

Gardens of • LONDON • CAMBRIDGE & the Chelsea Flower Show



Next May, join MCDUFFTOURS on an exciting journey to visit gardens in greater London and the university city of Cambridge. Experience remarkable gardens, extraordinary manor houses, historic neighborhoods, and the *Chelsea Flower Show!*

We stay five days in London and five days in Cambridge. This is your chance to experience London—not just the gardens—but the historic capital of the British Empire. You also have the opportunity to spend time in Cambridge, to explore its history, culture, and architecture.

If you love gardens and English heritage, this tour is for you! Nancy and Robert McDuffie are the hosts on this joyous celebration of England. *We have a limited number of spaces available, so register early.*

Come join us!

DATES: May 17-28, 2027

COST: \$8,150

(double occupancy, **INCLUDING** roundtrip airfare from Washington, DC)

Deadline to Register: February 10, 2027



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

RHS Chelsea Flower Show • Kew Gardens • Hampton Court Palace
The Garden Museum • Sky Garden • Hatfield House
Open-air Double Decker Bus London Tour • Lode Mill Garden
Punting on the River Cam • Sky Garden • The Windmill
Cambridge Botanical Garden • Wyken Hall • Bressingham Garden
Beth Chatto's Garden • Anglesly Abbey • Clover Cottage

TOUR AT A GLANCE

Our time in England begins with a flight from Washington Dulles Airport to London's Heathrow Airport. We spend our first five nights in London with our final five nights in Cambridge before flying home from London.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flights from Washington Dulles Airport to Heathrow Airport and return
 - All entrance fees to places on the itinerary
 - All breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 3 dinners
 - Professional local experts and guides
- Transportation in a deluxe air-conditioned coach
- Lodging in 4-star hotels in perfect locations

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



Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.

Included meals: (B) breakfast (L) lunch (T) tea (D) dinner

DAY ONE: Monday, May 17, 2027

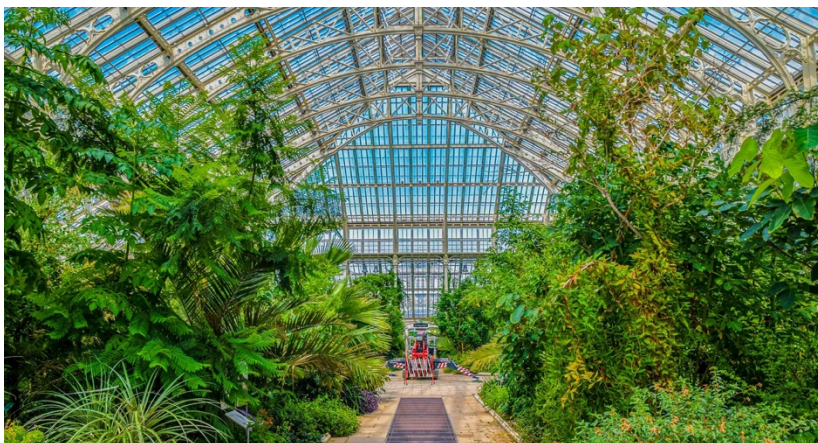
Our garden adventure begins with a flight from Washington Dulles Airport to London's Heathrow Airport.



Hampton Court Palace

DAY TWO: Tuesday, May 18

After landing and going through passport control, we head immediately to one of Britain's most iconic palaces: **Hampton Court Palace and Gardens**. We arrive in time for lunch at the *Tiltyard Café* (on your own). Shaking off our jetlag, we tour the palace and the extensive historic grounds unlocking the secrets of this phenomenal royal palace. Afterward, we head to our central London hotel where we stay for 5 nights. This evening, we have a get-acquainted dinner together. *Lodging: London (D)*



Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

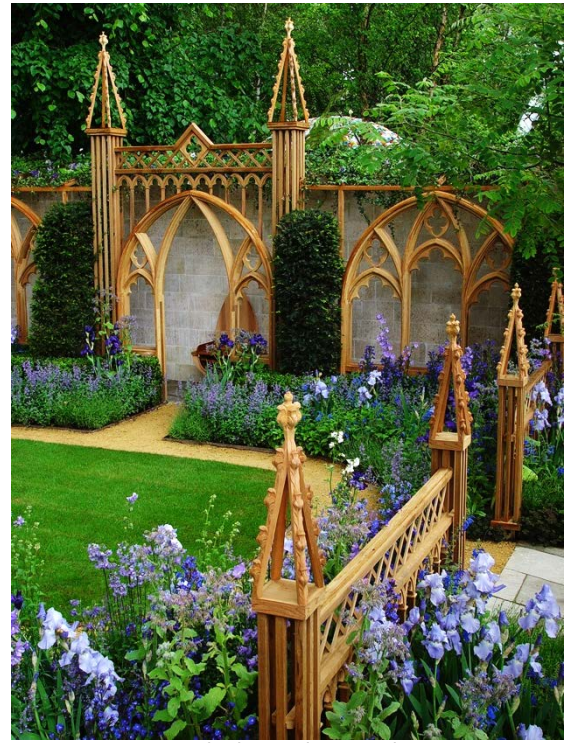
DAY THREE: Wednesday, May 19

To begin our submersion into life in London, this morning we head to a nearby Underground station to take the Tube to the **Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew**. It is the world's largest collection of living plants located in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. Before leaving Kew, we have **High Tea at the Original Maids of Honour** just outside Kew Gate.

This evening, we have an open-top double-decker bus tour of London. We view everything from St Paul's Cathedral to the London Eye. Evening is the best time to capture a sense of the city when the traffic is light. *Lodging: London (B)(T)*

DAY FOUR: Thursday, May 20

The **Royal Horticulture Society's Chelsea Flower Show** is the most famous flower/garden show in the world, and it is our destination today. We have the entire day to enjoy the seemingly endless displays, idea gardens, and booths that have anything to do with plants. It is truly a horticulturist's dream come true. It is such an integral part of British life, that the BBC has evening updates on happenings at Chelsea every day. *Lodging: London (B)*



