

Horticultural Society of Maryland &  
Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland  
Maryland Gardeners – Splendors of Northern France 2023  
June 29 – July 11, 2023



*Monet's Giverny Garden – Photo: Claire Jones*

**Tour at A Glance**

**Price- US \$5,360.00** per person, double occupancy

**+\$1,155.00 (USD)** per person, single occupancy

**Dates-** June 29 -July 11, 2023

**Cost Includes**

- 12 x nights' hotel accommodation
- Breakfast daily at hotel, 4 dinners & 3 Lunches
- Coach services for the itinerary as specified
- Entrances to Giverny (Monet's Garden), Le Vasterival, Le Parc du Bois de Moutiers, Chateau de Miromesnil, Clos du Coudray, Les Jardins Agapanthe, Les Jardin d'Etretat, Jardin du Pays d'Auge, Bayeux Tapestry, Chateau de Brecy,

Jardin des Plantes – Caen, Les Jardins de Castillon, Chateau Villandry, Chateau Chaumont, Chateau du Chenonceau, Versailles (with guide)

- Open tour bus tour of Paris (Hop-on/Hop-off) – 24 hr ticket
- Visit to a cidrerie for tour and tasting
- Visit to vineyard for tour and tasting
- Services of English/French speaking tour manager throughout
- Local taxes and service charges for included services
- Porterage 1 piece if luggage per person

### **Not Included**

- International Air fares
- Personal Expenses
- Gratuities to guides and accompanying staff



*Fontaine des Mars, Paris*

### **Day 1 – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Arrive Paris early and travel directly to Monet's Garden in Giverny, the famous gardens of the impressionist painter Claude Monet. Visit the house, the Japanese style water garden (inspiration for the water-lilies series of paintings) and the main flower garden, known as the Clos Normand. There, among the espaliered apples, vines, and climbing roses, are rows upon rows of iris, dahlias, hollyhocks and other flowering plants – all harmoniously blended together.



*Giverny*

Continue to Chateau de la Guyon, a charming town nearby with a Chateau built into a cliffside towering over the Seine Valley and a restored Potager. Continue to Rouen Normandy. The city is famed for its half-timbered medieval buildings and narrow cobbled streets, and is the site where St. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake by the English in 1431. Notre Dame Cathedral of Rouen is a wonderful example of French Gothic architecture, the cathedral took an amazing 300 years to complete.

Welcome dinner tonight at the hotel.

Overnight: **Rouen** (-/-/D)

### **Day 2 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

Today will be spent on the coast near Dieppe. First there will be a guided visit of Le Vasterival, where in 1957 the late Princess Sturdza designed a hilly woodland garden for the purpose of growing plants well and showing them to their best advantage.

Later continue to the nearby Parc des Moutiers, a house and garden very much in the English style, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. There will not be enough time to see inside this house but the interior of the 17th century Chateau de Miromesnil, the birthplace of author Guy de Maupassant, your last visit today, will be seen together with its traditional kitchen garden.

Return to Rouen later this afternoon.

Overnight: **Rouen** (B/L/-)

### **Day 3 – Saturday 1st July**

This morning depart the hotel and travel the short distance to Le Jardin Plume, a beautiful contemporary garden close to Rouen. The garden specializes in grasses and perennials and uses parterres of clipped hedges to give the garden structure.

The garden was designed around a former orchard and pasture by owners Patrick and Sylvie Quibel who moved here in 1996.

Continue this afternoon to the charming village of Lyons-la-Forêt, the former place of residence of the Dukes of Normandy which is now listed among the most beautiful villages of France. Its central square is delightfully picturesque, with old half-timbered façades, 18th-century wooden market halls, fountains and cafes with open air terraces providing an ideal place to relax and watch the world go by.

This afternoon head north to Le Jardin Agapanthe, the creation of the landscape architect and designer Alexandre Thomas. A site of ongoing research, it is continually evolving. Over more than 9,000 sq. meters of gardens without lawns, visitors can enjoy the assembly of the designer's favorite plants. This contemporary garden is defined by its powerful structure. With strongly emphasized groundworks, a maze of terraces and walls, watercourses and pools create a succession of moods.

Return to Rouen later this afternoon.

