

SISLEY GARDEN TOURS

Delighting visitors on exclusive garden tours for over 30 years.



2023



"Your careful planning, thoughtful details and pleasing humour enhanced our experience. The gardens were all glorious in their own way and visited in the perfect order." Barbara F.

Our 2023 tours at a glance...

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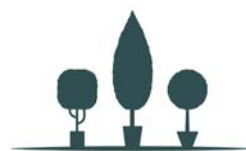
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www.sisley.co.uk

Front cover image: Elsing Hall © P. Lines.



Why travel with Sisley?

2023 will be our 31st year as a family-run business, offering small group garden tours to Britain's finest gardens and beyond. The company was founded by the late Tony Sissons, a garden writer and plantsman and is now run by Tony's daughter-in-law, Fran Pride and close family friend, Colette Walker. Colette and Fran are both registered Blue Badge Tourist Guides, keen travellers and garden enthusiasts.

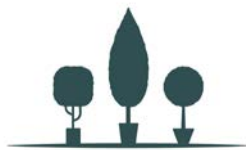
We have built up an in-depth knowledge of the gardens and places we visit, and have long-standing relationships with the garden owners, hotels and coach companies we work with. You can be assured that from the moment you join our tour, we'll do our utmost to give you a wonderful and inspirational holiday experience.

Our tours include:

- Visits to the finest gardens of varying styles, many of which surround notable homes and castles. We often visit outside of regular hours for an exclusive experience.
- Many private gardens that are rarely open to the public.
- The opportunity to meet garden owners and head gardeners with time to gain a real insight into their gardens.
- Delightful countryside, pretty villages and historic towns & cities.
- 4 & 5-star hotels or your own English castle, and never more than one hotel change on each tour.
- Breakfast dinner and/or lunch included every day.
- All tour gratuities.
- Experienced Sisley tour director to guide you.
- Deluxe coach with professional driver throughout.
- Small groups (no more than 22 passengers) with interesting and like-minded companions.
- A first class and personal service from the outset

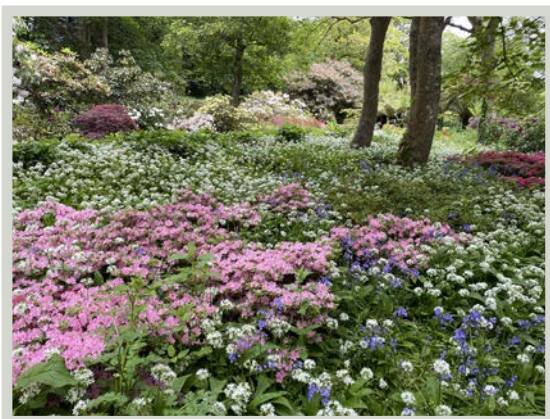


**We look forward to welcoming you soon,
with warmest wishes, Colette and Fran**



Garden Gems of Devon, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

12th - 19th May 2023 (7 nights)



Join us on our tour of Cornwall and Devon, the most charming and quintessential corner of England. We visit private and world-famous gardens: Glendurgan, the Lost Gardens of Heligan and Hestercombe, and make a fabulous trip to the Isles of Scilly to visit Tresco Abbey Garden. The coastal and moorland scenery of south-west England is unsurpassed.

Friday 12th May

We meet at **London Paddington Train Station** and take the mid-morning, scenic train journey to Devon. Our first visit is to **Hestercombe Gardens**. The formal Edwardian Garden has been described as 'Lutyens at his best'. We have a tour of the gardens followed by time for lunch (independent). In the late afternoon we check into the **4-star Dart Marina Hotel**. In the early evening we take a **private river cruise** from the hotel jetty along the River Dart before returning for dinner (included).

Saturday 13th May

This morning we head to **The Garden House in Dartmoor National Park**. The ten-acre garden was developed in the 1940s and is viewed as one of the finest in Britain. We enjoy a tour with the head gardener followed by lunch (included). **Wildside Nursery & Garden** is our next stop. This is the private garden of Keith Wiley, an inspiring proponent of the 'new naturalism' movement in gardening. We return to **Dartmouth** where your evening is at leisure to explore this charming town.

Sunday 14th May

Today, we cross the River Dart on the car ferry and head to **Coleton Fishacre**, a 1920's country retreat with gardens leading to the sea. We tour the gardens with the head gardener, look inside the house and have lunch (independent). In the afternoon we continue on to **Greenway House**, former summer home of crime writer, Agatha Christie. We take **the heritage steam train** back to Dartmouth for dinner in the hotel (included).

Monday 15th May

After checking out, we head to Cornwall. En-route we make a visit to a **wonderful private garden** which is located in a sheltered valley and runs down to an enchanting beach. We will enjoy a tour with the head gardener followed by lunch (included) in the gardens. Next we visit the **The Lost Gardens of Heligan**. 30 years ago the gardens were rediscovered and underwent a ground breaking restoration project. We arrive in the late afternoon at the **4-star Carbis Bay Hotel & Spa, St Ives**. Dinner in the hotel (included).

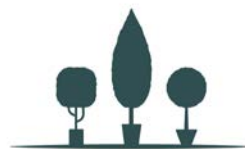


Photo credits: Isles of Scilly credit Visit Isles of Scilly.

Tuesday 16th May

The morning is at leisure to enjoy the facilities at the hotel which include the spa, outdoor heated pool and 25-acre beach. Alternatively you can take a walk along the south-west coastal path. At lunchtime we make a visit to the pretty seaside town of **St Ives** where there is time to explore the shops, museums and have lunch (independent). Tickets are included for a visit to the **Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Museum & Sculpture Garden**. We return to the hotel for dinner (included).

Wednesday 17th May

This morning we take a short flight by small aircraft (approx. 15 seats) to the Isles of Scilly, just 35 miles off the coast of Cornwall. We then take the inter-island boat to visit **Tresco Abbey Gardens**. This exotic tropical garden is home to species from 80 countries. We have a tour of the gardens followed by lunch (independent) at the garden. We return to the mainland for dinner in the hotel (included).

Please note: If you prefer not to join the tour this day, please let us know at the time of booking and we may be able to adjust your tour price. Flights are subject to fair weather conditions. If travel is not possible, another garden visit will be substituted.

Thursday 18th May

Today we begin with a visit to **Glendurgan Garden**, a valley garden with outstanding spring displays of rhododendrons. We enjoy a tour with the owner followed by lunch (included) in his home.

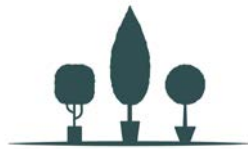
In the afternoon, we enjoy a **wonderful private garden on the Lizard Peninsula**. Here we meet the owner and enjoy a guided tour of the gardens which surround the elegant Georgian house that have been skilfully developed over the last 20 years. Your evening is at leisure.

Friday 19th May

We check-out in the morning and visit a **delightful private Cornish garden** for our final garden tour and lunch (included). In the early afternoon we board the train for the return journey to **London Paddington Train Station** where we expect to arrive in the late afternoon. From here, you can take the Heathrow Express train to the airport if needed.

Please note: Some of the gardens on this tour are large and have steep slopes with uneven paths and steps. Please speak to us if you are unsure if this tour is suitable for you.

Full details of tour joining and departure can be found on our website.



OUR HOTELS

Our hotels are 4-star and selected for their high standards of comfort and service. All rooms are ensuite and offer free wifi access.

The Dart Marina Hotel, Dartmouth (3 nights)

A tastefully modernised 4-star hotel, beautifully situated overlooking the River Dart and just a 10-minute riverside stroll into Dartmouth. All bedrooms have lovely views, comfortable furnishings and the restaurant is award-winning.



The Carbis Bay Hotel & Spa, St Ives (4 nights)

This superb coastal retreat offers its own 25-acre beach, breathtaking views of Carbis Bay, individually designed bedrooms, award-winning dining and a luxurious spa with an outdoor heated pool.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£4,900 price per person (sharing twin or double room)
£600 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 7 nights' accommodation at 4-star waterfront hotels with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 5 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
- Flights and boat transport to and from the Isles of Scilly.
- An information pack with detailed booklet about the gardens we will be visiting.
- Services of your Sisley tour director throughout.

Prices exclude:

- Airfares (Isles of Scilly flights are included).
- Passport and/or visa fees if applicable.
- Meals not included in the tour, drinks, laundry, and telephone calls.

Tour Payment:

A 10% non-refundable deposit is required to secure your place(s) on the tour. Your balance payment is due 90 days prior to the tour departure.

