

ENGLAND IN FULL BLOOM:

featuring Castles, Cottages & Hidden Jewels

July 3rd -July 15th, 2023

With Karen & Andy Chapman



Hever Castle. Photo credit: Le Jardinnet

Join us for an unforgettable adventure through the picturesque English countryside of **south-east England** and **East Anglia**.

Combining a visit to several iconic English gardens such as [Sissinghurst](#), [Great Dixter](#) and the [Beth Chatto garden](#) with a members day-only visit to the [RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival](#) is already suggesting the bucket-list adventure you have always dreamed of: yet this small group tour offers so much more. Prepare to also be inspired by the work of legendary designers **Gertrude Jekyll** and **John Brookes**. Glean ideas for your own gardens at [RHS Wisley](#) and from intimate, personal tours of select, private gardens. Explore the grounds of two moated castles and visit the highly acclaimed [Bressingham Gardens](#) where you can rekindle your childhood by riding the vintage carousel, taking a short ride on a steam train, and then enjoy a private tour of Foggy Bottom, the personal garden of plantsman, author and media personality **Adrian Bloom**.

Yet to truly experience England you need to do more than just visit gardens. We will learn about England's maritime past with a [Portsmouth Harbor Cruise](#), tour Nelson's flagship [HMS Victory](#), and meander through the cobbled streets of an ancient seaside town best known for smuggling! There will also be opportunities to learn about the historic spa town of **Royal Tunbridge Wells** and medieval **Bury St. Edmunds** with private, guided walking tours and plenty of time for independent adventures.

Rather than visiting England as a tourist – we invite you to join us *as family*. We want you to have time to simply sit in these beautiful gardens and “be”, to have time to chat with the locals, and to experience true English hospitality. These are the memories that will linger long after the blooms of mid-summer have faded.

As a bonus, all guests will receive complimentary membership of the Royal Horticultural Society with all the associated member benefits.

This is a tour like no other: it will be a unique blend of treasured experiences.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday July 3rd



Your adventure begins in earnest when we meet near Heathrow Airport and board our coach for the drive to [The Savill Garden](#) (left) set within the Windsor Great Park. The Savill Garden was commissioned by George V and created by Sir Eric Savill in 1932. A royal connection continues to run through the garden and on your visit you will see the Queen Elizabeth II Temperate House, the Golden Jubilee Garden, and the Rose Garden opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 2010. Enjoy a guided garden tour followed by a **traditional cream tea**. *(Photo credit: The Crown Estate)*

We will then continue on to [Richmond Hill Hotel](#) which will be our home for 3 nights and celebrate with a **welcome dinner** together this evening.

Day 2: Tuesday, July 4th

After breakfast we will head to the [Hampton Court Garden Festival](#) for the day. This is the world's largest flower show and our tickets give us access on one of the premium RHS Members only days. Explore the beautiful Show Gardens, fabulous floral displays, inspiring talks, creative demonstrations, and practical workshops along with a unique shopping experience. Enjoy an independent lunch while at the show (and a glass of Pimms) before returning to the hotel on our coach. *(Photo credit: RHS)*



Dinner will be on your own this evening. There are some lovely restaurants in the area or maybe take the train into central London, less than an hour away.

Day 3: Wednesday July 5th



This morning we will head to the world-famous [Kew Gardens](#) (left) for a self-guided, self-paced visit. Marvel at the ancient trees, stroll through the historic glasshouses (left), take in the views from the treetop walkway and glean ideas from the colorful borders. Then enjoy lunch at your leisure at one of several cafes. *(Photo credit: Le Jardin)*

[Ham House & Garden](#) is our destination for the afternoon. Ham House's atmospheric 17th century walled garden is a celebration of the past, with a modern sensibility. Extensive formal gardens, statuesque borders, a wilderness area and a productive kitchen garden have been lovingly re-created. At the same time, the planting is constantly evolving to keep the garden's original spirit alive. Organic principles are used to encourage wildlife and plants to thrive. Enjoy a 1 hour guided kitchen garden tour, followed by time to explore Ham House (self-guided) or the garden further and have **afternoon tea** in the Orangery Café. Dinner will be on your own this evening.

