

Great Gardens of Wales

Great Malvern Garden Show & Chelsea Flower Show Option

May 8-20/23, 2019

Join Pacific Horticulture and Greg Graves for an in-depth exploration of the glorious gardens, castles and historic sites of Wales. Wales offers spectacular scenery, vibrant culture and warm, friendly people. We begin with the Malvern Garden Festival, an amazing show featuring creative display gardens, horticultural exhibits and vendors with the latest inventive gardening solutions.

We'll tour famous public gardens and enjoy exclusive invitations to some of Wales' finest private gardens. Gardens to be visited include Bodnant, National Botanic Garden, Powis Castle, Aberglasney, and small cottage gardens such as Plas yn Rhiw. We'll explore the Isle of Anglesey and see Snowdonia Mountain aboard a small narrow-gauge train. Optional London package includes the Chelsea Flower Show "members only" day

May 8, Wednesday Depart the USA

May 9, Thursday London Heathrow-Worcester

Arrival London Heathrow Airport. A group transfer will be provided for guests on flights arriving by 12:00 noon. Our accommodations are at Stanbrook Abbey Hotel situated in 26 acres of picturesque gardens. Dating back to the early 16th century, Stanbrook Abbey is a former monastery, with the original architecture – including dramatic stone cloisters, gothic stained-glass windows – and beautifully appointed bedrooms. The hotel has a restaurant, bar and free WiFi. Join Greg, your guide Jane, and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at the hotel this evening. **Dinner**



May 10, Friday Worcester-Malvern



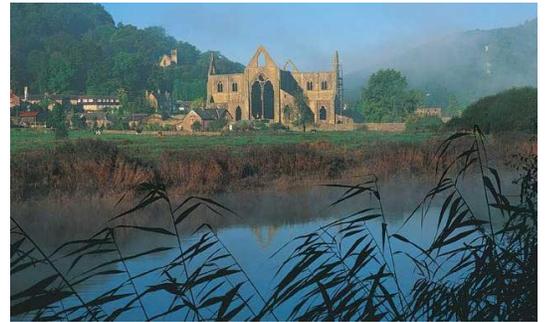
Today after a leisurely breakfast we will visit the Royal Horticultural Society Spring Garden Festival at Malvern. There are 10 inspirational Show Gardens, each different in style carefully crafted by top designers including RHS Gold-medal winners. This is a great place to talk to the experts and get design tips. We'll have time to peruse the plant exhibits, floral displays and Green Living spaces. Vendors offer garden related wares along with arts

and crafts and lots of choices of food for lunch on your own. **Breakfast, Dinner**

May 11, Saturday Worester-Hay-on Wye-Tintern Abbey-Cardiff

After breakfast we depart for Cardiff. En route we will stop for coffee and browsing in the village of Hay-on-Wye.

Book-lovers from all over the world come to this town in the Black Mountains to explore over 30 second hand book shops and antique stores. Later we will drive to the majestic ruins of Tintern Abbey set in the steep wooded Wye Valley. The abbey was founded in 1131 by Cistercian monks. Next we travel to Cardiff where we will check into St. Davids Hotel & Spa or similar for 2 nights. **Breakfast, Dinner**



May 12, Sunday Cardiff

Today we will explore Cardiff. The city has two main areas. The center, laid out with Victorian and Edwardian streets and gardens and the docklands with a fresh water lake and bay front restaurants. We begin with a visit to Cardiff Castle, originally a Roman Fort, turned into an ornate mansion in the late 1800s. Next we'll take a leisurely boat tour of Cardiff. The cruise passes the major city sites including Millennium Centre and the Norwegian Church. Passengers often see a vast array of wild life such as Black



Swans, Coot's, Cormorant, Heron, Kingfishers, Foxes and Mink. Our cruise ends in the city center near restaurants, a shopping center and museum. The afternoon is free to discover Cardiff. We suggest a visit to the National Museum of Cardiff housing one of Europe's finest art collections including works by Monet, Renoir and Van Gogh. Or enjoy a walk along the docklands or Bute Park's beautiful greenland areas, the perfect place for a quiet walk. Perrtiegrew Tea rooms in the park have a fantastic selection of tea and cakes. **Breakfast**

