

GREAT GARDENS OF DEVON & CORNWALL:

Historic Sites, Iconic Estates & Hidden Gems

July 1st-13th 2024

With Karen & Andy Chapman

THIS TOUR IS NOW FULL – BUT YOU MAY JOIN OUR WAITING LIST



Forde Abbey. Photo credit: CC BY-SA 3.0

With its rugged scenery, picturesque fishing villages and temperate/subtropical climate, this area of SW England is unique: even boasting its own dialect.

Our small group tour will explore many world-class gardens in this region including [Stourhead](#) renowned for its temples, grottos, and water features, the naturalistic, subtropical landscape of [Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens](#), romantic [Ilford Manor](#) which merges formality with nature and magnificent rural views, and the biomes of the [Eden Project](#). We will also take the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the rich history of the West Country, visiting [Plymouth](#) to see where the Mayflower set sail for America in 1620, the Roman city of [Bath](#), and medieval [Tintagel Castle](#), inextricably linked with the legend of King Arthur. And then there are the gardens *themselves* which link us to the past: [Coleton Fishacre](#), a 1920's country retreat, the [Lost Gardens of Heligan](#) where the discovery of a tiny room, buried under fallen masonry in the corner of one of the walled gardens initiated a remarkable restoration project, and [Trebah Garden](#) with its secluded, sandy beach which looks vastly different today than it did in 1944 when more than 7000 members of the U.S. 29th Infantry Division boarded ships and left to take part in the D-Day assault.



Wildside Photo credit: Jason Ingram

What sets this tour apart, however, are the hidden gems such as [Bonython](#), a traditional, mixed agricultural Cornish estate, [Wildside Nursery](#), hailed as the “*most adventurous garden in England*”, designed and managed by renowned author and plantsman **Keith Wiley**, and carefully selected **private gardens** which are often the visits our guests enjoy the most.

No tour of this scenic area would be complete without visiting some of the quaint fishing villages along the Cornish coast whereas the clifftop [Minack Theater](#) in Penzance is known as much for its sub-tropical gardens as for the breathtaking views across the Celtic Sea.

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.

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

ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday July 1st

Your adventure begins in earnest when we meet at Heathrow Airport and board our coach for the drive to the beautiful city of **Bath** (*photo*). We will be treated to a private tour of [The Bath Priory](#) gardens by head gardener and award-winning designer **Jane Moore** followed by a late **afternoon tea**.

We will then continue on to the [Apex City Hotel](#) which will be our base for the next 3 nights. Independent dinner (if needed!) is suggested at our hotel or one of the many local restaurants or pubs.



Day 2: Tuesday, July 2nd

After a leisurely breakfast a **guided walking tour** of Bath will be followed by free time to [explore](#) and enjoy an independent lunch.

The afternoon will be spent at [Iford Manor Estate](#), where we will be welcomed by a member of the Cartwright-Hignett family before exploring the Grade I registered garden, renowned for its balance of formal design with expansive rural views. We will also have a guided tour of the private 1.5 acre walled garden, not generally open to the public. This area includes the vegetable garden, cutting garden, glasshouses and Elizabeth Cartwright-Hignett's Topiary, shell house, puzzle garden and other artistic sculptures created and made by her. Independent dinner.

Day 3: Wednesday July 3rd



We have a full, exciting day planned today! After breakfast we will head to [Hauser & Wirth Somerset](#) for a **guided tour** of the large perennial meadow designed by Piet Oudolf with plenty of time to enjoy the galleries, farm shop, and have lunch at your leisure.

In the afternoon our coach will transfer us to iconic [Stourhead](#) (*photo*) to explore this world-famous landscape garden centered around a magnificent lake reflecting classical temples and the renowned Palladian Bridge.

To round out the day we will pay a late afternoon visit to a delightful **private garden** which features sweeping herbaceous borders and a cider apple orchard. A visit to an English home (or garden) always involves putting the kettle on, so of course we will enjoy a late **afternoon tea** before returning to Bath in the early evening. Independent dinner – we suggest the hotel due to the later arrival time.

Day 4: Thursday July 4th



After checking out of our hotel we travel to [Hestercombe](#): 50 acres of quintessential Somerset gardens that truly have something for everyone: dramatic water features, formal gardens designed by Edward Lutyens in collaboration with Gertrude Jekyll, and a sunken parterre. After **refreshments** and a **private guided tour**, we will have a **packed lunch** as we transfer to [East Lambrook Manor Gardens](#) (*photo*) This Grade I cottage garden was created by renowned planstwoman and garden writer Margery Fish and is characterized by winding paths and lush, abundant

borders. After a brief introduction we will have ample time to explore. From here we drive to our hotel, the [Crowne Plaza](#) in **Plymouth**, our hotel for the next 3 nights. **Dinner** together this evening.

