

# CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND & WALES



NEW DATES! AUGUST 16-27, 2021

## CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

NEW DATES: **AUGUST 16-27, 2021**

We proudly present a tour of exceptional gardens in England and Wales. These gardens are set apart because of the quality of their design and the personal touches of their owners. Our tour begins in Royal Tunbridge Wells, proceeds to Cambridge, then to Stratford-Upon-Avon, and finally to Dolgellau, Wales. Along the way we spend time with garden owners, horticulturists, garden designers, and maybe even a royal or two if we're lucky. The cost of the tour is \$6150 per person, double occupancy with airfare included from Washington Dulles to England and return.

*Come along with us on this spectacular garden adventure!*



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# CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

AUGUST 16-27, 2021

## ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.

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

### DAY ONE - MONDAY, AUG 16, 2021

Today we fly from Washington Dulles Airport to London Gatwick.

### DAY TWO - TUESDAY, AUG 17

We arrive around noon and make our way to **NTS Nymans Garden** for a visit and light lunch. Located in Haywards Heath, Nymans was developed, starting in the late 19th century, by three generations of the Messel family, and was brought to renown by Leonard Messel, beginning in 1915. We explore the house and gardens, before proceeding to our hotel, [One Warwick Park](#).  
Lodging: [Royal Tunbridge Wells \(B\)\(L\)\(D\)](#)



Nymans Garden



Great Dixter

### DAY THREE - WEDNESDAY, AUG 18

We begin our day with a visit to a place called **Great Dixter**. Home of the late garden writer, Christopher Lloyd, Great Dixter was originally known simply as Dixter, before Sir Edwin Lutyens made major additions to the house and gardens, making it 'Great.' In the afternoon we visit nearby **Pashley Manor Garden** with its 11 acres of stunning borders and vistas. [Lodging: Royal Tunbridge Wells \(B\)](#)

## DAY FOUR - THURSDAY, AUG 19

Today we travel outside greater London to see an English Renaissance garden called **Hatfield House**. Once owned by Henry VIII, it was the place where young Elizabeth was living when she learned of her accession to the throne. Later sold to Robert Cecil, it has remained in the Cecil family for 400 years. Once in Cambridge, we have a walking tour of the highlights of this historic university city. Our hotel for the next three nights is the [Graduate Cambridge Hotel](#). Lodging: [Cambridge \(B\)](#)



Hatfield House



Beth Chatto's Garden

## DAY FIVE - FRIDAY, AUG 20

This morning we venture outside Cambridge to explore the extraordinary private garden of the late **Beth Chatto**, the legendary plantswoman and garden designer. While there we also enjoy tea before returning to Cambridge for a free afternoon. Lodging: [Cambridge \(B\)\(T\)](#)

## DAY SIX - SATURDAY, AUG 21

It is a full day of gardens in East Anglia, as we visit three extraordinary gardens, starting with **Bressingham Gardens**,

followed by **Ousden House Garden**, and finally **Spencer's Garden**. Owned by the late Alan Bloom, Bressingham is a wonderful garden, an innovative nursery, and a steam locomotive museum. Ousden House has an 8-acre garden with topiary, borders, and magnificent views. Spencer's is named after Lady Anne Spencer, granddaughter of the first Duke of Marlborough. She also was instrumental in laying out the original garden. We have refreshments along the way. Lodging: [Cambridge \(B\)\(L\)\(T\)](#)



Bressingham Garden



Rousham House and Garden

## DAY SEVEN - SUNDAY, AUG 22

As we head toward [Hogarth's Solihull Hotel](#) in the countryside near Stratford-Upon-Avon, we stop at two large 'landscapes' each of which has all the trappings of the English Landscape School. **Stowe House** is our first stop. Presently a boarding school and golf course, it still has all the grand follies that exemplifies the genre. Worked on by Vanbrugh, Bridgeman, Kent and 'Capability' Brown, Stowe is like an outdoor museum of

English landscape designers. **Rousham** is also an outstanding example of English landscape design and stands out as one of Kent's best efforts. Lodging: [Stratford-Upon-Avon \(B\)\(D\)](#)

## DAY EIGHT - MONDAY, AUG 23

While we cannot make final reservations at **Highgrove Royal Garden** until early June, we remain hopeful that we will indeed get in the garden. It is the garden of Prince Charles and it has been on every garden lover's calendar for several years now. It remains on our calendar for the moment. After our proposed visit, we will go to nearby **Abbey House Gardens**, a stunning 5-acre garden beside the 12<sup>th</sup> century Abbey Church. Featured on television, it is in the center of medieval Malmesbury that straddles the River Avon. This evening we go into Stratford-Upon-Avon for some free time. [Lodging: Stratford-Upon-Avon \(B\)](#)



