



The Passionate Gardener

SEPTEMBER 9 - 18, 2024

Join garden blogger, Michael Gordon, for his annual stroll through some of the best gardens in England. As your host, Michael hopes to add a North American perspective on English gardens and give you an insight into what ideas you can bring back to your own garden. He will be encouraging you to enter each garden with an inquisitive eye and will be a source of information about horticulture and garden design. Michael will give a series of garden talks during the week.

Tailored for the discriminating gardener, our tour will visit some of England's most famous gardens as well as unique private gardens. From William Kent's masterpiece landscape garden, Rousham, to Christopher Lloyd's innovative garden at Great Dixter, to the contemporary private garden at Pettifers, we will see English garden design from the traditional to the cutting edge.

Michael B. Gordon is an optometrist by profession and a passionate garden-maker and teacher by avocation. He is a self-trained gardener who has learned by visiting gardens in the United States and Europe. He has developed a half-acre private garden in Peterborough, NH over the past 28 years. His garden has been published in *Horticulture, NH Home* and *Yankee Magazine*.

Michael has designed and maintained sophisticated public gardens in the parks of Peterborough for nearly two decades and has trained numerous volunteer gardeners in the art of horticulture. He has hosted tours to English gardens since 2007 and enjoys giving participants ideas on how to implement concepts of English horticulture in their American gardens. Michael started his blog, *The Gardener's Eye*, in 2010, and chronicles his gardening travels on Instagram.

Follow Michael on Instagram: [@thegardenerseye](https://www.instagram.com/thegardenerseye)

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): \$ 4790
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 1290

*Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities.
Please call for details.*

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Hosted by Michael Gordon with a Discover Europe tour guide throughout and local experts at Great Dixter, Wisley, Barnsley, and many others
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.*

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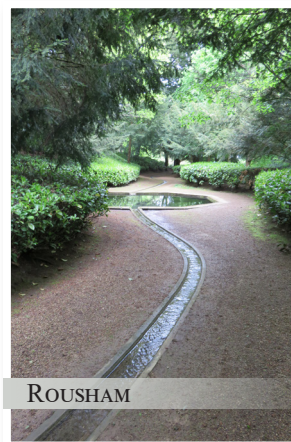
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th - Departure from your chosen US gateway city to London Heathrow.
OVERNIGHT: PLANE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th - Upon arrival, you'll be met for the transfer to our hotel in Windsor. After checking in, there will be time to unpack and relax, before taking an excursion to nearby Savill Garden, created by Sir Eric Savill in the 1930s, in Windsor Great Park. This evening, a welcome reception and introduction to the tour by Michael Gordon will be followed by dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th - This morning we head for the hills—the Cotswold Hills. Our first visit along the way is to Pettifers Garden. Pettifers has 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. 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. After a break here for lunch we visit 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. A short drive brings us to our hotel, where we'll have time to unpack and relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**



ROUSHAM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th - A leisurely start this morning with a beautiful drive through the Cotswolds' quintessentially English landscape of honey-colored villages and green meadows. After a stop in a nearby country pub, perhaps for a traditional Sunday lunch, we'll visit the Hidcote Manor garden, England's foremost 20th-century garden, where a series of horticultural "rooms" has 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"). We then return to our hotel, where Michael Gordon will give a talk about "Visiting Gardens," before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th - Our first visit this morning brings us to Lady Farm Gardens. In 1992, After the cows that previously inhabited the farm were moved and sheep were brought in to aerate the land, owner, Judy Pearce, with a vision unique to herself and without formal training, began creating something amazing. We'll take a tour here and have time for lunch before we continue to next stop today—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. After a full tour of the garden, we'll make a brief stop at the lovely Saxon church in Bradford-upon-Avon before we return to our hotel. The evening is free to dine at a local pub. **(B) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th - This morning begins with a visit to Coach House Gardens where we will enjoy a private tour with head gardener, Mel Tanner. After a must-have cream tea, we continue to Tetbury where lunch awaits us. From there, it's a short drive to Highgrove, HRH King Charles' private estate and main residence when he was Prince Charles (subject to availability). We will have a guided tour of the gardens before returning to the hotel for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th - Leaving the Cotswolds, our day begins with a visit to the private gardens at Stockcross House. This romantic 2 acre garden, with it's deep mixed borders and emphasis on strong, complementary color combinations, is set around a former rectory. Next we head to Wisley—The 240 acre flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society. A jewel in the crown of the RHS, it has been a living encyclopedia for gardeners for the past 100 years. We'll have time for lunch, then have a tour of the garden's highlights, along with time to browse the Wisley store. It is a short drive from here to our hotel, nestled in the North Downs, where dinner awaits us. After dinner, Michael Gordon will give another talk on "The English Mixed Border." **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DORKING**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th - This morning we'll tour Vann Gardens, an Arts and Crafts garden containing a Water Garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll in 1911, before traveling to visit Gravetye Manor. Here, we'll enjoy lunch in the Manor before having a tour of the gardens with the head gardener, Tom Coward. Considered to be among the most influential in English gardening history, the gardens at Gravetye were the work of William Robinson, author of *The English Flower Garden* and *The Wild Garden*, two of the best-selling gardening books of all time. We return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: DORKING**



SISSINGHURST

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th - Our first stop of the day is 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. Continuing on, we will head to 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). Next, we'll drive down to the shingle beach at Dungeness where, in the shadow of a nuclear power station, lies one of the most unusual gardens in the country—Prospect Cottage. Film director, Derek Jarman, completely rejected modern garden design theory in favor of a "post-modernist, context-sensitive" approach. From here we'll return to our hotel for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DORKING**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 18th - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

*Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner