



Gardens of Oxford, County Kent & the Cotswolds!

May 23 - June 1, 2022



Bring a sun hat (and maybe your wellies) and join garden host **Joe Lamp'1** to experience the ultimate garden lover's adventure to the famous **Chelsea Flower Show!** In addition to the Chelsea show, you'll visit County Kent, Oxford and 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. Your garden adventure continues with four leisurely days discovering the historic city of Oxford, its famous university and the charming villages and gardens of the Cotswolds. *Space is limited.*

TRIP AT A GLANCE

3 Nights London

2 Nights Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent

4 Nights Oxford, England's Oldest University Town





GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

A day at the celebrated Chelsea Flower Show ♦ Insider access to private gardens ♦ The charming Cotswolds ♦ Chiswick House and Gardens Trust ♦ Great Dixter Gardens ♦ Sissinghurst Gardens ♦ Pashley Manor, Bateman's House gardens ♦ Blenheim Palace, birthplace and former home of Winston Churchill ♦ Oxford Botanical Gardens ♦ Hidcote Manor Garden ♦ Kiftsgate Gardens ♦ The charming English countryside ♦ West Green House Gardens ♦ A wonderful group of fellow garden and history lovers.

IT'S INCLUDED!

- With garden host, Joe Lamp'l
- 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*)

\$5,495 per person, double occupancy

\$1,425 single supplement (*waived if you are willing to share & a roommate is found*)

Tour begins in London on May 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Tour ends in Oxford on June 1, 2022 after breakfast

Getting to London: *It's best if you book your flight into and out of Heathrow airport*

SAVE \$300!

- Pay your final balance by check and save \$100
- Earthbound travel alumni save \$100
- Reserve before September 1, 2021 and save \$100



RISK FREE BOOKING: Cancel for any reason by October 1, 2021 and receive a full refund.



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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

Your Custom Garden Adventure Begins!

B = Breakfast / L = Lunch / D= Dinner

DAY 0: May 22 - Depart the USA for London

Remember, you'll need to depart the US no later than May 22. However, 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 museums! **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 23 - Your Custom Garden Journey Begins!

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

Sleep in London (D)

DAY 2: 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 Marquees – higher, lighter, brighter and better ventilated than ever before.



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*“Gardens are not made by singing ‘Oh, how beautiful,’
and sitting in the shade.”*
-Rudyard Kipling

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!
Sleep in London (B, D)

DAY 3: May 25 – Kew Gardens

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

Time permitting, we will visit the **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)*



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

DAY 4: May 26 - South to Royal Tunbridge Wells via Sissinghurst Gardens

Our journey today continues as we depart London for Royal Tunbridge Wells. 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 the charming town of Royal Tunbridge Wells. Upon arrival, we'll have an orientation and dinner out on the town.
Sleep in Royal Tunbridge Wells (B, L, D)



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DAY 5: May 27 - Pashley Manor, Bateman's House & Great Dixter

This morning, enjoy a private visit to Pashley Manor Ticehurst, Kent with its exuberantly colorful 11-acre garden with a medieval moat and a string of ponds surrounding a 16th-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 Bateman's House.

“That's She! The Only She! Make an honest woman of her – quick!” was how author Rudyard Kipling and his wife, Carrie, felt the first time they saw Bateman's. Surrounded by the wooded landscape of the Sussex Weald, this 17th-century house, with its mullioned windows and oak beams, provided a much-needed sanctuary for this world-famous writer. The rooms, described by Kipling as “untouched and unfaked,” remain much as he left them, with oriental rugs and artifacts reflecting his strong association with the East. Bateman's, with its fruitful orchards, very much has the feel of a family home, but is impressive nonetheless.

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 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)



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DAY 6: May 28 – West Green House Gardens & North to Oxford

Nestled in a woodland corner of Northern Hampshire, the gardens of West Green House surround one of the prettiest manor houses in England. It is a garden with a special and distinctive sense of place created over two decades by Marylyn Abbott, a renowned garden designer. **West Green House Gardens** combines neo-classical style with contemporary design. A grand water staircase provides a focal point to the Nymphaeum Fountain designed by architect Quinlan Terry. The magnificent Walled Garden, faithfully restored to its original lines, is entered through an arbor of wisteria. An alley of apple trees divides an elaborate potager with its berry-filled fruit cages, annual flowers and colorful vegetables from its signature perennial borders exuberantly planted in subtle hues of mauve, plum and blue.

After lunch, we depart by private motor coach for the historic city of Oxford. This afternoon, we'll 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.

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.



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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)*



DAY 7: May 29 - Sir Winston Churchill: Blenheim Palace

This morning we will visit one of the most charming villages in the Cotswolds, Burford. Stroll down the merry little lanes past thatched-roof cottages, taverns and little shops. After an independent lunch, we set out to discover Sir Winston Churchill's life at Blenheim Palace. We'll explore the newly reinvented, 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, 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. Follow an unmarked route through a sequence of magical green spaces and viewing points, dramatically enhanced with superb garden buildings, sculptures and water in many forms. Then visit the walled garden, overflowing with colorful flowers, ancient espalier apples and a pigeon house.

We return to Oxford in the late afternoon *Sleep in Oxford (B, L)*



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DAY 8: May 30 - The Cotswolds and Hidcote Manor and 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'll return to Oxford for dinner. *Sleep in Oxford (B, D)*

DAY 9: May 31 - A Day in the Cotswolds

This morning, we set off to discover the charming villages and gardens of the Cotswolds. Charming picturesque towns and villages are scattered across this historic lush landscape. Our outing includes a stop at **Cerney House Gardens**, a romantic, secret place in the Cotswolds, near to Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. They are part of the home of the Angus family. Set around a Victorian walled garden, they are described by Country Living as "what most people aspire to in their gardens - and few achieve".

We will stop to smell the roses along the way, returning to Oxford in the late afternoon. *Sleep in Oxford (B, L)*



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DAY 10: June 1 - 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 and its airports. Heathrow airport is just a little over an hour away by direct shuttle bus. Add another hour of travel time if transferring by bus to Gatwick airport. 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!

-Itinerary Subject to Change -

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

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. For final balances, we prefer payment to be made by check, but we also accept Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Guests who pay their final balance by check will save from \$75-\$150. 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: 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.

~Itinerary Subject to change~



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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.



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Environmental Commitment

Through Earthbound's proud partnership with the Carbonfund.org, Earthbound Expeditions makes annual donations so as to help offset a guest's carbon footprint associated with international flights for Earthbound Expeditions tours.

These funds will be used to purchase and retire third-party validated and verified carbon offsets in voluntary carbon offset projects around the world, but these offsets only will neutralize some of our travelers' commercial flight emissions. Earthbound Expeditions makes a donation to the Carbonfund for every sign up.

Click [here](#) to learn more!



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