

# CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND & WALES



JUNE 19-30, 2022

We proudly present a tour of exceptional gardens in England and Wales. These 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 the university city of Oxford, then to Stratford-Upon-Avon, and finally to Wales. Along the way we spend time with garden owners, horticulturists, garden designers, and maybe even a royal or two, if we're lucky.

**Cost: \$6150 per person**

Double occupancy with **airfare included** on British Airways from Washington Dulles to England and return.

**Dates: June 19-30, 2022**

**Deadline to Register: March 15, 2022**

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





Rousham Garden

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JUNE 19-30, 2022

## ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.

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

### DAY ONE - SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022

Today we fly from Washington Dulles Airport to London Heathrow Airport.



Nymans Garden

### DAY TWO - MONDAY, JUNE 20

We arrive early in the morning and make our way to **Nymans Garden** for a visit and light lunch. Located in Haywards Heath, Nymans was developed in the late 19th century and brought to renown by Leonard Messel, beginning in 1915. Later, we proceed to **Borde Hill Garden**, purchased in the 1890s by Colonel Stephenson Robert Clarke. He created the gardens using plants from several continents brought by the great plant hunters of the early 1900s. After our visit, we proceed to our hotel, [One Warwick Park](#). Lodging: [Royal Tunbridge Wells \(B\)\(L\)\(D\)](#)



Great Dixter

### DAY THREE - TUESDAY, JUNE 21

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

## DAY FOUR - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

Today we travel to Oxford, but along way we stop at **Chartwell**, the home of Winston Churchill for 40 years. The gardens are excellent, with brick walls partially laid by Churchill himself. We lunch at the café before departing for the **Barn at Serge Hill**, the boyhood home of Tom Stuart. Tom says that his garden is "part work in progress, part experiment; a bit new and messy in some places and getting quite middle aged in others." While the garden's design is entirely modern, there is an intrinsic nostalgia about its material components. The garden to the west of the barn was an empty wheatfield twenty years ago, but now a framework of hedges creates a series of interlocking spaces, surrounded by an open meadow of trees and wildflowers. We have tea before departing for our hotel, [Courtyard by Marriott City Centre Oxford](#). Lodging: Oxford (B)



The Barn at Serge Hill



Waterperry Gardens

## DAY FIVE - THURSDAY, JUNE 23

This morning we begin with a walking tour of the city of Oxford, ending at the **Oxford Botanic Garden**. Begun in 1621 for the scientific study of medicinal plants, it is the oldest botanic garden in Great Britain. After lunch, we venture just outside of Oxford to explore the gardens established by Beatrix Havergal as part of the ladies' **Waterperry School of Horticulture** that existed there from 1932 until her retirement in 1971. Lodging: Oxford (B)(T)

## DAY SIX - FRIDAY, JUNE 24

While we cannot make final reservations at **Highgrove Royal Garden** until February, we remain hopeful that we will indeed gain entrance. It belongs to Prince Charles and it has been on every garden lover's calendar for years now. After our visit, we go to nearby **Abbey House Gardens**, with its stunning 5-acres located beside the 12<sup>th</sup> century Abbey Church. It is in the center of the quaint medieval village of Malmesbury that straddles the River Avon. Lodging: Oxford (B)(L)(T)



Abbey House Gardens



Rousham House and Garden

## DAY SEVEN - SATURDAY, JUNE 25

As we travel to [Hogarths Solihull Hotel](#) in the countryside near Stratford-Upon-Avon, we stop at **Rousham**, an outstanding example of William Kent and the English Landscape School. Unlike many true landscape gardens, it also has an array of colorful gardens. Next, we go to **Broughton Grange Garden** (designed by Tom Smith) to visit its contemporary collections followed by lunch. To finish the day, we go to nearby **Pettifers**

**House Gardens**—a stylish townhouse garden—where we walk with Polly, the head gardener. Then, of course, we have tea before departing. [Lodging: Stratford-Upon-Avon \(B\)\(L\)\(T\)\(D\)](#)

## DAY EIGHT - SUNDAY, JUNE 26

We start at the beautiful garden at **Coton Manor** designed around a 17th century manor house. The 10-acre garden has luxuriant borders with color and interest throughout the seasons. We have lunch there before going to **Old Rectory Garden**, an eighteenth century English rectory neighboring the church in Quinton. Its three-acre garden was redesigned and recreated over an intense period in



Old Rectory Garden

2014-2015 into a truly special 21st century garden. We enjoy tea before returning to Oxford. [Lodging: Stratford-Upon-Avon \(B\)\(L\)\(T\)](#)



Wollerton Old Hall Garden

## DAY NINE - MONDAY, JUNE 27

Today we travel to Wales and along the way, we 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. Our second stop is **Wollerton Old Hall Garden**, designed and developed by Lesley and John Jenkins beginning 1984. It is set around a sixteenth century hall house and has

become an important modern garden in the English garden tradition, echoing the Arts and Crafts Movement. [Lodging: Lake Vyrnwy Hotel & Spa in Llanddyn \(B\)\(L\)\(D\)](#)

