

HORTITOPIA TOURS

Great Gardens & Homes of Southern England

with Garden Writer Marian St. Clair

September 8-17, 2013

Travel coordinated by Joyce Moore

English county homes and their glorious gardens have always been unsurpassed for their beauty and variety, and visitors are always enchanted with the English garden style. From the grand designs of stately homes to the secret delights of small cottages, any level of gardener will be enchanted. These visits were especially chosen for their variety and enjoyment. This tour is relaxed, sociable and educational! So join us for memorable visits to some of the greatest homes and gardens of Southern England.



Tour includes....

- * 8 nights superior first class hotels with private bath
- * 4 nights Kent and 4 nights Hampshire
- * All transportation on tour
- * All entrance fees
- * Airport transfer in London if using recommended flights or meeting the group there
- * Breakfast daily, one lunch, 3 dinners including welcome and farewell dinners
- * Touring with local guides when available or self-guided as noted
- * Visits to Sissinghurst, Great Dixter, RHS Wisley, Leeds Castle, Kensington Palace, Churchill's Chartwell Estate, Jane Austen's House & Museum, the Duke of Wellington's Stratfield Saye House & Estate, Manor House at Upton Grey, West Green House, and Goodnestone Park
- * Free afternoons in London and Winchester (time based on schedule)
- * Guided tour of Canterbury and cathedral
- * All gratuities for guides, including coach driver's tip
- * Led by garden writer Marian St. Clair and travel coordinator Joyce Moore

Price per person based on 2 sharing a room - \$3296

Single supplement - \$899

Our tentative day by day itinerary....



Sept. 8 Gather at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport for our overnight flight to London, England.

Sept. 9 Arrival and meet our transfer coach for the ride into London city center and a tour of Kensington Palace. After a guided tour of the State Apartments you will have free time to have a leisurely lunch and see some of the gardens before we depart for our hotel in Hampshire and check in. Relax and unpack; later we will join up for our welcome dinner this

evening. D

Sept. 10 This morning we visit the Manor House at Upton Gray and its garden, designed by Gertrude Jekyll in 1908 for Charles Holme, a leading figure in the Arts and Crafts Movement. Gertrude Jekyll, 1843-1932, was probably the most respected gardener of her time and her influence on the art of gardening is evident throughout the world today. She designed about 400 gardens (three in the US) but, because so few survive and only a handful are accurately restored, it is by her books and articles that she is best remembered. We will have lunch in nearby Chawton, home of literary great Jane Austen for the last years of her life. As we visit her house and museum we will be taken into the world of the writer of *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Sense and Sensibility*. Later you will have some free time to explore the lovely town of Winchester on your own before returning to the hotel. B L



Sept. 11 This morning's visit is to the flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley. Wisley captures the imagination with its richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and the state-of-the-art Glasshouse. Gifted to the Society in 1903, Wisley has evolved over time into a world-class garden. In the trials fields, the finest flowers and vegetables are identified from countless new introductions. Elsewhere in the garden, cultivation techniques are tested, and a series of model gardens answers the needs of a variety of conditions and circumstances. After free time for lunch, we drive to nearby Chartwell Estate, the family home and garden of Sir Winston Churchill. Chartwell was much loved and the place from which Sir Winston drew



inspiration from 1924 until the end of his life. Here we tour the rooms which remain much as they were when he lived here, with pictures, books and personal mementoes evoking the career and wide-ranging interests of a great statesman, writer, painter and family man. Then there will be time to visit the gardens reflecting Churchill's love of the landscape and nature if you like. They include the lakes he created and Lady Churchill's rose garden. B

Sept. 12 This morning we will enjoy an independent visit in the celebrated garden at West Green House with its intriguing collection of follies. A delightful series of walled gardens surrounds the charming 18th-century house. The garden has many original features including a grand water staircase and the Nymphaeum fountain. By the house are a charming small topiary garden and a handsome aviary inhabited by unusual breeds of bantams and chickens. Beyond lies a dramatic new Persian water garden in a woodland glade and more follies and fancies. After time for lunch we travel into the heart of the English countryside on the Hampshire/Berkshire border to the elegant Stratfield Saye House, home to the Dukes of Wellington since 1817. The house and gardens offer an intriguing and informative insight into the life of the Great Duke of Wellington. We will view the fascinating collection of paintings and furniture and see the Wellington Exhibition featuring his magnificent funeral carriage and charting his military and political life. The gardens offer a peaceful atmosphere and are home to a wide range of plants. The American garden is named after the vogue for American shrubs in the early 19th Century. The Pleasure Grounds lie on each side of the house and contain many rare and interesting trees. B



Sept. 13 This morning we depart our Hampshire hotel and will have a short guided London city tour. Then you will have free time this afternoon to enjoy the city as you like. Whether a first timer or a seasoned London visitor, there are always places to explore and enjoy in this great city. The shopping, the sights, just walking around the famous streets...it's all fun in London! Later we continue to our hotel in Kent for the next 4 nights. BD

