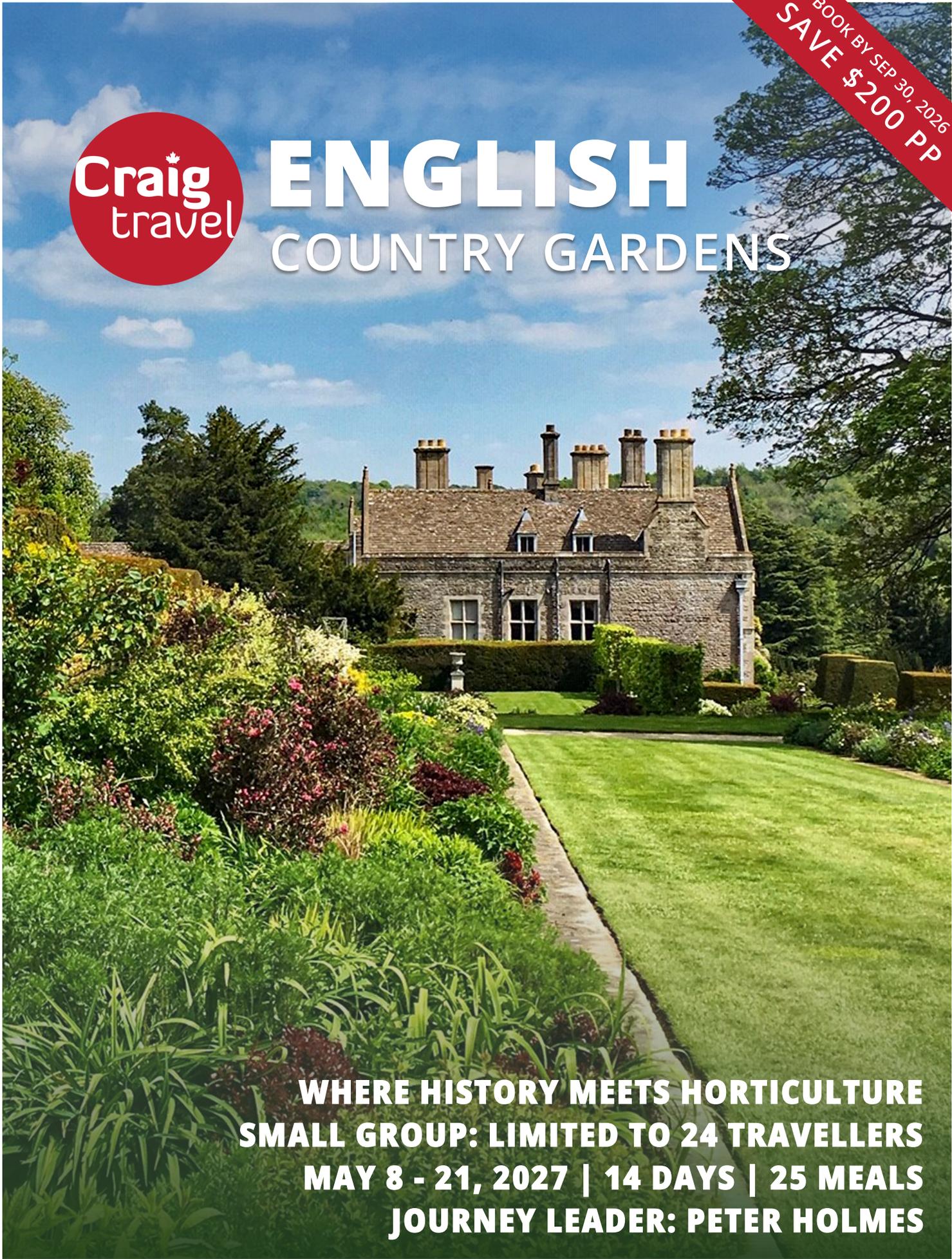




ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDENS

BOOK BY SEP 30, 2026
SAVE \$200 PP



WHERE HISTORY MEETS HORTICULTURE
SMALL GROUP: LIMITED TO 24 TRAVELLERS
MAY 8 - 21, 2027 | 14 DAYS | 25 MEALS
JOURNEY LEADER: PETER HOLMES

Step into the world of England's most celebrated gardens. Photo courtesy of Miserden.

From the lush countryside of Kent to the rolling hills of the Cotswolds and the floral prestige of Chelsea, this tour offers a deep dive into British horticultural excellence.

Go behind the garden gates of England's most prestigious estates. From the romantic 'outdoor rooms' of Sissinghurst to the avant-garde landscapes of The Newt in Somerset, discover the soul of the English countryside through its private sanctuary walls.

Our journey begins in the rolling hills of Sussex and the medieval charm of Salisbury, where history and nature intertwine. You'll experience the nostalgic elegance of heritage rail, the sophisticated flavours of award-winning English vineyards, and the timeless golden stone of the Cotswolds. Along the way, we balance grand scale with intimacy, featuring private garden visits and a hands-on floral design masterclass in the heart of Chipping Campden.

The grand finale brings us to London, where royal history at Hampton Court and botanical innovation at Kew Gardens are the opening act for the ultimate floral event: the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. This itinerary is more than a tour; it is a celebration of the artistry, passion, and heritage that make the British garden a wonder of the world. Join us for a blooming adventure through the very best of England.



SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE
LIMITED TO 24 TRAVELLERS

Tour Highlights

- RHS Chelsea Flower Show, where Britain's finest designers unveil breathtaking floral masterpieces
- Wander through some of England's most celebrated country gardens, including Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, Long Barn Gardens, Borde Hill Garden, Arundel Castle Gardens, Stourhead, The Newt, Hidcote, The Garden at Miserden, RHS Wisley, and Kew Gardens
- Flower arrangement workshop in the heart of the Cotswolds, guided by local experts and inspired by the surrounding countryside
- Step back in time at the remarkably preserved Ancient Roman Baths in the elegant city of Bath
- Tour and tasting of Bolney Wine Estate in Kent
- Discover the timeless charm of Oxford on a walking tour
- Explore the magnificent Hampton Court Palace

Journey Leader

Peter Holmes served as Minister of Yorkminster Park Church in Toronto for more than 25 years, where he was beloved for his warmth, gentle humour, imaginative storytelling, and collaborative spirit. An avid gardener, he also enjoys cycling, walking, and kayaking. Peter has travelled widely through Europe, Israel, and the Middle East—though he never misses checking the scores of his favourite Toronto teams. Originally from Victoria, B.C., he studied in Nova Scotia, served in Montreal, and spent nearly three decades in the Yonge and Lawrence community. He and his wife, Janet, now live in Meaford, where they enjoy time with their three grown children and delightful granddaughter.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy class group airfare to England
- Accommodation in comfortable hotels as indicated or similar
- 25 meals included as noted (B - 12 breakfasts, L - 2 lunches, D - 11 dinners)
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Services of our journey leader, professional guide in England, plus garden tour guides throughout
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare
- Whisper audio guide system for better audio clarity during guided tours

MAY 8, Saturday

DEPART CANADA

We gather tonight for our overnight flight to the United Kingdom.

MAY 9, Sunday

ARRIVE LONDON / EAST SUSSEX

Upon arrival at London Heathrow, we will be met by our UK Tour Manager and private coach. Enjoy a scenic transfer into the heart of East Sussex to settle in. The afternoon is ours to relax and enjoy the stately surroundings of the Ashdown Park Hotel. In the evening, we gather together for a welcome dinner.

Ashdown Park Hotel & Country Club (3 nights)

D

MAY 10, Monday

ROMANTIC KENTISH GARDENS

Today, we travel into Kent, known as the "Garden of England," for a day of beauty and horticultural inspiration. Begin at the world-famous Sissinghurst Castle Garden, renowned for its intimate garden "rooms" and iconic White Garden, where form, fragrance and colour are masterfully composed. Continue to Long Barn Gardens for a short introductory talk on its history, followed by a guided tour of the garden, shaped by the creative vision of Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson. Spend the afternoon exploring these historic and deeply personal gardens.

BD

MAY 11, Tuesday HERITAGE RAIL & VINEYARDS

Step back in time this morning with a nostalgic one-way journey aboard the Bluebell Railway, travelling from Sheffield Park to East Grinstead through the rolling Sussex countryside. This afternoon, continue to Bolney Wine Estate for a refined experience and included lunch. Enjoy a guided tour of the vineyard and winery followed by a tasting of their award-winning English wines. BLD

MAY 12, Wednesday BORDEHILL/ARUNDEL CASTLE GARDENS

Begin the morning with a tour of the tranquil Borde Hill Garden, renowned for its rare shrubs, rich botanical heritage and royal connections. Its beautifully curated grounds showcase plants gathered from around the world. Continue to historic Arundel Castle for a guided tour of its magnificent gardens, set against the dramatic backdrop of the castle, followed by free time to explore the castle. In the afternoon, depart for the medieval city of Salisbury. Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and gather this evening for a group dinner.

Mercure Salisbury White Hart Hotel (2 nights) BD

MAY 13, Thursday STOURHEAD & THE NEWT

Today is devoted to two of Somerset's most impressive estates. Begin at Stourhead, an 18th-century landscape masterpiece, where classical temples, sweeping vistas, and a serene central lake create one of England's most iconic garden scenes. Continue to The Newt in Somerset, a vibrant and modern working estate with innovative gardens and woodland. Return to Salisbury in the evening for dinner and a restful night. BD

MAY 14, Friday ROMAN HISTORY & THE COTSWOLDS

Bid farewell to Salisbury as we journey to the historic city of Bath, home to some of the best-preserved Roman Baths in the world. Explore these remarkable ancient baths with an included audio guide, bringing their fascinating history to life. Afterwards, enjoy free time to stroll the city centre and choose a local spot for lunch. In the afternoon, we continue into the picturesque Cotswolds.