RHS Chelsea Flower Show

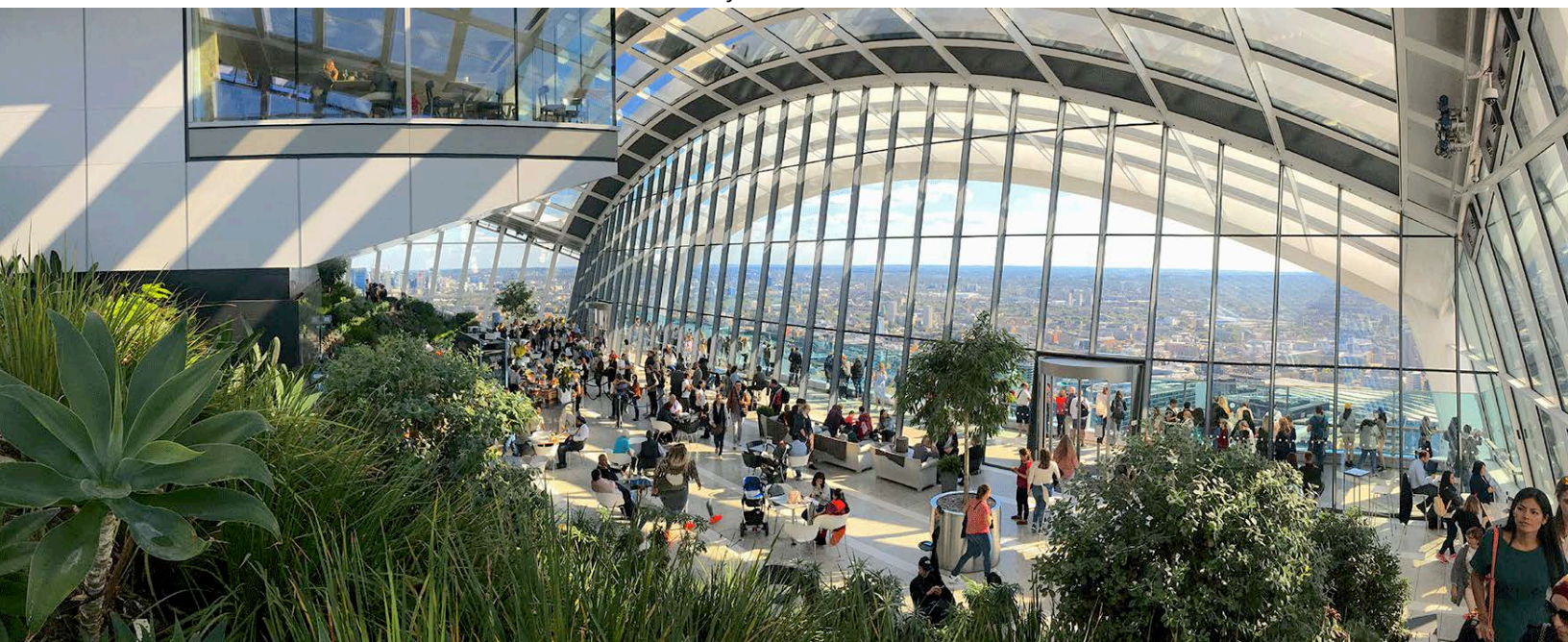


London Garden Museum

DAY FIVE: Friday, May 21

As we continue our exploration of London gardens, we take in the **Garden Museum** which is devoted to British gardening history. The fascinating museum showcases innovations in modern-day gardening and has an extraordinary garden of its own. In the afternoon, our next garden reaches new heights. And we mean that literally. The **Sky Garden** is perched on the 43rd floor of the Fenchurch Building, nicknamed "The Walkie-Talkie" for its shape. Designers used drought-resistant plants from the Mediterranean and South Africa to keep these gardens lush and colorful throughout the year. So, we see French lavender

Sky Garden



sharing the space with African lilies and Birds of Paradise. The result is a little escape from the hustle of London's busy financial district 500 feet below. *Lodging: London (B)(L)*

DAY SIX: Saturday, May 22

Using our central London hotel as a base of operations, today you have the chance to explore London on your own. The Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, West End Shows, Museums such as the Churchill War Rooms, a ride on the London Eye, Westminster Abbey, Jack the Ripper Walking Tours, and neighborhoods like Notting Hill, are all possibilities for you.



The London Eye and the Tower of Big Ben

And they don't necessarily have to happen just on this day. With some advance planning, some of these sights can be experienced in previous evenings after the day's activities. *Lodging: London (B)*

DAY SEVEN: Sunday, May 23

We depart London today and make our way north to the university city of **Cambridge**. Before we arrive, however, we stop at **Hatfield House**, home to beautiful gardens. It is the place where Elizabeth was living before becoming Queen of England in 1588. Hatfield House is a Jacobean country house and a former royal palace in Hertfordshire, built by Robert Cecil, the chief minister of King James I. After our visit to the interior of the house and the gardens, we drive to Cambridge for

Hatfield House



our last five nights at the *Graduate Hilton Hotel*. This hotel is perfectly located within walking distance of Cambridge University. *Lodging: Cambridge (B)(L)(D)*

DAY EIGHT: Monday, May 24

We begin our day in the historic **Cambridge University Botanic Garden**, featuring 40 acres of living plant collections originally conceived by Charles Darwin's mentor and teacher, Professor John Henslow. A treasure trove of over 8,000 plant species, it is both an academic



Cambridge Botanic Garden



Punting on River Cam

resource and a peaceful retreat. After lunch, we experience Cambridge from the water as you glide along the peaceful **River Cam aboard a traditional guided punting tour**. We enjoy stunning views of the historic university buildings including King's College Chapel, the Bridge of Sighs, and the Mathematical Bridge, while hearing fascinating stories and local history. As we drift past the famous Backs—the gardens and grounds behind the colleges—you see manicured lawns and ancient trees. From this unique vantage point, we glimpse one of England's most beautiful university cities from its most scenic waterway. You have the rest of the evening to explore Cambridge. *Lodging: Cambridge (B)(L)*

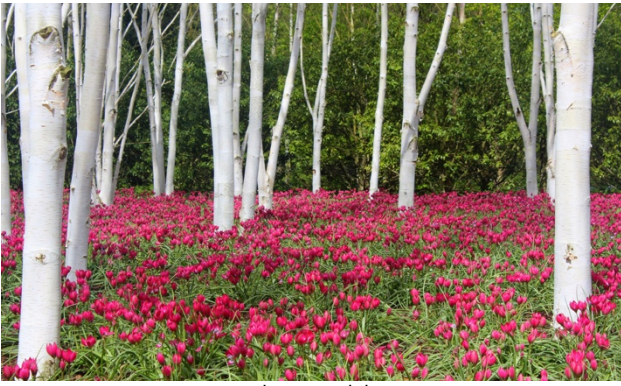
DAY NINE: Tuesday, May 25

This morning we explore the celebrated **Bressingham Gardens**. Originally created on farmland to display