BOOK YOUR TOUR

There are three ways to book your garden tour:

With your own travel agent:

You can book a Sisley Garden Tour in your local currency through your own travel agent. Just provide us with their contact details in your booking form and we will take care of the rest.

With our travel partner in the USA:

After 20 happy years of partnership, Worldwide Traveler has retired as our US travel partner. We are currently seeking to appoint a new representative to work with in the US. Please contact us for details.

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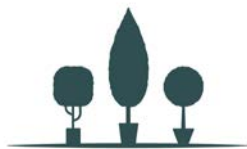
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www.sisley.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/



Iconic English Gardens with Chelsea Flower Show - Tour 1

20th - 27th May 2023 (7 nights)



Visit the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show on members-only day, the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the majestic Hampton Court Palace. We also spend four days in Kent, exploring some of England's most iconic gardens including Great Dixter, Sissinghurst Castle and Hever Castle.

Saturday 20th May

We meet at the **Sheraton Heathrow Hotel** and depart mid-morning. We make the short journey to the **4-star Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court**. We drop off our bags at the hotel and stroll across the road to **Hampton Court Palace**. Discover the world of King Henry VIII and his Tudor Court and the vast formal gardens that extend over 60 acres. There is free time for lunch (independent). In the late afternoon we enjoy a **private cruise along the River Thames** from the hotel's jetty. We have dinner in the hotel (included).

Sunday 21st May

Today we visit **RHS Wisley** – the Royal Horticultural Society's headquarters. We will have a guided tour of the superb and varied gardens, followed by lunch (included) in the Tulip Room. We return to the hotel in the afternoon where your evening is at leisure.



Monday 22nd May

This morning we head to the **Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew**. On arrival we will have a guided tour of the extensive gardens which have been designated as an UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is then free time to further explore and have lunch (independent). We depart mid-afternoon and return to the hotel. Dinner in the hotel (included).

Tuesday 23rd May

Today we enjoy the first members-only day at the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**. Marvel at the magnificent floral displays proudly presented by the best nurseries and specialist growers in the main pavilion. Be inspired by the extraordinary show gardens created by the leading lights in horticulture and see the 'Fresh Gardens' designed by emerging talent. Enjoy the extensive array of gardening tools, sculptures, clothing and garden gifts. In the late afternoon we travel to Kent and check into the **4-star Spa Hotel, Royal Tunbridge Wells**. Dinner in the hotel (included).

Wednesday 24th May

This morning we take a pre-opening tour of **Hever Castle**. This picturesque, double-moated castle was the childhood



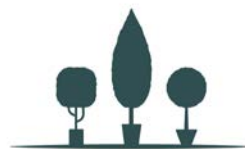


Photo credits: Hever Castle ©VisitBritain/Pete Seaward.
and Hampton Court Palace ©VisitBritain/Historic Royal
Palaces.

home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII. The extensive grounds feature a 35-acre lake, fountains, and magnificent original Roman and Italian Renaissance statuary. Time for lunch (independent) at Hever Castle.

In the afternoon we are treated to an exclusive visit to the beautiful private gardens at **Long Barn**. This was the first home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, where they 'served their gardening apprenticeship', before moving to Sissinghurst. We have dinner in a **traditional English pub** (included).

Thursday 25th May

Our first visit today is a pre-opening guided tour of **Great Dixter House and Garden**, a cottage garden on a grand scale developed by the late Christopher Lloyd. The gardens are now superbly curated by internationally renowned gardener, Fergus Garrett.

Afterwards, we head to the delightful town of **Rye** for lunch (included) and shopping. We continue onto **Godinton House and Gardens**, a superb ancient estate where we will enjoy a private guided tour of the splendid formal gardens. Both the Jacobean house and gardens have been lovingly restored. Your evening is at leisure in Tunbridge Wells.

Friday 26th May

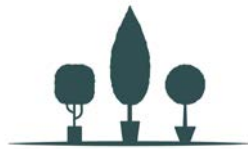
We begin the day with a pre-opening visit to **Sissinghurst Castle Gardens**, a romantic garden created around a slender brick-built castle tower. Its designer Vita Sackville-West's own words describe the garden, "Profusion, even extravagance and exuberance within the confines of the utmost linear severity". After, we head to **Pashley Manor**, an immaculate garden with emphasis on colour and form that surrounds a beautiful, timbered Tudor house with 18th century additions. After lunch (independent) we enjoy an introductory talk and time to explore the gardens. We return to the hotel for dinner (included).

Saturday 27th May

After checkout, our final visit is to **Chartwell House**, home of Sir Winston Churchill the British wartime Prime Minister. Chartwell is much more than just a fascinating house, it boasts an extensive garden with far-reaching views and his studio which is home to the largest collection of Churchill's paintings. Lunch (independent) at Chartwell. In the afternoon we drop off at the Sheraton Heathrow Hotel and Heathrow Airport Terminal 3 for inter-terminal transport links and the Heathrow Express train travel into London.

Full details of tour joining and departure can be found on our website.

NOTE: This tour includes one year's individual membership of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).



OUR HOTELS

Our hotels are 4-star and selected for their high standards of comfort and service. All rooms are ensuite and offer free wifi access.

The Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court (3 nights)

Overlooking the River Thames, and built around the same time as Hampton Court Palace, this delightful 4-star hotel is refined, yet relaxed. It has recently undergone a complete refurbishment, and the blend of colour and antiques give each room its own individual style. The riverside bar and restaurant have spectacular views over the river and Hampton Court Palace is located just a few paces from the front door of the hotel.



The Spa Hotel, Royal Tunbridge Wells (4 nights)

Situated in 14 acres of picturesque grounds on the edge of Royal Tunbridge Wells, The Spa is a 4-star family run hotel offering 70 well-appointed and individually styled bedrooms. Originally built in 1766 as a country mansion, the hotel is surrounded by glorious gardens and includes an indoor swimming pool, gym, floodlit tennis court and 2 AA rosette restaurant.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£4,350 price per person (sharing twin or double room)
£440 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 7 nights' accommodation at 4-star hotels with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 5 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).
- One year's membership of the Royal Horticultural Society RHS.
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
- An information pack with detailed booklet about the gardens we will be visiting.
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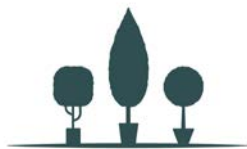
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Iconic English Gardens with Chelsea Flower Show - Tour 2

20th - 27th May 2023 (7 nights)



Visit the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show on members-only day, the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the majestic Hampton Court Palace. We also spend four days in Kent, exploring some of England's most iconic gardens including Great Dixter, Sissinghurst Castle and Leeds Castle.

Saturday 20th May

We meet at the Sheraton Heathrow Hotel and depart mid-morning. We make the short journey to the **Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew**. On arrival we will have a guided tour of the extensive gardens which have been designated as an UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is then free time to further explore and have lunch (independent). In the afternoon we check into the **4-star Richmond Harbour Hotel**, Richmond. Dinner in the hotel (included).

Sunday 21st May

This morning we enjoy a **private cruise along the River Thames to Hampton Court Palace** which is our first stop today. Discover the world of King Henry VIII and his Tudor Court and the vast formal gardens that extend over 60 acres. There is free time for lunch (independent). In the afternoon we return to the hotel for dinner (included).



Monday 22nd May

Today we visit **RHS Wisley** – the Royal Horticultural Society's headquarters. We will have a guided tour of the superb and varied gardens, followed by lunch (included) in the Tulip Room. We return to the hotel in the afternoon where your evening is at leisure.

Tuesday 23rd May

Today we enjoy the first members-only day at the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**. Marvel at the magnificent floral displays proudly presented by the best nurseries and specialist growers in the main pavilion. Be inspired by the extraordinary show gardens created by the leading lights in horticulture and enjoy the extensive array of gardening tools and gifts. Later, we travel to Kent and check into the **4-star Chilston Park Hotel**. Dinner in the hotel (included).

Wednesday 24th May

Our first visit today is a pre-opening guided tour of **Great Dixter House and Garden**, a cottage garden on a grand scale developed by the late Christopher Lloyd. The gardens are now curated by internationally renowned gardener, Fergus Garrett. Afterwards, we head to the delightful medieval town of **Rye** for lunch (included) and shopping.



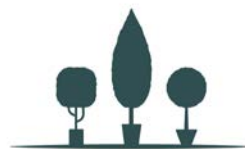


Photo credits: Long Barn © Claire Takacs; Wisley ©RHS.

We continue onto **Godinton House and Gardens**, a superb ancient estate where we will enjoy a private guided tour of the splendid formal gardens. Both the Jacobean house and gardens have been lovingly restored. We return to the hotel where your evening is at leisure.

