



AVG SELECT

HAMPTON GARDEN SHOW TOUR WITH VASILI

12 DAYS

Tour Code: AU220619

London (4N) – Bath (3N) – Oxford (2N) – Windsor (3N)

Explore England while enjoying an exclusive collection of gardens touring, ending with an impressive Hampton Flower Show held on 2 Jul this year. This itinerary will take you to London, Bath, Oxford and Windsor to admire a lot of antique buildings, astounding castles and charming gardens.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hand-picked, centrally located 4.5* accommodation at every destination.
- Small group size.
- Experience the best of what London & its surroundings, including Windsor Castle & Kent Gardens.
- Exclusive access to Oxford & Cambridge University Gardens.
- Come and get to know Vasili from Vasili's Garden.
- Try some of London's most exclusive restaurants by Gordon Ramsey & Marco Pierre White.
- Exclusive 4-night Singapore Stopover – experience the sights & sounds of this Asian Metropolis.(Optional extra)

INCLUSION

- International flights.
- Accommodation and meals as in itinerary.
- Transportation by luxury coaches.
- Free Comprehensive Travel Insurance.
- All entrance fees and sightseeing as in itinerary.
- Professional English-speaking tour guide.
- All tipping included.

EXCLUSION

- Visa Fee to UK (if applicable).
- Meals, Drinks and any Service not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Personal Expenses.
- Compulsory dinners applied for the nights 24 Dec & 31 Dec.



DEPARTURE DATES

2019

JUN 22

SURCHARGES

**All costs are Per Person basis*

- **AUD4,500** for Single Supplement.

REMARKS Please be aware that Flight Times, Hotels, Logistical Services and Days of Travel are all subject to availability and modifications outside of our control. When there are cancellations or delays, we will try our best to secure alternative arrangements of similar value to those in booking agreement.



Roman Baths, Bath

Day 1: London Arrival

Board your international flight to London. Upon arrival, you will be met by your guide and given the Royal Express treatment – customs & baggage collection. After a brief city tour, you will arrive at your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to freshen up, get to know where Trafalgar Square is & your hotel surrounds. Your guide & AVG Conceirge will be at your service, where they will have a hospitality service provided in the hotel foyer during the afternoon. For your dining experience, you will have a private welcome dinner in the Terrace Restaurant, where you will enjoy a 3-course steak dinner.

🍴 Breakfast, Dinner.

🏨 Hotel in London.

Day 2: London City Tour - Kew Garden

After breakfast, you'll enjoy a panoramic orientation tour of the main London sights & sounds. This tour covers the major landmarks and sights of both the City and the West End of London. Just some of the many well-known sights to be viewed will include famous shopping avenues such as Oxford Street, historic sights such as Westminster Abbey, important seats of Government such as Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament and the financial and business district of the "City of London". The tour will also drive past some of the more recent additions to the capital's skyline such as the London Eye and Shard. No tour of London is complete without of course Buckingham Palace. This tour provides you with a real taste of London.

From there, we will continue in the early afternoon to Kew Gardens. You'll be given free-time to explore & roam around the Gardens. Founded in 1840 and located in Southwest London, Kew Gardens is London's largest UNESCO World Heritage Site. Kew's botanical gardens are home to the world's most diverse collection of living plants and a scientific research centre of international renown.

Discover beautiful glasshouses including the iconic Palm House and its exotic rainforest; the Princess of Wales Conservatory which invites you to explore 10 of the world's climatic zones; and the Waterlily House with its amazing, giant lily pads.

Visitors of all ages love the 59ft (18m) high Treetop Walkway, which soars into the tree canopy offering a bird's-eye view of the gardens. Enjoy a stroll along the Great Broad Walk Borders, home to more than 60,000 plants, and step into history at Kew Palace, the former summer residence of King George III. This evening, you will enjoy an exclusive experience – a private dinner at the very exclusive Oxford & Cambridge Universities Club.

🍴 Breakfast, Dinner.

🏨 Hotel in London.

Day 3: London - Kent, the Garden of England

After breakfast at your hotel, join us in "The Garden of England" in Kent, where we will visit Sissinghurst Gardens & Leeds Castle, Culpepper Gardens & Lady Baille's where you will have hosted tours by their gardeners.

