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INVITES YOU TO JOIN

# DERYN THORPE

ON THE GARDEN TOUR TO THE CHELSEA  
FLOWER SHOW, ITALY, SLOVENIA  
AND AUSTRIA

VISITING LONDON • UK; LAKE GARDA • VENICE • TRIESTE  
ITALY; LJUBLJANA • SLOVENIA; GRAZ • AUSTRIA

19 MAY TO 7 JUNE 2026

Our new garden itinerary visits London and charming towns and gardens in the Italian Lakes area and takes in jewel-like towns and villages in the nearby countries of Slovenia and Austria

PRE-TOUR TO THE  
GORGEOUS GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

14 TO 20 MAY 2026



## PRE-TOUR TO THE GORGEOUS GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

### Day 1 - Thursday 14 May, 2026 .....Departure

Our holiday begins with our flight to London.

### Day 2 - Friday 15 May, 2026.....East Grinstead

On arrival our coach will drive from London Heathrow to East Grinstead.

### Day 3 - Saturday 16 May, 2026 .....East Grinstead

Our visit this morning is to **Penshurst Place**, which has been home to the Sidney family since 1552 making it one of the oldest family-owned estates in England. Surrounded by 11 acres of walled formal gardens and housing one of the few surviving medieval Baronial Halls in England. Visitors can enjoy a stroll through the 11 acres of formal walled gardens, discovering hidden corners brimming with fruit trees, an abundance of tulips, roses, colourful borders and water features. In the afternoon we will visit **Long Barn**. Against the backdrop of a beautiful house dating from the 14th century and with wonderful views across the Weald, the three acres of garden at Long Barn were laid out by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, who lived here from 1915-1930 before moving to Sissinghurst Castle. In the evening, we meet for a welcome dinner.

### Day 4 - Sunday 17 May 2026 .....East Grinstead

This morning, we visit lovely landscaped **Doddington Place Gardens**, recognised as being of historical importance by Historic England, they are set in the grounds of an imposing Victorian mansion and cover 10 acres. They are surrounded by wooded countryside in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the North Downs. There is a notable woodland garden – especially spectacular in May and June – which includes many different varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas. You know you’ve made it as a nurseryman or gardener, when your name becomes synonymous with a particular plant. This is true of William Dyson and his collection of salvias at **Great Comp Garden**. William is curator of the garden in Sevenoaks, and his adjoining nursery offers a huge range of salvias that can be seen in varied garden situations. We will enjoy this garden in the afternoon.

### Day 5 - Monday 18 May, 2026 .....East Grinstead

Today we visit two world-renowned gardens and Deryn’s two favourite English gardens. **Great Dixter** surrounds a charming thatched 15th century manor house. The gardens were designed and constructed by Christopher Lloyd, a noted plants man; gardener and writer who lived his whole life on the property. It includes fine topiary, a magnificent mixed, long border and a wild woodland. This afternoon we visit **Sissinghurst Castle**, created by writer Vita Sackville West and her husband Harold Nicolson. In mid-May the cottage garden will be clothed in a myriad of warm red and golden hues.

### Day 6 - Tuesday 19 May, 2026 .....East Grinstead

This morning, we visit **Denmans Garden**, designer John Brookes’ own garden. The garden demonstrates his eclectic style, combining straight lines within walls with informal more natural planting schemes. We continue with a visit to **High Beeches** a hidden gem in the High Weald of Sussex. In spring the magnolias and camellias are under planted with swathes of daffodils.

### Day 7 - Wednesday 20 May, 2026 .....London

We visit the gardens at **Riverhill** this morning, to take in a garden with an intriguing mix of historic and traditional planting, with contemporary and quirky twists The principal features are the Walled Garden, restored in 2011, with sumptuous contemporary grass curves and frothy fountains, Rose Walk, Italianate terraces and Wood Garden. We continue to the famous **Kew Gardens** to meet our members recently arrived from Australia.

## GARDEN TOUR TO THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW, ITALY, SLOVENIA AND AUSTRIA

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 - Tuesday 19 May, 2026 .....Departure

Our holiday begins with our flight to London.

