EXPO GARDEN TOURS



CELEBRATING OUR
15TH ANNIVERSARY

EXPO GARDEN TOURS

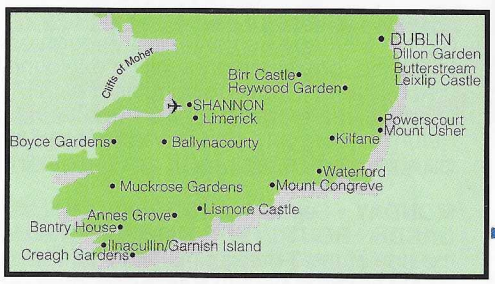
Discovering beauty in gardens, art and culture
through the eyes of experts in places around the world.

2003

Hidden Gardens of Ireland

9 Nights/10 Days • June 11-21

Land Package Price:
$3,553 per person, double occupancy
$485 single supplement
Air/Land Package Price:
(Roundtrip air from New York)
$4,197 per person, double occupancy




Dillon Garden, Dublin

Your Itinerary

WEDNESDAY • June 11
DEPART FOR IRELAND

THURSDAY • June 12
ARRIVAL SHANNON/BOYCE GARDENS/BALLYNACOURTY: After meeting your Expo Garden Tours escort, visit **Boyce Gardens** developed over 16 years by Phyl and Dick Boyce and featuring a pool, herbaceous borders, rock gardens, kitchen and herb garden, greenhouse and rose gardens. Go on to **Ballynacourty** designed as a series of small gardens, one with a laburnum walk underplanted with lavender, another featuring vegetables. Continue on to Adare, a grand estate village with flower-covered thatched cottages. Upon checking into your hotel, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. This evening attend a **Welcome Dinner** reception. (D)

FRIDAY • June 13
KILLARNEY: First stop is **Muckross House**, a truly impressive 19th century manor with a Portland stone exterior. See exhibits of Kerry folklife and splendid 19th century subtropical gardens which run down towards the lakes of Killarney. At this time the rhododendrons will be at their peak. Continue onto the **Ring of Kerry** to Kenmare, a small market town and fishing port where we pause for a light lunch on your own. Then continue to your hotel in Ballylickey for dinner and the next two nights stay. (B,D)

SATURDAY • June 14
CREAGH/GARINISH ISLAND: First visit **Bantry House**, formerly the home of the Earls of Bantry and now belonging to their descendant, Egerton Shelswell White. See the exceptional gardens and a fabulous display of 18th century furniture and art including fireplaces from Versailles, tapestries made for Marie Antoinette, and tile panels from Pompeii. Next visit **Creagh**, a garden inspired by a Rousseau painting and featuring a Regency walled garden, home to a collection of rare fowl. After lunch visit Glengarriff, a pleasant resort community set in a wooded glen. Take a short boat ride to **Garinish Island**, a paradise of plants, flowering shrubs, and trees from all over the world. On the way you might even see seals basking in the sun. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B,D)

SUNDAY • June 15
CORK: Travel to Cork City and then on to **Annes Grove Gardens**, a Robinsonian garden on 30 acres containing a walled garden, glen and a riverside garden. After lunch we will follow the Blackwater valley to **Lismore Castle** gardens, the Irish home of the Duke of Devonshire. See a fine collection of shrubs and the Riding House built in 1631. Then check into the luxurious *Dunbrody Country House Hotel* near Waterford (B,D)

MONDAY • June 16
LISMORE AREA: This morning visit **Mount Congreve**, the 300 year-old home of Ambrose Congreve. Within the 110-acre garden see more than 3,000 varieties of rhododendron, 600 camellias, 300 magnolias, and 250 types of Japanese Maples. Then travel through Waterford city, the home of the crystal factory to Thomastown and **Kilfane Glen**, an 18th century romantic landscape, with a waterfall, a cottage ornee, cliff walks and a hermit's grotto. Forgotten for more than a century, it has been fully restored by Ireland's leading spongeware potter, Nicholas Mosse, and offers a fascinating glimpse of the 18th century gothic. (B,D)

