

Gardens of Somerset



Arranged by Travel Editions

Lytes Cary

June 2024 - 5 days from *£895pp

Our tailor-made tour of Somerset is designed to give you a full taste of Somerset garden life, with great food and inspiring talks from leading gardeners. We'll be based in the heart of Wells, England's smallest and, arguably, prettiest cathedral city at the characterful Swan Hotel (or similar). Led by inspirational plantsman and garden expert Tony Russell our itinerary includes a private dinner at Hestercombe, a creation of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens as well as the new and inspiring garden at the exclusive Newt Hotel, where we will also enjoy lunch.



Lytes Cary



Bishop's Palace, Wells

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 40 passengers





Day by day itinerary

Day 1

Iford Manor Gardens and Wells

Morning transfer to the edge of the Cotswolds for an en-route visit to Iford Manor. The peaceful, Grade 1 registered gardens at Iford are unlike any other, combining formality with nature and magnificent rural views across an unspoilt valley, with architectural gems and antiquities throughout. The design was largely created by Harold Peto who lived here from 1899-1933 and it has been restored, maintained, and developed by the Cartwright-Hignett family. Here you will be met by the owner, who will take you on a tour of the garden before an included lunch starts our tour off on a convivial note. This afternoon offers more time to explore the gardens independently before continuing to Wells to check in to the Swan (or similar) for a 4-night stay. Dinner at the hotel this evening.

Day 2

Wells and Hestercombe

This morning we will visit the beautiful gardens of the Bishop's Palace in Wells, England's smallest cathedral city. The rest of the day is free to explore the delights of Wells before we journey to the magical gardens, designed by Gertude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens, and house at Hestercombe, where there will be time to explore the magnificent gardens, including a guided tour before enjoying a welcome reception and three-course dinner with wine.

Day 3

Batcombe House and The Newt

This morning, we head to Batcombe House for a guided tour with the head gardener of the wonderful gardens created by garden designer, Libby Russell over the past two decades. From here, we will travel to the renowned Newt, a fabulous Georgian estate with a luxurious hotel and exquisite grounds and gardens, both decorative and functional in providing vegetables for the hotel's restaurant and garden café, where we will enjoy lunch and a talk from the head gardener before visiting the gardens and garden museum. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 4

Tintinhull Gardens and Yeo Valley Farm Gardens

Our first visit of the day is to the National Trust's Tintinhull Gardens, with delightful formal gardens as well as a working kitchen garden and orchard. The afternoon takes us to Yeo Valley's organic gardens, which cover an area of some 6.5 acres with a vast array of edible plants. A household name through their dairy products available on all supermarket shelves, the gardens here are a true inspiration. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 5

East Lambrook Manor and Lytes Cary

Time for two last garden visits before returning to Kew, first to East Lambrook Manor to see visit Margery Fish's iconic cottage garden, where an introductory talk from owner Mike Werkmeister or head gardener, Mark Stainer, will set the scene about the garden, its history and creator, Marjory Fish. Then we travel the short distance to the National Trust's gardens at Lytes Cary where there will be time for lunch and a leisurely visit of the intimate manor house with Arts and Crafts-style garden.

Tour Manager

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.



Where you stay

Swan Hotel, Wells (or similar)

Overlooking Wells' beautiful cathedral from its delightful terrace, the Swan is a great place to stay as well as being in the ideal location for the stunning array of gardens featured in our itinerary.

Facilities at this traditional, stylish three star hotel include gin bar, lounge, restaurant, outside terrace, gym and comfortable bedrooms with all modern amenities.



Included in the price

- Four nights' bed and breakfast at the three-star Swan Hotel, Wells (or similar), based on shared occupancy of a standard twin/double room
- Three dinners at the hotel
- Two lunches, at Iford Manor and the Newt Garden Café
- Private visit, guided tour, welcome reception and dinner with wine at Hestercombe
- All talks, guided tours and admissions with welcome talks as detailed
- Coach touring itinerary throughout
- Tour manager, Tony Russell throughout

Not included in the price

- Single room supplement
- Insurance



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