



Chelsea & Gardens of England

11 days | May 14 2024—May 24 2024

English gardens are famous all over the world, and you'll have the chance to see some of the best. From Sissinghurst Castle Garden, the lovely estates of the Cotswolds region, to the Chelsea Flower Show the beautiful botanicals on this tour might just inspire you to get to work on your own gardens back home.



Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily
- 2 lunches
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Trafalgar Square
- Buckingham Palace
- Sissinghurst Castle
- Hever Castle
- Cotswolds
- Eden Project
- Cornwall Gardens
- Stourhead House
- Chelsea Flower Show

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

For more information, contact

grouptoursite.com/tours/gardensofengland | 610-639-0749 | sharonrichardson22@gmail.com

Chelsea & Gardens of England

11 days

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to London today.

London → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in London

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to England! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of London

Included meals: breakfast

View the regal landmarks of England's vibrant and cosmopolitan capital on a guided sightseeing tour.

- Pass the grand Trafalgar Square and Baroque-style St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations, weddings, and funerals
- View icons like Big Ben, the London Eye, Tower Bridge, and the Tower of London
- Stop by Buckingham Palace, where you may catch the Changing of the Guard

Enjoy a free afternoon in London or add an excursion.

+ Kensington Palace & Afternoon Tea

Day 4: Sissinghurst Castle Garden & Hever Castle

Included meals: breakfast

Travel outside of London to visit Sissinghurst Castle, one of the world's most famous 20th-century castles.

- Take time to explore the castle's expansive gardens, which were created by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson
- Enjoy lunch at the castle during your free time

Then, continue on to Hever Castle & Gardens, the former home of Anne Boleyn.

- Explore the castle, viewing its unique double moat and splendid collection of antiques, furniture, and tapestries

- Tour the impressive gardens with a member of the Hever Castle gardening team, learning about century-old grounds which display William Waldorf Astor's collection of Italian statuary

Please note: Due to the narrow paths at Sissinghurst Castle, it is not possible to conduct formal guided tours around the garden.

Discussions on the garden's history must be held outside the garden areas.

Bath → 2 nights

Day 5: Bath via Windsor Castle

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

This morning, travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longest-inhabited castle, led by a Blue Badge Guide.

- Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where the Knights of the Garter ceremony takes place
- View the exhibit of royal treasures on display within the castle
- Stroll through the town of Windsor and have a look at Eton College, a prestigious prep school attended by Princes William and Harry
- Enjoy an included lunch with your group

Afterwards, travel to the town of Bath, famous for their Roman baths, charming restaurants, and perfect picnic spots. Enjoy free time for the rest of the day to explore at your leisure.

Please note: Windsor Castle is occasionally closed when in use by the Royal Family; a visit to Henry VIII's Hampton Court will be substituted if necessary.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Cotswolds

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Set out to explore the villages, towns, and landscapes throughout the rural Cotswolds region today.

- Wander the lush English gardens of Tetbury and rococo gardens of Painswick
- Stop in the market town of Chipping Campden for free time to explore
- Sit down with your group for an included lunch in the Cotswolds

- Visit the Hidcote Manor Garden, called one of the top gardens in England, and explore the grounds at your own pace
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Plymouth Region → 2 nights

Day 7: Transfer to Plymouth Region & Eden Project

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Make your way south to the coastal Plymouth Region where you'll visit the Eden Project, two enclosed biomes that replicate the weather and vegetation found in the rainforest and along the Mediterranean.

Tonight, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of the Cornwall Gardens

Included meals: breakfast

Spend the day traveling through the Cornwall region to visit some of the Great Gardens of Cornwall, a series of stunning gardens home to some of the most rare and beautiful plants in the British Isles.

- Begin with a visit to the Glendurgan Garden, a National Trust subtropical garden featuring an impressive laurel maze
 - Spend time wandering the little paradise within the Trebah Garden where you'll find beautiful blooms, tunnels of color, a valley of hydrangeas, ponds, and more
 - Discover the Lost Gardens of Heligan, a mysterious garden with playful sculptures, banana plantations, giant rhubarb all of which has been restored to create a truly special atmosphere
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London → 2 nights

Day 9: London via Stourhead House & gardens

Included meals: breakfast

As you travel back to London, pay a visit to Stourhead House and be transported to the world of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* as

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you walk through some of the films iconic locations. Spend time exploring the Palladian style house and grounds set on over 2,000 acres of extensive parklands and picture-perfect gardens.

Continue to London and enjoy a free evening or add an excursion.

+ Thames River Cruise & Pub Dinner

Day 10: Chelsea Flower Show

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Spend the day at the Chelsea Flower Show, attended by visitors from around the world. Your Tour Director will guide you through the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship annual event.

- See the best of garden design and horticultural trends at the Great Pavilion
- Get ideas to take home to your own gardens as you explore
- Watch as plant breeders unveil new plants

Tonight, join your group to celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner.

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: grouptoursite.com/tours/gardensofengland | 610-639-0749

Day 3: Kensington Palace & Afternoon Tea

\$145/\$155* (4.5 hours, departs late morning)

Nestled in Kensington Gardens on the corner of Hyde Park, Kensington Palace has served as the London residence for members of the Royal Family for hundreds of years. Explore the palace's elaborate State Apartments before making your way to the adjacent Orangery for a traditional afternoon tea, served with finger sandwiches, scones, and Cornish clotted cream.

Day 9: Thames River Cruise & Pub Dinner

\$125 (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Step aboard a riverboat for a cruise down the Thames and take in views of the London skyline, Tower Bridge, Southbank, and more from the water. As you travel from Tower Pier to Westminster Pier, you'll snap photos of Shakespeare's Globe, the National Theatre, and Jubilee Gardens before disembarking and taking a tour through the Covent Garden area of the West End. Then, sit down for a three-course dinner including beer or wine at a local pub. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms