



# Great gardens of the South

6 night driver-guided tour



Customisable itinerary  
Luxury vehicles  
Private driver-guide



LUXURY  
VACATIONS UK

SINCE 2002



The South of England has an ideal climate and soil types to enable dynamic gardens to flourish. We have handpicked the must-see gardens that are just spectacular during Spring, mid and late Summer.

Visit the famous gardens of Sissinghurst and Hever Castle and find world-leading research garden at Wisely RHS Gardens and fairy tale Great Dixter. Your guide will take you to seven show gardens, have time to use the magnificent Spa at South Lodge and will take you on a journey through the most attractive villages and small towns. You will be enjoying some traditional country pub lunches and meet the locals. This experience will undoubtedly inspire new developments in your garden.

You will be looked after from the very start to the last moment you leave our shores. This six-night suggested tour can be customised to match personal interests, the pace of travel, and style of hotel.



Day 1

## Arrival at Heathrow, and transfer to Sussex

You chauffeur will meet you inside the arrivals hall, assist with luggage and escort you to the vehicle. Your journey time will take approximately 1hr 30 minutes.

Overnight: South Lodge Hotel, Sussex.









## Day 2

### Two historic towns: Arundel and Petworth

**Arundel Castle** dominates the small riverside town below, this vast, stone, hill-top castle, surrounded by medieval crenellated walls, was first built by the Norman conquerors. Your guide will show you around this private family home, featuring an excellent collection of paintings, furniture and the amazing Baron's Hall. Hear the tales of the infamous Dukes of Norfolk of the past and tour the State Apartments. See the lavish furnishings that add to the character of each room, the Westminster Abbey inspired chapel, and our guides favourite place the gothic styled carved Honduras mahogany library.

In recent years the Collector Earl's Garden has been recreated. This investment in the construction of the garden has been a great success. The area was a kitchen garden and used as a car park until the 1970s. The garden pays homage to the 14th Earl of Arundel, an art collector. There are waterworks, vinery, classical architecture, fruit gardens and large seasonal displays.

**Petworth** town is a delightful place to wander for an hour or so, purchase a work of art, buy an exotic egg cup or have a drink in the local pub, make friends.

Optional: Tour Petworth house. Stroll through staterooms saturated with internationally valuable paintings by artists such as Van Dyck, Reynolds, Titian and Blake together with classical and neoclassical sculptures. Follow in the footsteps of JMW Turner who spent long periods at the mansion and whose paintings of the park hang on the walls of Petworth today.

Overnight: South Lodge hotel, Sussex.









Day 3

## Nymans Garden, wine tasting and spa time

**Nymans Gardens** – discover the story of the secret garden of the Sussex Weald. With romantic ruins, gently scented magnolias in the springtime, emerald topiary and the chorus of heavenly birdsong. Step into the vision of Messel family, who lived, played and picnicked in the shade of the woodland and pockets of green spaces.

Discover the garden's 19th-century roots, rare and exotic plant collections and explore the hidden corners of this beguiling landscape.

Stop for lunch at the **Bolney Wine Estate** while enjoying a sparkling wine tasting. Southern England has become a world-class sparkling winemaking region.

After lunch head back to the hotel for spa time.

Overnight: South Lodge Hotel, Sussex.









Day 4

## Hever Castle and Penshurst Place

Start your day at **Hever Castle**, and discover the story of one of Henry VIII's most famous wives! Anne Boleyn, the woman Henry VIII moved heaven and earth. Did she have six fingers, was she guilty of the charges of adultery, incest and treason she lost her head for in May 1536? Hever is Anne's childhood home and is full of treasures from the time of the Tudors. See Anne's illuminated prayer books, which she has made notes in and signed! In the 20th century the famous American millionaire, William Waldorf Astor renovated the entire estate and turned it into a place of entertainment.

Your driver-guide will take on the twisting country lanes of Kent, the garden of England. Partake in a traditional pub lunch before exploring Penshurst Place.

The magnificent **Penshurst Place**, the ancestral home of the Sidney family, is a treasure trove of paintings, tapestries, armoury, and artefacts. There are 48 acres of formal gardens and parklands to explore, the miles of gardens divided into heavenly spaces by walls of ancient yews.

Overnight: South Lodge Hotel, Sussex.





