

WEST DOWN GARDENING CLUB

HOLIDAY – SUNDAY, 19TH JUNE TO WEDNESDAY, 22ND JUNE 2022

Sunday, 19th June

Depart West Down 8.15 a.m. with pick ups at Braunton and Barnstaple stopping for a comfort break at Taunton Deane before we drive on to Gloucester Services for a lunch break. We then drive on to Painswick Rococo Garden for the afternoon. The garden is fantastic in both its character and inspiration. Squeezed into a valley with deceptive vistas juxtaposed with serpentine baths, the garden is peppered with charming follies to surprise and delight. We leave at 4.00 p.m. for our onward journey to Bank House Hotel, Worcester a four star spa hotel for three nights bed, breakfast and evening meals with en suite facilities.



Monday, 20th June

Today we visit the delightful Hampton Court Castle and Gardens in Herefordshire. There are many areas to the garden including the Kitchen Garden, Rose Garden, Dutch Garden with beautiful symmetry and a striking water feature, a maze of 1,000 yews, a sunken garden and 150 year old wisteria arch.

Having had a walk around the gardens and visited the Castle, lunch in the Orangery, if required, we take the famous Black and White trail and visit the delightful village of Weobley. The Weobley Heritage Trail will take you on a passage through time, exploring how mediaeval traders sold their wares through unglazed windows onto the street and point out what architectural features to look for in the many building styles found throughout the village. The Trail follows plaques placed at points of interest that explain about the building structure and what would have happened there in times past. Not only is the trail free, but you will find out where the term “hitting the sack” came from and what an “under dog” really is.



Tuesday, 21st June

An early start for our trip to the newly opened RHS Bridgewater Garden on the outskirts of Manchester. It is the fifth RHS garden and one of the largest gardening projects undertaken in Europe in recent years. The transformation of this 154-acre green space the former site of Worsley New Hall, in Salford, is a heritage landscape that's been transformed into an iconic RHS Garden. Landscape architect, Tom Stuart-Smith created the masterplan and the fantastic Bridgewater team, alongside award winning garden designers, have brought 'gardens within a garden' to life by blending history with world-class horticulture.



Wednesday, 22nd June

Our stop on the way home is a visit to Hestercombe, The first reference to a garden there is from a medieval document of 1249 which records 'my Lord Hestercombe's garden'. In 1903 the owners commissioned Sir Edwin Luytens to create a new formal garden with a planning scheme designed by Gertrude Jekyll. The Formal Garden is one of the finest examples of her collaboration with him. There is also an Art Gallery, Restaurant, Café and Plant Centre.



Our final part of the return journey sees us arriving at West Down at approx. 5.00 p.m.