

A Garden Journey through Thomas Hardy's Wessex 19th - 25th June 2022 (6 nights)



This two-centre tour makes the most of ancient Wessex - the 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 19th June

After our morning pick-up at Heathrow Airport, we head south-west to the impressive, **4-star Lainston House Hotel**.

En-route we stop at **West Green Garden**, one of England's finest manor house gardens, marrying traditional style with contemporary design. It is the creation of acclaimed garden designer and Chelsea Flower Show award winner, Marylyn Abbott. We have lunch in the gorgeous garden conservatory (included) and free time to explore the stunning gardens.



We then check into Lainston House. There is time to explore the beautiful grounds and walled garden before dinner (included).

Monday 20th June

This morning 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 (included).



In the afternoon we take a drive across the island and return by ferry to Lymington. We then take a scenic drive through the **New Forest National Park** enroute to the hotel. We may catch a glimpse of the wild New Forest ponies. Your evening is at leisure in the hotel.

Tuesday 21st June

Today we visit **Mottisfont Abbey**. Sweeping lawns surround the converted medieval priory that Maud Russell made her home in the 1930s. The absolute highlight can be found in the walled garden - the collection of old-fashioned roses will be in full bloom. There is time to visit the house and see the Whistler Room, with its spectacular trompe l'oeil murals and have lunch (independent).

We then visit **an exquisite private garden** located close to Mottisfont. This traditional walled garden features well stocked flower beds and climbers, a kitchen garden, bantam chickens that roam free and a wildlife field which is a haven for butterflies. In the late afternoon, we make a stop in the pretty village of **Stockbridge** for a 'taste of Hampshire' supper (included) in the pub.



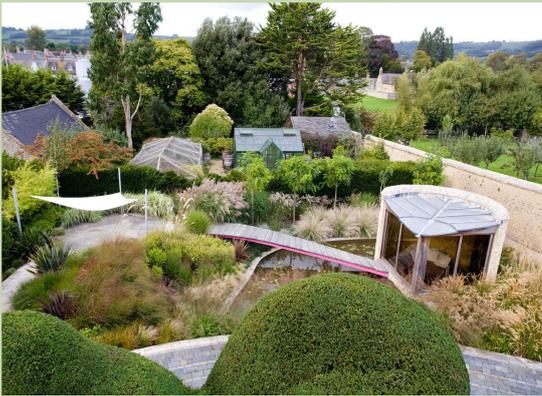
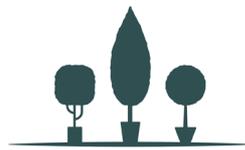


Photo credits: Osborne House ©English Heritage, The Needles ©VisitBritain/ Jason Hawkes; credit J Makepeace, Forde Abbey ©Henry Kellner; credit Mapperton House;

Wednesday 22nd June

After check-out, 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. 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 **Shute House Gardens**, designed by famous landscape architect, Geoffrey Jellicoe. We'll enjoy a walk through the garden with the owner, to see the wonderful rill garden. In the late afternoon, we check into our hotel, the 4-star **Eastbury Hotel** in the heart of the historic market town of **Sherborne in Dorset**. Dinner is included at the hotel.

Thursday 23rd June

Today we begin with a visit to **Forde Abbey**, a former Cistercian Monastery whose garden has evolved over 900 years to reflect the lifestyle of the inhabitants. Today, it is a glorious garden with formal vistas and borders, topiary, a walled garden and the largest powered fountain in the country. We continue into the village of Beaminster for lunch in the renowned **Ollerod Restaurant** (included).

After lunch we see the exquisite **private home and garden** of a renowned British furniture designer - one of the best contemporary gardens in the area. We have the opportunity to see both the house and garden. We return to the hotel where your evening is at leisure.

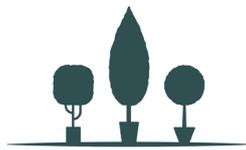
Friday 24th June

Today we enjoy a private pre-opening tour of the house and gardens at **Mapperton House** - 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 this expansive and varied garden. In the afternoon, we are thrilled to include a visit to a **spectacular private walled garden**, with superbly trained roses, herbaceous borders, a rill and gravel garden. We return to the hotel for our final night dinner (included).

Saturday 25th June

Our final visit of the tour is to **The Newt, Somerset**, an exciting new garden incorporating water gardens and colour rooms. At the core sits a Parabola walled garden with a collection of more than 460 trained apple trees. Lunch in the garden cafe (included).

In the afternoon, we drop off at The Sheraton Heathrow Hotel and Heathrow Airport 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.

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.

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.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in £GBP

£3,600 price per person (sharing twin or double room)

£500 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 6 nights' accommodation at 4-star hotels with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 4 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
- Gift information pack with detailed information about the gardens we will be visiting.
- Transfers to and from the hotel to Heathrow Airport at the start and end of the tour.
- Services of your Sisley tour director throughout.

Prices exclude:

- Airfares.
- Passport and/or visa fees if applicable.
- Meals not included in the tour, drinks, laundry, and telephone calls.

Tour Payment:

A 10% deposit is required to secure your place (s) on the tour. Your balance payment is due 90 days prior to the tour departure.

BOOK YOUR TOUR

There are three ways to book your garden tour:

With your own travel agent:

You can book a Sisley Garden Tour in your local currency through your own travel agent. Just provide us with their contact details on your booking form and we will take care of the rest.

With Worldwide Traveler in the USA:

You can book a Sisley Garden Tour in USD\$ with our partners at Worldwide Traveler - a full-service travel agent who can assist you with all aspects of your trip to the UK. Payment accepted by cheque or credit card.

Contact: Beth Henry or Darrellynn Hanes

T: +1 (815)385 6900. E: beth@worldwidetraveler.net

With Sisley Garden Tours:

All clients are welcome to book a tour directly with us. We can accept payment in GBP£ by bank transfer or by credit/ debit card via PayPal.

Contact: Fran Pride or Colette Walker

T: +44 (0)1423 396506. E: tours@sisley.co.uk

Booking form: To book your place(s) please complete our online booking form at www.sisley.co.uk/booking-form.

As soon as we receive your booking form, we will confirm availability on the tour of your choice and arrange collection of your deposit which secures your booking.

Booking terms & conditions: Full details of our booking terms & conditions can be found at

<https://www.sisley.co.uk/terms-and-conditions/>

Please see the **Frequently Asked Questions** section on our website for further information.

www.sisley.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/