



Tour Information



Glorious Gardens of Cheshire





The tour starts and finishes at **Cottons Hotel and Spa, Knutsford**

Cottons Hotel and Spa
Manchester Road
Knutsford
WA16 0SU
Tel: 01565 650333

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



Transport

Travelling by car: From Knutsford, take the A50 towards Tatton Park and Cottons Hotel and Spa is approximately 2 miles on the left-hand side.

Travelling by train: The nearest mainline station is Knutsford.



Accommodation

Cottons Hotel and Spa

This four-star hotel is located just a mile outside the town of Knutsford and is surrounded by countryside. Facilities include bar and restaurant, swimming pool, sauna, steam room, fully equipped gym and spa with extensive treatments available at an extra cost. Each of the comfortable bedrooms include bathrooms with power shower, TV, mini-fridge, tea/coffee making facilities and complimentary Wi-fi.

For more information, additional details can be found on the website:

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

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 for a welcome drink at 18.00.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.00 – 17.30 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 11.00am.

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.

Dining

On the first night of your stay, a private three-course dinner with wine is provided. The rest of the evenings, dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. One lunch is included on the itinerary. Breakfast on each day of your stay is also included in the price.



Places Visited

Ness Botanic Gardens

Ness Botanic Gardens are located on the Wirral, with fantastic views across the River Dee to North Wales. They were originally created by Arthur Kilpin Bulley. He was passionate about plants, especially new plants being introduced to European gardens from China, Tibet and Nepal. Bulley outgrew his original garden by persuading diplomats and other travellers to send him back seeds of interesting plants. In 1898, he bought the land that makes up Ness, to build a new family home and larger garden. He went on to sponsor many plant hunting expeditions and established Bees Nursery, so he could share these new introductions with gardeners across the country. Bees became a household name through its cheap packets of seeds, sold for decades at Woolworth's. Since then, original areas like the Rock Garden have been reinvigorated as well as new areas such as the Water Gardens and Mediterranean Banks.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/>

Port Sunlight Museum and Garden Village

Port Sunlight Museum celebrates the unique heritage of the beautiful and historic industrial village of Port Sunlight - people, formal planning, architecture, and parks & gardens - from its foundation in 1888 for William Hesketh Lever's soap workers*, to life in the village today. Port Sunlight is an important tourist destination in the North West with 900 Grade II Listed buildings and declared a conservation area in 1978 and one of Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction. It is the finest surviving example of early urban planning the UK. The late 19th century village was built by William Hesketh Lever to house his soap factory workers at Lever Brothers, which eventually turned into the global giant Unilever. Lever was a philanthropist with a passion for art and architecture and Port Sunlight is an enduring testament to the achievements of this remarkable man. The sheer scale of his philanthropy was unprecedented and the whole of Port Sunlight is now a conservation area and a major visitor attraction. The village is set in 130 acres of what can only be described as beautifully-maintained parkland with a mature treescape. Lever employed over 30 different architects in the building of the village and the result is an intoxicating mix of architectural styles enhanced by the parkland setting, giving tranquil scenes of great beauty.

**Please note that the Soap works Museum is no longer open to the public. All other features of the site remain accessible.*

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

Tatton Park

For nearly 400 years the estate was the property of the Egerton family until it was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1958. This is one of the most complete historic estates open to visitors. The early 19th-century Mansion sits amid a landscaped deer Park and is opulently decorated, providing a fine setting for the Egerton family's extensive collections. The theme of Victorian grandeur extends into the garden with its glasshouses, formal gardens, Italian and Japanese gardens. The former Head Gardener's Cottage has been transformed into a beautiful tearoom, serving traditional afternoon tea as well as breakfast, light lunch and freshly baked cakes. Nestled in a unique location in the Victorian Walled gardens with views of the orchards, it's the perfect spot for a relaxing lunch.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tatton-park>

Lovell Quinta Arboretum

Lovell Quinta Arboretum is nestled in the heart of the Cheshire countryside in the picturesque village of Swettenham. The arboretum was the lifelong project of Sir Bernard Lovell, founder of the Jodrell Bank

Radio Telescope, who developed the site from open grassland in 1948. Now owned and managed by the Tatton Garden Society, the Arboretum extends to about 16 ha and features over 800 species and 2500 trees and shrubs, including two National Collections and a collection of endangered conifers. There is also 12.5 acres of wild wood owned by Cheshire Wildlife Trust and meadows filled with wild flowers.

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

Chester

Chester is a cathedral city located on the River Dee, close to the English-Welsh border. It was founded in 79 AD as a Roman fort with the name Deva Victrix during the reign of Emperor Vespasian. One of the main army camps in Roman Britain, Deva later became a major civilian settlement. In 689, King Ethelred of Mercia founded the Minster Church of West Mercia, which later became Chester's first cathedral, and the Angles extended and strengthened the walls to protect the city against the Danes. Chester was one of the last cities in England to fall to the Normans, and William the Conqueror ordered the construction of a castle to dominate the town and the nearby Welsh border. Chester was granted city status in 1541.

The city walls of Chester are some of the best-preserved in the country and have Grade II listed status. It has a number of medieval buildings, but many of the black-and-white buildings within the city centre are Victorian restorations, originating from the Black-and-white Revival movement.

<https://www.visitcheshire.com/chester>

Dorothy Clive Gardens

The Dorothy Clive Gardens were initially created by Colonel Harry Clive who in 1940 decided to design an area to provide his ailing wife, Dorothy, with a series of interesting walks as she battled Parkinson's disease. Unfortunately, Dorothy died in 1942 but Colonel Clive continued work through the 1940s and 1950s to finish the gardens. In 1958 Colonel Clive passed across the management of the gardens to The Willoughbridge Garden Trust Charity who still manage and run the gardens today. The garden is intimate, informal and inspiring and located in the woodland quarter of Staffordshire and on the Cheshire border. There are many areas of diverse interest within the 12 acres of the garden with a winter garden, an edible woodland, a woodland quarry with waterfall, an alpine scree and pool, rose walk and amazing seasonal borders. The garden also has several notable collections of plants including rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, sarcococca and hydrangeas.

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

RHS Bridgewater

Reviving the gardens of the historic 156-acre Worsley New Hall estate to create RHS Garden Bridgewater represents one of the largest gardening projects in Europe at this time. Full planning permission was granted in June 2017, opening the doors to an exciting programme of development with the first phase of the garden opening to the public approximately three years later. Highlights of the garden include the restoration of the Walled Kitchen Garden, the recreation and development of historic features such as the tree-lined Garden Approach, and a reworking of the Lost Terraces, which sit between the lake and the former site of Worsley New Hall. Leading landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith was appointed to create the overall master plan for the garden.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater>

Arley Hall Gardens

The Arley Estate dates from at least the 12th century and the park was designed by William Emes in the second half of the eighteenth century. The present Arley Hall garden dates from 1840. A plan drawn by its then owners in 1846 shows the gardens much as they are today. This is the evidence for the claim that the double herbaceous border (c1851) is one of the oldest in England. The walled kitchen garden has been skilfully transformed into an Arts & Crafts garden.

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

Your Guide

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.



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, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment, and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

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.



Emergencies

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 07831 133079

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

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