

**Visit the Picturesque Gardens of the United Kingdom  
During Our Sesquicentennial Year**

**May 16 – 24, 2009**



---

**Saturday, May 16**

Depart from the U. S.

**Day 1 -- Sunday, May 17**

**Welcome to London!**

Upon arrival at London's Heathrow Airport, meet a noteworthy specialist guide in the Arrivals Hall. The guide will accompany the group throughout the trip.

From the airport, board a luxury motor coach and ride into Central London to the Rubens Hotel. A welcome packet will be at the hotel with a detailed itinerary and general information about London.

In the afternoon, visit Henry Shaw's school. Mill Hill was located on the site of Ridgeway House. This was the home of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Quaker, Peter Collinson, whose interest in botany was evident when one saw his garden or the collection of stately trees that adorned his estate. The environment proved to be an ideal place to nurture Henry Shaw's interest in flora and the science of nature.



## Day 1 -- Sunday, May 17 (cont.)

After the tour, return to the Rubens Hotel via motor coach. Join our hosts for drinks and hors d'oeuvres at a welcome cocktail reception in the hotel.

~

### *The Rubens Hotel*

The original building was first constructed in 1911, built as a residence to house debutants attending parties at the Palace. There was a ballroom in the original building on the first floor that hosted a ball every week. During the Second World War, it was used as the headquarters of the Free State Polish Army with General Sikorski, Poland's Prime Minister, and Commander in Chief of the Polish Army. President Charles de Gaulle stayed here once during the war. The building is therefore seen as being historically significant.



~

## Day 2 -- Monday, May 18

Breakfast is included at the hotel.



Today's itinerary is devoted exclusively to visiting the famous **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**, the most complete public gardens in the world. Kew's reputation was first established by Sir Joseph Banks, the British naturalist and plant hunter, who worked here in the late 18th century. In 1841, the former royal gardens were given to the nation and now display about 40,000 different kinds of plants. Kew is also a center of scholarly research in horticulture and botany.

The Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is one of the world's largest and houses an encyclopaedic collection of over six million specimens of vascular plants and fungi from every country in the world. They maintain databases on plant names, taxonomic literature, economic botany, plants for arid lands, and on plant groups of special economic and conservation value.

Lunch will be provided at Kew.

After the visit to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, return to the Rubens Hotel. Dinner and the rest of the evening are at leisure to relax or check out the sights of London.

~

**Day 3 -- Tuesday, May 19**

Breakfast at the hotel then off to the **Chelsea Flower Show Members' Day.**

The Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show is the ultimate event in the gardening year. It sets the latest gardening trends, features the newest and most desirable gardening products and creates an explosion of colors and scents.



This tour includes admission and one-way transportation to the show. Enjoy the show and return at leisure to the hotel.

Tonight's dinner is included at a local restaurant, then off to the theatre to see one of London's popular shows. Tickets and roundtrip coach transfers are included.

~

**Day 4 -- Wednesday, May 20**

Breakfast is included at the hotel before the group departs for the Peak District. A picnic lunch will be provided en route.

This afternoon visit **Haddon Hall.**

Haddon Hall is a fortified medieval manor house dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is the home of Lord and Lady Edward Manners, whose family has owned it since 1567. Described as "the most perfect house to survive from the middle ages," the manor is surrounded by terraced Elizabethan gardens.



Arrive at Riverside House. Dinner is included at the hotel.

***Riverside House***



Ashford-in-the-Water lies in a limestone ravine of the River Wye in the Peak District National Park. It is a picture-postcard village of quaint stone-built cottages. Near the village centre stands Riverside House, an ivy-clad Georgian mansion, bounded by an acre of mature garden and river frontage. Oak panelling and inglenook fireplaces in the lounge create a sense of warmth - an ideal place to chat or curl up with a book.

## Day 5 -- Thursday, May 21

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

Visit **Chatsworth** this morning, one of Britain's most famous and welcoming historic houses. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire have opened this spectacular home in the heart of the Derbyshire Peak District, so spend a wonderful day experiencing famous works of art and browsing the beautiful farm. A fine homemade lunch in the restaurant is included.



After Chatsworth, leave the Peak District and drive south to Surrey for check-in at the Harte and Garter Hotel. Dinner is included at the hotel.