Sept. 14 Today is a real treat as we visit two of the most famous gardens in England. First to Sissinghurst, created in the 1930s by Vita Sackville-West, poet and gardening writer and her husband Harold Nicolson, an author and diplomat. The garden itself is designed as a series of "rooms", each with a different character of color or theme, the walls being high clipped hedges and many pink brick walls. The rooms and "doors" are so arranged that, as one enjoys the beauty in a given room, one suddenly discovers a new vista into another part of the garden, making a walk a series of discoveries that keeps leading one into yet another area of the garden. After free time for lunch, we travel to Great Dixter House and Gardens. We have a tour of the house and gardens. Great Dixter's garden is regarded as the epitome of English plantsmanship. A Tudor house with a famous twentieth century Arts and Crafts garden, Great Dixter was bought in 1910 by Nathaniel Lloyd, author of books on brickwork and topiary, and was restored by Edwin Lutyens. Lloyd designed the framework of the garden and it was planted with great flair by his son, Christopher Lloyd, author of many good books on plants and planting.



Sept. 15 This morning we enjoy a leisurely visit to the charming and ancient city of Canterbury. After the Kingdom of Kent's conversion to Christianity in 597, St Augustine founded an



Episcopal See in the city and he became the first Archbishop of Canterbury, a position that now heads the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion. Saint Thomas Becket's murder at Canterbury Cathedral in 1170 led to the cathedral becoming a place of pilgrimage. This provided the theme for Chaucer's 14th-century literary classic *The Canterbury Tales*. Canterbury Cathedral is one of the most famous religious structures in the world. Parts of the city have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After a guided city walking tour and free time for lunch, we travel to Goodnestone Park Gardens, dating from 1704. It was the home of the FitzWalter family, an ancient Norman barony established in 1295 which was associated with King John and the Magna Carta. Throughout the Tudor period the FitzWalters were leading courtiers and politicians and later generations were related to Jane Austen, who was a regular guest here. Eventually the gardens fell to ruin and the restoration and expansion to their present standard has primarily been the work of Margaret FitzWalter. In the process she has created what many visitors regard to be one of the outstanding country gardens in England. B



Sept. 16 Today we have a guided tour of one of the most well know and beautiful castles in England, Leeds Castle. Set in 500 acres of parkland, this 900 year old castle was listed in the Domesday Book and has played many roles in the intervening centuries. It has been a Norman stronghold; the private property of six of England's medieval queens; a palace used by Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon; an elegant early 20th-century retreat for the influential and famous and in the 21st century has become one of the most visited historic buildings in Britain. We have a guided tour and free time for lunch and to visit the gardens. Afterwards we go to one of our favorite stops for gardeners, Dobbies Garden World. Here you can have tea and finish up any last minute shopping. Later this evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner together. BD



Sep 17 Morning transfer to the airport for the flight home.

REGISTRATION

General Instructions:

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

Detailed Instructions:

1. Name. Please show your name exactly as it appears on your passport and attach a copy of your passport picture page to the registration. This copy helps in the event of lost or stolen documents. Passport must be valid through April 2014.
2. Address and Phone Numbers. Please provide contact information that enables us to reach 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 or assistance will be required. The tour is paced for comfort, but a certain amount of walking is involved. 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.
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 time your flights to arrive and depart in conjunction with the host party.
6. Rooming Requirements. We book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested. If you are sharing a room, please indicate with whom. 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 single beds; a double room has one large bed.

Terms & Conditions:

1. Tour space is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first serve basis.
2. Registration and payment constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein.

3. Registration and payment constitute the release of Marian St. Clair and Joyce Moore, and any person from whom liability may be imputed to Marian St. Clair and/or Joyce Moore, 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 is certification that the applicant is mentally and physically 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 with full refund.
6. The host also reserves the right, without penalty, to withdraw the tour, to 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.

Payment Schedule & Refund Policy:

1. A deposit of \$500 per person must accompany the completed Registration Form. A first payment of an additional \$1000 is due no later than May 1st. The final payment (balance owed) is due no later than July 15th.
2. The host reserves the right to make final costs adjustments in the following circumstances: the value of the dollar falls more than 10% against the currency of the countries to be visited, or the tour group size is less than the anticipated 20 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 will be 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 insurance and 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, passport fees, excess baggage charges, items of a personal nature.
7. Cancellation and medical insurance for traveling abroad is recommended and offered. Please advise us if you would like information and pricing.

REGISTRATION FOR GREAT GARDENS & HOMES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

Full name as it appears on your passport:

Street/City/State/Zip Code:

Home Phone/Cell Phone

Email:

Passport Number (attach copy of passport picture page):

Date of Birth:

Dietary and Health Information/Allergies:

Emergency Contact:

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

Contact's Home Phone/Cell Phone:

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

Do you want cancellation and health insurance? Yes/No

Will you be sharing a room? Yes/No

Name of roommate:

Room preference: Twin/Double

I have read and agree to the attached Terms & Conditions and Payment Schedule and Refund Policy.

Signature/Date:

Mail this completed form, a copy of your passport picture page, and the deposit to:
Marian St.Clair, 357 Riverside Drive, Greenville, SC 29605