



## *The Chelsea Flower Show!*

May 16 – May 25, 2023



Bring a sun hat (and maybe your wellies) and join garden host **Karen Chapman** to experience the ultimate garden lover's adventure to the famous **Chelsea Flower Show!** In addition to the Chelsea show, you'll visit Royal Tunbridge Wells, Oxford and the Cotswolds. Your garden adventure begins with four leisurely days discovering the historic city of Oxford, its famous university and the charming villages and gardens of the Cotswolds. Enjoy insider access to many of

England's most famous gardens, have visits to multiple private gardens and stroll the grounds of Blenheim Palace, birthplace and former home of Winston Churchill. In Kent County, you'll discover the lush historic gardens of Sissinghurst and Great Dixter. *Space is limited.*

### **TRIP AT A GLANCE**

4 Nights Oxford, England's Oldest University town

2 Nights Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent

3 Nights London





## GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

Tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show   Insider access to private gardens   The charming Cotswolds   Chiswick House and Gardens Trust   Great Dixter Gardens   Sissinghurst Gardens   Pashley Manor   Blenheim Palace, birthplace and former home of Winston Churchill   Oxford Botanical Gardens   Hidcote Manor Garden   Kiftsgate Gardens   The charming English countryside   A wonderful group of fellow like-minded garden and history lovers.

## IT'S INCLUDED!

- With special garden host, Karen Chapman
- Fully guided by an expert Earthbound Expeditions program manager
- Nine nights' four-star hotel accommodation
- All breakfasts plus ten additional multi-course meals
- Transport by private air-conditioned motor coach
- Admission into all museums and gardens as listed in your custom garden itinerary
- Guided tours (where available) of all gardens by head gardener, gardener or owner
- Gratuities for your driver and guide

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

10 Days/9 Nights (*land*)

\$4,750 per person, double occupancy

\$1,435 single supplement (*waived if you are willing to share & a roommate is found*)

Tour begins in Oxford on May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Tour ends in London on May 25, 2023 after breakfast

## SAVE \$300!

- Pay your final balance by check and save \$100
- Earthbound travel alumni save \$100
- Reserve before December 31, 2022 and save \$100



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## *Your Custom Garden Adventure Begins!*

B = Breakfast / L = Lunch / D= Dinner

### **DAY 0: May 15 - Depart the USA for England**

Remember, you'll need to depart the US no later today. If you have the time, you may wish to arrive a few days early and catch a play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre or visit London's great museum before meeting the group in Oxford.

**Travel advice:** Reserve your flight into and out of Heathrow airport. It's much closer to both London and Oxford than Gatwick Airport.

### **DAY 1: May 16 - Your Custom Garden Journey Begins in Oxford!**

Welcome to the United Kingdom! Transfer by train, taxi airport shuttle to your centrally located, four-star hotel in the heart of Oxford. Take time to relax and freshen up before meeting your guide and host **Karen Chapman** for an evening orientation and welcome dinner. *Sleep in Oxford (D)*

### **DAY 2: May 17 - Discover Oxford**

This morning, we enjoy a student-led tour of the historic campus of The University of Oxford, or simply "Oxford." It has no known date of foundation, but there is evidence of teaching here as far back as 1096, making it the oldest university in the English-speaking world and the world's second-oldest university in continuous operation. It grew rapidly from 1167 when Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris. After disputes between students and Oxford townsfolk in 1209, some academics fled northeast to Cambridge where they established the University of Cambridge. The two "ancient universities" are frequently jointly referred to as "Oxbridge." Lovers of literature will enjoy seeing the colleges and pubs where C.S. Lewis, JRR Tolkien and Lewis Carroll wrote their masterpieces.



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*“Remember gentlemen, it's not just France we are fighting for, it's Champagne!”*  
Sir Winston Churchill

Our tour also includes the **University of Oxford Botanic Garden**. Founded in 1621 with a mission to promote learning and glorify nature, many people and plants have been involved in the history of the garden. The educational and conservational missions are continued to this day. You can visit the herbaceous borders, glasshouses or simply relax in the oldest botanic garden in Britain. *Sleep in Oxford (B, L)*



**DAY 3: May 18 - Sir Winston Churchill: Blenheim Palace**

This morning we set out to discover Sir Winston Churchill's life at **Blenheim Palace**. We'll explore the newly reinvigorated, permanent Churchill exhibition, visit the Memorial Garden and walk in Churchill's Footsteps.

