

NEW The RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Kent - the Garden of England

May 20 to 28, 2024 ♦ From \$4,845 per person

The prestigious Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show has come a long way since its humble single-marquee beginnings in 1913; the kaleidoscopic event is now an unmissable highlight of the British calendar and is world famous for its stunning displays, vibrant colors and innovative designs. We are lucky enough to be visiting on Member's Day, where RHS members, royals and celebrities take an exclusive first look at the floral extravaganza, set in the grounds of London's Royal Hospital Chelsea. The beautiful blooms continue with our exploration of Kent, often referred to as the Garden of England thanks to its rolling orchards, mild climate and fruitful allotments. There's time to stop and smell the flowers at a host of horticultural wonders, from the idyllic grounds of Winston Churchill's Chartwell and the juxtaposing masterpiece of Derek Jarman to the fragrant Sissinghurst Castle Garden and the striking Hole Park Estate, which we discover during a special Head Gardener-led guided tour.



Sissinghurst Castle Garden

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ♦ 2 nights at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor
- ♦ 2 nights at the Kimpton Fitzroy London Hotel, Bloomsbury
- ♦ 3 nights at the Falstaff Hotel, Canterbury
- ♦ Welcome drink and canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner and two-course buffet dinner on 2 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea and coffee)
- ♦ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ♦ Travel to and from all excursions
- ♦ All entrance costs
- ♦ Porterage where available

*Supplement applies for transfers from all other airports and all other locations, including central London.



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Itinerary

May 20: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

May 21: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

May 22: Royal Chelsea Flower Show

Today we enjoy Member's Day entry to the Royal Horticultural Society's most sought-after event, the Chelsea Flower Show, held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Here we discover the finest in garden design, listen to expert advice and soak up the unique atmosphere of this world-famous floral extravaganza. The Great Pavilion is the centerpiece of the show, containing a wide-ranging mix of vibrant displays, while the Show Gardens illustrate the exceptional talent of a handful of carefully selected garden designers, delivering a broad range of design styles and themes.

Later we check into the Kimpton Fitzroy London Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast

May 23: Kew Gardens and Sky Garden

A springtime stroll is the order of the morning with a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Dating back to the early 18th century as a royal palace, Kew Gardens is now a globally renowned institution for plant-based research. Exploding with color and with no less than 50,000 plants, there are a range of different areas to explore including the Arboretum, the peaceful Japanese garden and the remarkable indoor rainforest climbing within the Palm House.

Later we have an early dinner at the very top of the Sky Garden, London's highest public garden with spectacular views over the city. With stunning landscaped gardens, observation decks and delicious food, it's a lovely place to spend an evening as the sun sets over the bustling capital.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

May 24: RHS Garden Wisley and Chartwell

After checking out of the hotel we head to RHS Garden Wisley, the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship garden, gifted to the Society in 1903. Extending over 240 peaceful acres, from beautiful rose and demonstration gardens to tranquil tracts of woodland, Wisley offers a wealth of inspirational ideas on design, innovation and cultivation techniques. The state-of-the-art Glasshouse is divided into three main planting zones representing desert, tropical and temperate climates. We discover more during our exciting guided tour with one of the knowledgeable gardeners.



Kew Gardens



“Take an exclusive first look at the stunning floral extravaganza.”

This afternoon we visit Chartwell, Winston Churchill's beloved home from 1924 to the time of his death. The house is still home to many of the great statesman's personal and political mementos, including an amazing collection of gifts he received from other world leaders. We enjoy a guided tour of the property before discovering the idyllic gardens, which feature Churchill's personal painting studio hidden in the grounds, the romantic Golden Rose Avenue, the special walled garden, the lakes and the pretty water features.

We then check into the Falstaff Hotel, where we stay for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

May 25: Sissinghurst Castle Garden and Godinton House and Gardens

An exclusive out-of-hours tour awaits at the spectacular Sissinghurst Castle Garden. Created in the 1930s by novelist Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson around the ruins of an Elizabethan manor house, these world-famous gardens are laid out as a series of individually planted “rooms”, including a fragrant Herb Garden and Rose Garden.

Our next stop is Godinton House, a unique Jacobean property incorporating a medieval hall and ornate carvings, where we enjoy a Ploughman's lunch. This gem is a much-loved home where each room reflects the tastes of those who have lived here with an excellent collection of furniture, art, and curios. Outside, we take a guided tour of the tranquil gardens, surrounded by ancient parkland and sprinkled with herbaceous borders, ornamental trees and a lily pond plus enchanting Italian, Wild, Walled and Rose Gardens.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Godinton House

May 26: Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway, Derek Jarman's Garden and Hole Park

Today we step back in time aboard the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, known as Kent's Mainline in Miniature. Attracting crowds since 1927, the railway operates the world's most complete collection of one-third full-sized steam locomotives and combines the sights and sounds of steam travel with the beautiful Kent countryside. We meander along from Hythe, through the famous and unique landscapes of Romney Marsh, to the otherworldly Dungeness, classified by the Met Office as the country's only desert.

Here we visit Derek Jarman's magical garden, featuring everything from clusters of sea kale to stone circles filled with poppies and more. The renowned film director and artist created his horticultural wonder on the shingle shores of Dungeness in a postmodern style, once musing that “paradise haunts gardens and some gardens are paradises. Mine is one of them. Others are like bad children, spoiled by their parents, over-watered and covered with noxious chemicals.”

Afterward we continue to Hole Park, a private home situated in a picturesque parkland setting. For the past four generations, Hole Park has been owned by the Barham family and this afternoon we meet the current owner, are treated to lunch, explore the magnificent house and enjoy a guided tour of the garden with the Head Gardener. We admire the wide range of colors from beautiful blooms such as tulips, roses, clematis, wisteria, rhododendrons and azaleas, bursting with fragrance and set against the far-reaching views over the hills and woodland.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 27: Lullingstone Castle & the World Garden and Savill Garden

After breakfast, we make our way to Lullingstone Castle for a guided tour. Recorded in the Domesday Book, it is one of the oldest family estates in England. The present manor house was built in 1497 and has been home to the same family ever since. Altered extensively in Queen Anne's time, the house boasts fine state rooms and beautiful grounds, including a stunning 15-acre lake and the World Garden, home to thousands of rare plants collected from around the world by Tom Hart Dyke, the current heir, planted in their respective continents of origin. Incredibly, the ideas and plans for this garden were started during Tom's nine-month kidnap ordeal in the early 2000s, a result of rare plant hunting in

Tour Highlights

- ◆ Entry to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show on Member's Day
- ◆ Dinner at the Sky Garden
- ◆ Guided tour of RHS Garden Wisley with a Gardener
- ◆ Guided tour of Chartwell House
- ◆ Out-of-hours tour at Sissinghurst Castle Garden
- ◆ Guided tour and lunch at Godinton
- ◆ Heritage train journey on the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway
- ◆ Head Gardener tour and lunch with the owner at Hole Park

**Please inform us at the time of booking of any special dietary requirements.*



©National Trust Images/David Salzman

Chartwell

the Colombian jungle. There are plenty of unique species, including the world's most dangerous plant, the hottest chilli and the rarest gum tree.

For our last visit we head to The Savill Garden, Britain's finest ornamental garden in the heart of Windsor Great Park and an oasis of designed gardens and woodland. Created in the 1930s, acres upon acres of interconnected areas include the Hidden Gardens, Spring Wood, the Summer Gardens, the New Zealand Garden, Summer Wood and The Glades. The Rose Garden is an extra special addition, opened by Elizabeth II in 2010 and perfumed with the most beautiful rose-bed scents.

Later, we check back into the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

May 28: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow Airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: the order of excursions is subject to change and guided tours are subject to restrictions. Entrance to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show may not be guaranteed for late bookings.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make a booking?

Call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785** to register by phone (preferred method) **Monday - Friday from 9am to 5pm (EST)** or register online at **www.nationaltrusttours.com**.

When are payments due?

When you confirm your booking with us, a non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to secure your place. The final balance payment must be paid to us no later than 90 days prior to the tour departure date. Of course, full payment can be made at the time of booking if you prefer and for bookings made less than 8 weeks before the tour departs this will be a requirement.

How can I pay?

We accept debit and credit cards (except American Express), for deposits and full payment.

What paperwork will I receive?

When your booking is confirmed, we will email you a booking confirmation document along with a copy of our full Terms and Conditions and the reading list. Approximately 28 days prior to the tour, we will prepare and send you our Travel Pack with your finalized information and tour itinerary details.

Do I need travel insurance?

Yes, this is essential; we can only accept a booking on the basis that you have taken out a full and comprehensive travel insurance policy to cover the full duration of your trip. We will ask you to confirm this to us. If you choose not to take out travel insurance, this is done so against our advice and at your own risk; we will ask you to sign a declination form indemnifying us from any responsibility or cost in the event of medical emergency or repatriation. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you upon tour confirmation. USI Travel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers. For details, please contact National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

Do I need a passport and visa?

It is your responsibility to ensure you have a passport which must be valid for 6 months after the return date of your trip. At the time of printing, tourist visas are not required for US citizens visiting the UK for under 90 days solely for the purpose of tourism. If you are not a US citizen or you are combining your visit with business, it is your responsibility to check the requirements for visiting the UK, you can do this by visiting the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website to determine whether you need a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

Are there single traveler room supplements?

We have a small number of rooms on each tour that are sold with no single supplement; once these are sold out we charge a supplement for any additional single rooms which varies for each tour. You can contact us to enquire about single supplement prices. Please book early as single rooms sell fast.

Are room upgrades available?

All of the hotels on these tours have been hand-picked for their high quality of accommodation and service. However, in some instances room upgrades are available and we would be happy to assist you to arrange these should you be interested. For more information on the hotels please visit our website.

Can you arrange extra hotel nights?

