

May & September 2011

Indulge your special interest. Discover great gardens which are statements of talented artists and a wonderful inspiration to their visitors. In a lovely country setting, admire and learn from their living art, and take home some great ideas to invigorate your own garden.



Delighting customers on garden tours since 1993

Spring Favourites Tour, England + Chelsea - 8 days



My ever popular tour of colourful well known spring gardens and English countryside in the early flush of the coming season, full of vigour and hope, culminating in the excitement of the fashionable Chelsea Flower Show near classy shops in the heart of London.

Buffet breakfasts every day and dinner each evening are included in the tour cost. We proceed at a relaxed holiday pace and you are welcome to take a day off whenever we are scheduled to return to the same hotel in the evening. Our appointed travel agent for your country can make travel arrangements for you to connect with our tours. If available we can book you extra nights at tour hotels.

Saturday May 21 Our tour starts at the 4 star **Ashford International Hotel** in rural Kent for four nights. Make your own way to the hotel or we can arrange your early morning transfer from London Heathrow airport, with a pause for lunch (time permitting) at **Leeds Castle**. This evening join your tour director and the rest of the group before sitting down together for dinner.

Sunday May 22 This morning, in our coach, we take a country tour ending with exploration of the ancient Cinque Port of Rye. In the afternoon we go to **Great Dixter House and Garden** - The Manor of Dixter is first noted in 1220 and structural additions were made again in 1464. In 1910 the English architect Edwin Lutyens restored the house and designed the gardens. This is a cottage garden on a large scale. The late owner, well known gardening writer and lecturer Christopher Lloyd, liked to tease the followers of garden fashion.

Monday May 23 Passing beneath the White Cliffs of Dover, we drive to **Goodnestone Park**, a private 14 acre garden in parkland with fine old specimen trees, around an 18th century Palladian-style mansion with Jane Austen connections. A mature woodland garden with 1920's rockery has a pond and shrubbery. Three interconnected exuberantly planted walled gardens use the adjacent church tower as a dramatic eye-catcher. We have time for lunch and a visit to Canterbury cathedral before going on to the private **Beech Court** woodland gardens.

Tuesday May 24 We start with a visit to **Pashley Manor**, an immaculate garden with emphasis on colour and form around a Tudor house with 18th-century additions. After lunch we proceed to **Sissinghurst Castle**, a romantic garden around a slender brick-built castle tower, this is always one of our most enjoyed visits. Sissinghurst is surely the best known and most copied garden in the world. Its designer Vita Sackville-West's own words describe the garden: "Profusion, even extravagance and exuberance within the confines of the utmost linear severity".

Wednesday May 25 We visit **Great Comp**, an enormous achievement by two people who had retired in 1957 from a busy London life. This is an informal garden against a background of deciduous woodland with an apron of lawn. A wide range of ornamental trees and shrubs which relish acid loam are under planted with campanulas, geraniums, hostas, lilies and violas. We continue to **Hever Castle**, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn and place of her seduction by Henry VIII. It took 1,000 men and millionaire William Astor's money four years to restore this moated castle and its garden, with 35 acre lake, fountains, cascade, topiary chess set and magnificent original Roman and Italian Renaissance statuary. This evening we proceed to the 4 star **Carlton Mitre Hotel** at Hampton Court for the last three nights of the tour.

Thursday May 26 Today we make an early start at the **Chelsea Flower Show**, a highlight every time this world class show is in our itinerary. You will see magnificent floral displays, model gardens, garden tools and products, a host of garden structures and artifacts by world famous names at this classic event close to London's fashionable shopping. Return on our coach or stay later and catch a train back to the hotel.

Friday May 27 Finally we visit **Wisley Garden**, the home of the Royal Horticultural Society. Full of ideas and information, the garden delights and inspires in any season of the year. Part of the garden is always at its best. The shop offers as large a collection of books on gardening as anywhere in the world. Here is a wonderful chance to buy gifts to take home. We stay for lunch at Wisley then return to **Hampton Court** with time to visit the palace and garden..