## DAY TEN - TUESDAY, JUNE 28

Our destination today is **Bodnant Garden**, one of the finest in all the British Isles. In fact, there are two gardens here, the 'Italian' near the manor house and the 'Dell,' 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, one with an unusual curved walled garden, another with a secret valley garden with three waterfalls and a river, and an then an upper woodland-like garden with stone outcrops, the remains of a nineteenth century folly. **Lodging: Llanddyn (B)(D)**



Bodnant Garden

## DAY ELEVEN – WED, JUNE 29

As our journey through Connoisseur Gardens comes to a close, our final destination is **Powis Castle**, a medieval castle, fortress, and grand country mansion with plantings that cascade down to the valley below in an Italian style with a Welsh flair. It is a stunning sight as you approach it from below as it looms above the scenic Welsh countryside with views that go for miles. **Lodging: Llanddyn (B)(D)**

## DAY TWELVE - THURSDAY, JUNE 30

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



Powis Castle

# CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

June 19-30, 2022

### COST:

\$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 36.

**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](#).

*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 Heathrow Airport along with the return from Manchester Airport to Dulles. While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if one 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 to and from home to Washington Dulles International Airport is not included.

I understand and accept these terms and conditions.

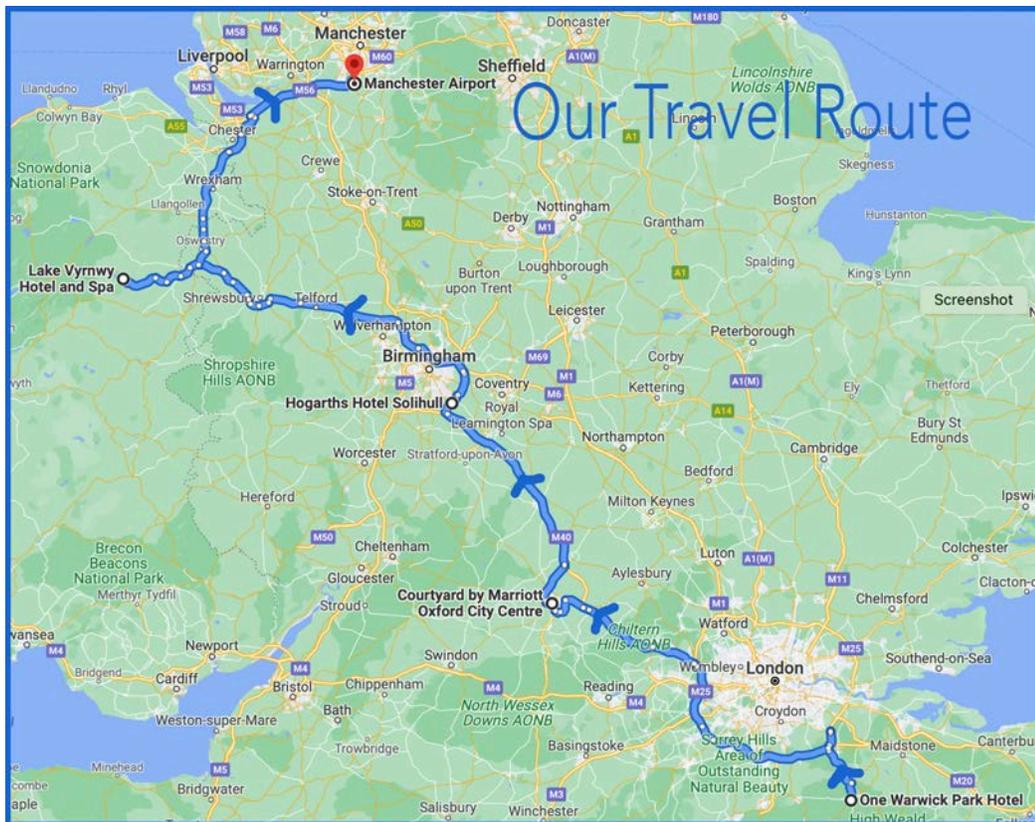
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Cancellation and Refund Policy:** The total deposit is refundable until March 15, 2022. If you must cancel between March 15 and May 17, \$100 of the \$1000 deposit will be retained. After May 17, the \$1000 deposit plus actual expenses incurred in airline and hotel arrangements will be retained and the remainder will be refunded.

MCDUFFTOURS LLC is a travel company founded by Nancy and Robert McDuffie, both former professors at Virginia Tech. Nancy taught in the Department of Music as a vocal coach and instructor. 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 VT Horticulture Study Abroad program 24 years ago, they now take garden lovers of all ages around the world. Over 1400 people have traveled with them to visit gardens in 25 countries on five continents.

# CONNOISSEUR GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND WALES REGISTRATION FORM

June 19-30, 2022

*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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Tour Fee is \$6150.00 (double occupancy, per person)**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00 Deposit due: March 15, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5150.00 Final payment of the balance due: May 17, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1200.00 Supplemental Fee for Single due: May 17, 2022

**\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total payment enclosed**

Questions? [Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - mcduffttours@yahoo.com](mailto:Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - mcduffttours@yahoo.com)

**Please mail your completed reservation form, a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions form, and a deposit check by March 15, 2022 to:**

MCDUFFTOURS LLC  
4810 Susannah Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

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