



## Join Garden Host Joe Lamp'l in England!

**Great Gardens & Estates  
plus the Chelsea Flower Show!**  
May 21 - 31, 2026



Join renowned plantsman Joe Lamp'l on an unforgettable garden lover's journey to England, where the beauty of nature and history come alive. Your adventure begins in London with a morning at the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show, followed by a visit to the breathtaking Kew Gardens. From there, head to Kent County to explore the lush, renowned gardens of Sissinghurst and Great Dixter. Next, discover the timeless charm of Bath, where Roman history meets the legacy of Jane Austen. Finally, immerse yourself in the beauty of Oxford, Europe's oldest university town, and the enchanting Cotswolds. This annual garden tour is a dream come

true for garden and history enthusiasts—space is limited!

### TRIP AT A GLANCE

3 Nights London  
2 Nights Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent  
2 Nights Bath, home of Jane Austen  
3 Nights Oxford, England's Oldest University Town



**EARTHBOUND  
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

Tel: 206.842.9775

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## GARDEN & TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

A day at the celebrated Chelsea Flower Show ♦ Charles Dowding Farm ♦ Kew Gardens ♦ The charming Cotswolds ♦ Explore Jane Austen's city of Bath ♦ Great Dixter Gardens ♦ Sissinghurst Gardens ♦ Blenheim Palace, birthplace and former home of Winston Churchill ♦ Oxford Botanical Gardens ♦ The charming English countryside ♦ A wonderful group of kindred spirits who share your passion for gardens!

## IT'S INCLUDED!

- With garden host, Joe Lamp'l
- Ten nights' four-star hotel accommodation
- All breakfasts plus ten additional 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 gardens and estates
- Gratuities for your driver and guide

## TRIP AT A GLANCE

11 Days/10 Nights (land)

\$6,995 per person, double occupancy

\$1,950 single supplement (*waived if you are willing to share & a roommate is found*)

Tour begins in London on May 21, 2026, at 6:00 pm

Tour ends in Oxford on May 31, 2026, after breakfast

## SAVE \$200!

- Pay your final balance by check and save \$100
- Earthbound travel alumni save \$100



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# Your Garden Journey Begins!

B = Breakfast / L = Lunch / D= Dinner

## DAY 0: Depart the USA for London

Remember, you'll need to depart from North America no later than May 20.

Arrive a few days early and catch a play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre or visit London's great museums! **Travel advice:** *Reserve your flight into and out of Heathrow Airport. It's much closer to both London and Oxford than Gatwick.*

## DAY 1: Thursday, May 21 – Your Tailor-Made Garden Journey Begins!

Welcome to the United Kingdom! Transfer by train or taxi to your centrally located four-star hotel in London. Take time to relax and freshen up before meeting your guide, host Joe Lamp'l, and fellow travelers for an evening orientation and welcome dinner. *Sleep in London (D)*

## DAY 2: Friday, May 22 – A Full Day Discovering the Renowned Chelsea Flower Show!

The Chelsea Flower Show is Europe's premier gardening event, showcasing stunning garden designs by some of the world's top horticultural artists. Located on an 11-acre site at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, this annual event transforms the serene lawns into a vibrant wonderland filled with color and creativity. Since its inception in 1913, the show has played a crucial role in advancing horticultural trends and innovations. In 2002, the event was enhanced with the introduction of the Great Marquees, which are larger, brighter, and better ventilated, offering an improved experience for visitors and exhibitors alike. It's truly a celebration of nature's beauty. Enjoy your visit! *Sleep in London (B, D)*

## DAY 3: Saturday, May 23 – A Full Day Exploring Kew Gardens

This morning we set out for a day at the stunning Kew Gardens, home to the largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Set amongst a series of parks and estates along the River Thames, the Kew includes work by internationally renowned landscape architects illustrating significant periods in garden design from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Since their creation in 1759, gardens have made a significant and uninterrupted contribution to the study of plant diversity, plant systematics and economic botany.