Saturday May 28 Check-out from the hotel and make your own way by train to London, by taxi or public transport to Heathrow airport at a time that suits your own travel. We can advise on departure planning.

Tour of Mellow Fruitfulness in Yorkshire + Harrogate - 8 days



A week among some of Britain's finest but less known Yorkshire gardens with a hint of autumn. Wonder at prize winning dahlias, chrysanthemums, gladioli, pelargoniums, geraniums and monster vegetables at the bountiful Harrogate Autumn Flower Show.

Buffet breakfasts every day and dinner each evening are included in the tour cost. We proceed at a relaxed holiday pace and you are welcome to take a day off whenever we are scheduled to return to the same hotel in the evening. Our appointed travel agent for your country can make travel arrangements for you to connect with our tours. If available we can book you extra nights at our hotels.

Saturday 10 September I collect you from an early morning flight at Manchester Airport or you may make your own way to our York hotel by train direct to York. We stop for lunch in Harrogate where I will introduce you to the Britain in Bloom medal winning **Harrogate Valley Gardens**. These scenic gardens are full of colour from early spring right to the end of September. Of particular interest are the mineral wells, summer bedding, colourful dahlia borders, a New Zealand Garden and an interesting collection of specimen trees with a hint of autumn colour.

Sunday 11 September We go to **Newby Hall**, a superb Adam country house surrounded by parkland and facing a beautiful early 20th century flower garden. Double herbaceous borders, unequalled in Britain, run straight to the river below, making the main axis for this classic garden. Paths lead to a series of garden rooms of seasonal variety. There is a wonderful collection of dogwood. We go back to **Benningborough Hall**, a Georgian mansion, built in 1716 with an impressive baroque interior. In the old walled garden, the main border is a riot of colour through the summer. The trees show their autumnal hues.

Monday 12 September We start at **Thorpe Perrow Arboretum** in Bedale, one of the finest collections of trees in the North of England, containing over 2000 species in 85 acres with hints of autumn colour. Then in the afternoon to **Studley Royal** an 18th century milestone of garden design. In the wooded valley of the River Skell is a great water garden ornamented with statues of lead and stone with above, a banqueting house, tower and temples. Ruins of the Cistercian **Fountains Abbey** are suddenly revealed, like a gigantic and exquisite garden ornament.

Tuesday 13 September Our first garden today is **York Gate**, a garden gem on a gentle south-facing slope with many classic features cleverly incorporated into one acre around an original farmhouse. We then proceed to **Parcevall Hall** where shelter belts of mixed woodland with fine trees protect terraces, fishponds, a rock garden and orchard.

Wednesday 14 September In the morning we visit **Burnby Hall Gardens** one of the finest water gardens in Europe. In a landscaped estate a magnificent collection of hardy water lilies in large ponds forms a subsidiary to the National Collection. In the afternoon we visit a most attractive private garden at **Stillingfleet Lodge** beside the River Fleet. Beehives and wild flowers, a large pool fringed with exotic and native species, magnificent double herbaceous borders, trees and shrubs. Climbing roses, clematis, and foliage plants in soft colours, give the garden a romantic feel.

Thursday 15 September We travel down the Vale of Pickering to the **Walled Garden at Scampston**. Eight acres of parkland surround this large comprehensively labelled walled garden with strongly visual layout by Dutch designer Piet Oudolf. Designed for all seasons, it is a marriage of modern lines with traditional ideas. We return via **Castle Howard**, a classic early 18th century mansion by Vanbrugh with landscape park, vistas, lakes, fountains, sculpture by famous sculptors in lead and stone. We stroll the formal gardens set in this majestic estate in the Howardian Hills.

Friday 16 September We start the last day at **Harrogate Autumn Flower Show**. This, the largest show of its type in Europe celebrates its Centenary year with new features, besides the usual stunning displays of prize-winning flowers and vegetables. After the Show we go to **Harlow Carr**, the northern home of the Royal Horticultural Society. Acres of landscaped garden include heather, bulb, rock, scented and foliage gardens, herbaceous borders, vegetable, fruit and flower trials, an alpine house, woodland and stream-side plantings, winter garden and wild flowers.

