



This is your personal invitation to join us next May for a garden tour of England's two most southwesterly counties, *Devon* and *Cornwall*.

Known for their mild climate, they have incredible gardens filled with exotic plants. In fact, Cornwall's climate is said to be subtropical and it boasts of such gardens as the **Lost Gardens of Heligan** and the **Eden Project**. As a special bonus, we have a full day's excursion off the coast of Cornwall to the **Isles of Scilly** to visit **Tresco Abbey Gardens**. We also visit several outstanding gardens as we make our way west.

All in all, it's twelve days of fantastic English gardens!

DATES: May 7-18, 2024

COST: \$6350.00 per person

(Double occupancy, including airfare from Washington to London and return)

Deadline to Register: February 6, 2024



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GARDENS *Devon & Cornwall* TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Wisley RHS Garden • Petworth Estate • Mottisfont Abbey • Saint Cross Hospital
Bramdean House • Dean House • Wilton House • Stavordale Priory
Knightshayes • Killerton House • Garden House • Bonython Garden
Trebah Garden • Lost Gardens of Heligan • Eden Project • Stourhead
Polperro Harbor • St. Michaels' Mount • Isles of Scilly and Tresco Abbey

TOUR AT A GLANCE

Our English garden adventure begins with a flight from Washington to London's Heathrow followed by a visit to **Wisley Garden**, home of the Royal Horticulture Society. As we travel along the southern tier of England, we visit gardens in and around Winchester on our way to **Devon** and **Cornwall** where we spend our last six days exploring their beautiful gardens. Our final hotel is a resort in the coastal town of Falmouth. *There is also a special excursion to the Isles of Scilly!*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Round trip flight from Washington Dulles Airport to London Heathrow Airport
- All entrance fees to places on the itinerary
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 3 teas, and 7 dinners
- Professional local experts and guides
- Transportation in a deluxe air-conditioned coach
- Perfectly located first-class 4-star hotels

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights to and from your local airport to Washington Dulles Airport
- Trip Insurance
- Tips to drivers, tour guides, and hotel staff
- Additional meals not in the itinerary, and any other items not listed in the itinerary

ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.

Included meals: (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (T) Tea (D) Dinner

DAY ONE – Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Our journey begins at Dulles International Airport in Washington where we meet for the first time at our departure gate. We have an overnight flight to London Heathrow, arriving early the next morning.



Petworth House

DAY TWO – Wednesday, May 8

Once we complete passport control and collect our bags, we go to the outstanding garden at **Wisley**, home of the Royal Horticulture Society. After lunch, we visit **Petworth**, a large estate with grounds designed by Capability Brown of the English Landscape School style. At the end of the day, we arrive at our hotel in Winchester. Lodging: Winchester (B)(D)



Mottisfont Abbey

DAY THREE – Thursday, May 9

We begin the day at **Mottisfont Abbey**, where ancient trees, bubbling brooks, and rolling lawns frame the lovely old house. The gardens here are exceptional. Later, we visit **St. Cross Hospital**, founded to support "thirteen poor men, so frail that they were unable to work, and to men at the gates each day." Their gardens add much interest to the surroundings of the old hospital/retreat. Afterward, we walk along a rural path leading to **Winchester Cathedral** where we have a walking tour. Lodging: Winchester (B)(L)



Saint Cross Hospital Gardens



Bramdean House Gardens

DAY FOUR – Friday, May 10

Our first stop is a beautiful private garden called **Bramdean House**. The owner was a leader in the Royal Horticulture Society for many years and has created a remarkable



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Private Garden near Winchester

garden in the country. Following lunch, we visit another **private garden** where we have tea in the orangery with time to wander about. This is the setting for many boisterous social gatherings. Lodging: Winchester (B)(T)

