

Hortitopia presents

Gardens of Boston & the Berkshires

With Marian St.Clair, Garden Writer and Tour Coordinator

August 9-14, 2015

Join Marian St.Clair for a fun-filled exploration of “The Bay State,” from the mountains to the sea. This tour provides an opportunity to enjoy spectacular gardens, estates, and scenery, as well as the region’s remarkable history and art. From Stockbridge to Boston and spots between, we’ll enjoy...

Garden in the Woods, home of the New England Wildflower Society; Berkshire Botanical Garden; The Mount, home of author Edith Wharton; Hancock Shaker Village; Naumkeag, a Gilded Age masterpiece; Chesterfield, home of sculptor Daniel Chester French; Norman Rockwell Museum, Tower Hill Botanical Garden; Mt. Auburn Cemetery, the first memorial garden and a world-class arboretum; Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; Concord and Lexington driving tour; and more!

- 5 Nights hotel
- 5 Breakfasts, 4 lunches, and 1 dinner
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation, including airport transfers if using group flights
- Garden interpretation by Marian St. Clair (<http://marianstclair.wordpress.com>)
- Horticultural highlights by Pam Beck (<http://www.pambeckgardens.com>)

Price per person based on two sharing a room: \$1549

Single Supplement: \$440



Day-by-day itinerary...

Day 1 (Sunday, August 9) *This morning we fly to Boston's Logan International Airport, arriving by 12 noon to join our coach.*

Enjoying a box lunch along the way, we continue to Garden in the Woods, home of the New England Wildflower Society, a 45-acre public garden with a wide variety of common and rare native plants in a naturalistic setting. After time to explore,

we continue to our hotel in the Berkshires. This evening we enjoy a group welcome dinner with new and old gardening friends. L, D



Day 2 (Monday, August 10) *Today we travel a short distance to visit Berkshire Botanical Garden, a 15-acre public display garden. Both functional and ornamental, the gardens are among the oldest in the country and emphasize plants that are indigenous to or thrive in the Berkshires.*

Later, we visit The Mount, home of Edith Wharton, author of more than 40 books including The Age of Innocence. Only five percent of National Historic Landmarks are dedicated to women and The Mount is one. The 3-acres of formal gardens were designed by Wharton's niece, Beatrix Farrand, whose work defined the American taste in gardens throughout the first half of the 20th century.

After a tour of the home, we'll lunch at the Terrace Café and then enjoy the garden at our leisure.

Before returning to our hotel and dinner on your own, we'll finish the day with a garden tour and free time at Hancock Shaker Village, a restored community established in 1791. B, L



Day 3 (Tuesday, August 11) *This morning we visit a quintessential country estate of the Gilded Age, Naumkeag, a 44-room "cottage" with panoramic views and fabulous gardens, including the Blue Steps, a series of fountain pools flanked by four flights of stairs and a grove of white birches. You'll also find an equally beautiful Afternoon Garden, plus a Rose Garden and Chinese Garden.*

Next we'll make a short visit to the Norman Rockwell Museum, which houses the largest collection of Rockwell art and highlights the contributions of America's illustration masters, before enjoying a group lunch at the Red Lion Inn. The Red Lion, a fixture of the Berkshires, has welcomed travelers for more than two centuries.

Later, we'll visit Chesterwood, the country home, studio, and gardens of Daniel Custer French, sculptor of Abraham Lincoln for the Lincoln Memorial. After a tour of the house and studio, take the few remaining minutes to enjoy the contemporary sculpture exhibit on the grounds. Before returning to the hotel, we'll visit Lenox Village where you can select a restaurant for dinner on your own. B, L

Day 4 (Wednesday, August 12) Today we depart the Berkshires and travel east for a visit to Tower Hill Botanical Garden in central Massachusetts. Tower Hill, home of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, is a 132-acre property offering spectacular views of Mount Wachusett. Among its many specialty gardens, don't miss the Cottage and Vegetable Gardens, the Secret Garden of fragrant plants, the pond-centered Wildlife Garden, and the Lawn Garden featuring more than 350 species of trees and shrubs planted with perennials and groundcovers. Enjoy lunch on your own at the Twigs Café before traveling on to Boston.

Later, we'll check in at our Boston hotel which offers free shuttle service to the historic area, where you can enjoy the sights and dinner on your own. *B*



Day 5 (Thursday, August 13) This morning we visit Mt. Auburn Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark, for a guided tour highlighting the horticulture and history of this special place. Founded in 1831 by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society as the first rural memorial garden, Mt. Auburn continues in its dual role as a sacred site and pleasure ground.

Later, we'll travel to the Harvard Museum of Natural History to visit the Glass Flowers exhibit, one of the museum's most famous treasures displaying more than 3,000 examples. Created in 1886 by glass

artisans Leopold Blaschka and his son, Rudolf, the collection represents 830 plant species. Then, enjoy free time for lunch on your own in nearby Harvard Square.

Our final visit of the day is to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, which houses an art collection of world importance, as well as a Monks Garden and an array of other garden spaces. *B*

Day 6 (Friday, August 14) Our last morning features a visit to the Concord Museum and a driving tour of the Concord and Lexington areas, offering a peek at the domain of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, and Louisa May Alcott.