Thursday 25th May

After a leisurely start, we make our way to **Pashley Manor**, an immaculate garden with emphasis on colour and form that surrounds a beautiful, timbered Tudor house with 18th century additions. We enjoy an introductory talk and time to explore the gardens and have lunch (independent).

In the afternoon we visit **Leeds Castle**, said to be 'the loveliest castle in the world'. There is time to explore the magnificent medieval castle and its extensive gardens. We have dinner in a **traditional English pub** (included).

Friday 26th May

Today we begin with a visit to **Chartwell House**, home of Sir Winston Churchill, wartime British Prime Minister. Chartwell is much more than just a fascinating house, it boasts an extensive garden and his studio which is home to the largest collection of Churchill's paintings. Lunch (independent) at Chartwell.

In the afternoon we are treated to an exclusive visit to the beautiful private gardens at **Long Barn**. This was the first home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, where they 'served their gardening apprenticeship', before moving to Sissinghurst. We meet the owner who will tell us about this historically important house and garden. We have our final night dinner in the hotel's Orangery (included).

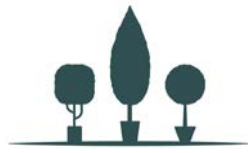
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Richmond Harbour Hotel & Spa, Richmond Hill (3 nights)

Sitting at the top of Richmond Hill, this beautiful 18th century Georgian property has been named as one of the 100 Best British Hotels by the Sunday Times for its unrivalled park-side position, luxury spa and contemporary interiors. The hotel has recently been fully renovated and offers delightful bedrooms, a plant-filled restaurant and lovely spa.



Chilston Park Hotel, Kent (4 nights)

Over the years Chilston Park Hotel has been home to eminent politicians, writers, lords and viscounts and today it is renowned as one of the best hotels in Kent. It is a classic British country house hotel housed in a 17th century manor house with attractive décor, antiques and 22 acres of beautiful grounds to explore. The restaurant has gained 2 AA Rosettes for its delicious seasonal, local food.



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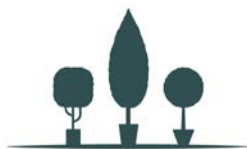
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Cotswolds Highlights with the Royal Gardens at Highgrove

17th - 23rd June 2023 (6 nights)



Join us on our exclusive garden tour to The Cotswolds – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with stone walls, open skies, rolling grasslands, beech woods and captivating villages. We will be staying at two delightful hotels from which we explore wonderful gardens and quintessential English towns and villages. We will enjoy private guided tours, many by the owners themselves and see all the gardens at the height of their summer glory.

Saturday 17th June

After our morning pick up at Heathrow Airport, we head north to the charming **4-star King's Head Hotel** in the heart of the historic market town of Cirencester. En-route we visit **a delightful private garden**, originally designed by Arne Maynard, and enjoy a guided tour and lunch (included) in the garden. We check into the hotel in the afternoon. Dinner in the hotel (included).

Sunday 18th June

We begin with a visit to **a superb private garden**. Set amongst beautiful traditional farm buildings, this plantsperson's garden combines formality and informality. We have time to look around the gardens followed by lunch (included). In the late afternoon we visit **Barnsley House**, the famous garden of the late garden expert, Rosemary Verey. We have drinks in the garden followed by dinner (included).



Monday 19th June

For many, today is a highlight of the tour as we visit the **Royal Gardens at Highgrove**, home to HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. These gardens have been created by the Prince of Wales over 30 years and are widely regarded as some of the most innovative in the UK.

We continue to a pretty village near Cirencester for lunch (included) in **a wonderful private garden**, made up of garden rooms. The owner will be on hand to tell us about their development. Your evening is at leisure in Cirencester.



Please note: Visits to Highgrove are limited and dependent on the Prince's diary. Dates are released in early spring each year, therefore it is not possible to guarantee a visit before this time. Our itinerary may be re-ordered to accommodate the visit, or an alternative garden will be included should a visit not be possible.

Tuesday 20th June

After checking out of the hotel, we visit the private garden at **Thorougham Court**, which nestles in a secret valley. This extraordinary garden, designed by its owner, is inspired by scientific facts and theories, and the numbers and patterns found in nature. From here we make a stop in the Cotswolds



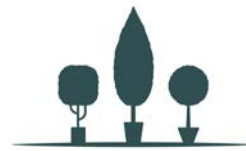


Photo credits: ©Kiftsgate Court, ©Highgrove Enterprises.

market town of **Stow-on-the-Wold** where you'll have time to browse the eclectic shops, look around the ancient church and have lunch (independent). **Bourton House Garden** is our next stop. This garden is inspirational with stunning colour combinations, superb topiary and exotic plants. We then check into the **4-star Lygon Arms Hotel**. This stylish hotel is located in the heart of the Cotswolds town of **Broadway**. Dinner in the hotel (included).

Wednesday 21st June

Today we explore the beautiful Elizabethan home of the Throckmorton family since 1409, **Coughton Court**. We enjoy a private tour of the gardens and have lunch with the owners (included). The 25-acre grounds feature a walled garden, a rose labyrinth boasting over 200 varieties of roses, bog garden and a delightful courtyard garden. In the afternoon we visit the superb garden at **Morton Hall**. This 8-acre historic garden has undergone an extensive make-over in recent years and is one of England's most exciting private gardens to visit. We meet the owner for a tour and refreshments. Your evening is at leisure in Broadway.

Thursday 22nd June

Enjoy a free morning in Broadway to visit the museums, galleries and shops. Lunch (independent). In the afternoon we visit **Kiftsgate Court Gardens**, a delightfully laid out garden on top of a hill with magnificent views over the Vale of Evesham. The garden is the creation of three generations of women gardeners.

We end the day with an exclusive 'after hours' visit to the famous **Hidcote Manor Garden**. Major Lawrence Johnston is claimed to have been the originator here of the 'garden room'. We'll be given an introductory talk then explore the gardens and enjoy drinks on the terrace. We return to Broadway for **dinner at Russell's Restaurant** (included).

Friday 23rd June

Our final garden visit is to **Upton Wold**. We will be taken on a tour to explore this intriguing garden that has been created over the last 40 years by the owners, originally with the help of landscape architects Hal Moggridge and Brenda Colvin. Highlights include the fountain garden, rose garden, fruit and vegetable gardens, meadow, labyrinth and the national collection of walnut trees. We have lunch (included) in the garden room.

In the late afternoon we drop off at the Sheraton Heathrow Hotel and Heathrow Airport Terminal 3 for inter-terminal transport links and the Heathrow Express train travel into London.

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OUR HOTELS

Our hotels are 4-star and selected for their high standards of comfort and service. All rooms are ensuite and offer free wifi access.

The King's Head, Cirencester (3 nights)

The King's Head Hotel is an elegant boutique hotel with 45 stylish bedrooms. The exact age of the King's Head is not known, but it was certainly in existence as a coaching inn in the middle of the 14th century. The Kings Head is listed as a building of special architectural and historical interest with strong links to the English Civil War.



The Lygon Arms, Broadway (3 nights)

Awarded Editor's Choice Historic Hotel 2021 by The Good Hotel Guide, the Lygon Arms is one of Britain's most historic inns – its guest list has included both King Charles I and Oliver Cromwell. Today the hotel offers stylishly comfortable rooms, numerous lounges and snugs, superb outdoor areas, gardens and an elegant swimming pool & spa.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£4,100 price per person (sharing twin or double room)
£670 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 6 nights' accommodation at 4-star hotels with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 4 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
- An information pack with detailed booklet about the gardens we will be visiting.
- Transfers to and from the hotel to Heathrow Airport at the start and end of the tour.
- Services of your Sisley tour director throughout.

Prices exclude:

- Airfares.
- Passport and/or visa fees if applicable.
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Tour Payment:

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Historic Houses & Hidden Gardens of Eastern England

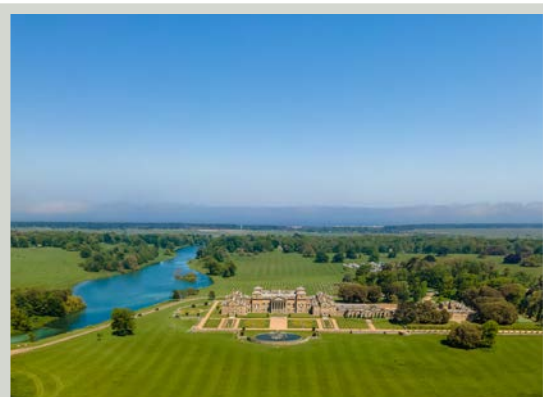
17th - 24th June 2023 (7 nights)



Join us on our new, exclusive garden tour to Eastern England and explore fascinating historic houses and discover its hidden gardens. The counties of Norfolk and Suffolk were once some of the wealthiest in England and are home to some superlative country estates, picturesque villages, rolling countryside and beautiful gardens.

