

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR
THE ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
GARDENS OF ENGLAND AND IRELAND
Exclusively escorted by Holly Kerr Forsyth



Welcome to London!

Day 1
Tuesday 22 May

On arrival at London Heathrow Airport guests will be met by their Noteworthy Tour guide and escorted to their luxury motor coach for a private transfer to their centrally located hotel. Rest of day is at leisure, enjoy some quiet time in the hotel or perhaps a shopping expedition down Oxford Street.

O/N Radisson Edwardian Sussex

Day 2
Wednesday 23 May

Full Day Chelsea Flower Show

Take the Underground this morning in the company of our guide, to travel the short distance to Sloane Square Tube Station and walk the short distance to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea to enjoy a full day at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

We have arranged for full day tickets to the second Member's Day of the 2012 Show.



Nowhere makes gardening more fashionable than the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. A catwalk of colour and creativity, the brightest new ideas, the latest trends and the pinnacle of design make this show the one the world wants to see. So make sure you're there to enjoy gardening at its most gorgeous and glamorous.

O/N Radisson Edwardian Sussex

Day 3
Thursday 24 May

Full day at leisure in London.

If interested you might like to visit at leisure today the Chelsea Physic Garden or the Garden Museum in the little church next to Lambeth Palace which contains the tomb of 17th century plant hunters, the John Tradescants. Or take time out to view the Tate Modern

O/N Radisson Edwardian Sussex

Day 4

Friday 25 May

Today you will enjoy a full day trip into Kent with your Noteworthy Guide for two visits connected to Vita Sackville West. With a visit to Gravetye Manor at East Grinstead. This garden is featured in Holly's book : Garden of Eden

Knole has been shown off to visitors for the past 500 years. Thirteen show rooms remain much as they were in the 18th century, when they were laid out to impress visitors with the Sackvilles' wealth. The birthplace and childhood home of Vita Sackville-West, who went on to create the gardens at Sissinghurst, Knole was also the setting for Virginia Woolf's novel *Orlando*. The house includes world-renowned Stuart furniture, important paintings and the prototype of the famous Knole settee. Knole is set at the heart of the only remaining medieval deer park in Kent



Enjoy lunch today in a charming country pub.

Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Kent

Sissinghurst is the shrine to which all true garden-lovers make a pilgrimage at some time in their lives and was created by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Sir Harold Nicolson from 1930 onwards out of a disconnected collection of ancient buildings and a garden which had become a farmyard dumping-ground. The disciplined bone structure of the design is unchanging but the planting, like nature itself, has been allowed to evolve. Sissinghurst never disappoints and each visit will reveal new pleasures.



Similar to Hidcote in many respects, and inspired by it, the design is formal and the planting generous and relaxed; cottage garden and wild flowers intermingle happily with a wealth of more sophisticated and unusual plants. One of the many refreshing things about Sissinghurst is the way in which virtuoso changes in mood are effortlessly achieved from the hot oranges and reds of the Cottage Garden, for example, to the austere yew alley that separates the formal gardens from the orchard. Not only does Sissinghurst have the power to enchant but it is also an unending source of practical inspiration for all gardeners.

O/N SPA HOTEL, ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Day 5
Saturday 26 May

Full day tour with your Noteworthy Guide

Munstead Wood



To historians, this is one of the most famous gardens in England. It belonged to Gertrude Jekyll and she employed Edwin Lutyens to design the house. Construction began in 1895. The house is in excellent condition and the garden, though greatly changed is being restored. One of the problems is that for her 'small garden' of 15 acres, Jekyll employed 14 gardeners.

The Manor House, Upton Grey, Hampshire



The name of Gertrude Jekyll seems to be on almost every gardener's lips these days but very few of her gardens survive and fewer still have been restored with such care and affection as this. The Wallingers came in 1984, long after the Jekyll gardens had disappeared, and have now reinstated her original scheme with meticulous care. To one side of the entrance drive the wild garden has sinuous mown paths in long grass, rambling roses, thickets of bamboo and a flag fringed pool. Behind the house the formal garden has a virtuoso Jekyll plat – two squares of triangular beds edged with grey stachys and brimming with double pink peonies and the double pink rose 'Caroline Testout'. Terraces overlook it and the supporting dry-stone walls are rich with wild flowers. Steps lead down to terraced bowling and tannis lawns hedged in

yew. This is one of the very best Jekyll gardens from which to learn her essential ideas which may be put into practice in any garden.

Visit the gardens at Tylney Hall



These historic gardens, influenced by Gertrude Jekyll, now surround a luxury hotel but can be visited. Visitors can then wander in the Italian Garden, which has been carefully restored after a tennis court was built over it! The original design by Seldon Wornum can now be seen. The garden also affords views of the lake and its boathouse bridge.

