



American Horticultural Society
Travel Study Program

**ENGLAND, GARDENS OF
THE WEST COUNTRY:
CORNWALL, DEVON,
SOMERSET & WILTSHIRE**

June 10 – 18, 2018

WITH AHS TOUR HOSTS HOLLY AND OSAMU SHIMIZU
AND TOUR LEADER SUSIE ORSO OF SPECIALTOURS



Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to invite you to join the American Horticultural Society Travel Study tour — “England, Gardens of the West Country: Cornwall, Devon, Somerset & Wiltshire,” scheduled for June 10-18, 2018.

The roots of gardening run deep in England, and this tour will explore a country whose rich traditions have heavily influenced the sensibilities of Western horticulture. We will visit the longest ongoing landscape restoration in Europe—of a garden that has existed since 1603—along with contemporary gardens. Along with these spectacular and memorable horticultural sites, we will also find time to soak in the character and culture that are unique to the West Country through city tours and visits to castles and country houses.

Along the way, we'll experience outstanding accommodations. Our first stay, the Tresanton Hotel, was lovingly restored by interior designer Olga Polizzi. Next up is Bovey Castle hotel in Devon, located on 275 acres of beautiful countryside in the heart of Dartmoor National Park. Our final lodging is Lucknam Park Hotel, which boasts a Michelin-starred restaurant. A member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux group, it is one of England's finest hotels.

Our tour leader is Specialtours' Susie Orso, who has arranged and led dozens of AHS Travel Study adventures. Her years of experience and insights will enrich this carefully crafted itinerary. My husband, Osamu Shimizu, and I will also accompany you as AHS hosts. Both of us have spent our careers in horticulture, which have included positions in England.

Space is limited and our Travel Study tours often sell out, so reserve your space as soon as possible. For your convenience, a reservation form is enclosed with this brochure.

I look forward to having you join the American Horticultural Society on this memorable journey!

Most sincerely,

Holly H. Shimizu

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Interim Executive Director



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Join AHS Hosts Holly and Osamu Shimizu and tour leader Susie Orso for this once-in-a-lifetime garden travel experience.

Itinerary Highlights

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

We depart the United States for London's Heathrow Airport.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 —

ST. MAWES, CORNWALL (L, D)

We will meet at Heathrow Airport and transfer by private coach to one of the most picturesque corners of the globe: Cornwall. We'll be treated to lunch en route as we head to our first accommodation, the Tresanton Hotel in St. Mawes. Set on a hillside and nearly surrounded by the sea, St. Mawes has a charming harbor with a small fishing fleet. Tonight we will get to know one another over dinner at the hotel, which was restored with brilliant flair by interior designer (and owner) Olga Polizzi. All rooms have views across the sea to St. Anthony's lighthouse. From the hotel's serene gardens, we will be able to hear the sound of the waves in Falmouth Bay.

MONDAY, JUNE 11 —

ST. MAWES, CORNWALL (B, L)

This morning we'll meet up with our lecturer-guide in Cornwall, Charles Fox, a garden designer and artist. Then in his company it's on to St. Austell to visit the award-winning, restored Lost Gardens of Heligan. A moment of reverence is fitting; a garden has existed here since 1603, and this is the longest ongoing garden restoration in Europe. Lunch will be together in the tearoom.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Eden Project. This educational attraction features two massive biomes—Rainforest and Mediterranean—with the former housing the largest rainforest in captivity, along with stunning plants, exhibitions, and contemporary gardens. It's both a sensual and a cerebral pleasure to experience. We will return to the hotel for an independent dinner and an opportunity to discover one of the restaurants in town.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12 —

ST. MAWES, CORNWALL (B, L)

We'll begin our day by taking the ferry from St. Mawes across the bay to Falmouth. Our first visit is to Glendurgan Garden, located near the village of Mawnan Smith, where Charles and his wife will treat us to a personal tour, followed by a buffet lunch at their home. Charles wrote a book about this garden, which was created by his great-great-grandfather, so we'll have the benefit of his acute observations and personal knowledge. It is a prime example of Cornwall's valley gardens, filled with tree ferns, palms, and bananas thriving alongside camellias, magnolias, and rhododendrons. The garden also boasts a cherry laurel maze that dates back to 1833.

