



# THE PASSIONATE GARDENER



HAMPTON COURT

JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2023



This summer, join garden blogger, Michael Gordon, for his annual stroll through some of the best gardens in England, but this time during high season to include a visit to the Hampton Court Flower Show. As your host, Michael hopes to add a North American perspective on English gardens and give you an insight into what ideas you can bring back to your own garden. He will be encouraging you to enter each garden with an inquisitive eye and will be a source of information about horticulture and garden design. Michael will give a series of garden talks during the week.

Tailored for the discriminating gardener, our tour will visit some of England's most famous gardens as well as unique private gardens. From William Kent's masterpiece landscape garden, Rousham, to Christopher Lloyd's innovative garden at Great Dixter, to the contemporary private garden at Pettifers, we will see English garden design from the traditional to the cutting edge.

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$4980**  
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 990**

*Airfares are available from most U.S. departure 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:** Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Hosted by Michael Gordon with a Discover Europe tour guide throughout and local experts at Great Dixter, Wisley, Barnsley, and many others
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- TICKETS:** Entrance to the Hampton Court Flower Show

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

Michael B. Gordon is an optometrist by profession and a passionate garden-maker and teacher by avocation. He is a self-trained gardener who has learned by visiting gardens in the United States and Europe. He has developed a half-acre private garden in Peterborough, NH over the past 28 years. His garden has been published in *Horticulture*, *NH Home* and *Yankee Magazine*.

Michael has designed and maintained sophisticated public gardens in the parks of Peterborough for nearly two decades and has trained numerous volunteer gardeners in the art of horticulture. He has hosted tours to English gardens since 2007 and enjoys giving participants ideas on how to implement concepts of English horticulture in their American gardens. Michael started his blog, *The Gardener's Eye*, in 2010, and chronicles his gardening travels on Instagram.

Follow Michael on Instagram: [@thegardenerseye](https://www.instagram.com/thegardenerseye)





**MONDAY, JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>** - Departure from your chosen US gateway city to London Heathrow. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**TUESDAY, JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>** - Upon arrival, you'll be met for the transfer to our hotel in Windsor. After checking in, there will be time to unpack and relax, before taking an excursion to nearby Savill Garden, created by Sir Eric Savill in the 1930s, in Windsor Great Park. This evening, a welcome reception and introduction to the tour by Michael Gordon will be followed by dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we leave our hotel by private coach for Hampton Court Palace, Henry VIII's magnificent Tudor home. We'll have a full day to spend at the Hampton Court Flower Show and an opportunity to explore the state apartments and the kitchens, with free time for lunch. Later in the afternoon, we'll return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

**THURSDAY, JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning we head for the hills - the Cotswold Hills. Our first visit along the way is to Pettifers Garden. Pettifers has taken some 15 years to create, but continues to evolve, and has a peaceful feeling that comes with the extraordinary views over the landscape. Now mature, this is a plantsman's garden with plenty of interest all year round. We continue

through the east Cotswolds to the village of Whichford, where we visit the Whichford Pottery. This family business has been making garden pottery for 40 years now and is licensed by the RHS to provide a special series of commemorative flower pots and planters. After a break here for lunch we visit Rousham. This landscape garden is a place of pilgrimage for students of the work of William Kent (1685-1748). Rousham represents the first phase of English landscape design and remains almost as Kent left it, one of the few gardens of this date to have escaped alteration. A short drive brings us to our hotel, where we'll have time to unpack and relax before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

**FRIDAY, JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>** - Our first stop today will be Iford Manor, home of the Peto Garden. This unique Grade I Italianate garden was designed by Harold A. Peto, who lived at the Manor from 1899 - 1933. After a full tour of the garden, we'll make a brief stop at the lovely Saxon church in Bradford-upon-Avon before heading to Piet Oudolf's new garden at the Hauser & Wirth Museum. Here we'll have lunch in the restaurant and then tour the garden. There will also be time to explore the museum before we return to our hotel. The evening is free to dine at a local pub. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

**SATURDAY, JULY 8<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning begins with a visit to Barnsley House and masterpiece garden created by Rosemary Verey, one of the most influential gardeners of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We'll have a tour with one of the head gardeners and gather for lunch at the Village Pub. You'll have an opportunity to see how the ideas and designs from her many books and articles are reflected everywhere in this glorious space. From here, it's a short drive to Highgrove, HRH King Charles' private estate, where we enjoy a private tour, subject to availability. The evening is free. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

**SUNDAY, JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>** - A leisurely start this morning with a beautiful drive through the Cotswolds' quintessentially English landscape of honey-colored villages and green meadows. After a stop in a nearby country pub, perhaps for a traditional Sunday lunch, we'll visit the Hidcote Manor garden, England's foremost 20<sup>th</sup>-century garden, where a series of horticultural "rooms" has been created, each different in color, character, and intention. Next, we'll visit the beautiful Kiftsgate Court gardens, home of Heather Muir, a pioneer in the rediscovery of shrub roses (including the celebrated rambling *Rosa filipes* "Kiftsgate"). We then return to our hotel, where Michael Gordon will give a talk about "Visiting Gardens," before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

**MONDAY, JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>** - Leaving the Cotswolds, our first stop will be at Waltham Place The farm and gardens at Waltham are on the cutting edge of bio-dynamic and organic techniques. Their philosophy of Natural Gardening is all about one's relationship with the garden and its evolution, using your knowledge of plant systems and families. Then we continue to Wisley. The 240-acre flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley is the jewel in the crown of the RHS and has been a living encyclopedia for gardeners for the past 100 years. We'll have time for lunch, then have a tour of the garden's highlights. There will also be free time to browse the Wisley store. It is a short drive from here to our hotel, nestled in the North Downs, where dinner awaits us. After dinner, Michael Gordon will give another talk on "The English Mixed Border." **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DORKING**

**TUESDAY, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>** - Our first stop of the day is to Sissinghurst. Sissinghurst was rescued in 1930 by poet/novelist Vita Sackville-West and her husband, historian Harold Nicolson, who bought the romantic ruins and began to create the gardens (10 gardens spread over a



6-acre area). Harold, a classicist, utilized the walls and buildings that were already in place, while Vita devised the inspired planting schemes, grouping plants according to color, texture, and season. Continuing on, we will head to Great Dixter for a tour of the garden of Christopher Lloyd, who devoted his life to developing one of the most exciting and experimental gardens of our time, incorporating medieval buildings, yew topiary, and a tapestry of mixed borders (including the famous Long Border). From here we'll return to our hotel for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BURFORD BRIDGE, DORKING**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

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

## OPTIONAL IRELAND EXTENSION:

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning flight from London Gatwick to Dublin. Afternoon visits to June and Jimi Blake's gardens at Tinode. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BLESSINGTON**

**THURSDAY, JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>** - Full day excursion to Pattham Garden in Wicklow, Altamont Gardens in Tullow and to Glendalough. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BLESSINGTON**

**FRIDAY, JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>** - Visits to Mount Usher Garden and Powerscourt House and Gardens. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BLESSINGTON**

**SATURDAY, JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning visit to Kilmacurragh, the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland. Afternoon tour of Dublin. Farewell dinner and overnight in Malahide. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MALAHIDE**

**SUNDAY, JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning transfers to Dublin Airport for return flights home. **(B)**

**The cost of this extension is \$2890 per person, double occupancy (single supplement \$590) and includes:**

One way flight from Gatwick to Dublin, 4 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, breakfast daily, 4 dinners, all transportation and entrance fees as detailed, Michael Gordon as host and a Discover Europe tour guide throughout.