Saturday 17th June

After our morning pick up at Heathrow Airport, we head north to our first hotel, the charming **4-star Titchwell Manor Hotel**, on the North Norfolk Coast. En-route we visit a **delightful private garden** which surrounds an idyllic thatched cottage where we meet the owner who is a skilled and knowledgeable plantswoman and enjoy a guided garden tour and lunch (included) in the garden. We check into the hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner in the hotel (included).



Sunday 18th June

We begin our day with a private guided tour of the 18th century Palladian style **Holkham Hall**, home of the Earl of Leicester. Afterwards, there will be time for lunch (independent) and a visit to the walled garden. An exciting project is underway to rejuvenate the 6 acres of walled garden which were originally laid out by Samuel Wyatt during the late 1700s.



In the afternoon we visit a **fascinating private walled garden**, designed by Arne Maynard. There is also a lake with picturesque island and historic dovecote to explore. We meet the owner and have tea in the ancient barn. We return to the hotel for dinner (included).

Monday 19th June

Today we take a scenic drive along the north Norfolk coast to **East Ruston Old Vicarage**. This beautiful, 32-acre masterpiece garden contains many garden rooms with herbaceous borders, gravel gardens, sub-tropical gardens, a box parterre, sunken rose garden, Mediterranean garden, desert wash and a large woodland garden. We visit when the garden is closed to the public and will be joined by the owner for an introductory talk followed by a walk through the garden. Lunch will be served in the garden room (included). In the afternoon we stop off at **Holt** for some free time in this historic market town before returning to the hotel where your evening is at leisure.



Tuesday 20th June

After a leisurely start, we visit the local town of **Burnham Market**. This historic centre makes a pleasant stop for some lunch (independent) and shopping. We continue from here to

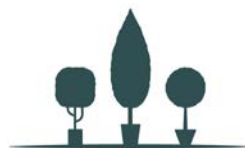


Photo credits: ©Elsing Hall; ©Ulting Wick.

a stunning private property where we will be taken on a tour of the extensive walled gardens. In the early evening, we enjoy a private tour of **Sandringham House**, a much loved country home of Her Majesty The Queen. We are treated to an exclusive tour of the house followed by drinks. We return to the hotel for dinner (included).

Wednesday 21st June

After checking out of the hotel, we head south towards Suffolk. Our first garden visit of the day is to the enchanting **Elsing Hall** – a medieval moated manor house dating from 1470. We meet the owners and take a stroll through the gardens that they have developed over the last 30 years. We continue onto **a unique garden which is the home of renowned garden designer, George Carter**. The 2-acre formal garden is arranged round the farmhouse and is a predominantly ‘green’ garden. After lunch (included) we explore the gardens with the owner.

We arrive in Lavenham in the late afternoon and check into the **4-star Swan Hotel**. Your evening is at leisure to explore the fabulous Suffolk town of **Lavenham**.

Thursday 22nd June

Our first visit today is to **Wyken Hall Garden**, a garden divided into rooms which surrounds the Elizabethan manor house. Afterwards, we head to the historic town of **Bury St. Edmunds** for lunch (independent) and free time. Later we make a visit to **Columbine Hall**. The hall is over 600 years old and is surrounded by a deep and wide moat. We will meet the owner for a tour of the fascinating house and glorious gardens. We return to the hotel for dinner (included).

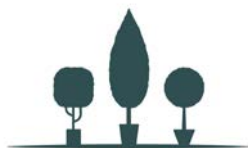
Friday 23rd June

Today we begin with a visit to **the home of Beth Chatto OBE**, who was an award-winning plantswoman, author and lecturer. After a talk about the gardens there is time to explore and have lunch (independent). In the afternoon we visit the privately-owned **Helmingham Hall** for an exclusive tour of the magnificent gardens. We return to the hotel for our final night dinner together (included).

Saturday 24th June

After checking out of the hotel, we visit a most intriguing garden, **Ulting Wick**. The 11-acre garden has been redesigned, extended and developed over the past 20 years by the current owners. Lunch (included) will be served in one of the historic barns. In the afternoon, we drop off at The Sheraton Heathrow Hotel and Heathrow Airport Terminal 3 for inter-terminal transport links and the Heathrow Express train travel into London.

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OUR HOTELS

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Titchwell Manor, North Norfolk (4 nights)

Titchwell Manor is an attractive, boutique 28-bedroom country retreat offering relaxed fine dining. The Victorian farmhouse has recently been restored and offers bright airy bedrooms, an excellent restaurant, pretty garden with seating and a warm welcome. It is perfectly located for exploring the nearby gardens and coastline.

The Swan Hotel, Lavenham (3 nights)

Set in the heart of the charming and historic medieval village of Lavenham, this luxury 4-star hotel has an oak beamed interior giving it a cosy feel and a sense of stepping back in time. The rooms are comfortably furnished and the hotel has a bar, two restaurants, a spa and garden and a very comfortable lounge.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£4,200 price per person (sharing twin or double room)
£650 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 7 nights' accommodation at 4-star hotels with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 5 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
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Exclusive English Summer Gardens from Hever Castle 25th - 30th June 2023 (5 nights)



This spectacular high-season tour explores some of South East England's very best gardens and houses. Our luxury accommodation for the tour is the Astor Wing at historic Hever Castle, of which we have exclusive use and after-hours access to the castle gardens. We'll enjoy extraordinary gardens in their full profusion, private tours, fascinating historic houses and attractive scenery.

Sunday 25th June

Our tour departs Heathrow Airport mid-morning. We travel to **Penshurst Place**, a wonderful 13th century fortified manor house with an 11-acre, formal Grade I listed garden. We have a tour of the gardens followed by lunch (independent).



Later we check into the very special **Hever Castle**, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII. Marvel at this double-moated castle and its garden, with a 35-acre lake, fountains and magnificent original Roman and Italian Renaissance statuary. We have dinner in the Tudor Dining Suite (included). Guests are able to explore parts of the grounds at Hever Castle after the castle closes to the public.

Monday 26th June

This morning we enjoy a visit to **Nymans Garden**, one of the most fashionable and romantic gardens of the Edwardian and interwar years, and the creation of the Messel family. The house was devastated by fire, leaving just a romantic ruin as the garden's focal point. There is time to explore the gardens and the part of the house that escaped the fire.



We then head to **Gravetye Manor**, the former home of William Robinson, author, botanist and gardener. Gravetye is considered to be amongst the most influential in Britain's gardening history as Robinson's ideas about naturalised planting were ground-breaking. We are treated to lunch in Gravetye's award-winning restaurant (included) followed by a guided tour of the gardens. We return to Hever Castle for a **traditional English Afternoon Tea** (included).

Tuesday 27th June

This morning we enjoy time at leisure at **Hever Castle** to explore the gardens and grounds. We depart late morning to visit the historic town of **Royal Tunbridge Wells**. There will be time for shopping and lunch (independent). In the afternoon we visit **Town Place Garden**. This private 3-acre garden, set around a 17th century Sussex farmhouse features over 600 roses. Afterwards we continue onto a **superb, private 6-acre garden** that is divided by hedges into smaller gardens, reflecting different periods of English Garden design. We are treated to supper in the coach house (included).



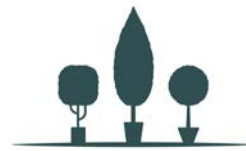


Photo credits: Gravetye Manor ©Claire Takacs, Great Comp ©Peter Davin, Hever Castle ©VisitBritain/Pete Seaward.

Wednesday 28th June

We start the day with a pre-opening guided tour of **Great Dixter House and Garden**, a cottage garden on a grand scale. The well-known gardening writer and lecturer Christopher Lloyd who developed the garden until his death in 2006, liked to tease the followers of garden fashion with bold experimentation. The gardens are now superbly managed by internationally renowned gardener, Fergus Garrett. There is free time at Great Dixter for lunch (independent).

In the afternoon we visit a nearby **private home with an impressive award-winning hillside garden**. Set within an 80-acre estate, this compact and richly planted garden includes distinct areas including a water garden, a Japanese garden, a woodland garden and a walled vegetable garden. The numerous grasses provide glorious texture and colour. This evening, we have dinner in a **traditional country pub** (included).