Sissinghurst Castle Garden was the backdrop for a diverse history; from the astonishing time as a prison in the 1700s, to being home to the women's land army. It was also a family home to some fascinating people who lived here or came to stay. Vita Sackville-West, the poet and writer, purchased the gardens in 1930, with her diplomat and author husband, Harold Nicolson and over the next thirty years began transforming Sissinghurst from a farmstead of "squalor and slovenly disorder" into one of the world's most influential gardens. Harold's architectural planning of the garden rooms, and the colourful, abundant planting in the gardens by Vita, reflect the romance and intimacy of her poems and writings. Research has been undertaken to find out more about Vita and Harold's original design and steps are being taken to recapture the vision that

they had. Don't miss the vast panoramic views from the top of the Tower, the working farm and the 450-acre wider. Visitors never forget their first breath-taking vision of Leeds Castle in Kent, rising majestically from the moat as it has done for 900 years. The afternoon will be spent visiting two of Leeds Castle's most impressive formal gardens. Designed by the landscape architect, Christopher Carter, on the site of Lady Baillie's original aviary, The Lady Baillie Mediterranean Garden Terrace is a favourite destination for visitors to the Castle. With its south facing aspect and Mediterranean style, visitors can relax and enjoy superb views across the Great Water.

The Culpeper Garden which was named after the family who owned Leeds Castle in the 17th century, was originally the site of the Castle's kitchen garden. During Lady Baillie's ownership it became a cut flower garden, but in 1980 garden designer Russell Page transformed it into a large cottage garden. With its informal layout and low box hedges as a border this very English garden features Roses, Lupins, Poppies, with exotic blooms mixed in to create a profusion of colour and scent. During the day, you will be able to get an insight from Vasili & his vast knowledge. Lunch will be provided during your tour. Your night is then free to have your choice of dining experience.

 Breakfast, Lunch.

 Hotel in London.

Day 4: London - Chelsea Physic Garden

This morning after breakfast, you will visit Chelsea Physic Garden – London's OLDEST garden. This will be hosted by one of their in-house gardeners. Tucked away beside the Thames, Chelsea Physic Garden is the oldest botanic garden in London. Since 1673 Chelsea Physic Garden has occupied four acres of land on the edge of the Thames. First established by the Apothecaries in order to grow medicinal plants, today this extraordinary garden in London houses around 5,000 different medicinal, herbal, edible and useful plants and has had wide reaching impact around the world. The Garden's unique microclimate and location has allowed many of its gardeners throughout its history to grow plants not frequently found outside in the UK, including the UK's largest fruiting olive tree. After a free afternoon, you will join us at the famous Savoy Grill by Gordon Ramsay. Home to hundreds of years of Hollywood and history, the Savoy Grill restaurant at the world famous Savoy Hotel, has seen some of the world's most famous faces pass through its gilded doors; Winston Churchill, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and even Queen Elizabeth herself (to name drop just a few). Restored to its former glory and with an elegant 1920's theme, the glamorous Savoy Grill's theatrical heritage can be seen throughout. A modern menu made up of classic British and French dishes suitably befits this iconic and historic dining room. Dinner tonight will be held in the restaurant's private D'Oyly Carte room, with its elevated view overlooking the iconic hotel entrance and original 1920s features, the D'Oyly Carte room is a most impressive place to host a private dinner.

 Breakfast, Dinner.

 Hotel in London.

Day 5: London - Bath

After breakfast & check-out, today we will be travelling to Bath. Fall in love with Bath - a unique, feel-good city combining vibrant contemporary culture with a rich history and heritage.

Built for pleasure and relaxation and described as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, Bath has been a wellbeing destination since Roman times. It was first named Aquae Sulis by the Romans, who used its natural warm springs for bathing, and the baths that they built rival some of those in Italy itself. After the decline of the Roman Empire, the city fell into decay, but the same warm springs resulted in its renaissance during the 18th when the town was laid out in classical Georgian style. Happily much of their work remains, including the magnificent Royal Crescent and the intriguing Pulteney Bridge with shops standing on it, designed by Robert Adam.

After a walking tour of the main sights of the city, a visit will be made to The Roman Baths itself where guests will be able to view first hand the remarkable preserved remains of one of the greatest religious spas of the ancient world. The city's unique thermal springs rise in the site and the Baths still today flow with natural hot water. The visit will end with the group taking "High Tea" in the stylish and elegant Grand Pump Room located above The Roman Baths which was built in the early 1790s. The night is yours to recover & recharge the batteries for your next amazing day!!

 Breakfast, High Tea.

 Hotel in Bath.

Day 6: Bath

After breakfast, enjoy your free morning. Why grab a coffee with Vasili? Or even ask your AVG Concierge where the best place to shop or explore this mystical place.

For lunch today we have a real gastronomic delight!! Join us at "Kaufmann's & Mr White's". This English and French Brasserie has been created by acclaimed chefs Pierre Koffmann and Marco Pierre White. The duo have joined forces to bring their take on affordable classic food to Bath. The menu is homage to their 36 year-old friendship; a culinary combination of the chef's personal favourites, careers and homelands.

