

Gardens of the Brandywine & Delaware Valleys: The Best of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

September 20th – 27th, 2020

With Karen & Andy Chapman



Our fall adventure will begin with 2 nights in Philadelphia before transferring to Wilmington, Delaware. With a tradition in horticulture going back 300 years, Philadelphia is understandably known as America's Garden Capital and has over 30 public gardens, arboreta, and historic landscapes within 30 miles of the city.

Many of these gardens and landscapes are simply so breathtaking that one has to be fully immersed in them in order to truly understand their masterful artistry, their context in history and their gift to the next generation.

Visit both the oldest and one of the youngest botanical gardens in North America with us, gaining a better appreciation for the visionaries of the past and the future. Explore the naturalistic 1000-acre preserve of Winterthur, the unparalleled design of Chanticleer, the private gardens of two horticultural 'greats', and many other inspiring, botanical treasures.

Additional highlights will include a visit to a working Amish farm in Lancaster County, a tour of the key historical sites of Philadelphia and dinner on a magnificent Tall Ship, docked on the Delaware River.

And since no trip to this area would be complete without visiting Longwood Gardens, for our final evening, guests will have reserved tickets for the Fireworks and Fountains Show.

Don't just *visit* these gardens. *Experience* them with us and make memories to last a lifetime.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunday September 20th

Depart Seattle for Philadelphia, arriving late afternoon. We will transfer by coach to our waterfront hotel, [Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing](#). This 4-star hotel will be our base for the next 2 nights and is ideally situated to explore the historic district.

We will celebrate our arrival with a **welcome dinner** on the **Moshulu**, a legendary Tall Ship, whose impressive career includes 54 trips around Cape Horn to Australia and starring in movies such as *Rocky* and *The Godfather Part II*. Today she is an award-winning restaurant, docked just a few minutes' walk from our hotel.

Day 2: Monday, September 21st



After breakfast we will stroll into town and enjoy a private walking tour of **Philadelphia**, America's birthplace, visiting 20 of the most historic sites including the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

You'll then have time to enjoy lunch on your own before our visit to **Bartram's Garden and House**, the oldest botanical garden in America. Our private tour will delve into the fascinating history behind this National Landmark. Learn how the founder, John Bartram, appointed as Royal Botanist in 1765 by King George III,

continues to inspire us today. Dinner will be on your own this evening. *Photo credit: Bartram's Garden*

Day 3: Tuesday, September 22nd

We leave Philadelphia this morning and drive to **Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library**. The childhood home of collector and horticulturalist Henry Francis du Pont, this is now the premier museum of American decorative arts, while the estate itself is reminiscent of the rolling English countryside with pastoral scenes, streams, meadows, and forests. (I especially love Sycamore Hill, the Enchanted Woods, and the Reflecting Pool.) *Photo credit: Le jardinet*





After a private tour and **buffet lunch** at Winterthur we will depart for the luxurious and historic [Hotel Du Pont](#) in the heart of **Wilmington** where we will be based for the next five nights.

You'll have time to freshen up before our **private walking tour** of the city's historic district. (*Did you know that Wilmington was the last stop on the Underground Railroad?*) Dinner will be on your own this evening.

Photo credit: Hotel Du Pont

Day 4: Wednesday, September 23rd

After breakfast we will visit my favorite garden of all time: **Chanticleer**. No words can ever truly do this artistic masterpiece justice – and this is why you need to experience it for yourself. After a private guided tour, we will picnic in the grounds with a **boxed lunch** then have some free time to meander at our leisure in this magical 'pleasure garden'.

Photo credit: Le jardinet



In the afternoon we will drive to the **Nemours Estate** for a self-paced, self-guided tour of the Nemours Mansion, Chauffeur's Garage, and formal gardens, inspired by the late-18th-century French style. Elaborate fountains, gilded and marble statuary, and a classically styled temple are just some of the highlights. Dinner will be on your own this evening.

Photo credit: Nemours Estate

Day 5: Thursday, September 24th

An early start today – we've lots to explore!



This morning you will have the rare opportunity to visit one of the youngest botanical gardens in North America – **Delaware Botanic Garden**. We will be given a private tour of Phase 1 of the Garden including a 2-acre meadow designed by Piet Oudolf, a Woodland Garden which includes freshwater wetlands, a Folly Garden which is the original early 20th century homestead, and a Girl Scout Garden; part of the Garden's outreach program.

Photo credit: Ray Bojarski, Delaware Botanic Garden

After a delicious **lunch** at a nearby organic farm we will be given a private tour of **Mill Pond Garden**, a pint-sized (1-acre) public garden whose mission is to promote a sustainable wildlife habitat through the use of native plants. *Photo credit: Mill Pond Gardens*



The final stop of the day will be at the **private garden of Holly and Osamu Shimizu**. Holly is a nationally renowned horticulturist and consultant specializing in public gardens including RHS Wisley and Hillier Arboretum in England and the United States Botanic Garden in Washington DC. We will enjoy light refreshments and a special demonstration in her personal garden. Dinner will be on your own this evening. *Photo credit: Holly Shimizu, Shimizu Lewes Garden*

Day 6: Friday September 25th

A short drive after breakfast will take us to **Mt. Cuba Center**, a botanical garden in the heart of the Brandywine Valley founded to inspire an appreciation for the beauty and value of native plants and natural lands. A private tour will teach us about the history, the ongoing research, and the new cultivars they have introduced since 1988. *Photo credit: Mt. Cuba Center*



