



GARDENS OF THE NORTH

INCLUDING THE RHS CHATSWORTH FLOWER SHOW

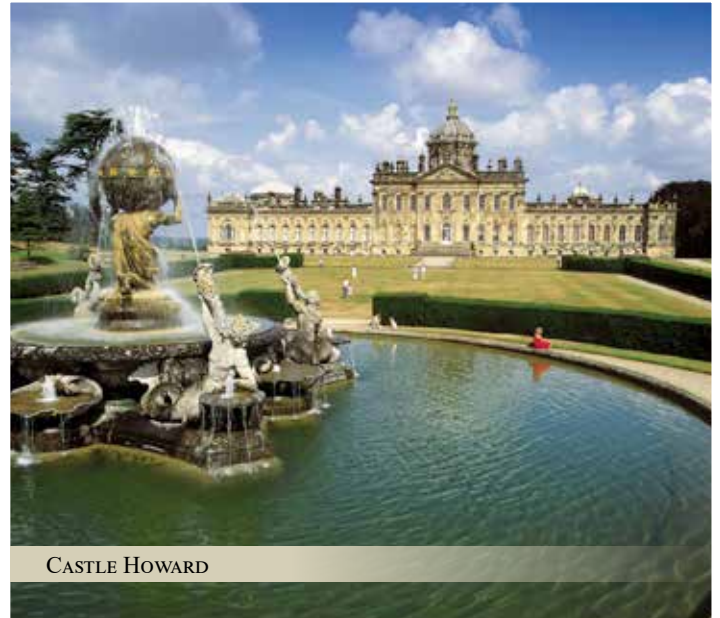
JUNE 6TH - 16TH 2021

Nowhere in the world is the passion for horticulture expressed more vividly than in Britain, where gardens have served as inspiration for painters, writers, and flower lovers for centuries. From great country estates to miniscule inner-city gardens, the British use their exceptionally long growing season to fullest advantage, and you can see the results on *Gardens of the North*.

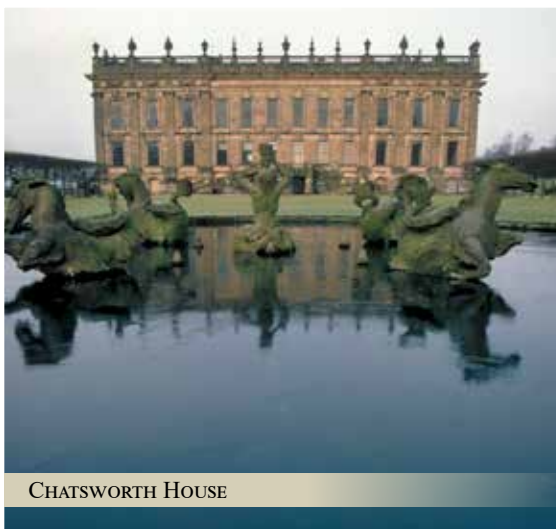
All too often, however, visitors limit themselves to the well-known gardens in the south of England, within easy striking distance of London. Magnificent though those old favorites may be, there is a whole country full of keen gardeners living north of the capital. The gardens are just as wonderful and there are far fewer tourists!

On this adventure in the north, we'll visit gardens as diverse as York Gate, the one-acre creation of the Spencer family from 1951 to 1994, and Studley Royal, where the sprawling water gardens stretch for a mile up the valley of the river Skell. Many of the gardens we visit are also associated with stately homes, which themselves vary in size and style from the palatial (Chatsworth House - hosting the Royal Horticultural Society annual Chatsworth Flower Show - and Castle Howard) to the more intimate (Old Wollerton or Parcevall Hall).

This spring, join other garden lovers for a stroll through the *Gardens of the North*. At a relaxed pace, with wonderful meals, first-class hotels, and a panorama of magnificent blooms unfolding before us, it's a celebration of the English garden.



CASTLE HOWARD



CHATSWORTH HOUSE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$4580
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 990

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 9 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout
- BAGGAGE:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- TICKETS:** RHS Chatsworth Flower Show tickets

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 6th - Departure from your chosen gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

MONDAY, JUNE 7th - Your arrival at Manchester Airport will be met for the transfer to our nearby country house hotel. There will be free time to unpack and relax before we meet up for an afternoon visit to the stunning Wyatt mansion of Tatton Park. We'll enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening. **(D) OVERNIGHT: CHEADLE**

