and Great Gardens of Southern England  

HOSTED BY  
TIM JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN OF SMITH COLLEGE &  
P Paul Deitz (’59), EDITOR OF THE HUDSON REVIEW  

MAY 20TH - 28TH 2019

Nowhere in the world is the passion for horticulture expressed more vividly than in Britain, where gardens have served as inspiration for painters, writers, and poets for centuries. From great country estates to miniscule inner-city gardens, the British use their exceptionally long growing season to fullest advantage, and we’ve timed our visit accordingly.

This is your invitation to see some of England’s most famous gardens at a time of year when color runs rampant. Among the most notable will be the Royal Horticultural Society’s flagship garden at Wisley and Hidcote Manor. We’ll tour Barnsley House with the head gardener and then, Royal schedules permitting, we’ll take a private tour of Prince Charles’ estate at Highgrove.

In London, our tour includes membership in the RHS so that we can attend Chelsea on members-only day, when the crowds are slightly smaller than on the public days, and a visit to Kew to meet with Smith College interns.

This spring, join fellow Smith family and friends for a stroll through The Chelsea Flower Show. At a relaxed pace, with wonderful meals, first-class hotels, and a panorama of magnificent blooms unfolding before us, it’s a quintessential celebration of springtime.

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): $3980  
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: $1190

Airfares are available from many US cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS: 7 nights’ accommodation in first-class hotels with all taxes and service charges included  
COACHING: All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary  
MEALS: Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 4 dinners  
GUIDES: Lectures by Smith College hosts. Local guides at Barnsley House, Wisley and Highgrove. Discover Europe tour guide throughout

EXPENSES: Porterage of one large suitcase per person  
ENTRANCES: Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary  
EXTRAS: Membership in the Royal Horticultural Society

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.
Monday May 20th - Evening departure from your chosen U.S. gateway city. Overnight: Plane

Tuesday May 21st - Upon arrival at London’s Heathrow Airport, you will be met and transported to our hotel in central London. Depending upon your arrival time, you may not be able to check straight in to your hotel room and your tour guide will be there to make suggestions for lunch and local places to visit. After checking in, there will be time to unpack and relax before we gather this evening for a welcome dinner at the hotel. (B, D) Overnight: London

Wednesday May 22nd - Today we spend a full day at Britain’s most famous spring garden event, the Chelsea Flower Show, where our membership in the Royal Horticultural Society allows us to attend on members-only day. The show gardens, each an exquisite jewel of design and execution, are designed by the finest international horticulturists. Spend as much time as you choose among the inspiring exhibits and make your way back to the hotel in your own time. When you’re done, perhaps wander next door to visit the Chelsea Physic Garden – the oldest botanical garden in London, founded in 1673. The evening is free. (B) Overnight: London

Thursday May 23rd - This morning we visit Kew Gardens in the London suburb of Richmond. Kew Gardens runs an internship program with Smith College and we’ll have a private tour, meet with the interns, and, possibly, have a special lecture (subject to final confirmation). After lunch at Kew, we continue to the Cotswold Hills and our hotel, where dinner awaits. (B, D) Overnight: Cotswolds

Friday May 24th - We’ll spend the morning at Rosemary Verey’s personal garden at Barnsley House. We’ll have a tour with the head gardener before enjoying lunch in the appropriately named, Village Pub. After lunch, we drive to nearby Tetbury, the home of Highgrove, HRH Prince Charles’ private estate, where we’ll enjoy a private tour (subject to availability). From here we return to our hotel for a free evening. (B, L) Overnight: Cotswolds

Saturday May 25th - Driving south through the Cotswold Hills we arrive in the city of Bath, where we will visit the Roman Baths, perhaps the best-preserved Roman remains in Britain. After time for lunch a short drive brings us to the village of Winchcombe, where we’ll visit Sudeley Castle. Catharine Parr, Henry VIII’s last wife, is buried in the chapel in the gardens at Sudeley. We’ll dine together at a local restaurant near our hotel this evening. (B, D) Overnight: Cotswolds

Sunday May 26th - This morning we have a panoramic drive through the Cotswold Hills; a quintessentially English landscape of honey-colored villages and green meadows. We stop in Bourton-on-the-Water, with the River Windrush flowing peacefully through the center of the village. After time for Sunday lunch in a local pub, we drive to Hidcote Manor garden, England’s foremost 20th-century garden, where a series of horticultural “rooms” have been created, each different in color, character, and intention. Next, we’ll visit beautiful Kiftsgate Court gardens, home of Heather Muir, a pioneer in the rediscovery of shrub roses (including the celebrated rambling Rosa filipes “Kiftsgate”). Free evening. (B) Overnight: Cotswolds

Monday May 27th - Leaving the Cotswolds, we head to the 240-acre flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley. Wisley is the jewel in the crown of the RHS and has been a living encyclopaedia for gardeners for the past 100 years. We’ll have time for lunch and then tour the garden’s highlights with one of the local gardeners and also have free time to browse the Wisley store. Upon our arrival in Windsor, after checking in to our hotel, there will be free time before gather for a farewell dinner. (B, D) Overnight: Windsor

Tuesday May 28th - Morning transfers to London Heathrow Airport for return flights to the U.S. (B) Overnight: Home

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner
Guest Lecturers:
Tim Johnson, Director, Smith College Botanic Garden

Tim Johnson joined Smith College in June 2017 as the sixth director of the Botanic Garden of Smith College. Prior to arriving, he was the Head of Preservation at the international nonprofit, Seed Savers Exchange, where he lead a team of curators, librarians, historians, scientists, and teachers working to conserve the seeds and histories of 25,000 heirloom and historic varieties of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Tim serves on Smith College’s Committee on Campus Sustainability and is a Fellow ofCEEDS.

