

11 Days/10 Nights  
Departs Daily



GARDENS OF ENGLAND (SELF-DRIVE)  
LONDON - COTSWOLDS - LAKE DISTRICT - YORK - LONDON

England is truly a nation of garden lovers with more English gardens open to the public than anywhere else in the world. For many keen gardeners, a visit to an English garden is one of the highlights of any trip to the UK. This garden-filled tour is perfect for gardeners and as well as those who just enjoy viewing them. You will visit two of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Gardens, Garden Wisley and Garden Harlow Carr, plus elegant Kew Gardens, the Blenheim and Kensington Palace gardens. Your package includes non-stop flights on Delta, and your Oyster Card makes it easy to visit some of London's famous landmarks. In addition to the stunning gardens, you will enjoy full days exploring beautiful countryside, historic towns and some of the picturesque villages of England; all at your own pace.

ACCOMMODATIONS

2 Nights London | 2 Nights Cotswolds | 2 Nights Lake District  
2 Nights York | 2 Nights London

INCLUSIONS

- London Oyster Card (Transportation Pass) - 20 GBP Value
  - Entrance to RHS Garden Wisley with Private Guided Garden Tour - Afternoon
  - Ullswater Lake Cruise with Prosecco - 2.5 Hours
  - Entrance to RHS Garden Harlow Carr with Private Guided Garden Tour - Morning
  - Private Arrival and Departure Transfer
- Entrance to Kew Gardens
  - Entrance to Blenheim Palace, Park + Gardens
  - Lowther Castle and Gardens Entrance Fee
  - Entrance to Kensington Palace
  - Daily Breakfast



Experience London, one of the multicultural capitals of Europe and the most visited city in the world! English art, culture and cuisine all have a distinct British quality and style. Visit the houses of Parliament, "Big Ben" clock tower, and Buckingham Palace, home of Queen Elizabeth II. Take a cruise on the river Thames or ride on the Big Red Double Decker Bus or travel underground on the "Tube" (metro). Explore one of the many free-entry museums or go to the theater to see a show. Observe spectacular views of the city from the London Eye, Ferris wheel or the observation deck of The Shard, a 95-story glass skyscraper. Try a foodie tour to London's local markets, pubs, breweries and distilleries. Avanti can also arrange full-day tours into the English countryside to Bath, Stonehenge, or Windsor castle.

Day 1 ARRIVE LONDON:

Meet your driver in the arrival hall for your private transfer to a centrally located hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. With the use of your Oyster Card for Tube and Bus transportation and the Tripbuilder Guidebook, you will be able to explore the city on your own to see some of the famous landmarks like the Tower of London, The Eye, British Museum, The Shard, or just perusing through neighborhoods like Soho and bohemian Notting Hill.





### Executive Private Transfer - Heathrow Airport to London Hotel

*Duration:* 40 mins



### London - St Ermins Hotel - Standard

**2 Nights** ★★★★★

*Style:* Elegant *Location:* Westminster

*Nearby Attractions:* Parliament, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, St James Park, Churchill War Rooms

St. Ermin`s Hotel is a beautifully restored Edwardian building, located in central London and close to the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, and Buckingham Palace. The St. James`s Park Underground station and Victoria railway station are only a few minutes away, and a quick ride will take you to the majority of London`s major tourist attractions.



### London Oyster Card (Transportation Pass) - 20 GBP Value

*Duration:* Varies by usage *Category:* Tour Type: City Passes and Metro Cards

The London Oyster Card is London's travel smartcard - an electronic, pay-as-you-go card that avoids the need for paper tickets. It is valid for travel on all zones of the London Underground (the Tube), London Overground, bus, tram, DLR, and some National Rail services. It can be used as soon as you arrive in London and has no expiration date.

