

# 100<sup>th</sup> Chelsea Flower Show and Gardens of the Cotswolds

## Copper Beech Garden Tours

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### **(0) Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

Depart your home city/airport for London, Gatwick (time TBD) for an early arrival on Wednesday.

#### **(1) Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May (Dinner)**

This morning you will arrive early at London, Gatwick (time TBD) where you will be met by your guide and coach.

From here we head to our first stop of the day – Waterperry. Waterperry is a village beside the River Thames. Waterperry Gardens is a magical place where you are surrounded by beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers, classical borders, modern planting, secret corners and long vistas. Home to the renowned horticultural college between 1932 and 1971, the emphasis was on food production rather than spectacular ornamental gardens. Over the past twenty years though the gardens have developed and grown, and many new projects have been undertaken and completed. We eat lunch here and explore the spectacular gardens before making our way to Chipping Campden where we will be spending the next few nights.

This afternoon is yours to explore the small town of Chipping Campden deep in the Cotswolds.

#### **Overnight:**

Noel Arms Hotel,  
Chipping Campden,  
Cotswolds,  
GL55 6AT

Tel: 0044 1386 840317

#### **(2) Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May (Breakfast)**

Having recovered from our long journey last night we head off after breakfast to Sudeley Castle. The history of Sudeley Castle and its award-winning gardens spans over a thousand years and contains many varied tales of royal associations, wars and periods of neglect and subsequent restoration.

The Castle has changed hands over a dozen times during its history and today it is the private home of Lord and Lady Ashcombe, Henry and Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst and their families.

Sudeley's glorious gardens are amongst the very best in England, from the centrepiece Queens' Garden, billowing with hundreds of varieties of old fashioned roses, to the Herbal Healing Garden which was introduced for the 2010 season. Take your time to explore the story of Sudeley's history and the prominent characters who have visited or lived at the Castle. Although the Castle remains a

family home, the 16th Century west wing which houses the exhibitions and coffee shop, St Mary's Church where Katherine Parr lies buried, the gardens, Pheasantry, medieval ruins.

After lunch we visit Buscot Park - Buscot Park is the family home of Lord Faringdon, who looks after the property on behalf of the National Trust, as well as the family collection of pictures, furniture, ceramics and objets d'art, known as the Faringdon Collection, which is displayed in the house. To enjoy Buscot Park to the full, time should be taken to explore the extensive pleasure gardens that surround the late eighteenth-century house. To the west of the house, the mellow red-brick walls of the original kitchen garden now shelter the Four Seasons garden, bright with the blooms of spring bulbs, flowering trees and drifts of multi-coloured day lilies, according to the time of year. To the east, woodland walks lead to one of Britain's finest water gardens, an unusual marriage of Italianate formality with an English parkland landscape.

From the south front of the house, the carriage drive sweeps away to the southeast, down through mature woodland. From the north front of the house, the views take in the Little Lake and the Thames plain beyond. From neither point is any clue given of the splendid water garden that lies to the east of the house, reached by following the steps from the north terrace.

**Overnight:** Noel Arms Hotel, Chipping Camden

### **(3) Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May (Breakfast)**

This morning is dedicated to the Royal Residence and Gardens of Highgrove. His Royal Highness has devoted much energy to transforming the gardens around the house. With the help and advice of notable individuals and the dedicated assistance of the garden staff, what was once a somewhat bleak landscape is now one of the most creatively inspired gardens of today. A series of interlinked areas, each with their own character and purpose, weave magically around the garden, with the house always visible in the distance.

Next up we visit Barnsley house, once again we explore the beautiful grounds of this house. You might want to stroll through sunny terraces, formal lawns, ancient meadows and wildernesses. Or take some time to explore the gardens' many twists, turns, nooks and crannies.

We have lunch in the restaurant in the house which will be three courses with a glass of wine.

This afternoon you have two options – **Option One** is to explore Burton on Water - Regularly voted one of the prettiest villages in England, Bourton-on-the-Water has more than its share of Cotswold houses and cottages, many of them three hundred years old, some dating back to Elizabethan times four hundred years ago... There is certainly plenty to see!

**Option Two** – Return to the Noel Arms Hotel for time to indulge in a late spa afternoon (not included) at the Cotswold House (sister hotel to the Noel Arms Hotel).

