

Y E W D E L L G A R D E N S



Southwest England Garden Tour 2010

Well you've been asking and we've been planning. Spring 2010 will provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit some of the most spectacular and storied gardens and estates of southern England on a trip guided by Yew Dell's executive director, Paul Capiello.

The 9-day tour will begin in London on March 23; timing that will allow us to enjoy the best of the late winter and early spring garden, including Himalayan magnolias and rhododendrons, the last of the hellebores, camellias, pieris and more.

The trip will begin with a special tour of the incomparable **Kew Gardens** and will wind its way through the southwestern countryside, making stops at the **Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum** – one of the most spectacular woody plant collections in the UK. The village of **Salisbury** and its iconic cathedral will offer a jumping off point for a stop at **Stonehenge**, the historic Henry Hoare landscape at **Stourhead** and a drive across the moors. Our southwestern destination will be the Cornish countryside and visits to some of the most outstanding plant collections available; **Trewithen, Glendurgan, Killerton, Caerhays** and more. We'll even spend the better part of a day at the **Eden Project**, one of the most amazing conservatory projects on the planet. We'll conclude the tour at **RHS Wisley Garden**, one of the most outstanding display gardens in the western world.

Highlights

- A small tour of about 20 participants
- Welcoming dinner and cocktails the night before the tour begins
- Twelve public and two private gardens, several including national plant collections
- Afternoon tea at Pilgrim's Croft Garden
- A stop at Stonehenge and an evening spent in the village of Salisbury, just a short walk from its spectacular medieval cathedral
- Trip package allows participants to book their own air travel to allow early visits, later stays, and use of frequent flier miles
- Hotel accommodations will be finalized after inspection

Details

Trip cost: \$3,600 single occupancy, \$3,100 double occupancy

Nonrefundable deposit of 50% of package cost required to reserve a space on the trip

Balance due 60 days prior to initiation of tour

Trip package includes:

- Land travel by 34-person motorcoach
- Ten-night hotel accommodations including VAT and breakfast at each hotel (last night at Gatwick Hilton)
- 8 lunches and 3 dinners including welcoming night dinner reception
- Admission to all gardens/sites
- Tour package including descriptions of all gardens and sites visited, tour map
- Tips for coach driver, group dinners and hotel porters

Trip package does not include:

- Air travel
- Lunches on arrival and departure dates and 7 dinners

The Gardens

Arrival in London (March 22)

Welcoming reception and dinner

Hotel: Russell Square, Bloomsbury, London

Day 1 (March 23)

Royal Botanical Garden Kew

www.kew.org

Over its 250-year history, Kew has become one of the best-known botanical gardens in the world. The institution's line-up of botanists and directors is a who's who of the world of botany, from Hooker to Darwin, Banks and Wilson. In 2003, Kew was officially inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Hotel: Russell Square, Bloomsbury, London (evenings of March 22 and 23)

Day 2 (March 24)

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

www.hilliergardens.org.uk

If there is truly one Mecca for woody plant enthusiasts, Hillier is the place. In fact, so extensive are the collections, that what was the working inventory catalog has over the years, developed

into the Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs; one of the best woody plant references available. Former curator of collections, Roy Lancaster, has become one of the world's most celebrated plantsmen and plant explorers.

Pilgrims Croft

This private garden is one of the finest gardens in Hampshire. We will enjoy this delightful garden and a typical English afternoon tea by the swimming pool. Pilgrims Croft was featured in the September, 2009 issue of *The English Garden*.

Salisbury Cathedral

<http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/>

While we won't have a formal visit to this 750-year-old cathedral, we'll be staying in the village of Salisbury so you will have an opportunity to visit on your own. In addition to being one of the finest medieval cathedrals in Britain, it is the tallest spire in the country, houses Europe's oldest working clock, and the Chapter House houses the original Magna Carta.

Hotel: The Red Lion, Salisbury

Day 3 (March 25)

Stonehenge

www.stonehenge.co.uk

What can be said about Stonehenge that hasn't been said before? We'll be driving right by this exceptional site so we couldn't bear to pass up a brief visit. Unfortunately, visitors can't walk amongst the stones anymore but it is still worth a visit in person.

Stourhead

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-stourhead/w-stourhead-garden.htm

Known simply as one of the finest landscape gardens in the world, Stourhead set the pace for the 18th-century English landscape movement. Developed by Henry Hoare II in the 1740s, the garden is dotted with classical features including the Temple of Flora, Pantheon, Temple of Apollo and gothic ruins. Visitors from this side of the pond will be surprised to see massive specimens of North American species such as sycamore, tulip poplar, giant redwood and more.

