

**Horticultural Society of Maryland &
Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland
Maryland Gardeners – English Gardens of the Cotswolds & Wales
Chelsea Flower Show May 22 -June 2, 2025**



Anne Hathaway's Cottage

Tour at A Glance

Price- US \$5,950.00 (USD) per person, double occupancy
\$1,800.00 (USD) per person, single occupancy

Cost Includes

- 11 x nights' hotel accommodation
- Breakfast daily at hotel, 5 dinners & 3 Lunches, including Thames dinner cruise
- Coach services for the itinerary as specified
- Entrances to all gardens listed
- Visit to Sibling distillery for tour and tasting
- Services of English speaking tour manager throughout
- Local taxes and service charges for included services
- Porterage 1 piece of luggage per person

Not Included

- International Air fare
- Personal Expenses
- Gratuities to guides and drivers

Day 1 – Thursday 22nd May

On arrival in London make your way independently to the tour hotel.

Welcome dinner this evening at a local restaurant.

Overnight: London Breakfast and Dinner

Day 2: Friday 23rd May

Transfer provided to Chelsea Flower, Britain's premier horticultural show of the year and a Mecca for garden lovers from all over the world. Leave when you are ready and have the rest of the day free for independent sightseeing or shopping.

Return independently to hotel.

Overnight: London Breakfast



Chelsea Flower Show

Day 3: Saturday 24th May

Free day in London for independent sightseeing.

Re-assemble this evening for a dinner cruise on the river Thames. With delicious food and drink, live entertainment, and spectacular views of London by night, this is a fun and different way to dine out in London.

Overnight: London Breakfast and Dinner

Day 4: Sunday 25th May

Depart London this morning and travel to Waterperry Gardens near Oxford. Made famous by Beatrix Havergal who established her School of Horticulture for Ladies here from 1932 to 1971, it is now home to 20 acres of beautifully landscaped ornamental gardens, a quality plant center and garden shop, gallery, museum and tea shop.

Continue afterwards for a tour of Cotswold Villages such as Bourton on the Water and Stow on the Wold. The Cotswolds, designated a region of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is characterized by its low-lying hills, beautiful rural landscapes, and picture postcard villages.

End the day with a stop at the Sibling gin distillery near Cheltenham for a tour and tasting. The tour will take you through every element of the business, from the botanicals, to production, to the history of the distillery and of the industry in general.

Continue to your hotel in the center of the elegant Regency Town of Cheltenham for a 4-night stay.

Overnight: Cheltenham Breakfast and Dinner



Queens Hotel in Cheltenham

Day 5: Monday 26th May

Depart hotel this morning for a visit to Morton Hall.

Morton Hall rests on the crest of a steep embankment and looks out west over the Vale of Evesham to Welsh mountain ranges on the horizon.

The eight acres of garden and park combine historic and new features in an aesthetic fashion and provide the backdrop for a collection of nearly a thousand plant varieties. Accompanied by the owner or the Head Gardener, visitors take a tour around the house, through a series of distinctive but linked garden rooms. This visit will conclude with a light lunch.

Continue this afternoon to the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare. On arrival there will be a visit to New Place. Shakespeare's New Place was his family home from 1597 until he died in the house in 1616. The house was demolished in 1759, and a registered garden has been designed on the site where New Place once stood to commemorate the importance of the site and allow visitors to make their own personal connection with Shakespeare.

Afterwards we make a visit to Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the family home of Anne Hathaway, William Shakespeare's wife-to-be. It is here that Anne was born and raised and where the young Shakespeare would have visited her during the early part of their relationship. Built more than 500 years ago and extended over the years, much of the original survives. See original furniture including the Hathaway bed and uncover five centuries of stories of the family who lived here for 13 generations. Wander through acres of beautiful cottage gardens and orchards and explore the sculpture trail inspired by Shakespeare's plays.

Overnight: Cheltenham Breakfast and Lunch

Day 6 – Tuesday 27th May

Today visit Highgrove the private country home of the King Charles & Queen Camilla (subject to availability).

