



Tour Information



Gardens of Somerset and Dorset Gardeners World Exclusive





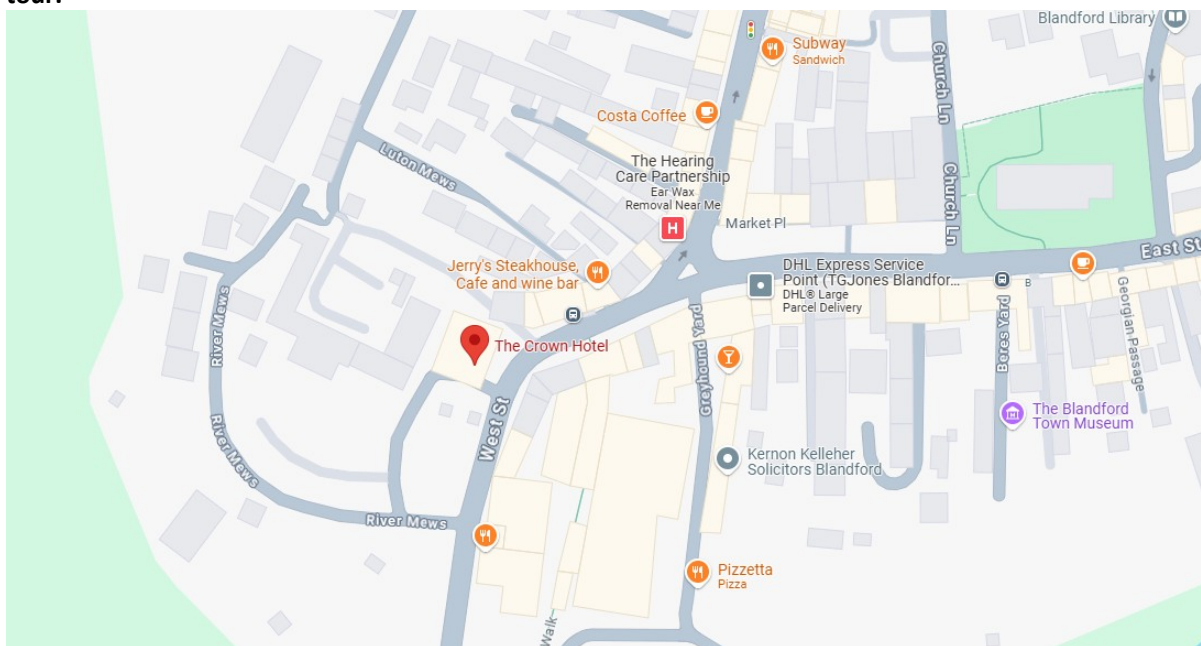
The tour commences and concludes at **Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum**

West Street,
Blandford Forum,

Dorset,
DT11 7AJ
Tel: 01258 456 626

Transport

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



If you are travelling by car

If travelling by car, the easiest route is via the A350 or A354. From either road, follow signs for Blandford Forum and join the B3082 (Milton Road), which leads directly into the town. Continue straight along the B3082 as it becomes East Street and then West Street. The Crown Hotel is located on the right-hand side in the town centre at 8 West Street.

Free on-site parking is available for guests.

If you are travelling by train: The nearest mainline train station is Salisbury 24 miles away, approximately 50 minutes by car.



Accommodation

The Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum

Situated in the heart of the historic market town of Blandford Forum, this charming three-star hotel offers a welcoming and comfortable base for exploring Dorset. Set within a Grade II listed Georgian building, the hotel features a stylish restaurant, traditional bar and lounge areas. Bedrooms are well-appointed and include all modern amenities such as ensuite bathroom, hairdryer and complimentary toiletries, smart TV, digital radio, and tea and coffee making facilities.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<https://www.crownhotelblandford.co.uk/stay>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15:00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17:00 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11:00.

Dining

A welcome reception and three-course dinner with wine are included on the first evening. On the last evening, a three-course dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast is also included on all days of your stay. Lunch is included on day 3 at The Newt. Meals other than those stated are not included.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Places Visited

Mapperton House & Gardens

Mapperton House, the ancestral home of the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, is a fine example of an English manor house steeped in history and charm. Set within the gentle hills of West Dorset, its Jacobean architecture and interiors reflect centuries of aristocratic heritage. The surrounding gardens are a true highlight, having won numerous awards for their romantic design, sweeping views, and varied plantings. Visitors are invited to enjoy a peaceful stroll through the Italianate valley garden, wild garden and fountain court, all blending seamlessly into the rural landscape.

<https://mapperton.com/>

Minterne House & Gardens

Minterne House & Gardens is a stunning historic estate, renowned for its Himalayan-style gardens featuring waterfalls, streams, and rare plants like rhododendrons and magnolias. Once home to the Churchill family, the house has a rich heritage and offers a unique setting steeped in history. Highlights include a serene lakeside walk, mature specimen trees, and a variety of seasonal blooms that provide colour and interest throughout the year.