Paula Deitz ('59), Editor of The Hudson Review

Paula Deitz received her M.A. in French literature from Columbia University. She is a cultural critic who writes about art, architecture, and landscape design for newspapers and magazines here and abroad. Her book Of Gardens: Selected Essays was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. In 2006, she was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters (hon.) from Smith College.

Registration Form & Terms and Conditions

General Instructions:
1. Please type or print.
2. Make checks payable to Discover Europe, Ltd.
3. Be sure to read the Terms & Conditions and the Refund Policy before signing.
4. Complete both sides of this form.
5. Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your deposit of $500 per person. Keep the top section for your records.

Detailed Instructions:
Name(s) - Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as it does on your passport. Include your “Known As” or preferred name, if applicable.
Passport Details - Having your passport details ahead of time enables Discover Europe to speed the check-in process at hotels and helps in the event of lost or stolen documents.
Address - If you have a second address, please let us have the details, including dates that you are there, on a separate sheet.
Dietary Requirements - Please list any special dietary requirements.
Health Information - A certain amount of walking is involved in this trip. Check the itinerary with your physician to ensure a safe and comfortable journey. Travelers requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion.
Emergency Contact - This information is essential.

Passenger Details: The Chelsea Flower Show (0520/SGC)

Passport Name:

1. Title First Middle Last
2. Title First Middle Last
Known As: 1. 2.

1. Passport Number Expiration DOB
2. Passport Number Expiration DOB

Address: 
City: State: Zip: 

E-mail: 

Preferred Telephone: ( ) work/cell/home circle one
Secondary Telephone: ( ) work/cell/home circle one

Special Dietary Requirements:

Health Information:

Other Comments or Notes:

Year of Graduation from Smith:

Trip Details
Departure Date: Return Date:
Departure Airport or City:

Please return this form to:
Discover Europe
95 Adams St
Keene, NH 03431
USA

Photo courtesy of Gaylen Morgan
**Terms and Conditions**

1. Completed both sides of this form.
2. Space on this journey is limited and registrations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.
3. Registration and payment imply acceptance of the terms and conditions described herein. This information, as well as your itinerary description regarding dates, inclusions and prices, form the basis of your individual contract with Discover Europe, Ltd.
4. Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., and Smith College, their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.
5. Discover Europe, Ltd. reserves the right to substitute hotels, airlines, activities or excursions in response to changes in availability, local events or weather conditions, provided such substitutions do not adversely affect the overall quality of the tour. Such substitutions do not constitute grounds for withdrawal with full refund.
6. Conduct During the Tour: You are also responsible for respecting the authority and following the directions of the tour guide and the laws of the countries in your itinerary. We may exclude you from participating in all or any part of the tour if, in our sole discretion, your condition or behavior renders you unfit for the tour or unfit for continuation once the tour has begun. Unfitness may include, without limitation, any behavior that, regardless of its cause, is inappropriate or offensive or interferes with the delivery of tour services, or may constitute a hazard or embarrassment. In such case, our liability shall be strictly limited to refund of the recoverable cost of any unused portion of the tour. Should you decide not to participate in certain parts of the tour or use certain goods included in the tour, no refunds will be made for those unused parts of the tour or goods.

**Payment Schedule**
1. A deposit of $500 must accompany this completed form if it has not already been paid.
2. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to trip departure.

**Tour Cost Adjustments**
Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:
1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the 6 months prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. This tour has been based on a group size of 15-20 participants. Should we end up with less than 15 people, Discover Europe will work with the Smith College to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.
3. Airfares. If your tour includes airfare, Discover Europe reserves the right to pass along increases in costs (taxes, airport fees, fuel surcharges, etc.) that are charged by the airline involved.

**Refund Policy**
1. Participants who withdraw more than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a $200 cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw fewer than 90 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less the following cancellation penalties:
   - 90-61 days prior to departure: $1000 per person
   - 60 days - trip departure: no refund (unless traveler has insurance)
3. Please note that the final payment becomes due upon receipt of the final invoice and will remain payable, as per the above schedule, if your cancellation is received after this.
4. These cancellation penalty amounts do not include any airfares purchased on your behalf by Discover Europe Ltd. Note that the least expensive airfares are usually non-refundable. Refunds for airline tickets will be handled separately from the refund of the land tour package.
5. Comprehensive travel insurance is not included in your tour package. Smith College strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. Information describing the services of a recommended travel insurance company will be made available upon registration by Smith College.
6. All cancellation requests must be received in writing.
7. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant’s absence once the tour has started.

**Inclusions & Exclusions**
1. All inclusions on The Chelsea Flower Show are listed on the day-by-day itinerary and registration form.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): travel insurance, transportation to and from the participant’s home to their chosen departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, tips to couriers and tour bus drivers, items of a personal nature.

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