Visitors may be drawn from here to the Rose Gardens and Azalea Garden in which orchids bloom in June. The view across the lawns from here is framed by Giant Redwoods and takes in a Victorian teahouse and the house. Closer to the hotel, are the Dutch Gardens, which, sadly, are missing much of their original statuary.

Greenhouses designed by Weir Schultz and kitchen gardens as well as a productive orchard, can also be visited. The Water Gardens might well, however, prove the highlight of a visit, boasting cascades, a woodland glade in which bamboos and rhododendrons thrive, and a lower lake. The Schultz Arch offers views of much of these.

Day 6
Sunday 27 May

Full Day trip with your Noteworthy Guide to visit three great gardens.

Visit the gardens at Great Dixter, East Sussex



Those who have enjoyed the many gardening books and articles written by Christopher Lloyd will find particularly absorbing the garden he so entertainingly wrote about. Lloyd died in 2006 but his friend and gardener, Fergus Garrett is still there and money from the Heritage Lottery fund is helping to keep the house and gardens intact for future generations to enjoy. The garden surrounds a timbered 15th century house restored by Edwin Lutyens who also planned the original garden of which the yew topiary and cunning vistas remain. Most of the planting is of more recent date. Here is Lloyd's virtuoso mixed border; sheets of spring flowers in the orchard; a meadow garden; and the late summer 'tropical garden' rich in bold shapes and brilliant colors. No gardener could visit Great Dixter without making discoveries and rekindling a zest for gardening.



Nymans

There are few gardens anywhere in England where rare and beautiful plants are grown in such an attractive setting, in which formality and informality are subtly interwoven. Nymans was acquired by Leonard Messel in 1890 when he began introducing a wide range of plants. He made a woodland garden in which magnificent trees and flowering shrubs are seen to great advantage. In an irregularly shaped walled garden Messel laid out a pair of spectacular herbaceous borders whose design was influenced by William Robinson. There are wonderful today. Surrounding the borders are choice ornamental trees, such as dogwoods and styrax. There is much topiary of yew and box – geometric shapes and plump birds – and romantic ruins.

High Beeches



7 acres of magnificent woodland and water gardens, full of rare, exotic and unusual plants; RHS award winning plants, a botanical treasure trove, and one of the great gardens of Sussex. The plant collection includes specimens from many parts of the world and Champion trees – supreme examples of their type.

The garden features include the National Collection of Stewartia Trees and the best natural wildflower meadow in Sussex; specimens found by some of the most famous plant hunters in history, selected for exceptional foliage, flowering, colour and perfume – the ultimate in wild gardening, historically important and rare species.

O/N SPA HOTEL, ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Day 7

Monday 28 May

Three great gardens again today , with some time on your own

- Great Dixter , East Sussex
- Nymans
- High Beeches

Day 8

Tuesday 29 May

Leave Sussex today and head west visiting two gardens en route.

Longstock Water Gardens



The seven acres of these superb water gardens, created by John Spedan Lewis in 1948, are fed from the River Test and surrounded by acid-loving trees and shrubs. They form an archipelago connected by narrow bridges and causeways. Gunnera, the swamp cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) surrounded by stilts, royal fern, giant white lily (*Cardiocrinum giganteum*) and Japanese angelica tree (*Aralia elata*) are just some of the plants reflected in the clear waters moving with gold carp, and a walk along the paths gives a succession of views followed by more intimate spaces. Aquatics include 48 different water lilies. Do not miss a visit to Longstock Park Nursery nearby (also

open daily), set in a walled garden with climbing plants, and the fine herbaceous border reached through a gate in its wall. This runs parallel to a pergola planted with roses and an exquisite and extensive collection of viticella clematis. A collection of buddleja, with over 80 varieties, may be seen on request.

Hodges Barn



This is a large garden - six acres surrounding a converted 15th-century columbarium - all intensively planted. The terraces, courtyards and gardens are divided into rooms (surrounded either by walls or by tapestry, laurel or yew hedges) to give year-round colour. Old-fashioned rose beds are underplanted with tulips for spring and with alliums and campanulas for summer. There is a formal herbaceous border, a water garden and a swimming pool area with large planted pots.

Continue and check in to the Bowood Hotel near Calne.

Bowood Hotel



This purpose built 43 bedroom hotel and spa is ideally situated between Calne & Chippenham, yet hidden in 2000 acres of rolling “Capability” Brown parkland on the Bowood Estate. Four different room types are available, each decorated to the highest standard by the Marchioness of Lansdowne. Hotel residents are entitled to use the spa facilities during their stay.

