

Join Travelrite International on

THE GREAT GARDENS OF ENGLAND & ITALY

with Cheralyn Darcey

Visiting Great Dixter, Sissinghurst, Rome, Garden of Ninfa,
Tuscany, and the Italian Lakes District

9 to 28 September 2027



TRAVELRITE
INTERNATIONAL



THE GREAT GARDENS OF ENGLAND & ITALY

with Cheralyn Darcey

Cheralyn Darcey is a botanical historian, gardening author and broadcaster with a passion for the history of gardens and plants, and the people and stories behind them. She has written numerous books on gardening, plants, and the natural world, sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm with audiences around the globe. Known for her engaging presentation style and deep appreciation of garden history and design, Cheralyn brings a unique blend of horticultural expertise and storytelling to her tours, making each garden visit both informative and inspiring.

Discover the very best of England and Italy's garden heritage on this inspiring journey hosted by renowned gardening author and broadcaster Cheralyn Darcey. From the RHS Wisley Flower Show and the great English gardens of Sissinghurst, Great Dixter, Kew, and Hever Castle, to the romantic beauty of Ninfa, Villa d'Este, Villa Lante, and the elegant lakeside villas of northern Italy, this tour showcases some of Europe's most celebrated gardens. Along the way, explore London, Rome, Tuscany, and the beautiful Italian Lakes, combining world-class gardens with historic cities, spectacular landscapes, and unforgettable cultural experiences. With Cheralyn's horticultural insights throughout, this tour offers a wonderful opportunity to experience the art, history, and beauty of exceptional gardens in two of Europe's most captivating countries.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Attend the spectacular RHS Wisley Flower Show, one of Britain's premier gardening events and a highlight of the horticultural calendar.
- Visit world-famous English gardens, including Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Great Dixter, Kew Gardens, Hever Castle, and Pashley Manor.
- Discover Italy's most celebrated gardens, including Ninfa, Villa d'Este, Villa Lante, La Foce, and Giardini della Landriana.
- Experience the beauty of Tuscany and the Italian Lakes, with stays in Bagno Vignoni and Stresa, and visits to Siena, Bellagio, and the Borromean Islands.

DAY 1 Thursday 9 September 2027

Depart Australia

Today we board our overnight flight to London.

DAY 2 Friday 10 September 2027

Arrive England - Surrey Countryside

On arrival into England, we will be met by our private coach and travel to Merriments Gardens, one of England's most admired contemporary gardens. Set within the beautiful Sussex countryside, the garden features a series of inspirational, themed areas, and colourful herbaceous borders that provide interest throughout the seasons. After time to explore the garden, continue to your hotel. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner with your fellow travellers and Cheralyn.

DAY 3 Saturday 11 September 2027

Surrey Countryside

Today we visit the RHS Wisley Flower Show, the Royal Horticultural Society's premier autumn gardening event. Set within the world-famous RHS Garden Wisley, the show brings together some of Britain's finest nurseries, specialist plant societies, and award-winning growers, offering a spectacular display of seasonal colour and

horticultural excellence. Led by Cheralyn, we will also explore the magnificent gardens of Wisley, including its richly planted borders, renowned rose gardens, and remarkable glasshouses, which recreate tropical, moist temperate, and dry temperate environments. Discover the extensive flower, fruit, and vegetable trial grounds for which Wisley is famous, along with a number of former Chelsea Flower Show gardens that have found a permanent home here. This fascinating visit provides a wonderful insight into the history, innovation, and artistry of British gardening.

DAY 4 Sunday 12 September 2027

Surrey Countryside

Visit two of England's finest gardens today. Our first stop is Great Dixter, the former home of the renowned plantsman and gardening writer Christopher Lloyd. Famous throughout the gardening world, Great Dixter is celebrated for its bold planting schemes, colourful borders, topiary, and innovative use of plants. The historic timber-framed house and beautifully managed gardens continue to inspire gardeners from around the globe. We then continue to Pashley Manor Gardens, an elegant English garden surrounding a beautiful Tudor manor house. Renowned for its long herbaceous borders, romantic rose gardens, sweeping lawns, and seasonal displays, Pashley offers colour and interest throughout the year. During our visit, enjoy time to explore the garden's many themed areas while taking in the beauty of one of Sussex's most admired horticultural treasures.

DAY 5 Monday 13 September 2027

Surrey Countryside

Today we visit the world-famous Sissinghurst Castle Garden, created by writer Vita Sackville-West and diplomat Harold Nicolson. Regarded as one of England's most influential gardens, Sissinghurst is renowned for its series of beautifully designed garden rooms, including the celebrated White Garden, Rose Garden, and Cottage Garden. Later, we continue to Scotney Castle, one of



Kent's most picturesque garden estates. Set around the romantic ruins of a medieval moated manor house, the garden features woodland walks, seasonal plantings, sweeping lawns, and magnificent views across the surrounding countryside. Combining natural beauty, history, and outstanding garden design, Scotney Castle is one of England's most treasured landscapes.