Over 40 years in the making, the gardens at Highgrove are some of the most creatively inspiring and innovative in the United Kingdom. The series of interlinked gardens reflects The Prince's natural artistic ability. Managed organically and sustainably, the gardens have become an important haven for a rich variety of flora and fauna.

The visit will include a tour of the garden and lunch.

This afternoon to continue for a visit to Rodmarton Manor, a unique Arts and Crafts Manor House containing furniture made locally and with a stunning early 20th-century garden.

The house and garden were designed for the Biddulph family by Ernest Barnsley, whilst his brother Sidney was the principal furniture maker. This house, although post Industrial Revolution, was a return to earlier times with local materials, hand tools and craftsmanship.

Overnight: Cheltenham (B/L/-)

Day 7- Wednesday 28th May

We start the day with a visit to Upton Wold, set in a beautiful Cotswold landscape, this hidden private garden has been created over forty years, originally with the help of landscape architects Hal Moggridge and the late Brenda Colvin.

Upton Wold Garden has an exceptional collection of trees, shrubs and plants, and also holds a National Collection of Juglans (Walnut) and of Pterocarya. A garden of interest for any plantsman.

Time permitting this will be followed by a visit to Bourton House Garden, an award-winning three-acre garden high on the Cotswolds with wonderful views over the surrounding countryside.

This afternoon continue to perhaps the most influential English garden design of the 20th century - Hidcote Manor. This is one of the most famous gardens in Britain laid out by Major Lawrence Johnston. The various garden 'rooms' here have influenced garden styles throughout Britain.

Afterwards visit the nearby garden of Kiftsgate. Developed by three generations of women, the gardens are a plantsman's delight reflecting the pleasure the family has had collecting species from all over the world. At any time of the year there is something of interest to draw you back again and again.



Kiftsgate

Overnight: Cheltenham **Breakfast**

Day 8 - Thursday 29th May

Depart for Wales this morning via Monmouth where a stop will be made for a visit to a series of gardens linked to H. Avray Tipping, the influential Country Life Architectural Editor of the early 20th century.

High Glanau Manor is an important Arts and Crafts house set in 12 acres of gardens designed in 1922 by Tipping. Many original features remain including formal terraces, steps leading down to an octagonal lily pool, and the glass house and pergola. Beyond the terraces and pool, with their spectacular views towards the Brecon Beacons, Tipping created winding paths leading through the woodland gardens where he planted many shade-loving plants and rhododendrons.

Continue for a visit to Wyndcliffe Court. The garden was designed to be integral with the house and was a collaboration between Eric Francis and Avray Tipping. It is listed as an exceptional garden of 1922 which survives unaltered. The garden is in the “Italianate” Arts and Crafts Style. A paved terrace has steps down to a lily pond with dolphin fountain and further stone walls link a summerhouse to the different levels on the steeply sloping site. The gardens also feature ancient, sculpted topiary, a sunken garden, walled gardens, greenhouses, ponds, a bowling green, double tennis courts and woodland.

Final visit of the day will be to the gardens of Mounton House near Chepstow in Monmouthshire, the masterwork of Henry Avray Tipping, into which he poured his vast inheritance. Yet it would have gone the way of so many Edwardian gardens had it not been for its new owners, who had the brilliant idea of asking the locally based garden designer Arne Maynard to bring it back to life.

Overnight: Abergavenny Breakfast and Dinner



Angel Hotel in Abergavenny

Day 9 – Friday 30th May

This morning visit Highfield Farm, owned by the Cook family who have farmed this land for 6 generations. The garden is defined by its plants. There are over 1200 cultivars, with many rarities, densely planted over 3 acres to generate an exuberant display across the seasons. It provides an intimate, immersive experience with this diverse array of herbaceous, shrubs and trees.

Voted as The Nation’s Favorite Garden in Wales and the Borders, in The English Garden magazine poll in 2023.

Continue after an included lunch to Allt-y-bela, a romantic medieval cruck-framed farmhouse built between 1420 and 1599, with the addition of a Renaissance tower created in the seventeenth century. Nestled amongst the rolling hills of the Welsh countryside, this terracotta-colored farmhouse sits majestically against a stunning backdrop of green.

