



The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs presents
THE GREAT GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

INCLUDING
THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
MAY 15 - 23, 2024

Nowhere in the world is the passion for horticulture expressed more vividly than in Britain, where gardens have served as inspiration for painters, writers, and flower lovers for centuries. From great country estates to miniscule inner-city gardens, the British use their exceptionally long growing season to fullest advantage, and nowhere is this passion expressed more abundantly than at the Chelsea Flower Show.

This is your invitation to see some of England's most famous gardens at a time of year when color runs riot. From Vita Sackville-West's crowning achievement at Sissinghurst Castle, to the magnificent landscape garden at Stourhead, we'll explore the countryside of southern England, basking in the full glory of an English spring. We'll also visit the jewel in the crown of the Royal Horticultural Society, the 240-acre flagship garden at Wisley, Christopher Lloyd's gardens at Great Dixter, which offer up innovative ideas set against a backdrop of topiary, mixed borders, and natural ponds, and many other major gardens around the south of England.

This spring, join former president of the Barrington Garden Club and the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Sandi Tinyk, as she takes other garden lovers on a stroll through glorious gardens and the Chelsea Flower Show. At a relaxed pace, with wonderful meals, a stay in a first-class historic property, and a panorama of magnificent blooms unfolding before us, it's a quintessential celebration of springtime.



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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED) **\$4390**
 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 990**

Airfares are available from many U.S. 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, inc. round trip transfers from Barrington, RI, to Boston Logan
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- GUIDES:** Sandi Tinyk as host throughout, local guides for Wisley, Great Dixter and Gravetye Manor.
- BAGGAGE:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary, and membership in the Royal Horticultural Society

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

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH - Early morning departure from Barrington aboard our private bus to Logan for the morning British Airways' flight to London. Arrival at London Heathrow this evening and transfer to our nearby hotel, where we'll check in and have a late supper. **(D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

THURSDAY, MAY 16TH - This morning we visit the 240-acre flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley, a living encyclopedia for all gardeners. Wisley has demonstrated the very best in horticulture and gardening practices for the last 100 years; we'll have a guided tour of the garden's highlights and then free time for lunch, to peruse the many treasures of the Wisley store, and to explore the gardens at our leisure. From our mid-afternoon return to the hotel, the rest of the day is free before we gather for dinner at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

FRIDAY, MAY 17TH - Leaving Surrey, we travel west, across Salisbury Plain to the village of Stourton. Here we'll visit Stourton House and walk around the magnificent Stourhead Gardens, which surround a series of peaceful lakes in the middle of a 2,650-acre estate nestled among rolling hills. After time for lunch in the village, we'll head back towards London. On the way we'll make a stop at The Vyne, a country house with magnificent gardens. We'll return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH - A free day in Dorking. Local attractions include Denbies Wine Estate, the largest vineyard in England, and the nearby country house of Polesden Lacey. If it's a nice day, you may consider a pleasant stroll along the North Down's Way, the range of chalk hills that runs along from Dorking down to the sea at Dover, or, if it isn't, you can always take the train into London for the day – perhaps even catch a matinee at the theatre. **(B) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**



SUNDAY, MAY 19TH - Our excursion today takes us around London, to the north side of the city, to visit Hatfield House and gardens. Hatfield is an incredible Jacobean mansion set in 42 acres of parks and gardens, largely the work of John Tradescant the Elder. This afternoon we will continue to nearby St. Albans and visit the gardens of the Royal National Rose Society. We'll return to our hotel for dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

MONDAY, MAY 20TH - This morning we'll have a tour of the gardens at Gravetye Manor 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'll enjoy a gourmet lunch in the

Manor and then it's on to Hever Castle, a moated Tudor Manor that was once the home of Anne Boleyn. The evening is free back in Dorking to sample a local pub—or two. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

TUESDAY, MAY 21ST - An excursion today into the counties of Kent and Sussex—The Garden of England. We'll visit Sissinghurst Castle, the home and garden of Harold Nicolson and his wife Vita Sackville-West; after lunch, we'll have a guided tour of Christopher Lloyd's Great Dixter. We return to Dorking for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**



WEDNESDAY, MAY 22ND - 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 horticulturists; these, in turn, circle a large pavilion where flower and nursery exhibits are displayed. The event is truly beyond compare...lively, stimulating, and above all, inspirational! We'll return to our hotel with time to freshen up and begin packing before we gather for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

SCAN THE BELOW QR TO REGISTER FOR THIS TOUR!



THURSDAY, MAY 23RD - Transport to Heathrow Airport for our returning British Airways flight to Boston, where we will be met by our private bus for the transfer back to Barrington.

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