### *The Harte and Garter Hotel*



The Harte and Garter is located directly opposite Windsor Castle. With its unique combination of heritage, location and tradition, the Harte and Garter Hotel is one of a kind. It is equipped with all the modern comforts and facilities and has a character and individuality that only 400 years of history could fashion.

~

## Day 6 -- Friday, May 22

Breakfast is included at the hotel. The group then departs for Bath.

Private visit to **Bowood House** –  
Home of the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne



The first Lord Shelburne acquired Bowood Park and its unfinished house in 1754. Although it was the architect Henry Keene who dictated the character of Bowood House as it exists today, it was Robert Adam who designed the great south front, including the Orangery and the Library. Sir Charles Barry, architect of the

**Day 6 -- Friday, May 22 (cont.)**

Houses of Parliament, contributed the Clock Tower and the Italianate Tower and Golden Gates at the main entrance. The grounds of Bowood are truly superb. The scenic lake looks so natural; it's hard to believe it was created by Lancelot "Capability" Brown. It is the trees which make the grounds unique; more than 700 labeled varieties can be identified.



This morning's itinerary includes a guided tour of the Rhododendron Walk followed by a delicious lunch hosted by the owners in their Private Apartments.

From Bowood House, visit Iford Manor Gardens.

**Iford Manor Gardens**, an Italianate garden designed by the Edwardian architect Harold Peto, is set in a romantic river valley with statuary, a colonnade, terraces, and a cloister.



Afternoon tea is included at the gardens.

Dinner is included this evening at the Homewood Park Hotel.

***Homewood Park Hotel***



Homewood Park is a gracious luxury country house hotel near Bath and one of the loveliest hotels in the West Country. Guests always appreciate the warm, welcoming and relaxing atmosphere.

~

**Day 7 -- Saturday, May 23**

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

Spend the day in the **Cotswolds** area of Gloucestershire.

Start with a visit to **Hidcote Manor Gardens**, now owned by the National Trust.

Hidcote is one of England's great gardens. Designed and created by the horticulturist Major Lawrence Johnston in the Arts & Crafts style, it comprises exquisite garden rooms, each possessing its own character. Nestled in the Cotswolds, with sweeping views of the Vale of Evesham, Hidcote is an appealing garden.



Lunch at nearby **Chipping Campden** in a traditional English Pub.

After lunch, explore the Cotswold villages as you please before returning to Bath.

In the early evening, enjoy a private visit to **The American Museum in Britain**, including a reception with drinks and canapés.

**Return to the hotel for the farewell dinner.**

~

**Day 9 -- Monday, May 25**

**Departure Day**

The motor coach will transfer the group to Heathrow Airport for the return flight to the United States.

PLEASE NOTE: May 25 is a bank holiday, banks and most stores will be closed.

**BON VOYAGE!**

~

**Visit the Picturesque Gardens of the United Kingdom  
During Our Sesquicentennial Year**

**May 16 – 24, 2009**

**Cost:** \$7,898 per person, exclusive of air fare.

**Cost includes:**

- Transportation throughout the trip in luxury, 49-seat motor coach
- Standard driver gratuities
- Services of noteworthy specialist guide to accompany the group
- Meet & Greet Assistance on arrival at the airport (Heathrow)
- Welcome pack
- Welcome drinks and canapés
- Tickets to one of London's popular shows
- Membership to the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and admission ticket to Chelsea Flower Show-Members' Day on Tuesday, May 19. Membership in the RHS is required to attend the *Members'* event.
- Private visit to Bowood House, including lunch in the Private Apartments
- Private visit to The American Museum in Bath, including drinks and canapés
- Admissions when noted in trip details
- Meals noted in trip details include 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 5 dinners
- Two evening receptions as noted in trip details
- One afternoon tea as noted in trip details
- All accommodations are included and noted below:
  - 3 nights at the Rubens Hotel in London, including breakfast
  - 1 night at Riverside Hotel, Ashford in the Water, Peak District including breakfast and dinner
  - 1 night at the Harte and Garter Hotel, two breakfasts and one dinner included
  - 2 nights at the Homewood Park Hotel, breakfast and dinner included

**NOTES**

- All tours are escorted by fully qualified Blue Badge guides on deluxe motor coaches
- All arrangements are handled by Brentwood Travel
- All costs are estimated and subject to availability at time of booking

Contact Missouri Botanical Garden for additional information by phone at (314) 577-9500 or by e-mail, [karen.trigg@mobot.org](mailto:karen.trigg@mobot.org).