All hotel rooms benefit from; complimentary Wi-Fi, Plasma televisions, individual climate control, 24 hour room service, Dab Radio, iPod dock, iron & ironing boards, bathrobes, slippers, tea & coffee making facilities plus guests receive complimentary use of the Spa during their stay. In addition, guests also receive a complimentary round of golf.

4.30 pm Depart the hotel for the highlight of your day today.

5.30 pm Arrive for a private tour of Highgrove Gardens



Guests will be divided into intimate groups of 10 and your specialist garden guide leads you for a 1 ½ hour visit to these spectacular gardens.

The garden at Highgrove embodies The Prince's environmental philosophy: that it is better to work with Nature than against it.

When he bought the Highgrove estate in 1980, The Prince was adamant that it should be an entirely organic garden and farm. However, at that time there was no sign of a garden at all.



His Royal Highness sought the advice of a friend, Lady Salisbury, who was an experienced organic gardener well-known for her work at Cranbourne and at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. She and The Prince laid out parts of the garden with scented plants. Wisteria, honeysuckle, jasmine, lobelia, lilies and thyme were chosen to surround the house. On the advice of Miriam Rothschild, another gardening expert and one of the country's leading advocates of biodiversity, The Prince created an experimental wild flower meadow. At its westerly end, the meadow is also home to some of the National Collection of Beeches which The Prince maintains on behalf of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG). In addition to part of the National Collection of Beeches, His Royal Highness has the National Collection of Hostas, a large-leafed plant which he loves.

After the tour is over you meet again in the Orchard Room and enjoy Champagne and Canapés. You also have the chance to spend some time in the Highgrove Shop which sells a unique collection of organic foods and lifestyle products for the home and garden.

Return for dinner at leisure at Bowood.

O/N BOWOOD HOTEL

Day 9
Wednesday 30 May

Full day tour with your Noteworthy Guide.



Visit Barnsley House Gardens

Barnsley House was built in 1697 of Cotswold stone and the house and grounds have gained international acclaim as a place of remarkable beauty; a perfect example of the English country house and garden, designed by "grande dame" of Cotswold gardens, Rosemary Verey.

The garden at Barnsley House is enchanting. Not grand or forbidding, this is a place where you can truly relax, with charming walks, sunny terraces and knot gardens, beautifully ornate formal lawns, ancient meadows and ungoverned wildernesses.

Tours are conducted by Head Gardener, Richard Gatenby, and his extensive knowledge and obvious passion for his subject is a fascinating insight into the thought behind the design, and the love and attention to detail required to keep this garden truly one of England's finest and most famous.

Enjoy lunch at leisure in the Village Pub in Barnsley today.

Visit Ampney Park, Ampney Crucis before returning to your hotel.

6.00 pm Private Cocktail Reception at Bowood House

This evening you are invited to a private Reception hosted by the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne in the private apartments of their stately home, Bowood House.

Dinner included at the Bowood Hotel

O/N BOWOOD HOTEL

Day 10
Thursday 31 May

Leave Bowood Hotel and travel through the Cotswolds to the University City of Oxford.



Oxford

The passage of English history is impressively documented in the streets, houses, colleges and chapels of Oxford. Within one square mile alone the city has more than 900 buildings of architectural or historical interest. For the visitor this presents a challenge - as no single building dominates Oxford and no fortress or huge cathedral will give you a short-cut view of the city. Nor does Oxford flaunt its treasures; behind department store lurk grand Palladian doorways or half-hidden relics of medieval architecture.

A visit will be included to Christ Church College



Founded in 1525 by Cardinal Wolsey and refounded by Henry VIII in 1546, this is the grandest of all Oxford Colleges. The roll call of illustrious former students includes John Wesley, William Penn, W H Auden and Lewis Carroll – Alice-in-Wonderland's father was the Dean. Oxford Cathedral doubles as the college chapel – look for the shrine of the Anglo-Saxon patron saint of Oxford, St Frideswide.

Oxford Botanic Garden



This is the oldest botanic garden in England, first laid out in 1621: the handsome gateways were added a few years later. It has kept its original rectangular design and many of the statues and garden ornaments. It also has a calm that is far from the bustle outside and has proved a refuge for generations of undergraduates. There are good and representative collections of almost every type of plant, including a grass garden, carnivorous plants, a water garden, fernery, orangery and several conservatories. Everything is well labeled, of course, and designed not only as an aesthetically pleasing living collection of plants for the university botanists but, much more generally, as an educational resource. In recent years the area outside the walled garden has been developed as a garden to inspire gardeners: here are a water garden, rock garden, herbaceous border and autumn border. The glasshouses have recently been redesigned so that visiting schoolchildren can enjoy 'the ultimate rainforest and desert experience'.

