



AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

GREAT GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND: *Heritage, Design, & Beauty*

June 14-22, 2027





Dear friends,

I'm excited to invite you to join AHS for an exclusive garden journey through England, timed for one of the most spectacular moments of the gardening year. In June, England's great gardens are in early-summer peak: herbaceous borders are fresh and full, roses bring historic estates to life with color and fragrance, and long daylight hours invite unhurried exploration.

Our itinerary moves from globally renowned institutions, including Sissinghurst, Kew Gardens, and RHS Wisley, to privately owned gardens and special-interest sites that showcase the full breadth of English horticultural style, from Arts & Crafts design to Victorian glasshouse grandeur.

An aspect of this program that is especially meaningful for AHS travelers is the depth of learning it offers through early access to exceptional gardens and behind-the-scenes conversations with head gardeners, estate teams, and owners. These moments bring to life the thinking and care that shape plant collections and guide the long-term stewardship of the landscapes.

Visits to places like Great Dixter, Upton Grey, West Green House, Doddington Place, and the Orangery Garden offer a window into stories of restoration, experimentation, and creative vision, insights that resonate well beyond the visit and can be carried into your own garden practice and community.

You'll travel in the company of AHS Host Rochelle Greayer, editor of *American Gardener* magazine, whose deep design background adds another layer to every visit, connecting what you see on the ground to the bigger ideas of style, structure, plant choice, and the evolution of great gardens over time. Rochelle studied horticulture in England and is excited to share her experiences with you.

Space is limited. We encourage you to reserve your place soon to ensure you can be part of this unforgettable early summer exploration of England's most inspiring gardens.

Warmest Regards,

Suzanne

Suzanne B. Laporte
President & CEO



Canterbury Cathedral

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Exclusive early-access** and privately guided tours of world-renowned gardens, including Sissinghurst and Great Dixter.
- **Behind-the-scenes experiences** with head gardeners, horticultural experts, and estate owners at historic and contemporary gardens.
- **Exceptional variety of horticultural styles**—from Victorian glasshouses and Edwardian pergolas to Arts & Crafts landscapes and intimate walled gardens.
- **Visits to iconic cultural sites**, such as Canterbury and the medieval town of Rye.
- **Charming accommodations** and thoughtfully curated meals throughout.



Garden in the Sky, London

Rose gardens of England



Canterbury Cathedral, Kent

WHEN YOU TRAVEL WITH AHS, YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel program supports the AHS's nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.

AHS HOST



Rochelle Greayer has spent over 25 years designing landscapes and sharing the stories that bring them to life. She is editor of *American Gardener*, the flagship publication of the American Horticultural Society, and founder of garden media ventures including *PITH + VIGOR* and *Leaf Magazine*. A former aerospace engineer, Rochelle began her horticultural career in England, designing gardens for the Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace Flower Shows, earning recognition from the Royal Horticultural Society and the Mayor of London. She is also the author of *Cultivating Garden Style* and has taught thousands through her media work, online courses, and six years as a national television host.

PRICING

Double Occupancy:
\$10,770 pp

Single Occupancy:
\$13,220 pp

\$1,000 deposit

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GREAT GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND:

Heritage, Design, & Beauty

ITINERARY



Monday, June 14

Arrival in London

Arrive in London this morning. Begin this afternoon with a visit to the historic Chelsea Physic Garden, founded in 1673 as a center for medicinal plant study. Enjoy a private guided tour led by one of the garden's volunteer experts. Continue to the Sky Gardens, the highest public garden in the city, perched on the 43rd floor of the Fenchurch Building, where French lavender shares the space with African lilies and birds of paradise. With floor-to-ceiling glass windows, this leafy indoor garden provides fantastic views of the iconic London skyline. Stroll through the gardens before making your way to the observation deck for a flowery cocktail welcome to London. After checking in to the hotel gather for a welcome dinner.

Included Meals: Reception, Dinner

Accommodations: The Bloomsbury Hotel, London

Tuesday, June 15

Kew Gardens

Begin at the world-renowned Kew Gardens. Wander through the Palm House, filled with towering palms and rare exotic species; explore the Princess of Wales Conservatory, a series of climate-controlled zones that showcase desert succulents, tropical orchids, and aquatic plants. At the Waterlily House, marvel at the enormous floating lily pads and the warm, humid environment designed specifically for their care. Admire the floral displays along the Great Broad Walk Borders, spectacular at this time of year, and enjoy time in Kew's vast Arboretum. Ascend the 18-metre-high Treetop Walkway for a bird's-eye perspective of the gardens from within the canopy. Enjoy lunch at the Pavilion Grill, surrounded by views of Kew's peaceful landscapes. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch,

Accommodations: The Bloomsbury Hotel, London



Canterbury Cathedral



The Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Garden park



The RH Wisley Wisteria walkway

Wednesday, June 16

RHS Wisley and West Green House Gardens

Depart London this morning and head south to RHS Garden Wisley, the historical home of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). It was envisioned from the beginning as a living laboratory for experimentation and education in horticulture and continues in this vein today: scientific work undertaken at Wisley provides gardening knowledge and best practice through the UK gardening world. Discover one of the largest living plant collections in the world with around 30,000 plant varieties and six National Collections of plants.

Enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the garden, with its richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and the exotica of the glasshouses. After a comprehensive garden tour with some of Wisley's most experienced gardeners, enjoy a leisurely lunch break on your own and treat yourself to delicious food made from fresh, seasonal produce in the restaurant or one of the cafés. In the afternoon visit West Green House Gardens, a stunning ten-acre garden restored by Australian garden designer Marylyn Abbott over the last twenty years. Combining a classical Lakefield design with a blend of formal and informal planting, English traditions and Australian flair, West Green offers intimacy and spectacle in a country setting. After a warm welcome and introductory talk by the owner and some afternoon refreshments, enjoy a stroll round the gardens with a member of the garden team; explore the beautiful Victorian greenhouses and visit the formally planted vegetable garden. Continue to the beautiful Audleys Wood Hotel. Dinner will be at the hotel tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke

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Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent



Kew Gardens, London



Thursday, June 17

Upton Grey Gardens and West Dean Gardens

This morning enjoy a privately arranged visit to the Upton Grey Gardens, a wonderful example of a sensitively restored Gertrude Jekyll garden by the current owners. Gertrude Jekyll designed this important historic garden in 1908 for a house belonging to Charles Holme, a leading figure in the Arts and Crafts movement. The current owners bought the almost derelict property in 1984 and have spent many years restoring and recreating what is believed to be the most complete and authentic Jekyll Garden in existence. Meet with the owners and learn about some of the challenges and surprising discoveries during the restoration process whilst enjoying a cup of tea and cake. Later wander the gardens with one of the garden specialists. In the afternoon visit the West Dean Gardens. Take a private guided tour with two senior members of the Garden Team, see the Walled Kitchen Garden of classic Victorian design, the 100m-long Edwardian Pergola designed by Harold Peto, the naturalistic Spring Garden and the award-winning Sunken Garden and orchards. There will be time for independent exploration and a chance to explore some of the 13 restored Victorian Glasshouses and the orchards. Return to the hotel for dinner.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke

Friday, June 18

Chartwell & Great Comp Garden

Travel east towards Kent, famously known as "the Garden of England". Visit Chartwell, the family home of Sir Winston Churchill from the 1920s until his death in 1965. The house is still much as it was when the family lived there, filled with pictures, books and personal mementos, evoking the career and wide-ranging interests of this influential family. After visiting the house, meet the head gardener to explore the hillside gardens. Learn how the gardens reflect Churchill's love of the landscape and nature, see the lakes he created, the brick walls he built, Lady Churchill's rose garden, the kitchen garden and the orchard. After lunch, continue to Great Comp Garden, the delightfully quirky creation of the late Roderick and Joy Cameron, complete with an Italian Garden, explorable ruins and a garden which now boasts one of the best displays of Magnolias, Azaleas, Salvias, Crocosmias, Dahlias and other exotic plants in the region. Enjoy a guided tour of this exceptionally beautiful garden with an experienced member of the garden team before continuing to Royal Tunbridge Wells, today's final destination. Check-in at the Hotel du Vin Tunbridge Wells for four nights. Dinner at the hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel du Vin, Royal Tunbridge Wells

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Saturday, June 19

Great Dixter and Leeds Castle

Today's first visit will be Great Dixter, the family home of gardener and published author of many gardening books and articles, Christopher Lloyd. Now under the stewardship of Fergus Garrett, Great Dixter is an historic house, a garden, a centre of education and a place of pilgrimage for horticulturists from across the world. AHS guests will enjoy an early bird visit before the garden opens to the general public, conducted by a member of the Great Dixter Garden Team and admire the imaginative yew topiary, the carpets of meadow flowers, the colorful mixed borders and ore. Later, continue to the romantic Leeds Castle, majestically rising from the still waters of its moat, surrounded by 500 acres of parkland and gardens.