Day 5: Friday July 5th

Retrace American history as we begin today with a **guided tour** of Plymouth and visit the site where the Mayflower set sail in 1620. Our orientation tour will also include the Hoe and Barbican district followed by free time to explore and have lunch at your leisure.

In the afternoon we will visit [Coleton Fishacre](#), a 1920's country retreat and tropical garden with stunning views across to the sea. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the home with its Art Deco interiors (I guarantee you'll be saying "my grandparents used to have one of those..." as you meander from room to room!) The mild climate allows for a colorful blend of tropical favorites as well as more traditional herbaceous plantings. Take time to walk down to the coastal path and take in the expansive sea views. Independent dinner.

Day 6: Saturday July 6th

We begin today with a visit to [Wildside Nursery](#) and a **guided tour** with owner and well-known garden celebrity, author, and plantsman **Keith Wiley**. Our tour will include the 3 main areas; the Lower Garden with its complex topography and network of paths, the more formal Courtyard with mediterranean influences and the Canyons. This is the most recent addition and has been designed as a Tribute Garden to Keith's late wife Ros.



From here it is just a short transfer to [The Garden House](#) (*photo*) where Keith was head gardener for 25 years. After **lunch** together we have plenty of time for a self-guided visit of this 10-acre garden whose history is entwined with nearby Buckland Abbey. Look for the romantic ruins of a 16th Century vicarage (built after the dissolution of the monastery), tower and thatched barn amid the colorful borders. Independent dinner this evening.

Day 7: Sunday July 7th



After checking out of our hotel, we leave Devon and continue our adventure in Cornwall, stopping to browse for souvenirs or coffee in the delightful fishing village of [Polperro](#). This is also the time to pick up something to eat on the bus (we highly recommend a traditional Cornish pasty) in lieu of a formal lunch stop.

The afternoon will be spent at the [Eden Project](#) (*photo*). A former barren landscape has been transformed into a global garden with several immersive biomes, outdoor

gardens, and art installations to enjoy.

Our hotel for the next 4 nights is [St. Michaels Resort](#) a stone's throw from the beautiful Gyllyngvase beach in Falmouth. **Dinner** together.

Day 8: Monday July 8th

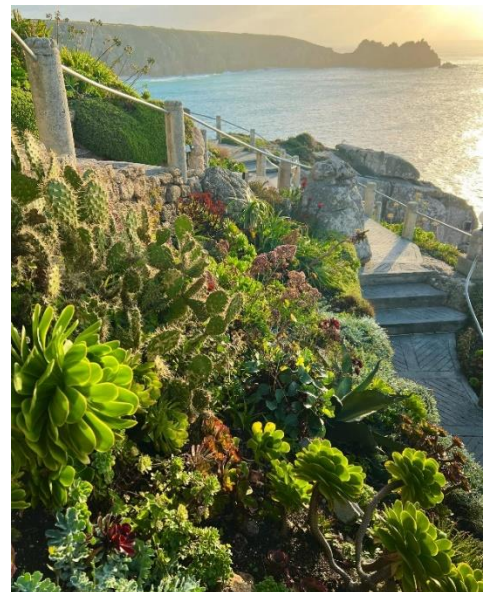
Our first stop is a favorite of Karen's: the [Lost Gardens of Heligan](#), a very special place that is so much more than the much-photographed 'sleeping lady'. Explore its history and restoration, walk through a sub-tropical jungle, be adventurous and cross the rope bridge, and learn about Victorian exotic fruit production in the Kitchen Garden.

After a **pub lunch** we will visit a **private 2-acre garden** where homeowners Alison and Brian will give an introductory talk before we explore on our own. **Afternoon tea** will be served (because this is England after all...). Independent dinner.

Day 9: Tuesday July 9th

Today we venture to the further into Cornwall along the Lizard peninsula, stopping first at [Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens](#) for a **private** visit. After an introductory overview we will be able to enjoy the contemporary sculptures set within the exotic plantings of this sub-tropical climate with the dramatic landscape providing the perfect backdrop to both.

We then head to the [Minack Theater](#) (*photo*) a spectacular cliff-side, open-air theater and garden. Although small, this unique garden is a melding of South Africa, South America and the Canary Islands – all at the southern tip of England. We will enjoy a **picnic lunch** and a **matinee performance** of London Assurance. Independent dinner.



Day 10: Wednesday July 10th

This morning we will visit [Trebah](#) (photo) a delightful sub-tropical garden with a private beach and a fascinating [historical connection](#) to the USA. This is a self-paced, self-guided visit with time for an independent lunch and/or swim in the clear, blue ocean. (TIP: a lovely gift store too).

A short coach transfer will take us to [Bonython](#), a private garden on the Lizard Peninsula heralded as one of the “great gardens of Cornwall.” Enjoy a **guided tour** of the walled garden, traditional potager, orchard and parkland.