TUESDAY • June 17
KILKENNY: First stop at **Kilkenny**, an enchanting medieval city with a 13th century castle, cathedral and stories of phantom witches. Then travel to **Heywood Gardens** combining the remnants of Poe's 18th century landscape of long vistas, follies and ancient trees, with a unique Lutyens garden of hidden pergolas and a sunken circular garden. After a pub lunch on your own, visit **Birr Castle**, home of Lord and Lady Rosse whose gardens are noted for their spring flowering magnolias, cherries and crab apples and more than 1000 different varieties of trees and shrubs. Next see a **botanical garden** near Tullamore, a plantsman's paradise. (B,D)

WEDNESDAY • June 18
DUBLIN AREA: Explore **Butterstream** the "Irish Sissinghurst" designed as a series of garden rooms. After lunch on your own visit **Leixlip Castle** where the Hon. Desmond Guinness has created a very pretty garden within the ancient walled enclosures of his medieval home. Then continue on to Dublin and visit **Helen Dillon's home and garden** and enjoy her magical town garden containing a fine collection of plants. Helen has written several books on gardens and, with her miniature dachshund Reginald, is a popular T.V. garden show presenter. Check into your hotel in Dublin. (B)

THURSDAY • June 19
COUNTY WICKLOW: Depart for **Powerscourt** gardens, a magnificent combination of French and Italian formal design with a fine arboretum and a unique Japanese garden which create a stunning setting for the shell of Sir Richard Castle's imposing Palladian mansion. After lunch at leisure, tour **Mt. Usher**, one of Irelands most famous woodland gardens with a lovely stream and paths. A naturalized garden done in the Robinsonian style, this is a plant lover's paradise with interesting groundcovers, fine trees and magnificent shrubs. Dinner is at leisure. (B)

FRIDAY • June 20
DUBLIN: This day discover Dublin on your own. Tonight is our **Farewell Dinner**. (B,D)

SATURDAY • June 21
DEPART DUBLIN (B)

Your Garden Tour Includes:

- 9 nights first class accommodations
- All breakfasts, 7 dinners
- Ground transportation per itinerary
- Private garden visits
- All admissions per itinerary
- Services of tour manager and on-site garden guides
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- All gratuities except for tour manager and driver

Hotels

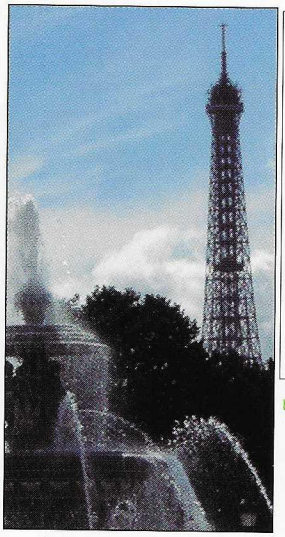
Night 1:	*Dunraven Arms,* Adare
Nights 2-3:	*Seaview House,* Ballylickey
Nights 4-5:	*Dunbrody House Hotel,* Athurstown
Night 6:	*Kinnitty Castle,* Birr
Nights 7-9:	*Hibernian Hotel,* Dublin

Secret Gardens of Normandy, Brittany & Paris

9 Nights/10 Days • June 5-15







Land Package Price:
$3,987 per person, double occupancy
$596 sgl. supplement

Air/Land Package Price:
(Roundtrip air from New York)
$4,654 per person, double occupancy

Your Itinerary

THURSDAY • June 5
DEPART FOR PARIS

FRIDAY • June 6
PARIS/ROUEN: Arrive this morning at Charles de Gaulle Airport and depart for Normandy, the land of apples, cider, butter, pungent cheese and lush gardens. Check into your hotel in the beautiful capital of Rouen. Tonight meet for your **Welcome Dinner**. (D)

