

Gardens of Cheshire



Arranged by Travel Editions

Cholmondeley

May 2026 - 5 days from £899pp*

For a plant and garden enthusiast, Cheshire has it all: formal parks and gardens, mountain, moorland and estuary landscapes, exotic plants and arboretums – and we explore its myriad of botanical appeal on this superb tour. In the company of renowned plantsman and garden expert, Tony Russell, this tour will explore some of the most beautiful gardens in Cheshire, including the wonderful RHS garden at Bridgewater, subject of a recent BBC TV series, Ness Botanic Gardens, historic Tatton Park and the award-winning gardens at Arley Hall.



Chester



RHS Bridgewater

This holiday is operated by Travel Editions Group Travel

For further information please contact: Travel Editions Group Limited, 3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB on Tel: 020 7251 0045

*Based on 30 passengers subject to availability





Arley Hall

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 Departing your local area to Chester with en-route visit to Arley Hall and Gardens.

Morning transfer north west to the edge of Cheshire and the beautiful house and gardens at Arley Hall, one of the most interesting and charming estates in the north west of England. One of the outstanding features of Arley's award winning gardens is the double herbaceous border, believed to be the first of its kind planted in England. Other highlights include the Walled Garden, Clock Tower and Tea Cottage set in a rose garden. On arrival there will be time for lunch in the Gardener's Kitchen Café (not included) to restore you after your journey. Continue to the hotel for check in for a four night stay. Dinner at a nearby local restaurant.

Day 2 Ness Botanic Gardens, Port Sunlight Museum and Garden Village.

This morning we will visit Ness Botanic Gardens, created by a wealthy cotton merchant, Arthur Bulley, in the late 1800's. Spread over 64 acres, this all-year botanical garden has a wide range of plants and plenty of wildlife in the summer with the herbaceous borders filled with Geranium, Astrantia and Echinops. From here we will head to Port Sunlight, where there will be free time to enjoy lunch (at your own expense). The village of Port Sunlight was founded by 'Soap King' William Hesketh Lever in 1888 and was built to house his factory workers. Today it is home to a fascinating museum, beautiful architecture, and stunning parkland. On arrival there will be a guided tour of the village followed by time to explore the museum, workers cottage and soap works. Return to the hotel with dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 3 Tatton Park and Lovell Quinta Arboretum.

This morning we visit Tatton Park, one of the most complete historic estates in the UK. It is home to a medieval Old Hall, Neo Classical Mansion, 50 acres of landscaped gardens and 1000 acres of deer park. Explore the mansion and gardens at your own leisure. Take in the treasured collections inside the 18th century mansion as well as the gardens including the Japanese garden, walled kitchen garden and the historic glasshouses. Time for lunch (at own expense) before heading to Lovell Quinta Arboretum. The arboretum is home to a colourful range of around 2,500 different plants.

Following your exploration of this tranquil spot we will return to the hotel with dinner again included at a nearby local restaurant.

Day 4 Chester and Cholmondeley Castle Gardens.

It is impossible to stay in Chester and not explore its extraordinary history. Our two hour guided walking tour with a Blue Badge guide will show the highlights of an ancient city that has played host to Roman legions, Viking raiders and the Norman invasion. The city has the largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain, along with a 1000-year-old cathedral as well as its Roman and Medieval walls. Time for lunch before the penultimate visit of our tour to Cholmondeley Castle Gardens. Home to the Cholmondeley family since Norman times, with the current castle having been built in the early 19th century by the 1st Marquess. Nestled within historic parkland it is home to some 70 acres of beautiful gardens, which offer magnificent displays through the seasons and are filled with colour and botanical delights, such as the romantic Temple and Folly Water Gardens, Rose Garden, Glade, Arboretum, and the ornamental woodland upon Tower Hill. The newly created Lavinia Walk is a 100m long double herbaceous border, dedicated to Lady Lavinia Cholmondeley and continues her legacy within the heart of the garden. Return to the hotel with dinner again included at a nearby local restaurant.

Day 5 RHS Bridgewater and return to local area.

The final stop in our lovely tour of Cheshire is at RHS Bridgewater, the newest of the RHS gardens and subject of a fascinating recent TV series on BBC. There will be plenty of time to explore the stunning 11 acre restored walled garden, one of the largest Victorian walled gardens in the UK, as well as the Paradise Garden, Asiatic and Mediterranean gardens. Worsley New Hall Estate was taken on by the RHS to create the fifth RHS Garden, and has been one of the largest gardening projects in Europe to date, creating a site of some 156 acres with a lake, woodland, parkland and 11 acre walled garden and is a fitting end to this glorious tour. Time will be allowed for a leisurely lunch, too, before rejoining the coach and heading back south to Kew with arrival expected late afternoon.



Tatton Park



Tony Russell

Tour Manager

Tony Russell's career with plants and gardens began in 1978 when, soon after leaving school and completing a long distance charity walk from John O' Groats to Land's End, he joined the Forestry Commission in Snowdonia. After studying forestry and horticulture and after qualifying in 1983 he took up post as Forester for the New Forest in Hampshire. In 1989 he was appointed Head Forester of Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire, one of the finest collections of trees and shrubs in the temperate world. Tony left Westonbirt in 2003 and is now widely regarded as one of Britain's leading authorities on trees and shrubs. Over the past fifteen years he has presented many gardening, horticultural and countryside programmes for both TV and radio. He is also the author of eighteen books and the editor of the annual publication 'Great Gardens to Visit' and horticultural editor of Discover Britain's Gardens magazine.

Where you stay

Mill Hotel

The original Griffiths Corn Mill building dates from 1830 and is centrally located in the heart of Chester, on the banks of the Shropshire Union Canal. Hotel facilities include a bar, restaurant, spa, fitness centre and comfortable, stylish rooms with all modern amenities.

Included in the price

- Return coach transfers from local area to Chester and throughout the tour
- Four nights' bed and breakfast accommodation as specified
- Four dinners at local restaurants
- Full Tour itinerary as detailed and entrance fees
- Tour manager, Tony Russell, throughout

Not included

- Holiday insurance
- Double for sole use supplement
- Personal items such as meals (other than those mentioned), drinks, laundry, telephone calls etc
- Non RHS member supplement for entrance to RHS Bridgewater (payable on the spot)

