MARCO POLO JOURNEYS

English Gardens & The Chelsea Flower Show 2019

9 days
Limited to 18 guests

Savor the joys of spring in the quintessential English landscape as you take in a member’s-only day at the Chelsea Flower Show; stroll the gardens of HRH The Prince of Wales at Highgrove; and tour the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace.

A&K Advantages

Enjoy privileged access at every turn on this quintessentially English journey that spans exclusive estates and gardens

Stroll through the Arts and Crafts-style gardens of Sissinghurst Castle, planted by Vita Sackville-West
Spend an afternoon at Hidcote Manor, one of England’s greatest gardens
Visit the gardens of The HRH and The Prince of Wales at Highgrove
Embark on a special tour and talk at Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill
Attend a members-only day at the Royal Horticultural Society’s world famous Chelsea Flower Show
Itinerary

DAY 1 ARRIVE LONDON, ENGLAND
Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to your luxury hotel surrounded by gardens. Enjoy a private welcome dinner with your fellow guests at this historic manor house.

South Lodge | Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 STORRINGTON | PARHAM HOUSE
Journey to Storrington for a private tour of the 16th-century Parham House and its landscaped Pleasure Grounds. Stroll Veronica’s Maze and The Walled Garden, learning how they are organically maintained. After lunch at Parham House, visit magnificent and historic Arundel Castle.

South Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 SISSINGHURST & GREAT DIXTER | ARTS & CRAFTS GEMS
Today, enjoy a private tour of the late Christopher Lloyd’s garden at Great Dixter, conducted before opening hours. Built in the Arts and Crafts style, note how it mingles vegetables and flowers, a large orchard with pockets of wild flowers and a magnificent herbaceous border. Later, drive to Sissinghurst Castle and stroll its garden. Learn how Harold Nicolson, a diplomat and author, laid down its main lines, while his wife, Vita Sackville-West, a poet and garden writer, handled the planting. View the influential White Garden, which exemplifies Gertrude Jekyll’s idea of using color themes.

South Lodge | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 HAMPSHIRE | WEST GREEN HOUSE
Drive north to the quaint and charming Cotswolds area, pausing in a wooded corner of North Hampshire for a visit to the gardens of West Green House. Learn how acclaimed designer Marylyn Abbott masterfully fused neo-classical and contemporary influences as you tour the grounds with the senior gardener. Afterward, enjoy lunch with West Green House’s owner. Later, toast your day with a Scenic Sundowner before dining at your hotel.

Dormy House | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5 THE COTSWOLDS | KIFTSGATE & HIDCOTE MANOR
Enjoy a private visit to Kiftsgate Court Gardens and stroll the harmonious, color-schemed upper gardens. Continue to nearby Hidcote Manor — one of England’s greatest gardens and a real Arts and Crafts masterpiece — for a guided tour through a series of unique outdoor “rooms.” Nestled in the Cotswolds, a range of hills known for their beauty, the garden offers stunning panoramas across the Vale of Evesham. Afterward, drive to the lovely town of Chipping Campden to visit its attractive High Street, Jacobean Market Hall and impressive Church of St. James.

Dormy House | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 THE COTSWOLDS | ELEGANT COUNTRY HOUSE & GARDEN LANDSCAPE
Visit the delightful Abbey House gardens, once the site of the abbot’s garden located beside the medieval Malmesbury abbey. The owner greets you and hosts a privately guided tour of the estate. After lunch on the grounds, enjoy a private visit to Badminton, country home of the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort. Tour the house and gardens, pausing to enjoy a traditional cream tea.

Dormy House | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7 BLENHEIM PALACE | BIRTHPLACE OF SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL
Drive to Blenheim Palace, a magnificent edifice set in 2,100 acres of beautiful parkland landscaped by Lancelot “Capability” Brown. Enjoy a special talk and tour focused on the life of Sir Winston Churchill, who was born here in 1874. Examine the breadth of his talent and achievement, from bricklayer to the “Greatest Briton.” After lunch, continue to London.

The Milestone Hotel | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8 THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW | A WORLD OF INSPIRATION
Attend the world-renowned Chelsea Flower Show on an exclusive, members-only day. Enjoy a four-course luncheon and an open bar, as well as morning and afternoon tea, in an exclusive Royal Horticultural Society hospitality area. Walk countless exhibits showcasing the finest examples of English gardening and some of the most avant-garde show-garden designs in the world. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon, gathering in the evening for a farewell dinner.

The Milestone Hotel | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9 DEPART LONDON
After breakfast, transfer to the airport and depart.
Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

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Reserve your 2020 preferred date now with a fully refundable deposit. You will have seven days after the final 2020 itinerary and pricing is published to confirm your reservation.

Journey Details

Minimum age is 10 years.
First group event: welcome briefing at 6:30 p.m. on Day 1.
Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:30 p.m. on Day 8.
Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).