

Chelsea Flower Show & the Gardens of Kent 19th - 24th May 2019 (5 nights)



Join us to visit the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show on 'members-only' day and explore some of England's most iconic gardens.

A real treat of this tour is staying for five nights at the medieval Hever Castle. Garden highlights include: Christopher Lloyd's masterpiece at Great Dixter; Vita Sackville-West's legacy at Sissinghurst and the private gardens at Long Barn.

Sunday 19th May

Our tour departs Heathrow Airport mid-morning and we make our way to **Penshurst Place**, a wonderful 13th century fortified manor house with an 11 acre formal Grade I listed garden. There is time for lunch (independent) here.

Later, we check into the very special **Hever Castle**. This picturesque castle was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of King Henry VIII. Marvel at this double-moated castle and its garden, with a 35 acre lake, fountains, and magnificent original Roman and Italian Renaissance statuary.

Our accommodation is in the Anne Boleyn and Astor Wings. We will enjoy dinner in the Tudor Dining Suite (included). Guests are able to explore parts of the grounds at Hever Castle after the castle closes to the public.



Monday 20th May

Our first visit of the day is to **Godinton House Gardens** - a superb ancient estate where we have a private guided tour of the formal gardens which surround a Jacobean manor. We enjoy lunch in Godinton House (included).

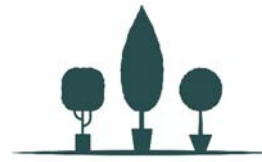
From here we visit the private gardens at **Goodnestone Park**, with Jane Austen connections. Three interconnecting walled gardens are exuberantly planted and use the adjacent church tower as a dramatic eye-catcher.

We then visit the historic city of **Canterbury**. There is time in the late afternoon and early evening for a visit to Canterbury Cathedral and the surrounding quaint streets and shops. There will be time here for dinner (independent).

Tuesday 21st May

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 the attractive town of **Royal Tunbridge Wells** where there will be free time for independent exploration and lunch.

In the afternoon we enjoy an exclusive visit to the beautiful private garden at **Long Barn**, the first home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson. We will enjoy dinner in a traditional English pub (included).

Wednesday 22nd May

Today we enjoy an exclusive members-only day at the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, a highlight every time this world class show is in our itinerary. You will see magnificent floral displays, extraordinary show gardens, garden tools and products, a host of garden structures and artefacts by world famous names at this classic event close to London's fashionable shopping.

We return to Hever Castle for dinner (included).

Thursday 23rd May

Our first visit today is a pre-opening guided tour of **Great Dixter**, a cottage garden on a grand scale.

In 1910 Edwin Lutyens restored the house (which you can explore) and designed the gardens. Gardening writer and lecturer Christopher Lloyd exuberantly developed the garden until his passing in 2006. The gardens are now superbly managed by Fergus Garrett and his team.

We continue onto **Pashley Manor** for lunch (independent) and a visit to these immaculately kept private gardens with an emphasis on colour and form. They surround a most attractive Tudor house. We will be given an introductory talk by a member of the gardening team.

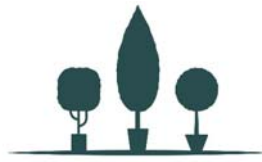
We return to **Hever Castle**. In the evening we are treated to an exclusive tour of the castle followed by dinner in the majestic Castle Dining Room (included).

Friday 24th May

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

It is time to say goodbye, so we'll 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 CASTLE

Hever Castle, Kent

Have you ever dreamed of sleeping in an English Castle? Well, here is your chance. Our luxury accommodation for five nights will be in the Astor and Anne Boleyn wings of Hever Castle - an Edwardian wing designed in the Tudor style attached to the castle by an enclosed bridge over the moat.

The rooms are comfortably appointed with antique furnishings and original features and we will have exclusive use of the Astor wing during our stay. There is an outdoor heated pool, tennis court and billiards room for your exclusive use. Guests can access parts of the Castle garden when it is closed to the public.

All rooms are en-suite and offer free wi-fi access.



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, our tours can be booked in your local currency through our travel partner shown below, or you can book through your own travel agent or consultant. Just ask them to contact us.

Chelsea Flower Show & the Gardens of Kent (5 nights)	Price per person (sharing twin or double room) £GBP	Single Supplement £GBP
	£3,100	£290

PRICES INCLUDE:

Accommodation at Hever Castle with en-suite facilities based on twin/double room share; buffet breakfast daily; 1 lunch and 4 dinners; admissions to gardens and the prestigious member's only day at Chelsea Flower Show; one year's membership of the RHS; deluxe coach travel with professional driver; guided tours as described in an information pack provided at the start of the tour; services of your Sisley tour director throughout; arrival transfers are included only if you are joining the tour at Heathrow Airport.

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, Roelcliffe 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 or ask your Travel Agent to contact us. For clients travelling from the USA, you can book our tours through Worldwide Traveler and pay in \$USD.

USA

Worldwide Traveler:

Tel: (815) 385 6900

darrellynn@worldwidetraveler.net

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All countries

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