Day 5

## Great Dixter and Sissinghurst Castle gardens

The gardens at **Sissinghurst** are rightly world-renowned. With rose, herb and cottage gardens, this intimate haven was Vita Sackville West and Harold's pride and joy; they poured their love into these gardens when they bought the run-down estate in the 1930s. The couple opened the gardens to the public during this time and charged 1 shilling for entry. Visitors would drop their shilling into an old tobacco tin under a table in the entrance archway. Touring gardens is thirsty work, time for a pub stop for lovely local produce.

The charismatic Christopher Lloyd devoted his life to his garden, putting it on the international stage with his dynamic and sometimes controversial gardening vision. Lloyd was awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Medal of Honour in 1997 and an OBE in 2000.

You should not come to **Great Dixter Gardens** expecting the uniformity, colour schemes, and order you would find in a formal garden. This garden is a colourful, dynamic, explosion of plants and flowers, bursting along beds and borders like firework displays. The garden is currently managed by Fergus Garrett, who worked closely with Lloyd up until his death in 2006 as Head Gardener and introduced innovations into the planting scheme. In the grounds of Great Dixter are three 18th-century Oast houses, under a common roof, and a 15th-century barn.

Overnight: Cliveden House, near Heathrow.









Day 6

## Morning relaxation and RHS Wisley

Enjoy your last day relaxing at the hotel, and why not book a spa treatment.

In 1903 Wisley was given to the **Royal Horticultural Society** and now an epicentre of all things gardening. Year on year visitors flock to Wisley Gardens and with 240 acres of beautiful experimental gardens to explore, and there is no wonder why!

It's like going around the world in one green space as it's home to the most extensive collections of plants in the world. The garden has unforgettable borders; from May to September the Great Border will be in full bloom, along with the 500ft glass house border. Apart from being an experimental garden, it is gorgeous, and relaxing. It is not surprising to learn it is one of the UK's most visited gardens.

Overnight: Cliveden House, London.









Day 7

## Transfer from the Cotswolds to Heathrow

Stay an extra night, or head off to Heathrow. The journey time is around 2 hours from the Cotswolds.



*"I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for all your help in making our trip to London a "once in a lifetime" trip. The itinerary was superb and the accommodations were perfect. I would not change a single thing."*

ORIHIL, T.







Hotels, restaurants and  
travel information





## Guest Houses and historic places



Guesthouses and B&B's have come a long way in the past 20 years. High-end bedding, luxurious surroundings, and refined touches are now much more common.

You get a massive bang for your buck with this category of accommodation. Stay in a private castle, gatehouse, folly, fort, lighthouse or historic country cottage is the way the British enjoy Britain. Be surrounded by glorious countryside, walking distance to a genuine village pub, and be intrigued by living if but for a short time somewhere special.



## Castles & Manor House Hotels



There's nothing quite like arriving at an authentic medieval castle or manor house and knowing you are staying the night. Every portrait, grand staircase and corridor has a tale to tell.

Each chamber will be unique, have quirks and exciting features. This style of hotel will have historic landscaped grounds, gardens, and produce grown onsite. Some have golf courses and other leisure facilities such as spas.



## Town House & Boutique Hotels



Location, location, location, your traditional townhouse hotel will be centrally situated right in town. Walk out the door and be surrounded by shops, cafes, restaurants and historical landmarks.

The boutique versions of these town centre locations will have a contemporary feel with designer bars and lounges. There is a choice of out of town boutique hotels too.



## Contemporary & Designer Hotels



Cutting edge design with elegance, setting new standards of luxury. Contemporary British hotels embody comfort, style and tech. Britain's designer hotels are just that.

Every last detail created for that place to stay and that place only. Door handles, keyholes, wine glasses and spa have seamless themes and motifs, generating the feeling of being inside a work of art.



## Classic & Britain's finest Hotels



Start and end your day in a refined and grand hotel with the best service. Known as Britain's finest Hotels, enjoy the grandeur, history, architecture along with high-end facilities.

The Classic British, five-star hotel, has world-class restaurants, up to date spas, and beautifully designed golf courses. These hotels will have manicured gardens and extensive grounds to explore. Rooms tend to have antiques and valuable works of art.





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We look forward to seeing you soon!