



Lawrence in the Cotswolds

June 2-10, 2025

ITINERARY

June 2 – Arrival

June 3 – A Baron's Estate

June 4 – Harry Potter Was Here

June 5 – Visiting Royalty

June 6 – A Queen Rests Here

June 7 – Walking the Cotswold Way

June 8 – An American in the Cotswolds

June 9 – Tour Leader's Choice

June 10 – Departure

Day One – Arrival - Monday, June 2

Tour participants make their way to **Great Fosters Hotel** in Egham, just a short drive from Heathrow Airport. A former hunting lodge frequented by King Henry VIII, this elegant country hotel feels like it's miles from the hustle and bustle of London. Enjoy the hotel's spectacular gardens designed by renowned garden designer Kim Wilkie, take a dip in the c. 1930 swimming pool, or just relax in your room as you settle into a different time zone. We'll gather for a welcome dinner in the hotel's dining room.

Dinner included.

Transport from Heathrow can be arranged for an additional cost.



The gardens at Great Fosters

Day Two – Tuesday, June 3

Today after breakfast we'll make our way to the Cotswolds. Our first stop will be at magnificent **Malverys**. This spectacular country house is owned by the Baron von Opel and his wife, Emily. The von Opels brought in one of England's most talented gardeners to create their 12-acre garden, a series of garden "rooms" much like what one sees at Sissinghurst or Hidcote Manor. In just a few years, head gardener Mat Resse has been able to create a garden masterpiece that rivals more famous English gardens. We'll enjoy meeting Mat, who will provide an introduction to the garden prior to setting us free to wander through the various garden rooms. After our tour, we'll enjoy lunch at Emily von Opel's recently-opened restaurant and farm shop. We then head to Tetbury, where **The Close Hotel** will be our home for the next three nights.

Breakfast, dinner, and a private tour of Malverleys is included today.



The Laburnum arch at Malverlys

DAY THREE – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

This morning we head to **Iford Manor**, where we hope to have a before-hours private tour with the head gardener. The garden's distinctive feature is its Harold Peto pergola that is surrounded by plantings influenced by Peto's time in the gardens at William Robinson's Gravetye Manor. Peto lived at Iford from 1899 to 1933. Today, under the stewardship of head gardener Steve Lannin and owners William and Marianne Cartwright, the gardens are being refreshed and extended. They promise to delight us with their beauty.

After Iford, we take a short drive to the village of **Lacock**. This National Trust property is best known as the village setting in the Harry Potter movies. You'll have time on your own to enjoy lunch and then roam the village and gardens.

We return to Tetbury, where you'll have an evening free.

Breakfast and entrance to Iford Manor is included today. Entrance to Lacock is covered by your National Trust membership.



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DAY FOUR – THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Today we hope to have a private tour of **Highgrove**, King Charles III's Cotswolds manor house known for its spectacular gardens. Since we cannot confirm ticket availability until two months prior to our visit, our back-up plan will be to visit the world famous gardens at **Abbey House Gardens** in Malmsbury. Lovingly created by the “Naked Gardeners,” Ian and Barbara Pollard, this 16th century estate is now owned by an American couple who are busy refurbishing the house and gardens. In the afternoon, we'll enjoy a private tour of **Rodmarton Manor**. Built for Claud and Margaret Biddulph between 1909 and 1929, Rodmarton is considered the last of the great country houses built in the Arts and Crafts tradition. The house is still owned by the Biddulph family.

We return to Tetbury for one last evening and a group dinner at the hotel.

Breakfast, lunch (either at Highgrove or Rodmarton), garden entrance fees, and dinner are included today.



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The gardens at Highgrove

DAY FIVE – FRIDAY, JUNE 6

We say farewell to Tetbury and drive to **Sudeley Castle** for a self-guided tour of the castle and its gardens. The last home of Catherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth and final wife, the castle served as a storage vault for the Tate Museum masterpieces during World War II. Catherine Parr is buried in the chapel here, making Sudeley the only privately-owned house that has a Queen of England buried on its grounds.

We'll travel through the countryside, making a lunch stop at the **Plough Inn** in Temple Guiting, before continuing to **Snowhill Manor**, a National Trust property. After a long day, it will feel wonderful to settle in at **Abbots Grange**. We'll have exclusive use of this charming hotel for the next three nights. No dinner is offered at the hotel, but it's a short stroll into the town of Broadway where you can sample traditional fish and chips or enjoy a meal at one of the well-known bars or restaurants.

Breakfast and entry to Sudeley Castle is included today. Your National Trust membership will get you into Snowhill Manor.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#) The chapel at Sudeley Castle

DAY SIX – SATURDAY, JUNE 7

By law, our driver has the day off today. You are welcome to simply stay at Abbots Grange and enjoy the 8 acres of gardens available to you or venture into Broadway to stroll up and down its streets, stopping to shop or visit the Cotswolds Gin tasting room on the main street. For those of you who would like more of a hike, we'll cover a small portion of the 102-mile Cotswold Way, hiking from Broadway over to Chipping Campden.

Breakfast is included today.



A walk by Broadway Tower on the Cotswolds Way

DAY 7 – SUNDAY, JUNE 8

No visit to the Cotswolds is complete without a stop at **Hidcote Manor**, one of England's most famous gardens. Originally designed by the American Lawrence Johnston, Hidcote is today under the meticulous care of the National Trust. Just down the road from Hidcote is another magnificent garden. **Kiftsgate** may not be as well-known as Hidcote, but it is every bit as beautiful. Gardened by three generations of women gardeners, the garden is famous for its roses, which should be in bloom when we visit.

We end the day enjoying a traditional Sunday roast in a favorite Cotswolds pub, the **Ebrington Arms**.

Breakfast, entrance to Kiftsgate, and the Sunday roast are included today. Entrance to Hidcote is gained via your National Trust card.



The gardens at Hidcote Manor

DAY 8 – MONDAY, JUNE 9

Tour leader's choice is on the agenda for today! Will we visit an amazing Cotswolds garden, or perhaps the private garden of a famous animator? Perhaps a bit of Mitford family history? A well-known organic farm and shop? Details to follow. What is known is that we will end our day – and our time together at the **Sir Christopher Wren Hotel in Windsor.**

Breakfast and entry fees included today.

DAY 9 – TUESDAY, JUNE 10

Head home or continue your adventure.

Tour includes:

One night and one dinner at Great Fosters in Egham

Three nights and two dinners at The Close Hotel in Tetbury

Three nights at Abbots Grange near Broadway

Lunch at either Highgrove or Rodmarton Manor

Sunday roast at the Ebrington Arms

Transport from Great Fosters for the entire time in the Cotswolds

All entry fees except for National Trust properties (we recommend you become a member of the National Trust prior to travelling)

Cost per person: 3800 pounds