May 13, Monday Cardiff-Newport

We travel west and start our day with a docent led tour of the National Botanic Garden of Wales. This innovative venue contains a fascinating Apothecary's Garden of healing herbs, a Butterfly House, Mediterranean garden, Glasshouse, and Walled garden. Next we travel a few miles to exquisite Aberglasney Gardens, made famous by the BBC television series "A Garden Lost in Time". Today it is quite simply one of Wales' finest gardens. A renowned plantsman's paradise with a unique Elizabethan cloister garden at its heart, Aberglasney offers the opportunity to explore more than 10 acres of magnificent gardens along with the ground floor of Aberglasney's historic mansion. The Yew Tunnel is thought to have been planted by the Dyer Family in the eighteenth century, and is a glorious fusion of thick tree trunks. Ninfarium is a unique garden housing many sub-tropical and exotic plants. The Cloister Garden is widely considered to be Aberglasney's "most extraordinary and legendary feature". It is bound by a three-sided arcaded walkway made of solid stone.



Bishop Rudd's Walk is a lightly wooded area with a wide range of woodland plants seldom seen growing in the British Isles. In addition, there are Asiatic and pool gardens and walled garden re-designed by Penelope Hobhouse. We will have lunch at Aberglasney before heading to Newport for our overnight at The Golden Lion Hotel. **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

May 14, Tuesday Newport-Aberystwyth-Lake Vyrway



Today we take a short drive to Dyffryn Fernant Garden in Fishguard. The London Times said this is Number one of the great gardens to visit in summertime. The Times said "It is a beautifully conceived small garden brimming with rich, contemporary planting surrounding a glowing raspberry-fool coloured house, while a bog garden subtly gives way to a wetland-valley floor. The best domestic garden in Wales." We will have a private

tour with the owner and be treated to tea and cake.

We continue our journey north to the seaside, university town of Aberystwyth. We will have free time to stroll the promenade and have lunch on our own. This afternoon we head to mid-Wales and check into The Lake Vyrway Hotel & Spa for 2 nights. The hotel has panoramic views of wooded hillsides and the lake and is surrounded by a National Nature Reserve. Evening at leisure to enjoy the tranquil setting. **Breakfast, Dinner**

May 15, Wednesday Lake Vyrway-Powis

Our first visit is to historic Powis Castle with its splendid remains of a great Italianate, formal 17th century garden with immense old yews and grand terraces. There are brilliant borders, climbers and an exceptional collection of pots. We will also tour the castle which has a stunning library and an amazing collection of paintings, sculpture, furniture and tapestries.



This afternoon we will visit two gardens. Dingle Garden and Nurseries is a long-established family run business. It began in 1968 when Andy and Kath Joseph started growing Christmas trees on an acre of his parents land. At the same time Andy's mother Barbie gradually began developing an area of their farmland into a spectacular garden which runs alongside the Dingle Retail nursery. **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

May 16, Thursday Lake Vyrway-Betws-y-Coed-Ffestiniog-Porthmadog

Today we will explore Betws-y-Coed, set in a narrow wooded valley near the confluence of three rivers. The town was popularized by the Victorian painter David Cox. Weather permitting, next we board the narrow-gage Ffestiniog Railway for a scenic 14mile drive. Later we'll stop at the legendary village of Beddgelert set among the mountains of Snowdonia. Our accommodations for 3 nights are at **Aberdunant Hall Country Hotel** located within the Snowdonia National Park.



