

Great Gardens & Grand Estates *of England*

May 19 – 28, 2027



Hosted by Michigan Public!



**Michigan
Public**

Join friends of Michigan Public on an unforgettable journey through England's grand estates and magnificent gardens, where the beauty of nature and history come alive. Your adventure begins in London with a morning at the world-famous **Chelsea Flower Show**. From there, head to Kent to explore the lush, renowned gardens of Sissinghurst and Great Dixter. Finally, immerse yourself in the beauty and history of Oxford, home to the oldest university in the English-speaking world. In addition, you'll explore the enchanting Cotswolds and visit Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Winston Churchill. Our annual garden tour is a dream come true for garden and history enthusiasts. Space is limited!



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

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

Tel: 206.842.9775

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com



TRIP AT A GLANCE

2 Nights London: Attend the Chelsea Flower Show!

3 Nights Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent

4 Nights Oxford, England's oldest university town

GARDEN AND TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

A day at the celebrated Chelsea Flower Show ♦ The charming Cotswolds ♦ Great Dixter Gardens and Sissinghurst Gardens (both consistently ranked among the world's top gardens) ♦ Blenheim Palace, birthplace and former home of Winston Churchill ♦ Oxford Botanic Gardens and colleges ♦ The charming English countryside ♦ A wonderful group of kindred spirits who share your passion for gardens, history, and public radio!

YOUR TAILOR-MADE JOURNEY INCLUDES

- Hosted by **Michigan Public** and accompanied by an experienced Earthbound Expeditions Tour Director
- Reserved admission to the world-renowned Chelsea Flower Show
- Nine nights in hand-selected, centrally located four-star hotels
- Daily breakfast, 10 additional meals and memorable dining experiences in historic English pubs and charming country restaurants
- Private deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach throughout the journey
- Expert-guided visits to England's finest gardens, grand estates and historic homes
- Admission to all gardens, estates and museums featured in the itinerary.
- Engaging local garden experts and knowledgeable guides throughout the tour
- All driver and guide gratuities
- Pre-departure reading list and travel information to enrich your journey
- Airport transfers for travelers arriving and departing on the official tour dates
- The camaraderie of fellow Michigan Public listeners who share a passion for gardens, history and lifelong learning

TRIP FACTS

10 days/9 nights (*land*)

\$7,395 per person, double occupancy

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

Tour begins in London on May 19, 2027, at 6 p.m.

Tour ends in Oxford on May 28, 2027, after breakfast

Save \$200: Michigan Public and Earthbound travel alumni save \$100 ♦ save \$100 when you pay final balance by check



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Your grand adventure begins in London!

Your Journey Begins!

DAY 0: Depart the U.S. for London

Remember, you'll need to depart from North America no later than May 18 to arrive by May 19. If you have time, we suggest arriving a few days early to see a play at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre or visit London's great museums!

DAY 1: Wednesday, May 19 – Your Custom Garden Journey Begins!

Welcome to the United Kingdom! Transfer to your centrally located four-star hotel in London. Take time to relax and freshen up before meeting your guide, your Michigan Public host, and fellow travelers for an evening orientation and welcome dinner.

Sleep in London (D)

DAY 2: Thursday, May 20 – A Full Day at 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)*



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Churchill's home at Chartwell

DAY 3: Friday, May 21 – Churchill's Chartwell Estate

Depart this morning aboard a comfortable motorcoach and 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 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 returning to the hotel in the late afternoon.

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

DAY 4: Saturday, May 22 – Sissinghurst and Great Dixter Gardens

Today we explore two of England's most celebrated gardens. Our morning begins at Great Dixter, the former home of plantsman and garden writer Christopher Lloyd. Sir Edwin Lutyens originally redesigned the property using traditional Kentish buildings. The garden became famous for Lloyd's bold, imaginative planting style. His innovative use of mixed borders, meadow gardens, and vibrant combinations of plants transformed Great Dixter into one of the world's most influential gardens. We'll enjoy time to wander its colorful borders, topiary, and distinctive garden rooms.

