

Private Gardens of Cheshire 9th - 12th June 2025 (3 nights)









Join us for a fabulous four-day tour discovering some of the most exclusive gardens in Cheshire. Accompanied by an expert local guide, we will explore historic garden gems, gardens of innovative contemporary design and personal gardens of exceptional beauty.

Based at the historic Rookery Hall Hotel, we will spend four days travelling around the attractive Cheshire countryside, known for its charming villages, rolling countryside, and historic landmarks. You can expect great food, the company of fascinating garden owners and head gardeners and first class

Monday 9th June

After independent journeys to north-west England, we will meet at 1pm at Rookery Hall Hotel and Spa near Nantwich, our four-star base for the tour.

Rookery Hall Hotel is a renowned country house hotel, proud to boast 4 AA Red Star status and several notable accolades for its fine dining. Car parking is available at the hotel or Crewe railway station (just 5 miles away) is a 1 hour 45 min train ride from London (see our tour joining & tour end arrangements for more information here).

Our first visit is to one of the finest private gardens in the county, Wollerton Old Hall. It is set around a 16th century 'hall house' and has been developed over the last 25 years in the English Garden tradition with echoes of the Arts & Crafts style. We will have a tour of the gardens with the Head Gardener followed by tea and cake.

We return to Rookery Hall Hotel for check in and enjoy a private welcome dinner (included).

Tuesday 10th June

Today we begin with a fascinating private garden, rarely open to the public. This stunning, six-acre garden is known for its beautiful layout, encompassing parterres, clipped yew hedging, ornamental ponds and herbaceous borders. Originally designed in the early 20th century, the garden boasts a mix of formal and informal elements, and features a unique quarry garden with a waterfall and splendid displays of rhododendrons and azaleas in the spring. The garden has far reaching views over the Cheshire Plain. We enjoy a tour of the garden with the Head Gardener.

We then head to **Chester** for a walking tour of this fascinating historic city, founded on the River Dee by the Romans. Its distinctive black and white half-timbered buildings, with their unique covered walkways known as 'the Rows', are full of character. There is free time for lunch (independent).

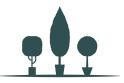








Image credits: Previous page Wollerton Old Hall ©VisitBritain. This page Biddulph Old Hall ©Richard Bloom. Other images ©Sisley Garden Tours.



Our next exclusive visit is to a private garden set over 16 landscaped acres of beautiful Cheshire countryside with terraces, a walled garden, extensive woodland walks and an amazing hosta collection. We will explore with the Head Gardener and see the many water features including the rill which links the main lawn to the hostas and the newly developed Japanese garden.

We return for dinner in the hotel's AA 3-Rosette restaurant (included).

Wednesday 11th June

Today we visit two more of Cheshire's finest private gardens. Our first visit is a garden of contemporary delights, created by its owners and head gardener. This five-acre garden whose planting style is best described as 'controlled exuberance' has a definite emphasis on perennials, colour, form and scale. It is divided into several discrete and individual garden rooms including stunning herbaceous borders, a scree garden, a rill garden and a glasshouse. We enjoy lunch in a traditional **English pub** (included).

After lunch, we head to the second wonderful private **garden** which has been described as the 'Highgrove of the north'. The owner's only instruction to his head gardener and chief designer - who will show us the garden - was simply to make it 'amazing'. The garden surrounds a charming historic house originating from the 17th century and has many varied and unusual features within its ten acres. There are formal parterres, an ornamental lake, stunning vegetable and herb gardens, a wildflower meadow and woodland. We return to the hotel where your evening is at leisure (dinner independent).

Thursday 12th June

After checking out of the hotel, we visit **Biddulph Grange Gardens.** These extraordinary Victorian gardens, in the care of the National Trust, take you on a global journey from Italy to the pyramids of Egypt, from a Chinese temple to a Himalayan glen.

Afterwards, we are treated to an exclusive tour with the owner and private lunch (included) at Biddulph Old Hall. This unique garden has been created in the romantic ruin of a 17th century manor house. The place has an intriguing history from Elizabethan safe house for secret Catholic worship to a community of Buddhist monks in the 1960's. But it was the story of a forgotten Pre-Raphaelite painter, Robert Bateman, who spent 16 years at Biddulph Old Hall, which has most inspired the idea of the garden. After lunch, we return to Rookery Hall Hotel to say our goodbyes.

Full details of tour joining and departure arrangements can be found here.



OUR HOTEL

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

Rookery Hall Hotel and Spa (3 nights)

Rookery Hall was built in 1816 for William Hilton Cooke, a wealthy land owner of over 500 acres in the area. The Hall is a fine example of Victorian architecture and was extended and converted into an exclusive hotel in 1979, set amidst 38 acres of gardens and wooded parkland, fringing the banks of the River Weaver.

Today Rookery Hall is a luxury 70 bedroom country house hotel which blends old-world charm with modern amenities and has been awarded Four Red Star status by the AA and 3 Rosettes for its renowned restaurant. It also offers a luxurious spa with beauty treatment rooms, an indoor swimming pool, hydrotherapy pool, sauna and steam room.





TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£2,950 price per person (sharing twin or double room) £220 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 3 nights' accommodation at the 4-star Rookery Hall Hotel & Spa with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 2 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).
- Deluxe midi-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 if applicable.
- Travel to and from Rookery Hall Hotel at the start and end of the tour.
- 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 by Friday 7th February 2025.

BOOK YOUR TOUR

To book your place(s) please complete our online booking form at www.sisley.co.uk/booking-form/

As soon as we receive your booking form, we will confirm availability on the tour and arrange collection of your deposit which secures your booking.

There are three ways to pay for your tour and you will be asked on the booking form which you prefer:

With Sisley Garden Tours:

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

With our travel partner in North America:

You can book your tour in USD\$ or CAD\$ by credit/debit card, cheque or bank transfer with our partners at DHTour – a London and UK specialist travel agent who can assist with all aspects of your trip.

With your own travel agent:

We are happy to work with your preferred travel agent. Just provide us with their contact details on the booking form and we will take care of the rest.

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.