## Day 2 LONDON:

After breakfast use your Oyster Card to arrive at the Kew Gardens Station and explore the world's most famous garden. Kew Gardens provides a unique day out with four cafes and restaurants, a serene lake and waterlily ponds. Delve into a rain forest, stroll a soaring walkway amidst tree canopies and see the first galleries in the world dedicated solely to botanical art. Extensive gardens under glass reach up to 80 degrees Fahrenheit guaranteeing year-round warmth. Travel through ten climatic zones in the Princess of Wales Conservatory and be amazed by giant lily pads in the Waterlily House. Step inside Kew Palace and explore a beautiful royal retreat comprising princesses' bedrooms, an intimate dining room and the newly restored Georgian Royal Kitchens. Your ticket includes entry to all buildings and attractions within the Gardens including the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art and the iconic glasshouses. After your tour, you can return to your hotel or explore more of London independently. *(Breakfast)*



### Entrance to Kew Gardens

*Duration:* Flexible/Self-Guided *Category:* Eco/Nature, Family Friendly, Romantic *Tour Type:* Entrance Tickets

Explore the world's most famous garden. Delve into a rainforest, stroll a soaring walkway amid tree canopies, and see the first galleries in the world dedicated solely to botanical art.

## Day 3 LONDON TO COTSWOLDS:

After breakfast and checking out of your hotel pick up your rental car for a short drive to Woking in nearby Surrey. Here, you will have a private garden tour of the RHS Garden Wisley. Full of inspiration, with over 30,000 plant varieties, 200 acres and countless different styles, the gardens at the RHS Garden Wisley are a delight throughout the year. Allow at least 90 minutes to explore the garden highlights, including the Rock Garden, with a history dating over 100 years, the Glasshouse opened in 2007 by HRH Queen Elizabeth II, The Rose Garden, Cottage Gardens and stunning Mixed Borders to name a few. You will also receive a lunch voucher that can be redeemed at any of the restaurants and cafes (Up to 20 GBP). After lunch, take the pleasant 2-hour ride to the Cotswolds. Home to some of the most unspoiled historic and famous towns and villages in England, the Cotswolds are also blessed with an abundance of celebrated gardens. After checking into your hotel in one of the nearby towns, you can relax or explore on your own. *(Breakfast)*



### Entrance to RHS Garden Wisley with Private Guided Garden Tour - Afternoon

*Duration:* Flexible/Self-Guided (allow at least 90 minutes) *Category:* Eco/Nature, Family Friendly *Tour Type:* Walking Tour, Entrance Tickets

Full of inspiration, with over 30,000 plant varieties, 200 acres, and countless different styles, the gardens at RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Garden Wisley are a delight throughout the year.





# COTSWOLDS

The Cotswolds, officially designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, are a range of hills that run through southwestern England and attract visitors from all around the world with gorgeous rural landscapes. The wool trade made this region prosperous during the Middle Ages, and much of this wealth was put into the construction of churches. These impressive sanctuaries are built with honey-colored Cotswold Stone and are so numerous that you can't go a mile without seeing one. The visual charm of this region has attracted wealthy Londoners for decades, and the area remains affluent. The Cotswolds are particularly well known for the historic gardens, pubs, inns and farmers markets that are tucked away in their picturesque towns. The towns here also have a long history of hospitality, since being adopted by Londoners as an upscale vacation spot, and they offer many high quality hotels and bed & breakfasts.

## Day 3 COTSWOLDS:



### Woodstock - The Bear Hotel - Standard 2 Nights ★★ ★★

*Style:* Traditional *Location:* 20 minutes drive from Oxford

*Nearby Attractions:* Blenheim Palace, Wyckliffe Hall, University of Oxford

Macdonald Bear Hotel is one of the finest 4-star hotels in Oxfordshire and offers a beautiful slice of luxury in the heart of the countryside. Set in Woodstock, in what was once a 13th century coaching inn, our hotel combines history and culture with exceptional facilities. Roam the historic city of Oxford and marvel in the dreaming spires or linger in the city's many shops and museums. Once you've finished exploring - we recommend a visit to our award-winning restaurant and bar for the finest of fares and a well-deserved nightcap.