Since moving here in 2007, Arne Maynard and William Collinson have been creating a new garden, introducing some of Arne’s signature garden design elements and achieving a garden that has a true sense of place. From formal clipped topiary to native meadow planting, blurring the lines between the garden and its surrounding landscape, Arne’s design principles are nowhere better illustrated than here.

Overnight: Abergavenny Breakfast and Lunch

Day 10 – Saturday 31st May

This morning depart hotel for a visit to The Laskett Gardens, set in the idyllic countryside of Herefordshire on the Welsh borders, are the creation of Sir Roy Strong and his late wife Julia Trevelyan Oman CBE. The gardens – created from a bare field – were begun in 1974 and have continued to evolve ever since.

It is an autobiographical garden, reflecting their careers in the arts, and shows design influences both from history and from contemporaries like Cecil Beaton and Rosemary Verey. Although just 4 acres, it seems much larger, with a formal plan of garden rooms, hedges, pleached limes, topiary and sculpture.

Continue to the border town of Hay on Wye, famous for its literary festival and plethora of antiquarian bookshops. There will be time to explore the town and find lunch independently.

This afternoon there will be a visit to the garden at Rhodds Farm. Started from scratch in 2005 by garden designer Cary Goode, it is a challenging site with overhanging woods on the north side and open pasture to the south. A fabulously peaceful spot with a natural garden where plants are allowed to self-seed. There are lots of mixed borders around a pond for wildlife, a formal garden leading to a brick dovecote, a courtyard garden around a water sculpture, a large gravel garden, wild-flower meadows, woodland planting and a large pond with a boardwalk at the end of the woodland.

Overnight: Abergavenny

Breakfast

Day 11 Sunday 1st June

Depart Abergavenny this morning and return to London.

There will be a stop in Bath en route where there will be time to explore this beautiful UNESCO world heritage city independently. Why not take the opportunity to visit The Roman Baths Museum or the Jane Austen Centre, or just wander and explore?

Leave Bath this afternoon for the remaining journey to your hotel in Richmond-upon-Thames.

Farewell dinner this evening at a local restaurant. (The Ivy – subject to availability)

Overnight: London

Breakfast and Dinner

Day 12 Saturday 2nd June

Depart for home

Breakfast

Based on the following hotels:

[Bailey's Hotel, London \(Kensington\)](#)

[The Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham](#)

[The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny](#)

[The Petersham Hotel, Richmond](#)

Other Information

Payments: Tour deposits and payments may be made by Visa/MasterCard. 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, France, 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](#), Claire loves to travel anywhere there are gardens and interesting sights. Contact Claire at jonesb1@comcast.net or 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 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 at 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 the tour manager at the time of booking of any special medical, dietary, or other requests. I will do my 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 **British Pounds** with U.S. Estimates below (March 2024) based on conversion rate of 1 British Pound=\$1.26.

Double Room (sharing): U.S. \$5,950.00

Single Room: U.S. \$1800.00 Additional

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 received and 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, 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. **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 the published itinerary. Unforeseen circumstances may require adjustments to the itinerary. We may make changes, without penalty, to the published itinerary, which are necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of our participants. Some venues might be closed on certain days which would be out of our control.

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 vaccinations, 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.

English Garden Tour 2025 May 22 – June 2, 2025

Traveler Information	
Full traveler name (matching passport)	
Date of birth	
Passport issuer	
Passport number	
Passport expiration	
Street Address, city, state, and zip	
Email	
Home phone	
Cell	
Emergency notification contact	
Emergency notification phone	
Type of room requested	
If double, name of roommate	
How did you hear about this tour?	

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

Airfare is not included in the price of this tour. Each participant will need to make their own airline reservation to arrive in London. If you want to arrive earlier and/or leave later, arrangements can be made with Pathfinders to stay extra nights or you may do this on your own. Please *Do Not* make your airline reservations until you are notified by email that the tour will proceed.

Important Dates: 10% Due TBD to Pathfinders at 877-753-6386- Toll free number, +5 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. Final Payment Due by TBD to Pathfinders at 877-753-6386. A website will be set up to make payments easier with due dates and you will receive the link by email.

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 & date: _____

Print Name: _____