TUESDAY, JUNE 8th - Today we travel into North Wales where our first stop will be the National Trust's Bodnant Garden. One of the premier gardens in Wales, Bodnant was begun in 1875 by the Aberconway family and sits in a beautiful location on the river Conwy. We'll have plenty of time to explore the garden and have lunch here before we head back towards England and the old Roman city of Chester. A brief walking tour will show us the medieval city walls and the Roman amphitheatre and we'll have time to shop along the "Rows" (covered Victorian arcades of shops) and find a local restaurant for an early dinner. We'll return to our country hotel after dinner. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CHEADLE**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9th - A day trip to the north today brings us first to Levens Hall in Cumbria, England's Lake District. Here we'll have a tour with the head gardener, Chris Crowder and enjoy lunch at the Bellingham Buttery. Returning south through Lancashire, we'll stop at Gresgarth Hall, the garden of garden designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd, who moved here in 1978. It is a riverside garden with terraces, herbaceous borders, a kitchen garden and bog garden. We'll return to the hotel where you will be free to wander into the village and sample the local pub for supper. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: CHEADLE**

THURSDAY, JUNE 10th - Our first stop today will be nearby Arley Hall, where we'll have a private tour of the gardens with the Head Gardener (to be confirmed). The 12-acre gardens, some of the finest in Britain, include a double herbaceous border planted in 1846 (one of the earliest) and a superb avenue of holm oak. Heading towards Shrewsbury, our next stop will be at Wollerton Old Hall, a 16th-century hall surrounded by wonderful gardens designed by John and Lesley Jenkins in 1984. Time permitting, we will also stop today at Bridgemere Garden World, the largest garden centre in Britain with over 6 acres of display gardens. Dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CHEADLE**

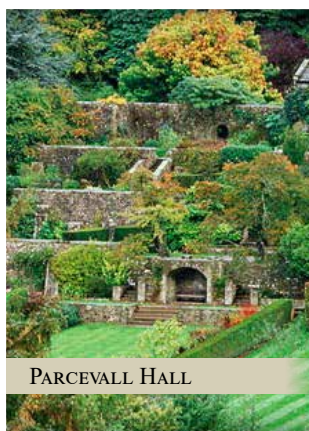


LEVENS HALL

FRIDAY, JUNE 11th - A short drive this morning through the glorious Peak District National Park, brings us to Chatsworth House, "The Palace of the Peaks," where the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show will be in full swing. Chatsworth contains a boundless collection ranging from Old Master paintings to the geological specimens brought by the last Duke. Sumptuous baroque interiors and contemporary sculpture make this an animated tour, and the gardens are also abounding with modern sculpture with many works by Elizabeth Frink. We'll have the whole day here to enjoy the flower show and explore the house and gardens before we continue our journey to our hotel in the city of York, arriving in time for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: YORK**

SATURDAY, JUNE 12th - A morning walking tour introduces this fascinating but compact city. We'll start at magnificent York Minster, walk down the Shambles, one of England's finest medieval streets, and visit the Jorvik Centre, traveling in "time cars" through a 9th-century Viking village. For lunch, you might want to try the nationally renowned tearoom of Betty's to sample Yorkshire specialties. The afternoon is free for independent explorations: shopping, a boat ride, evensong in the Minster. The evening is also free to try one of the many fine restaurants in the city. **(B) OVERNIGHT: YORK**

SUNDAY, JUNE 13th - Today's excursion takes us through the heart of the Yorkshire Dales; our first stop will be Fountains Abbey, Britain's largest and most beautiful monastic ruin, set in the valley of the River Skell. We'll wander up the valley (weather cooperating) to enjoy the water gardens of Studley Royal. We continue this afternoon to Parcevall Hall Gardens, a hidden gem of a plantsman's garden, the life's work of Sir William Milner, comprising 24 acres of formal and woodland gardens. We round out the day with a visit to the small but lovely, York Gate garden just north of the city of Leeds before returning to York for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: YORK**



PARCEVALL HALL

MONDAY, JUNE 14th - Heading northwest out of the city today our first visit is to Scampston Walled garden, a marvelous contemporary garden designed by the master Dutch plantsman, Piet Oudolf. Close by is Castle Howard where we will spend the remainder of the day. This magnificent Vanbrugh mansion featured as Brideshead in the popular television series *Brideshead Revisited*. We return to York where the evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: YORK**

TUESDAY, JUNE 15th - Leaving York, we drive a short distance west to Harewood House. Begun in 1759, Harewood is a masterpiece by the architects John Carr and Robert Adam with a fine example of an English landscape garden by Lancelot "Capability" Brown. We'll have time to explore the house and gardens and have lunch before we head back to our country hotel near Manchester Airport for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CHEADLE**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16th - Morning transfers to Manchester Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner