

A Garden Journey through Thomas Hardy's Wessex 4th - 10th July 2021 (6 nights)



This two-centre tour makes the most of Wessex - the ancient counties of Dorset, Hampshire, Wiltshire and Somerset. Hidden in these gently rolling hills are some of England's most wonderful gardens. We visit many private gardens designed by notable garden designers - past and present and take a day trip to the Isle of Wight to see Osborne House, the summer home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

Sunday 4th July

After our morning pick-up at Heathrow Airport, we head south-west to the charming, **4-star Eastbury Hotel** in the heart of the historic market town of Sherborne in Dorset.



En-route we'll stop for lunch (independent) and exploration at **The Newt, Somerset**. This extensive new garden incorporates a Victorian fragrance garden, greenhouse, cottage garden, water gardens and colour rooms. At the core sits a Parabola walled garden with a collection of more than 460 trained apple trees.

This evening join your tour director and travel companions for dinner at the hotel (included).

Monday 5th July

Today we begin with an exquisite private home and garden, that of the renowned British furniture designer, John Makepeace. **The Farris** garden is one of the best contemporary gardens in the area. We also view the handsome historic house with its spectacular contemporary interior.



From here we continue to **Mapperton House and Gardens** - a magnificent Jacobean manor house and Italianate valley garden which is home of the Earl and Countess of Sandwich. Here we have lunch (independent) and time to explore the house and gardens.

We return to the hotel for dinner (included).

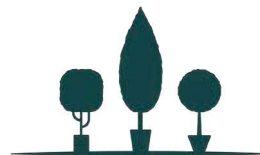
Tuesday 6th July

We begin today with a private garden of great renown, **South Wood Farm** at Cotleigh. This exquisite garden was designed by Arne Maynard and surrounds a 17th century thatched farmhouse.

We continue on to **River Cottage**, home of the British chef, food writer and campaigner, Hugh Fearnley-Wittingstall. We will explore the gardens, then be treated to a wonderful lunch (included), using produce from the farm.



In the afternoon we stop at **East Lambrook Manor Gardens** created by the late celebrated plantswoman, Margery Fish. The garden, which remains in private ownership, has been superbly restored and developed. Your evening is at leisure in Sherborne.



Wednesday 7th July

After check-out we visit **Shute House Gardens**, designed by famous landscape architect, Geoffrey Jellicoe. We have a tour of the garden before heading to Salisbury. On arrival there will be a short tour of **Salisbury Cathedral** and free time for lunch (independent). In the afternoon we visit a splendid private garden at **Heale House**, the home of garden designer Frances Rasch. The 17th century house, on the banks of the River Avon, has a 20th century Arts & Crafts garden designed by Harold Peto. In the afternoon, we check into our hotel, the **4-star Lainston House Hotel**. Dinner is included at the hotel.

Thursday 8th July

We make an early start to catch our ferry to the **Isle of Wight** - England's largest island and a popular holiday destination since Victorian times. Queen Victoria built her much-loved, palatial summer home here, **Osborne House**. There will be free time to explore the house, recently renovated grounds and have lunch (independent).

In the afternoon we take a drive across the island and return by ferry to the **New Forest National Park**. We make a stop in the pretty village of Stockbridge for a pub supper (included).

Friday 9th July

This morning we meet Rosemary Alexander, principal of The English Gardening School, lecturer, writer and judge at Chelsea Flower Show. We take a tour of her garden at **Sandhill Farm** and enjoy lunch (included) with her.

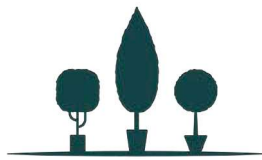
In the afternoon we visit **Mottisfont Abbey**. Sweeping lawns surround the converted medieval priory that Maud Russell made her home in the 1930s. In the walled gardens, whilst the old-fashioned roses may be nearing the end of their season, there are many other aspects to delight the garden visitor. We return to the hotel for our final night dinner (included).

Saturday 10th July

This morning we make a brief visit to the city of **Winchester**, the ancient capital of England to see its delightful cathedral - the longest medieval cathedral in Europe.

We then continue onto **West Green Garden**, one of England's finest manor house gardens, marrying traditional style with contemporary design - created by acclaimed garden designer and Chelsea Flower Show award winner, Marylyn Abbott. We will have lunch in the gorgeous garden conservatory (included) and free time to explore the stunning gardens.

In the afternoon we return to Heathrow Airport where we drop off at The Sheraton Heathrow Hotel and Heathrow Terminal 3 for inter-terminal transport links and the Heathrow Express train travel into London. Full details of tour joining and departure can be found on our website.



OUR HOTELS

Our hotels are 4-star and are selected for their high standards of comfort and service. All rooms are ensuite and offer free wifi access.

The Eastbury, Sherborne (3 nights)

The Eastbury is a family run, boutique hotel located in the historic town of Sherborne with its beautiful abbey and castle. Originally designed as an 18th century Georgian gentleman's residence, The Eastbury offers a real home from home feel with two guest lounges, a library, snooker room and restaurant serving home grown produce with views of the walled garden.



Lainston House, Winchester (3 nights)

Lainston House is a 17th century luxury hotel, situated just outside Winchester. The house, which is approached along a mile long avenue of Lime Trees, is surrounded by 63 acres of gorgeous parkland and gardens with many walking trails, tennis courts and a croquet lawn. There is a fascinating productive walled garden that supplies the restaurant, an aviary and renowned cookery school.



TOUR PRICES: Prices are per person, based on twin/double room share, with single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room) shown separately. Tours are priced in £GBP.

A Garden Journey through Thomas Hardy's Wessex (6 nights)	Price per person (sharing a twin or double room) £GBP	Single Supplement £GBP
	£3,500	£500

PRICES INCLUDE: Accommodation at 4-star hotels with en-suite facilities based on twin/double room share; buffet breakfast daily; 3 lunches and 5 dinners; 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; all tour gratuities; arrival transfers are included only if you are joining the tour at Heathrow Airport on the first morning of the tour.

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

Please see our FAQs for further information.

BOOK YOUR TOUR

Booking Form: Firstly please complete our online booking form at www.sisley.co.uk/booking-form. The form will ask you to indicate how you would like to book the tour from the following options:

- In \$USD by check or credit card with our appointed travel agent in the USA, Worldwide Traveler
- In your local currency through your own travel agent. The booking form asks for their contact details so that we can contact them to progress your booking
- In £GBP by credit card via Paypal or by direct bank transfer directly with Sisley Garden Tours

Tour Payment: Once we have received your booking form, we will confirm that places are available and ask you (or your preferred travel agent) for a 10% deposit to secure your booking. Tour balance payment is due 90 days prior to the tour.

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