Check in to the Ettington Park Hotel in Stratford upon Avon. Set in 40 acres of parkland in the Warwickshire countryside, in a verdant valley with the River Stour meandering through it, this hotel is just 6 miles from the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon, this spectacular Neo-Gothic mansion is a world apart from the hustle and bustle of modern-day life.



This is a luxury hotel furnished with exquisite antiques, hung with fine paintings, and decorated with dozens of friezes that trace its centuries of tradition and heritage. Ettington Park Hotel in Stratford upon Avon radiates style and luxury.

O/N ETTINGTON PARK HOTEL

Day 11
Friday 1 June



Hidcote Manor Gardens, Gloucestershire

Although among the best-known gardens in Britain, Hidcote still has the power to startle. It was begun before World War I by an American, Major Lawrence Johnston, who devised a type of garden that many think of as quintessentially English. First, it is a garden built up of separate 'rooms', each connected to the next but often with dramatic contrasts. Second, the first layout provides a disciplined setting for an immense range of plants of which Johnston was a pioneer rediscovered - especially of old roses - and which he used in a swashbuckling manner in contrast with the crisp authority of his layout. Everywhere something enticing is glimpsed through an opening, across a pool, down steps or framed by a distant gate.

Kiftsgate Court, Gloucestershire

The name Kiftsgate means to many gardeners that beautiful and embarrassingly vigorous rambling rose *R Filipes* 'Kiftsgate', but although the garden, started in the 1920's by Heather Muir, is certainly full of roses there is much else to admire. The house has a splendid setting, teetering on the edge of a precipitous valley across which, through the woods, are views of the Vale of Evesham. About the house is a series of enclosed gardens in which formality is blurred by generous planting. Below all this, paths wind steeply down the valley side where, under the canopy of trees, cistus, hebes, phlomis and senecio relish the dry conditions.



This afternoon you will visit the beautiful gardens at Bourton House near Moreton-in-Marsh



Monique and Richard Paice opened to the public on a single Sunday in 1987 under the auspices of the National Garden Scheme. This was an exciting time; the Paices had only just begun to take on a neglected wilderness with the hope of turning it into a cared for setting. Little did they think that with the help of a great team, they would achieve what is enjoyed today.

For many years, Monique Paice worked with what she liked to call a brown earth policy (lots of digging and not too much planting), growing organically in every sense of the word. Each season brought new challenges, as well as new plans for new projects. The same is true today, the garden is ever evolving; whether it is the installation of a new tunnel in the field opposite to allow us to grow even more exotica, or widening wide beds to accommodate more exciting foliage and flora. Monique and Richard Paice have moved on to a house nearby for personal reasons. The new owners have decided to keep the garden open, we hope for the enjoyment of all.

Day 12
Saturday 2 June

Full day tour with your Noteworthy Guide to visit two wonderful gardens today.

Broughton Castle is near Banbury and is a spectacular 14th century moated and fortified manor house, set in exquisite parkland, and occupying a beautiful site next to the church. It is the home of Lord and Lady Saye and Sele.



This garden is featured in Holly's book: Garden of Eden

The Castle has been home to the same family since 1451 and its features include fine fireplaces, panelling and a collection of china and Chinese wallpapers. The gardens are famous and should be showing at their best in June. We can arrange for a private visit and guided tour of this lovely castle. Diary permitting Lord Saye would be able to meet the group and give them an introductory talk in the Great Hall.

After this very special visit walk the short distance the local pub (5 mins walk from the Castle), the Saye and Sele Arms, and enjoy a typical pub lunch and a pint of beer.

Visit the Gardens at Coton Manor



This peaceful ten acre garden occupies a hillside position extending down from the 17th century manor house, constructed of mellow Northamptonshire stone. Landscaped on different levels, it comprises a series of distinctive smaller gardens, providing variety and interest throughout the season, and enhanced by flowing streams, fountains and ponds. Beyond the confines of the garden, there is a magical five acre bluebell wood and a colorful wildflower meadow at its best in June & July.

This garden is featured in Holly's book : Garden of Eden

O/N ETTINGTON PARK HOTEL

Day 13
Sunday 3 June

Leave Ettington Park and drive North making two or three visits en route.

Cottesbrook Hall Gardens

This garden is featured in Holly's book : Garden of Eden



Francis Smith of Warwick was the original architect and the house was built between 1702 and 1712. Later additions by Robert Mitchell are the East and West bows in the Adam manner. There are also interior features such as notable wrought iron work and unusual rococo papier mache wall decoration.

The Hall contains a great many treasures including a fine collection of sporting pictures - The Woolavington Collection.

