RHS Hampton Court Flower Show & the Gardens of Kent
1st - 7th July 2018 (6 nights)

This high season tour enjoys visits to the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew and RHS Wisley before visiting the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show on its prestigious first members-only day. We then travel into Kent, the ‘garden of England’ to explore the area's greatest gardens including private or pre-opening visits to Great Dixter, Sissinghurst and Long Barn, and visits to Hever Castle, Pashley Manor, Great Comp and Godinton House.

Sunday 1st July

Our tour departs Heathrow Airport mid morning or join us at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. We will enjoy an introductory talk, lunch (independent) and visit. Kew covers more than 320 acres of landscape and gardens, and is recognised as a World Heritage Site. After our visit to Kew, we check into the 4-star Mitre Hampton Court Hotel, situated on the banks of the River Thames and immediately opposite Hampton Court Palace. Dinner at the hotel (included).

Monday 2nd July

Today we visit RHS Wisley, the home of the Royal Horticultural Society. Full of ideas and information, the garden delights and inspires in any season of the year. We enjoy a guided tour so you’ll be sure to see the very best of these impressive gardens. The shop offers a huge collection of books on gardening. We stay for lunch (independent) and then return to our hotel for dinner (included).

Tuesday 3rd July

Tuesday is the prestigious first members-only day of the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. Enjoy a leisurely stroll from our hotel to the Palace and Flower Show where you will see magnificent floral displays, extraordinary show gardens and shops. There will be time to explore Hampton Court Palace, Henry VIII’s majestic Royal residence. Don’t miss the state apartments, Tudor kitchen, formal gardens, and grounds.

On leaving the flower show, we make our way to Kent and check into the 4-star Spa Hotel, Royal Tunbridge Wells for four nights. Dinner in the hotel (included).

Wednesday 4th July

Our first visit today is a private ‘pre-opening’ tour of Great Dixter, a cottage garden on a grand scale. In 1910 the English architect Edwin Lutyens restored the house and designed the gardens. The well-known gardening writer and lecturer Christopher Lloyd who further developed the garden until his passing in 2006, liked to tease the followers of garden fashion with bold experimentation. We will have lunch (included) in a typical Kentish pub.
In the afternoon we explore Godinton House and Gardens, a superb ancient estate with splendid formal gardens. Both the Jacobean house and gardens have been lovingly restored. We enjoy a garden tour with the delightful head gardener. We return to Royal Tunbridge Wells for an evening at leisure with the opportunity to explore the town’s many restaurants and cafes.

**Thursday 5th July**

Our day begins with a private visit to Great Comp, an enormous achievement by two people who retired in 1957 from a busy London life. This is an informal garden against a background of deciduous woodland with an apron of lawn. The gardens are now cared for by curator, William Dyson, the UK’s leading Salvia expert.

We continue to Hever Castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII. Here we have time for lunch and to marvel at this double-moated castle and its garden, with a 35 acre lake, fountains, and magnificent original Roman and Italian Renaissance statuary. Dinner in the hotel (included).

**Friday 6th July**

We start the day with a private ‘pre-opening’ guided tour of Sissinghurst Castle, a romantic garden created around a slender brick-built castle tower. Its designer Vita Sackville-West’s own words describe the garden: “Profusion, even extravagance and exuberance within the confines of the utmost linear severity”.

We continue onto Pashley Manor, an immaculate garden with emphasis on colour and form around a Tudor house with 18th century additions. After free time for lunch we enjoy an introductory talk and time to explore the gardens. Dinner in the hotel (included).

**Saturday 7th July**

We check out of our hotel and before leaving Kent, we enjoy a particularly special, exclusive visit to the beautiful private gardens at Long Barn, the first home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson where they ‘served their gardening apprenticeship’ before moving to Sissinghurst.

We then make two coach drop-offs; the first in central London and the second at Heathrow Airport. We can advise on departure planning.

**NOTE:** This tour includes one year’s individual membership of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).
OUR HOTELS
Our hotels are 4-star and are selected for their high standards of comfort and service. All rooms are en-suite and offer free wi-fi access.

The Mitre Hotel, Hampton Court
Overlooking the River Thames, and built around the same time as Hampton Court Palace, this delightful 4-star hotel is both comfortable and charming. All rooms have their own individual style and the riverside bar and restaurant give spectacular views over the river.

The Spa Hotel, Royal Tunbridge Wells
Situated in 14 acres of picturesque grounds on the edge of Royal Tunbridge Wells, The Spa is a 4-star family run hotel offering 70 well appointed and individually styled bedrooms. Originally built in 1766 as a country mansion, the hotel is surrounded by glorious gardens and includes an indoor swimming pool, gym and floodlit tennis court and is proud of its 2 AA rosette restaurant.

TOUR PRICES:
Prices are per person, based on twin/double room share, with single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room) shown separately. Prices are payable in £GBP. For clients travelling from USA & Canada, our tours can be booked in your local currency through our travel partners shown below.

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<tr>
<th>RHS Hampton Court Flower Show &amp; the Gardens of Kent (6 nights)</th>
<th>Price per person (sharing a twin or double room) £GBP</th>
<th>Single Supplement £GBP</th>
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<td>£2,600</td>
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PRICES INCLUDE:
Accommodation at 4-star hotels with en-suite facilities based on twin/double room share; first members-only day at the RHS Hampton Court Flower show; buffet breakfast daily; lunch and/or dinner daily (see itinerary); admissions to gardens; deluxe coach travel with professional driver; guided tours and speakers as described in an information pack provided at the start of the tour; one year’s individual membership to the Royal Horticultural Society; services of your Sisley tour director throughout.

PRICES EXCLUDE:
Airfares; passport and/or visa fees; beverages; laundry; telephone calls; lunches and dinners (except where included in the itinerary); gratuities; souvenirs and items of a personal nature. Please see our FAQs for further information.

CONTACT US AND BOOK YOUR TOUR:
We would be delighted to answer any queries about our tours and can be contacted at:
Sisley Garden Tours, Duncanne House, Roecliffe Lane, Boroughbridge, YO51 9LN, England.
Email: tours@sisley.co.uk, Tel: +44 (0) 1423 396506.
Our booking forms and terms & conditions can be found on our website at www.sisley.co.uk
Please contact us directly to book your tour. For clients travelling from the USA and Canada we have travel partners to assist with your tour booking and travel arrangements.

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