

JOIN DR. PATTY CALVERT FOR AN EXCLUSIVE

# Tour of English Gardens

MAY 21 - 27, 2012

## DAY 1 - MONDAY 21 MAY

**Welcome to England!** On arrival at London Airport, you will be met and escorted to your waiting luxury coach for a private transfer to your London Hotel. This evening we have arranged for a lecture by **Todd Longstaffe-Gowan - a landscape architect, designer and historian.** He is advisor for Historic Royal Palaces and has designed gardens for Hampton Court and Kensington Palace, as well as overseeing a variety of acclaimed projects across the globe, such as the Boboli Gardens in Florence.

O/N RUBENS HOTEL

## DAY 2 - TUESDAY 22 MAY

Full day trip into the **Kent Countryside** to see two quintessential English Gardens. Morning visit to **Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Kent.** Sissinghurst is the shrine to which all true garden-lovers make a pilgrimage at some time in their lives. Created by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Sir Harold Nicolson from 1930 onwards out of a disconnected collection of ancient buildings and a garden which had become a farmyard dumping-ground. The disciplined bone structure of the design is unchanging but the planting, like nature itself, has been allowed to evolve. Sissinghurst never disappoints and each visit will reveal new pleasures. Enjoy lunch in a charming local pub. This afternoon visit **Great Dixter, East Sussex.** Those who have enjoyed the many gardening books and articles written by Christopher Lloyd will find particularly absorbing the garden he so entertainingly wrote about. Lloyd died in 2006 but Fergus Garrett, his friend and gardener, is still there. Money from the Heritage Lottery fund is helping to keep the house and gardens intact for future generations to enjoy. The garden surrounds a timbered 15th century house restored by Edwin Lutyens who also planned the original garden of which the yew topiary and cunning vistas remain. Most of the planting is of more recent date. View Lloyd's virtuoso mixed border; sheets of spring flowers in the orchard; a meadow garden; and the late summer 'tropical garden' rich in bold shapes and brilliant colors. No gardener could visit Great Dixter without making discoveries and rekindling a zest for gardening. Return to your hotel this evening.

O/N RUBENS HOTEL

## DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY 23 MAY

You have tickets to spend all day at the **Chelsea Flower Show** on Members Day. Every year, for three days in May, the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, are transformed into the fabulous show gardens, inspirational small gardens and vibrant horticultural displays that make up the world's most famous flower show. Each RHS Flower Show is a gardener's delight brimming with fresh creative talent, high summer color and a myriad of inspiring ideas to take home. With something to ignite everyone's passion, The World's Best Loved Flower Show, the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, is the ultimate event in the gardening year. It sets the trends, features the newest and most desirable gardening products and creates an explosion of colors and scents. Tonight attend an **evening theatre performance** in the West End of London.