The remarkable 18th century landscaping of the Park, its vistas and lakes, are by an unknown hand and much has been restored. The celebrated gardens are of great variety with many specimen trees.

The formal and wild gardens surrounding and adjacent to the house have been mainly developed during the present century and these developments have continued to the present day. A number of distinguished landscape designers have been involved - Robert Weir Schultz, Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe and Dame Sylvia Crowe. The main inspiration came from the late Hon. Lady Macdonald-Buchanan. Projects commissioned by the present owners have been led by garden designers, James Alexander Sinclair, Angela Collins and most recently Arne Maynard.

Visit to the Gardens at Althorp



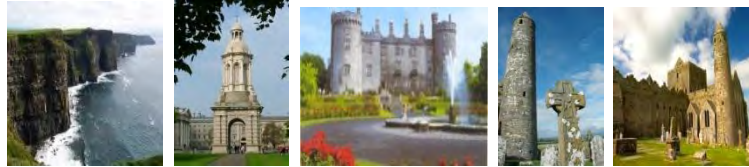
At one time, the only staff employed in the Gardens were two men with sticks whose job it was to prevent curious cattle from putting their horns through the ground floor windows. Since then the gardens have been altered several times. A painting of the house in 1677 shows an elaborate moat around the house and extensive walled gardens.

The present grounds were designed by the architect W.N. Teulon and date from 1860. More recently, one of England's most prominent garden designers, Dan Pearson, has taken on the redevelopment of the gardens with the aim of lifting the visitors' eyes to the wider landscape with its magnificent and rare collection of trees.

The Round Oval, as the lake is known, was cleaned out and re-filled in 1868. The Summerhouse at the lakeside was bought in 1901 by John Poyntz, Fifth Earl Spencer from Admiralty House gardens, London for the sum of £3.00. This purchase was at the request of Charlotte Spencer who wished to have it erected in the pleasure grounds as a memory of her husband's regime of the admiralty. The Summerhouse was moved to the south of the Round Oval in 1926 where it stands today, dedicated to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Continue to Birmingham Airport for your flight to Dublin.

WELCOME TO IRELAND!



Arrive Dublin International Airport. When you have completed Customs formalities you will be greeted by your Tour Guide in the Arrivals Hall who will escort you to your waiting motor coach.

Transfer to The Ritz Carlton Hotel, Powerscourt.

The Ritz-Carlton,



Powerscourt is situated amidst one of the most scenic and historic estates in Ireland. Located on the doorstep of Dublin City on the grounds of the 1,000 acre (404 hectares) Powerscourt House and Gardens, the resort's tranquil countryside location traces its origins back to the 12th century. The estate is one of the most frequently visited attractions in Ireland and is situated beside the picturesque village of Enniskerry. This is a wonderfully authentic Irish village and is the ideal place to stroll to local cafes, bars, antique shops and boutiques. County Wicklow, known affectionately as

'The Garden of Ireland'

Time to check in and freshen up. Then meet your Tour Guide in the lobby and depart for tour of Powerscourt House & Gardens.



The avenue of Powerscourt leading to the Palladian house echoes the magnificence of the whole estate, being a mile long and lined by over 2,000 beech trees. In addition the 47 acres of gardens are remarkable for their grandeur of scale, at the same time combining great delicacy and refinement of detail. The house was gutted by a fire in 1974 but recently has been reborn as an exceptional tourist destination. An exhibition brings to life the rich history of the estate.

The house is now home to the best of Irish design in gifts, clothes, and furniture in the Avoca Stores and the interiors Gallery.



The gardens at Powerscourt were laid out in two main periods. When the house was rebuilt in the decade after 1731, the surrounding grounds were also remodelled. The design reflected the desire to create a garden which was part of the wider landscape.

To the north formal tree plantations framed the vista from the house, while a walled garden, fish pond, cascades, grottos and terraces lay to the south. A century later the 6th Viscount Powerscourt instructed his architect, Daniel Robertson, to draw up new schemes for the gardens.



He is said to have suffered from gout and directed operations from a wheelbarrow, fortified by a bottle of sherry. When the sherry was finished, work ceased for the day!

The death of the 6th Viscount in 1844 meant that alterations to the gardens ceased until his son resumed the work in the late 1850's. By the time of his death in 1904, the 7th Viscount had transformed the Estate.



Further generations of the Wingfields maintained the grounds, adding the Japanese Gardens, Pepper Pot Tower and continuing to plant specimen trees. In 1961 the Estate passed to the Slazenger family.

Today the public continue to enjoy the gardens which first began to take shape over two and a half centuries ago. The charming walled garden, the striking terraces, fine statuary and varied trees are linked by carefully designed walks and set in the magnificent surroundings of the Wicklow Mountains.

