Gardens of Devon and Cornwall

25 July – 2 August 2021

9 days from £ 1745.00 per person (based on minimum 20 paying guests)

Itinerary
Flights from USA to London under own arrangement.

Day 1 – Sunday 25 July 2021
On arrival at London Heathrow Airport we will be met by our local coach and guide and depart for our first visit to Cranborne Manor, a garden which includes a White Garden and a Green Garden, a Chalk Walk and a Herb Garden and many formal areas to balance the informal.

We continue to our hotel in the Dorchester area where dinner is served in the evening.

Day 2 – Monday 26 July 2021
Following breakfast today as we visit as trio of private gardens:

Corscombe House, planted since 1995 in the grounds of a former rectory, the description of colour themed enclosures, hot and cool borders, sunny and shady beds, a reflecting pool, parterre, vegetable garden and orchard is quite mouth-watering!

Broomhill in Rampisham, with mixed plantings in island beds in lawns which slope gently down to a pond and bog garden.

Mapperton near Beaminster, a formal Italianate layout from the 1920s, complete with orangery, descending towards 17th century fishponds on the level below. Below that is a more recently planted informal woodland area.

We return to our hotel where dinner is served in the evening.
Day 3 – Tuesday 27 July 2021
After breakfast we check out the hotel. Our visit this morning is to the gardens of Abbotsbury, near Weymouth. Set over 20 acres, this garden benefits from a mild micro-climate due to its location near the sea, which allows it to grow many rare and sub-tropical plants. The valley garden has some of the most extensive gunnera (Chilean rhubarb) plantings you will see in England.

We continue south-west to St Ives, the harbour town which is noted as a centre for artists and sculptors. There are many interesting galleries to be found in the narrow streets, including Tate St Ives, an outpost of the famous Tate Gallery in London, which was specially created to show a collection of work by twentieth-century painters and sculptors associated with St Ives. The collection includes work from 1925 to the present day based around major figures of mid twentieth-century art in Britain such as Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth (admission not included).

Following this we will continue to our comfortable hotel in the Cornwall area, where dinner will be served on arrival.

Day 4 – Wednesday 28 July 2021
After breakfast this morning we shall visit St Michael’s Mount, a remarkable island bound up with over a thousand years of legend, myth and history. We will have a guided tour of the unusual gardens here, which cling to a near-vertical granite rock face above the sea. The warm Gulf Stream along with the heat-retentive granite walls and bedrock enable a wide variety of tender and exotic plants to be grown in the South-facing gardens, which range from sweeping avenues to the formal terraced gardens first planted in the 1780s.

Later this afternoon we shall visit Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens, near Penzance. This major attraction opened in September 2012 and is set in a beautiful sheltered valley, surrounded by woods, a stream and dramatic vista to provide a perfect setting for this 22-acre sub-tropical and exotic garden. The garden is filled with high quality contemporary art installations from renowned artists such as David Nash RA and James Turrell RA. You will also have the opportunity to visit the recently opened Gallery to view paintings, ceramics and sculptures by renowned artists, all available to buy.

Following our visit we shall return to the hotel for an early dinner. In the evening there will be an opportunity for those who wish to take in a performance at the Minack Theatre, a remarkable open-air theatre hewn out of the cliff-side (subject to confirmed show timetable. Tickets/transfers not included).

Day 5 – Thursday 29 July 2021
Today you have the option of relaxing in the hotel or exploring the surrounding area, or alternatively
joining our optional excursion to **Tresco** in the Isles of Scilly. After an early breakfast we depart for Land’s End Airport from where we will fly to St Mary’s in the Isles of Scilly. On arrival you will be taken to the quayside for a short boat transfer to Tresco, where we visit the unique **Abbey Gardens**, home to more than 3,000 species and magnificent vistas, colours and scents. Here you will be given a guided walk around the magnificent gardens and the Valhalla collection of ship’s figureheads with the head gardener or a member of staff. Lunch is available in the café here after which you are free to explore the garden at your leisure or take a wander round this tiny island. Later in the afternoon we return to St Mary’s for the flight back to Land’s End and the transfer back to our hotel (please note this is subject to minimum numbers).

*Dinner is served at the hotel this evening.*

**Day 6 – Friday 30 July 2021**

Following breakfast we visit **Bonython**, a courtyard garden with a collection of perennials and shrubs in colour themes which change with the seasons and a parterre is filled with flowers and ornamental vegetables. The banks of Lake Joy have imaginative and bold displays of South African and Mediterranean plants and the shores of Lake Sue are equally bright with hot reds toned down by numerous grasses. The whole is surrounded by trees and shrubs and the stream leads down to a woodland dell filled with wild flowers.

