



ENGLISH GARDENS

Claude Monet, Impressionist artist (1840 – 1926) ' More than anything I must must have flowers, always, always'

Gertrude Jekyll, garden designer (1843-1932) ' the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives'

Chinese proverb ' if you wish to be happy your whole life long, make a garden'

The British are renowned as a nation of gardeners. They take a pride in their gardens however large or small. The best of the gardens trace the styles and characteristics of garden design over the last 300 to 400 years.

Most gardens are at their best in the midsummer between June and early July. However, there is a wealth of flowers throughout the season from early bulbs and shrubs to the autumn leaves. The mild English climate allows for the growth of a vast range of plant species.

A tour of English Gardens will include some of the following:

- A castle from the 1200s with Italian Gardens built by 1000 people
- Garden structure dating back to the 1500s
- Garden with millions of crocuses
- A maze with 1000 yews and a 150 year old wisteria tunnel
- A garden with 6000 plants; another with 20,000 exotic plants
- Parkland extending to 400 acres or an arboretum with 18000 trees
- 170 geometrically designed flower beds
- A house from the 1400s with a rose labyrinth
- Topiary dating from 1688



Penshurst Place



Great Dixter



Hatfield House



Hever Castle

A tour of English Gardens within easy reach of London can be based on four locations:

London:

- **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.** World Heritage Site. The most complete public gardens in the world. Established late 1700s. 40,000 different kinds of plants from rain forest to desert. Magnificent glasshouses.
- **Hampton Court Palace.** Excellent parterres and yew spires (some from 1700s), beautiful topiary, knots, lime screens, vine from 1768, a sunken garden. A royal garden mainly from 1700.
- **Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley.** Borders, beds, rockeries, wild gardens, orchards, rose gardens, model gardens. Centre of horticulture excellence.

Cliveden Hotel

Stay in the luxurious country hotel with its own excellent gardens; water garden, 'secret garden', topiary, parterre.

- **Chenies Manor Gardens.** House dates back to 1400s. Medieval style flower gardens. Tulips, dahlias, annuals. Spectacular gardens.
- **Waddesdon Manor.** Rothschild owned. Beautiful parterre, formal beds, rose garden. Victorian opulence.
- **Hatfield House.** Dates from 1611. Complex box knots, scented garden (herbs, roses, lilies), wilderness of meadow, bulbs, shrubs. Formal and sumptuous.



Chewton Glen Hotel

Stay in this beautiful country hotel with its own attractive gardens. Take tea in the gardens.

- **Exbury Gardens.** De Rothschild family. 200 acres woodland gardens with rhododendrons and azaleas. Japanese maples and nerine collection. Prairie style borders.
- **Mottisfont.** Walled garden with hundreds of old fashioned roses. Box hedges, yew pillars. Scented pinks, salvias, herbaceous plants.
- **Sir Harold Hillier.** Vast collection trees and shrubs over 180 acres. Boggy valley. Magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons, pines, witch hazels, daphnes. Great beauty.

Gravetye Manor Hotel

Stay in this first class hotel (dating from 1500s) with its own glorious gardens. Renowned gardener William Robinson designed in 1900s; the natural garden. Extends to 1000 acres.

- **Penshurst Place.** Part of house dates from 1341. Much of garden structure from 1500s. Italian garden, lily pond, yew hedged rooms, rose garden, peony border, orchard and parterre.
- **Great Dixter.** Part of house from 1400. Designed by Edwin Lutyens early 1900s, now Christopher Lloyd. Vibrant and inventive colour combinations throughout season. Exotic garden, wildflower meadows.
- **Sissinghurst.** Famous garden. Geometric, classic enclosures and vistas. Cottage and rose gardens, orchard, yew passages. Some believe it is the perfect garden.
- **Hever Castle.** Home of Ann Boleyn in early 1500s. Moated castle, Italian-style gardens. Maze, topiary, Spring Garden, rhododendron walk, ancient statues, pergola, rose garden.
- **Nymans.** Lime avenue, pinetam, bluebell woods, pergola, croquet lawn, topiary yews, high colour in summer, scented walled forecourt, box knot gardens.
- **Leonardslee.** Renowned for rhododendrons (May). All shapes, sizes, colours with intoxicating perfume. Japanese azaleas.

Or slightly further away from London stay in the Cotswolds.

Lower Slaughter Manor or Buckland Manor

Stay in either of these excellent country hotels and visit:

- **Bourton House.** Honey-coloured stone house from 1700s. Box hedges and topiary. Great colour schemes, tropical borders, knot garden, shade tunnel, potager, watergarden.
- **Hidcote Manor.** Sheltered, hedged rooms. Roses, lilies, woodland stream, beautiful views, bog plants, a space all in white.



- **Westonbirt.** An arboretum with 17000 trees and shrubs, 17 miles of paths. Spring and autumn are full of colour.
- **Coughton Court.** Beautiful house from 1400s. Walled garden, herbaceous borders with hot colours and soft hues, rose labyrinth, white garden, bog garden, riverside walks.
- **Snowhill Manor.** House from 1500s. Similar to Hidcote but in miniature. Creative design using stone, shrubs, climbers, arches.

Note Briefly : The descriptions of the gardens are subject to seasonal changes.



Gravetye Manor



Chewton Glen



Cliveden



Buckland Manor



An ideal time to plan your visit might be to coincide with:

- **Chelsea Flower Show.** World's most famous flower show; designers from across the globe compete for best of 20 display gardens. 100 floral displays.
- **Hampton Court Palace.** Flower Show and also Charity Gala Preview. Largest flower show in the world. 50 display gardens.

We will arrange for you to have a number of out of hours receptions at the gardens, meet with the Head Gardener, have a discussion about gardening with light refreshments served.

We will also arrange for you to meet a garden designer, columnist and television presenter who has won three gold medals and Best Garden Award at the Chelsea Flower Show. Subject to confirmation this might include a visit to the design studios and a visit to two of his garden designs, one in Hampshire and one in Buckinghamshire.

We will arrange a total package for your visit to English Gardens, with or without a guide.

Please contact us for other sightseeing, golf, cookery schools, London fashion, shopping, London gourmet experience, spa centres.

Please note hotel, Head Gardner and Garden Designer are subject to confirmation.