Saturday 17 September Check-out from the hotel and make your own way by train direct to Manchester Airport or direct to London Kings Cross at a time that suits you. We can advise on departure planning. Hands-on gardeners will enjoy this tour.

ABOUT US

Tony Sissons of Harrogate, England.

I have travelled a lot. Initially, the Royal Navy took me to Europe, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. I then spent 10 years working in the paint industry, living in the Federation of Malaya, the Sultanate of Oman and the Emirate of Dubai where I began gardening in my spare time. Since starting Sisley Garden Tours in 1993, besides visiting many British gardens, I have been to gardens in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, France, Holland, Italy and Portugal. Besides the UK, I have directed garden tours to New Zealand, Italy, France, Holland and Ireland. As a member of the Garden Writers Association, I have written about gardens and threads of their history on the World Wide Web. I am a member of the Royal Horticultural Society and a volunteer with Harrogate in Bloom and Harrogate's Friends of Valley Gardens. Read my blog about Harrogate gardens at www.garden-tours.blogspot.com. I plan to retire from running tours at the end of the 2011 season, to concentrate on local community projects.



View visitors enjoying some English gardens on in a 5 minute BBC TV clip (10 MB) at www.sisley.co.uk/bbctv.htm

HOTELS WE USE

Spring Favourites tour in S.E. England with Chelsea Flower Show

Ashford International Hotel, Ashford.

Convenient for Eurotunnel and the gardens of Kent and Sussex, this spacious, modern, well appointed **four star** hotel has an indoor swimming pool, sauna, solarium, gymnasium and a shopping mall. There is a large supermarket conveniently located behind the hotel. All rooms are en-suite and have hairdryer and tea and coffee making facilities. The hotel **Spa** offers a choice of luxury pre-bookable health and beauty treatments.

Carlton Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court.

Built beside the River Thames around the same time as Hampton Court Palace, which is opposite the hotel and 27 k from central London, this delightful **four star** hotel is just across the bridge from a suburban shopping centre and Hampton Court railway station with a direct service to London Waterloo. All rooms have their own individual style. The bar, riverside terrace, brasserie and restaurant serve fine food and drink.

Tour of Mellow Fruitfulness in Yorkshire with Harrogate Autumn Flower Show

Monk Bar Hotel, York - This centrally located **four star** hotel is inside York city walls near the Minster, perfect for exploring this vibrant, historic and award-winning city. The individually designed rooms, all have en-suite bathroom, satellite television, welcome trays and free WIFI internet access. The menu in the welcoming restaurant, changes with the season to reflect local specialities and produce. York railway station with a direct service to Manchester Airport is just a short taxi ride from the hotel

IMPORTANT NOTES

We have a 'no smoking' policy on our coach.

Sisley Garden Tours and their appointed travel agents will not be held responsible for closure of gardens named in the tour itinerary or failure or inability of named speakers to attend the group. Under such circumstances every endeavour will be made to find an alternative. Sisley Garden Tours and their appointed travel agents reserve the right to substitute hotels.

The right to withdraw tour membership from anyone whose behaviour is likely to affect the smooth operation of the tour or adversely affect the enjoyment or safety of other passengers is reserved and neither Sisley Garden Tours nor their appointed travel agents shall be under any liability to such person whatsoever.

In the event that a passport is lost or one of the group members is taken ill or has an accident, Sisley Garden Tours and their appointed travel agents will assist to the best of their ability but must reserve the right to carry on with the tour. It may be necessary to leave the tour member to rejoin later at his/her own expense.

