

CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND & WALES



JUNE 15-26, 2021

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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 \$5950 per person, double occupancy with airfare included from Washington Dulles to England.

Come along with us on this spectacular garden adventure!





Stowe Garden

CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.

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

DAY ONE - TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021

Today we fly from Washington Dulles Airport to London Gatwick.



Nymans Garden

DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

We arrive around noon and make our way to **NTS Nymans Garden** for a visit along with a 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)**



Great Dixter

DAY THREE - THURSDAY, JUNE 17

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 Edwins 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 - FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Today we travel around 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 is the [Cambridge Hotel](#). **Lodging: Cambridge (B)**



Hatfield House



Beth Chatto's Garden

DAY FIVE - SATURDAY, JUNE 19

This morning we venture outside Cambridge to visit 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 - SUNDAY, JUNE 20

It is a full day of gardens in East Anglia, as we visit three extraordinary gardens, beginning 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 - MONDAY, JUNE 21

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 garden 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 - TUESDAY, JUNE 22

While we cannot make final reservations at **Highgrove Royal Garden** until early February, 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 12th 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 - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23

On our way to our hotel, [Penmaenuchaf Hall](#) in Dolgellau, 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: Dolgellau \(B\)\(D\)](#)

DAY TEN - THURSDAY, JUNE 24

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 19th century folly. [Lodging: Dolgellau \(B\)\(D\)](#)



Bodnant Garden

DAY ELEVEN – FRIDAY, JUNE 25

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

Wollerton Old Hall Garden

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 - SATURDAY, JUNE 26

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

June 15-26, 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. For our stay at Penmaenuchaf in Dolgellau, Wales, there are limited single rooms available. We have booked several single rooms at a nearby hotel. Participants will still have dinner at Penmaenuchaf. The maximum number of participants is 34.

Payment deadlines:

\$1000.00 **March 12, 2021** Deposit due

\$5150.00 **May 4, 2021** Final payment due

\$1200.00 **May 4, 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 August 1, 2020, 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 March 12, 2021. If you must cancel between March 12 and May 4, \$100 of the \$1000 deposit will be retained. After May 4, 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

June 15-26, 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 March 12, 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