not included in the itinerary
- Gratuities to driver and garden guides
- Personal expenses (shopping, laundry, telephone etc.)

The Details:

- Limited space, a maximum of 15 people will be confirmed
- A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 will secure your booking
- The final balance is due by March 5th, 2012 and is non-refundable
- We strongly suggest that you purchase Trip Cancellation Insurance & Out-of-Country Medical coverage.
- Premiums will be quoted at time of booking.
- The tour is based on minimum of 10 participants.

Please let us know if you need assistance with flights or insurance.



**For more information, please contact Julia Guest
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