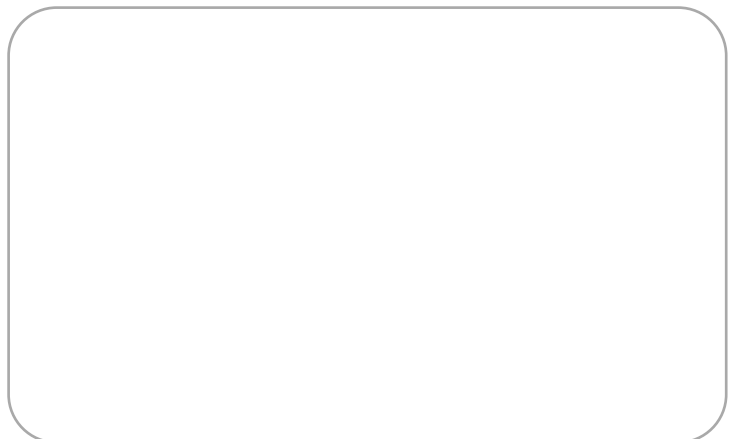
For these and other reasons Sisley Garden Tours and their appointed travel agents require that they receive proof of adequate travel insurance before accepting your booking.

FOR DETAILS OF COSTS, TRAVEL AND BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE REFER TO TRAVEL AGENT APPOINTED FOR YOUR COUNTRY BELOW

Australia	Spectrum Holidays	1300 130 840	spectrumholidays@primus.com.au
Canada	Tours Belazur	TollFree: 1-888-270-0222 Local: 1-819-346-2277	toursbelazur@qc.aira.com
Malaysia	Gem Travel & Tours	603-7727-9287	enquiry@gem-travel.com.my
USA	Worldwide Traveler	(815) 385 6900	debbie@worldwidetraveler.net
Rest of World	Number One Travel	+44 1423 531222	trish@numberonetravel.net

SISLEY 'FRIENDS' GROUP VISITS

Travel as a special interest group of 15 to 30 and we will tailor an itinerary for you and your friends. Let us know your preferences and without obligation we will craft and agree a tour based on your own requirements. Ask our appointed travel agent or complete our form at:





GEM TRAVEL & TOURS SDN BHD

(82917 K)

NO. 37, JALAN WAN KADIR 2, TAMAN TUN DR. ISMAIL, 60000 KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.

Tel: 03-7727 9287 Fax: 03-7727 9269/9661 KKKP NO. 0259

E-mail: enquiry@gem-travel.com.my Webpage: www.gem-travel.com.my



Sisley Garden Tours in England in 2011 Prices and Conditions for residents of Malaysia

Dear Garden Enthusiast,

Thank you for your inquiry about Sisley Garden Tours.

Since 1993 Sisley Garden Tours have been known for consistent high quality, a leisurely touring pace, and knowledgeable guides and speakers. Tours include dinner every evening and buffet breakfasts daily, with lunch on your own so you may sample the local cuisine as you please. Tours include hotel stays of multiple nights at 4 star properties with private facilities. This allows you to relax (unpack and re-pack less often) and truly enjoy the breathtaking scenery without feeling rushed. Your admissions to all gardens on the itineraries are included in your tour price.

Tour Pricing: The prices listed below are land only, and do not include your airfare. They are based on currency exchange rates as of 1 October 2010 and will only be adjusted should a major fluctuation occur. A minimum number of 15 tour guests is required to guarantee departure and Sisley Garden Tours and Gem Travel & Tours reserve the right to cancel the tour/s and refund money received should this number not be reached

Spring Favourites - South East England with **Chelsea Flower Show** – 21 to 28 May, 2011. (8 days)

MYR 9,100.00 per person based on double occupancy
MYR 2,600.00 single supplement

Mellow Fruitfulness - Yorkshire gardens with **Harrogate Autumn Flower Show**- September 10 to 17, 2011 (8 days)

MYR 9,400.00 per person based on double occupancy.
MYR 2,300.00 single supplement.

Air Transportation and Transfers: We will be happy to assist you in your airline reservations. Please contact the carrier directly if you are using mileage award travel and then advise us of your itinerary. We can secure flights from the nearest gateway on any major carrier, will do seat assignments, and will monitor schedule changes. Most international airline tickets are non-refundable, non transferable, and carry exchange fees.

Sisley Garden Tours will provide transfer on morning arrival from Heathrow (May) and Manchester (Sep) airport terminals or airport hotel if you are arriving within their designated pickup times and we are advised of your travel plan at least 4 weeks before. If your flight arrangements do not fit this timeframe, you will be advised on how to take private or public transport to the first hotel at your own expense. The tours end at the last hotel, or as defined in the itinerary, and passengers should make their own way to suit their own travel arrangements. Public transport in England is excellent and this is rarely a problem.