Koffmann & Mr. White's is a casual all day dining English and French Brasserie. Set within Bath's historic Abbey Hotel, the restaurant boasts an idyllic and classic setting. The interior compliments the food with a nod to its French influence to

create a sophisticated and romantic atmosphere. Guests will be treated to great food and divine drinks with an extensive wine and cocktail list also on offer.

 Breakfast, Lunch.

 Hotel in Bath.

Day 7: Bath - Oxford

After a delicious breakfast at your hotel, we'll be making our way to Stourhead Gardens & Wadworth Brewery. Perhaps the most beautiful and magical of all of the great landscape gardens, Stourhead presents an English 18th-century view of Arcadian paradise. With hills, water and classical architecture overlaid by a fabulous collection of trees and shrubs, Stourhead was described as 'a living work of art' when first opened in the 1740s.

Meandering paths offer vistas through trees to classical temples and surprises at every turn. Stourhead is breathtaking in any season but on sunny spring and autumn days, the flowering spring shrubs and the flaming autumnal colours of the trees reflected in the magnificent lake are spectacular. No visit to Wiltshire is complete without a trip to Wadworth's Victorian brewery in Devizes. The brewery has been a key part of the local community for over 140 years and now offer fun, interesting brewery tours that take you through its colourful history and heritage.

Tours of the brewery begin with an introduction to Wadworth's history and heritage, followed by a trip to the top of the traditional Victorian tower, the breweries 21st century copper house, where visitors can see how brewing technology has developed over time. Guests will also take a tour to the on-site pub sign studio, where guests can gaze at unique hand-painted pub signs and see where the artists work. Then a visit will be made to the stables to see the Wadworth's most famous residents – Max, Sam and Archie – the breweries working Shire Horses and the real stars of the show. Finally, the tour finishes with a tutored sampling session where visitors will enjoy and learn more about Wadworth's handcrafted ales in The Harness Room Bar.

In the afternoon, we will continue our journey to Oxford. After arriving at your hotel, you will have the night to explore or catch a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants & cafes in the area. Vasili & your AVG Select Concierge will be on hand for any assistance you may need or even to catch a beer with us?

 Breakfast.

 Hotel in Oxford.

Day 8: Oxford - Free-choice Activity Day

This morning after breakfast, we will experience a casual stroll around the city centre. You will experience the student life of one of the most ancient & historical University on the planet! Established in the 12th century Oxford, a thriving city, an Episcopal see, and the seat of an ancient university is one of the most famous and interesting towns in Europe. The beautiful grouping of its "dreaming" spires and towers in the city's medieval centre, as seen from a distance is renowned, not less the noble architecture of its colleges, like Christ Church, Brasenose, and Balliol, and the "stream like windings" of its famous High Street. Learn all about the history of the "Town" and "Gown". The walking tour will include an internal visit to one of the ancient university colleges. For lunch, we have organised a very unique dining experience at The Cherwell Boathouse. The restaurant was started in an authentic Victorian working Boathouse, alongside the punt station (established in 1904) on the banks of the river Cherwell by Anthony Verdin, a local entrepreneur and connoisseur of fine wine and food. It is still family owned and run today by John Verdin, Anthony's eldest son, and his team of hard-working, friendly waiting staff who enjoy delivering a professional and special service. In the afternoon, you can experience one of two very "British" activities – a chauffeured Punting Trip along the River Cherwell OR a visit Oxford University's world-famous Botanical Garden.

At night you will have the chance to roam this unique city at your leisure. Or why not finish your FreeChoice day with the perfect dining experience, by joining your AVG Select Concierge & Vasili for a relaxing dinner in your hotel at Marco Pierre's Steakhouse?

 Breakfast.

 Hotel in Oxford.

Day 9: Oxford to Windsor

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 Breakfast.

 Hotel in Oxford.

Day 9: Oxford to Windsor

After a relaxing breakfast & check-out, today our journey will take us to Windsor. On the way, you will get to visit Blenheim Palace. Home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site boasting a long and diverse history. Blenheim Palace was built as a gift to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, from Queen Anne and a grateful nation in thanks for his victory at the Battle of Blenheim on 13th August 1704. Today, the Palace is home to one of the most important and extensive collections in Europe, which includes portraits, furniture, sculpture and tapestries. An internal visit will be made to the palace after which the guests will have the opportunity to investigate the extensive gardens, laid out by Capability Brown. At Blenheim Capability Brown created a spectacular, tree-fringed lake as the setting for one of England’s grandest houses, for the 4th Duke of Marlborough. Queen Anne had given the estate to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, following his victory at the Battle of Blenheim in 1704. In around 1763 Brown was called in to complete and modernise the landscaping around Blenheim Palace, which then centred on an existing lake, Grand Bridge and a long, straight avenue. Over the next 10 years, Brown built two dams and created a huge 40-acre lake. He planted thick belts of trees around the park boundary, designed new drives and remodelled the entrance to the north of Blenheim Palace.

Dinner tonight will be taken at one of the various star rated “gastro” or “historic” “pubs located in the countryside around Windsor.

 Breakfast, Lunch.

 Hotel in Windsor.

Day 10: Windsor - Afternoon Activities at Leisure

This morning after breakfast, please join us for a visit to one of Britain’s most famous landmarks – Windsor Castle! Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. Founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, it has since been the home of 39 monarchs. It is the favourite Royal Residence of Queen Elizabeth II and The Queen spends most of her private weekends at the Castle. Nothing now remains of the original wooden structure started in 1080 by William the Conqueror, which was soon replaced by a stone-built tower which still stands at the heart of the Castle. This was added to by the following Kings and Queens through subsequent centuries, to create the magnificent complex that is Windsor Castle today. You will visit the State Apartments (Court Arrangements permitting; if not, then St. George’s Chapel). Then there will be time to wander the lanes of the quaint old part of Windsor town or through the adjacent hamlet of Eton, across the Thames footbridge, where Eton College, England’s most pre-eminent boys’ Public School (private!) is situated. Alternatively,, guests can take a river boat trip on the Thames.

The afternoon is yours to explore, relax & partake in one leisurely activities. Why not take a walk through Windsor & Eton? Or take a river boat trip on the Thames?

Tonight, you are in for a real treat!! We have organised a very unique experience - A Private viewing of the RHS Hampton Flower Show with Vasili!!RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival is the world’s largest annual flower show, stretching over 34 acres and flanking both sides of the Long Water at Hampton Court Palace. The preview show offers guests an opportunity for an early glimpse of what’s on offer before the show opens to the public the following day. The preview evening takes place from 5pm to 10.30pm and there’s a great line-up of entertainment on offer, with a range of bands on stages, bandstands and even in the floral marquee. View the show first and gain inspiration for your own garden. The limited number of guests means you can soak up every detail of the show gardens at your own pace. Why not watch a fascinating talk or demonstration and learn something new? There will be experts in cookery and floristry who will be on hand to share their knowledge. Top off your evening by watching the dazzling fireworks set against the backdrop of Hampton Court Palace for a finale to remember.

 Breakfast, Dinner.

 Hotel in Windsor.

Day 11: Windsor (Smart to Cocktail Dress for Dinner)

After a recovery breakfast (& lots of coffee to shake off the night before?), you have the whole day to relax & explore either the city. Your AVG Select Concierge will be on-hand all day with suggestions & advice on what to do & where to do it. Maybe experience a visit to one of the local markets?

Tonight we have organized a unique & memorable farewell dining experience – Christmas in July at The Guildhall! (If you

keep your eyes peeled, you might actually see royalty!) Designed by Sir Thomas Fitch and completed in 1689, The Guildhall is an elegant grade 1 listed building. Set in the splendour of historic Windsor the building is steeped in history and a dominant feature of the town. The visit will begin with a formal welcome cry by the Windsor Town Cryer. The Cryer will be dressed in his traditional costume and after the welcome outside the Guildhall, he will lead the guests on a show round of the inside of the Guildhall. The Guildhall has two impressive rooms. The intimate Ascot Room which was chosen by HRH Prince Charles for his civil ceremony in 2005 and again later the same year by Sir Elton John for his civil partnership. The second room is the imposing original Council Chamber which houses a fine collection of royal portraits spanning the years between Queen Elizabeth I and HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Chamber also features two impressive solid brass chandeliers, each weighing over 6cwt, which are on permanent loan from HM The Queen. The guests will be seated in the impressive Chamber for dinner.

 Breakfast, Dinner.

 Hotel in Windsor.

Day 12: Windsor - Depart

After your last breakfast in England & leisurely express check-out, your day is free before you make the journey back to Heathrow Airport to say goodbye to Britannia!! Your luxury transfer will take you back to the airport.

We have genuinely hoped that you have thoroughly enjoyed your Garden Experience. We are looking forward to you joining us on your next AVG Select Adventure.

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 N/A.

ASIA VACATION GROUP PTY LTD (ABN: 74 608 656 800)

 Suite 902, 11 Queens Road, Melbourne VIC 3004