Kings Head Hotel (4 nights) BD

MAY 15, Saturday HIDCOTE & CREATIVE BLOOMS

Today offers a truly unique experience. We will divide into two groups to enjoy two distinct activities more intimately. One group will begin in the charming village of Chipping Campden, learning the art of flower arranging, while the other explores Hidcote Manor Garden and its renowned Arts and Crafts garden. After the morning session, the groups will swap, so everyone can take part in both the creative workshop and the historic estate visit. Spend the evening at your leisure in the market town of Cirencester. B

MAY 16, Sunday SECRET GARDEN & PUB LUNCH

Embrace the essence of English country life with a guided visit to Miserden's celebrated garden, an intimate space overlooking a deer park and the rolling Cotswolds hills. After strolling through its charming grounds, enjoy a traditional pub lunch in a cosy local setting. In the afternoon, visit a private garden for an exclusive glimpse into the passion and creativity of local horticulture. BLD

MAY 17, Monday OXFORD & BLENHEIM PALACE

Travel north to the "City of Dreaming Spires" for a guided walking tour of Oxford's historic centre. Afterwards, continue to the monumental Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore its opulent state rooms, then enjoy a garden tour through the vast, carefully designed landscapes that blend natural beauty with classical grandeur. BD



Ancient Roman baths in Bath



Kew Royal Botanical Gardens in London, England



Hampton Court Palace



Take a deep dive into British horticultural excellence

MAY 18, Tuesday **RHS WISLEY & LONDON**

Leaving the quaint beauty of the Cotswolds, we travel toward London with a stop at RHS Garden Wisley. Take a guided tour of the Royal Horticultural Society’s flagship garden, featuring remarkable plant collections and innovative garden designs. After a day of exploration, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Later, check into the Rembrandt Hotel, perfectly situated for our London stay.

The Rembrandt Hotel (3 nights) **BD**

MAY 19, Wednesday **HAMPTON COURT & KEW GARDENS**

We explore the grandeur of London’s riverside heritage, beginning at Hampton Court Palace. Discover its rich Tudor history and wander through the famous hedge maze of King Henry VIII’s former residence. In the afternoon, we are guided through the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, home to one of the world’s largest and most diverse botanical collections. **BD**

MAY 20, Thursday **THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW**

This morning, enjoy a scheduled coach transfer to the world-renowned RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Spend the day immersed in cutting-edge garden design, rare blooms, and elite floral displays. A scheduled return transfer is provided in the afternoon, though you are welcome to stay longer and return independently. The day concludes with a celebratory farewell dinner at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. **BD**

MAY 21, Friday **LONDON / CANADA**

Enjoy a final English breakfast before checking out and catching our flight(s) back home. **B**



Garden rooms at Sissinghurst Castle Garden. Photo courtesy of Pathfinders.

Important Travel Information: U.K. ETA

Starting in late 2026, Canadian citizens travelling to England will need to complete a U.K. Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA). This is not a visa, but a pre-travel security screening required for visa-exempt visitors entering. The cost is about £16 and is each traveller’s responsibility. For details and to apply, visit the official ETA website well before departure (www.gov.uk/eta).

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CT Rating 2/5 - Moderately Easy: This is a coach tour with a relatively relaxed pace itinerary. The various garden visits throughout the program will include guided and self-guided touring. Walking tours can be several hours long and include some uneven terrain including cobblestone streets and unpaved trails. To fully enjoy this journey, members should be good walkers and not strictly rely on the use of walking aids. Hotels in the countryside are clean and comfortable. Most are low-rise (two stories) where elevators cannot be guaranteed.



**Book by September 30, 2026
and save \$200 per person**



Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join / Leave at hotel)	\$12,945
Toronto	\$14,265
Montreal / Ottawa (Join Montreal)	\$14,465
Halifax	\$14,555
St. John’s / Winnipeg	\$14,595
Saskatoon / Regina	\$14,655
Edmonton / Calgary / Vancouver	\$14,595
Victoria	\$14,655
Single Supplement	\$2,395

*Land only price excludes flights and airport transfers. Prices are based on sharing a twin-bedded room at hotels, on a minimum of 15 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective February 2026. Please discuss your domestic flights at time of booking. Prices are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual’s age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

**Final payment is due January 28, 2027
Deposit is \$900 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:

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tours@craigtravel.com • craigtravel.com



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