Blenheim is the English landscape garden at its most monumental, an appropriate setting for the magnificent palace. The grounds were originally designed in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, then later renovated by famed English landscape architect Lancelot Brown, better known as “Capability Brown,” who swept away all traces of the earlier formality, replacing it with his signature landscape park. He also installed the lake and cascade.

In the afternoon, we continue on to **Rousham Gardens**. Rousham provides a complete contrast in scale and atmosphere, and is disarmingly un-commercial. The garden was designed by William Kent in 1738 for Sir Robert Dormer, and since that time it has remained miraculously unaltered and in the same family. We return to Oxford in the late afternoon *Sleep in Oxford (B, L)*



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*“It is a golden maxim to cultivate the garden for the nose,  
and the eyes will take care of themselves.”*

Robert Louis Stevenson

#### **DAY 4: May 19 - The Cotswolds & Hidcote & Kiftsgate Gardens**

Today, we'll discover two of the most beautiful gardens in the Cotswolds: **Hidcote Manor and Gardens** and the **gardens of Kiftsgate**.

Hidcote Manor and Gardens is one of the most influential and famous of all English gardens. Hidcote was created in the 1930s by an American, Lawrence Johnston. Johnston employed his skills as a designer and a horticulturalist to make a superbly dramatic garden of outdoor rooms, each with a theme or particular season of interest. The garden is packed with wonderful planting and visual surprises.

You'll have free time to explore the gardens and enjoy an independent lunch before heading to Kiftsgate. Heather Muir created the garden at Kiftsgate, which up until 1920 had consisted of a paved formal garden in front of the portico, with fields and wooded banks beyond. Muir was helped and inspired by her lifelong friend Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote Manor. She decided that the garden would develop organically, rather than planning everything on paper. This has given the garden a distinctly feminine feel, almost in direct contrast to the more masculine lines being employed by Johnston at Hidcote. Her gentle touch is being continued by her granddaughter Anne Chambers, the present owner.

We make our way back to Oxford via the beautiful town of Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds. Campden is one of the most beautiful and most charming destinations in the UK. Enjoy a bit of time here before arriving back in Oxford.

*Sleep in Oxford (B, D)*



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### **DAY 5: May 20 - South to Royal Tunbridge Wells via Vann Gardens**

Our journey today continues as we depart Oxford for Royal Tunbridge Wells. En-route, we'll visit the fabulous **Vann Gardens**.

Nestled in the Surrey countryside, 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.Caröe, the Arts and Crafts architect and great 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.

Enjoy a country lunch and then continue on to Royal Tunbridge Wells. Dinner included upon arrival. *Sleep in Royal Tunbridge (B, L, D)*

### **DAY 6: May 21 - Pashley Manor & Great Dixter Gardens**

This morning, enjoy a private visit to **Pashley Manor** in Ticehurst, Kent with its exuberantly colorful 11-acre garden with a medieval moat and a string of ponds surrounding a 16<sup>th</sup>-century timber-framed house. Over 40 varieties of this diverse perennial are planted throughout the gardens, organized according to color, and is reached through elegant parklands with splendid countryside views. We'll have lunch here at the splendid café on the grounds. Next, we are off to Great Dixter Gardens.

After lunch we are off for a visit and private tour of **Great Dixter**, once home of famed gardening writer and plantsman Christopher Lloyd. His garden follows the crisp design laid out by Sir Edwin Lutyens prior to World War I. Yew hedging and flagstone paths divide the seven-acre garden into spaces of different character and purpose. Dynamic and bold



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planting is the garden's theme, and most famous is the view down the Long Border, a richly planted sunny border filled with mixed annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, small trees and climbing plants that perform with brilliant color over a long season. Don't miss the opportunity to look inside the house and the Great Hall, which dates from the 15th century and was restored also by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon.  
*Sleep in Royal Tunbridge Wells (B, L)*

#### **DAY 7: May 22 – North to London via Sissinghurst & Penshurst Gardens**

Our journey today continues as we depart Royal Tunbridge Wells for London. En-route, we'll stop at **Sissinghurst Gardens**. Here, you'll enter the world of influential gardener and writer Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicholson. A disciplined framework of walls and hedges is filled out by wonderfully exuberant plantings of old roses, perennials and cottage garden flowers. The remains of an Elizabethan mansion with twin towers and rambling, low out buildings, crumbly red-brick walls and open courtyards make a wildly romantic setting. The most famous of the many gardens is Vita's innovative White Garden, a poetic composition of white and off-white flowers, set off by green, grey and blue-tinted foliage plants, such as ferns, artemisias, sea kale and grasses. Sissinghurst Gardens is a pilgrimage site for gardeners worldwide!