### Day 2 - Wednesday 20 May, 2026 .....London, UK

On arrival our coach drives from the airport to the famous **Kew Gardens**, London’s largest UNESCO World Heritage Site. Kew is home to the world’s most diverse collection of living plants and a scientific research centre of international renown. Set on 300 acres, we will discover incredible glasshouses including the iconic Palm House with its exotic rainforest. We will check into our hotel and the rest of the day will be free for independent activity.

### Day 3 - Thursday 21 May, 2026 .....London

The highlight of our time in London will be an escorted visit to the famous **Chelsea Flower Show**. Chelsea is the leading event in the English horticultural calendar and boasts amazing displays of the world’s most beautiful flowers and plants. You will see fabulous show gardens specially created by top designers from across the UK and around the world. Deryn will ensure that you get the most from this wonderful show. We return to our hotel early afternoon, with an optional drop off at Harrods for those who would like to visit Knightsbridge, one of London’s most exclusive shopping areas. In the evening, we meet for a welcome dinner.

### Day 4 - Friday 22 May, 2026 .....London

This morning, we visit the Royal Horticultural Society Garden, **Wisley**, one of the world’s great gardens. Wisley Estate was given to the RHS in trust by Sir Thomas Hanbury in 1903. Packed with horticultural inspiration, the garden will capture the imagination with richly planted borders, which will be at their peak during our visit, luscious rose gardens and extraordinary glasshouses, which recreate tropical, moist temperate and dry temperate habitats. The afternoon will be free to explore London. Why not book a show? Every evening during the tour, the tour manager will meet those wishing to dine with the group.

### Day 5 - Saturday 23 May, 2026 .....Lake Garda, Italy

We fly to Verona and on arrival travel to Bardolino on Lake Garda which sits at the foot of the Alps. The largest of the Italian Lakes, Lake Garda is also considered one of the most beautiful. The snow-capped Dolomites to the north shelter the lake from the cold north winds, creating a mild, Mediterranean climate that enables beautiful parks and gardens. The region was influenced by the Venetian Republic, which ruled the area from the 15th to 18th century

# DERYN THORPE

Deryn Thorpe is a fanatical gardener, passionate about communicating her love of gardening to others. She has been taking people on specialist garden tours for 25 years. She is an award-winning garden journalist, writing for Gardening Australia magazine and other gardening publications. She co-presents the multi-award winning ‘All The Dirt’ [www.allthedirt.com.au](http://www.allthedirt.com.au), Australia’s most popular gardening podcast with more than two million downloads. Deryn has edited garden books and worked as a garden TV presenter and is a presenter on garden radio and a vivacious and popular speaker at festivals and garden clubs. She works in her family revegetation business which plants 2 million trees for landcare in low rainfall areas each summer. She volunteered for six years with Open Gardens Australia and opened her own beautiful, cottage style garden to the public. Deryn is an Honourary Life Member of the Horticultural Media Association Australia (HMAA) and the Nursery and Garden Industry WA.



**Day 6 - Sunday 24 May 2026 ..... Lake Garda**

We visit the gardens of **Villa Rizzardi**. A memorable sight is the green theatre, a feature of classical Renaissance gardens. The gardens lie on three main levels. The cross alleys and vistas have been aligned to catch views of the mountains at every turn. We travel to Verona, the setting for the play Romeo and Juliet, where we stop for lunch at leisure. We continue with a visit to **Parco Sigurta** a natural park of 60 hectares which was voted one of the world's most visit-worthy gardens by the Garden Tourism Network. The original garden dates to 1407. Among its features are 30,000 roses, 40,000 woodland plants, 18 ponds and lakes, a maze created from 1500 yew trees and a 400-year-old oak.

**Day 7 - Monday 25 May, 2026 ..... Lake Garda**

We cruise around the lake on the local ferries, which stop at some of the gorgeous towns along the coast of Lake Garda today. The tour manager will help tour members with shopping if required.