We'll start the day with a guided tour of the gardens and then have plenty of time for free exploration. *Sleep in London (B, D)*







*"Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade."*  
 –Rudyard Kipling

**DAY 4: Sunday, May 24 – South to Royal Tunbridge Wells via Churchill's Chartwell Estate**  
 Depart London in the morning aboard a comfortable bus with your guide, and garden host, Joe Lamp'l. Learn about Winston Churchill's life and legacy en-route to Chartwell. Upon arrival, enjoy a guided tour of the exquisite gardens—including the walled garden, golden rose walk, and lakes—followed by ample time to explore the house and Churchill's studio at your own pace. Conclude the day with a reserved afternoon tea at the café before continuing south to the charming town of Royal Tunbridge Wells. *Sleep in Royal Tunbridge Wells (B, L, D)*

**DAY 5: Monday, May 25 – Sissinghurst and Great Dixter Gardens**

Today is a day of magnificent gardens. The Lloyd family developed Great Dixter early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from an original design by Sir Edwin Lutyens. Today it is more famous for the plantings established by Christopher Lloyd documented in his many classic gardening books. The residence comprises a mid-15<sup>th</sup>-century hall house, typical of the Weald of Kent, to the south side of which a second, early 16<sup>th</sup>-century yeoman's house was grafted. Lutyens enjoyed using local materials and retained farm buildings like oast houses, cowsheds, barns and outbuildings. Around these he designed his garden, featuring a sunken garden, topiary and yew hedges. Christopher Lloyd managed Great Dixter from the 1950s and was noted for his innovative approach and introduction of concepts like the mixed border and meadow garden, and his replacement of the rose garden with schemes using less fashionable plants like cannas and dahlias. We will investigate his full range of planting schemes.



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*Enjoy a day exploring the beautiful city of Bath*

We next drive to Sissinghurst Castle Garden, one of England's greatest garden delights. Sissinghurst was the garden of poet and writer Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson, journalist, MP and diplomat, and is possibly the most influential of all 20<sup>th</sup> century gardens. Built around the remnants of an Elizabethan castle, of which the tower remains a central garden feature, the garden is divided into distinct spaces where a formality established by Nicolson is clothed by a romantic planting style pursued by Sackville-West. The garden retains its original charm and romance with such delights as its parterre, white garden, cottage garden, nut walk and orchard. We shall explore Sissinghurst's many hidden corners, sumptuous planting combinations and the view from the top of the tower, always a good starting point for those who wish to understand the garden's layout.

*Sleep in Royal Tunbridge Wells (B, L, D)*



#### **DAY 6: Tuesday, May 26 – Charles Dowding's Farm**

Today, we depart Tunbridge Wells for the beautiful county of Somerset. Our destination is the home and farm of acclaimed gardening expert Charles Dowding. Renowned for his pioneering work in no-dig gardening, Charles is dedicated to producing nourishing food while exploring both traditional and innovative techniques that bring his vision to life.

Together, we'll tour his inspiring farm and gain insights into his life's work. After a delicious lunch on-site, we drive on to the ancient Roman city of Bath. Literature

lovers will delight in the chance to visit the home of Jane Austen, one of England's most cherished authors. Tonight, we rest in Bath at a charming historic mansion hotel.

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



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*Enjoy a morning at Blenheim Palace*

**Day 7: Wednesday, May 27 – Explore Roman Bath**

Embark on a leisurely 3-hour walking tour through the heart of Bath, where history and beauty blend effortlessly. Led by an expert guide, explore the ancient Roman baths and learn of the city's origins as a Roman spa. Wander past the picturesque Pulteney Bridge and be enchanted by the grand Royal Crescent and The Circus, two stunning examples of Georgian elegance. Along the way, uncover tales of Bath's literary legacy, including Jane Austen's time here, where she lived and set two of her beloved novels. With plenty of time to admire the views and soak in the charm, this tour offers a perfect introduction to one of England's most captivating cities. *Sleep in Bath (B)*