We then continue to **Trebah Garden** near Falmouth, which is a wild and colourful Cornish garden with something for everyone. The garden was laid out originally in the 1840s and flourished to become one of England’s great gardens by the 1930s. After the death of the then owner, the garden was sadly neglected for many years until it was taken over by the Hibbert family, who still run it today. Wander down the "Zig-Zag", a slope where a rare collection of exotic Mediterranean plants was recently planted. You may also see Rhododendron Valley, a huge amphitheatre of sixty foot high rhododendrons, many of which were imported as seed in the 1890s.

Following this we continue to nearby **Glendurgan** a place of great beauty and tranquillity. Three valleys converge and drop towards the sparkling waters of the Helford River and the hamlet and beach at Durgan. The garden has many fine trees, rare and exotic plants from the four corners of the globe, outstanding spring displays of magnolias and camellias, plus carpets of wild flowers. We return to our hotel in time for dinner.

*Day 7 – Saturday 31 July 2021*

Following breakfast this morning we check out of our hotel. We travel along the northern coast of Cornwall passing **Holywell** with sweeping golden sands and grass turfed dunes. We will also see the cliff tips of **Park Head** near Porthcothan which offer stunning views across the towering sea stacks at
Bedruthan We will have a brief stop at **Boscastle** with its picturesque harbour and village for lunch (not included).

We have a real treat when we have a guided tour of the Royal Horticultural Society's great treasure of **RHS Rosemoor**, near Great Torrington in the heart of rural Devon. There are two gardens here, the first an intimate woodland garden dating from the 1960s, which has an excellent collection of trees and shrubs which relish the acid soil – dogwoods, eucryphias, maples, pieris, rhododendrons and vacciniums. The other is a more ambitious affair, which has been developed since the RHS became the owner in 1988, with rose gardens and giant borders, a lake and stream garden and a Mediterranean garden.

![Image of a garden with various colorful flowers]

We make our way to our hotel in the Tiverton area where dinner is served in the evening.

**Day 8 – Sunday 1 August 2021**
After breakfast this morning, we visit **Knightshayes Court**, one of the finest examples anywhere of the Gothic Revival country house. The extraordinary “medieval romantic” interiors give an atmospheric insight into grand country living and the celebrated garden features a water lily pool, topiary, specimen trees, rare shrubs, seasonal colour and an impressive Victorian kitchen garden which supplies fresh, organic fruit and vegetables to the property's restaurant.

This afternoon we will proceed to **Cothay Manor**, a magical, romantic garden that surrounds what is said to be the most perfect example of a small, classic, medieval manor. There are a number of garden rooms, each a garden in itself, set off by a 200 yard yew walk. With its wide range of plants, beautifully presented, this is truly a plantsman's paradise.

We return to our hotel where dinner will be served in the evening.

**Day 9 – Monday 2 August 2021**
Following breakfast we check out of the hotel and begin our journey back to London but we have time for two more visits. Our first visit is to **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens’ greatest masterpieces. The garden is home to a round pool in a round walled garden filled with
wintersweet and roses, a Dutch garden of lamb's ears, lavender and the most beautiful orangery of the 20th century. Everywhere there are details of design and planting from which any gardener can learn.

Our next visit is to **Lady Farm** in Chelwood, a 12-acre garden laid out in the last 15 years by the enthusiastic Judy Pearce. Formal planting beside the house becomes more natural as the ground slopes away down the valley, where a natural watercourse formed from underground springs becomes a lake and then drops into a small ravine.

We continue our journey back to London.

**Included in the price**
- Eight nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast; two nights at a hotel in Dorchester; four nights at a hotel in the Cornwall area; two nights at a hotel in the Tiverton area. All rooms have en-suite facilities
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Visits to the gardens of Lady Farm, Hestercombe, Knightshayes Court, Cothay Manor, RHS Rosemoor, St Michael’s Mount, Tremenheere, Bonython, Trebah, Gledurgan, Abbotsbury, Mapperton, Broomhill, Corscombe House and Cranborne Manor
- Services of a professional tour manager

**Not included (per person)**
- Single room supplement £360.00
- Optional excursion to Tresco and the Abbey Gardens, including return flights
- Optional evening show to Minack Theatre
- International flights
- Insurance