

**An English Lady's Garden and the Chelsea Flower Show
May 2022**

*An English Lady's Garden and Chelsea Flower Show
May 24 – May 31, 2022 (Depart US on May 23, 2022)
\$5900 per person double occupancy and single room supplement
of \$1900
Deposit required with registration - \$1500*



**Day 1
Tuesday 24 May**

On arrival at London Heathrow Airport you will be met by your guide and escort Jackie who will escort you to your luxury midi-coach for your transfer to central London.

Check-in to the Kensington Hotel.

Welcome drinks in the hotel this evening. Dinner at leisure.

Evening at leisure.

**Day 2
Wednesday 25 May**

Breakfast at the hotel this morning.

9.30 Depart for a full day in London

10 am Visit to Linley on Pimlico Road

Founded by David Linley in 1985, LINLEY has a world-renowned reputation for fusing innovative design with superlative cabinet making, creating retail and bespoke furniture, upholstery and home accessories of a superlative quality. It also has an award-winning interior design service. The former Viscount Linley is now the Earl of Snowdon and is the son of the late Anthony Armstrong Jones and Princess Margaret thus nephew to HRH Queen Elizabeth.

11 am After this visit cross the road to the new Colefax and Fowler Showrooms

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The Colefax and Fowler move to Belgravia places the firm squarely in the middle of London's fast-emerging decoration, design and antiques quarter in Pimlico Road. A change of location brings fresh inspiration and a welcome lease of life to this long established interior decorating firm with an unrivalled history of which the company remains deservedly proud.

The new Pimlico Road premises give the interior decorators the opportunity to display their talents in an entirely new context. In the large and flexibly arranged ground floor showrooms a selection of carefully chosen antiques and contemporary pieces will be for sale. Also on show will be a range of lighting, upholstery and other items that can be custom-made to order. Regular exhibitions of paintings, modern and traditional, will add to the picture of English decoration at its best.

Lunch at leisure

Afternoon Catherine Walker Fashion Experience

Enjoy an exclusive experience at one of London's top fashion houses, Catherine Walker. This very special time will begin in the atelier with the Creative Director who will take the group around his workshops, talk about each room and the work that takes place there (i.e. the paper cutting room, the beadwork room, the mannequin room etc.) until we reach his office where he will give a talk surrounded by a selection of mannequins dressed in outfits worn by Diana, Princess of Wales (from his private collection). The group will then be taken to the boutique over the road on Sydney Street to take a look at the current collection.

Overnight London Hotel

Day 3

Thursday 26 May

Attend the Chelsea Flower Show – full day

Every year, world-renowned garden designers, plant specialists, florists and nurseries come together in one of London's most charming and affluent neighbourhoods to show off cutting-edge garden designs and inspirational floral exhibits.

You can stroll past show-stopping gardens designed by famous designers, learn about rare flowers and plants, or revel in creative floral artworks throughout the week.

You can also spot emerging gardening trends as you browse the horticultural products on sale, from gardening gadgets to sculptures and plants.

Overnight London Hotel

Day 4

Friday 27 May

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Check out of your London Hotel this morning for a full day in the countryside.

Morning visit to Stonor Park near Henley-on-Thames

Arrive at Stonor Park which has been the Stonor family's residence for 850 years making it one of the oldest family homes still lived in today. The historic building and sweeping grounds are breathtaking and the family's collection of art and artefacts is extraordinary.

The walled garden at Stonor, formerly the old kitchen garden, is now converted by Lady Camoys into a pleasure garden. Divided into six plots – inspired by the 17th C painting of the house which you can see in the drawing room – you will find old fashioned roses, peonies and lavenders flanked by ancient yew trees and clipped box hedges. There is a long, mixed border along the top of the terrace with as its focal point, a Japanese garden house built by the 5th Lord Camoys after his visit to Kyoto in 1906.

Your visit to Stonor will be hosted by Lady Ailsa Stonor.

Lunch with Fiona Heyward

Today you will be joined for lunch in a local pub by Fiona Heyward. Fiona recently sold Haseley Court, Nancy Lancaster's final home and garden. The Heywards bought Haseley Court directly from Nancy in 1975. Nancy then lived in the Coach House at Haseley until her death in 1994. Fiona knew Nancy personally very well and spend many years happily curating her home and gardens, has lectured in the US about Nancy and would love to join you for an informal lunch and chat today.

Afternoon visit to Waterperry Gardens – Beatrix Havergal

The gardens date back to 1932 when Miss Beatrix Havergal opened her School of Horticulture for Ladies. The 8-acre ornamental gardens include a rose and formal knot garden, water-lily canal, riverside walk, and one of the finest purely herbaceous borders in the country.

