



Gardens of the North

Lovely Landscapes in Northumberland

July 16 - 25, 2009

Secret gardens and dreamy landscapes combine with historic villages, private tours, and renowned accommodations to create a one-of-a-kind experience of the gardens of northern England.

Here, deep in England's north country, you'll enjoy a full range of inspiring, relaxing, and eye-opening excursions that take you from the towers of York Minster to the gorgeous monastic ruins at Fountains Abbey to the elegant city of Edinburgh. Together we'll explore the exquisite gardens at Studley Royal, enjoy a private tour of Newby Hall, and visit award-winning Durham (Britain in Bloom award), lovely Lindisfarne, off the northeast coast of England, and beautiful Berwick upon Tweed, caught in the historic dispute between Scotland and England.



Alnwick - the Grand Cascade

Along the way we'll visit such World Heritage Sites as Hadrian's Wall and Durham Cathedral, experience private garden tours at garden writer Susie White's walled garden and the visionary Alnwick Garden of the Duchess of Northumberland, truly a garden for the 21st Century.

With a host of glorious gardens and countryside, experienced at a relaxed pace with wonderful meals and the company of fellow gardening enthusiasts, it's truly the best of the **Gardens of the North**.

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land only (no airfare included): **\$3280**
Single supplement: **\$580**

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. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Full English breakfast daily; 5 table d'hote dinners.
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director throughout. Local guide for Edinburgh sightseeing.
- Expenses:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary. Privately guided visits to the Alnwick Garden & Chesters Walled Garden.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.



The City of York



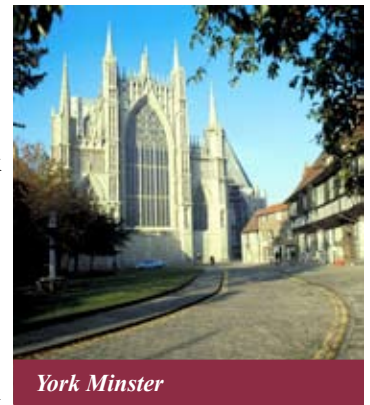


Thursday, July 16. Evening departure from your chosen U.S. gateway city aboard your overnight flight to Manchester Airport. **Overnight: Plane**

Friday, July 17. Morning arrival in Manchester, where you will be greeted by your driver and transported to York, about two hours away. Our rooms will be ready upon arrival at our hotel and we will be able to check straight in. The afternoon is free to unpack, relax, and explore the surroundings before we gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D)**
Overnight: York

Saturday, July 18. This morning we'll explore the medieval jewel that is the City of York. A guided tour of exquisite York Minster is followed by a visit to the Treasurer's House where we'll have a private tour of the cellars, haunted by the ghosts of the Ninth Legion. York is full of fabulous museums, from the Jorvik Center, which recreates the Viking history of the town, to the Castle Museum, housing a remarkable collection of Victoriana. The afternoon is free to sample them at your own pace; you also have a free evening to explore York's pubs and restaurants. **(B)**
Overnight: York

Sunday, July 19. A full day's excursion begins with a private visit to Newby Hall. We'll continue on to Fountains Abbey, the country's largest and most beautiful monastic ruin, set in the wooded valley of the River Skell. A short walk (or transport) through the valley brings us to adjoining Studley Royal, an 18th-century landscaped garden with a series of contrived vistas incorporating a Greek temple, an octagonal tower, and a banqueting house. We'll return to York where you are free for dinner. **(B)**
Overnight: York



York Minster

Monday, July 20. Leaving York, our first stop will be for a morning visit to the National Trust's Beningbrough Hall, a dramatic 18th-century Georgian mansion with one of Britain's finest Baroque interiors and lovely walled gardens. We continue to Durham, where the River Wear flows around the city's center, adding to its picturesque beauty, which is dominated by Durham Cathedral, founded in 1093 and generally regarded as one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in Europe (also a UNESCO World Heritage Site). We arrive at our hotel in time to freshen up before dinner at our hotel. **(B, D)**
Overnight: Hexham

Tuesday, July 21. A morning excursion takes us to the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall, the ancient Roman barrier between Scotland and England. On to the historic town of Hexham, with its abbey dating back to the 7th century. After exploring the pretty town we'll join up with garden writer Susie White for a private tour of her garden, Chesters Walled Garden. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant for dinner. **(B)**
Overnight: Hexham



Hexham Abbey

Wednesday, July 22. Today we enjoy an exclusive visit to Alnwick Garden in the company of the head gardener. Created by the visionary Duchess of Northumberland, and considered by many to be one of the most exciting contemporary gardens in the last 100 years, Alnwick is truly a 21st-century garden. The rest of the day is free to wander the grounds, visit the castle, dating from the 12th century, and explore the town of Alnwick. We'll return to our hotel with time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, D)**
Overnight: Hexham

Thursday, July 23. Leaving Northumberland, we continue on to Lindisfarne, also called Holy Island, the home of the religious community established by St. Cuthbert. Durham Cathedral was founded by monks from the Abbey at Lindisfarne. We'll stop for lunch in historic Berwick upon Tweed, one of the prettiest towns on the region's coast and the most northerly town in England (it has changed hands between England and Scotland 13 times). Here you're free to lunch at a local pub or restaurant before we continue on to Edinburgh where we'll check in to our hotel, unpack, and meet for dinner. **(B, D)**
Overnight: Edinburgh

Friday, July 24. Set atop seven volcanic hills, elegant Edinburgh is the political and cultural capital of Scotland. Brimming with treasures, its finest is surely Edinburgh Castle, which dominates the skyline. Morning sightseeing includes magnificent views from Calton Hill, a visit to the castle, and a tour of the Botanic Gardens. A free afternoon and evening to explore before we meet for dinner. **(B, D)**
Overnight: Edinburgh

Saturday, July 25. Morning transfers take you to the airport in Edinburgh for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**



Lindisfarne, the Holy Island