



THE PASSIONATE GARDENER

TUESDAY, MAY 17TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18TH- Upon arrival at London Heathrow airport, you'll be met for the transfer to our riverside hotel in Windsor. After checking in, there will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood before we meet for a welcome reception and dinner. **(D)** **OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

THURSDAY, MAY 19TH - This morning we head for the hills - the Cotswold Hills. Our first visit this morning is to Barnsley House and the masterpiece garden created by Rosemary Verey, one of the most influential gardeners of the 20th century. We'll have a tour with one of the head gardeners and gather for lunch at the Village Pub. You'll have an opportunity to see how the ideas and designs from her many books and articles are reflected everywhere in this glorious space. From here it's a short drive to Highgrove, HRH Prince Charles' private estate, where we'll enjoy a private tour. A short drive brings us to our hotel, where we'll have time to unpack and relax before dinner. **(B, L, D)** **OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH - Our first stop today will be the city of Bath, where we will visit the Roman Baths and have free time for a little exploration and lunch before we visit Iford Manor, home of the Peto Garden. This unique Grade I Italianate garden was designed by Harold A Peto, who lived at the Manor from 1899 - 1933. We'll make a brief stop at the lovely Saxon church in Bradford-upon-Avon before we return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B)** **OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

SATURDAY, MAY 21ST - This morning's visit is to Rousham. This landscape garden is a place of pilgrimage for students of the work of William Kent (1685-1748). Rousham represents the first phase of English landscape design and remains almost as Kent left it, one of the few gardens of this date to have escaped alteration. We continue through the east Cotswolds to the village of Whichford, where we visit the Whichford Pottery. This family business has been making garden pottery for 40 years now and is licensed by the RHS to provide a special series of commemorative flower pots and planters. You can see the displays in the various small gardens at the site. After a break for lunch we visit Pettifers Garden. Pettifers has now taken some 15 years to create but continues to evolve and has a peaceful feeling that comes with the extraordinary views over the landscape. Now mature, this is a plantsman's garden with plenty of interest all year round. Dinner is included at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)** **OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND - A leisurely start this morning with a beautiful drive through the Cotswolds' quintessentially English landscape of honey-colored villages and green meadows. After a traditional Sunday lunch in a nearby country pub, we'll visit the Hidcote Manor garden, England's foremost 20th-century garden, where a series of horticultural "rooms" have been created, each different in color, character, and intention. Next, we'll visit the beautiful Kiftsgate Court gardens, home of Heather Muir, a pioneer in the rediscovery of shrub roses (including the celebrated rambling *Rosa filipes* "Kiftsgate"). The evening is free to dine at the local pub. **(B, L)** **OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

MONDAY, MAY 23RD - Leaving the Cotswolds for the city, we'll stop on the way at Wisley. The 240-acre flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley is the jewel in the crown of the RHS and has been a living encyclopedia for gardeners for the past 100 years. We'll tour the garden's highlights, have time for lunch, and free time to browse the Wisley store. After lunch, our afternoon visit will be to Vann. This internationally renowned five-acre garden is formed by a series of "rooms," which surround and complement a family home dating from the 16th century. From the old Cottage Garden with delightfully informal planting in a formal setting, to the robust Pergola of Bargate stone by W.D. Carøe, the Arts and Crafts architect and grandfather of the present owners, to the Water Garden, laid out and planted by Gertrude Jekyll in 1911, and the newly designed and planted Centenary Garden, Vann offers inspiration to expert and amateur gardeners alike. Upon our arrival in London, the evening is free —why not take in a show in London's famous West End, or sample a wonderful local restaurant? **(B)** **OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

TUESDAY, MAY 24TH - Today we visit Great Dixter for a tour of the garden of Christopher Lloyd, who devoted his life to developing one of the most exciting and experimental gardens of our time, incorporating medieval buildings, yew topiary, and a tapestry of mixed borders (including the famous Long Border). Then it's on to Sissinghurst, rescued in 1930 by poet/novelist Vita Sackville-West and her husband, historian Harold Nicolson, who bought the romantic ruins and began to create the gardens (10 gardens spread over a 6-acre area). Harold, a classicist, utilized the walls and buildings that were already in place, while Vita devised the inspired planting schemes, grouping plants according to color, texture, and season. Upon our return to London there will be time for a quick supper before we attend the annual *Gardens Illustrated* lecture at the Royal Geographical Society. **(B)** **OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH - Today we spend a full day at Britain's most famous spring garden event, the Chelsea Flower Show, where our membership in the Royal Horticultural Society allows us to attend on members-only day. The show gardens, each an exquisite jewel of design and execution, are designed by the finest international horticulturalists. Spend as much time as you choose among the inspiring exhibits and make your way back to the hotel in your own time. We gather again this evening to celebrate and share stories over a final farewell dinner. **(B, D)** **OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

THURSDAY, MAY 26TH - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)** **OVERNIGHT: HOME**

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