After enjoying a **boxed lunch**, we will drive to an Amish community in the heart of Lancaster County, PA. Here we will take a traditional **buggy ride** and visit a **working Amish farm** while learning more about the Amish lifestyle. Shop for unique, handcrafted souvenirs and gifts in the delightful stores before we return to the hotel. Dinner will be on your own this evening. *Photo credit: AAA Buggy Rides*

Day 7: Saturday, September 26th

Our final day is full of special treats! After breakfast we will visit **Brandywine Cottage**, the private garden of noted designer, lecturer, and author **David Culp**. Known for his artistic layering of perennials and bulbs for multi-season interest as much as for his fun-loving personality, this is an opportunity to see the inspiration behind his two books *The Layered Garden* (Timber Press, 2012) and *A Year at Brandywine Cottage* (Timber Press, 2020). *Photo credit: Rob Cardillo*





Our **farewell lunch** will be at the historic **Four Dogs Tavern**, the former stables of the adjacent inn. (This promises to be a true culinary highlight!)

From here it is just minutes to the legendary **Longwood Gardens**. After an informal orientation you will be able to explore the renowned conservatory displays, Versailles-inspired fountains, and 85-acre meadow (which will be in its peak bloom) at your leisure. You will also have time for a light dinner on your own at one

of several dining options before meeting up for the **Fireworks and Fountains Show** in the early evening. This exciting display is the perfect finale to our tour. *Photo credit: Le jardinet*

Day 8: Sunday, September 27th

You will have the morning free to pack, check out of the hotel, explore the riverfront, shop for last minute souvenirs, and have lunch before we head back to Philadelphia airport for our flight home, arriving in Seattle mid-evening.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

While no strenuous hikes are planned, prospective guests should be aware that each day we are likely to walk several miles. Some of this will be on firm paths or sidewalks, but there will be *many* instances where we will be walking on uneven, steep, and/or grassy footpaths through fields and gardens. Comfortable, lightweight walking shoes with good traction are therefore a must!

Likewise, some of the historical buildings we will visit may have uneven floors and worn stone steps, as well as flights of stairs (i.e. no elevators) between floors. Please consider your ability to manage these comfortably in order to fully enjoy this tour.

SMOKING

Please note that our hotels are non-smoking establishments.

POTENTIAL CHANGES

Should any changes have to be made to hotels or tours for any reason, a suitable alternative will be found of equal standing, and finalized closer to departure.

MEET YOUR HOSTS



Both Karen and Andy grew up in northern England. In fact, they first met when Andy was just 9 and Karen was 14 (and she still hasn't forgiven him for not remembering her, even though she has the photographs to prove it!) Despite such inauspicious beginnings they married in 1987 and lived in the heart of the Peak District before moving to Seattle in 1996 with their two young children.

A love of the English countryside was a common bond even in those early days, which for Karen naturally led to an interest in gardening while both Karen and Andy enjoy photographing landscapes and wildlife.

Today, as a landscape designer, award-winning author, and international speaker Karen has the knowledge, enthusiasm, personal connections, and detailed, organizational skills that are needed to put together a tour of inspirational gardens, historical sites, and cultural experiences.

As always, Andy is an integral part of Karen's business, offering logistical support, attention to detail, and a reassuring pair of extra hands, ears, and eyes to make sure every guest feels cared for.

Together, we would love to share our favorite places with you.

Karen Chapman, Le jardinet: <https://lejardinetdesigns.com/>

Andy Chapman, Stumpdust: <https://www.stumpdust.com/>

For questions or more information contact Karen: karen@lejardinetdesigns.com

What's included:

- 7 nights' accommodation (including all taxes) in 4-star hotels.
- All ground transportation in air-conditioned coach.
- Breakfast daily.
- 5 lunches, 1 dinner, 1 light refreshments.
- All entrance fees and private guided tours to gardens, sites, and events per itinerary.
- Buggy ride through a working Amish farm.
- All taxes.
- Hosts, Andy and Karen Chapman traveling with group at all times.

Land Cost:

For 20-22 passengers (group is capped at 22 including two hosts):

\$2695 per person based on double occupancy

Single supplement: **\$929**

Airfare:

Group airfare is **\$549** per person from Seattle including all taxes and fees. [Full details here](#)

Payment schedule and cancellation policy:

A \$750 deposit is due at time of booking which is refundable until December 31st 2019

Final payment is due May 1st 2020, and is non-refundable.

Check is the required form of payment for deposit and preferred for final payment. A 4% surcharge will be added for credit card use.

Please make **checks payable to Direct Travel** and **write on the check “Karen Chapman – East Coast Tour”** then mail along with your reservation form to the address below:

Ma Petite Tours

9614 180th St. SE

Snohomish, WA 98296

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.

For more information or questions contact:

Karen Chapman at **425-765-3574** or email karen@lejardinetdesigns.com

RESERVATION FORM

September 20-27th 2020 Tour to Brandywine & Delaware Valleys with Karen & Andy Chapman

Passenger One:

Name as it appears on documentation: _____

Address: _____

Best phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Date of birth: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical: _____

Other:

Interested in Group Air from Seattle? _____

Seat requests: _____

Frequent flyer company/number: _____

Do you wish to purchase insurance? _____

Special requests:

Single requesting share?

Passenger Two:

Name as it appears on documentation: _____

Address: _____

Best phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Date of birth: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Allergies: _____

Medical: _____

Other:

Interested in group air from Seattle? _____

Seat requests: _____

Frequent flyer company/number: _____

Do you wish to purchase insurance? _____