Thursday 29th June

Today we begin with a 'pre-opening' tour of **Sissinghurst Castle**, a romantic garden created around a slender brick-built castle tower – this is always one of our most enjoyed visits. Its designer Vita Sackville-West's own words describe the garden, "Profusion, even extravagance and exuberance within the confines of the utmost linear severity". There will be free time for lunch (independent) and exploration of the gardens after our tour.

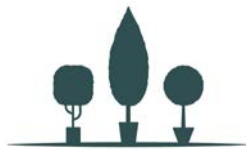
In the afternoon we explore **Great Comp Garden**, an enormous achievement by two people who retired in 1957 from a busy London life. This is an informal garden set against a background of deciduous woodland. The gardens are now cared for by curator, William Dyson, the UK's leading Salvia expert so you'll see wonderful herbaceous borders and unusual plants. We return to Hever Castle for our final night dinner in the **Castle Dining Hall** (included).

Friday 30th June

For our last visit of the tour we head to **RHS Wisley**, the home of the Royal Horticultural Society. Full of ideas and information, the garden delights and inspires in any season of the year. We enjoy a guided tour so you'll be sure to see the very best of these impressive gardens, then have lunch (included) in the private Tulip Room at Wisley.

In the afternoon we drop off at The Sheraton Heathrow Hotel and Heathrow Airport Terminal 3 for inter-terminal transport links and the Heathrow Express train travel into London.

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OUR CASTLE

Hever Castle, Kent (5 nights)

Have you ever dreamt of staying at an English Castle? Well, here is your chance.

Our luxury accommodation for this five-night tour will be the Astor Wing, an Edwardian wing designed in the Tudor style attached to Hever Castle by an enclosed bridge over the moat. The comfortably appointed accommodation offers antique furnishings and original features along with all the modern comforts required – ensuite bathrooms, wifi and luxury textiles.

We will have exclusive use of the Astor wing during our stay. There is an outdoor heated pool, tennis court and billiards room for your exclusive use. Guests can access parts of the garden when the castle and grounds are closed to the public.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£4,000 price per person (sharing twin or double room)
£350 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 5 nights' accommodation at Hever Castle's Astor Wing with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 5 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
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Glorious Gardens and Castles of Wales

9th - 15th July 2023 (6 nights)



This delightful, high season tour travels the length of Wales and incorporates superb scenery including Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons National Parks. We visit medieval castles, famous gardens, private estates and stay in two lovely hotels. We also include a day at the famous Italianate village of Portmeirion.

Sunday 9th July

We meet at **London Euston Train Station** for our mid-morning departure. We take a relaxing train journey to Crewe where the coach will meet us for our transfer to the hotel. We arrive, mid-afternoon at the **4-star Bodysgallen Hall**. This lovely country house hotel is situated in 200 acres of parkland with a unique 17th century parterre garden. We have time to look around the delightful gardens with drinks before dinner in the hotel (included).

Monday 10th July

We begin our day with a visit to **Bodnant Gardens** – often described as one of the most spectacular gardens in Britain with their formal terraces giving far reaching views to the mountains of Snowdonia. We have an introductory talk on arrival followed by free time to explore the gardens and have lunch (independent). In the afternoon, we journey across North Wales, passing Conwy Castle to the **Island of Anglesey**. Here we visit **Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens**. This large estate has been restored since 1996 and the historic gardens have undergone a spectacular transformation. They are now considered a plantsman's paradise with three distinct areas: the walled garden, valley gardens and upper woodland garden. We have dinner in a local restaurant (included).

Tuesday 11th July

Today we take a scenic drive through **Snowdonia National Park** to the fascinating and quirky village of **Portmeirion**. We will enjoy a guided tour through the Italianate village which was developed by Welsh architect, Sir Clough Williams-Ellis over 50 years from the 1920's. His vision was to show how a naturally beautiful site could be developed without spoiling it. We then have lunch (included) in the Art Deco restaurant overlooking the estuary. In the afternoon we head back to our hotel, stopping en-route to visit the majestic **Caernarfon Castle**. Dinner in the hotel (included).

Wednesday 12th July

After checking out of our hotel, we travel south and visit **Powis Castle**. We enjoy a guided gardens tour and free time for lunch (independent). This impressive medieval castle houses the treasures collected by the Clive family and the terraced garden

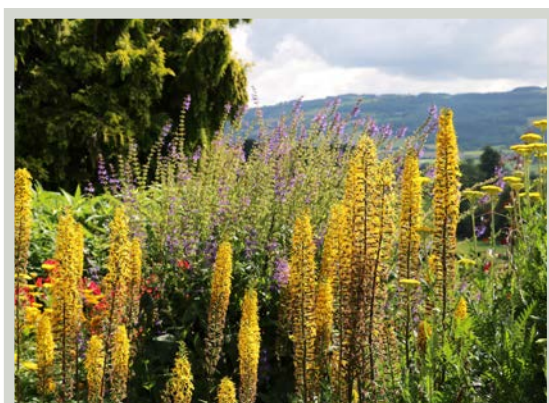




Photo credits: Brockhampton Cottage © P. Clay; High Glanau © H. Gerrish.

boasts spectacular yew hedges, lavish herbaceous borders and Italianate terraces. We then continue to **Abergavenny**, an attractive market town on the edge of the **Brecon Beacons National Park** to check into the **4-star Angel Hotel**. We have dinner in the hotel (included).

Thursday 13th July

After a leisurely start this morning we visit **Llanover Gardens**. This wonderful estate sits in the Usk Valley at the foot of the Black Mountains. The 18-acre Grade II-listed garden features a walled 'round garden', two arboreta and extensive herbaceous borders and lawns. We pause, nearby, for a light lunch (included). In the afternoon we stop at **the home of two self-confessed 'plantaholics'** whose knowledge of botany and plant breeding is unsurpassed. They will show us around their 2-acre garden which is densely planted to generate an exuberant display through the seasons. Your evening is at leisure in Abergavenny.

Friday 14th July

Today we visit two gardens that have flourished under the creative eye of landscape designer Tom Stuart-Smith. We begin with a visit to **Brockhampton Cottage** that sits on a rise in the south Herefordshire countryside and gives wonderful views of the landscape beyond. The garden is a harmonious mixed palette of perennials and grasses that flows through the gardens and blends with the landscape beyond.

We continue to a nearby **18th century manor house, surrounded by a delightful garden**. We have lunch (included) on arrival then stroll through the garden which is planted on two levels. This contemporary two-acre garden features mixed planting of perennials and grasses and was also designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, so expect drama, texture and colour. We return to the hotel for dinner (included).

Saturday 15th July

We check-out this morning and head back towards London. En-route we make a stop at a true Arts & Crafts gem – **High Glanau Manor**. This beautiful house was the home of Avrey Tipping, editor of Country Life Magazine in the 1920's. The current owners have restored the gardens to their original glory and we are invited to have lunch with them in the house (included) before strolling through the gardens.

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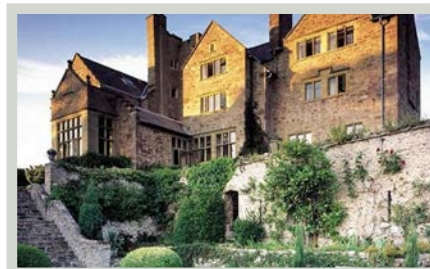
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Bodysgallen Hall, Llandudno (3 nights)

Secluded in over 200 acres of parkland with spectacular views of Snowdonia, Grade 1 listed Bodysgallen Hall provides all that is best in country house hospitality. Beautiful gardens include a 17th century parterre of box hedges, a walled rose garden and several follies. All 31 rooms are individually designed in a traditional country house style and thoughtfully furnished with antiques and paintings.

The Angel, Abergavenny (3 nights)

The Angel is a smart, lively hotel in the middle of picturesque Abergavenny. The elegant former coaching inn, has 32 comfortable rooms, a stylish restaurant and a separate cosy bar. The interiors have been finished with a subtle country feel, elegant chandeliers, big ferns in vases and works by local artists.



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Great Houses and Gardens of Yorkshire & the Lake District

2nd - 9th September 2023 (7 nights)



This delightful, late season tour takes in some of the very finest country houses and gardens of Yorkshire and the Lake District. We'll explore York, one of England's greatest historic cities and travel through the spectacular landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District National Parks visiting iconic stately homes and hidden, private gardens.