Yes, if you decide to arrive a few days before the start of the tour or leave a few days after the end of the tour, we are happy to arrange extra nights' accommodation. However, this service is only available at hotels that feature in the tour on which you are traveling and a \$35 administration fee is charged for this service.

Are meals included?

All breakfasts are included on all tours. Certain lunches and dinners are also included and you should study the tour itinerary in this brochure to determine what meals are included on your chosen tour. Meals not mentioned are not included and all beverages are at your own expense throughout the tour.

What do I do about any dietary requirements?

Please inform us at the time of booking, we will pass your information on to the hotel, property or restaurant who will do their best to accommodate your requirements.

How many passengers will be in the Albion Journeys tour group?

Typically, between 10 and 30.

What is the role of the Tour Director?

Our friendly Tour Director will meet you for a welcome dinner at the beginning of each tour. Their role is to facilitate the smooth organization of all operational aspects of the tour. If you have any queries or experience any issues during the tour, they are there to assist you.

Will the excursions change?

Please note that we plan our tours far in advance and the order and availability of excursions may be subject to change. In the event of a property not being available to visit, we will substitute with a similar visit, and you will be informed of the full details.

How much walking will there be on these tours?

As much or as little as you like. Any included guided tours will operate at a fairly relaxed pace, as with many historic houses and gardens, you may experience some uneven flooring and steps along the way. Of course, you will always have the option to explore any venue by yourself at your own pace. If you have any specific concerns, please contact us.

What are the arrangements for luggage?

The standard luggage allowance is one item of hand luggage and one suitcase per person restricted to a maximum weight of 20kgs (44 pounds). We do provide porterage at each of the hotels used on our tours, however, as with all things of a personal nature, it is your responsibility to ensure your suitcase is loaded onto the vehicles we use throughout the tour.

What clothing should I bring?

Comfortable leisurewear is recommended for the daytime. In the evening many participants prefer to wear smarter dress for dining. While gentlemen may choose to wear a jacket in the restaurant in the evening, at most hotels this is not obligatory, we will of course inform you if any hotel does have a dress code. It is advisable to bring layered clothing and a light waterproof jacket. We recommend sturdy footwear when visiting gardens as the ground may be soft underfoot. Many historic properties request ladies do not wear high heels which may damage flooring.

Can you arrange my flights to the UK?

Albion Journeys do not arrange your air travel for our tours; this is your responsibility and gives you the flexibility to decide on your own routing.

What should I budget for tipping?

While it is not compulsory, it is customary to tip the coach driver and Tour Director as well as offering a small gratuity to the transfer drivers to acknowledge the services they have provided. As a guideline we suggest a rate of £5 (about \$6.50 as of this printing) per day for your coach and transfer drivers and £10 (about \$13 as of this printing) per day for your Tour Director. Gratuities for hotel staff and the tour guides you may meet at properties are at your discretion.

For more information, please telephone the Tours Program at the National Trust at **(888) 484-8785**

- web: www.nationaltrusttours.com
- email: info@nationaltrusttours.com

All tours offered subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Errors and omissions excepted.



Windsor Castle



Nostell Priory



Sissinghurst Castle Garden



Hatfield House Gardens



Charlecote Park

Terms & Conditions Extract

It is important that you read the following booking conditions extract and the full booking conditions shown on our website at albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions. These online booking conditions form the basis of your contract with us. Please read them and the extract below carefully as they apply to all bookings you make with us unless otherwise specified.

1. VACATION PAYMENT: When you make a booking you must pay a deposit for every person named on the booking. Deposits per person and the balance due date (the period before the departure date on which your full balance normally becomes due) are:

| Deposit | Balance due date |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| \$1,000 (USD) | 90 days before departure |

If you cannot make a payment by card at the time of booking, please speak to one of our Reservations staff to discuss other options. You can make payments against your balance anytime between making the booking and the balance due date. If the balance is not paid on time we reserve the right to treat your booking as canceled by you and apply cancellation charges as set out in clause 3 below. For bookings made after the balance due date, the full amount is due at the time of booking.

2. OUR AGREEMENT: A contract is formed when we issue to you the booking confirmation document and terms and conditions. It is important you read through these and any other documents you receive and advise us of any inaccuracy within 14 days of the document date. By accepting the booking is correct you agree to our terms and conditions.

We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracy in any document within 14 days of our sending it out. This contract and all matters arising out of it will be governed by English law and will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

3. VACATION CANCELLATION BY YOU: If you want to cancel your booking after we have confirmed it with you either verbally, over the telephone or by email, you can do so over the phone or in writing. The following cancellation charges will apply:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| More than 91 days prior to departure | \$1,000 (USD) |
| 90 days or less before departure | 100% of the program cost is non-refundable |

If any member of your party is prevented from traveling, that person may transfer their place to someone else (introduced by you) providing we are notified no less than two weeks before departure.

Full terms and conditions will be provided with your booking confirmation. They are also available on request or via our website: albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions.

Bookings are accepted on the basis that you have read and understood them.

ALBION
Journeys Inspired By Heritage