DAY 6 Tuesday 14 September 2027

London

Today we travel to London, beginning with a visit to Hever Castle & Gardens, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Surrounded by a picturesque lake and renowned gardens, the estate features magnificent rose gardens, Italian gardens, topiary, and beautifully maintained grounds. We then continue to historic Greenwich, renowned for its rich maritime heritage and home to the Prime Meridian. After time to explore this fascinating riverside district, we board a ferry on the River Thames and cruise past many of London's most famous landmarks, enjoying wonderful views of the city skyline as we travel to Westminster Pier. On arrival, transfer to our hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.



DAY 7 Wednesday 15 September 2027

London

Visit two of England's most celebrated gardens. Our first stop is the magnificent Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's leading botanical institutions. Explore its outstanding plant collections, beautifully landscaped gardens, historic glasshouses, and remarkable displays featuring plants from across the globe. In the afternoon, continue to Hampton Court Palace Gardens, one of Britain's finest historic garden estates. Surrounding the former Tudor palace of King Henry VIII, the gardens feature formal parterres, colourful seasonal displays, the famous Great Vine, and beautifully maintained ornamental plantings



DAY 8 Thursday 16 September 2027

London

Today begin at the historic Chelsea Physic Garden, founded in 1673 to train apothecaries in the medicinal uses of plants. One of the oldest botanical gardens in Europe, it contains an extraordinary collection of medicinal herbs, rare plants, glasshouses, and botanical treasures from around the world. We then continue to the Garden Museum, located beside the Thames in the restored medieval church of St Mary-at-Lambeth. Dedicated to the history, design, and culture of gardens and gardening, the museum houses a fascinating collection of artefacts, tools, artwork, and exhibitions celebrating Britain's rich gardening heritage.

DAY 9 Friday 17 September 2027

Rome, Italy

Today we fly to Rome, the Eternal City and one of the world's greatest centres of history, art, and culture. On arrival, enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city, taking in many of its most famous landmarks, including the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, and Piazza Navona. Discover the rich heritage and vibrant atmosphere of this remarkable city before transferring to your hotel.

DAY 10 Saturday 18 September 2027

Rome

Today we explore two of the most remarkable sites in Tivoli. We begin with a visit to Villa Adriana (Hadrian's Villa), the vast and magnificent retreat of the Roman Emperor Hadrian. Built in the 2nd century AD, this UNESCO World Heritage-listed site contains an extraordinary collection of palaces, baths, temples, theatres, and gardens, offering a fascinating insight into the splendour of ancient Rome. We then visit Villa d'Este, another UNESCO World Heritage-listed masterpiece, renowned for its spectacular Renaissance gardens,



magnificent fountains, terraces, and water features. Created in the 16th century for Cardinal Ippolito d'Este, the villa remains one of Italy's most celebrated garden destinations and a masterpiece of Italian garden design.

DAY 11 Sunday 19 September 2027

Rome

This morning we visit the legendary Garden of Ninfa, widely regarded as one of the world's most beautiful romantic gardens. Created among the ruins of a medieval town, the garden features a remarkable collection of roses, flowering trees, climbers, and rare plants set alongside ancient stone walls, towers, and waterways. Its unique blend of history and horticulture creates an atmosphere unlike any other garden in Italy. In the afternoon, we continue to Giardini della Landriana, one of Italy's finest contemporary gardens. Designed by the celebrated landscape architect Russell Page, the garden is arranged as a series of beautifully themed "garden rooms", each with its own character and planting style. Featuring magnificent roses, Mediterranean plants, water gardens, topiary, and colourful seasonal displays, La Landriana is a masterpiece of modern garden design.

DAY 12 Monday 20 September 2027

Bagno Vignoni

Today we travel into the heart of Tuscany, renowned for its rolling hills, vineyards, olive groves, and picturesque hilltop towns. En route, we visit Villa Lante, one of Italy's finest Renaissance gardens. Renowned for its elegant terraces, formal plantings, fountains, and remarkable water features, Villa Lante is considered a masterpiece of Italian garden design. Continuing through the beautiful Tuscan countryside, we arrive at the charming village of Bagno Vignoni, set within the stunning Val d'Orcia, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed landscape. Famous for its historic thermal waters and unique central piazza occupied by a large thermal pool, Bagno Vignoni provides an idyllic base from which to explore the treasures of Tuscany.



DAY 13 Tuesday 21 September 2027

Bagno Vignoni

This morning we visit Villa Vicobello, one of Tuscany's most enchanting private gardens. Surrounding a historic villa just outside Siena, the garden is renowned for its elegant terraces, formal hedges, fountains, sculptures, rose gardens, and magnificent views across the Tuscan countryside. Developed over many centuries, Villa Vicobello beautifully combines Renaissance design with romantic planting, creating a garden of exceptional charm and character. Later, we travel to the magnificent medieval city of Siena for a guided tour. Highlights include the famous Piazza del Campo, home of the historic Palio horse race, the Palazzo Pubblico, and the magnificent Duomo, one of Italy's finest Gothic cathedral.