SATURDAY • June 7
ROUEN/BOIS DE MOUTIERS/VASTERIVAL: Visit **Le Bois de Moutiers**, in the Malet family since the beginning of the century containing acres of roses, hydrangeas and rhododendrons. After lunch at the charming **Auberge Buissonnière** visit **Le Vastérival** where Princess Sturdza will show you through her 24-acre gardens with 680 species of rhododendrons, magnolias, trees, and other plants. Tonight dinner is on your own. (B,L)

SUNDAY • June 8
ROUEN/AMBLEVILLE/GIVERNY/VANDRIMARE: Depart for **Château d'Ambleville**, a Renaissance chateau and gardens that has been in the Villefranche family for centuries. The owners will personally show you the Italian-style gardens. Then visit **Giverny**, Claude Monet's home where the gardens and ponds have inspired many of his masterpieces. After lunch on your own, go on to **Vandrimare** and tour the chateau and gardens with the Comte & Comtesse de la Conté who will take you through their gardens filled with flowers,fountains and brooks. Enjoy cider, a specialty of the region. Dinner tonight is on your own. (B)

MONDAY • June 9
ROUEN/ST. MELOIR DES ONDES: Tour Rouen, famous for its cathedral, the author Flaubert, and St. Joan of Arc. Depart for Brittany in France's northwest corner. Visit **Château de Canon**, an18th century park with a French formal garden containing statues and romantic architectural items and the Chartreuses, a series of walled gardens linked together by arched openings containing masses of flowers. Lunch includes some regional specialties at **Manoir de Magny-le-Freule**. This private country manor house has a remarkable pigeon coop and cider house from the Middle Ages and race-horses are raised on the property. Arrive in St. Melior-des-Ondes for three nights. (B,L,D)

TUESDAY • June 10
ST. MELOIR DES ONDES/MONT ST. MICHEL/ST. MALO: Visit **Mont St. Michel**, an abbey dating back to the 8th century. After lunch on your own, depart for Fougères, a lovely hilltop medieval city with an exquisitely preserved castle. The gardens of the **Place aux Arbres** behind the 16th c. St. Leonard Church give a spectacular overview of the chateau. Visit the **Parc Floral de Haute Bretagne** where 12 gardens created in 1830 are surrounded by forest and feature fountains, streams, lagoon, and bridges. Dinner is in St. Malo, a fortified seaport city, once one of the most prosperous and powerful ports in France. (B,D)

WEDNESDAY • June 11
ST. MELOIR DES ONDES/ST. MALO/DINAN/CANCALE/MONTMARIN: Tour St. Malo and go on to Cancale, a colorful fishing port famous for its oysters. After lunch on your own, travel to the medieval village of Dinan high above the river Rance with its stone houses, lovely private gardens and round towers. Explore the **Parc de Montmarin** where Comte de Ferrand, president of Parks and Gardens of Brittany, will give a tour of his 18th c. French-style garden and 19th c. English-style park. The chateau is in the style of a malouinière, one of the 112 elegant residences built in the 18th c. by ship owners. After afternoon tea, return to hotel for dinner and overnight. (B,T,D)

THURSDAY • June 12
ST. MELOIR DES ONDES/PARIS: Depart for Paris and visit an 18th century **private country chateau** and historic windmill in Thevalles. Tour the estate and have lunch with the Comte and Comtesse de Vitton. Travel to **Chartres** and see the Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Chartres, a pinnacle of medieval architecture with its exceptional stained-glass windows. Arrive in Paris for three nights and dinner in a nearby restaurant. (B,L,D)

FRIDAY • June 13
PARIS: First stop at **Bagatelle** in the Bois de Boulogne, a garden known to have one of the finest rose collections in Europe and a miniature chateau, the result of a bet between Marie Antoinette and her brother-in-law, Le Comte d'Artois. The rest of the day is yours to explore Paris. (B)

