



Late Summer Gardens

A Tour for the Gastonia Master Gardeners Designed by Marian St Clair

September 4 - 14, 2015

Nowhere in the world is the passion for horticulture expressed more vividly than in Britain, where gardens have served as inspiration for painters, writers, and flower lovers for centuries. From great country estates to miniscule inner-city gardens, the British use their exceptionally long growing season to fullest advantage, and you can see the results on *Late Summer Gardens*.

This is your invitation to see some of England's most famous gardens at a time of year when the crowds have departed. From Vita Sackville-West's crowning achievement at Sissinghurst Castle to the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship garden at Wisley and Christopher Lloyd's masterpiece at Great Dixter.

From our base at the lovely Fleece hotel in Cirencester we'll explore the hidden treasures of the Cotswold Hills: Rosemary Verey's Barnsley House, Kiftsgate Court, Hidcote Manor, the Peto Garden at Iford Manor and many others. Royal schedules permitting we'll also take a private tour of Prince Charles' estate at Highgrove.

This summer, join Marian St. Clair and other garden lovers for a stroll through *Late Summer Gardens*. At a relaxed pace, with wonderful meals, first-class hotels, and a panorama of magnificent blooms unfolding before us, it's a quintessential celebration of the English garden.



Barnsley House

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land only (no airfare included): **\$3630**
Single supplement: **\$1180**

Airfares are available from most U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 9 nights accommodation in first-class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Full breakfast daily, 3 dinners, 2 lunches.
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director throughout; guided tours at Barnsley House, Highgrove, Broughton, Great Dixter.
- Expenses:** Portorage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.





Friday, September 4. Evening departure from Charlotte Douglas International Airport aboard US Air’s direct service to London. **Overnight: Plane**

Saturday, September 5. Our morning arrival at London’s Heathrow Airport will be met by our Discover Europe tour guide. We’ll begin our adventures with a guided tour of nearby Savill Garden. After time here for lunch we’ll continue to our hotel in the Cotswolds, where there will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the town. This evening we’ll gather for an early dinner at the hotel. **(D) Overnight: Cotswolds**

Sunday, September 6. A leisurely start this morning will introduce the region 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 7. 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, where we’ll have a tour with one of the head gardeners. 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 before we gather for lunch at the Village Pub. After lunch the afternoon will be free to explore Cirencester (once an important Roman city), where you can browse the local shops, or visit the Corinium Museum and the town’s marvelous “wool” church. The evening is also free. **(B, L) Overnight: Cotswolds**

Tuesday, September 8. Heading south this morning, a short drive brings us to 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. From here we stop in the city of Bath, where we will visit the Roman Baths, perhaps the best-preserved Roman remains in Britain, and then have time for lunch. On the way back to our hotel, we’ll stop in Malmesbury to visit the Abbey House Garden, a spectacular 5-acre garden set beside the 12th-century Abbey church. We’ll return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B) Overnight: Cotswolds**

Wednesday, September 9. This morning we will make a private visit to the estate of His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales at Highgrove (subject to confirmation). After lunch, we’ll visit Rodmarton Manor, a fine example of a Cotswold “Arts & Crafts” House and one of the last great country houses to be built in the traditional way. The large garden is known for its roses, herbaceous borders and its topiary. We’ll return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B) Overnight: Cotswolds**

Thursday, September 10. We begin the day by driving into 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. We continue this afternoon to Broughton Castle, the home of Lord and Lady Sele, where we’ll enjoy a private tour of the house and garden. We’ll return to our hotel for dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Cotswolds**



Friday, September 11. On leaving the Cotswolds for London, we’ll stop on the way at 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, we’ll tour the garden’s highlights and have free time to browse the Wisley store. Upon our arrival in London, the evening is free —why not take in a show in London’s famous West End, or sample a wonderful local restaurant? **(B) Overnight: London**

Saturday, September 12. A completely free day to explore London. As Dr.Samuel Johnson said, “The man who is tired of London is tired of life, for in London there is all that life can afford!” Explore the galleries and museums of the city, enjoy shopping along Oxford Street, or join the crowds in the markets of Portobello Road or Camden Lock. Why not pay a visit in the afternoon to the half-price ticket booth in Leicester Square and see what is available at the theater this evening? This evening you are also free to dine at one of the city’s many fine restaurants. **(B) Overnight: London**