O/N The Ritz Carlton Hotel, Powerscourt.

Day 14
Monday 4 June

This morning depart for Dublin City to include visit to Trinity College, The Phoenix Park and the National Botanic Gardens. This afternoon visit Helen Dillon's Garden and enjoy a private tour with Helen followed by coffee (subject to Helen being in residence)

Intimate as a village, sophisticated as a metropolis and friendly as a pub, Dublin is a lively place with a vibrant pace that promises a surprise around every corner. Dublin has a colorful past as can be seen by the many historic buildings throughout the city.

Visit Trinity College which was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1 on the site of an Augustinian monastery



Originally a Protestant College, it was not until the 1970's that Catholics started entering the university. Among the many famous students to attend the college were playwrights Oliver Goldsmith and Samuel Beckett, Oscar Wilde, Bram Stoker (creator of the novel Dracula), Jonathan Swift and political writer Edmund Burke.

Trinity's lawns and cobbled quads provide a pleasant haven in the heart of the city. Trinity houses the Book of Kells in the Old Library which stretches 210ft is 41 ft wide and soars 40ft to a superb barrel-vaulted ceiling.



It houses some 2000,000 of the college's collections of more than 2 million volumes and its treasures are many, including the 7th century Book of Durrow and the 8th century Book of Dimma. But the most priceless manuscript it has is the Book of Kells. The most richly decorated of Ireland's medieval illuminated manuscripts the Book of Kells may have been the work of monks from Iona, who fled to Kells in AD 806 after a Viking raid.

Continue to the Phoenix Park. Few cities in the world have a park of such magnitude. Phoenix Park covers 1752 acres and is surrounded by a wall 7 miles long. Within them are gardens, lakes, woods and playing grounds for just about every sport from cricket to polo, not to mention the motor-cycle race meetings held on its roads. The Park, whose name comes from the Irish fionn uisce, or 'clear water' in reference to the fresh water spring in the Furry Glen, was once part of the grounds of Kilmainham priory nearby.



It was opened as a deer park in 1662 by the Duke of Ormond and was laid out in 1747 by Lord Chesterfield. The Irish President residence and the US Ambassador Residence are both located in the grounds of the Park.

On to the National Botanic Gardens. The National Botanic Gardens is noted for its fine plant collections holding over 15,000 plant species and cultivars from a variety of habitats from all around the world.



Famous for its exquisitely restored and planted glasshouses, notably the Turner Curvilinear Range and the Great Palm House, both recipients of the Europa Nostra award for excellence in conservation architecture.

You will enjoy such features as the Herbaceous borders, rose garden, the alpine yard, the pond area, rock garden and arboretum. Conservation plays an important role in the life of the botanic garden and Glasnevin is home to over 300 endangered plant species from around the world including 6 species, which are already extinct in the wild.



Following lunch at leisure, depart for the home of Helen Dillion where she will meet you and give you a tour of her gardens followed by coffee.

Helen Dillon is a world-renowned plants woman, writer, lecturer and broadcaster. With her husband Val, she has created a garden that is considered to be one of the gems of the horticultural world. This widely acclaimed garden is a mix of startling design and perfectly grown plants - many of them rare and unusual. The view of the garden from the windows of the elegant drawing room is in the lexicon of most photographed scenes in contemporary gardening.



A dominant feature in the garden is a canal set in Irish limestone, bordered on each side by superb borders - one mainly in red and the other in shades of dreamy blue. Behind the borders pathways lead into garden rooms. A recent addition is a gravel garden planted mainly with exotically-leaved members of the Araliaceae family.

Change is a feature of this magnificent garden. This spring has seen the transformation of the front garden from a sophisticated town garden to a birch-bordered glade with exciting new planting.

O/N The Ritz Carlton Hotel, Powerscourt.

Day 15
Tuesday 5 June

This morning after a hearty Irish breakfast depart the County of Cork to Youghal travelling via Birr Castle & Estate and Lismore Gardens.



Birr's best-known feature is undoubtedly the great Gothic frame of the 'Leviathan', the world's largest nineteenth-century telescope - one of the many achievements of a remarkable family whose varied tastes over fourteen successive generations are reflected in the development of this magnificent parkland garden.

A generation ago flowers from the gardens were brought weekly by the trailer-load to Birr Castle to be arranged by gardeners. The present Earl and Countess of Rosse still participate in the botanical expeditions to add trees, plants and shrubs from all over the world. Starting from the 18th century, generations of Rosses planned and laid out the park and gardens around the castle which dates in part back to the 1620s.