Herbaceous nursery stock beds provide a living catalogue of plants, and there's also an alpine garden, and the National Collection of Kabschia Saxifrages. A commercial plant centre, stocked with plants grown in on-site nurseries, occupies large areas of the beautiful walled garden, and the site also boasts 5 acres of commercial orchards, producing the famous Waterperry apple juice each year.

Gardening courses are still held here throughout the year.

Overnight Cotswold Hotel – Lygon Arms Hotel

The Lygon Arms is a 16th-century coaching inn and sits in the heart of Broadway village.

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From classic to quirky, there is a variety of rooms at The Lygon Arms, with Cosy Rooms to Master Suites in both the old house and new wing.

The Lygon Bar & Grill features a vaulted ceiling and serves seasonal British dishes paired with artisan wines. There are several guests lounges for guests to unwind in after a country walk, or enjoy a selection of light snacks and afternoon teas. The Lygon Wine Bar is an eatery on the Broadway High Street, serving Italian dishes and Italian and European wines.

The spa features an indoor pool covered by a retractable roof, and guests can relax and enjoy a range of treatments.

Day 5 Saturday 28 May

Visit Coughton Court

A lovely Tudor house, home of the Throckmorton family since 1409. Coughton features a half-timbered courtyard, an impressive gatehouse, and no less than two churches. The Throckmortons were heavily involved in the Gunpowder Plot, and a compelling exhibit in the house outlines the story of the plot and its impact on the family.

The house stands in 25 acres of grounds containing some of the most breathtaking gardens in the country. After inheriting the estate in 1992, it was Clare McLaren-Throckmorton's intention, together with her daughter, the acclaimed garden designer Christina Williams, to create a garden that gives this beautiful house the setting it deserves. Created over the last 17 years, the gardens are now mature and varied and are solely managed by the Throckmorton family.

The Family Gardens are now recognised as being amongst the best in England with many wonderful elements, including the award winning Rose Labyrinth, the famous Walled Garden, two sunken gardens and Early Summer Garden, formal lawns, lake and Bog Garden, riverside walks, a formal courtyard garden, vegetable garden, orchard and fruit garden. The garden tour will be guided by the Head Gardener.

Your visit will be hosted today by Magnus Throckmorton and his wife Imogen and a light lunch will be included in the private wing of the house.

Sudeley Castle

Sudeley Castle is the only private castle in England to have a queen buried within its grounds. Visitors can explore the beautifully restored 15th century St Mary's Church where Katherine Parr, the last of Henry VIII's six wives, now lies entombed. The current owner of Sudeley is Elizabeth, Lady Ashcombe.

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Set against the stunning backdrop of the majestic castle, and surrounded by striking views of the Cotswold Hills, there are 10 magnificent, award-winning gardens which sweep around the castle and grounds.

The Tithe Barn Garden - One of the original Sudeley buildings, the Tithe Barn dates back to the 15th Century. The building was partly destroyed by Cromwell in the Civil War, but the ruins are now transformed into a romantic garden by a koi carp pond, with a spectacular view of the Castle.

The Queens' Garden is the magnificent centrepiece of Sudeley's gardens. Named after four of England's Queens –Anne Boleyn, Katherine Parr, Lady Jane Grey and Elizabeth I – the Queens' Garden is very special indeed. In Tudor times it would have been planted with herbs and possibly also vegetables, and decorative flowers. It has been redesigned many times over the years, but today it boasts more than 80 varieties of roses.

The Knot Garden is a sheltered, courtyard garden comprised of 1,200 box hedges which form an intricate geometric design, interspersed with coloured gravel. The design is based on a pattern on a dress worn by Elizabeth I in a famous portrait, The Allegory of the Tudor Succession, which hangs in Sudeley Castle.

Explore also the Secret Garden, the Ruins Garden, the White Garden, the Herb Garden, the East Garden and the Mulberry Garden!

Return for overnight at the Cotswold Hotel

Day 6 Sunday 29 May

Kiftsgate Court

Three generations of women have created the stunning private gardens at Kiftsgate Court. A nineteenth century house with a twentieth century Arts and Crafts garden. It was originally created by Heather Muir with some help/collaboration from Major Johnston of Hidcote – her next door neighbour. A woodland garden steps down the hillside to a half-moon swimming pool. Many features are typical of the Arts and Crafts period: herbaceous borders, a four-square garden, a white garden, a yellow border, a rockery, lawns and a bluebell wood.

The Kiftsgate Water Garden, called the New Garden, has with a bronze leaf sculpture by Simon Allison. The water garden was designed by the current owners Anne (granddaughter of Heather Muir) and Johnny Chambers. The inspiration for the stepping stones was from Geoffrey Jellicoe's stepping stones at Sutton Place. The composition of the New Garden is abstract modern.