Bressingham Nursery's perennial plants, the garden now features over 8,000 species and varieties of plants in six linked gardens. Perennial enthusiasts will not want to miss the Dell Garden, created by the founder of the family nursery, Alan Bloom, and featuring the first island beds he installed in 1953. The Dell showcases Alan's revolutionary approach to perennial gardening, with flowing, naturalistic island beds carved into a gentle valley setting. Here thousands of herbaceous perennials create waves of seasonal color from spring through autumn. You also discover Foggy Bottom, Adrian Bloom's garden featuring ornamental grasses and prairie-style plantings. It is a living testament to the



Bressingham Gardens



Anglesey Abbey

family's "no-staking, no-spraying" philosophy that transformed how we grow perennials today. After lunch at Bressingham, we proceed to **Wyken Hall**, where the gardens have been created over the last 50 years. In 2023, Wyken won the prize for the most popular RHS Partner Garden for the East and Midlands in England. The garden rooms wrap around the old Suffolk manor and connects the house to the landscape beyond. *Lodging: Cambridge (B)(L)*

DAY TEN: Wednesday, May 26

In the morning, we will explore the captivating grounds of **Anglesey Abbey and Lode Mill**. The Jacobean house was once owned by Lord Fairhaven and is now part of the National Trust. The grounds are among the grandest created in England during the 20th century. We have time to explore the garden and tour the interior of the home, as well as eat lunch on our own in the café. In the afternoon, we have a private tour of **Clover Cottage**, an enchanting and intimate garden. Here you find rose and clematis covered arbors, sunny borders filled with English roses, irises and lilies, shade gardens of ferns and hostas, a pond, raised vegetable beds, and more. *Lodging: Cambridge (B)*



Clover Cottage

DAY ELEVEN: Thursday, May 27

We begin with a visit to **The Windmill**, a remarkable private garden where architectural ingenuity meets botanical beauty. This unique garden has been ingeniously designed around a converted windmill, creating dramatic vertical elements and unexpected planting opportunities. To complete the day, we visit the garden of one of Britain's most influential plantswoman, **Beth Chatto**. We wander through her gravel garden, where Mediterranean and steppe plants thrive without irrigation, and we discover her woodland and water gardens that have inspired ecological gardening worldwide. We see firsthand how Beth's "right plant, right place" philosophy creates stunning displays. This evening, we enjoy a farewell dinner. *Lodging: Cambridge (B)(D)*