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 17, Friday Porthmadog-Gwynedd-Portmeirion

We'll start our day travelling to the remote shores of Hells' Mouth to the small cottage garden of Plas yn Rhiw. This enchanting cottage garden has an elegant stone house with beautiful views of the bay. The garden is densely planted with cobbled paths, old sweet bay, fig and artemisias. Next we head towards the mountains to visit Plas Brondanw, where Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, the architect of Portmeirion, and his wife Amabel created their Italianate garden. Located on wooded slopes overlooking Snowdonia mountains, the property has one of the most magnificent settings of any British garden. The house is connected to the garden with yew hedges. There is an orangery and terraces, statues and urns. A walk through the woods brings the visitor to a watchtower overlooking a rocky ravine.

After lunch we'll tour the fantasy, Italianate village of Portmeirion. The theatrical gardens enjoy a mild microclimate with Mediterranean type plantings. The buildings incorporate old architectural fragments with cupolas, statues, colonnades and numerous balconies. **Breakfast, Dinner**



May 18, Saturday Porthmadog-Gwynedd-Anglesey



After breakfast we travel to Crûg Farm Nursery. Chelsea Gold medal winners Bleddyn & Sue Wynn-Jones' nursery and garden feature rare plants which they have collected on worldwide expeditions. We then cross the Menai Straits to Anglesey to Plas Cadnant called "the hidden garden of Wales". Anthony Tavernor restored and developed the Georgian house and spectacular wooded garden. Many of the Plas Cadnant plants came from Crûg Farm. After lunch we will have a tour of the island

including the two famous bridges. **Breakfast, Lunch**

May 19, Sunday Porthmadog-Conwy-Chester

Today we visit Bodnant, one of the great gardens of Britain. The estate has over a hundred acres of camellias, magnolias, and the famous laburnum arch. There are terraces and formal rose and flower beds and a wooded valley where a stream runs through a secluded wild garden. Next we travel to the charming town of Chester. We will enjoy a city tour before checking into Crabwell Manor. Tonight Greg and Jane will host a festive farewell dinner. **Breakfast, Dinner**

May 20, Monday A morning transfer will be included to Manchester Rail station for guests traveling to London. An additional transfer is included to Manchester airport for guests returning home today.

Chelsea Extension

May 20-23

Train fare is included Manchester to London. Upon arrival take a taxi (at your own cost) to the Vanderbilt Hotel in Kensington where you will check in for your three night stay. The hotel was recently refurbished and is in an excellent location near Chelsea and the Victoria & Albert Museum. Full English breakfast, tax and free WiFi are included. The package includes membership in the Royal Horticultural Society so you can attend the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show on "Members only Day". The grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea will be transformed with stunning horticultural displays. World-renowned garden designers, plant specialists, florists and nurseries come together every year to one of London's most charming and affluent neighborhoods.
(one RHS membership per family is included)

WALES TOUR LAND COST PER GUEST BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:

Based on a minimum of 18 guests: \$5198 per person for members of Pacific Horticulture Society \$5298 for non-members Single supplement \$648

You must have a paid membership with Pacific Horticulture Society in order to receive the membership discount. If you are unsure of your current status, please contact PHS at office@pacifichorticulture.org. If you are not a member, please sign up now at <https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/join-renew>.

LONDON CHELSEA PACKAGE

\$792 based on double occupancy, rooms have 1 double or 2 double beds superior rooms with King beds available at a \$92 per person supplement Single supplement \$456

THE WALES TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 11 night's accommodation, all rooms with private bathrooms
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- Breakfast daily/ 4 lunches and 9 dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Deluxe transportation by private motor coach
- Arrival airport transfer (If arriving by 12:00 noon)
- Special horticulture guide, Jane Brand
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Escorted by Greg Graves
- Tax-deductible donation of \$350 to Pacific Horticulture Society
- Gratuity for your driver

COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Airfare
- Tips to your guide
- Travel Insurance

LONDON CHELSEA EXTENSION INCLUDES:

- 3 night's accommodation, all rooms with private bathrooms
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- Full English breakfast daily
- Membership in the Royal Horticultural Society
- Member's Only Day ticket to the Chelsea Flower Show

For reservations and further information contact:

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