**Day 8 - Tuesday 26 May, 2026 ..... Lake Garda**

This morning, we visit the Andre Heller Botanic Garden (formerly known as the **Giardino Hruska Botanico**). This garden was laid out from 1910 by Dr Arturo Hruska, a naturalist and dentist to the last Czar of Russia. Spectacular bristling groves of green and black bamboo thrive near stately cypresses, camphor trees and cedars. We continue with a visit to **Vicenza**, a UNESCO World Heritage site made up of the 20 elegant buildings designed by the 16th-century architect Andrea Palladio. These include the Palladian Basilica and the Palazzo Chiericati, now home to an art gallery and the **Teatro Olimpico**, which replicates a classic outdoor theatre.

**Day 9 - Wednesday 27 May, 2026 ..... Venice, Italy**

This morning, we travel to **Le Paradis de Papillons**, a beautiful cottage-style garden created in 2004, on a narrow strip of clayey land in the Po River valley. The garden was developed by a professional gardener and is divided into several "rooms" including shrubs and perennial plants, arches, pergolas, yew hedges, a grove of hornbeams, lime trees, and a pond. We continue our journey to Venice.

**Day 10 - Thursday 28 May, 2026 ..... Venice**

Venice, the capital of northern Italy's Veneto region, is built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. It has no roads, just canals – including the Grand Canal thoroughfare – lined with Renaissance and Gothic palaces. We take a sightseeing tour of Venice with a local guide in the morning and visit St Marks Square, see the Grand Canal, St Marks Cathedral and the Doges Palace. We continue with a visit to the Palace Querini Stampalia, which belonged to the family of the same name. Today it houses an important art gallery. It also contains a charming garden, which was designed by Manlio Dazzi from 1949. The rest of the day is free for relaxation and independent exploration.

**Day 11 - Friday 29 May, 2026 ..... Venice**

A day spent exploring some of the beautiful **hidden gardens of Venice**. We meet our guides, members of the Venice Garden Club, who provide entry to special and beautiful private gardens and neighbourhoods rarely discovered by tourists. Visiting these gardens allows us to glimpse into the lives of well-to-do Venetians and understand the value Venetians put on outdoor space.

**Day 12 - Saturday 30 May, 2026 ..... Venice**

We walk a short distance to the train station, where we will board a train to Padua. We will meet a coach to travel to the **Botanical Garden of Padua**. It was established in 1545 to help university students study medicinal plants and observe them in situ. It has been a UNESCO world Heritage Site since 1997 and led to the progress of numerous modern scientific disciplines, in particular botany, medicine, chemistry, ecology and pharmacy. It retains its original layout with a circular central plot, symbolizing the world, surrounded by a ring of water. We have free time in Padua's old town which has arcaded streets and stylish cafes.

**Day 13 - Sunday 31 May, 2026 ..... Trieste, Italy**

We travel to Trieste, the largest port on the Adriatic Sea, today. It was united with Italy only after 1919. Italian, Austro-Hungarian and Slovenian influences are all evident in its layout, which encompasses a medieval old city and a neoclassical Austrian quarter. In the afternoon we will enjoy a city tour and see some beautiful Catholic and Orthodox churches, palaces in Neo-Classical style and Italy's largest square overlooking the sea, Piazza Unità d'Italia.

**Day 14 - Monday 01 June, 2026 ..... Trieste**

In the morning, we visit **Miramar Castle** and its park, which were built by the Austrian Archduke Maximilian of Habsburg. The 22 hectare park begun in 1856 includes a Baroque-style garden, fountains and spectacular views of the Adriatic sea. It was originally designed to be an experimental station for reforestation and acclimatising rare plants.