## Day 4 COTSWOLDS:

After breakfast, you will take the short drive to Blenheim Palace; a World Heritage Site and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. The Formal Gardens surround the palace, and they include the majestic Water Terraces, the Duke's Private Italian Garden, the tranquil Secret Garden with all of its hidden treasures, the new Churchill Memorial Garden and the beautifully delicate Rose Garden. Look for statues and art as you explore the gardens, including temporary visiting pieces and permanent fixtures including 'Untitled' by German artist Georg Baselitz. You can take the Miniature Train from the Palace and discover the colorful Butterfly House; home to a range of butterfly species from countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines, as well as several zebra finches. After viewing the grounds, you can return to your hotel, or opt to visit historic Oxford, only a 25-minute journey from the palace.

*(Breakfast)*



### Entrance to Blenheim Palace, Park + Gardens

*Duration:* Flexible/Self-Guided *Category:* Eco/Nature *Tour Type:* Entrance Tickets

With more than 300 years of history to discover, Blenheim Palace offers visitors an immersive and fascinating experience. Tour the palace and grounds of this iconic location, which was built by the nation to honor one of its heroes - John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, and is also closely associated with Sir Winston Churchill.

## Day 5 COTSWOLDS TO LAKE DISTRICT:

After breakfast enjoy a leisurely ride through the countryside to the serene Lake District. After checking into your hotel, in the afternoon you will have the pleasure of a relaxing Ullswater Lake Cruise. Ullswater Steamers is an award winning environmentally accredited Lake District attraction celebrating over 150 years of operating cruises on England's most beautiful lake. The cruise runs a serpentine course for eight miles through expansive vistas of Lakeland's highest mountains offering visitors an experience they will never forget The cruise will be approximately 2 and 1/2 hours and will include a bottle of prosecco per two passengers.

*(Breakfast)*



As UK's favorite national park, the lake district welcomes millions of people every year, looking to enjoy a peaceful summer. These lands of great scenery have stolen the hearts of many, including many Romantic writers that felt the need to tell the world about the natural beauty they've experienced. Walk into the footsteps of William Wordsworth, learn about his life and work while visiting his homes in the Lake district. Start with the peaceful Royal Mount, his most beloved of homes where he spent the most time. Continue to Dove Cottage before the last stop where him and his beloved wife Mary lay to rest. Keep wondering through the fields and around Grasmere lake and you will catch a glimpse of what fed his epic soul to create such works.

### Day 5 LAKE DISTRICT:



#### Grasmere - Macdonald Swan Hotel - Standard 2 Nights ★★ ★

*Style:* Traditional *Location:* Grasmere  
*Nearby Attractions:* Lake Windermere, Scafell Pike, World of Beatrix Potter, Hill Top, Coniston Water  
Mentioned by Wordsworth in his poem The Waggoner, The Swan is tucked beneath the dramatic fells surrounding timeless Grasmere village in the Lake District. Originally built in 1650 as a coaching inn, this hotel has retained much of its original charm. The rooms are comfortably decorated and offer the latest modern amenities. There are many hiking and biking paths through the hills around the hotel. Perfectly placed to welcome walkers, outdoor lovers or for catching up with friends and family, discover The Swan in one of the loveliest spots in the Lakes.

### Day 6 LAKE DISTRICT:

Today you will take a self-guided tour of the historic Lowther Castle. Built at the turn of the 19th century, the castle was a grand affair boasting a room for every day of the year. Its gardens were the envy of northern England; however, in 1957 the castle was demolished. Just the facade and outer walls remained standing and for over half a century, the place was empty and the gardens were lost to wilderness. Seventy years on from its demolition, Lowther Castle has regained its stature as one of the most intriguing visitor attractions in the country. Today you will find expansive lush lawns and wide paths, plus original garden buildings and features. In addition to beautiful mountain views from the west escarpment, the area is teeming with wildlife including red squirrels and crested newts.