After lunch, we'll head north to Trelissick, a National Trust property that has one of the best examples of a mixed summer flowering border in Cornwall and commands lovely views over the Bay of Falmouth and the River Fal. Afterwards we will return to the hotel to dine on our own.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13 —

NORTH BOVEY, DEVON (B, L, D)

We will bid St. Mawes farewell as we leave with our luggage for Torpoint to visit Antony House gardens. The home of the Carew Pole family for hundreds of years, Antony House is a stately early 18th-century mansion. The grounds, now administered by the National Trust, include formal gardens with topiary, a knot garden, modern sculptures, and the National Plant Collection of *Hemerocallis* (daylilies) comprised of more than 600 varieties. Other highlights include a fairytale Japanese pond and a 30-foot-tall topiary yew cone. We'll also explore the house, which is adorned with paintings, furniture, and textiles collected by the Carew Pole family over a period of almost 600 years. The captivating quality of the house and grounds led director Tim Burton to film parts of the 2010 movie *Alice in Wonderland* there.

We will continue on to Mothecombe. Entering this hamlet with its thatched cottages will feel as though we're stepping back in time. We will stop for a private lunch by kind arrangement with the owners at Mothecombe House, a classic example of a Queen



Anne-style house with additions by legendary 20th-century architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. The grounds feature a walled garden and terraces planted with wisteria, irises, and agapanthus, an orchard under-planted with daffodils, and a lush woodland garden leading to a private beach.

Next we will head to Yelverton to visit the Garden House. Following a major restoration, the two-acre walled garden is considered one of the finest in the country. Its series of garden rooms and spaces are joined by meandering paths that reveal diverse planting styles and landscaping surprises. This evening we will begin our two-night stay at the Bovey Castle, a five-star hotel located in the heart of Dartmoor National Park in Devon. The hotel is surrounded by 275 acres of beautiful countryside. We will gather for dinner at Smith's Brasserie in the hotel.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14 — NORTH BOVEY, DEVON (B, L, D)

We will begin by touring the restored house and gardens of the Elizabethan manor of Cadhay, in the heart of rural Devon. Dating from 1550, it has been inhabited continuously for centuries. Cadhay delights the senses with antique and contemporary furniture, paintings, portraits, and other artwork. We will admire its gardens as well, especially the avenue of lindens, or lime trees as the British call them, (*Tilia* sp.). We will have lunch at the Killerton Kitchen restaurant.

The afternoon's treat will be a visit to the National Trust's Killerton House. The estate features a landscape garden surrounded by parkland and views of Dartmoor. Renowned Scottish horticulturist John Veitch helped create the garden beginning in the 1770s, along with English landscape architect Capability Brown. Victorian garden writer William Robinson later added his own design touch. Veitch's nursery became one of the biggest and most prestigious in Victorian England, sending plant hunters across the globe to bring back specimens and making the Killerton House's garden an exquisite showcase for their finds. We will enjoy dinner at Bovey Castle's Great Western Restaurant.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15 — CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE (B, L, D)

We will leave with our luggage and head into neighboring Somerset for a tour of Milton Lodge in Wells, where we will visit the gardens and enjoy lunch. The gardens consist of a series of terraces that were created in the early 20th century and boast a wide variety of colorful plants suitable for the alkaline soil. We may, time permitting, wander through the eight-acre arboretum and woodland garden that includes a 100-foot-tall chestnut and a soaring beech with a 14-foot girth. As we explore the gardens, we can take in stunning views of the local countryside and nearby Wells Cathedral.