In order to get a feel for the geography and planting of Birr, visitors should head straight for the River Garden, passing the massive ramparts below the castle. Here in the garden's heartland along the banks of the River Camcor some of Birr's most prized plants can be found, perhaps none more beautiful than a tender collection of magnolias cushioned by a blue carpet in spring.

On the High Walk above the River Garden visitors will come across a large specimen of the rare Chinese tree characterised by its broad corymbs of small fragrant white flowers in June. The Arboretum on the Tipperary side of the river is divided by an avenue of recently planted prunus 'Accolade'.



The walled Garden is divided into a kitchen garden to the north and an ornamental area to the south.

On the main north-south axis of the garden an impressive pair of thirty-foot high box hedges - planted over 200 years ago and claimed in the Guinness Book of Records to be the tallest in the world - looms upwards. Before leaving the Walled Garden, visitors should seek out Birr's most famous plant; Paeonia 'Anne Rosse' - a tree peony with large ruffled yellow flowers, streaked with red.

red.

Continue on your journey to Lismore Gardens where the Head Gardener of Lismore awaits your visit!
This garden is featured in Holly's book : Garden of Eden



The present early 19th century castle, designed by Paxton for the 6th Duke of Devonshire, incorporates parts of the medieval and 17th century castles. The garden walls were once an important part of the castle's defenses and within them the upper enclosure dates from the 1620s with a typical Jacobean raised terrace for strolling.

The orchards, with peach and nectarine trees, would have been a 'flowery mead' similar to today's wild flower meadows; here is a display of bluebells in the spring, and a yew walk dating to the early 17th century. The lower part of the garden was laid out as a Pleasure Ground for the 6th Duke, known as the Bachelor Duke, and is now planted with a host of flowering shrubs: magnolias, rhododendrons, azaleas and flowering cherries.



Part of the upper garden is laid out with formal beds, and has a central path and flights of steps running through a double shrub and herbaceous border backed by yew hedges, and by rose and lavender borders. Some of the original greenhouses, by Paxton of Crystal Palace fame, are still in use.

On to Aherns House and check in followed by dinner in their award winning restaurant.



Open wood fires and the warmest of welcomes await you in this family run hotel in the Historic walled port of Youghal. The bedrooms are finished with stylish furniture with antiques and paintings.

The Famous Seafood Bar and Restaurant Specialize in the freshest of the local landed Seafood. The Bar is renowned for its friendliness; you will enjoy a chat with the locals along with your Guinness & Seafood.

O/N Aherns Townhouse, Youghal.

Day 16
Wednesday 6 June

This morning depart Youghal for Kinsale and Bantry with visit to Bantry House and Innacullin Island.



On to the gourmet capital of Ireland, Kinsale. Kinsale was the site of a battle in 1601 that was a turning point in Irish history. For over 300 years it was a garrison town and port of consequence, leaving a legacy of Georgian and Victorian architecture.

Continue to Bantry and visit the Bantry House and Gardens.



The structure of the garden as we know it today dates back to the second Earl of Bantry's travels. Both he and his wife, Mary travelled with notebooks and sketchbooks (which are now in the Archive at the University of Cork) at hand which helped to transform the small house at home into a 'palazzo' comparable to those he had seen on the continent. The cardinal rule to be applied was that house, garden and site must be a unit, as if one could not have been conceived without the other. He terraced the land around the house with the house sitting on the third terrace. A parterre facing south surrounding a wisteria circle which again surrounds a fountain

was also created.

From there rise the famous Hundred Steps, a monumental staircase built of local stone, set amidst azaleas and rhododendron.

Now we head to take the Ferry to Garnish Island.

Innacullin Garden is featured in Holly's book : Gardens of Eden



Located in the sheltered harbour of Glengarriff in Bantry Bay, Innacullin is a small island of 15 hectares (37 acres) known to horticulturists and lovers of trees and shrubs all around the world as an island garden of rare beauty. The gardens of Innacullin owe their existence to the creative partnership, some eighty years ago, of Annan Bryce, then owner of the island and Harold Peto, architect and garden designer.

Continue on and check in at the Seaview House Hotel.



Seaview House Hotel is a charming Country House set in beautiful private grounds which is located in the village of Ballylickey in West Cork. You will find a tranquil relaxed atmosphere here. The restaurant serves award winning cuisine and the bedrooms are the ultimate in comfort with gorgeous elegant touches to make your stay perfect.

Enjoy dinner in their award winning restaurant.

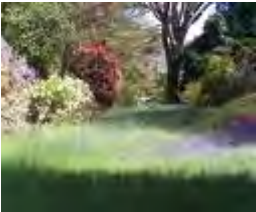
O/N Seaview House Hotel, Ballylickey.