Overnight: **Rouen** (B/-/-)

### **Day 4 – Sunday 2nd July**

Depart Rouen this morning and head north to the Normandy coast for a visit to Les Jardins d'Étretat, a futuristic garden that extends over the white chalk cliffs of the Alabaster Coast, one of the wonders of Normandy.

The historic garden has been re-modelled by landscape architect Alexandre Grivko, who has transformed it into a site of avant-garde experimentation where lush topiary, architecture and contemporary art all combine harmoniously.

Then head westwards along the coast to explore the colorful port of Honfleur, which has attracted many artists to paint it. Lunch will be included here.

This afternoon continue to the Jardin du Pays d'Auge, a lovely established garden on a 3 hectare site. Originally a meadow surrounding an old farmhouse the garden has been transformed into a series of beautiful gardens each with their own character but following harmoniously one to the next.

The gardens have been designed around various themes. The Jardin du Soleil, garden of the sun, is filled with plants with golden leaves or flowers with bold

splashes of red and orange to add heat to the planting scheme. By contrast the Jardin de la Lune, or moon garden, is filled with silver leaves and a pool of water to reflect the light. Other gardens include a water garden, a perfume garden, a box garden and a purple garden.

Continue to the historic town of Bayeux for a further 3-night stop.

Overnight: **Bayeux** (B/L/-)

### **Day 5 – Monday 3rd July**

This morning there will be a guided walking tour of the historic city center of Bayeux, where you will also have an opportunity to see the famous Bayeux Tapestry and buy lunch.

In the afternoon there will be a tour of the D-Day beaches near Arromanches including a visit to the Pointe du Hoc where the U.S. Army Rangers scaled the cliffs to attack the gun battery on the top and then fended off German counter attacks for two days. There will also be a visit to the huge American Military Cemetery near Omaha Beach.

Return to Bayeux with dinner included tonight.

Overnight: **Bayeux** (B/-/D)

### **Day 6 – Tuesday 4th July**

Depart hotel this morning and travel to the Château de Brécý, a seventeenth century chateau with a meticulously restored, richly ornamented Italian style garden.

The gardens of the Château de Brécý date from the mid-17th century. Laid out over four consecutive terraces of increasing size, carved decorative features: statues, balustrades and vases elegantly combine with the pruned topiaries. This unique garden in Normandy is one of France's rare remaining examples from this period.

Continue to Caen for a visit to the Jardin des Plantes, also known as Jardin Botanique de Caen, a botanical garden and arboretum located in the center of town.

It boasts some 5,000 sq. meters of verdant alleyways with over 8,000 different plant species laid out in two sections. Normandy's typical flora rubs shoulders with exotic plant species in the greenhouses,

This afternoon there will be a visit to the award-winning Jardin de Castillon, located between Bayeux and Balleroy, it was created in 1985 by enthusiastic gardeners Colette and Hubert Sainte-Beuve. On one side you will find a succession of themed gardens each enclosed by high taxus hedges and each offering a unique atmosphere from the previous one. On the other side three vast terraces punctuated by yew topiary and beechwood hedges each offer a unique impression: a collection



of ornamental grasses, a blue garden and an ensemble of daylilies and hostas arranged around a reflecting pond.

The visit ends with a small arboretum followed by a labyrinth created from box hedging.

Return to Bayeux later this afternoon.

Overnight: **Bayeux** (B/-/-)

### **Day 7 – Wednesday 5th July**

Depart Bayeux for a visit to a local cider and calvados producer. Enjoy a tour of the cider press and distillery followed by an opportunity to taste this famous and traditional Normandy product.

Depart afterwards for the Loire Valley region. The Loire is France's longest river stretching east to west for over 600 miles. The mild climate and fertile alluvial soil make this a region well suited for growing fruit, vines and vegetables. In addition, the region is home to a unique concentration of chateaux, some of the most extravagant and stunning examples of Renaissance and Baroque architecture to be found in all of Europe.

On arrival there will be a visit to the Chateau of Villandry, the last of the great chateaux built during the Renaissance period in the Loire Valley. The sober elegance of its architecture combined with the charm of its outstanding gardens make this one of the jewels of world heritage.

