



LATE SUMMER GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND INCLUDING THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW WITH MICHAEL B. GORDON

SEPTEMBER 14TH - 23RD 2021

This September, join garden blogger, Michael Gordon, for his annual stroll through some of the best gardens in England during one of the most beautiful times of year. 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. Late summer is the perfect time to time of year to visit other people's gardens because, as gardeners, we have a lull at the end of summer and also a period when our own gardens tend to be a little lackluster. On this tour you will see how the English end the gardening season with a resounding bang!

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, 2 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
- TICKETS:** Membership in the Royal Horticultural Society and entrance to the Chelsea Flower Show
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

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

Dr. 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 can be found at: www.thegardenerseye.blogspot.com/. Recently, he has been chronicling his gardening travels on an Instagram page with the same name.



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH- 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**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH - This morning we head for the hills - the Cotswold Hills. Our first visit this morning is to Barnsley House and the masterpiece garden created by Rosemary Verey, one of the most influential gardeners of the 20th 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 Prince Charles' private estate, where we'll enjoy a private tour. A short drive brings us to our hotel, where we'll have time to unpack and relax before dinner. **(B, L, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH - 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 time for 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) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

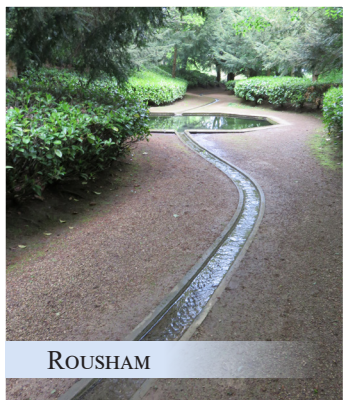
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18ST - This morning's visit is to Rousham. This landscape garden is a place of pilgrimage for students of the work of William Kent (1685-1748). Rousham represents the first phase of English landscape design and remains almost as Kent left it, one of the few gardens of this date to have escaped alteration. 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. You can watch the potters at work and see their displays in the various small gardens at the site. After a break here for lunch we visit Pettifers Garden. Pettifers has now 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. Dinner is included at our hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH - A leisurely start this morning with a beautiful drive through the Cotswolds' quintessentially English landscape of honey-colored villages and green meadows. After a traditional Sunday lunch in a nearby country pub, we'll visit the Hidcote Manor garden, England's foremost 20th-century garden, where a series of horticultural "rooms" have 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"). The evening is free to dine at the local pub. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH - Leaving the Cotswolds, our first stop will be at Waltham Place. The farm and gardens at Waltham are on the cutting edge of biodynamic 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 in London, where dinner awaits us. After dinner, Michael Gordon will give another talk on "The English Mixed Border." **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST - Today we visit 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). Then it's on to Sissinghurst, 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. Upon our return to London you will have the evening free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND - Today we spend a full day at Britain's most famous spring garden event, the Chelsea Flower Show, where our membership in the Royal Horticultural Society allows us to attend on members-only day. The show gardens, each an exquisite jewel of design and execution, are designed by the finest international horticulturalists. Spend as much time as you choose among the inspiring exhibits and make your way back to the hotel in your own time. This evening we will gather for a farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

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