

England, Wales, and Chelsea Flower Show

May 12 – 22, 2025



May 11, Saturday: Depart the U.S. for London Heathrow

May 12, Sunday: Arrival at London Heathrow and transfer to the Queensberry Hotel in Bath

Upon our arrival at London Heathrow Airport, we will be met by our driver, escorts and guide for a private transfer to our hotel. Those who cannot make the included transfer will have to make separate arrangements. Your group Escort Shannon of Sterling Tours LTD will be happy to assist you with any pre- or post-night arrangements or transfers. After check-in and time to freshen up before we meet in the reception area at 6PM with Shannon, and travel companions for a Welcome Toast. Together we will make our way to a local restaurant (TBA) for our meal with wine included.

Dinner

4 Nights at Queensberry Hotel including breakfast.



May 13, Monday: Stourhead Gardens with Head Gardener - Caisson Gardens with Owners. This morning, we will be met in the lobby of our hotel by our driver to make our way to the ***Stourhead Gardens*** for our tour with a head gardener. Surrounded the elegant Georgian architecture and cobblestone streets, this hidden gem offers a retreat from the bustling city life. Stepping into its lush embrace, visitors are enveloped by the fragrance of blooming flowers and the gentle rustle of the leaves. Here, the meticulously tended flora and peaceful water features help time slow to a gentle pace, allowing you to find respite and rejuvenation.

This afternoon included a visit to *Caisson Gardens*. We will take a tour with the garden owners and curators, Amanda, and Phil Honey. Nestled in the Valley of Combe Hay just south of Bath, we will find these lovingly nurtured and beautifully restored gardens. The couple spent their careers designing gardens for film and television. Their current eclectic garden sits in the most gorgeous part of the English Countryside around a gorgeous Georgian House built in 1815. A delicious *catered lunch in the garden studio* will also be included today in the tour. ***Breakfast, Lunch***

May 14, Tuesday: Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival – Ilford Manor with Head Gardener

This morning, we will meet in the lobby of our hotel for our trip to Salisbury, a city steeped in history and charm. At its heart stands the magnificent *Salisbury Cathedral*, a towering masterpiece of medieval architecture that has stood for over eight centuries. Its soaring spire, reaching towards the heavens, is a testament to human ingenuity and faith. Beyond the cathedral's awe-inspiring presence, Salisbury enchants visitors with its quaint streets lined with timber-framed buildings, bustling market, and verdant parks. We happened to time our visit just right for the *Flower Festival!* During this period, the Cathedral is completely transformed with over 30,000 blooms! We allocate our time in a 15-minute interval between 10.00AM – 12.00PM. Each attendee is given a wristband to allow free flow. The complete show takes about 1 hour to see, but we do not restrict timings, visitors are free to linger longer or to re-enter after a break. We will have time for *lunch between Noon and 1.30PM in the Refectory at the Cathedral* before we depart and make our way back to Bath.



Our final stop will be at **Iford Manor**. Here we will enjoy a tour with Head Gardener Steven Lannin. Discover more about the architecture, history, and design of this unique garden of owner William and a more in-depth look at the gardening 'behind the scenes' with Steve, including a visit to the private walled garden and finishing up with a glass of champagne. ***Breakfast, Lunch***

May 15, Wednesday: The Hayes Garden – Newton Family Farms – The American Museum and Gardens

Early start this morning, we will be met in the lobby of our hotel by our driver for a full day of touring, starting with *The Hayes Garden*. Gardens in Bath are known for their beauty and historical significance. This one-acre garden offers herbaceous borders and formal lawns and terraces. In the informal garden of trees and long grass, one will find bulbs and meadow flowers, a formal potager and greenhouse and a small orchard with espalier apple trees. A large variety of foliage and floral such as tulips, wisteria, alliums, foxgloves, gladioli, dahlias, asters. May is a gorgeous time to visit.



After our stop for ***lunch at Newton Farms*** we will visit the American Museum and Gardens, which stands as a captivating testament to the transatlantic relationship between two nations. Set within a stately Georgian manor, the museum showcases a rich tapestry of American history and culture, from the colonial era to the present day. Outside, the enchanting gardens beckon with their colorful blooms and pathways, offering a serene retreat from the bustle of modern life. A very special dinner included this evening for our final night at our hotel at the ***Olive Tree Restaurant, a 3AA Rosette Restaurant with a Michelin Star***. Our meal this evening from Chef Chris Cleghorn and his team will include wine. ***Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner***



May 16, Thursday: Transfer to Cardiff via Veddw House Garden and Tintern Abbey



Checking out after our breakfast this morning, and meeting in the lobby of our hotel with our driver to transfer to Wales. Today's visits include ***Veddw House and Tintern Abbey***. A stop between visits for an included ***garden pub lunch*** with a beverage. The Veddw House Gardens stands as evidence of the transformative power of artistic vision and horticultural ingenuity. Conceived by acclaimed garden designers Anne Wareham and Charles Hawes, this enchanting sanctuary beckons visitors to wander through its whimsical landscapes and immersive plantings. From the intricate topiary designs to the wildflower meadows teeming with life, each corner offers a new perspective on the beauty of nature. After our tour of Veddw House, we will join our coach and escorts to make our way to a local pub for our included lunch and beverage.

Our final stop today will be at Tintern Abbey. A national icon, founded in 1131 by Cistercian monks, Tintern Abbey is still standing in its roofless splendor on the banks of the River Wye. The site from the great west front with its seven-lancet window and the soaring arches of the nave takes your breath away. ***Breakfast, Lunch***



3 Nights at Parkgate Hotel including breakfast.

May 17, Friday: National Botanic Garden of Wales



This morning, we will meet in the lobby of our hotel for today's visit to the ***National Botanic Garden of Wales***. Spanning over 560 acres, it is an expansive garden and home to a rich tapestry of plant life from diverse ecosystems worldwide. Whilst strolling you will be showcased Welsh flora, be able to explore the tropical splendor of the Great Glasshouse, and wander along serene pathways winding through native woodlands. Immerse yourself in educational exhibits and conservation efforts that celebrate the beauty and importance of botanical diversity.