Sunday, September 13. 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. We’ll return to London for a farewell dinner at the hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: London**



Monday, September 14. Morning transfer to London Heathrow Airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B)**

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



Registration Form

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please type or print.
2. Make checks payable to DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
3. Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy contained on the reverse before signing.
4. Complete both sides of this form.
5. Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe, 95 Adams St, Keene, NH 03431, with your deposit of \$500 per person. Keep the top section for your records.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Passenger Details:

- i). Name(s). Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport.
- ii). Address. If you have a different summer address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet. Use 1 form for 2 people at the same address.
- iii). Passport Details. Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.
- iv). Dietary Requirements. Please let us know if you require any special meals both for the hotels and the airlines.
- v). Health Information. It is very valuable for us to know ahead of time if you require any special assistance. Discover Europe tours are always paced for comfort, but inevitably there is also a certain amount of walking involved. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with the tour group and not cause delays. Please consult your physician if you are in any doubt as to your ability to participate fully.

2. Trip Details:

Please fill in the name of the trip you wish to register for, the departure date and your US departure airport (city).

3. Emergency Contact:

If you are an American citizen and Discover Europe is arranging your air transportation, we are required to provide the airline with an emergency contact. It has also proved very useful in the past for us to have this information.

4. Flight Information:

- a). If transatlantic flights are not already included as part of your tour package, Discover Europe will be very happy to book these for you. The fee for this service is \$25 per ticket.
- b). If you are arranging your own flights to join the tour, it is essential that Discover Europe has your complete flight information. Please make sure you give us the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked.

5. Rooming Requirements:

- Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested.
- i). If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
 - ii). A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.

1. Passenger Details:

Passenger Name(s): 1. _____

2. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____

Work/Mobile Telephone: (_____) _____

Date(s) of Birth: 1. _____ 2. _____

Passport Number: 1. _____ Expires: _____

Passport Number: 2. _____ Expires: _____

e-mail address: _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Health Information: _____

2. Trip Details:

Itinerary Name: _____

Departure Date: _____

Departure Airport or City: _____

I would like to extend my trip to: _____

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. Please be sure to complete both sides of this form.
2. Instructions for filling out this form can be found overleaf.
3. Space on a tour is usually limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
4. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
5. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
6. By registering for this tour, the applicant certifies that he or she is mentally and physically capable of full participation in this tour.
7. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.
8. Discover Europe also reserves the right, without penalty, to withdraw a tour, to decline to accept any person as a participant in a tour, or to require a participant to withdraw from a tour at any time, when such action is determined by tour staff to be in the best interests of the health, safety or general welfare of the tour group or the individual participant, subject only to the requirement that the recoverable portion of the total amount paid that corresponds to the cost of unused services, if any, be refunded.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

1. A deposit of \$500 per person must accompany the completed form.
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to trip departure.

TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS:

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change - in fact we have not had to invoke this clause in the contract in 14 years of operation. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the year prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. Discover Europe tours are generally based on a group size between 5 and 15 participants, custom-designed or sponsored tour sizes can vary (see your trip organizer for details). Should we end up with less than the minimum number, you will be given the option of cancelling with full refund, paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

REFUND POLICY:

1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 per person cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw less than 90 days prior to the day of departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
 - 90 - 61 days prior to departure: \$1000 per person
 - 60 - 31 days prior to departure: \$2000 per person
 - Less than 31 days prior to departure: No refund
3. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package
4. Travel insurance is NOT included in your tour package, Discover Europe Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase coverage for your upcoming trip. Information describing the services of a recommended travel insurance company will be included with your reservation confirmation package mailing.
5. All cancellation requests must be received in writing (mail or e-mail).
6. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence from the day of departure onwards (although certain situations may be covered under the trip interruption/travel delay insurance provided).

INCLUSIONS:

1. All inclusions on a particular Discover Europe tour are listed on the day-by-day itinerary.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): transportation to and from the participant's home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to tour guides and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.

3. Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____

4. Flight Information:

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights: Yes No
Flight details (if self-arranged) _____

5. Rooming Requirements:

I will be sharing with: _____

We would like a double twin-bedded room

I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

6. Permissions:

Discover Europe may use any photographs taken during the tour in promotional materials

Discover Europe may include my e-mail address on the tour passenger list

7. Signatures:

I have read and agree to the attached Terms & Conditions:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____