DAY FIVE – Saturday, May 11

We move west today stopping at **Wilton House**, the 460 year-old home of the Earl of Pembroke. It has been the setting for films such as *Sense and Sensibility*, *Mrs. Brown*, and *Pride & Prejudice*. After lunch, we visit a private garden called **Stavordale Priory** which was featured in the January 2018 issue of *Gardens Illustrated*. Stopping at **Harvard Farm**, we meet the person responsible for bringing Japanese pruning techniques to England, in general, and at Stavordale, in particular. Lodging: Exeter (B)(T)(D)



Wilton House Palladian Bridge



Stavordale Priory

DAY SIX – Sunday, May 12

This morning we embark on visits to two local National Trust estates beginning with **Knightshayes**, which features a massive gothic manor house surrounded by exquisite gardens and parkland. Our second stop is **Killerton**, a friendly 18th century Georgian house set in the heart of Devon on 2,600 acres of farmland, woods, parkland, cottages, and orchards. The owner, Sir Richard Acland, gave the entire estate to the Trust in 1944. The gardens were created in the 1770's by the famed English plantsman, John Veitch. Lodging: Exeter (B)

DAY SEVEN – Monday, May 13

While still in Devon, we stop at **Garden House**, described by Toby Buckland, of *Gardeners' World* as "a true plantsman's paradise which holds delights for both the seasoned gardener and for those who simply enjoy exploring and immersing themselves in the beauty and tranquility of 12 acres of stunning gardens." Our introduction to the coastal county of Cornwall is at our next stop, the **Village of Polperro**. It is one of those quaint, harbor towns where we can leisurely explore the village on our own, and get a snack before departing for our Falmouth resort hotel. Lodging: Falmouth. (B)(L)(D)



The Garden House

DAY EIGHT – Tuesday, May 14

Just fifteen minutes from our hotel, our day begins at **Trebah Garden**, a 26-acre pleasure garden originally laid out by Charles Fox in the middle of the 19th century. During World War II, Trebah was used as a major staging ground for D-Day troops. In the afternoon, we visit a private property called **Bonython**, a subtropical garden owned by a South African expat. Here we not only enjoy the garden but also a Cornish Tea. Lodging: Falmouth (B)(T)(D)



The coastal village of Polperro

Bonython Garden





The subtropical paradise known as the Tresco Abbey Garden in the Isles of Scilly



Tresco Abbey Garden

DAY NINE – Wednesday, May 15

We are in store for an extraordinary experience today as we take a short flight to the **Isles of Scilly**, a beautiful archipelago which lies just 35-miles off the coast of Cornwall. A short boat ride transports us to **Tresco Island** to visit the world-famous **Tresco Abbey Gardens** called “a perennial Kew without the glass.” It is home to 20,000 plants from more than 80 countries. The plants that thrive here would not survive outdoors anywhere else in the UK. Tresco Abbey Garden was established by Augustus

Smith in the 19th century around the ruins of a Benedictine Abbey. Today, the garden is home to plants from the world’s Mediterranean climate zones, from Brazil to New Zealand and Burma to South Africa. After our flight back to Land’s End Airport, we stop to see **St. Michaels’ Mount**.
Lodging: Falmouth (B)(D)

DAY TEN – Thursday, May 16

Our morning begins with a visit to a garden treasure, long buried and forgotten. The **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, hailed by The Times as “...the garden restoration of the century,” is our sole destination today. We return to our hotel for a free afternoon to enjoy shopping and leisure. Lodging: Falmouth (B)(D)



The Lost Gardens of Heligan



The Eden Project

DAY ELEVEN – Friday, May 17

Today we drive back to London, stopping along the way to visit the **Eden Project**. Partially a botanic garden, a theme park, and an educational foundation, Eden includes multiple indoor biomes representing different geographic zones, extensive outdoor displays, and more. When we leave, we travel to **Stourhead Garden**, one of the finest examples of the English Landscape School. After a visit to the garden, we have a farewell dinner at the **Spread Eagle Pub** before leaving for our hotel near the airport in London. Lodging: Basingstoke (B)(D)