Day 4: Thursday July 6th

We begin today with a visit to [RHS Wisley](#), (right), the flagship garden of the Royal Horticultural Society, housing one of the largest plant collections in the world. There's lots to see with 240 acres of inspiring gardens, an extensive arboretum, a spectacular glasshouse and the newly opened RHS Hilltop, a state-of-the-art science building surrounded by three spectacular new gardens that embrace the latest ideas in horticulture, as well as a new Trials Garden. You will enjoy a 1 hour guided orientation walk of the gardens upon arrival with one of the head gardeners, followed by time for your own exploration and a visit to the gift shop. A **picnic lunch** will be provided. *(Photo credit: Le jardinet)*



We will then transfer to at [Loseley Park Gardens](#) (left) for a guided tour with one of the head gardeners. The 2.5 acre Walled Garden at Loseley Park is based on a design by Gertrude Jekyll who lived nearby and is one of the hidden gems of the South East. Its series of "rooms" include the award-winning rose garden (planted with over 1,000 bushes including many old-fashioned varieties), the colorful flower garden with its maze of pathways, the white garden with fountains, and the extensive herb garden.

(Photo credit: Loseley Park Gardens)

We finish our day at the charming [New Place Hotel](#) in rural Hampshire where we will enjoy **dinner** together. This will be our base for the next two nights.

Day 5: Friday July 7th

Everyone loves peeking over the proverbial garden wall and today we have the opportunity to visit a **pint-sized private garden** densely planted with dramatic foliage plants native to Australia and New Zealand. The homeowners are also kindly offering us **light refreshments** in addition to a personal tour.

Photo credit: homeowner

A short drive will then take us into **Portsmouth**, home of the modern Royal Navy where we will have a **light lunch** in a traditional local pub.



It's an easy walk from here to the **Historic Dockyard** where we will learn more about this area's maritime past as we tour [HMS Victory](#), (right) best known for its role in the Battle of Trafalgar as Nelson's flagship. This will be followed by a [Harbor Tour](#) to see unrivalled views of Britain's modern frigates, destroyers and helicopter carriers, as well as historic buildings and the dramatic skyline.

Dinner on your own this evening in the hotel or at one of the nearby pubs or restaurants. ([Photo credit](#)).



Day 6: Saturday July 8th



(Photo credit: Le jardinet)

Today is an exciting day! We begin with a visit to [Denmans Garden](#) (left) former home and garden of the late John Brookes MBE, one of Britain's most influential landscape designers.

Denmans is a 4-acre contemporary country garden. True to John Brookes' design tenets, every curve is strong and related, creating exquisite inter-linking spaces. The diversity of its plants and its unique planting style have resulted in a garden with year-round interest, structure, and color. After an introductory talk and **light refreshments** there will be ample time to explore.

In the afternoon we will visit the [Sussex Prairie Garden](#) (right) Britain's largest "Prairie," or "Naturalistic" garden, with eight acres to roam. Designed and planted by Paul and Pauline McBride on Pauline's family farm in West Sussex, it is surrounded by mature oak trees and consists of a series of interlocking arcs of borders planted in a naturalistic style.

On arrival we will enjoy an introductory talk by the owners, enjoy our **picnic lunch** and then wander the garden at our leisure.



(Photo credit: Marianne Majerus)

Our coach will then take us to **Royal Tunbridge Wells** in Kent, a county known as the *Garden of England*, where [One Warwick Park](#) will be our hotel for the next 3 nights. **Dinner** together this evening.

Day 7: Sunday July 9th

After breakfast we will get our bearings with a **guided walking tour** of this historic spa town followed by free time and the opportunity to purchase lunch at your leisure.

In the afternoon we will visit [Hever Castle & Gardens](#) (right). The moated castle dates back to the 13th century and was once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII. The beautiful award-winning gardens, set in 125 acres of glorious grounds feature the magnificent Italian Garden with its classical statuary, many water features and cool and shady grottos, the Tudor Garden and more. We will experience the castle through the interactive audio guide and take a self-guided tour of the gardens.



Dinner on your own this evening. *(Photo credit: Le jardinet)*

Day 8: Monday July 10th



It's a day of fairytale settings today beginning with a visit to the 14C moated [Scotney Castle](#) (left). The castle was transformed into a ruin to become the centerpiece of the reimagined landscape, designed in the picturesque landscape style in the 1830s. The naturalistic plantings together with the wisteria and old English roses which adorn the sandstone walls add to the romance.

(Photo credit: Karl Gercens)

There will be time to explore and enjoy an independent lunch here before we transfer to the iconic [Sissinghurst Castle Gardens](#) (right) where you will have the entire afternoon to meander and explore to your hearts content. Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson fell in love with Sissinghurst Castle and created this world-renowned garden which we know you will adore as much as they did.

Dinner on your own this evening.