Saturday 2nd September

Our tour starts in the early afternoon at our base for the first four nights of the tour, the **5-star Grand Hotel** in the heart of historic **York**. From here we'll take a walking tour of York. We will explore medieval streets, the 'Shambles', city walls and make a visit to the mighty, medieval **York Minster**. Dinner in the hotel (included).



Sunday 3rd September

Today we begin at one of the most recognised and loved of Britain's stately homes, **Castle Howard**. It is home to the Howard family and made famous by its central role in the filming of *Brideshead Revisited* and more recently, *Bridgerton*. We'll be treated to a pre-opening tour of the house, followed by free time to explore the gardens. After lunch (independent) we'll discover one of Yorkshire's newest and most interesting gardens, **Scampston Walled Garden**. It a contemporary master-piece of the renowned Dutch designer, Piet Oudolf. We return to York and enjoy dinner (included) in the hotel.



Monday 4th September

We begin our day with a visit to **Newby Hall**, a delightful Queen Anne-style house with award-winning gardens, and home to one of the world's finest dolls house collections. We have a private guided tour of the house before enjoying a traditional **English Afternoon Tea in the private Orangery** (included). In the afternoon, we visit one of Yorkshire's finest private gardens, **Littlethorpe Manor**. The head gardener will take us on a tour of the garden, which recently enjoyed a major extension and now boasts a stunning apothecaries garden. Your evening is at leisure in York.



Tuesday 5th September

Our first garden today is located within the **Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**. This **private garden** has been developed since 2009 and features 12 distinct garden rooms with exceptional plant combinations. We take a tour with the owner then make our way to the handsome market town of **Helmsley**, where there is free time for lunch (independent). In the afternoon we visit a **second stunning private garden** that was designed by Tom Stuart-Smith and incorporates a vast, productive walled garden, stepped parterres and a deep gorge woodland garden. We enjoy **dinner in a local country pub** (included).



Photo credits: York skyline ©VisitYork; Roses ©D. Liss; Harlow Carr ©RHS.

Wednesday 6th September

Checking out of our hotel, we head west and stop at the Royal Horticultural Society's northern home, **Harlow Carr**. There is time to explore these fabulous gardens and the excellent shop. We then travel through the **Yorkshire Dales National Park** and stop off for lunch (included) at a **Yorkshire Dales pub**. Afterwards, we visit the nearby **Parcevall Hall**, a delightful Arts & Crafts style garden and unique bedrock limestone rock garden. In the afternoon, we travel onwards to the **Lake District – England's largest National Park** and inspiration to some of our most celebrated poets and authors. We check into the **4-star Lakeside Hotel** on the shores of Lake Windermere. Dinner at the hotel (included).

Thursday 7th September

We begin the day with a visit to the Elizabethan **Levens Hall** with its unique and ancient collection of topiary figures. The gardens were laid out in the 1690's and have changed little since. We have a tour of the gardens, time to visit the hall and have lunch (independent). Later we head to **Holker Hall**, the seat of Lord and Lady Cavendish – great garden enthusiasts. We take a tour of the magnificent Jacobean stately home, set in exceptionally beautiful countryside. This evening we enjoy dinner in the hotel (included).

Friday 8th September

This morning, we take a **private lake cruise** from our hotel to Bowness-on-Windermere. We continue through the Lake District National Park and make a stop in **Grasmere**, home of William Wordsworth and the famous gingerbread shop. We continue onto **Lowther Castle**, an intriguing contemporary garden, designed by Dan Pearson and set within the dramatic ruins of the castle. We have lunch (included) in the Sculpture Gallery followed by a tour of the gardens. In the afternoon, we take a scenic drive back to our hotel for dinner (included).

Saturday 9th September

Our final day takes us back to York. Before leaving the Lake District, we make a visit to **Hill Top**, the home of Beatrix Potter, author, illustrator, natural scientist and conservationist, best known for her Tales of Peter Rabbit. The cottage feels as if Beatrix has just stepped out into the surrounding countryside that she loved so well. We have lunch (included) on our return journey to York, arriving late-afternoon for independent onward travel.

NOTE: Our tour starts and ends in the city of York. We can assist with travel planning. This tour can be combined with our Scotland tour to create a fascinating 2-week exploration of the north of the UK.

[Full details of tour joining and departure can be found on our website.](#)



OUR HOTELS

Our hotels are 4 and 5-star and selected for their high standards of comfort and service. All rooms are ensuite and offer free wifi access.

The Grand, York (4 nights)

The Grand was once the HQ for the North Eastern Railway Company, one of the wealthiest businesses of the Edwardian era. Now reborn as a luxury 5-star hotel, but retaining its original splendour, The Grand, York features beautiful public spaces, spacious rooms, two restaurants and bars and a delightful spa.

The Lakeside Hotel, Newby Bridge, the Lake District (3 nights)

This comfortable 4-star hideaway is located on the shores of Windermere in the Lake District National Park. With restful bedrooms, delicious fine dining inspired by fresh local produce, beautiful gardens and indulgent spa, Lakeside is the perfect place to relax and soak up the atmosphere.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£4,000 price per person (sharing twin or double room)
£560 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 7 nights' accommodation at 4 and 5-star hotels with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 6 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
- An information pack with detailed booklet about the gardens we will be visiting.
- Services of your Sisley tour director throughout.

Prices exclude:

- Airfares.
- Passport and/or visa fees if applicable.
- Meals not included in the tour, drinks, laundry, and telephone calls.

Tour Payment:

A 10% non-refundable deposit is required to secure your place(s) on the tour. Your balance payment is due 90 days prior to the tour departure.

BOOK YOUR TOUR

There are three ways to book your garden tour:

With your own travel agent:

You can book a Sisley Garden Tour in your local currency through your own travel agent. Just provide us with their contact details on your booking form and we will take care of the rest.

With our travel partner in the USA:

After 20 happy years of partnership, Worldwide Traveler has retired as our US travel partner. We are currently seeking to appoint a new representative to work with in the US. Please contact us for details.

With Sisley Garden Tours:

All clients are welcome to book a tour directly with us. We can accept payment in GBP£ by bank transfer or by credit/ debit card.

Contact: Fran Pride or Colette Walker

T: +44 (0)1423 396506. E: tours@sisley.co.uk

Booking form: To book your place(s) please complete our online booking form at www.sisley.co.uk/2023-booking-form. As soon as we receive your booking form, we will confirm availability on the tour of your choice and arrange collection of your deposit which secures your booking.

Booking terms & conditions: Full details of our booking terms & conditions can be found at www.sisley.co.uk/terms-and-conditions.

Please see the **Frequently Asked Questions** section on our website for further information.

www.sisley.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/



Scotland's Finest Castles and Gardens

10th - 17th September 2023 (7 nights)



This spectacular tour explores the very best castles and gardens in Scotland, as well as following some of its most scenic driving routes through the Scottish Borders and Highlands. Expect majestic castles, beautiful planting schemes, private gardens and the vibrancy of Edinburgh.

Sunday 10th September

We meet at the **Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh** in the late morning. From here we board our coach for the journey to **Inverness**. It is a drive of around 4 hours so all you have to do is enjoy the Scottish scenery and relax. We will make a lunch stop at the **House of Bruar**. Later, we check into the **4-star Ness Walk Hotel, Inverness**. We have dinner in the hotel (included).



Monday 11th September

Today we visit two inspired private highland gardens. The first, **Logie House and Steading** is an extensive estate originating from the 17th century with a vast array of herbaceous plants. We meet the owner before strolling down to the steading with its cafe, eclectic shops and art gallery.

In the afternoon we visit a **private garden located in a magnificent highland glen**. We have lunch (included) then explore with the owners, this glorious garden of shrubs, herbaceous plants, rhododendrons, trees and spectacular views down the Findhorn River. We return to Inverness, where your evening is at leisure.



Tuesday 12th September

We have a beautiful drive today across the highlands to **Inverewe Garden**, a lush garden full of unusual and wonderful plants which thrive thanks to the warmth of the Gulf Stream. We have lunch at Inverewe (independent).

We continue to **Durnamuck Garden**, a private coastal plantsman's garden on Little Loch Broom with stunning views. We meet the owners to hear how they developed this unique space. Afterwards, we return to Inverness for dinner (included) in the hotel.



Wednesday 13th September

This morning we visit the 14th century **Cawdor Castle** which was built as a private fortress by the Thanes of Cawdor and is famed for its connections with Shakespeare's Macbeth. We have a guided tour of the castle and time to explore the gardens before enjoying drinks in the garden and lunch (included). In the afternoon we return to Inverness for time to relax at the hotel or enjoy a stroll along the river into town. Your evening is at leisure to enjoy the vibrant restaurants in Inverness.