(Breakfast)



#### Ullswater Lake Cruise with Prosecco - 2.5 Hours

*Duration:* 2 Hours 30 Minutes *Category:* Eco/Nature, Food And Drink *Tour Type:* Boat Tour  
Ullswater Steamers is an award-winning environmentally accredited Lake District attraction celebrating over 150 years of operating cruises on England's most beautiful lake. Operating one of the largest heritage vessel fleets in the world, this company offers visitors an experience they will never forget for 363 days a year. Cruises connect to some of the most famous and iconic walking routes in the National Park.



#### Lowther Castle and Gardens Entrance Fee

*Duration:* Flexible/Self-Guided *Category:* Family Friendly, Historical *Tour Type:* Entrance Tickets  
Lowther Castle was built at the turn of the 19th century, on the site of two previous houses. The castle was a grand affair boasting a room for every day of the year. Its gardens were the envy of the north, but in 1957 the castle was demolished. Just the facade and outer walls remained standing and for over half a century, the place was empty - home only to chickens, pigs, and the odd bat. The gardens were lost to wilderness. Lowther Castle is now one of the most intriguing visitor attractions in the country.

### Day 7 LAKE DISTRICT TO YORK:

After breakfast take a relaxing 2-hour drive to the beautifully preserved medieval city of York. After checking into your hotel, the day is at your leisure. The town is pedestrian friendly with its 13th-century walls enclosing a medieval spider's web of narrow streets. Make sure to visit "The Shambles"; a street of traditional timber-framed buildings dating back to the 14th century. At its heart lies the immense, awe-inspiring York Minster, one of the most beautiful Gothic cathedrals in the world. Take a chocolate tour at "York's Sweet Story", home to the original KitKat bar, or go trainspotting at the National Rail Museum. In the evening, a myriad of restaurants, cafes and traditional pubs await you.

(Breakfast)





York is a city that dates back to the pre-Roman era and contains some of the best preserved cathedrals and historical buildings in Europe. It is the second most visited city in England and is famous for giving its name to New York in the U.S. It ranks as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the UK and offers an amazing range of activities. York is known in England as the City of Festivals, and holds at least a dozen cultural festivals each year. Other popular attractions in the city are the Snickelways, ancient medieval alleyways that thread through the city center, and the Shambles, a narrow street with overhanging timber-framed buildings. York is a wonderful city to explore, especially with children, as something magical is always right around the corner.

Day 7 YORK:



York - Grange Hotel - Standard  
2 Nights ★★★★★

*Style:* Boutique *Location:* City Center of Historical Area  
*Nearby Attractions:* Gillygate, York Minster, National Railway Museum

A classic Grade II listed property built circa 1830 for a wealthy member of the York clergy, The Grange Hotel is one of the finest luxury hotels in York. With its excellent city center location, this award-winning boutique hotel is renowned for its relaxed and stylish ambiance, luxury accommodation, and first-class friendly service.

Day 8 YORK:

After breakfast take the short drive to the RHS Garden Harlow Carr located on the western edge of Harrogate. This must-visit garden will inspire and delight all interests with its innovative design and creative planting. Wander through the tranquil surroundings of this stunning 58-acre garden and gain ideas for your own borders. Pick up the latest tips and growing techniques in the beautiful Kitchen Garden, where raised beds, fruit trees and a forager's garden have been laid out with thoughtful design. Saunter along the lush Streamside Garden, unearth hidden treasures in the Woodland and take glorious deep breaths in the magical Scented Garden, with its focus on roses (something very sentimental to Portlandians). Other highlights include the Alpine House, the Main Borders, and the Woodland Glade. You will also receive a lunch voucher to be redeemed at Betty's Cafe and Tea Room (up to 20 GBP).

