

THE SPIRIT OF YORKSHIRE AND THE LAKE DISTRICT Discover the Hidden Treasures of the North of England

Tuesday May 22nd

Leave DFW on the 1.50pm flight to Manchester via Chicago

Wednesday May 23rd

Arrive Manchester 7.30am.



Welcome to the UK. Our coach is ready to take us on the motorway across the Pennine hills. These hills are known as the backbone of England! We travel past the industrial towns of the north and to the beautiful countryside of James Herriot fame. **York** is our destination; we will spend the next four nights at the elegant Cedar Court Grand Hotel. The hotel is situated in the very center of York. This allows us to walk straight out from the hotel into the ancient city of York.

If you are looking for pure indulgence and total relaxation, then take advantage of the hotel Spa which offers you a variety of treatments which include traditional massage alongside ritualistic massage therapies from around the world. It is advisable to make a reservation before arrival to insure an appointment.

While the hotel will do its best to have as many rooms ready as possible, check-in time is not officially until 3.00pm.



After a light lunch those who wish may take a walking tour of historic York and attend Choral Evensong at the ancient York Minster. Those who prefer, may want to relax or take advantage of the luxurious spa. Early night and dine at the hotel.

Thursday May 24th



This morning we visit **Scampston Hall**, with its incredible gardens originally designed by Capability Brown. In the walled garden Sir Charles and Lady Legard undertook a huge renovation task. Not content with a traditional restoration project - they had already done that in the House and surrounding gardens, they set about producing a stunning garden with a contemporary feel. They enlisted the help of leading garden designer, Piet Oudolf, and a dedicated team of gardeners. Like them you will be delighted with the result. I am hoping that we can be shown around or at least welcomed by Sir and Lady Legard. We will have a guided tour of the house and garden.



Lunch and the remainder of the day will be spent at **Castle Howard**. Anyone who watched the PBS Masterpiece theater production of *Brideshead Revisited* will recognize this beautiful palace. Both inside and out there is much to see especially the magnificent world famous world collection of Rhododendrons.

Dine at Middlethorpe Hall, an elegant Georgian house just outside of York. This will be a memorable evening.

Return to Cedar Court Grand Hotel for the night.

Friday May 25th

York Gate is a Chelsea Flower Show prizewinning garden. This garden is our first stop today. It is incredible that the owners have managed to pack so many ideas into such a small space! Take the opportunity to ask our guide how the garden was planned and designed in just the last twenty years.



We will drive on to **Harewood House**, the home of the Lascelles family for two hundred years. As a family they have collected a stunning treasury of rare art works worthy of the noble home that houses them. The family has

strong connections with the house of Windsor. The garden reflects the taste of the family. After our morning visit you may have lunch here.



This afternoon we offer a walking tour of the Georgian Spa town of **Harrogate**. The shopping is wide and varied in this lovely town: Needlework, antiques, cashmere, books, unique fashion boutiques and Bettys Tearoom or a visit to Harlow Carr the RHS show garden—you won't need a guide, only more time!

Dine at Hilton Hotel with Val Corbett, a well-known photographer of British gardens. She will join us this evening for a presentation on her art and to share some ideas on the perfect photograph

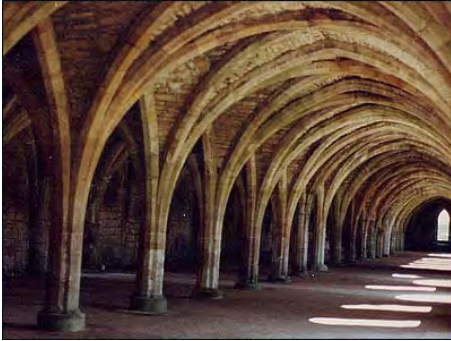
Saturday May 26th

Directly after breakfast Val Corbett will take us on a short walk to the walled garden of the **Treasurers House** where she will offer practical help on how to achieve the perfect floral photograph. .



This morning we drive to **Newby Hall**. The hall is a brilliant example of Robert Adams's creativity. You may recognize the setting for the TV adaptation of Jane Austen book Mansfield Park. We will be greeted by a

family member and given a very special tour of this beautiful home followed by an introduction to the gardens by the head gardener



Fountains Abbey is close by. This World Heritage site is not to be missed. We have a delightful guide to show us round.

Time permitting we could visit the charming market town of **Ripon** and its lovely old Cathedral.

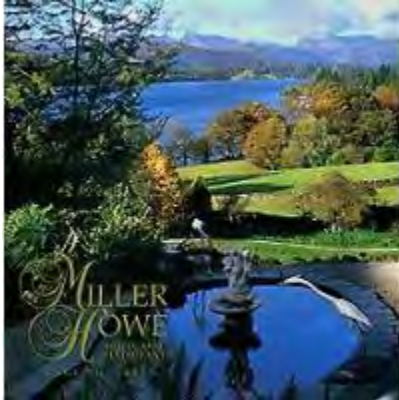
Dine at the Cedar Court Grand Hotel with Val Corbett. This is our final night in York.