After a self-guided tour of the castle, which has hosted the likes of Errol Flynn, Douglas Fairbanks and John F Kennedy, meet a member from the garden team for a private guided tour of the historical gardens. Admire the banks of azaleas in the Princess Alexandra Gardens and the beautiful blooms, hedges and herbaceous beds of the Culpeper Gardens. Conclude the day with a traditional afternoon tea at the Gatehouse. Evening at leisure in Tunbridge Wells.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea

Accommodations: Hotel du Vin, Royal Tunbridge Wells



Canterbury gardens in town

Sunday, June 20

Doddington Place Gardens, Canterbury & Orangery Garden

The beautiful Doddington Place Gardens is where today's visits begin. Here the landscaped gardens are set in the grounds of an imposing Victorian mansion and marry formality with bucolic views. A private guided tour with the head gardener will take you to the notable woodland garden, which includes many different varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas; to the large Edwardian rock garden with its pretty pools; and to the formal sunk garden with its stunning herbaceous borders. After the tour, take time to explore the flint and the brick folly, and admire the extensive lawns and avenues, framed by impressive clipped yew hedges.

Spend your lunch break in the historic cathedral city of Canterbury, famous for its UNESCO World Heritage sites like the iconic Canterbury Cathedral, ancient Roman walls, cobbled streets, timber-framed houses, and rich literary history. Mid-afternoon visit the privately owned Orangery Garden. A tour with the owner will take you to the magnificent extensive herbaceous border and impressive ancient wisteria, and the large walled garden with its wide variety of shrubs, mixed borders and unusual specimen trees interspersed with water features and an intriguing collection of modern sculptures. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel du Vin, Royal Tunbridge Wells



Leeds Castle, Kent



UNESCO Roman wall



Sissinghurst Castle garden door



Sissinghurst and Rye

Sunday, June 21

Sissinghurst and Rye

Discover the amazing Sissinghurst Castle & Gardens during an early-bird tour of the walled gardens. With medieval origins, Sissinghurst has become an iconic historic and poetic landmark, owing to its ties with writer Vita Sackville-West and her husband, author and diplomat Harold Nicolson, who designed it in the 1930s. Sissinghurst's knowledgeable guides lead you through several spectacular separate garden rooms, all delightfully different, filled with informal arrangements of plants around a theme, such as the White Garden, the Purple Border, the Rose Garden, the Herb Garden, the Lime Walk, and the Cottage Garden.

After the tour, take time to visit the Tudor manor house. After lunch at leisure, visit Kent's original vineyard, Biddenden, take a short stroll through the vines followed by a tasting of three of their wines. This afternoon wander the cobble-stoned streets of the medieval hill town Rye. Visit St Mary's Church, which dominates the town's skyline, see Ypres Tower, built in 1249 to defend the town, and visit Lamb House, an early Georgian house once owned by American author Henry James. In the evening enjoy a farewell dinner in a local Tunbridge Wells restaurant.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Hotel du Vin, Royal Tunbridge Wells

Sunday, June 22

Departure

Depart hotel for individual flights home

Included Meal: Breakfast



RHS Garden Wisley

ACCOMMODATIONS



The Bloomsbury, London

The 4-star Bloomsbury Hotel offers refined service within a beautifully restored Grade II-listed neo-Georgian building in London's literary district. Its interiors blend elegant period décor with contemporary comfort, featuring chic lounges, marble-finished rooms, and the iconic Coral Room bar. Guests enjoy attentive service, excellent dining, a fitness centre, and thoughtful amenities that create a sophisticated, welcoming retreat in the heart of the city. *(3 nights)*



Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke

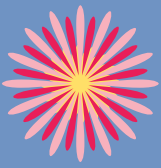
Audleys Wood Hotel is a charming Victorian country-house retreat set just outside Basingstoke, offering warm hospitality and elegant, classically styled interiors. Originally built in the 1880s, the hotel blends historic character with modern comfort, including spacious rooms and refined dining in the light-filled Conservatory Restaurant. Surrounded by seven acres of beautifully maintained private grounds and woodland, it provides a tranquil setting perfect for leisurely strolls and relaxing escapes. *(2 nights)*



The Hotel du Vin, Royal Tunbridge Wells

Hotel du Vin Tunbridge Wells blends boutique charm with historic elegance inside a Grade II-listed Georgian mansion. Its stylish rooms pair contemporary comfort with period character, while attentive service enhances every stay. Guests enjoy French-inspired dining at Bistro du Vin, a cozy bar, and tranquil outdoor spaces overlooking ornamental gardens and Calverley Park. The hotel's relaxing atmosphere and refined décor create an inviting retreat in the heart of this historic spa town. *(4 nights)*

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GENERAL INFORMATION

AHS SOJOURNS

AHS TRAVEL

This custom trip is offered in collaboration with Academic Travel Abroad and is part of the AHS Sojourns travel program collection. For more information, visit ahsgardening.org/travel.

AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk up to three miles each day.

PROGRAM LENGTH, CAPACITY

9 Days, 8 Nights. This small group program welcomes up to 25 participants, and is exclusively designed for patrons of the American Horticultural Society.

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

- All accommodations for the duration of the tour
- Meals as noted in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and visits as noted in each itinerary
- Guidance from an expert, travel director and local guides throughout the program
- All gratuities for on-tour guides, drivers, hotel, and restaurant staff as part of the group program
- One group transfer on arrival and on departure from/to London Heathrow Airport
- All on-tour transportation, unless otherwise noted
- The assistance of an ATA professional travel team to assist with pre-trip questions, travel arrangements, including flights, extra hotel nights and other services
- Comprehensive pre-departure mailings and materials with information about the destination and what to expect on tour, including a suggested reading list
- Emergency evacuation insurance

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Optional travel insurance (highly recommended)-including cancellation/delay/lost baggage insurance • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Room service • Other items of a personal nature or not specifically mentioned as included.

FLIGHTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by Academic Travel Abroad. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants. When it is time to make flight arrangements, the AHS's flight and travel services provider, Cranky Concierge, provides optional flight and travel arrangement services for a seamless travel experience, including proactive flight monitoring and travel disruption

assistance: www.crankyconciierge.com/ahsgardening. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The pace of this tour is moderately active with considerable walking each day, often over very uneven and cobblestoned terrain, and extended periods of standing. Transportation will be by air-conditioned motorcoaches, with most drives no more than an hour each way.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve your spot, you have three options. You may book directly online by clicking [here](#). Alternatively, you may email ATA at reservations@academic-travel.com or call them at 1-877-298-9677. A \$1,000 per person deposit is due at time of booking to secure your spot. Balance of payment is due February, 14, 2027. After February 14, 2027 full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, bank transfer, or credit card.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Upon receipt of registration, ATA will send registrant a Terms and Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ATA before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

PASSENGER CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by ATA. Deposits are 50% refundable up to 150 days prior to departure; after that, deposits become nonrefundable. Cancellation between 149-121 days, 100% of deposit is forfeited. Cancellation between 120-91 days, 50% of the trip price is forfeited. Cancellation within 90 days of departure: no refund. Cancellation on day of departure or after trip departs: no refund. No refund for unused portions of trip, including, but not limited to, missed meals, hotel nights and sightseeing. After the February, 14, 2027 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. If a staff member is unable to participate, no refund will be made, but Criterion Travel will make every

effort to find a replacement with similar qualifications.

NOTE: Criterion Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance covering trip cancellation, trip interruption, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations is not included in the program cost, but is strongly recommended (regardless of present good health). Should you decide to cancel at any time, or if you must leave the tour early for any reason, ATA must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined in the Traveler terms and conditions. Be sure to review your options carefully and choose a policy that best suits your needs. One provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For details on the plan available to AHS travelers, visit ahsgardening.org/travel-information/ This link also includes information about optional flight and travel arrangement services.

HEALTH

Ensuring the health and safety of our guests is our top priority. All participants should be in good health and able to keep up with an active group of travelers without assistance from tour staff. Please advise us of any medical conditions, dietary requirements, or other needs at the time of booking. All health information is treated as confidential.

ITINERARY CHANGES

While every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, the nature of travel is unpredictable and we must be prepared for changes. The itinerary as described is subject to modification. Rest assured that should any changes be needed, we are committed to delivering an experience as outstanding as the one originally planned.

AHS PROGRAM CONTENT

The AHS and its travel partners reserve the right to take photographs, videos, and audio ("Program Content") during the travel program for editorial, promotional, and commercial use by the AHS or authorized third parties. By making a reservation on an AHS Travel program, the participant agrees to allow his/her likeness to be used by AHS or AHS authorized third parties without compensation to the participant. AHS reserves the right to crop, alter, or combine the Program Content with other images, text, or media at its sole discretion and to use the Program Content in any medium or format, including but not limited to print, digital, or online media. This authorization grants AHS and/or authorized third parties the right to use the photographs, videos, and audio worldwide and in perpetuity, without further consent or compensation. Participants who prefer that their voice and/or image not be used must notify AHS in writing prior to the beginning of the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact: (877) 298-9677 or reservations@academic-travel.com.
California Seller of Travel Program CST #2059002-40