We will then visit the extraordinary Cathedral which dates back to the 12th century and was the first English cathedral to be built in the then-revolutionary Gothic style. It features one-of-a-kind scissor arches, and the façade is filled with niches containing about 300 medieval sculptures. The north transept is home to an astronomical clock (circa 1390), with jousting knights that charge each other every quarter-hour.

Next we will travel to Chippenham, where we will check into our new accommodations at the Lucknam Park Hotel. A member of the discerning Relais & Châteaux group, this magnificent hotel is a Palladian style mansion dating from 1720. It is reached through a mile-long avenue of 400 lime and beech trees planted in 1827. We will dine this evening at the hotel's casual Brasserie.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16 — CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE (B, D)

Today we head back into Somerset for a guided tour of the city of Bath, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient Romans created this spa town around 60 A.D., but the city's popularity really boomed during the Georgian era of the 1700s and early 1800s, which is reflected in much of its architecture. We will also visit Bath Abbey, restored from a state of ruin in the early 17th century. The pinnacles and flying buttresses were added in the 1830s, and the spectacular stone fan vaulting was installed some 30 years later.





After an independent lunch, we will return to our hotel and later in the afternoon continue to Bradford on Avon. Like Bath, the town has Roman origins, though many historic buildings date to the heyday of the woolen textile industry in the 17th century. Here we will stop at Iford Manor and tour its Italianate garden. The romantic hillside garden is the work of landscape architect Harold Ainsworth Peto, who lived here from 1899 until his death in 1933. It features terraces, sculptures, and magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. We will dine at the hotel this evening.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 17 —
CHIPPENHAM, WILTSHIRE (B, L, D)**

In the morning, we'll explore the grounds of the Lucknam Park Hotel, which is set on 500 acres of parkland. It boasts a walled garden, which was created in the 1830s, a rose garden, 1.5-acre arboretum, and herb and lavender gardens.

Then we'll head to Claverton Manor, home to the American Museum in Britain, and have lunch at its Orangery Café. The manor's hilltop location offers spectacular views over the Avon river valley. After lunch, we'll visit the museum and explore the parkland, with its majestic cedars and a collection of American native trees, and the remnants of Italianate gardens that date to the 1820s. A special treat is the Mount Vernon Garden, which is a replica of the flower garden at George Washington's home and estate in Virginia. This evening, we will say goodbye to our newfound friends with farewell drinks and dinner at the Michelin-starred Restaurant Hywel Jones of the hotel.

MONDAY, JUNE 18 (B)

We will travel with our luggage to Heathrow Airport, arriving at noon. Return flights should be scheduled for afternoon departures.

Revisions to this itinerary may occur and the AHS and its travel partner reserve the right to make changes, with or without notice, that may become necessary.





Announcing the American
Horticultural Society
Travel Study Program

American Horticultural Society
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JOIN US FOR UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES, INCLUDING:

- A guided tour of the Roman city of Bath, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- A visit to the Elizabethan manor house of Cadhay, dating from 1550
- Mothecombe House's walled garden and paths adorned with brilliant flowers
- Antony House gardens, where parts of the 2010 movie *Alice in Wonderland* were filmed
- A history lesson at Wells Cathedral, which dates from the 12th century

OUR OUTSTANDING ACCOMMODATIONS:

- The Tresanton Hotel in St. Mawes, a beautifully renovated retreat
- The Bovey Castle hotel in Devon, set on 275 acres in the heart of Dartmoor National Park
- The Lucknam Park Hotel, a magnificent country house that dates back to 1720

Please refer to the enclosed reservation form for pricing and instructions for reserving your place on this AHS Travel Study Program tour. For more information about our tours, please contact development@ahsgardening.org or (703) 768-5700, ext. 127 or ext. 132. Information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.

Designed with the connoisseur of garden travel in mind, the AHS's Travel Study Program offers exceptional itineraries that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation benefits the work of the Society and furthers our vision of "*Making America a Nation of Gardeners, A Land of Gardens.*"