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Visit Bourton House Garden, Bourton on the Hill – Monique Paice

Located in the lovely North Cotswold village of Bourton-on-the-Hill, Bourton House Garden is a hidden treasure. It is a relatively 'new' garden; having been created over a twenty-year time frame in the 80's and 90's by Monique Paice and her husband Richard but is now recognised as one of the finest gardens in the UK. Beautiful all year round, it is absolutely glorious in the summer and autumn months, when the deep herbaceous borders amaze visitors with their colour and the wide variety of unusual plants.

Surrounding a fine 18th century Manor House and Grade I listed 16th century Tithe Barn, the three acre garden features imaginative topiary including a secluded knot garden, a topiary walk and a flamboyant parterre. Spring-fed water features include a raised Basket Pond from the Great Exhibition of 1851, the Fountain courtyard and a pond in the White Garden complete with koi carp. A unique Shade House tucked away in a quiet corner provides shelter for novel shade-loving plants. The White Garden, with creative planting to engage the interest from spring to autumn, is flanked on either side by sculpted yew hedges topped with an 'ogee' arch; a repeated theme throughout the garden in hedging, trellis work and metalwork. Magnificent wide herbaceous borders lead to a raised terrace with extensive views of the rolling Cotswold countryside.

Overnight Cotswold Hotel

Day 7

Monday 30 May

Visit Kelmarsh Hall

Built for the Hanbury family in the 1730s by virtuoso architect, James Gibbs and builder, Francis Smith of Warwick, Kelmarsh Hall was praised by historian Nikolaus Pevsner as, "a perfect, extremely reticent design, done in an impeccable taste."

One other arbiter of fashion to leave her mark on the Hall was society decorator **Nancy Lancaster**. Drawn by the house's fine bone structure, her taste for combining comfort with formality set the trend for the Twentieth Century's Country House look. Her spirit still pervades the house today in the delicate terracotta colouring of the Great Hall, the exuberant Chinese wallpaper and seasonal flower arrangements.

Within the 18th century setting, the gardens that visitors see at Kelmarsh Hall today are largely inspired by **Nancy Lancaster**. She extended her interior style of shabby chic charm into the gardens and drafted in the garden designer of her day, the talented Norah Lindsay, to help. Around the Hall the landscape architect **Geoffrey Jellicoe** laid out a formal terrace.

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From the sophisticated pastels of the sunken garden through to the showier shades of the 60m long border, the garden leads you on a tour around the perimeter of a triangular walled garden. This secret heart is a relaxing space filled with traditional fruit and vegetables, cut flower beds and a restored vinery. The produce and cut flowers are sold in the Visitor Centre when available.

Visit also the very nearby gardens at Coton Manor:

Coton Manor

Originally laid out in the 1920's by the grandparents of the present owner, the garden has been developed and extended by successive generations capitalising on its natural setting, attractive views and abundant water. The 17th century manor house acts as a central focus for the garden, its walls supporting many roses and shrubs, while the surrounding terraces are populated by numerous colourful pots and containers.

Coton is owned by Susie and Ian Pasley-Tyler who inherited the 10 acre garden from Ian's parents and it's Susie who is in charge of creating and maintaining this spectacular plot. From a traditional Old Rose Garden to a stunning Woodland Walk that's carpeted with snowdrops in February and bluebells in April this is a private garden which is definitely worth visiting.

Return to your hotel for a final night dinner in a private room.

Overnight Cotswold Hotel

Day 8 Tuesday 31 May

Private transfer to London Heathrow Airport for your return flights.

Cost includes the following:

Hotel accommodation for 7 nights:

3 nights in the Kensington Hotel, London – bed and Continental Breakfast included
4 Classic Rooms for Single Use
5 Classic Rooms for Twins Use
4 Classic Kings for Twin Use

4 nights Cotswolds in the Lygon Arms Hotel, Broadway - bed and English Breakfast included
Annex Classic Rooms for twin or single occupancy

Ground services included:

- Jackie Heywood (BBG) to accompany throughout from arrival to departure

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- Luxury executive midi coach for all touring and transfers as per the itinerary
- Driver gratuities
- Welcome Drinks on the first night in London
- Full day London visiting Linley and Colefax & Fowler & Catherine Walker Fashion Experience (subject to confirmation)
- Tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show and one way coach transfer there
- Visit to Stonor – private visit hosted by Lady Ailsa
- Pub lunch with guest Fiona Heywood
- Visit to Waterperry Gardens
- Visit to Coughton Court with lunch hosted by Magnus and Imogen Throckmorton
- Visit to Sudeley Castle
- Visit to Kiftsgate Court
- Visit to Bourton House Gardens
- Visits to Coton Manor and Kelmarsh Hall
- Lunch at Kelmarsh Hall
- Final night Farewell Dinner at the Lygon Arms in a private room – three course dinner and wine

NOT included: Guide gratuities and any meals not specified

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