



A Stroll through English Gardens with Neville MacKay (10 days)

Atlantic Tours is very excited to be working with Halifax's very own **Neville MacKay** from **My Mother's Bloomers** on this wonderful tour to see some of England's most amazing gardens.

In early summer, **England's gardens** burst into a symphony of colour and scent, offering a truly delightful experience for visitors. From the grandeur of **royal estates** to the **gems of the Cotswolds**, this journey leads you through some of the country's most iconic and breathtaking landscapes.

Kew Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage site, welcomes you with its vast glasshouses and botanical marvels, while **Hampton Court** whispers tales of Tudor intrigue amid sculpted hedges and rose filled courtyards. Your journey winds through the charming **Cotswolds**, where you'll explore the timeless beauty of **Kiftsgate Court**, the exotic charm of **Seizencote** and the regal serenity of **Sudeley Castle**. At **Througham Court**, discover a contemporary garden with a personal, imaginative touch – a perfect blend of tradition and innovation. Returning to London, visit **Buckingham Palace** and tour its garden, the largest in London.

In addition to all the beautiful gardens you will explore, we have included a **tour of London** and a visit to the **Tower of London**, home of the Crown Jewels. Enjoy a **walking tour** of the charming university city of Cambridge. Marvel at the **panoramic Cotswold scenery from a steam train**. Step back in time with a stop at the 400-year-old **Chavenge House**. This unforgettable tour blends horticultural splendor with rich history and timeless charm. With Neville's passion for flowers and travel, every stop promises to be simply marvelous!

Your Host: Neville MacKay



Dates

July 4 - July 13, 2026

Highlights

Tour Hosted by Neville MacKay from My Mother's Bloomers

Kew Gardens

Hampton Court Palace

Cotswolds Gardens: Kiftsgate Court, Hidcote Manor, Bourton House, Seizencote, Sudeley Castle & Througham Court

Buckingham Palace

Tour of London and visit to the Tower of London

Walking Tour of Cambridge and visit to King's College Chapel

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway

Chavenge House

9 Nights' Accommodation including 6 nights in London and 3 nights in Cheltenham

14 Meals: 9 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners, 1 Picnic Lunch, 1 Afternoon Tea

Tour Manager in England

Motorcoach Transportation

Gratuities to Tour Manager & Driver in England

Itinerary

DAY 1: Saturday, July 4, 2026

Halifax NS to London, England

Your adventure begins! Meet Neville and your fellow travelling companions as you **travel to London**, the capital of England, and the most visited city in the world. Upon arrival, meet your local tour manager and driver and transfer to your hotel, located in the fashionable Kensington area. Settle in for a four-night stay.

Please note: Flight schedules and rates cannot be confirmed until approximately 11 months before travel. Stay tuned!

DAY 2: Sunday, July 5, 2026

London Touring

In the morning embark on a **sightseeing tour** of the bustling, vibrant, multicultural and cosmopolitan **London**. See Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, the Royal Household Cavalry, Whitehall, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye and the Shard and visit the iconic **Tower of London**. After an afternoon at leisure to explore London on your own, join your fellow group members for a very special **welcome to London reception and dinner**. Neville may even do a **floral demo** for the group! **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

DAY 3: Monday, July 6, 2026

Kew Gardens & Afternoon Tea

Spend a magical morning at **Kew Gardens**, London's largest **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and world-leading scientific research centre. Enjoy floral displays from more than 60,000 plants along the Great Broad Walk Borders; admire some of the 14,000 trees in the colourful Arboretum; wander through beautiful glasshouses such as the iconic Palm House, home to an exotic rainforest; explore different climate zones at the Princess of Wales Conservatory or be amazed by the giant lily pads at the Waterlily House. For a bird's-eye view of the gardens, you can walk along the 18-metre-high Treetop Walkway. In the afternoon enjoy a **delicious traditional afternoon tea in Covent Garden**. Evening at leisure in the British capital. **(Breakfast, Afternoon Tea)**

DAY 4: Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Day Trip to Cambridge

Today visit **Cambridge**, a beautiful university town that celebrates quintessential England with pioneering scientific research. This is where **Neville's family has their roots!** With famous alumni such as Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Professor Stephen Hawking, you'll be following in some famous footsteps during your **walking tour of Cambridge**. See the colleges where these great minds studied and be inspired by the same surroundings which changed the course of history; visit the stunning **King's College Chapel** and watch time go by the Corpus Clock as the "time-eater" devours each minute of the day atop one of the most unique clocks in the world. After the tour, use your free time to explore Cambridge's cobbled streets. Return to London for the evening.

(Breakfast)

DAY 5: Wednesday, July 8, 2026

London, England to Cheltenham, England

After breakfast, board your touring coach and prepare to dive into **Tudor history** on a visit to the historic **Hampton Court Palace, Henry VIII's favourite residence**, on the banks of the river Thames. Marvel at the lavishly decorated State Rooms and Apartments, see the sprawling Tudor kitchens and walk the infamous Haunted Gallery, lined with Tudor portraits, where the ghost of Catherine Howard, Henry VIII's fifth wife, has been seen running its length. Don't forget to head outside and take some time to explore the stunning **Great Fountain Garden, the Privy Garden, The Pond Gardens, the Great Vine, the Royal Kitchen Garden and the Rose Garden**.