Photo credits: Edinburgh skyline, Jupiter Artland & Inverewe ©VisitScotland; credit Greywalls Hotel and Floors Castle.

Thursday 14th September

After checking out of our hotel, we make our way to Inverness station to catch the train back to **Edinburgh**, it is a most scenic journey. In the afternoon, we visit **Jupiter Artland**. This private collection of sculptures and land forms is situated in a 100-acre parkland surrounding a Jacobean manor house. The 35 site-specific works include pieces by Andy Goldsworthy, Ian Hamilton Finlay and Charles Jencks. We will have an early supper here (included), before checking into the **4-star Radisson Blu Hotel** located on the Royal Mile, Edinburgh.

Friday 15th September

Today we take a scenic drive south of Edinburgh through the beautiful Scottish Borders to **Floors Castle**, the seat of the Duke of Roxburghe and Scotland's largest inhabited castle. Here we meet the head gardener for a private guided tour of the walled gardens followed by free time to visit the castle and have lunch (independent). Our second stop today is at a **private estate** which has one of the best contemporary walled gardens in the UK. This stunning one-acre garden will be at its peak in early September with bold colours and innovative design. Dinner is included at the hotel in Edinburgh.

Saturday 16th September

This morning we make a visit to a **most attractive private, contemporary garden** planted around a farmstead, rescued from dereliction. We meet the owner of this splendid garden that displays excellent structure, imaginative use of objects and eye-catching planting.

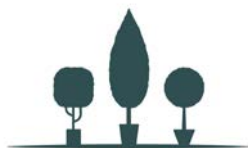
We continue onto **Greywalls**, a luxury hotel that overlooks Muirfield Golf Course. This attractive Edwardian house was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1901, and the 6-acre formal gardens are attributed to Gertrude Jekyll. We enjoy a guided tour of the gardens with the head gardener after lunch in the garden room (included). We return to Edinburgh mid-afternoon where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Sunday 17th September

Our final day starts with a visit to the majestic **Edinburgh Castle**, a historic fortress which dominates the skyline of the city. We are treated to a private lunch (included) in the Gatehouse Suite of Edinburgh Castle before returning to the hotel to wave goodbye for your onward journeys.

NOTE: Our tour starts and ends in Edinburgh. We can assist with travel planning. This tour can be combined with our Yorkshire & Lake District tour to create a fascinating 2 weeks exploring the north of the UK.

Full details of tour joining and departure can be found on our website.



OUR HOTELS

Our hotels are 4 and 5-star and selected for their high standards of comfort and service. All rooms are ensuite and offer free wifi access.

Ness Walk, Inverness (4 nights)

Ness Walk is a new, luxury hotel in Inverness with stunning five-star accommodation and sumptuous dining in the Torrish Restaurant. In a central, yet tranquil location on the banks of the River Ness, the interiors reflect the seasonal landscape with a flow of soft colours and textiles.

The Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh (3 nights)

This comfortable and well appointed hotel is designed to blend into the surrounding medieval architecture with its own 16th century-style façade. The hotel is situated in the very heart of the 'Old Town' and offers all modern facilities within, including indoor pool. The hotel is conveniently located for local restaurants, museums, shops and Edinburgh Castle.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£4,700 price per person (sharing twin or double room)

£750 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 7 nights' accommodation at 4 and 5-star hotels with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 4 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).
- Train travel between Inverness and Edinburgh.
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
- An information pack with detailed booklet about the gardens we will be visiting.
- Services of your Sisley tour director throughout.

Prices exclude:

- Airfares.
- Passport and/or visa fees if applicable.
- Meals not included in the tour, drinks, laundry, and telephone calls.

Tour Payment:

A 10% non-refundable deposit is required to secure your place(s) on the tour. Your balance payment is due 90 days prior to the tour departure.

BOOK YOUR TOUR

There are three ways to book your garden tour:

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With our travel partner in the USA:

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Contact: Fran Pride or Colette Walker

T: +44 (0)1423 396506. E: tours@sisley.co.uk

Booking form: To book your place(s) please complete our online booking form at www.sisley.co.uk/2023-booking-form. As soon as we receive your booking form, we will confirm availability on the tour of your choice and arrange collection of your deposit which secures your booking.

Booking terms & conditions: Full details of our booking terms & conditions can be found at www.sisley.co.uk/terms-and-conditions.

Please see the **Frequently Asked Questions** section on our website for further information.

www.sisley.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many people will be on my tour?

Our groups vary in size and are typically between 16 – 20 clients, no more than 22. A minimum of 14 clients are required to run a tour. Unlike a large coach company we can offer a truly personal experience.

How many times will I change hotel during my tour?

Our main aim is to give you a relaxing, fun and informative tour experience and the trials of multiple hotel changes are one of our 'pet hates'! We never use more than two hotels during a one-week tour and often base 5-night tours at one beautiful hotel, chosen for its location, service and comfort.

What type of hotels do Sisley Garden Tours use?

We use 4 and 5 star hotels ranging from modern custom-built hotels to historic country houses. All our hotels are chosen for their excellent levels of comfort and service and their location, to minimise travel time to our tour destinations. All rooms are en-suite and many have leisure facilities. Many of our favourite hotels are located in beautiful historic buildings and for this reason, rooms are often different shapes and sizes and the layout of the hotel may be 'unusual'.

Not all hotels have air-conditioning or lifts to every floor. Access to your room may require a flight of stairs. Please ask us if you would like more information on a specific hotel.

Do the rooms have bathtubs or showers?

All hotel rooms are private ensuite. Bathroom facilities can vary and you may find that some rooms will have a tub, some showers, some both.

What kind of room should I book?

When booking we need to know what kind of room you require; a twin room (two single-sized beds in a room), a double room (one standard-sized bed for two) or a single room (a double room for solo occupancy).

How much luggage can we bring?

Luggage is restricted to one standard sized suitcase and one carry-on per person.

Is portage included?

We include portage wherever possible in the hotels.

I am a single traveller. Is it possible to share a room? Why must I pay a single supplement?

We do not 'match up' single travellers but if you are keen to find a room share, we will put you in touch with any other single travellers with the same request. All hotels charge per room which makes solo occupancy more expensive than sharing. As a solo traveller you will be allocated a double room.

Can Sisley Garden Tours arrange additional nights' accommodation in the tour hotels at the start or end of the tour?

Yes, if rooms are available we would be happy to arrange extra nights for you. Please let us or your local travel agent know at the time of your booking and we will confirm availability and prices. Where tours start at Heathrow Airport, many clients flying in long haul from overseas find it beneficial to fly in the day before and stay at an airport hotel so that they are fully rested for the tour start.

Can special dietary restrictions be accommodated?

We will do our best to accommodate dietary restrictions and allergies, but you must ensure that they are made clear to us at the time of booking so we can share the information with the hotels and restaurants.



Is it necessary to have a good level of mobility?

Our aim is for every client to fully enjoy our tours. In order to achieve this, you do need to be fit enough to participate fully. Please bear in mind that you will have to climb steps to get on and off the coach several times per day, walk around large gardens, manage stairs in the hotels and showers over the bath. If you have any queries as to whether our tours are suitable for you, please check with us.

I have some health problems, and want to know if this will be a problem?

If your health problem is minor and you can self-manage it without additional care or special facilities, then we should be able to accommodate you. Whilst our primary aim as tour directors is to look after all our clients needs, we must ensure that particular needs of individuals do not adversely affect the experience of other group members.

How much walking is involved on tour?

The nature of the gardens and towns we visit means there is a reasonable amount of walking involved in our daily itineraries. Where guided tours of gardens are included as part of our visit, clients may always opt out to rest and where we visit historic towns and villages, the amount of walking and independent exploration is up to the client. Should clients wish to take a day off from the tour, they are perfectly welcome to do so as long as we are returning to the same hotel in the evening. If you have a mobility problem or concern, you may not find our tours suitable. Please contact us if you have any doubts.

Are airport transfers included in the tour price?

Unless the tour itinerary specifically states that the tour starts at the airport, transfers are not included. See individual itineraries for tour ending points. We can assist with arrival or departure planning.

What is the dress code?

Day wear is informal and we would recommend layers for variable temperatures, a waterproof jacket and appropriate footwear. In the evening we suggest 'smart casual'. Gentlemen are not required to wear jackets or tie.

What is a typical day on a Sisley garden tour?

Days can sometimes be fairly long, but we aim to take things at a relaxed pace and build in time for rest and relaxation in the day. We might typically leave at 9 am and arrive back at our hotel at 5 pm, however, some days may be longer and others shorter depending on the day's itinerary.