SATURDAY • June 14
PARIS: Tour **Château de Vaux le Vicomte**, a 17th c. French masterpiece with gardens by Andre Le Notre. Meet the proprietor, Comte de Voguë and have lunch at St. Jean de Beauregard. Next tour **Domaine de St. Jean de Beauregard** with the Comtesse de Curel whose 17th c. chateau has an extraordinary pigeon coop (pigeonnier) and traditional style kitchen garden (potager) full of flowers, vegetables and fruit. After stopping at **La Celle des Bordes** where the proprietor, the Duchess de Brissac, will give a personal tour of her garden and offer cocktails. Return to Paris for a **Farewell Dinner**. (B,L,D)

SUNDAY • June 15
DEPART PARIS (B)

Your Garden Tour Includes:

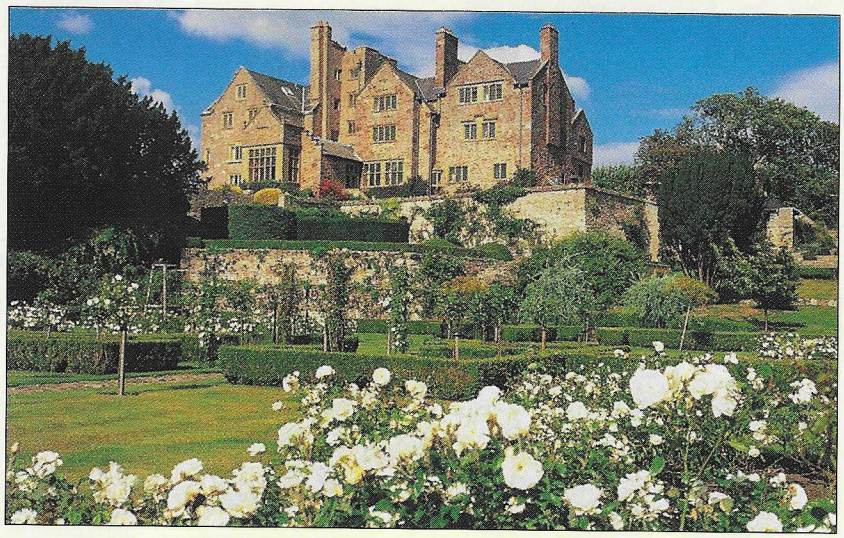
- 9 nights 1st. Class Accommodations
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners, 1 tea
- Ground transportation per itinerary
- Private garden visits
- All admissions per itinerary
- Services of tour manager & on-site garden guides
- Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- All gratuities except for tour manager and driver

Hotels

Nights 1-3: *Hotel Mercure Champs de Mars,* Rouen
Nights 4-6: *Hotel Tirel Guérin,* St. Melior-des-Ondes
Nights 7-9: *Hotel Château Frontenac,* Paris

Expo Garden Tours travelers say.....

"The tour fulfilled our wildest expectations." (Bill & Shirley Duncan) • "It was great to have Michael at the reception." (Helen Foster) • "I really enjoyed the little extras that weren't on the itinerary." (Georgene Bramlage) • "It was perfect!" (Brent Clark) • "Thanks for the number of extras....overall the trip was better than I expected." (Mina Cohen) • "Thanks for caring." (Mina Cohen) • "I was always 'anti tour' but after your program I would do it again." (Margaret Denk) • "Thank you for an enjoyable trip." (Mary Feyk) • " We especially appreciated spending a day and dinner with Michael." (Drs. Janice & Kenneth Gordon) • "The trip was absolutely gorgeous." (Peg Lewis) • "I always felt Expo was reliable and caring. Very professional." (Dorie Grimes) • "Every garden, attraction and meal was better than anticipated." (Kate Dooley, Travel Agent) • "The bus driver and guide were excellent." (Jo Ann MacPherson) • "I felt all the planning Expo did paid off." (Edith McDonald) • "I had travelled with Expo before and enjoyed it immensely." (Susan Jelen) • "Our custom group loved everything and can't wait for another trip." (Shirley Meneice) • "I thought the accommodations were perfect." (Lois Stephens) • "I am a very satisfied customer." (Mary Fine) • "I would recommend Expo to everyone." (Billie Miller)



Please contact your travel agent for additional information...

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