O/N RUBENS HOTEL

## DAY 4 - THURSDAY 24 MAY

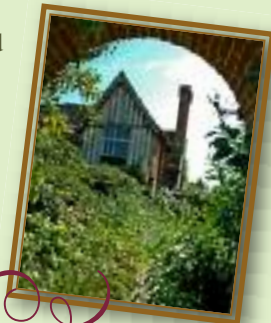
Depart London with your guide in a luxury motor coach and en route to your next hotel visit a private garden. **Bury Court**, owned by John Coke. The innovative and stunning gardens, designed by Piet Oudolf, are justly acclaimed as "truly exceptional" combining natural elegance with artistic form. The contemporary use of grasses and hardy perennials gives the garden a rich and unusual texture. Continue to the **Bowood Hotel near Bath and the Cotswolds.** This purpose built 43 bedroom hotel and spa is ideally situated between Calne & Chippenham, yet hidden in 2000 acres of rolling "Capability" Brown parkland. Four different room types are available, each decorated to the highest standard by the Marchioness of Lansdowne. Guests receive complimentary use of the Spa during their stay and also receive a complimentary round of golf. The highlight of the day is your **exclusive visit to HRH The Prince of Wales's garden at Highgrove** in Tetbury. Highgrove is the family home of The Prince, The Duchess of Cornwall and Princes William and Harry. The garden at Highgrove embodies The Prince's environmental philosophy: that it is better to work with Nature than against it. When he bought the Highgrove estate in 1980, The Prince was adamant that it should be an entirely organic garden and farm. However, at that time there was no sign of a garden at all. Thirteen years later in the book 'Highgrove: Portrait of an Estate' The Prince wrote: "It was difficult to know where to begin and I knew nothing about the practical aspects of gardening..." At its westerly end, the meadow is also home to some of the National Collection of Beeches which The Prince maintains on behalf of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG). In addition to part of the National Collection of Beeches, His Royal Highness has the National Collection of Hostas, a large-leaved plant which he loves. Additional features of the garden are the Walled Kitchen Garden, which helps the Highgrove estate achieve self sufficiency in fruit and vegetables, and the wide variety of apples grown from trees next to the Orchard Room. After the tour is over you will meet in the Orchard Room and enjoy Champagne and canapés. You will also have the chance to spend some time in the Highgrove shop which sells a unique collection of organic foods and lifestyle products for the home and garden. All Highgrove products take their inspiration from the gardens at Highgrove and reflect the wide-ranging interests and passions of HRH The Prince of Wales.

The majority of products in the collection have been created by British artisan manufacturers and craftsmen and are exclusive to Highgrove. Return to your hotel for a late dinner.

O/N BOWOOD HOTEL

## DAY 5 - FRIDAY 25 MAY

After enjoying a full English breakfast in the hotel, board your luxury motor coach for a full day of sight-seeing in the beautiful Cotswolds accompanied by your guide. Private morning visit to the **Peto Garden at Iford Manor** with the Head Gardener. This Grade I Italian-style garden is famous for its tranquil beauty and was the home of architect and landscape gardener, Harold A. Peto from 1899 to 1933. This unique and romantic hillside garden is characterized by steps, terraces, sculpture and magnificent rural views. Your visit includes delightful features such as the Loggia,





the Great Terrace, the Casita and the largest of Peto's garden buildings, the Cloisters. Continue for lunch as guests of the Lowsley-Williams at a stunning private home near Prince Charles's house in Tetbury. Arrive at **Chavenage House**, home of the Lowsley-

Williams family. Chavenage is an Elizabethan house of mellow grey Cotswold stone that has remained virtually unchanged for 400 years. Only two families have owned Chavenage and it is still a family home. Of particular interest is the Main Hall with its stained glass windows, the Ballroom and the Oak Room with its elaborate panels. Your hosts will show you round their wonderful and historic home and gardens and entertain you for lunch in the wonderful Oak Room. After lunch visit a stunning private garden near Chippenham. **The Priory** is owned by a respected writer and garden designer who has created a magical two acre garden around the buildings of an ancient priory. Visits are by special appointment only. Features of the garden include a breathtaking 'French' garden of topiary and standard roses, an exquisite water garden, a ha-ha and a classic rose garden. This evening you will be invited to a private welcome reception hosted by the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne in the private apartments of their stately home, **Bowood House**. Depending on the season and before enjoying your Champagne and canapés, Lord Lansdowne will escort you to take in the spectacular colors of the stunning Rhododendron Walk in the grounds of Bowood. Return for dinner in your hotel.

O/N BOWOOD HOTEL

### DAY 6 - SATURDAY 26 MAY

After enjoying a full English breakfast in the hotel, board your luxury motor coach accompanied by your guide for a full day of visits to privately owned gardens. **Temple Guiting Manor**, set in approximately 14.5 acres, has an elevated position offering wonderful views across the River Windrush and the lake below. The Manor House is surrounded by its own lake, rolling fields and an all weather astro-turf tennis court for all guests to use. The beautifully landscaped gardens were designed by Jinny Blom who was chosen by The Prince of Wales to design the "Healing Garden" at the 2002 Chelsea Flower Show, which won the Royal Horticultural Society's Silver Medal. Stop for lunch at a country inn today. Also visit the gardens at