(Photo credit: Sissinghurst Gardens)





Day 9: Tuesday July 11th

Another 'bucket list' garden today as we visit [Great Dixter](#) (left) the family home of the late, great gardener and gardening writer Christopher Lloyd. Renowned for bold and daring color combinations and innovative planting, the garden is divided into a series of different areas, including the famous long border, quirky topiary, exotic garden, vibrant container displays, and wildflower meadows, each with a view of the historic house.

A guided garden tour will ensure we make the most of our visit with ample time for solo exploration.

(Photo credit: Grace Hensley Photography, Fashion Plants LLC)

Our **lunch** stop today will be at the [Mermaid Inn](#) (right) one of England's oldest inns.

You will have the afternoon free to enjoy wandering the cobbled streets of Rye, a delightful medieval town – a great time to pick up a few souvenirs to take home. Dinner on your own *(Photo credit: The Mermaid Inn, Ltd.)*



Day 10: Wednesday July 12th



After checking out of our hotel we head north on the final leg of our journey, with a stop en route at a **private, compact garden** in Chelmsford. The homeowner is a notable designer and RHS gold medal winning exhibitor with a special interest in clematis. This garden has been featured on Gardener's World in the past.

We will stop for lunch at a traditional country pub.

From here we continue on to the remarkable [Beth Chatto Garden](#) (right). This is such an inspiring garden – and there is much to see besides the much-acclaimed gravel garden. *(Photo credit: Le jardinet)*



Our home for the next 3 nights will be [The Angel Hotel](#) in the heart of the historic market town of **Bury St. Edmunds**. We will enjoy dinner together this evening.

Day 11: Thursday July 13th



Enjoy a **guided walking tour** of the town this morning with a local guide. Admire the magnificent St Edmundsbury Cathedral (left), discover the legend of St Edmund and stand among the ruins of the 11th Century Abbey of St Edmund, set in the stunning Abbey Gardens which are directly opposite our hotel. You will have the remainder of the morning to explore and have lunch independently. Bury St Edmunds is known as Suffolk's foodie town with everything from award-winning fine dining to quality Suffolk home-cooked pub food each with

their own unique atmosphere. For beer lovers, Greene King has been brewing beer in Bury St Edmunds for more than 200 years.

We will then drive to [The Bressingham Gardens](#) and Nursery, a testament to the passion of three generations of the Bloom family. This is a fun destination with steam trains, a vintage carousel, and a museum beside the colorful gardens. We will also meet garden celebrity, plantsman and author **Adrian Bloom** for a tour of his personal garden, Foggy Bottom.



Dinner will be on your own this evening. (Lots of options within walking distance).

(Photo credits: Le jardinet)

Day 12: Friday July 14th



For our grand finale we will spend the day at the [East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden](#), left and below (*Photo credit: Le Jardinnet*).

We will arrive before the garden is open to the public to enjoy **refreshments** and an introductory talk by the highly charismatic owner **Alan Gray** followed by a guided tour.

Prepared to be inspired and truly amazed by this exotic oasis. Every turn had me gasping with surprise and delight. There are so many design ideas to take home as well as imaginative plant combinations to re-create.

A delicious **lunch** will be provided for us to enjoy in a garden setting followed by additional time for personal exploration and photography.

After time to freshen up at our hotel, we will share a **Farewell Dinner**.



Day 13: Saturday July 15th

Your coach leaves for Heathrow airport after breakfast. (Assume you will be in time for international flights that depart at 1500 hours or later).

COVID STATEMENT

While we cannot predict exactly what restrictions may or may not still be in place during our visit, for the safety and peace of mind of all our guests, we have made the decision to only offer this tour to **fully vaccinated and boosted individuals**. Please be prepared to provide proof of vaccination both during the booking process and during the tour itself.

We also request that all tour guests travel with a supply of face masks in case they are required for entry to any establishment and to travel with 2 self-tests per person. Thank you for your understanding.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

While no strenuous hikes are planned, prospective guests should be aware that each day we are likely to walk several miles and may be standing still for periods of time as we listen to guides (without the option to sit). Some walking will be on firm paths or sidewalks, but there will be *many* instances where we will be traversing uneven, steep, and/or grassy footpaths through fields and gardens. Comfortable, lightweight walking shoes with good traction are therefore a must, as is a reasonable level of fitness.

Likewise, some of the historical buildings we will visit date back to the 13th century and 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 all 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.

