



# Tour Information



## Gardens of the Cotswolds





The tour commences and concludes at the **Hilton Puckrup Hall Hotel, Tewkesbury.**

Puckrup Lane  
Tewkesbury  
GL20 6EL  
England  
Tel: 01684 296200

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



## Transport

### **If you are travelling by car:**

**From the M5:** Exit the M5 at J8, then join M50. Exit at J 1, signposted Malvern. At roundabout take a left and you will see the Hilton Puckrup Hall on your right. Drive down the driveway and you will see the entrance to the hotel and Golf reception.

**If you are travelling by train:** The nearest train station is Ashchurch for Tewkesbury – 8 miles away



## Accommodation

### Hilton Puckrup Hall Hotel

Set on the edge of the Cotswolds amid 140 acres of private grounds, the four-star hotel offers an indoor pool, whirlpool and the Living Well health club. All the comfortable bedrooms include TV, hairdryer and tea & coffee making facilities. Complimentary on-site parking is available at the hotel.

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

[https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bhxphhn-hilton-puckrup-hall-tewkesbury/?SEO\\_id=GMB-EMEA-HN-BHXPHHN](https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/bhxphhn-hilton-puckrup-hall-tewkesbury/?SEO_id=GMB-EMEA-HN-BHXPHHN)

### 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, 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 bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11:00.

### Dining

On the first night, a private dinner with wine is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. For the remainder of your stay, dinner will be provided in the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price and a 2-course lunch at Highgrove House Gardens, but meals other than these 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

### **Hidcote Manor**

Hidcote is an Arts and Crafts garden in the north Cotswolds, created by the talented American horticulturist, Major Lawrence Johnston its colourful and intricately designed outdoor 'rooms' are always full of surprises. Explore the maze of narrow paved pathways and discover secret gardens, magnificent vistas and plants that burst with colour. Many of the plants found growing in the garden were collected from Johnston's many plant hunting trips to faraway places. It's the perfect place if you're in need of gardening inspiration. Find a quiet spot and sit on one of the ornate benches and watch green woodpeckers search for their lunch or listen to the calls from the buzzards circling overhead. Time it right and you might catch a glimpse of the elusive hummingbird moth.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote>

### **Kiftsgate Court**

Heather Muir created the garden at Kiftsgate, which up until 1920 had consisted of a paved formal garden in front of the portico, with fields and wooded banks beyond. Heather was helped and inspired by her lifelong friend Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote Manor. She decided that the garden would develop organically, rather than planning everything on paper. This has given the garden a distinctly feminine feel, almost in direct contrast to the more masculine lines being employed by Johnston at Hidcote. During the 1930s the steep banks were tackled and the steps to the lower garden were put in place, along with the delightful summerhouse taking advantage of the views to the west. From the mid-fifties Diancy continued to add to the garden by creating the semi-circular pool in the lower garden. She also commissioned two sculptures and began to open the garden on a regular basis. The white sunk garden was also redesigned by her to incorporate a small pool and a well head fountain. Diancy was an important figure in the development of Kiftsgate by opening the garden to the public and maintaining the tradition of continuity. One of Anne Chambers finest accomplishments was the addition of the new water garden that was once the tennis court. She has continued the family tradition of seeking out new and interesting plants to complement the colour schemes which were established when the garden was originally laid out. The theory of evolution rather than revolution is the abiding theme.

<http://www.kiftsgate.co.uk>

### **Batsford Arboretum**

Batsford Arboretum is situated just a mile from the picturesque town of Moreton on the Marsh.

The Arboretum was developed by Algernon Bertram Freeman-Mitford from 1886, grandfather of the Mitford Sisters. He had travelled widely in Asia and brought a Chinese and Japanese influence to the garden which is still apparent today.

It has beautiful colours throughout the year. There are great displays of snowdrops in February, followed by daffodils and then marvellous blossoms from the Cherries and Magnolias in spring.

In summer see the bamboo groves, fine bronze statues and waterside plantings.

It all comes together in Autumn with glorious Autumn tints and great colours to take your breath away.

<http://www.batsarb.co.uk/>

## Highgrove House Gardens

The Garden, situated at King Charles's private residence, created with imagination and passion by the King over the last 38 years, the series of interlinked organic gardens reflect his deep commitment to sustainability, as well as a natural artistic ability. As an important haven for a rich variety of flora and fauna, the gardens have been developed to not only please the eye but sit in succinct harmony with nature. From the classic order of the Cottage Garden to the pastoral beauty of the Wildflower Meadow, discover these unique spaces, along with hidden curios and horticultural innovations, on a tour that offers a personal perspective of this much-admired public figure. You will be divided into two groups, each with its own dedicated, expert guide, before watching a welcome message from His Royal Highness to begin your 90-minute tour of the beautiful Highgrove Gardens, which are renowned as some of the most inspiring and innovative in the United Kingdom. After the tour you will enjoy a 2-course lunch at Highgrove House Gardens.

**Please note that photographic ID is required for all visitors to Highgrove House Gardens.**

<https://www.highgrovegardens.com>

## Bourton House Garden

Bourton House Garden is a relatively 'new' garden; having been created over a twenty year time frame in the 80's and 90's 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.

<https://bourtonhouse.com/>

## Rodmorton Manor

The 8-acre Cotswold garden in glorious Gloucestershire is interesting any month of the year but really beautiful throughout the summer months. It was designed originally as a series of outdoor rooms and is still the same today. There is a wide selection of planting that has been done over the years with superb vistas and views throughout and plenty of places to sit and admire the view.

<https://rodmorton-manor.co.uk/>

## Tour Manager

**Tony Russell** - Tony Russell has worked in horticulture for almost 40 years, including 14 years in charge of Britain's National Arboretum at Westonbirt and 10 years as plant consultant to the National Trust. During this time Tony has also presented several television and radio programmes, as well as appearing as a panellist on BBC Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time. He is the author of 20 published books on gardens, plants and trees and the editor of the annual publication **Great Gardens to Visit**. Tony is currently consulting on a large, new arboretum being created at Rahanna House in Ireland and in 2024 will be leading a number of exclusive garden and plant-based tours, both in the UK and overseas.



Tony will give the following talk on the 1<sup>st</sup> evening:

***"Cotswold Gardens"***

## 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.

**Grading** – This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.

## 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.



**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07441343850

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

Travel Editions Group Ltd

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Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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