



FIRST LADIES OF GARDENING

THE ENGLISH MANNER



HIDCOTE GARDENS

GARDEN ADVENTURES IN DORSET, SOMERSET & THE COTSWOLDS WITH HEIDI HOWCROFT & THE ENGLISH MANNER JUNE 14TH - JUNE 23RD 2017

By drawing on and combining the expertise of Alexandra Messervy, Founder of The English Manner, and landscape architect and garden author Heidi Howcroft, we have been able to design a garden tour that takes you on a journey to iconic gardens which capture the essence of English culture. This tour, based around Heidi's book *First Ladies of Gardening*, begins in the West Country in the counties of Somerset and Dorset and continues to the Cotswolds, to Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire

in the heart of England. In addition to gardens featured in the book, other historic gardens of note such as Hidcote Manor are included in the programme, as well as contemporary schemes like the garden of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at Highgrove. You will have the opportunity to meet garden makers and fellow garden enthusiasts, enjoy private visits to country houses, stroll around villages and gain an in depth appreciation of the beauty of the English countryside.

The hotels we have chosen for you, Summer Lodge – a country house hotel in Hardy country, Dorset – and one of the most traditional of the Cotswolds Inns capture the spirit of English life. Each is beautifully and comfortably appointed, and prides itself on using local seasonal produce to give a unique opportunity to experience a taste of England at its best.

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): \$5990
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$990

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Full breakfast and a 3 course set-menu dinner daily, 3 lunches
- EXPENSES:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- GUIDES:** Heidi Howcroft throughout

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

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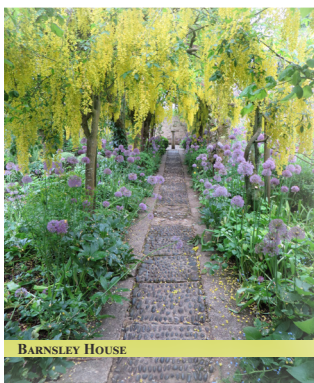


WEDS JUNE 14TH - Depart this evening from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH - Your arrival at Heathrow Airport will be met by Heidi Howcroft. We will then depart by private luxury coach for our first

garden of the tour, Upton Grey Manor in Hampshire. The delightful Rosamund Wallinger will show us around her 5 acre garden, a masterpiece originally created in 1908 by the famous English garden designer Gertrude Jekyll which she has restored. We will have early tea here before retiring to our nearby hotel. After checking in, there is time to rest and relax before we meet for dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: TYLNEY HALL**

FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH - Our journey to the West Country continues past Stonehenge and through idyllic countryside to Summer Lodge, our exquisite country house hotel in Evershot, in the heart of Dorset. We begin our day at East Lambrook Manor. Created by Margery Fish in the 1950s and 60s, Mike Werkmeister has taken on Margery's legacy and will give us an insight into the challenges of maintaining an influential garden. We next visit the new garden at Hauser & Wirth, designed by the highly respected Dutch plantsman Piet Oudolf. Bold colours and block planting of herbaceous plants and ornamental grasses fill the generously proportioned beds and complement the contemporary artwork scattered around the grounds of the gallery. After lunch in the restaurant, there will be time to view the exhibition and inspect the kitchen garden before we continue to a private garden in North Cadbury. We will return to the hotel in time for dinner together. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: EVERSNOT**



SATURDAY, JUNE 17TH - Today's excursions take us deep into Thomas Hardy country; a landscape of rolling hills and dramatic coastline, where we'll visit two of the gardens featured in Heidi's book (details to be advised) before arriving at Athelhampton. At Athelhampton House, each generation has left its mark in the garden, creating a rich variation of spaces and garden rooms all clustered around the Elizabethan manor house. On our

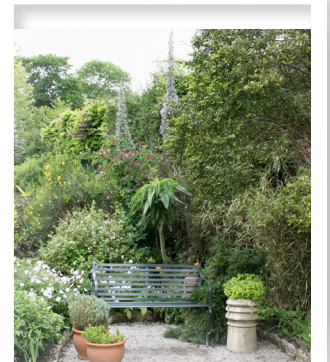
return to Summer Lodge, there is time to enjoy a pre-dinner drink before we amble across to the village Inn, The Acorn, for dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: EVERSNOT**

SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH - After a leisurely breakfast, we begin the day with a visit to the historic town of Sherborne, famous for its Abbey, castles and schools. For those who wish, it may be possible to attend a morning service here. We continue to Minterne, the family seat of the Digby family. We have been invited to join Lord Digby for a stroll around his woodland garden, packed with plants brought back by 19th-century plant hunters. Before luncheon, Lord Digby will give us an insight into the family's links with Blenheim and the battle of Trafalgar. It is not often that we can offer the chance to take part in a quintessential English event; Yarlington House Opera

hosted by the Count and Countess de Salis, a biennial charity event held on the very Sunday afternoon that we are in the area. Pavilion Opera, described as a touring Glyndebourne, will be performing La Traviata in the grounds of the estate, an event that you are invited to join. We will dine afterwards as usual at Summer Lodge. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: EVERSNOT**

MONDAY, JUNE 19TH - Departing Dorset today, we make our way to the Cotswolds, calling into a delightful country garden en route at Lytes Cary. Owned and managed by the National Trust, the manor house dates back to the 15th Century and is surrounded by a beautiful garden laid out in the Arts & Crafts style. We'll stop in the Georgian city of Bath, with free time for shopping and lunch, before continuing to the Cotswolds. In Tudor times this was the wealthiest region of England, something reflected in the beautiful ancient buildings and villages such as the one where our hotel is located. We'll gather in the bar for pre-dinner drinks before enjoying dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH - Barnsley House garden, a masterpiece created by the late Rosemary Verey and now expertly maintained by Head Gardener Richard Gatenby, is one of England's iconic gardens. We'll have morning coffee, meet Richard and experience the garden in all its facets. Highgrove, the home of The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, needs no introduction. A highlight such as Highgrove is difficult to follow, but The Old Rectory, Lady Mary Keen's personal garden, has a particularly alluring charm that you will experience during your tour with this highly respected garden designer and writer/plantswoman. Both Rosemary Verey and Mary Keen feature in Heidi's book and over dinner at our hotel we will have a chance to discuss the day's impressions. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21ST - Inspiring gardeners the world over, Hidcote Gardens was created by Lawrence Johnston from 1910 onwards. This 10-acre garden is composed of a series of garden rooms, linked by vistas and views. Kiftgate Court next door is often overshadowed by its great neighbor, but has a captivating beauty. Here grandmother, mother and most recently daughter Anne Chambers, have left their mark on the garden, whilst nurturing the legacy of the past. We then head to Stow-on-the-Wold, a picturesque market town peppered with antique shops and small boutiques for us to explore. This evening, we will dine at the highly acclaimed Swan Inn at Swinbrook, which was owned by the late Deborah, Duchess of Devonshire. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

THURSDAY, JUNE 22ND - We start today at Buscot Park, where Lord Faringdon has very kindly consented to allow us a private tour of his collection. Both hosts are fabulously amusing and gifted raconteurs. The 5-acre gardens within a 120-acre park are an added surprise here; on a scale we have not previously experienced this week, they are overseen by Lord and Lady Faringdon. Our next garden, Radcot House, is a contemporary 3-acre garden laid out by Mr. and Mrs. Robin Stainer around a 17th-century house. We will be having luncheon here, before continuing to our grand finale of the programme, Blenheim Palace. Built for the 1st Duke of Marlborough by Sir John Vanbrugh with over 2000 acre landscape park by Capability Brown with 'one of the finest views of all England'. In 2015, a new section of garden opened as a commemoration of Sir

Winston Churchill, who was born here, and should not be missed. Full of impressions, we will return to our hotel for a Farewell Dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD -After breakfast, we bid farewell to the Cotswolds and drive to London Heathrow Airport for the flight home (separate transfers will be possible). For those wishing to extend their stay accommodation can be booked and we have exceptional preferential rates at the Egerton House, Milestone or Goring Hotels and the Sloane Club, a superb private members' club where guests may stay upon our introduction. **(B)**

