

Useful Tips for our Garden Adventure to the East Coast:

What to bring:

I recommend packing as though you are taking a trip to northern California in September: it is likely to be warm rather than really hot during the day, with cooler evenings and the potential for showers. Layering is always prudent. Usually, the high summer humidity will be over by late September.

Please include a **waterproof rain jacket with hood** (you will not be able to use an umbrella in some situations) and **comfortable walking shoes** with good traction for traversing lawns, garden paths and worn stone steps. For the Longwood Show you may even wish to include a basic **rain poncho** for better protection as we will not be under cover.

If you like to work out you may want to bring your **gym gear** as our hotels have fitness centers.

Please pack as light as possible. You may find a carry-on sized suitcase is sufficient for this trip (even if you prefer to check that bag). There will be opportunities for hand washing items or using the hotel laundry should you need them.

I also recommend bringing the following:

- A re-fillable **water bottle** (let's reduce plastic waste and avoid disposable bottles)
- A **watch** to make SURE you get back to the coach on time.
- **Chargers** for your phone, iPad, camera batteries etc.
- A small **notebook and pen** (for plant names, coach departure times etc.)
- Non-drowsy **travel sickness pills** – just in case.

Dress code:

In general, I have found the east coast to be far less casual in their dress code than the west coast. Jeans would be fine at a pizza place but likely frowned upon in anything classier such as a wine bar or bistro.

Think '**smart-casual**' for dinner. Smart pants or chinos and a nice top/shirt work well. Ladies may prefer to bring a few mix/match skirts and tops plus a lightweight cardigan as air conditioning often makes restaurants too chilly for me! Gentlemen would only be expected to wear a jacket and possibly a tie at a fine dining restaurant.

Baggage:

Once flights are finalized, we'll be able to advise you of the latest baggage restrictions and fees. If you are flying independently, please check the carrier directly. 62" is usually the limit in total dimensions (l x w x h).

Please pack any medications in your carry-on bag just in case your bag is lost for a time.

Documentation:

Washington State is moving toward compliance with the Real ID Act of 2005, meaning residents will, by October 2020, need to obtain **enhanced identification** (typically an **enhanced driver's license**) if they want to fly on commercial airlines. Since we will be returning on September 27th this doesn't immediately impact you *unless you intend to extend your trip*.

FAQ and details on how WA residents can obtain an **enhanced driver's license** can be found [here](#).

If you are a resident of a state other than Washington, please check local regulations or [email me](#) for assistance.

Non-US citizens cannot apply for an EID but must use either their green card or passports for domestic travel from October 2020 onwards.

Prohibited items:

The usual restrictions for liquids, sharp items aerosols etc. apply here. Check your carrier for more information.

Tipping:

Your hosts will cover the majority of gratuities. However, you may wish to thank the maids who service your rooms during your hotel stays.

Suggested Reading/ Watching:

[Brother Gardeners](#) and [Founding Gardeners](#) by Andrea Wulf

[History of the Hotel Du Pont](#)

[Planting the Natural Garden](#) by Piet Oudolf and Henk Gerritsen

[Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf](#) (documentary) if you can find a showing hear you