After enjoying lunch at Sissinghurst, we'll have a tour of **Penshurst Place Gardens**. The 600-year-old gardens are still in private ownership of Viscount de L'Isle. They have many small enclosed gardens with a delightful Elizabethan flavor. The garden includes a rose garden and a 100-foot-long peony border. The Tudor house can also be visited.

In the afternoon, we'll make our way to our charming, central London hotel. Tonight, we'll have dinner together out on the town.

*Sleep in London (B, L, D)*



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### **DAY 8: May 23 – Kew Gardens & Chiswick House Gardens**

This morning, we set out to discover the stunning **Kew Gardens**. The garden includes 50,000 living plants and houses the largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world. It's also a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Next, we visit the historic **Chiswick House and Gardens Trust**. Chiswick House is one of the most glorious examples of 18th century British architecture and its gardens are the birthplace of the English Landscape Movement.

Return to central London in the later afternoon. *Sleep in London (B, L)*

### **DAY 9: May 24 -The Chelsea Flower Show**

The **Chelsea Flower Show** is the gardening Mecca of Europe, where some of the greatest exponents of the art exhibit imaginative garden designs over an 11-acre site at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. They create a wonderland for the public to explore, as the tranquil canvas of the hospital's lawns comes alive with a riot of color and form. Since its inception in 1913, the Chelsea Flower show has been at the forefront of horticultural development. In 2002, the entire event was housed in the dramatic, new-look of Great Marquee – higher, lighter, brighter and better ventilated than ever before. Dozens of model gardens have always formed the prime attraction, reflecting the changing enthusiasms of designers. From the Japanese and topiary styles of the early days, to a major emphasis on rock gardens during the war years, to the paved backyards, cottage and wildflower gardens of the present day, the show continues a long tradition of pushing boundaries. You'll have plenty of time to wander at the show today.

Enjoy a farewell feast with your host Karen Chapman this evening. Enjoy!  
*Sleep in London (B, D)*



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**DAY 10: May 25 - Your Custom Garden Journey Concludes**

Your garden journey concludes this morning after breakfast. London is well connected by train, taxi and subway (tube) to Heathrow Airport. There are endless wonderful things to see in London, so consider staying on a few days if you have the time. Return home with a lifetime of happy memories of your garden adventure!

*-Itinerary Subject to Change -*

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## *Meet Your Host!*



**Karen Chapman** Born in England, I grew up with a trowel in my hand.

After moving to the Pacific Northwest in 1996, I joined one of the leading garden nurseries as a garden plant specialist. Helping hundreds of customers create beautiful combinations of plants to enhance their outdoor living spaces was always a delight. Ten years later I established *Le jardinet* in order to provide a service that takes all the time, stress and guesswork out of the design process for you.

In the recent past I have taught container gardening at Edmonds Community College, and continue to teach both container and landscape design in occasional workshops and events as well offering a range of online learning opportunities .

With excellent reviews on the Great Garden Speakers website, I frequently give presentations at flower & garden shows, trade conferences, horticultural organizations, nurseries, and garden clubs, and now extend my passion for sharing great gardens by leading garden tours both in the United States and England.

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### *Reservations & Questions*

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# *Know Before You Go!*

**About Earthbound Expeditions:** Earthbound Expeditions was founded in 1997 by veteran guides Matthew and Danna Brumley. Since then, Earthbound Expeditions has created hundreds of journeys for thousands of happy travelers. We take great pride in creating highly specialized, hand-crafted, one-of-a-kind journeys for garden clubs, botanical gardens and museums.

**Reservations and Deposits:** Early reservations are essential to guarantee space on the date you wish to travel. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your space on your journey. You can make your secure credit card deposit online, by phone or by mail. Once the deposit is processed, a deposit packet is sent with pertinent journey details. Questions? Call our helpful travel staff at 800-723-8454.

**Health Matters:** We ask that all guests be fully vaccinated with boosters. Further, it is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations, and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. To make the most of your journey and participate in the various planned group activities, you should be able to be on your feet and walk unassisted for two to three hours (often over uneven cobblestones or pathways) with frequent standing. If you have questions about the physical requirements for your journey, please email or call our travel office.



**Concerts, Gardens, Festivals and Events:** If, for any reason, the organizers of a scheduled concert, garden, festival or event cancel or postpone a planned activity with little or no notice, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to secure a similar event or secure another concert(s). Strikes, unscheduled delays, lack of funds and acts of God are beyond the control of Earthbound Expeditions. Cancellation of an activity or garden visit is not cause for refund.

**Hosted Journeys:** If a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

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