**Throughtam Court**. The intriguing house – a Jacobean, 18th c. and Arts and Crafts hybrid, listed Grade II – lies at the heart of the 55 acre estate and the formal garden acts as a viewing platform for the landscape beyond. It is a fascinating amalgam of the traditional garden compartments: topiary, courtyards and terraces and the contemporary: a wild grass meadow, a magical black bamboo maze, the zigzag arboretum, a mound planted with late perennials and the new 'rusty border'. Science has been a deep inspiration on both the design and the details. The owner is a scientist turned landscape designer who works closely with Charles Jencks. En route back to the hotel, stop off in the lovely village of **Lacock**. This picturesque village, with its many lime-washed, half-timbered stone houses, dates from the 13th century and has been seen in many TV and film productions, including *Pride and Prejudice*, *Cranford Chronicles* and *Emma*. **The Abbey** is at the heart of the village and was founded in 1232 and converted into a country house c.1540. The atmospheric monastic rooms include medieval cloisters, a sacristy and chapter house and have survived largely intact. They have been featured in two Harry Potter films, plus the recent *The Other Boleyn Girl*. Return for dinner in your hotel.

O/N BOWOOD HOTEL

### DAY 7 - SUNDAY 27 MAY

**Departure Day!** After breakfast, transfers are provided back to London or to Heathrow Airport. Bon Voyage!



# Yes! PLEASE RESERVE A PLACE FOR ME/US ON THE TOUR OF ENGLISH GARDENS!

## PARTICIPANT #1

Name as it appears in passport		Date of birth
Address		
City	State	Zip
Home Phone		Work Phone
Cell Phone		
Email		

## PARTICIPANT #2 Check here if info is same as Passenger #1

Name as it appears in passport	Date of birth
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**\$2,650 GBP\* PER PERSON**

\* Great British Pounds

Based on double occupancy and a minimum group size of 15 participants.  
Single supplement @ GBP 420.

### TRIP INCLUDES

- 3 nights at the Rubens Hotel including full English breakfast daily
- 3 nights at Bowood Hotel including dinner and full English breakfast daily
  - Private transfer from London Heathrow Airport to Rubens Hotel
- Welcome Reception in the hotel • Lecture by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan
- Full day tour to Kent with entrances to Sissinghurst and Great Dixter Gardens
  - One membership of the Royal Horticultural Society per two people
    - Tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show - Members Day
    - Full day travel pass for London Transport
- Evening round-trip transfers from Rubens Hotel to West End Theatre
  - Best Theatre Tickets to top West End Musical
- Entrances as specified in the itinerary to private gardens or similar
  - Exclusive hire of Chavenage for lunch and private visit
    - Three course lunch with drinks at Chavenage
- Private reception at Bowood House with Lord and Lady Lansdowne
  - Entrances to two private gardens and visit to Lacock
- Transfer back to London Heathrow • Gratuities for the driver and guide
- Private visit with afternoon tea or champagne and canapés at Highgrove

Check here if you are interested in extending your stay before or after the tour. Patty's Getaways will be happy to help you make the arrangements.

### TRIP PAYMENTS:

Enclosed is my/our deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ (place/s).

Make checks payable to Patty's Getaways (address below)

**\$1,000 deposit due by December 15, 2011**

**Remaining balance due March 15, 2012**

### CANCELLATION:

Cancellations from December 15, 2011 - March 15, 2012 will result in a \$500 penalty. Cancellations after March 15 will result in a 100% penalty.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Patty's Getaways has negotiated a special group rate for Trip Cancellation/Interruption insurance of \$250 per person.

Check here if you wish to add this to your package total.

## TOUR OF ENGLISH GARDENS • MAY 21-27, 2012

**PATTY'S GETAWAYS**

Questions? Contact Dr. Patty Calvert, CTA  
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Dr. Patty Calvert is a Virtuoso travel consultant, designing extraordinary travel for discriminating clients worldwide. She loves to take friends to visit notable gardens around the world. Patty can make pre- and post- arrangements for extending your stay in the UK or perhaps a cruise in the Baltic or the Mediterranean. Just call with your thoughts and dreams and requests!