Day 17
Thursday 7 June

This morning tour the Beara Peninsula with a visit to Derreen Gardens in Kenmare.

The Beara Peninsula is steeped in myths and legends. The mountains and valleys are rich in archaeological sites such as stone circles, wedge graves and other relics from the past. We have scenic lakes cradled by gorgeous mountains and a rugged coastline with lots of great fishing spots.

Visit Derreen Gardens - The passion of an Edwardian grandee for shrubs and trees collected from around the globe and lush sub tropical growth promoted by the Gulf Stream combine to make this an unforgettable place. Not for ideas which can be copied in the average garden, to be sure, but for a store of indelible memories.



Among them are huge rhododendrons in bloom like so many vividly coloured clouds that have come to rest improbably on the wild shores around Kilmacillogue Harbour.

Or an island linked by an extraordinary plank bridge to the shore, and veritable thickets of tree ferns in sheltered, green twilight where you might expect dinosaurs to come crashing through the primeval-looking growth.

The sights are a reminder that a wider range of plants can be grown in Ireland than anywhere else at the same latitude. A fact which no doubt spurred on the 5th Marquis of Lansdowne when he planted 400 acres of woodland to shelter a collection of shrubs and specimen trees, many of them brought back from his sojourns as Viceroy of India and Governor General of Canada.



The estate, now owned by the Hon David Bigham, is still in the same family, and head gardener Jacky Ward's father was head gardener before him. This is a place for stout walking shoes, the better to explore the labelled paths starting with the Big Rock and leading to the evocatively named 'Kings Oozy' (a boggy area where Edward VII planted a tree), or the viewing point known as Knockatee Seat - or to get up close and personal with shrubs which include camellias, magnolias, crinodendrons and hoherias.

O/N Seaview House Hotel, Ballylickey.

Day 18
Friday 8 June

Transfer to Cork International Airport for your departure flight.

We would like to leave you with an old Irish blessing!

*May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always to your back
May the rain fall soft upon your fields
And the sun shine warm upon your face
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Pricing

Package Cost \$13,386.00 per person (share twin) Land Only

Program Cost includes:

- Exclusively escorted by Holly Kerr Forsyth
- Noteworthy Guide at disposal throughout. Different guides for England and Ireland sections
- Luxury coach for touring as per the itinerary including arrival transfer in London and departure transfer in Ireland
- Welcome cocktail reception on the first night in the hotel
- Membership of the RHS (per two people)
- Tickets for Chelsea Flower Show Members Day
- All garden entrances as per the itinerary and welcome talk or guided tour by the head gardener or senior gardener subject to availability
- Exclusive visit to Highgrove with Afternoon Tea
- Private Reception with Lord Lansdowne at Bowood House
- Porterage at airports and hotels
- Economy Class air travel from Birmingham to Cork

Accommodation is included as follows:

3 nights Bed & Breakfast at the Radisson Edwardian Sussex London
 4 nights Bed & Breakfast at the Spa Hotel Tunbridge Wells
 2 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast at Bowood Hotel
 3 nights Bed & Breakfast at Ettington Park Hotel, Stratford upon Avon
 2 nights Bed & Breakfast at the Ritz Carlton, Powerscourt
 1 night Dinner Bed & Breakfast at Aherns Townhouse, Youghal
 2 nights Dinner Bed & Breakfast at Seaview House, Ballylickey

Important Information

- All costs are correct as of Friday 20th May 2011 and are subject to change without notice due to the fluctuations of exchange rates between the English Pound and the Australian Dollar.
- All costs are quoted per person based on occupancy of 2 people per double room. The tour package has been costed from your arrival into London on May 22nd 2012 and finishing at Cork Airport on Friday 18th June
- Travelforce can offer you assistance with your air travel to London and home from Cork.
- The tour has been constructed entirely for the sole charter of the Art Gallery of NSW with Holly Kerr Forsyth as exclusive escort.
- Confirmation will be given upon payment of a non refundable deposit of \$2000.00 per person by credit card* or via bank deposit to Travelforce.
- The final payment will be required 60 days prior to commencement of the tour
 - *Cancellations*
- If a cancellation is made after the deposit has been paid, that deposit is non refundable. Any booking cancelled prior to the 60 day cut off will be charged a cancellation fee of the deposit. Any cancellation made inside the 60 day deadline will attract a cancellation penalty. This will be determined by each supplier's cancellation charge and will calculate at time of cancellation. Any cancellation 30 days or less prior to commencement date will incur a 100% cancellation fee.

**Payments by credit card will attract a 3.5% fee*

Bookings & Tour Information :

If you have any questions relating to the tour or would like a booking form , please contact

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