Independent dinner.



Day 11: Thursday July 11th



An early check out this morning will ensure we have plenty of time to lose ourselves in the history of [Tintagel Castle](#) (photo) and the legend of King Arthur. Worth visiting for the dramatic scenery alone, is sure to be a memorable excursion. **Lunch** will be at a traditional local pub before continuing on to our hotel in Taunton, Somerset: [The Castle](#). (2 nts) Independent dinner.

Day 12: Friday July 12th:

For our final adventure we will visit the historic [Forde Abbey](#) to tour the award-winning gardens. Like all great gardens this has evolved over its 90-year history and now features a walled kitchen garden which dates back to monastic times as well as a rock garden, bog garden and a delightful, contemporary Swirl, or Spiral Garden. After a pub **lunch** the remainder of the afternoon will be free for last minute shopping and packing. **Farewell dinner** in a private setting at our hotel this evening.

Day 13: Saturday July 13th:

Your hosts will bid you farewell this morning as you leave by coach for Heathrow airport, aiming to arrive in time for international flights departing 15:00 hours or later. (NOTE: *Karen & Andy will not be accompanying the coach back to Heathrow*). If you prefer to stay overnight at the airport for a morning departure our booking agent would be happy to assist you.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

Our aim is to keep everyone healthy and be sensitive to those who may be more vulnerable. No proof of any vaccination is now needed to travel. However, by registering for this tour **all guests understand and agree to the following:**

- Any guest who displays symptoms of *any* upper respiratory infection other than seasonal allergies (persistent cough, sneezing, sore throat) will be asked to wear a mask on the coach and in confined indoor areas, and to practice social distancing whenever possible to minimize the risk to others.
- Any guest who is running a fever will be asked to take a rest day at our hotel (if we are returning to the same hotel that evening) to allow for self-medication and isolation. Should the fever last more than 24 hours or should we be in transit that day, the guest may be asked to remain at that hotel until they are recovered from their fever and then make their way, at their own expense, to rejoin the group. We will assist you in making the necessary arrangements and stay in communication with you throughout. Purchase of travel insurance and collection of all expense-related receipts, however, is highly recommended

Thank you for your understanding.

HOW DO I KNOW IF THIS TOUR IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Cornwall is an especially hilly area. We will frequently be climbing flights of fairly steep steps, traversing uneven ground and walking 5-6 miles each day. It is therefore more strenuous than some of our tours and not suited to those with knee or hip problems.

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, 3 dinners
- 4 traditional English refreshments (tea/coffee and cake)
- All entrance fees and private guided tours to gardens, historical sites, and Estates per itinerary
- Tickets to a matinee performance of London Assurance at the Minack theater
- Private guided tours led by owners, Head Gardener or experienced garden guide
- 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:

£5249 per person based on double occupancy

Based on rate of exchange (11/11/2023): ~\$6416

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

£4795 per person based on double occupancy

Based on ROE (11/11/2023) ~\$5861

Single supplement: **£975**

Based on ROE (11/11/23): ~\$1192

THIS TOUR IS NOW FULL

But good things come to those who wait, so we invite you to join our waiting list.

To reserve your place on our waiting list:

Please email Karen (karen@lejardinetdesigns.com) to confirm space is still available on our waiting list, after which you will be asked to email your completed reservation form(s). You will not be asked for a deposit or other payments until we are able to offer you a place and you confirm your request to join us in writing.

The following information is provided for your information should a place become available.

Payment schedule and cancellation policy:

A \$1500 deposit per person is due at time of booking and is non-refundable. Final payment due April 1st 2024.

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

When a place is confirmed, please make **checks payable** to **Direct Travel**, writing “**Karen Chapman – UK Tour 2024**” on the memo line, and mail to my agent at the address below:

Ma Petite Tours
9614 180th St. SE
Snohomish, WA 98296

Insurance:

Insurance is highly recommended. Once your deposit and reservation form are received, an email will be sent to you regarding insurance coverage as well as a link for purchase.

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.

You will need to be at our meeting point in Terminal 3 arrivals, Heathrow Airport **no later than NOON on Monday July 1st**. 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.

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.

For more information contact:

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

WAITING LIST RESERVATION FORM: PLEASE PRINT

July 1st -13th 2024 tour: Great Gardens of Devon & Cornwall with Karen & Andy Chapman

Passenger One:

Name: _____

Full address: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency (non-tour) 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? _____

Special requests:

Single requesting share?

Health Considerations: I have read, understand and agree to the terms laid out above.

_____ (signature)

Passenger Two:

Name: _____

Full address: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Email: _____

Emergency (non-tour) 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? _____

Health Considerations: I have read, understand and agree to the terms laid out above.

_____ (signature)