**Day 15 - Tuesday 2 June 2026 ..... Ljubljana, Slovenia**

We travel to Ljubljana, the uber-cool capital of Slovenia. On the way we visit **Sezana Botanical Gardens**, a park once owned by a maritime nobleman from the Scaramanga family. It contains a collection of plants from around the world and has many interesting trees including the Lebanon cedar, the Bornmuller Turkish fir, the giant sequoia, the Osage orange, the Spanish fir and several hundred species of exotic potted plants from all corners of the world. Ljubljana is an attractive city with lots of parks, Baroque, Renaissance and Art Nouveau buildings, watched over by a medieval castle. On arrival we will enjoy a city tour with a local guide and stroll along the willow-lined walkways of the Ljubljana River. We see the Dragon Bridge, a masterpiece of Art Nouveau, the Cathedral of St Nicholas, a baroque building dating from 1701, the Ljubljana Castle dating from 1511 and the colourful market area.

**Day 16 - Wednesday 3 June 2026 ..... Ljubljana**

Today we visit Slovenia's most popular botanical park, the **Volčji Potok Arboretum**. It covers an 85-hectare site and features 5,000 different plant species from all over the world. The park has five artificial lakes and in June more than 3,000 roses are in bloom in the gardens. In the afternoon, we will enjoy a cruise on the Ljubljanica River. The remainder of the afternoon is free for individual activities.

**Day 17 - Thursday 4 June, 2026 ..... Graz, Austria**

We travel to **Celje Castle**, the biggest Medieval castle in Slovenia. The hilltop castle overlooks the countryside and Savinje River with views to the city from the tower. We continue to Graz, where a bevy of universities give Austria's second-largest city its lively pace. The city is a UNESCO 'city of design' because of the interplay between tradition and modernity. The remainder of the day is free.

**Day 18 - Friday 5 June, 2026 ..... Graz**

We will enjoy a sightseeing tour with a local guide in the morning. Our tour takes in Hauptplatz, the medieval old town's main square, and shops and restaurants lining the narrow surrounding streets, blending Renaissance and Baroque architecture. We travel on the funicular to Schlossberg, the town hill, where we see the Uhrturn, a centuries-old clock tower. We continue with a highlight of the tour, a visit to **Eggenberg Palace, Schlosspark** and gardens which are a UNESCO heritage site. Established in the early 17th century the beautifully maintained gardens are the most important in Austria and mostly date from the Romantic period. There are magnificent trees, a planetary garden and flower gardens. This evening, we will enjoy a farewell dinner to bid farewell to our group.

**Day 19 - Saturday 6 June, 2026 ..... Departure**

Today we travel to Vienna Airport for our return flight to Australia.

**Day 20 - Sunday 7 June, 2026 ..... Arrive Australia**

The group arrives in Australia and tour arrangements conclude.



**PRE-TOUR TO THE GORGEOUS GARDENS OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND**

**INCLUDED IN THE PRE-TOUR PRICE ARE:**

- Leadership by Deryn Thorpe
- Travel in first-class chartered coaches
- 5 nights in East Grinstead, on a bed and breakfast basis in 4 star accommodation
- A welcome dinner.
- Entrances to gardens, sightseeing tours and attractions as detailed in itinerary
- Tour management by Travelrite International Pty. Ltd. with the tour manager meeting the group in London

**You can stay longer in Europe for minimal cost. Please contact Travelrite on 1800 630 343 for more information.**

## TOUR PRICE FOR THE GARDEN TOUR TO THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW, ITALY, SLOVENIA AND AUSTRIA

The cost of the tour per person twin share \$12,190

Air taxes at 23 April 2025 per person \$ 290

Total cost \$12,480

Single supplement \$ 3,300

## THE COST OF THE PRE-TOUR TO THE GARDENS OF ENGLAND

The cost of the tour per person twin share \$2,990

Single supplement \$ 720

## GARDEN TOUR TO THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW, ITALY, SLOVENIA AND AUSTRIA

### INCLUDED IN THE PRICE ARE:

- Return economy-class air travel from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth to London; and return to Australia from Vienna, an economy class flight from London to Verona
- Leadership by Deryn Thorpe
- Travel in first-class chartered coaches
- 3 nights in London, 4 nights on Lake Garda and Venice, 2 nights in Trieste, Ljubljana and Graz on a bed and breakfast basis in 3 or 4 star accommodation
- A welcome and farewell dinner.
- Entrances to 12 gardens, sightseeing tours in Venice, Trieste, Ljubljana and Graz. Entrances to the following attractions; Ferry journey around Lake Garda, Palace Querini Stampalia, Teatro Olimpico, Celje Castle, a river cruise on the Ljubljana River, funicular to Schlossberg

### NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE ARE:

- Passport and visa fees, a UK ETA is required for Australian passport holders
- Travel insurance. We strongly recommend travel insurance to cover yourself for cancellation, medical and hospital expenses, and other unforeseen expenses
- Gratuities to the coach drivers and local guides
- Sightseeing unless specified in the workshop itinerary
- Drinks and meals other than those specified in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature
- Airport and overseas arrival/departure taxes
- Excess baggage charges
- Passport and visa fees
- Air fares for the Pre-Tour to the Gardens of England

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND BOOKING CONDITIONS

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

**Tour Operator:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd, License number 30858 (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour operator.

**Tour Costs:** The tour costs are based on airfare, general transport, accommodation costs and foreign exchange rate at 23 April, 2025. Travelrite reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with a full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to price will be made within 60 days of departure from Australia.

**Deposits and Payments:** A non-refundable deposit of \$900 per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 62 days before departure of the Garden Tour. A 1.5% administration fee will be charged on payment by credit card.

**Air Taxes:** From Perth, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane as listed in the itinerary. Please contact us for air taxes from different cities. Air taxes are as at 23 April 2025. If they change due to government and airline charges and currency variations, Travelrite International reserves the right to charge additional amounts.

**Cancellation Conditions:** Cancellations within 62 days of departure will result in the loss of all monies paid. Cancellation outside 62 days from departure will result in a cancellation fee of \$900 per person.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, death in family, etc.

**Minimum Tour Numbers and Conditions:** The tour has been priced on the basis of a minimum number of passengers having booked 60 days prior to departure. Travelrite International reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost. Travelrite reserves the right to change advertised entrances if necessary for the smooth operation of the tour.

**Refunds:** The tour is based on arrangements that do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals, airfare or other services not utilized after the tour has commenced.

**Travel Documents:** All passengers will require a valid passport. Visas for countries visited are not required for Australian passport holders. If you hold another passport please check with Travelrite.

**Baggage:** All passengers qualify for the 20kg (44lb) free baggage allowance.

**Responsibilities:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd is the tour organiser. Travelrite International Pty Ltd, its agents, officers, affiliates, and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with these fly/stay holidays shall act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation including transportation by ship, restaurants, or any other service and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence or a default of any hotel, carrier restaurant company or person rendering any services included in fly/cruises, or by act of God. Further no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness,

pilferage, labour disputes, machinery break-down, quarantine, government restraints, weather, terrorism or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners risk throughout the fly/cruise/stay holiday. The passage contract between the carriers concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of these fly/stay holidays and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any fly/stay holiday and/or make such changes in the fly/stay holidays as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the fly/stay holiday. This contract shall be construed in accordance of the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia. Attention is also directed to the terms and conditions of NCL Cruises passage contract, detailed at the NCL Cruises website.

**Delays and Unforeseen Events:** You engage Travelrite International to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite may without reference to you provide or make available to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite International any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

**How to Book:** Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a deposit of \$900 per person to:

### Travelrite International Pty Ltd

423 Whitehorse Road  
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

### Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll Free: 1800 630 343

Phone: (03) 8803 6868

Email: sales@travelrite.com.au

www.travelrite.com.au

**ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL:** Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been marketing throughout Australia for over 40 years and operating in Victoria for more than 44 years. It runs over 100 Special Interest tours each year. It has an ATAS accredited offices at Balwyn, which is also accredited with IATA. As such they directly represent the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international hotel, tour and transport operators. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Travel Industry Association – ATIA.

### Please send to:

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Balwyn, Victoria, 3103.



Further information or a booking form can be obtained by telephoning Travelrite International on the following numbers:

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