The Ornamental Kitchen Garden is the most high-profile feature of the gardens of Villandry. In the Renaissance style, it consists of nine plots all of the same size, but each with a different geometric design of vegetables and flowers. The plots are planted with vegetables in alternating colors – blue leek, red cabbage and beetroot, jade green carrot tops, etc. – giving the impression of a multi-colored chessboard.

Dinner included tonight.

Overnight: **Blois** (B/-/D)

### **Day 8 – Thursday 6th July**

Depart hotel for a visit to the Chateau de Chaumont.

The fortress of Chaumont-sur-Loire was built around the year 1000 to keep watch over the border between the counties of Blois and Anjou. In 1465, Louis XI had the château burned and razed to the ground, but it was rebuilt just a few years later. It was owned by the Amboise family for a good 500 years, and it was Charles II d'Amboise who from 1498-1510 turned it into an ornamental château in the

Renaissance style, with sculpted decoration becoming the major feature of its outer façades. It is now one of the defining buildings of the Loire Valley region.

The gardens of Chaumont-sur-Loire castle are officially listed as a French 'jardin remarquable'. Less formal than those found at many of the Loire castles, you can stroll through the wooded parkland as well as seeing the kitchen garden. There is also a garden collection here called the Parc du Gouloup where permanent gardens with modern and contemporary designs have been established.

Lunch will be held afterwards at a nearby restaurant followed by a visit to a vineyard for a tour of the winery and wine-tasting. The Touraine region is a major wine growing region of France. There are approx. 1,400 winegrowers producing 58 million bottles each year of both red and white wines.

Continue this afternoon to the garden village of Chedigny, the only village in France which has been awarded the title 'Jardin Remarquable'!

The village has been transformed into one giant garden where visitors can wander through narrow streets and admire the houses bedecked with roses, shrubs and spring bulbs.

There are 1,000 rose plants with 300 varieties and more than 3,000 perennials. Every year around 30 new roses and additional new beds are created.

Overnight: **Blois** (B/L/-)

### **Day 9 – Friday 7th July**

This morning visit one of this region's best-known Chateaux, Chenonceau. With its distinctive arches spanning the river Cher, it is perhaps one of the most famous chateaux of the Loire Valley.

Built on the site of an old mill it is an architectural mixture of late Gothic and early Renaissance elements surrounded by formal Renaissance gardens. It was famously the preferred residence of Catherine de Medici, the wife of King Henry II of France, who evicted her husband's former mistress Dianne de Poitiers in order to live there herself.

Return to Blois with the remainder of the day free to explore the town.

Overnight: **Blois** (B/-/-)

### **Day 10 – Saturday 8th July**

Depart the Loire Valley this morning for the return journey to Paris stopping en route in Chartres to view the great cathedral, the high point of French Gothic art. The vast

nave, the porches adorned with fine sculptures from the middle of the 12th century, and the magnificent stained-glass windows, all in remarkable condition, combine to make it a masterpiece.

Also included will be a visit to the Maison Picassiette, an unusual, small house decorated inside and out with pieces of crockery.

There will be some free time before the visits to buy lunch. Later in the afternoon continue to Paris.

Overnight: **Paris** (B/-/-)

### **Day 11 - Sunday 9th July**

This morning you will be issued with a 24-HOUR ticket for a hop-on/hop-off open top bus tour of Paris which will allow you to explore Paris at your own pace, allowing you the freedom to pick and choose where you visit from the vast array of attractions that Paris has to offer.

Overnight: **Paris** (B/-/-)

### **Day 12 -Monday 10th July**

This morning visit the monumental chateau of Louis XIV, the Sun King – Versailles. See the grands appartements of the royal living quarters including the perfectly restored boudoir of Marie Antoinette and the beautiful Galerie des Glaces also known as the Hall of Mirrors and Louis XIV's throne room. You will also have time to explore the vast, beautiful gardens of the chateau.

Rent a golf cart to traverse the extensive grounds or walk at your leisure.

Return to central Paris with the rest of the afternoon at leisure for independent sightseeing.

Re-gather tonight for a farewell dinner.