What sort of vehicle do we travel in?

Sisley Garden Tours has a number of established partnerships with professional coach operators who provide both a professional driver and deluxe midi-coach for our tours in addition to the services of your Sisley tour director. We like to use local companies with excellent local knowledge and the coaches we use are chosen for their comfort and sized appropriately for the tour group size. Our coaches benefit from air conditioning and PA system.

How much driving do we do?

We design tours so that there is as little wasted time as possible on the coach and plenty to see while aboard. Inevitably, there are days when travelling between locations may involve motorway driving and more mileage. We do travel along scenic routes wherever possible and you will see more of the countryside and local village life than on a regular tour.

Am I expected to leave gratuities?

All tour gratuities are included in the price including tour director, coach driver and hotel tips. However, if during the tour you visit a cafe or restaurant independently or have used a taxi, it is common to leave a small gratuity (typically 10%) if you have received good service.

What meals are included?

Delicious breakfasts, lunch and/or dinner are included daily (see tour itinerary for details of meal inclusions). One thing to remember, dinner times in the UK are usually from 7 pm.

Do you include entrance fees to attractions?

All entries to the gardens and flower shows set out in the tour itinerary are included in the price. In addition, we include entrance fees to historic houses that form part of our itinerary when they are open to the public and a number of garden talks/ tours by head gardeners and garden owners.



What is not included in a Sisley garden tour?

Air fares (except where included in the itinerary); drinks; items of a personal nature; entrance fees when not included in our tour itinerary; guide books and other literature for sale at the gardens we visit; incidental expenses, such as telephone bills, newspapers, laundry and room service incurred at the hotels is the responsibility of the individual client. All expenses are to be settled at check-out.

Will I need a visa?

It is your responsibility to obtain any visas which might be necessary enabling you to join the tour. Please check with your local consular office as to any visa requirements for entry into the UK.

What happens if I have to cancel?

If a tour is running but you have to cancel, through illness or any other reason including Covid-19 local travel restrictions, you would be due a refund of your tour costs in line with our standard Terms & Conditions - see page 32. We strongly recommend cancellation cover is taken out as part of your travel insurance.

Do I need to take out travel insurance for my trip?

It is a condition of booking that you, and all members of your party, take out comprehensive travel insurance before you travel on a Sisley Garden Tour and that it is adequate for your needs. Your insurance must include cover for

medical and repatriation expenses, personal injury and personal liability. We strongly recommend you also obtain cover on booking for loss of baggage, money and valuables, delay, curtailment, missed departure, cancellation expenses and legal expenses. You will be asked to provide your travel insurer name, contact number and policy number before you join our tour.

Do I need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to take a tour?

At the time of publication, it is mandatory to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before joining our tours. You may be asked to provide evidence of your vaccination status on arrival. If you are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons, please get in touch before booking your tour.

Is my deposit refundable if I cannot travel due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2023?

If we are prevented from running a tour on which you are booked due to Covid-19 restrictions in the UK, you will receive a refund. All deposits are held in a secure client account until the date of tour departure. At no point is client money used for the general running of the business.

Will I be able to get a refund if the tour is running but I cannot travel from my local area because of Covid-19 restrictions?

If a tour is running but you are prevented from joining it due to any particular localised circumstances, such as flight cancellation, an adverse weather event, ill health, or indeed Covid-19 local travel restrictions, you would be due a refund of your tour costs in line with our standard Terms & Conditions - see page 32.

Who goes on a Sisley Garden Tour?

Our clients come from all over the world with many joining us from the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Europe. All tour commentaries are in English.

Do you only offer scheduled tours or do you offer bespoke tour planning?

We are delighted to design and operate bespoke tour itineraries (minimum group size of 12). Please contact us to discuss your requirements.

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

Sisley Garden Tours Standard Terms & Conditions

Tour Price Includes: Accommodation at 4 and 5 star hotels with en-suite facilities; breakfast daily; dinner and/or lunch each day; admissions to gardens & RHS shows in the itinerary; deluxe coach travel with professional driver; guest speakers and guides as described in an information pack provided at the start of your tour; services of your Sisley tour director; all tour gratuities.

Tour Price Excludes: Airfares; transfers (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary) passport fees where applicable; lunches and dinners (unless otherwise stated in the tour itinerary); beverages; laundry; telephone calls; souvenirs and items of a personal nature.

Payment: Payment is due in two parts: The deposit secures your place on the tour at the time of booking. Final payment is required 90 days before the tour commencement date. Payments are non-transferable.

Covid-19 Vaccination: It is mandatory to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before joining our tours. You may be asked to provide evidence of your vaccination status on arrival. If you are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons, please get in touch before booking your tour.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by the client: More than 90 days prior to departure - loss of deposit; between 89 days and 45 days - loss of 50% of tour cost; 44 days and less before departure - 100% cancellation penalty. All cancellations should be made in writing and emailed to Sisley Garden Tours. A phone call is also a good idea. For this reason, purchase of cancellation insurance as part of your travel insurance policy at the time of booking is strongly recommended.

Cancellation by the company: Sisley Garden Tours reserve the right to cancel your tour. In this event they will give a refund of all moneys paid up until 45 days before departure. In no case except for reasons of war, natural disasters, fire, civil disturbances, riots, terrorist action, closure of port or airport, industrial disputes, force majeure or similar events beyond our control will cancellation take place within 44 days of the departure

date. In the event of a cancellation within 44 days under these conditions, Sisley Garden Tours retains the right to make a partial refund at their own discretion. A minimum of 14 passengers are required to run a tour. If the minimum number of bookings has not been received, Sisley Garden Tours reserves the right not to run the tour and refund all moneys paid.

Travel Insurance: It is a condition of booking that you, and all members of your party, take out comprehensive travel insurance before you travel on a Sisley Garden Tour and that it is adequate for your needs. Your insurance must include cover for medical and repatriation expenses, personal injury and personal liability. We strongly recommend you also obtain cover on booking for loss of baggage, money and valuables, delay, curtailment, missed departure, cancellation expenses and legal expenses. You will be asked to provide your travel insurer name, contact number and policy number before you join our tour.

Surcharges: We guarantee that your tour will not be subject to any surcharge except for those resulting from fuel surcharges and government action. Only amounts in excess of 5% will be surcharged. If this means paying more than 10% of the tour price, you are entitled to cancel your tour within 14 days of receiving surcharge invoice. You will receive a full refund of all money paid to Sisley Garden Tours.

Liability: We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that proper arrangements have been made for the tour advertised and that the suppliers of the services are efficient and reputable. Every booking is subject to the conditions imposed by shipping, airline, rail, coach, hotel, restaurant, visitor attraction and insurance. We cannot be held liable for any loss or expenses suffered by you as a result of your late arrival at the start of your tour, or at any time during your tour for other than reasons within our control. Any wilful damage to property is your sole responsibility and the company will not be responsible for any costs incurred due to such action or measures taken up by the various authorities or principals. Damage will be charged to you and must be paid for at that time. We cannot accept claims when an inferior vehicle is used as relief

or replacement in an emergency. Sisley Garden Tours reserves the right to withdraw tour membership from any person at any time if their behaviour is likely to affect the smooth operation of the tour or adversely affect the enjoyment or safety of other passengers and Sisley Garden Tours shall not be under any liability to such person whatsoever. This is without any liability whatsoever on the company's behalf for homeward travel arrangements or refund of holiday costs. The decision of the Tour Director will be final. Sisley Garden Tours will not be held responsible for closure of gardens or attractions named in the tour itinerary. Under such circumstances every endeavour will be made to find an alternative. Sisley Garden Tours reserve the right to substitute hotels. In the event that a passport is lost or one of the group members is taken ill or has an accident, Sisley Garden Tours will assist to the best of their ability but must reserve the right to carry on with the tour. It may be necessary to leave the tour member to rejoin later at his/her own expense.

Complaints: If you have a complaint during your holiday, please notify your Tour Director immediately so that he/she can try to resolve the problem. If the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction, you should inform the company in writing within 28 days of the end of the tour. The company will not consider claims outside this period.

Tour Accuracy: The running order of the tour may change. Subject to changes outside of our control, all elements of the itineraries will be included in the final programme. All the facts in the published itinerary about gardens, facilities, accommodations and other services are checked so that they are as accurate as possible. However, changes do happen that are not within our control. Such changes are regrettable and where a major change takes place, we will inform you whenever possible.

These conditions shall be interpreted, construed and enforced in all respects in accordance with English law and you and we each irrevocably agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts in respect of any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with these conditions.