Stourhead

DAY TWELVE – Saturday, May 18

All too soon, our English garden journey comes to a close and it's time to return home. We arrive back at Dulles Airport in the early afternoon. (B)

OUR HOTELS

For more information about our hotels, click on the hotel names below:

The Winchester Hotel and Spa, Winchester - 3 nights

Courtyard by Marriott Sandy Hill, Exeter - 2 nights

Saint Michael's Resort, Falmouth - 4 nights

Village Hotel, Basingstoke - 1 night

GARDENS *Devon & Cornwall*

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COST:

- \$6350.00 Total cost per person (double/twin occupancy, **airfare included** from Dulles to London and return, non-stop flights.
- \$1200.00 Single room supplemental fee
While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.

Method of Payment: *by check only, payable to: MCDUFFTOURS LLC*

Included in the Cost

The cost of this tour includes lodging, entrance fees, guides, ground transportation, dinners and lunches as outlined in the Itinerary, plus all breakfasts. Also included is the cost of airfare from Washington Dulles to London Heathrow and return. While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, *if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.*

Not included in the Cost

Costs of obtaining passports, visas, excess/overweight baggage charges, items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone and optional tours are not included. All meals except those included in the tour are not included. Trip insurance is not included as well as tips to driver/guides and any foreign departure taxes. Transportation from home to Washington Dulles International Airport is not included.

Tour Conditions:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC acts only as agents for the passengers with respect to transportation, hotels and restaurants, and exercise every care possible. MCDUFFTOURS LLC assumes no responsibility to any person or entity for liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, breakdown, disruption of advertised schedules, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any ship, ferry, airplane, train, automobile, motorcoach, carriage, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay, refusal of visa, or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, violent acts, quarantine, acts of God, or any other causes beyond our control. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to the itinerary or accommodations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. The price of the program is based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on October 31, 2023, and is subject to adjustment in the event of change in tariffs, taxes or exchange rates. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. The acceptance of any service provided as part of tour or any ticket or voucher shall be deemed to be acceptance of, and consent by the tour member to these conditions. Services are subject to the laws of the country where services are provided. For a more detailed Term and Conditions statement from MCDUFFTOURS, please click **HERE**.

Please note that this tour requires a considerable amount of walking. Since most of the gardens and castles we visit are not wheelchair accessible, participants must be able to walk on uneven paths with steps without wheelchairs or walkers. Participants must also be able to manage their own luggage. If you cannot walk a mile without difficulty, this tour is most likely not the best tour for you.

I understand and accept these terms and conditions:

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Cancellation and Refund Policy: The total deposit is refundable until February 6, 2024. If you must cancel between February 6 and March 20, 2024, \$100 of the \$1000 deposit will be retained. After March 20, the \$1000 deposit plus actual expenses incurred in airline and hotel arrangements will be retained and the remainder will be refunded.

OUR COMPANY

MCDUFFTOURS LLC is a travel company founded by Nancy and Robert McDuffie, both former professors at Virginia Tech. Nancy is a soprano and was on faculty in the Department of Music, while Robert is a Landscape Architect and was faculty in the Department of Horticulture as well as Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden.



GARDENS Devon & Cornwall

May 7-18, 2024

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print – each participant must complete this form

Full Legal Name (as on passport) _____

First name for NAME TAG _____ Phone # _____

Birthdate _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Passport# _____ Place of issue _____

Date of issue _____ Date of expiration _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Special food preferences or allergies (i.e., no fish) _____

Name of preferred roommate _____

Total Tour Fee is \$6350.00 (double occupancy, per person)

_____ \$1000.00 Deposit due: February 6, 2024

_____ \$5350.00 Final payment of the balance due: March 20, 2024

_____ \$1200.00 Supplemental Fee for Single due: March 20, 2024

\$_____ Total payment enclosed

Questions? Ask Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - mcdufftours@yahoo.com

Please mail your completed reservation form, a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions form, and a deposit check by February 6, 2024 to:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC
4810 Susannah Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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