Abbey House Gardens



Powis Castle

## DAY NINE - TUESDAY, AUG 24

On our way to our hotel, [Lake Vyrnwy Hotel & Spa](#) in Llanddyn, Wales, we pause to explore two beautiful gardens. The first is **Hodnet Hall Gardens**, featuring over 60 acres of brilliantly colored flowers, magnificent forest trees, sweeping lawns and a chain of ornamental pools that run tranquilly along the cultivated garden valley. Our second garden is at **Powis Castle**, a medieval castle, fortress, and grand country mansion with gardens that cascade down to the valley in an Italian style. [Lodging: Llanddyn \(B\)\(D\)](#)

## DAY TEN - WEDNESDAY, AUG 25

Our destination today is near Conway, Wales, with a visit first to **Bodnant Garden**, one of the finest gardens in all the British Isles. In fact, there are two gardens here, the Italian Garden near the manor house and the Dell Garden, located in the ravine below the house. Afterward, we visit another great Welsh garden called **Plas Cadnant Hidden Garden**. It is actually three different gardens, including an unusual walled garden with curving walls and pool, a secret valley garden with three waterfalls and river, and an upper woodland garden with stone outcrops and the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century folly. [Lodging: Llanddyn \(B\)\(D\)](#)



Bodnant Garden



Wollerton Old Hall Garden

## DAY ELEVEN – THURSDAY, AUG 26

As our journey through Connoisseur Gardens comes to a close, we visit two final gardens today. The first is **Wollerton Old Hall Garden**. The garden has been designed and developed by Lesley and John Jenkins since 1984 and is set around a 16th Century Hall House. It has developed into an important modern garden in the English Garden tradition with echoes of Arts and Crafts. Our final garden is **Chatsworth House**, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, having been

passed down through 16 generations of the Cavendish family. The 105 acre garden is the product of nearly 500 years of careful cultivation. [Lodging: Manchester \(B\)](#)

## DAY TWELVE - FRIDAY, AUG 27

Today brings to a close our journey through Connoisseur Gardens of England and Wales as we catch a morning flight back to Washington. (B)

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 Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture as well as Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. After establishing the first group Horticulture Study Abroad program 23 years ago, they now take garden lovers of all ages around the world. Over 1300 people have traveled with them to visit gardens in 25 countries on four continents.



Chatsworth House and Gardens

# CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

August 16-27, 2021

### Deposit and Final Payment information:

\$6150.00 Total cost per person (double/twin occupancy, airfare included)

\$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. The maximum number of participants is 35.

### Payment deadlines:

\$1000.00 **May 13, 2021** Deposit due

\$5150.00 **June 28, 2021** Final payment due

\$1200.00 **June 28, 2021** Single supplemental fee due

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

### 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 March 11, 2021, 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: <https://new.mcdufftours.com/T&C.pdf>

*Please note that this garden tour requires a considerable amount of walking and since most of the gardens we visit are not wheelchair accessible, participants must be able to walk on paths with steps. Participants must also be able to manage their own luggage.*

### Included in the Cost

The cost of this tour includes lodging, entrance fees, guides, ground transportation, all breakfasts, bottled water, and several dinners, lunches, and teas outlined in the Itinerary. Also included is the cost of airfare from Washington Dulles Airport to London Gatwick Airport along with the return from Manchester Airport to Dulles. 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.

### I understand and accept these terms and conditions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

It is strongly recommended that you purchase Travel Insurance to protect your tour investment against covered unforeseeable circumstances.

I wish \_\_\_\_\_ do not wish \_\_\_\_\_ to purchase travel insurance. Client's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

We offer Trip Insurance through a company called CSA Travel Protection. You can contact them on the web at: <http://www.csatravelpro.com/20190129> or call them at (800) 348-9505 and tell them the product number is: 20190129.

**Cancellation and Refund Policy:** The total deposit is refundable until May 13, 2021. If you must cancel between May 13 and June 28, \$100 of the \$1000 deposit will be retained. After June 28, the \$1000 deposit plus actual expenses incurred in airline and hotel arrangements will be retained and the remainder will be refunded.

# CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND WALES REGISTRATION FORM

August 16-27, 2021

*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 requirements or allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Name of preferred roommate \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail your completed reservation form, a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions form, and a deposit check by May 13, 2021 to:**

MCDUFFTOURS LLC  
4810 Susannah Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Office Use	Received	AMT: _____
		CHK#: _____
		DATE: _____

Reservation information: Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - mcdufftours@yahoo.com