DISCLAIMER

Le jardinet acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Le jardinet and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing these services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Le jardinet is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Le jardinet. Individual travelers are responsible of purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desires, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.

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 England" 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:

- 12 nights' accommodation (including all taxes) in 3-4-star hotels
- All ground transportation in England in an air-conditioned coach
- Breakfast daily
- 6 lunches, 5 dinners
- 5 traditional English refreshments (tea/coffee and cake)
- All entrance fees and private guided tours to gardens, historical sites, and Estates per itinerary
- Private guided tours led by owners, Head Gardener or experienced garden guide
- Entrance to the Hampton Court Garden Festival on members-only day
- Harbor Tour at the Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth
- Royal Horticultural Society membership for one year
- All taxes
- All gratuities with the exception of coach driver and housekeeping
- A virtual get together for all guests to meet before our tour
- A pre-tour gathering at your hosts home for all local guests
- Design and horticultural expertise from your Tour Leader, Karen Chapman
- Hosts, Andy and Karen Chapman traveling with group at all times

Tour Cost:

Tour is priced in **Pounds Sterling (£)** and final payment will reflect the actual cost.

For 15-19 passengers:

£5214 per person based on double occupancy

Based on rate of exchange (10/4/2022): ~\$5984

For 20-24 passengers (group is capped at 22 plus two hosts):

£4815 per person based on double occupancy

Based on ROE (10/4/2022) ~\$5526

Single supplement: **£975**

Based on ROE (10/4/22): ~\$1119

Payment schedule and cancellation policy:

A \$1500 deposit per person is due at time of booking and is fully refundable through November 15th.

Final payment is due April 1st 2023, 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.

Note: our tour will proceed with a minimum of 15 reservations. If that minimum is not met Le jardinet reserves the right to cancel the tour at which time all payments will be refunded in full. Please do not make your airline reservations until I have confirmed in writing that the tour has met these criteria.

To reserve your place:

We know this tour will sell out quickly, so please **email Karen** (karen@lejardinetdesigns.com) initially to confirm space and get further instructions.

When confirmed, please make **checks payable** to **Direct Travel**, writing "**Karen Chapman – UK Tour 2023**" on the memo line, and mail along with your **reservation form** and **proof of vaccination** to the address below:

Ma Petite Tours
9614 180th St. SE

Snohomish, WA 98296

Insurance:

Insurance is highly recommended. Please contact my booking agent [Dee](#) for a personalized quote with details of coverage including epidemic-related benefits.

Air Travel:

Flights are not included in the tour cost, giving you maximum flexibility should you wish to arrive early or extend your visit when our tour ends. Please do not book your flights until insurance coverage information is provided and we have confirmed that the tour will proceed with a minimum of 15 guests.

You will need to be at our meeting point (a hotel convenient to all **Heathrow Airport** terminals: details still to be decided) **no later than 1pm on Monday July 3rd**. If booking your own flights please allow at least 2.5 hours after arrival to clear customs, collect luggage and make your way to the meeting point. You may prefer to arrive the day before and stay in a local hotel rather than feeling rushed.

If you prefer not to book your own flights, our local agent Deborah Van Pevenage can assist you. Please contact her at dvanpevenage@dt.com, 425-775-1595 and mention that you are part of the **Karen Chapman England Group**.

Documentation:

You will need a valid US Passport with at least 6 months validity from the return date to enter the UK. If you are not a US citizen, please let me know and I will advise you on the required documentation.

We will keep you updated regarding any COVID-related documentation or testing that may be required, but at a minimum you should anticipate providing proof of full vaccination and a recent negative test.

For more information contact:

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

RESERVATION FORM: PLEASE PRINT

July 3rd -15th 2023 tour: England in Full Bloom with Karen & Andy Chapman

Passenger One:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Relationship to above: _____

Legal name as it appears on passport: _____

Country issuing passport: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of birth: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Food allergies: _____

Medical allergies: _____

Other:

Do you wish to purchase insurance? _____

Will you be a member of the Royal Horticultural Society during July 3rd-15th 2023? _____

Membership number _____

Special requests:

Single requesting share?

Please provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 when you submit this registration form

Passenger Two:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency contact person and phone: _____

Relationship to above: _____

Legal name as it appears on passport: _____

Country issuing passport: _____

Passport number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Date of birth: _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Food allergies: _____

Medical allergies: _____

Other:

Do you wish to purchase insurance? _____

Will you be a member of the Royal Horticultural Society during July 3rd-15th 2022? _____

Membership number _____

Please provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 when you submit this registration form