Overnight: **Paris** (B/-/D)

### **Day 13 – Tuesday 11th July**

Depart for the airport



### Based on the following hotels:

- Hotel de Dieppe, Rouen <https://hotel-dieppe.fr/>
- Churchill Hotel – Bayeux [www.hotel-churchill.fr/](http://www.hotel-churchill.fr/)
- Mercure Blois <http://www.vinciloirevalley.com/>
- **Renaissance Place Republique – Paris**  
<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/parpr-renaissance-paris-republique-hotel/> or **MSocial Hotel** <https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/paris/m-social-hotel-paris-opera/>

### Other Information

**Payments:** Tour deposits and payments may be made by Visa/Master Card. Credit card payments are subject to a 3% processing fee. Payments may also be paid through TransferWise online. A \$50 contribution each to the Federated Garden Clubs of MD and Horticultural Society of MD, both tax exempt charitable organizations, are included in the price. Your contribution may be tax deductible.

**Tour Organizer:** A past Director of Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Claire Jones has planned garden trips to England, Wales, Portugal, and Scotland, and is an avid garden traveler with a library of over 100,000 images of gardens around the world. A photographer, landscape designer, and garden blogger at [TheGardenDiaries](http://TheGardenDiaries.com), Claire loves to travel anywhere there are gardens and interesting sights. Contact Claire at comor 443-927-6285.

### Tour Company

The travel company providing this tour is Pathfinders / STITA Tours of Cheltenham, UK. Claire Jones acts only as your contact with Pathfinders / STITA.

### Additional Information

Please contact Claire Jones at [jonesb1@comcast.com](mailto:jonesb1@comcast.com) or 443-927-6285 with any questions regarding this tour.

This is a non-smoking tour. No smoking is permitted on the coach, group activities, or meals. Each participant is required to fill out and sign the attached tour conditions within 30 days of acceptance.

### Special Requests

Tour members are requested to inform us at the time of booking of any special medical, dietary, or other requests. We will do our best to accommodate all requests, but cannot guarantee that such requests will be met.

### Baggage

Porterage of one piece of luggage per person is included in the tour. As space is often limited, we strongly suggest that you limit luggage to one suitcase and one 'carry on' size bag.

**Not Included**

- Personal Expenses
- Gratuities to drivers, tour guide
- Airfare
- Meals not listed
- Travel Insurance (Highly recommended) Cancel for Any Reason
- Tour members may skip garden visits to do their own sightseeing, except during days when the group transfers to a new hotel.

**Price**

The tour is set at a minimum of 15 and maximum of 25 participants. Prices are in **Euros** with U.S. Estimates (May 2022) based on conversion rate of 1 Euro=\$1.07

**Double Room (sharing):**

**Euro per person 5,105.00 US \$5,360.00**

**Single Room:**

**Euro 1100.00 US \$1155.00 Additional**

**Splendors of France**

**June 29- July 11, 2023**

**Co-Sponsored by Horticultural Society of MD & Federated Garden Clubs of MD**

**Travel Information Form**

<b>Personal Information</b>	
<b>Full Traveler name Must match passport</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Passport Issuing Authority</b>	
<b>Passport Number</b>	
<b>Passport Expiration Date</b>	
<b>Street address w/city, state, and zip</b>	
<b>Cell Number</b>	
<b>Emergency Contact</b>	

<b>Name &amp; Phone Number</b>	
<b>Type of Room Requested</b>	
<b>If Double, provide name of roommate</b>	
<b>Cell and home phone number</b>	
<b>How Did You Hear About This Tour?</b>	
<p>To Reserve a Space, a \$200 Deposit made out to Claire Jones is required, which will be refunded to you at the start of the trip. If you cancel, the deposit will be retained, unless another participant is found to take your place. Mail deposit to Claire Jones, 4 Bellclare Cir, Sparks, MD 21152</p> <p>Airfare is not included in the price of this tour. Each participant will need to make their own airline reservation to arrive in Paris. If you want to arrive earlier and/or leave later, arrangements can be made with Pathfinders to stay extra nights. Please <i>Do Not</i> make your airline reservations until you are notified by email that the tour will proceed.</p> <p>Important Dates: 10% Due by February 15, 2023 to Pathfinders (Caroline) at 877-753-6386- Toll free number, +5 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. Final Payment Due by April 29, 2023 to Pathfinders at 877-753-6386.</p>	