(Breakfast)



Entrance to RHS Garden Harlow Carr with Private Guided Garden Tour - Morning

*Duration:* Flexible/Self-Guided *Category:* Eco/Nature *Tour Type:* Entrance Tickets  
RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Garden Harlow Carr captures the essence of Yorkshire within a beautiful garden setting. This must-visit garden will inspire and delight all interests with its innovative design and creative planting. The garden is rich in variety and full of surprises, and it is sure to inspire all who visit it. Some of the highlights include: the Streamside, The Kitchen Garden, Alpine House, the Main Borders, and the Woodland Glade.

Day 9 YORK TO LONDON:

After a leisurely breakfast, drive back to London (approx. 4 hours) and return your rental car. After checking into your hotel, the remainder of the day is free to explore more attractions like the Sherlock Holmes Museum, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, or perhaps high tea at Fortnum & Mason.

(Breakfast)



Experience London, one of the multicultural capitals of Europe and the most visited city in the world! English art, culture and

cuisine all have a distinct British quality and style. Visit the houses of Parliament, "Big Ben" clock tower, and Buckingham Palace, home of Queen Elizabeth II. Take a cruise on the river Thames or ride on the Big Red Double Decker Bus or travel underground on the "Tube" (metro). Explore one of the many free-entry museums or go to the theater to see a show. Observe spectacular views of the city from the London Eye, Ferris wheel or the observation deck of The Shard, a 95-story glass skyscraper. Try a foodie tour to London`s local markets, pubs, breweries and distilleries. Avanti can also arrange full-day tours into the English countryside to Bath, Stonehenge, or Windsor castle.

Day 9 LONDON:



London - London Bridge Hotel - Standard  
2 Nights ★★★★★

*Style:* Contemporary *Location:* Southwark  
*Nearby Attractions:* Borough Market, London Bridge, The Shard, HMS Belfast, Southward Cathedral, London Bridge  
The London Bridge Hotel is a 4\* property that enjoys one of Londons most envied postcodes, situated by London Bridge station. It is nestled between the iconic Shard, the quirky Borough Market and the corporate Square Mile. The accommodations are air conditioned and offer contemporary style with personalized touches like an ironing board, selection of magazines, and tea and coffee making facilities. There are several dining options, on site or in room.

Day 10 LONDON:

Today you will explore the beauty and luxury of Kensington Palace; a royal residence that has been used by British sovereigns since the 17th-Century. The palace is easily accessible by either High Street Kensington or Queensway tube stations (10-15 minutes walking time). Here, you will exchange your Avanti voucher for entrance at the palace ticket office. Kensington Palace has a rich history: originally purchased by William III and Mary II, it served as the birthplace and childhood home of Queen Victoria, and is the site of Queen Anne's famous greenhouse and summer supper spot, the Orangery. To start off your exploration, you may choose to ascend the grand King's staircase, surrounded by William Kent's vivid, life-sized portrayals of George I's court. From there you can enter the Cupola Room in the King's Apartments, the most splendidly decorated room in the palace. At the center of the palace, view the Luminous Lace installation, containing nearly 12,000 Swarovski crystals. Outside the palace, experience the intimate tranquility of the Sunken Gardens. The best-known resident in recent years was Diana, Princess of Wales, who occupied apartments in the palace from 1981-1997. Included in the viewing is a selection of Princess Diana's dresses in the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection. After your tour, you can return to your hotel or explore more of the city on your own. To end your evening and your memorable stay in England, perhaps pop into one of London's many historical pubs or take in a play or musical at one of their famous theaters.  
(Breakfast)



Entrance to Kensington Palace

*Category:* Historical Site *Tour Type:* Entrance Tickets  
Explore Kensington Palace, a 17th-century royal residence easily accessible by the London Underground.

Day 11 DEPART LONDON:

After breakfast, meet your driver for your private transfer to Heathrow Airport to continue on to your next Avanti destination!  
(Breakfast)



Executive Private Transfer - London Hotel to Heathrow Airport  
*Duration:* 35 mins

*\*\* Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change*