



# Tour Information



## Gardens of the Cotswolds





The tour commences and concludes at the **Hilton Puckrup Hall Hotel, Tewkesbury.**

Puckrup Lane  
Tewkesbury  
GL20 6EL  
England  
Tel: 01684 296200

**Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.**



## Transport

### If you are travelling by car:

**From the M5:** Exit the M5 at J8, then join M50. Exit at J 1, signposted Malvern. At roundabout take a left and you will see the Hilton Puckrup Hall on your right. Drive down the driveway and you will see the entrance to the hotel and Golf reception.

**If you are travelling by train:** The nearest train station is Ashchurch for Tewkesbury – 8 miles away



# Accommodation

## Hilton Puckrup Hall Hotel

Set on the edge of the Cotswolds amid 140 acres of private grounds, the four-star hotel offers an indoor pool, whirlpool and the Living Well health club. All the comfortable bedrooms include TV, hairdryer and tea & coffee making facilities. Complimentary on-site parking is available at the hotel.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

[https://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-puckrup-hall-tewkesbury-BHXPHHN/index.html?WT.mc\\_id=zELWAKNOEMEA1HI2DMH3LocalSearch4DGGenericx6BHXPHHN](https://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-puckrup-hall-tewkesbury-BHXPHHN/index.html?WT.mc_id=zELWAKNOEMEA1HI2DMH3LocalSearch4DGGenericx6BHXPHHN)

## Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.00 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

## Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 12.00.

## Dining

On the first night, a private dinner with wine is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. For the remainder of your stay, dinner will be provided in the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price and champagne tea at Highgrove House, but meals other than these stated are not included.

## Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



## Places Visited

### Hidcote Manor

Hidcote is an Arts and Crafts garden in the north Cotswolds, created by the talented American horticulturist, Major Lawrence Johnston its colourful and intricately designed outdoor 'rooms' are always full of surprises. Explore the maze of narrow paved pathways and discover secret gardens, magnificent vistas and plants that burst with colour. Many of the plants found growing in the garden were collected from Johnston's many plant hunting trips to faraway places. It's the perfect place if you're in need of gardening inspiration. Find a quiet spot and sit on one of the ornate benches and watch green woodpeckers search for their lunch or listen to the calls from the buzzards circling overhead. Time it right and you might catch a glimpse of the elusive hummingbird moth.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote>

### Kiftsgate Court

Heather Muir created the garden at Kiftsgate, which up until 1920 had consisted of a paved formal garden in front of the portico, with fields and wooded banks beyond. Heather was helped and inspired by her lifelong friend Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote Manor. She decided that the garden would develop organically, rather than planning everything on paper. This has given the garden a distinctly feminine feel, almost in direct contrast to the more masculine lines being employed by Johnston at Hidcote. During the 1930s the steep banks were tackled and the steps to the lower garden were put in place, along with the delightful summerhouse taking advantage of the views to the west. From the mid-fifties Diany continued to add to the garden by creating the semi-circular pool in the lower garden. She also commissioned two sculptures and began to open the garden on a regular basis. The white sunk garden was also redesigned by her to incorporate a small pool and a well head fountain. Diany was an important figure in the development of Kiftsgate by opening the garden to the public and maintaining the tradition of continuity. One of Anne Chambers finest accomplishments was the addition of the new water garden that was once the tennis court. She has continued the family tradition of seeking out new and interesting plants to complement the colour schemes which were established when the garden was originally laid out. The theory of evolution rather than revolution is the abiding theme.

<http://www.kiftsgate.co.uk>

### Westonbirt Arboretum

Home to 2,500 different species from the far corners of the globe and 5 national tree collections, Westonbirt is the perfect place for you to escape, relax or have an adventure! Take a journey up into the canopy on the STIHL Tree Top Walkway. Created by the wealthy Holford family in the heyday of Victorian plant hunting, today the arboretum is internationally renowned not only for the diversity and importance of its collection but also its breath-taking beauty.

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt-the-national-arboretum>

## Highgrove House

The Garden, situated at the Prince of Wales private residence, created with imagination and passion by the Prince over the last 38 years, the series of interlinked organic gardens reflect his deep commitment to sustainability, as well as a natural artistic ability. As an important haven for a rich variety of flora and fauna, the gardens have been developed to not only please the eye but sit in succinct harmony with nature. From the classic order of the Cottage Garden to the pastoral beauty of the Wildflower Meadow, discover these unique spaces, along with hidden curios and horticultural innovations, on a tour that offers a personal perspective of this much-admired public figure. You will be divided into two groups, each with its own dedicated, expert guide, before watching a welcome message from His Royal Highness to begin your 90-minute tour of the beautiful Highgrove Gardens, which are renowned as some of the most inspiring and innovative in the United Kingdom. After the tour you will enjoy a Champagne Afternoon Tea.

**Please note that photographic ID is required for all visitors to Highgrove House.**

<https://www.highgrovegardens.com>

## Miserden Estate

Miserden is a family-run, rural estate overlooking the Golden Valley in an area of outstanding natural beauty in the Cotswolds. The estate encompasses 850 acres of woodland, farmland and gardens providing a sanctuary for wildlife and a tranquil escape to allow you to spend time with your family and friends. At Miserden we take pride in our collaborative relationship with the local community, many of whom are directly involved in everyday life on the estate. The Garden, Farming and Forestry have historically provided the backbone of the estate but more recently the introduction of The Nursery with a beautifully ornate café set inside an old Edwardian greenhouse have been a welcome addition.

<https://www.miserden.org/>

## Rodmarton Manor

The 8-acre Cotswold garden in glorious Gloucestershire is interesting any month of the year but really beautiful throughout the summer months. It was designed originally as a series of outdoor rooms and is still the same today. There is a wide selection of planting that has been done over the years with superb vistas and views throughout and plenty of places to sit and admire the view.

<https://rodmarton-manor.co.uk/>

## Your tour manager

**Tony Russell** - Tony Russell's career with plants and gardens began in 1978 when (soon after leaving school and completing a long-distance charity walk from John O' Groats to Land's End) he joined the Forestry Commission in Snowdonia. In 1980 he went to Newton Rigg, Cumbria to study forestry and horticulture and after qualifying in 1983 he took up post as Forester for the New Forest in Hampshire. In 1989 he was appointed Head Forester of Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire, one of the finest collections of tree and shrubs in the temperate world. His areas of responsibility included development and management of the Arboretum, conservation of its many rare and endangered species and interpretation of the collection and its environmental importance to others. By 1999 he had increased annual visitors to Westonbirt from 140,000 to 300,000, making Westonbirt the third most visited garden in the UK at that time (after Kew Gardens and the RHS Garden, Wisley). In 2000, in recognition of these achievements, the British Government awarded Westonbirt, National Status.



Tony left Westonbirt in 2003 and is now widely regarded as one of Britain's leading authorities on trees and shrubs.

Tony will give the following talk on the 1<sup>st</sup> evening:

***“Cotswold Gardens”***




## Practical Information






**Tour manager** - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

**Tipping** –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

**Walking Content** – This tour has been graded a 5 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobblestones etc)	



## Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

# **Emergencies**

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

## **Travel Editions**

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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