A very special experience included for our lunch today. Our meal today will be prepared by **Michelin Green Star awarded Chef Matt Powell, his Partner Naomi and their team**. Their current restaurant Annwn in Narberth has gained its popularity due to its seasonal, local, and sustainable ingredients uses. The best location will be selected for our group in advance and will change with the seasons, as does our menu. More details will be included in final itineraries. Return to our hotel for the evening at leisure. **Breakfast, Lunch**

May 18, Saturday: Aberglasney Gardens and Dyffryn Gardens

Today our driver will meet us in the lobby and take us for scheduled visits to **Aberglasney Gardens and Dyffryn Gardens**. Set in the beautiful Tywi valley of Carmarthenshire, Aberglasney is one of Wales' finest gardens. At the heart of this historic site is a fully restored Elizabethan Cloister Garden, the only example that survives in the UK today. Beyond this, visitors will find more than 20 different garden styles from formal to exotic, right through to natural woodlands and meadows. After our tour with a head gardener here today, we will partake in **a Traditional Afternoon tea**, featuring a selection of fine sandwiches and delightful cakes. Regroup with our Escort and driver to continue our tour at



Dyffryn Gardens, spanning over 55 acres, showcases a harmonious blend of formal and informal designs. Adorned with vibrant flower displays, serene water features, and majestic trees. Make our way through themed gardens including Italianate Terraces and the Arboretum and enjoy the architectural splendor of Dyffryn House. This evening dinner will be hosted by the hotel with wine. **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

May 19, Sunday: Private Transfer to London via Bowood House and Gardens.

After breakfast and check out, we join our driver and make our way to London. A luncheon and tour will be included enroute at **Bowood House and Gardens**. Our Private Walled Garden Tour takes about 90 minutes. We will be accompanied to the **Stables Café for lunch and dessert** before heading into the gardens with one of Bowood's experienced garden guides. Guests are welcome to explore the grounds, which includes Bowood House and Terrace Gardens, Arboretum, Doric Temple, Cascade and Hermits Cave. We will depart at 4.30PM. From Bowood the journey to London continues to Mayfair. Here we will check into The Chesterfield Mayfair Hotel. **Breakfast, Lunch**



3 Nights Chesterfield Mayfair including breakfast.

May 20, Monday: Chelsea Flower Show & Farewell Dinner



This morning, we will meet in the lobby of our hotel with our Escort for a private transfer to the Chelsea Flower Show. Today as members of the Royal Horticultural Society we will attend the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show's, "Members only day". The grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea will be transformed with stunning horticultural displays. World-renowned garden designers, and plant specialists. Florist and nurseries come together every year to one of London's most charming and affluent neighborhoods. This evening, we will gather for a farewell toast to see off our guide and a festive farewell dinner with wine at our hotel. ***Breakfast, Dinner***

May 21, Tuesday: Free Day

Free day in London. Your escorts and guide will offer loads of suggestions for your free time. You may wish to visit the Garden Museum in London. <https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/> There are many museums, shops, and markets to enjoy at your leisure. ***Breakfast***

May 22, Wednesday: Depart. After our included breakfast and checkout our services end. Guests will make their own way to the airport by taxi or car hire. ***Breakfast***

**A note on shared rooms. Twin bedding in Europe can often consist of continental twins, meaning that the bedding is still very close together if not connected by a seam and are about the size of an American King size mattress. We would like to mention that guests take this into consideration when deciding to roommate to avoid paying the single supplement. Separate beds are requested but cannot be guaranteed. When a continental twin is provided two separate duvets are given to each guest. **

LAND COST PER GUEST:

Based on a minimum of 16 guests.

\$ 8,595.00 per person

Single Supplement: \$ 1,650.00 per person

A non-refundable deposit of \$1,000.00 per person is required to register for this tour. This deposit will be used to secure and confirm hotel space and services. See Terms and Conditions with Booking Form to register for the tour.

INCLUDES

RHS MEMBERSHIPS for the first 10 persons who sign up for the tour (one membership per household)

One Group Arrival Transfer

BATH x 4 Nights at Queensberry Hotel including breakfast.

CARDIFF x 3 Nights at Parkgate Hotel including breakfast.

LONDON x 3 Nights Chesterfield Mayfair including breakfast.

Coach services based on present itinerary within an 8h day allotted time frame.

Arrival Coach transfers the airports on Day 1 from London Heathrow Airport. Coach transfer with Escort and group to Chelsea Flower Show.

Chelsea Flower Show Tickets

7 lunches, 1 Welcome Dinner, two hotel hosted dinners, and 1 Farewell dinner (as per itinerary)

All garden entrance fees and all guiding services.

A local Blue Badge Guide Esther Peters, Head Gardeners, Curators throughout, as listed in the itinerary.

2 Sterling Tours LTD Escorts: CEO Michael Lee from Salisbury, England and Group Facilitator and Organizer, Shannon Cummins.

DOES NOT INCLUDE

AIR - Please do not book your air until you have been notified by Sterling to Proceed. If you need a separate transfer, please advise when paying your final payment for the tour. Air schedules are due at the time final payment is request 90 days from the departure date. Please note you depart the states on the 11th of May.

Travel Insurance

Final Transfer – Guests will Uber or Taxi - Sterling Tours can assist with Pre or Post nights and added transfers.