DAY 14 Wednesday 22 September 2027

Bagno Vignoni

Today we visit the renowned gardens of La Foce, one of Tuscany's most celebrated landscapes. Created by Iris Origo and English architect Cecil Pinsent, the gardens combine elegant terraces, formal plantings, cypress-lined avenues, and spectacular views across the UNESCO-listed Val d'Orcia. Widely regarded as one of Italy's finest 20th-century gardens, La Foce blends seamlessly with the surrounding Tuscan countryside. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax, enjoy the atmosphere of Bagno Vignoni, or further explore the beautiful Val d'Orcia region at your own pace.



DAY 15 Thursday 23 September 2027

Stresa

Today we travel north through some of Italy's most beautiful countryside to Stresa, the elegant resort town set on the shores of Lake Maggiore. En route, enjoy changing landscapes from the rolling hills and vineyards of Tuscany to the lake and mountain scenery of northern Italy. With stunning views across the lake to the Borromean Islands and the Alps beyond, Stresa is one of the most picturesque destinations in the Italian Lakes region.

DAY 16 Friday 24 September 2027

Stresa

Today we enjoy a cruise on Lake Maggiore to visit two of its most beautiful islands. Our first stop is Isola Bella, renowned for its magnificent Baroque palace and spectacular terraced gardens. Created by the Borromeo family in the 17th century, the island is a masterpiece of Italian garden design, featuring elaborate fountains, statues, exotic plants, and the famous white peacocks that roam the gardens. We then continue to Isola Madre, the largest of the Borromean Islands. Famous for its tranquil atmosphere, the island is home to beautiful botanical gardens filled with rare trees, flowering shrubs, and exotic plants collected from around the world.

DAY 17 Saturday 25 September 2027

Stresa

Today we explore the western shores of beautiful Lake Como, renowned for its elegant villas and magnificent gardens. We begin in Tremezzo with a visit to Villa Carlotta, one of the lake's most celebrated estates. Set in a spectacular lakeside location, the villa is surrounded by outstanding botanical gardens featuring azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, terraces, and centuries-old trees, all framed by breathtaking lake and mountain views. We then continue to Villa del Balbianello, beautifully situated on a wooded peninsula overlooking the lake. Famous for its exquisite terraced gardens, elegant architecture, and stunning setting, the villa is regarded as one of the finest garden estates in Italy.

DAY 18 Sunday 26 September 2027

Stresa

Today we enjoy a ferry journey across beautiful Lake Como to the picturesque village of Bellagio, often referred to as the "Pearl of Lake Como". Visit the magnificent Villa Melzi, whose beautiful gardens stretch along the lakefront and feature exotic plants, sculptures, ponds, and sweeping views across the water. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax, explore Bellagio's boutiques and cafés, or simply enjoy the beauty of Lake Como. This evening, gather with your fellow travellers for a special farewell dinner, celebrating the many wonderful experiences and gardens enjoyed throughout the tour.

DAY 19 Monday 27 September 2027

Depart Milan

Today we transfer to Milan Airport for our return flight to Australia.

DAY 20 Tuesday 28 September 2027

Arrive Australia

The group arrives in Australia and tour arrangements conclude.

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Tour Price

Price per person twin share \$ XXXX
Single fare \$ XXXX

Included in the tour price:

- International and domestic flights
- 17 nights' in 3-star accommodation
- 17 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Entry to all sightseeing attractions mentioned in the itinerary, except for those marked 'optional'
- Transport by first-class chartered coaches throughout including group airport dropoff
- An experienced Tour Manager
- Tour leadership by Cheralyn Darcey

Not included in the price:

- Travel insurance
- Meals and drinks, unless specified in itinerary
- Sightseeing and general expenses unless specified in the itinerary
- All items of personal nature, such as drinks, room service, laundry and phone calls



General information and booking conditions

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd. A.C.N. 005 817 0781 (Travelrite International) is the tour operator.

TOUR COSTS: The tour costs are based on transport, accommodation costs and entrance costs on 25 June 2026. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to costings will be made within 90 days prior to departure.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS: A non-refundable deposit of \$900 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 60 days prior to departure. Payments by Mastercard and Visa are included.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations within 90 days of departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Cancellation outside 60 days from departure will result in a cancellation fee of \$900 per person. Travel insurance is recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, death in family, etc. Changes to the Tour Itinerary. Travelrite International reserves the right to make changes to the tour itinerary to fit in with operational requirements. Any changes to the itinerary will be replaced with similar arrangements with an equal or greater value.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The tour has been costed on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 90 days prior to departure. Travelrite reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost if the minimum number is not achieved.

BAGGAGE: All passengers qualify for 1 piece free baggage allowance.

REFUNDS: The tour is based on arrangements which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

RESPONSIBILITY: Travelrite International Pty Ltd. is the tour organiser. Travelrite International acts only as agents in making of arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result, we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, flood, fire, civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of government, or any other authorities, terrorism, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours and the passengers. Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour. This contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia and any legal action must be taken in the State of Victoria.

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pay Travelrite any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a non-refundable deposit of \$900 per person to:

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Further information can be obtained by telephoning

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Email: sales@travelrite.com.au
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