This afternoon we visit the iconic Sissinghurst Castle Garden, created by writer Vita Sackville-West and diplomat Harold Nicolson. Set among the ruins of an Elizabethan manor, Sissinghurst is divided into a series of intimate garden "rooms," blending Nicolson's formal design with Sackville-West's romantic planting. Highlights include the celebrated White Garden, cottage garden, orchard, and tower, whose panoramic views reveal the garden's elegant layout and enduring influence on garden design. *Sleep in Royal Tunbridge Wells (B, L, D)*



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Enjoy four nights in Oxford, home to England's oldest university

DAY 5: Sunday, May 23 – Hever Castle and Penshurst Place and Gardens

This morning we are off to **Penshurst Place** and Gardens. The medieval Baron's Hall was completed in 1341 as a country retreat for the lord mayor of London. The Baron's Hall, crowned by its original 60-foot-high chestnut-beamed ceiling, is an unmissable sight for visitors to the ancestral home of the Sidney family, which has cared for the estate since 1552. Explore this grand estate and its lovely gardens before enjoying lunch.

After lunch, we are off to **Hever Castle**. Spanning more than 600 years, the history of Hever Castle is rich and varied. The castle became the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, King Henry VIII's second wife, who became Queen of England for just 1,000 days. Arrive at Royal Tunbridge Wells in the late evening. *Sleep in Royal Tunbridge Wells (B, L, D)*

DAY 6: Monday, May 24 – RHS Garden Wisley

Our journey today continues as we depart for historic Oxford. En route, we'll visit RHS Garden Wisley, the society's historic flagship garden and one of its most horticulturally diverse properties. The Royal Horticultural Society was given to Wisley in 1903. From the start, the garden acquired a reputation for its collections of lilies, gentians, Japanese irises, primulas, and water plants. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the gardens and then set off for Oxford. Arrive in Oxford in the late afternoon, then join your guide and host for a welcome-to-Oxford dinner. *Sleep in Oxford (B, L, D)*



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Spend a morning at Blenheim Palace, Churchill's birthplace

DAY 7: Tuesday, May 25 – Discover the University of Oxford and Gardens

This morning, we'll enjoy a student-led tour of the historic colleges of the University of Oxford, or simply "Oxford." It has no known foundation date, but there is evidence of teaching here dating to 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 collectively known as Oxbridge. Lovers of literature will enjoy seeing the colleges and pubs where C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. 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 conservation missions continue to this day. You can visit the herbaceous borders and glasshouses or simply relax in the oldest botanic garden in Britain. *Sleep in Oxford (B, D)*





Romantic Sissinghurst is rated as one of the top gardens of the world

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.”
Winston S. Churchill

DAY 8: Wednesday, May 26 – Sir Winston Churchill and Blenheim Palace

This morning we set out to discover 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 18th century and later renovated by English landscape architect Lancelot 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 to Rousham Gardens. Rousham provides a complete contrast in scale and atmosphere and is disarmingly uncommercial. The garden was designed by William Kent in 1738 for Sir Robert Dormer, and since then, it has remained miraculously unaltered and in the same family. We’ll return to Oxford in the late afternoon.

Sleep in Oxford (B, L)



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Discover the charming Cotswolds!

DAY 9: Thursday, May 27 – The Cotswolds and Hidcote Manor Garden

Today, we'll discover one of the most beautiful gardens in the Cotswolds. Our day starts with a visit to the charming town of Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds. Enjoy time for lunch and browse the village's boutiques and shops.

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

In the late afternoon, we make our way back to our home in Oxford. *Sleep in Oxford (B, D)*

DAY 10: Friday, May 28 – 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! (B)



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Spend a morning at Penshurst palace garden

Meet Your Host!



Steve Carmody has been a reporter for Michigan Public since 2005. He previously worked at public radio and television stations in Florida, Oklahoma and Kentucky, and also has extensive experience in commercial broadcasting. During his four decades in broadcasting, Steve has won numerous awards, including accolades from the Associated Press and Radio and Television News Directors Association. Away from the broadcast booth, Steve is an avid reader, gardener and movie fanatic.

Reservations & Questions

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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A deposit of \$1,000 per person 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 within 90 days of departure are nonrefundable. Final payment is due 90 days before departure and is nonrefundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for ship crew and staff, 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 and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is canceled 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 and Conditions: [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.

Garden Visits: It is uncommon but possible for a listed garden to be closed or temporarily unavailable because of renovations or a private event. If this occurs, a suitable substitute will be found. There are more lovely gardens and grand estates in England than you can possibly imagine!



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