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



Heidi Howcroft is an English educated landscape architect who was brought up in an architectural environment where garden visits and cultural trips were a family passion. The author of over 25 garden books, Heidi has designed commercial landscapes and private gardens, curated exhibitions and trade fairs and designed unique garden tours. Workshops and informal discussions are an important component of these tours, perfectly complimenting the ethos of The English Manner; promoting cultural learning programmes with luxurious stays and unique access to often publicly inaccessible delights.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- A copy of "The First Ladies of Gardening" signed by Heidi and the Ladies we visit
- Design tips and mini-workshops during and after garden visits
- Study notes and route maps documenting the tour

REGISTRATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS:

- i). Please type or print.
- ii). Make checks payable to DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
- iii). Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
- iv). Complete both sides of this form.
- v). Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your non-refundable first deposit of \$1600 per person. Keep the top section for your records.

1. PASSENGER DETAILS:

- i). Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport.
- ii). Address. If you have a different address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.
- iii). Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.
- iv). Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.
- v). Health Information. A fair amount of walking is involved in this trip and includes stairways. Check the itinerary with your physician to ensure a safe and comfortable journey. Travelers requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion.

2. EMERGENCY CONTACT

This information is essential.

3. INDEPENDENT FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS.

If you are arranging your own flights, please provide your complete flight information, giving the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked. Transportation to and from the hotel for arrival and departure arrangements that are separate from the group can be made at an additional cost.

4. ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested.

- i). If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
- ii). A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.



PASSENGER DETAILS FOR FIRST LADIES OF GARDENING: A TOUR OF DORSET, SOMERSET & THE COTSWOLDS (0614/AHH)

Name(s): 1. _____
 2. _____
 Address: _____

 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Telephone: (____) _____
 Work Telephone: (____) _____
 E-mail: _____
 Date(s) of Birth: 1. _____ 2. _____
 Passport #1 _____ Exp.Date: _____
 Passport #2 _____ Exp.Date: _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

 Other Comments or Notes: _____

TRIP DETAILS

Departure Date: _____ Return Date: _____
 Departure Airport or City: _____

Please return this form to:
DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
 95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431
 Tel: (866) 563-7077

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Instructions to aid you can be found on overleaf.
3. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
4. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
5. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., and The English Manner, their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
6. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities, host or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. A non-refundable deposit of \$1600 per person must accompany this completed form.
2. A further \$1600 per person will be billed and payable by October 31, 2016.
3. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 4 months prior to trip departure.

Please note that payments can be made by credit card (MC or Visa only), but will be subject to a 3% processing fee.

TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Discover Europe reserves the right to adjust

the dollar amount payable at the time of final billing due to unfavorable fluctuations in the exchange rate.

2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 10 participants. Should we end up with less than 10 people, Discover Europe will work with The English Manner to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe Ltd. reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline.

REFUND POLICY

1. Participants who withdraw more than 150 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$1600 cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw less than 150 days and more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$3000 cancellation penalty.
3. Participants who withdraw less than 90 days prior to the day of tour departure will not receive a refund unless they have purchased travel insurance.
4. Trip cancellation insurance is not included in your Discover Europe tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Discover Europe will be happy to provide information describing the services of a recommended insurance company, which will fully detail the coverages, provisions, limitations, and exclusions of the insurance offered.
5. All cancellation requests must be received in writing (either by mail or e-mail).
6. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

1. All inclusions on *First Ladies of Gardening: Garden Adventures in Dorset, Somerset & The Cotswolds* are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant's home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to tour guides and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.



EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights : Yes No

Flight details (if self-arranged): _____

ROOMING REQUIREMENTS

(Please check one)

0614AHHRev

I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

I will be sharing with: _____

We would like a double twin-bedded room

PERMISSIONS

You may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list.

Yes No

You may use any photographs taken during the tour in promotional materials.

Yes No

SIGNATURES

I have read and agree to the attached Terms & Conditions and understand that travel insurance is not included in the trip.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____