

Lunch is available here (not included).

This afternoon we visit the private garden of **Abbey Farm**, near Montacute. The walled gardens, on a sloping site, are 2.5 acres in size. There are roses, shrubs, grasses, clematis, herbaceous borders, a white garden, a gravel garden, and a pond for wildlife.

We return to the hotel for dinner.

Day 5 – Thursday 27 June 2024

Following breakfast, we depart for the gardens at **Kilver Court**, Shepton Mallet. The Gardens were first created by Ernest Jardine as a recreational space for factory workers of Kilver Court in the 1800s and were known as Jardine's Park and Vegetable Gardens. Lunch is available here (not included).

In the afternoon we visit the **Yeo Valley Organic Garden**. The well-known producers of dairy goods such as yoghurt and butter created this garden nearly 20 years ago and the six and a half acres of ornamental and edible plants in a seasonal patchwork has been constantly evolving ever since.

We return to our hotel where dinner is served this evening.

Day 6 – Friday 28 June 2024

After breakfast we visit the gardens of **East Lambrook Manor** where we enjoy an introductory talk on arrival. The garden is recognised throughout the world as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening', having been created in the 1940s, 50s and 60s by the late gardening icon, Margery Fish. There is a local pub directly opposite the garden where lunch will be available (not included). We will enjoy an introductory talk on arrival.

This afternoon we visit **Tintinhull Gardens**, near Yeovil. Created last century around an attractive 17th-century manor house, this is one of the most harmonious small gardens in Britain. It features secluded lawns, small pools and colourful borders. There is also an attractive kitchen garden, woodland walk and orchard.

We return to our hotel for dinner.

Day 7 – Saturday 29 June 2024

After breakfast we check out of our hotel. Our final visit is to **Hinton Ampner** near Winchester, widely acknowledged as a masterpiece of 20th century garden design with its mix of formal and informal planting. The garden covers 12 acres and has some excellent topiary as well as colourful borders and a delightful walled garden, which dates back to Tudor times when it may have been the hop garden. Lunch is available here (not included).

We return to our original departure point where we expect to arrive early evening.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MAY NOT BE THE FINAL ITINERARY AND IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

Information and Registration Form

Friends' Holiday to the

Gardens of Somerset and Dorset

Sunday 23 - Saturday 29 June 2024

From £1,450.00 per person

(based on minimum 20 paying guests)

(single room supplement £195.00)

For our 2024 annual holiday we invite our Friends to explore the gardens of Somerset and Dorset.

Over seven days we will visit the gardens at Minterne, Kingston Lacy, Mapperton House, Forde Abbey, Abbotsbury, Lytes Cary Manor, Abbey Farm, Kilver Court, Yeo Valley, East Lambrook Manor, Tintinhull Gardens and Hinton Ampner.

Included in the price

- ◆ Six nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at 3-star Best Western Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster
- ◆ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ◆ Visits to the house and gardens of The Vyne, Kingston Lacy, Mapperton, Abbotsbury and Hinton Ampner; the gardens at Minterne, Lytes Cary, Abbey Farm, Kilver Court and Yeo Valley Organic Garden
- ◆ Services of a Brightwater Holidays tour manager

Not included (per person)

- ◆ Single room supplement £195.00 per person
- ◆ Insurance (price from Brightwater on request)

REGISTRATION FORM

Gardens of the Somerset and Dorset Sunday 23 - Saturday 29 June 2024

Please return completed form by 31 October 2023 to:

Friends' Office, Cambridge University Botanic Garden,

1 Brookside, Cambridge CB2 1JE

or friends@botanic.cam.ac.uk

Please note, this form registers your interest but it is not a booking form

I should like to register (no.) place(s) (if travelling with a friend please provide their details).

PLEASE PRINT (excepting email details)

1st Name (lead) : _____

Membership No: _____ Telephone No. _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

2nd Name: _____

Accommodation: Double/Twin/Single *(delete as appropriate)*

I am willing to share a twin room if required: Yes/No *(delete as appropriate)*

I agree not to contact Brightwater Holidays until I receive confirmation of a place from the Botanic Garden

I understand that this holiday may be physically demanding and that I am responsible for my own luggage

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please do not send any money with this form.

The closing date for registration of interest is 31 October 2023. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 paying guests.

Places are limited and may be allocated by ballot if oversubscribed. Please do not contact Brightwater Holidays until your registration has been confirmed by the Botanic Garden Friends' Office which will be after 31 October. After confirmation of your reservation, all bookings will be handled by Brightwater Holidays, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife KY15 4HS, 01334 657155, www.brightwaterholidays.com

Proposed Itinerary

Friends' Holiday to the Gardens of Somerset and Dorset

Sunday 23 - Saturday 29 June 2024

Day 1 – Sunday 23 June 2024

We depart from Cambridge and travel by coach to our first visit at **The Vyne**. This 16th century house near Basingstoke was home to the Sandys and Chute families. Surrounding the house are nine hectares of garden with a walled garden dating back to the 18th century and a summerhouse garden where the bedding plants have been carefully selected to complement the shades of the summerhouse through the seasons. Lunch is available here (not included).

We continue to our hotel, the 3-star Best Western Shrubbery Hotel in Ilminster. Dinner will be served in the evening.

Day 2 – Monday 24 June 2024

After breakfast, we depart for the gardens at **Minterne**, an eighteenth-century Serpentine Park with lakes, a stream and a woodland garden.

We then continue to **Kingston Lacy**, which was built to emulate a Venetian Palace and was formerly home to the Bankes family, who over the centuries altered, embellished and rebuilt the house until it became what it is today. During the summer months the garden has something for everyone, from traditional colour bedding to a herbaceous border in shades of blue and white. Lunch is available here (not included).

Dinner is served at our hotel this evening.

Day 3 – Tuesday 25 June 2024

Today, after enjoying breakfast, we depart for **Mapperton House and Gardens**. Home to the family of the Earl of Sandwich, the house overlooks a large Italianate Garden which won the Historic Houses 'Garden of the Year' in 2020. We will enjoy a guided tour of the House and Garden.

We later continue to Lyme Regis known as the 'Pearl of Dorset'. There will be an opportunity to have a walk through the town and admire the beautiful Georgian buildings before enjoying a spot of lunch (not included).

This afternoon we visit the gardens of **Abbotsbury**, near Weymouth. Set over 20 acres, this garden benefits from a mild micro-climate due to its location near the sea, which allows it to grow countless rare and tender plants, many considered too delicate to grow outside.

We return to our hotel for dinner.

Day 4 – Wednesday 26 June 2024

After breakfast we visit **Lytes Cary Manor**, which was once the home of the 16th Century herbalist Henry Lyte and is surrounded by an enchanting garden.