Arrival transfer time, airport or airport hotel: early morning.

Travel Insurance: Insurance is essential, especially due to the non-refundable nature of airline tickets. We will be happy to provide a detailed brochure of coverages.

Booking and Payment: Simply fill out the booking form with as much information as possible. If you do not have a passport yet, mark TBA in the space provided. You may mail your booking form to: Gem Travel & Tours Sdn Bhd, 37 Jalan Wan Kadir 2, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 50000 Kuala Lumpur, or if paying by credit card, you may fax your booking form to 03 7727 9269. We accept cash, check, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. At time of booking a deposit is required and final payment is due 60 days prior to departure.

Questions: I encourage you to call me 03 7727 9287 if you have any questions. You may also e-mail me: Let Boonwaat <enquiry@gem-travel.com.my>.

Organizer Tony Sissons puts together the most enjoyable and comprehensive garden tours of England. For the garden connoisseur (or simply one who loves and appreciates beautiful gardens) these are congenial tours with like-minded colleagues, featuring the most exquisite and renowned gardens, redolent in history and fine architecture.

The gardens are spectacular, the tour guides are knowledgeable, the motor coach is deluxe, the history and architecture can not be denied, and your comfortable room awaits. A deposit today will secure you a place on a Sisley 2011 garden tour!

I look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you on one or both of these exclusive garden tours.

Sincerely,

Let Boonwaat

Let Boonwaat

SISLEY GARDEN TOURS BOOKING CONDITIONS

COST INCLUDES: Collection from flights as described in brochure; accommodation at 4 star hotels with private facilities throughout; dinners every evening; full buffet breakfasts throughout; admissions to gardens in the tour; luxury coach travel; guest speakers and guides as described in a helpful booklet providing background and description of gardens on the tour, provided at the start of each tour; services of your knowledgeable tour director; all subject to a minimum of 15 persons traveling.

COST EXCLUDES: Airfares; passport and visa fees; travel insurance; lunches; beverages; laundry; tips; telephone calls and items of a personal nature.

CANCELLATION POLICY: **Cancellation by client:** More than 56 days prior to departure loss of deposit; between 56 and 28 days loss of 30% ; less than 28 days there will be a 100% cancellation charge. All cancellations must be received in writing by Gem Travel & Tours. For this and other reasons we require that travel insurance including cancellation charges be taken out at the time of booking to provide protection.

Cancellation by company: Gem Travel & Tours and Sisley Garden Tours reserve the right to cancel your tour. In this event they will give you a full refund of all moneys paid. In no case except for reasons of war, natural disasters, fire, civil disturbances, riots, terrorist action, closure of port, industrial disputes, force majeure or similar events beyond our control will cancellation take place within 28 days of the departure date.

SURCHARGES: The company guarantees that the price of your holiday will not be subject to any surcharge except for those resulting from fuel surcharges, government action and unfavourable changes in the currency rates. Even in this case, we undertake to adsorb an amount equivalent to 2% of the holiday price which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges. Only amounts in excess of this 2% will be surcharged, and where a surcharge is payable there will be no administration charge. If this means paying more than 10% of the holiday price, you will be entitled to cancel your holiday with a full refund of all money except for any insurance premiums and amendment charges. Should you decide to cancel because of this, you must exercise your rights to do so within 14 days from the issue date printed on the surcharge invoice. Our prices are based on exchange rates as stated. No refunds will be made for services not used and/or favourable changes in currency or costs.

LIABILITY: We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure that proper arrangements have been made for the tours advertised in this brochure, and that the suppliers of the services which you will enjoy during your tour are efficient and reputable. Every booking is accepted subject to the conditions imposed by the shipping, airline, rail, coach, hotel, restaurant, insurance and other companies, firms or persons concerned with the tour which may limit or exclude liability towards you and your luggage. We cannot be held liable for any loss or expenses suffered by you as a result of your late arrival at the start of your holiday or at any time during your holiday, for other than reasons within our control.