Sunday May 27th



We leave York by way of **Haworth** to visit the Parsonage home of the Bronte family. The house is so evocative of the sisters, particularly the chaise longue where Emily died. Haworth retains much of its 18th century character. Both the village and the landscape would be recognized by the Brontes today. Perhaps you will recognize the settings for many of their books. I know that you will want to stop by one of the teashops for a bite to eat.

A picturesque drive takes us across the moors and on to **Holehird** a charming garden-lovers paradise which is maintained totally by volunteer gardeners of the Lakeland Horticultural Society and consistently voted among the top gardens in Britain and Europe.



Close by is our **hotel Miller Howe**, where we will stay for the next four nights. The hotel is perfectly situated overlooking **LAKE WINDERMERE**. One can walk through the lovely hotel gardens to the waters edge.

Dinner at the hotel

Monday May 28th



Acorn Bank awaits us today. A lovely old Hall with a garden filled with apple blossom, spring flowers and an herb garden. Then on to Armathwaite village for lunch at the Fox and Pheasant Inn. A relaxed afternoon at **Hazel Cottage** awaits us. Flower arranging with the David Ryland and John Thexton, these men won a top award at Chelsea Flower Show this year. They have designed their cottage garden to make available the plants

necessary for their artistry. Of course you may prefer to sit in the garden with book or sketch pad and simply enjoy the peace of the countryside.

On our way back to Miller Howe we will relax and dine overlooking Ullswater at the Sharrow Bay Hotel.

Tuesday May 29th



This morning we will cross Lake Windermere on the old Ferry, to **Hill Top Farm**, the home of Beatrix Potter and inspiration for many of her books. For example you can see the doll's house from 'A Tale of Three Bad Mice' and the pretty garden where Peter Rabbit escaped from Mr McGregor! Close by is the village of Hawkshead. Not only Ms Potter but Wordsworth too spent a part of their lives in this picturesque town. You will have time to explore the gift shops and museums before we leave for Coniston Water and **Brantwood**, the home of John Ruskin. Ruskin was a leader in the Arts and Crafts movement and there is much to learn from his charming home and spectacular garden.

This evening we will divide up into small groups to **dine at the homes of members of the Cumbria Gardens Trust.**

Wednesday May 30th

A day to relax and explore your surroundings. Miller Howe is a charming comfortable Hotel, and it is very tempting, and perfectly acceptable for you to stay put and relax for the day with a good book.



For the more active a visit to Wordsworth's home at **Rydal Mount** to see "a host of golden daffodils. **Rydal Hall** next door offers a beautiful garden designed by the Lakeland Arts and Crafts garden designer Thomas Hayton Mawson and updated 5 years ago by Tom Atwood. Mr. Atwood will be there to tell us about the process. Then we follow the Coffin Path down to



Dove Cottage, the original home of Wordsworth where our guide will be waiting to show us around. We will have an hour to lunch and explore the pretty village of Grasmere before taking the coach to the village of Troutbeck.

So much to see in this little village, the beautiful **Jesus church** with its windows designed by Burne –Jones and made by William Morris. We have some delightful private gardens to visit in Troutbeck, all lovingly created.

Dinner at Miller Howe. Our final evening at this hotel.

Thursday May 31st

I have saved the best for the last.

Yewbarrow is a most unusual and spectacular garden, overlooking the sea. This garden rated highly at 2010 Chelsea Flower Show.



As a contrast, we will visit **Levens Hall** and admire the amazing topiary in the garden, a design following that of Le Notre, the designer of Versailles. The Elizabethan house is rather lovely and it is worth taking yourself on the 45minute tour to view it. The restaurant offers a tasty lunch. We will have 2 hours at Levens Hall for you to spend as you think fit and as the weather prescribes!



We continue on to **Gresgarth Hall**. Home of Lady Arabella Lennox Boyd, Englands' Martha Stewart! Her garden is the cutting edge of English gardening.

This evening our coach will return us to **Manchester Airport**, where we will stay, this last night, at the **Radison Hotel**. Dinner at the hotel.

Friday June 1st

After breakfast we will depart for Dallas on the 10.00am flight to Dallas via Chicago, arrive DFW 6.00pm.

It is always easier to spend a day to acclimatize to a new country and to relax after the flight. If you have the time to spend an extra night or two at the York Hilton, I would strongly recommend it. The city of York is fascinating with a history reaching back before the Vikings. Extra nights and transportation from Manchester can be arranged

**For those who would like to extend their stay and arrive early to visit
the opening day of RHS Chelsea Flower Show,
there is a direct fast train from London St. Pancras to York,
where one can join those who have arrived from Dallas.
Membership and entrance can be arranged.
This would involve an extra cost.**

**Approximate prices include all ground transportation, lodging,
breakfast and dinner, except where noted.
Per Person, Double Occupancy \$5600.00 Single Supplement \$1200.00**

**THIS IS A GARDEN TOUR FOR GARDENERS.
GOOD STURDY WALKING SHOES ARE A MUST!**