<https://minterne.co.uk/>

Batcombe House Gardens

The gardens at Batcombe House are the vision of celebrated designer Libby Russell, who has transformed this Somerset property over the past two decades. Set against a backdrop of rolling hills, the gardens blend formal structure with informal charm, offering a rich tapestry of planting schemes and garden rooms. A guided tour with the head gardener provides insight into the evolving design and horticultural philosophy behind this enchanting space. Visitors will appreciate the layered textures and seasonal beauty that define this creative garden.

<https://www.rbge.org.uk/visit/dawyck-botanic-garden/>

The Newt

The Newt is a celebrated country estate near Bruton, known for its magnificent Georgian architecture and beautifully curated gardens. With a focus on horticultural excellence, the grounds include productive vegetable gardens, formal landscapes, wildflower meadows, and orchards, all thoughtfully designed to reflect the estate's long history. The Newt is both a working estate and a destination that celebrates the connection between landscape, food, and heritage.

<https://www.floorscastle.com/>

Careys Secret Garden

Careys Secret Garden is a fascinating restoration project located on Dorset's Isle of Purbeck. Hidden behind high brick walls and untouched for over 40 years, the garden is now being thoughtfully brought back to life with an emphasis on sustainability and biodiversity. Recent plantings include edible hedgerows, a vegetable and herb garden, and vibrant beds of flowers and roses. Adding a unique layer of history, the garden also features seven original segments of the Berlin Wall, offering an unexpected and thought-provoking contrast within the lush environment.

<https://scotlandsgardens.org/humbie-dean/>

Sculpture By The Lakes

Described as one of the most beautiful and peaceful sculpture parks in the UK, Sculpture by the Lakes is set within 26 acres of landscaped lakes and woodlands in Pallington, Dorset. The gardens feature a carefully curated collection of over 120 contemporary sculptures, seamlessly integrated into the natural surroundings. Highlights include a vibrant Kitchen Garden, a National Plant Collection of endangered

conifers, and tranquil walking paths designed to encourage contemplation and inspiration. This immersive experience brings together art, horticulture, and landscape in perfect harmony.

<https://www.sculpturebythelakes.co.uk/>

Abbotsbury

Located near the Jurassic Coast, Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens span 30 acres of lush, exotic planting. Sheltered by surrounding hills and influenced by the mild coastal climate, the garden is home to rare and tender species from around the globe. Visitors can explore sweeping lawns, a woodland valley, and seasonal highlights including camellias, rhododendrons, and a stunning Magnolia Walk. Recognised as one of the finest gardens in the UK, Abbotsbury offers both horticultural richness and panoramic coastal views.

<https://www.abbotsburygardens.co.uk/>

Forde Abbey

Forde Abbey is a magnificent former Cistercian monastery that has evolved over 900 years into a stately home rich in architectural and cultural heritage. Inside, visitors can admire antique tapestries, fine furniture, and a sense of serene grandeur. Outside, the award-winning gardens are a masterpiece of design, balancing formal elements like parterres and long borders with more relaxed woodland and water features. With the UK's highest-powered fountain and a spiral garden among its attractions, Forde Abbey offers a dynamic and inspiring visit.

<https://www.fordeabbey.co.uk/>

Your Guide

Your host, **David Hurron**, started gardening as a young child and has been growing plants for more than 40 years. He has worked in gardens and nurseries, growing on a range of different soils and in different types of microclimate. His extensive knowledge and practical experience of plants, crops and growing techniques is founded on a thorough botanical and scientific training, complemented by an in depth understanding of garden design, wildlife, geology and climatology. He also trained as a teacher and has taught a huge diversity of subjects from botany, soil science and plant identification, to propagation, garden design and crop production, and from City & Guilds through to Degree level. He is also a popular speaker with local gardening groups.

As a journalist, David has spent more than 20 years writing for and editing the nation's crop of garden magazines, currently as Associate Editor for BBC Gardeners' World Magazine. He has also written for a number of websites and appeared both as a regular contributor and an expert commentator on TV and radio. David is a popular figure in the horticultural world, well liked and respected for his knowledge by nurserymen, professional gardeners, journalists and the gardening public. He has designed, built and planted show gardens and display stands at most of the major garden shows in the UK, including the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show, and is now a Designate Judge for the Royal Horticultural Society.

He has also travelled to every continent, with the exception of Antarctica, to discover plants and gardens, both independently and on more than 50 trips accompanying groups of gardeners

Practical Information

Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

Walking Content – This tour has been graded as moderate due to time spent walking around the gardens and standing time on tours. Pathways may be gravel, paved, or grass and will be uneven in places. After rainfall some paths may be muddy and slippery. Some gardens contain steps and terraces, without handrails. There will be some places to sit at each garden to enjoy the beautiful landscapes.

Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 09:00 – 17:00), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07441 343850

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

Travel Editions Group Ltd

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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