

English Summer Gardens with Hampton Court Garden Festival 5th - 10th July 2020 (5 nights)



This spectacular high-season tour explores some of our very best English gardens and houses. Our base is the historic and luxurious Hever Castle and we will enjoy extraordinary gardens in their full profusion, private tours, fascinating historic houses, attractive scenery and experience members-only day at RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival - the largest of its kind in the world.

Sunday 5th July

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**, 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. 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 6th July

This morning we enjoy a visit to **Nymans Garden**, one of the most fashionable and romantic gardens of the Edwardian and interwar years, and the creation of the Messel family. The house was devastated by fire, leaving just a romantic ruin to dominate the garden. We will enjoy a guided garden tour followed by free time for refreshments and exploration.



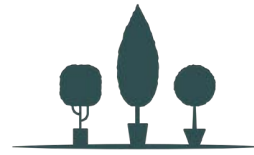
We then head to **Gravetye Manor**, the home of William Robinson, author, botanist and gardener. Gravetye is considered to be amongst the most influential in English gardening history as Robinson's ideas about naturalised planting were ground breaking. The house is now an independently owned hotel. We are treated to lunch in the hotel restaurant (included), followed by a guided tour of the gardens. We return to Hever for time at leisure and a light supper (included).

Tuesday 7th July

Tuesday is the prestigious first members-only day of the **RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival**, the largest flower show in the world - a highlight every time this world-class show is on our itinerary. Explore magnificent floral displays, extraordinary show gardens, entertaining live music and gardening talks. If you need a quiet moment, step into the beautiful Palace gardens adjacent. Lunch is at leisure at the show (independent).



We return to Kent where we will have dinner (included) in a traditional pub before returning to Hever Castle.



Wednesday 8th July

We start the day with a private pre-opening guided tour of **Great Dixter House and Garden**, a cottage garden on a grand scale. The well-known gardening writer and lecturer Christopher Lloyd who developed the garden until his passing in 2006, liked to tease the followers of garden fashion with bold experimentation. The gardens are now superbly managed by internationally renowned gardener, Fergus Garrett.

Our second visit today is to **Sissinghurst Castle**, a romantic garden created around a slender brick-built castle tower – this is always one of our most enjoyed visits. Its designer Vita Sackville-West's own words describe the garden: "Profusion, even extravagance and exuberance within the confines of the utmost linear severity". There will be free time for lunch (independent) and exploration of the gardens.

We end the day with a walk through the historic spa town of **Royal Tunbridge Wells** where we have dinner (included).

Thursday 9th July

Today we visit **Chartwell House**, home of Sir Winston Churchill, wartime British Prime Minister. Chartwell is much more than a house, it boasts an extensive garden with far-reaching views and a studio which is home to the largest collection of Churchill paintings. There will be time for lunch (independent) in the pleasant cafe and shop before we leave.

In the afternoon we are treated to an exclusive visit to the beautiful private gardens at **Long Barn**, the first home of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson – where they 'served their gardening apprenticeship'. We will meet the owner and have refreshments on the terrace before strolling through these historically important gardens.

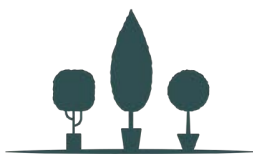
We return to Hever Castle for a **private tour of the castle** followed by dinner in the majestic and atmospheric Castle Dining Room (included).

Friday 10th July

For our final visit of the tour, we go to **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. We stay for lunch (independent) at Wisley.

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

Have you ever dreamed of staying at an English Castle? Well, here is your chance.

Our luxury accommodation for this five-night tour will be in the Astor Wing and the Anne Boleyn Wing, an Edwardian Wing designed in the Tudor style attached to Hever Castle by an enclosed bridge over the moat. The comfortably appointed accommodation offers antique furnishings and original features along with all the modern comforts required – ensuite bathrooms, wifi and luxury textiles.

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 garden when it is closed to the public.



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.

English Summer Gardens with Hampton Court Garden Festival (5 nights)	Price per person (sharing a twin or double room) £GBP	Single Supplement £GBP
	£3,550	£290

PRICES INCLUDE:

Accommodation at Hever Castle with en-suite facilities based on twin/double room share; buffet breakfast daily; 1 lunch and 5 dinners; one year's membership of the RHS; admissions to gardens and RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival; 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 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); gratuities; souvenirs and items of a personal nature.

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 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

beth@worldwidetraveler.net

All countries

Sisley Garden Tours:

Colette Walker & Fran Pride

Tel: +44(0) 1423 396506

tours@sisley.co.uk

Your own Travel Agent:

Please ask your Agent to contact Sisley Garden Tours by email tours@sisley.co.uk