Hotel: Best Western, Tiverton

Day 4 (March 26)

Sherwood Garden

<http://quicke.co.uk/index.php?pg=garden>

For more than 35 years, Sir John Quicke has been assembling the national collection of Knaphill azaleas, and while they will be a long way from blooming during our visit, we'll be fortunate to

see his national magnolia and barberry collections. The Quicke family farm that houses the collections and gardens, sits on a piece of property that was given to the senior Richard Quicke by Henry VIII, and now represents more than 450 years of continuous farming and Quicke family ownership. Over those years, the family has developed the reputation as one of the finest cheese-making efforts in the world specializing in Westcountry Farmhouse cheddar. Special arrangements have been made for us to visit Sherwood as it will be closed to the public on the date we visit!

Knightshayes Court

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-knightshayescourt/

This Devon gem features a massive gothic manor house surrounded by exquisite gardens. While best known for its kitchen garden and floral borders, the woody framework includes extensive collections of unique woody plants. This will be an excellent time of year to study the bones of this exceptional garden.

Hotel: Hotel Bedford, Tavistock

Day 5 (March 27)

Glendurgan Garden

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-glendurgangarden.htm

Glendurgan occupies what would be for most southern US gardeners, a paradise-like site. This narrow coastal Cornish draw drops to the water and provides a unique protected valley where an incredible range of plants flourish. The gigantic laurel maze usually gets top billing but it is the spectacular collection of rare plants from the four corners of the world that are worth visiting. Magnolias, rhododendrons, camellias and more will be at their best.

Trebah

www.trebah-garden.co.uk

This 26-acre pleasure garden was originally laid out by Charles Fox in the middle 19th century and included such detailed planning as building full-sized mock-ups of trees and moving them around the property until Fox was happy with the view created. Two successive families added extensive collections of rare plants through the early 1900s when the property fell into disrepair. During WWII, the property was a major staging ground for D-Day troops (specifically, the 29th US Infantry), munitions depot, and the beach was actually completely covered in concrete to accept troop transport ships. In 1981, Tony and Eira Hibbert bought the property for their retirement only to discover the overgrown gardens. They restored the gardens and opened the property to the public in 1987.

Hotel: TBA

Day 6 (March 28)

Eden Project

<http://www.edenproject.com/our-work/index.php>

As they say on Monty Python, “and now for something completely different.” We’ll be spending much of our time in stately Victorian estates and among venerable old specimen trees. Eden will be a bit of a counterpoint. Part botanical garden, part theme park, and part educational foundation, the Eden Project includes multiple indoor biomes representing different geographic zones, extensive outdoor displays, art exhibits and more.

Hotel: same as March 27

Day 7 (March 29)

Caerhays

www.caerhays.co.uk

Caerhays Castle is nestled on the coast of the Porthluney Cove on the coast of Cornwall, and is still the home to the Williams family. Several generations of the family have been patrons of some of the most celebrated early 20th-century plant collectors who scoured the globe in search of new and unusual plants. Through the years, notable collectors such as Ernest “Chinese” Wilson and others sent seed and plants to Caerhays and as a result, some of the specimens seen here today represent the first individual plants of these species grown outside their native range. Among the collections is the British National magnolia collection, containing many species we can only dream about growing in Kentucky.

Trewithen Gardens

www.trewithengardens.co.uk

Typical of most of the best Cornish gardens, Trewithen boasts an impressive collection of camellias, magnolias and rhododendrons. But beyond these beautiful plants, the gardens offer 24 National Champion trees, including the grand poobah of them all, a 65’-tall *Magnolia campbellii* var. *mollicomata*, the largest specimen in the UK. There are also woodland walks, fern gardens Ha-Ha walls and more, with most of the significant plants having originated during the golden age of British plant collecting in the early 10th century. Trewithen, which translates to “house of trees” seems an appropriate name for this amazing garden.

Hotel: same as March 27, 28

Day 8 (March 30)

Killerton

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-killerton/

In the 1770s, famed English plantsman John Veitch created this stunning garden and plant collection for the family Acland, one of most established families in the Devon area. As one of

the country's leading plant collectors and nurserymen, Veitch had at his disposal the rarest and most exotic plants available. The result is a plant geek paradise.

Lanhydrock

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-lanhydrock

While Lanhydrock's 50-room high Victorian country house often gets top billing, its collection of rare magnolias, camellias and rhododendrons is hard to beat. Exquisite specimens of the Himalayan *Magnolia campbellii*, fully 60' tall and covered with 12" diameter blossoms, mingles with gargantuan rhododendrons and endless masses of camellias, to provide an unforgettable experience.

Hotel: Holbrook Manor, Wincanton

Day 9 (March 31)

RHS Wisley

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/WhatsOn/gardens/wisley/index.asp>

If one was looking for the best place in the western world to see and learn about excellent gardening, it would be hard to find something to outpace Wisley. The combination of beautifully crafted gardens, new plant trials, educational programs and a seemingly endless parade of horticultural technique demonstrations, come together to make this place tops. The plant centre alone is worth the trip. This flagship RHS garden is a place every gardener should visit at some point in their gardening life.

Hotel: Hilton London Gatwick Airport, London