**Travel Protection Insurance is highly recommended and is not provided under this agreement. Cancel for any Reason (CAFR) travel insurance should be considered – it was of great benefit for those that had non-refundable airfare for trips cancelled due to travel restrictions in 2020. Medical insurance coverage is also recommended; health insurance does not always extend to non-U.S. travel.**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The travel company providing this tour is Pathfinders/STITA Tours of Cheltenham, UK (“Pathfinders”). The person organizing this tour is Claire Jones. She is not an agent or employee of Pathfinders; she acts only as your contact with Pathfinders. By placing your deposit for this tour, you agree that you have read and agree to these Terms and Conditions. You further agree that this is a release of any claim that you may have against Pathfinders, as well as Claire Jones, Claire Jones Landscapes LLC (collectively “Claire Jones”), and tour co-sponsor organizations (Horticultural Society of Maryland and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland), arising out of this tour.

By participating in this trip, participant acknowledges and provides consent that images from the trip may include those of participants and could be used for future trip promotion, shared on social media, shared by other tour participants, as well as other use.

**TOUR PRICE:** Published tour prices are based upon **current exchange rates**, tariffs and taxes. Fluctuations in these rates may result in a price adjustment, without prior notice. Once the price for the tour is paid in full, the price will not be adjusted due to any later change in exchange rates, tariffs or taxes.

No refunds will be granted for any accommodations, services or events which are not used, or which are canceled.

**DEPOSIT:** Tour reservations are processed in the order received. You will be notified if your reservation has been accepted. A deposit of \$200 is required to secure your reservation. It will be refunded to you when your tour commences. It will be refunded to you if the minimum number of participants is not met. It will be refunded to you if you cancel from a tour, and your spot is filled from a waiting list. In all other cases, your deposit is non-refundable.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Each tour will proceed if the minimum of 15 reservations has been met. If not met, the tour may be canceled. Should a tour move forward without filling to the minimum, there will be a price increase. You will be advised of the increase and may reconsider your application. **Please do not book any nonrefundable airfare until your tour has been confirmed.**

Tours may be canceled if natural disasters, pandemics, terrorism, or any other circumstance makes it unsafe for travel. Neither Pathfinders nor Claire Jones or the tour co-sponsors be responsible for refunds to you for a canceled tour. For that reason, you should consider purchasing travel or cancellation insurance.

**CHANGES TO ITINERARY:** Pathfinders and Claire Jones strive to operate according to their published itinerary. Unforeseen circumstances may require adjustments to that itinerary. We may make changes, without penalty, to the published itinerary, which are necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of tour participants.

**MEDICAL ISSUES:** Tour participants must be physically and mentally fit, and able to participate and cooperate with other tour members and the tour escort. At times, this tour is moderately physically demanding, involving walking several miles over the day, getting in and out of a bus, traveling over cobblestones, and moving luggage. You acknowledge that you are fit to participate in this tour, and you do so at your own risk.

Participants in the tour are solely responsible for compliance with requisite inoculations, passports, paperwork, all other compliance issues with respect to all countries, states, regions, other, that are included in the tour. Participants are required to certify they have had Covid-19 vaccine(s) administered to them, with requisite lead time prior to trip departure as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Countries and locations outside the U.S. may have specific COVID and/or other health and/or health insurance requirements, subject to changes both prior to and during the trip.

**RISKS & HAZARDS:** You agree that you are willing to accept the risks and uncertainty involved in taking a trip such as this, including transportation, terrorism, war, theft, illness, acts of government, pandemics, forces of nature, animal misbehavior, and damage to person or property. Cancellation of a tour from such a risk is not refundable. You accept and assume full responsibility for any and all risks from this tour.

**DISPUTES:** Any dispute concerning this trip shall be resolved by binding arbitration, submitted to and decided under the rules and procedures promulgated by the American Arbitration Association, with each party paying an equal share of the costs of such arbitration. Any in-person hearing shall be held in the State of Maryland.

**RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS**

I agree to the Terms and Conditions set forth above. I assume all of the risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury, illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may incur in connection with this tour. I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless Pathfinders, its employees, officers, and agents, Claire Jones and Claire Jones Landscapes LLC, as well as tour co-sponsors Horticultural Society of Maryland and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, from any injury, damages or loss due to my participation in and travel to and from this tour.

Participant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_