**Overnight:** Noel Arms Hotel, Chipping Camden

**(4) Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May (Breakfast)**

First stop of the day is Rodmarton Manor which possesses an eight acre Cotswold garden in glorious Gloucestershire is interesting any month of the year but really beautiful throughout the summer months. It was designed originally as a series of outdoor rooms and is still the same today.

There is a wide selection of planting that has been done over the years with superb vistas and views throughout and plenty of places to sit and admire the view. Each part of this Gloucestershire garden has a different character ranging from the alpines in troughs, bigger plants in the rockery, lawns, a large kitchen garden, white borders, to the magnificent herbaceous borders which are constantly being replanted and improved. We have lunch before moving on to our next location.

Our next visit of the day is Througham Court - Througham Court is Christine Facer's own garden hidden away in a beautiful, remote and unspoilt Cotswold Hills valley. It is used as a personal 'laboratory' to experiment with new ideas, materials and planting combinations.

Developed since 2000, new contemporary areas have been carefully shoehorned into an existing 1930's Arts and Crafts landscaping designed by the Cotswold architect, Norman Jewson featuring magnificent yew topiary shapes and dry stone wall terracing.

**Overnight:** Noel Arms Hotel, Chipping Camden

**(5) Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May (Breakfast, Dinner)**

We visit Hidcote Manor, the celebrated 20th-century garden in the beautiful north Cotswolds nestled in the Cotswolds with sweeping views across the Vale of Evesham.

You'll never forget the exquisite garden rooms, each with its own unique character. Discover rare shrubs and trees, herbaceous borders and unusual plants from around the world. The garden changes in harmony with the seasons, from vibrant spring bulbs to autumn's spectacular Red Border. Lunch will be available in the sandwich shop at Hidcote.

Next, we visit Kiftsgate Court - the gardens are the creation of three generations of women gardeners. Started by Heather Muir in the 1920s, continued by Dianyn Binny from 1950 and now looked after by Anne Chambers and her husband, Kiftsgate Court is presently the home of the Chambers family.

This afternoon we have free time in the Stow-on-the-Wold, a delightful market town and along with Moreton-in-Marsh, perhaps the best known of the small Cotswolds towns. At the height of the Cotswold wool industry the town was famous for its huge annual fairs where as many as 20,000 sheep were sold at one time. The vast Market Square testifies to the town's former importance. At one end stands the ancient cross, and at the other the town stocks, shaded between an old elm tree. Around the square the visitor is faced with an elegant array of Cotswold town houses. Stow has many fine Antique shops, Art galleries, Gifts and Crafts and is a centre for "Walking the Cotswolds" countryside.

**Overnight:** Noel Arms Hotel, Chipping Camden

**(6) Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May (Breakfast)**

We say good bye to the Cotswolds as we head to London and stop at Wisley. The flagship garden of the RHS, Wisley captures the imagination with richly planted borders, luscious rose gardens and the state-of-the-art Glasshouse. In the trials fields, the finest flowers and vegetables are identified from the countless new introductions. Elsewhere in the garden, cultivation techniques are tried and tested, and a series of model gardens answers the needs of a variety of conditions and circumstances. The Glasshouse showcases Wisley's world-class plant collection and has three climatic zones recreating tropical, moist temperate and dry temperate habitats. We have lunch at Wisley and depart mid-afternoon to make our way to our London accommodation.

**Overnight**

The Rubens At The Palace,  
39 Buckingham Palace Road,  
London,  
SW1W 0PS                      Tel: 0044 20 7834 6600

**(7) Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May (Breakfast)****RHS Chelsea Flower Show**

We have a transfer to the show this morning, the first member's day. Organized by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), The Chelsea Flower Show is the most prestigious flower show in the world. Held in the grounds of the Chelsea Hospital every year since 1913, apart from gaps during the two World Wars, it is the flower show most associated with the Royal family, who attend the opening day (on Monday) every year. See award winning gardens, learn new gardening tips, shop the arcade and admire the magnificent flower displays in the Grand Pavilion. Stay as long as you like and depart the show at your leisure.

**Overnight**

The Rubens At The Palace, London

**(8) Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May (Breakfast – boxed for those taking the coach early)**

Today there will be one transfer to our London, Gatwick, airport where we will say our goodbyes.

**Please note:** the itinerary is subject to change for the carrying out of the tour.