**DAY 8: Thursday, May 28 – Gardens of Somerset and Oxford**

Embark on a scenic drive from Bath to Oxford, weaving through the lush, rolling landscapes of Somerset, a county renowned for its stunning gardens and verdant countryside. As you leave the city's Georgian elegance behind, you'll meander through picturesque villages and fields dotted with wildflowers. Halfway along the journey, stop to explore a charming garden, where you can wander through vibrant blooms, tranquil pathways, and expertly landscaped grounds. Somerset's temperate climate and rich soil make it a haven for horticulture, with its gardens offering a perfect blend of natural beauty and human craftsmanship—an unforgettable pause on your journey to Oxford. *Sleep in Oxford (B, L)*







**“If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”  
— Marcus Tullius Cicero**

**DAY 9: Friday, May 29 – Discover Oxford**

This morning, we'll enjoy a student-led tour of the historic campus of The University of Oxford, or simply “Oxford.” It has no known foundation date, 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.

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.

You may wish to take a tour of the Oxford Bodleian Libraries, which number more than 11 million printed items. Or perhaps you wish to try your hand at punting, a favorite pastime for Oxford students and visitors. Art and history lovers won't want to miss the university's top-notch Ashmolean Museum, which houses Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Middle Eastern and Asian art. We will dine together this evening. *Sleep in Oxford (B, D)*



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#### **DAY 10: Saturday, May 30 – Blenheim Palace and the Cotswolds**

Embark on a delightful full-day adventure from Oxford, where history meets charm at every turn. Begin your journey with a visit to the magnificent Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site, renowned for its stunning architecture and breathtaking gardens. Wander through its opulent rooms and learn about the birthplace of Winston Churchill. After soaking in the palace's grandeur, continue your exploration into the picturesque Cotswolds. Meander through idyllic villages, each with its own character—stone cottages, winding lanes, and cozy pubs. Stop in Bibury, often dubbed the “most beautiful village in England,” and enjoy the tranquil countryside views. This enchanting outing combines history, culture, and scenic beauty, offering an unforgettable glimpse of England's timeless charm. We return to Oxford in the late afternoon. *Sleep in Oxford (B, L)*

#### **DAY 11: Sunday, May 31 – Your Custom Garden Journey Concludes**

Your garden journey concludes this morning after breakfast. Oxford is well connected by train, airport shuttle and bus to London. Heathrow airport is just a little over an hour away by direct shuttle bus. In addition, there are many wonderful things to see in Oxford, so consider booking an additional evening or two here. Return home with a lifetime of happy memories of your garden adventure!



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## Meet Your Host!



Joe Lamp'l is the host and executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning national series *Growing a Greener World* on PBS, currently airing in 96% of the US and in 38 countries. He has been featured on NBC's Today Show, ABC's Good Morning America, The Weather Channel, and the DIY Network.

Joe has been the recipient of The American Horticultural Society's B.Y. Morrison Communication Award, which recognizes effective and inspirational communication, as well as the Garden Writers Association Gold Award for Best On-Air Talent, and more.

Joe has traveled the US and beyond showing people beautiful gardens and, more importantly, telling the stories of the people behind those gardens. Joe aims to highlight the heroes doing great things for the planet through organic gardening, green living, small farming, and simple yet significant ways to lighten their footprint on this planet. Joe lives with his family on their north Atlanta, Georgia farm.



### Questions & Reservations

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“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”  
— Audrey Hepburn



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

**Reservations and Deposits:** A \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

**Final Payment:** Is due 90 days prior to departure and is non-refundable.

**Not Included:** International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

**Physical Requirements:** 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. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

**Travel Insurance:** Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

**Events, Gardens and Hosted Journeys:** If a planned garden visit or event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, 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, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

**Terms & Conditions:** [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.



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