Any willful damage to property being used by the company is your sole responsibility and the company will not be responsible for any costs incurred due to such action or measures taken up by the various authorities or principals. Damage will be charged to you and must be paid for in resort.

We cannot accept claims when an inferior vehicle is used as relief or replacement in an emergency.

The company reserves the right to withdraw tour membership from any person at any time if their conduct is deemed unsatisfactory. This is without any liability whatsoever on the company's behalf for homeward travel arrangements or refund of holiday costs. The decision of the Tour Director will be final.

COMPLAINTS: If you have a complaint during your holiday, please notify your Tour Director immediately so that she/he can try to solve the problem. If the matter is not resolved to your satisfaction you should inform the company by letter within 28 days of the end of the holiday. The company will not accept claims outside this period. It is the policy of the company to settle amicably any complaints which we might receive. Disputes arising out of, or in connection with this contract which cannot be settled amicably may (if the customer so wishes) be referred to the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). The Scheme is administered quite independently by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. The Scheme (details of which will be supplied on request) provides for a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone with restricted liability to the customers in respect of costs. The Scheme does not apply to claims which are solely or mainly in respect of physical injury or illness or the consequences of such injury or illness.

BROCHURE ACCURACY: Facts in this brochure about gardens, garden facilities, accommodation and their facilities and other services are checked so that they are as accurate as possible before going to print. The brochure is compiled in advance and changes do happen which are out of our control. Such changes are regrettable and where a major change takes place we will inform you wherever possible.

SISLEY GARDEN TOURS 2011 - BOOKING FORM

Please complete this form and mail back with your deposit to Gem Travel & Tours Sdn Bhd, 37 Jalan Wan Kadir 2, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 50000 Kuala Lumpur. If you are charging your deposit, you can fax this form to 03 7727 9269. You will be notified when your booking form is received and if you are confirmed on the tour.

Please book me (us) as follows:

	basic		single supplement	
Spring Favourites: South East England with Chelsea Show	MYR 9,100	MYR 2,600
Mellow Fruitfulness: Yorkshire with Harrogate Autumn Flower Show	MYR 9,400	MYR 2,300

Number of people traveling together is: _____

Room type: _____ double (please circle preference: 2 twin beds/ 1 double or queen)
_____ single (see above for single supplement charge)

Indicate preference: smoking _____ / non-smoking _____

I (we) need air transportation: _____ yes or _____ no

If yes, from what major city: _____

Class of service: _____ first class / _____ business class / _____ economy or coach class

GUEST INFORMATION

- Legal full name of 1st guest as on passport: _____
Nationality: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Passport number (indicate TBA if you will be getting your passport) _____
- Legal full name of 2nd guest as on passport: _____
Nationality: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Passport number (indicate TBA if you will be getting your passport) _____

(Attach a sheet for additional travelers, please.)

Contact Person Mailing address: (street) _____

(city, state, zip) _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Person to contact in case of emergency (not be travelling with you): _____

Phone number: _____ City: _____

Please go to Part 2 of Booking Form

Part 2 of Booking Form

Please describe any medical or physical conditions or limitations:

Any dietary restrictions? If so, please describe: _____

Who is your health insurance provider? _____

Policy number: _____ Phone number: _____

I (we) fully understand the booking conditions described to me:

Signature _____ Date _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Acceptable forms of payment are cash (we do not advise that you send cash through the mail), cheque, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. There is a 3.5% surcharge for payment by Credit Card.

Deposit required is **MYR 910 per person per week to secure your booking**. Final payment is due in 2011 by March 17 for the May tour and July 9 for the September tour

Deposit is enclosed: MYR 910 x _____ (number of guests) = MYR _____

+ Credit card surcharge 3.5% _____ (delete if not applicable) = MYR _____

TOTAL = MYR _____

Please bill my credit card #: _____ Exp. Date _____

Circle card type: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Cardholder name and billing address:

Signature of Cardholder: _____ Date _____