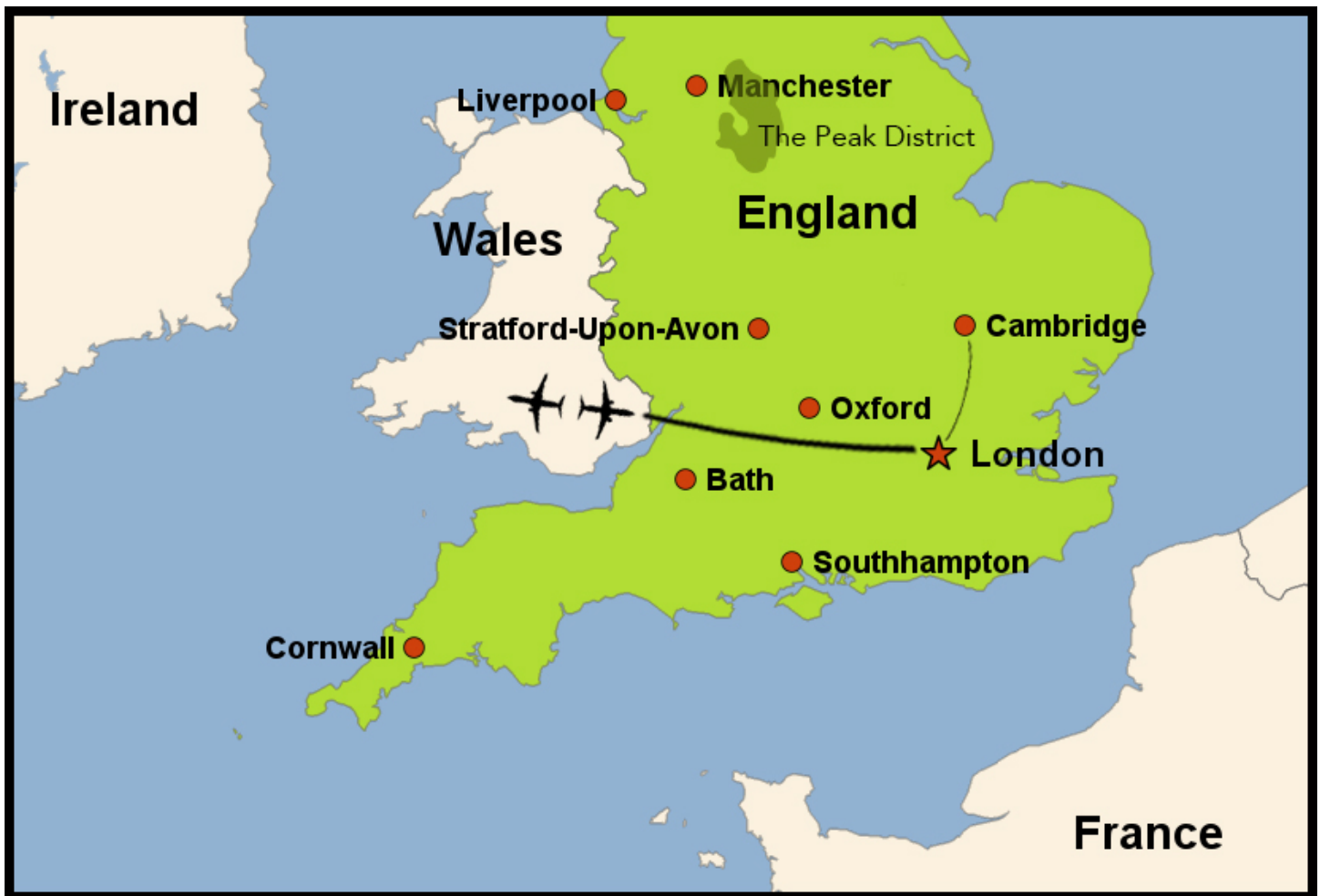
DAY TWELVE: Friday, May 28

Sadly, our wonderful garden tour comes to a close as we return to London for our flight home. (B)

Beth Chatto's Garden



Tour Map



Our hotels

Below are our 4-star hotels. Please click on the hotel name below to view images and more.

Miir Templeton Garden Hotel

London, UK

This Victorian building is a stylish 4-star hotel with modern air-conditioned rooms. It is just 984 feet from Earls Court London Underground station and Exhibition Center. The Royal Albert Hall, Science Museum and Victoria & Albert Museum can all be reached within a 25-minute walk. The Miir Templeton Garden has a quiet location with a large private garden.

Graduate Hilton Hotel

Cambridge, UK

Graduate by Hilton Cambridge is a 4-star hotel that takes inspiration from the prestigious University of Cambridge, with nods to campus architecture, notable alumni, and local touches throughout. From the moment you walk through the doors, you'll be immersed in the local culture and charm that's unique to Cambridge. It overlooks the Cam River, where punting is available.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COST

\$8,150.00 Total cost per person (double/twin occupancy, **airfare included** from Washington Dulles Airport to London Heathrow and return.)

\$1650.00 Single room supplemental fee

NOTE: 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.

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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 non-stop airfare from Washington Dulles to London and return.

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 your home to Washington Dulles 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 July 14, 2026, 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 handicap accessible, participants must be able to walk on uneven paths, or on stairs without wheelchairs or walkers. Participants must also be able to manage their own luggage. If you cannot walk a mile without difficulty, this 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 10, 2027. If you must cancel between February 10, 2027 and March 20, 2027, \$100 of the \$1000 deposit will be retained. After March 20, 2027, 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 and Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden.

After establishing the first Virginia Tech Horticulture group study abroad program 28 years ago, it was a natural progression to now take garden lovers of all ages around the world to see the most beautiful gardens on earth. More than 1900 travelers have joined us on tours in the U.S. and abroad, including visits to England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Costa Rica, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Greece, Monaco, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, France, Ecuador, Israel, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and the Netherlands.

At the heart of our company is our growing 'family' of traveling friends that together experience our special brand of garden and food adventures. And on every tour, one or both of us are on board to lead the group, lecture about gardens, and do whatever it takes to make our travel go smoothly.



REGISTRATION FORM

June 14-26, 2026

Please print clearly – each participant must complete this form

Full Legal Name (as on passport)

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First name for NAME TAG _____ Phone # _____

Birthdate _____ Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Passport# _____ Expiration date _____

Emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Special food requirements or allergies _____

Name of preferred roommate _____

Total Tour Fee is \$8,150.00 (double occupancy, per person)

_____ \$1000.00 Deposit due immediately upon registration, last date is: February 10, 2027

_____ \$7150.00 Final payment of the balance due: March 20, 2027

_____ \$1650.00 Supplemental Fee for Single due: March 20, 2027

\$_____ 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 10, 2027 to:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC
4810 Susannah Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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