For lunch, we'll enjoy our final meal together at Concord's Trails End Café, a fitting end to our adventure before we depart for our return trip home. *B, L*

HOTELS:

Best Western Plus Berkshire Hills Inn and Suites, 1350 Housatonic Street, Pittsfield
Double Tree Club Boston Bayside, 240 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE:

Dolly McDermott, Thomas Hogan Travel, North Myrtle Beach, SC
Phone: (work) 843-280-8408 or (cell) 301-466-9632; Email: dollymcdermott@aol.com

Contact Dolly for any help you require, including flights, insurance, or extending your stay.

REGISTRATION

General Instructions:

1. Please type or print legibly.
2. Read the Terms & Conditions, Insurance Information, and Payment Schedule & Refund Policy before signing.
3. Make all checks payable to Hortitopia, LLC. Detach the Registration Page and mail it to Marian St.Clair, 357 Riverside Drive, Greenville, SC 29605, with a deposit of \$500. Keep a copy for your records.

Detailed Instructions:

1. Name. Please show your name exactly as it appears on your driver's license.
2. Address and Phone Numbers. Please provide contact information that enables us to write, email, and phone you at any time, even when you are away from your primary residence.
3. Dietary and Health Information. It is imperative we know if special meals (e.g. vegetarian, non-gluten) or other assistance will be required. The tour is paced for comfort, but significant walking and stair climbing is involved for exploration of some gardens. Participants should have sufficient stamina and mobility to keep pace with the group.
4. Emergency Contact. Please provide contact information that enables us to reach this person at any time, even when they are away from their primary residence.
5. Flight Information. If you are arranging your own flights to join the tour, it is essential we have your exact flight information, including dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports, and times. Note: To be eligible for transfers with the group, you must arrange your flights to arrive and depart in conjunction with the host party and meet the group at their arrival terminal.
6. Rooming Requirements. We book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested. If you are sharing a room, please indicate the name of your roommate. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we can try to match you but cannot guarantee this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply. A twin room has two separate beds; a double room has one large bed.

Terms & Conditions:

1. Space is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first serve basis.
2. Registration and payment constitute acceptance of the information described herein.
3. Registration and payment constitute the release of Marian St. Clair, Pam Beck, Dolly McDermott, and Hortitopia, LLC, and any person from whom liability may be imputed to Marian St. Clair, Pam Beck, Dolly McDermott, and/or Hortitopia, LLC, from all claims resulting from natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, the use of any vehicle, and/or from any act or omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company, or individual.
4. Registration and payment constitute certification that the applicant is physically and mentally capable of full participation in the tour.
5. The host reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities, or excursions in response to changes in availability, or local events or weather conditions, provided they do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal or refund.
6. The host reserves the right, without penalty, to withdraw the tour. The host may also decline to accept any person as a participant in the tour, and to require a person to withdraw from the tour

at any time when such action is determined to be in the best interests of the health, safety, or general welfare of the tour group or the individual.

Group Insurance Information, Flights, Extending Your Stay:

This trip does not include group insurance, as personal insurance and Medicare can be utilized on a domestic trip. If you would like to secure cancellation insurance, please contact Dolly McDermott of Thomas Hogan Travel. Contact Dolly at work at 843-280-8408, by cell phone at 301-466-9632, or email at dollymcdermott@aol.com.

Once the tour has reached the minimum number of travelers, a group flight will be announced. You can book your own travel or use assistance, contacting Dolly as listed above.

You are welcome to extend your stay in Boston prior to or after the tour. However, you should arrange you arrival and/or departure to coordinate with the group schedule.

Payment Schedule & Refund Policy:

1. A deposit of \$500 per person must accompany the completed Registration Form. The final payment (balance owed) is due no later than 2 months prior to the tour (June 9).
2. The host reserves the right to make final costs adjustments if the group size is less than the minimum 25 participants.
3. Refunds for the deposit or payments are not available unless the spot is filled at the discretion of the host from a waiting list. If refunds are offered, they are subject to a cancellation penalty.
4. All cancellation requests should be made in writing, by mail or email.
5. There is no provision for refunds for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has begun.
6. In addition to airfare, the following items and services are not included in the tour price: transportation to and from the participant's home to their chosen departure airport, baggage charges, items of a personal nature, and other items not specifically listed as included.

Questions?

Contact Marian St.Clair by phone at 864-297-8632 or by email at marian.stclair@gmail.com.

REGISTRATION FOR GARDENS OF BOSTON AND THE BERKSHIRES

Traveler Information

Full Name as on Driver's License:

Date of Birth:

Street/City/State/Zip Code:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Dietary Information:

Health Information/Allergies:

Emergency Information

Emergency Contact:

Relationship to Traveler:

Contact's Street/City/State/Zip Code:

Contact's Home Phone:

Contact's Cell Phone:

Tour Details

Do you plan to book flights with the host group? Yes/No

Will you be sharing a room? Yes/No

Name of roommate:

Room preference: Twin/Double

Authorization

I have read and acknowledge agreement with the attached Terms & Conditions, Payment Schedule & Refund Policy, and Group Insurance Information.

Signature:

Date:

*Mail this completed form and a \$500 deposit (check to Hortitopia, LLC) to:
Marian St.Clair, 357 Riverside Drive, Greenville, SC 29605*