You will then travel on to **Cheltenham**, a gorgeous town lying on the **fringes of the Cotswolds National Landscape**, today's final destination and your base for the next 3 nights. In the evening enjoy a 3-course dinner in a local restaurant in Cheltenham. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

DAY 6: Thursday, July 9, 2026

Touring Cotswolds Gardens: Kiftsgate Court, Hidcote Manor & Bourton House

Today start your exploration of the romantic landscape of the **Cotswolds**, with its tranquil little towns of golden stone houses, flowering gardens and small cottages in the middle of lush green hills. Your first visit will be to the family-run **Kiftsgate Court Gardens**, featuring rare plants and shrubs, including the world-famous **Kiftsgate rose**. After a visit to the gorgeous garden, watch an English Garden Style **flower arrangement demonstration by Neville**, using lovely flowers and foliage from Kiftsgate. A short walk will take you to the amazing **Hidcote Manor Garden**, famous for its **rare shrubs and trees**, as well as its outstanding design features. See the wildflower areas and pools, the long herbaceous borders, walk amongst the old-scented roses along the walkway and take in the magical atmosphere of this unique place.

After a lunch break in the quintessentially English little town of Chipping Campden, stop at **Bourton House Garden**, a relatively "new" garden that features wide herbaceous borders, a white garden walk that leads to gates with a view of the Cotswold landscape and cottages in the distance, as well as several water features and a collection of topiary, including a **knot garden with box hedging**. Enjoy an evening at leisure to explore Cheltenham on your own. **(Breakfast)**

DAY 7: Friday, July 10, 2026

A Train, A Castle and Cotswold Gardens

Start your day with a ride on board a historic steam train of the **Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway** from Cheltenham to Toddington. Sample the glory of steam travel, whilst enjoying beautiful **panoramic views of the glorious Cotswolds scenery**. Once in Toddington, the coach will take you to **Sezincote, a Mughal Indian palace set in the Cotswold Hills**. The house is surmounted by a copper dome and minarets and is set in a picturesque water garden with seven pools, waterfalls, a grotto and a temple to Surya, the Hindu Sun God. A curving Orangery frames the **Persian Garden of Paradise**.

You will then depart to **Sudeley Castle, a Tudor jewel with 1,000 years of history**, where you will be able to enjoy a **picnic** in the beautiful grounds before setting out to explore the award-winning gardens. The centrepiece is the **Queens Garden**, so named because **four of England's queens - Anne Boleyn, Katherine Parr, Lady Jane Grey and Elizabeth I** - once walked upon the original Tudor Parterre. Enjoy another evening at leisure in Cheltenham. **(Breakfast, Picnic Lunch)**

DAY 8: Saturday, July 11, 2026

Thorougham Court, Chavenage House and London

Start with a visit to the private garden **Thorougham Court - garden designer Christine Facer's own garden**, hidden away in a beautiful, remote and unspoilt Cotswold Hills valley. Enjoy a **guided tour of the garden with Christine**, admire the perfect fusion of new and old and discover the inspiration behind it all. After the tour, enjoy some refreshments in the Garden Room, before saying farewell to your hostess. Next, travel a short distance to Tetbury, a sleepy Cotswold town steeped in history, for an early lunch break before visiting **Chavenage House**, a wonderful **Elizabethan house** of mellow grey Cotswold stone and tiles, used as **filming location** for Trenwith House in the hugely popular **TV show Poldark**. Return to London for the last two nights of your tour.
(Breakfast)

DAY 9: Sunday, July 12, 2026
Buckingham Palace

Your last morning in London will be spent visiting the iconic **Buckingham Palace**, the official residence of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Take a once-in-a-lifetime **tour of the 19 magnificent State Rooms**, marvel at the lavish decoration and fine architecture by John Nash, explore the rooms used by members of the Royal Family to receive official guests and enjoy a **guided tour of the largest private garden in London**. After an afternoon at leisure, meet your fellow group members, and together enjoy a farewell to London dinner in a trendy restaurant.
(Breakfast, Dinner)

DAY 10: Monday, July 13, 2026
Homeward Bound!

Take one last glimpse of London as you return to the airport for your flight home, having explored some amazing English Gardens! **(Breakfast)**

Accommodations

Hotels

Days 1-4

Days 5-7

Days 8&9

Location

Holiday Inn London Kensington High Street,
London, England

Cheltenham Queens Hotel, Cheltenham, England

Holiday Inn London Kensington High Street,
London, England

Rates (CAD)

Rates 2026

Double/Twin

\$7389

Single

\$9259

*Rates are Per Person in CAD.
There is no HST/GST!*

Prices DO NOT include airfare. The airfare costs will be added once the price and schedule become available

Deposit & Payment

A deposit of \$500.00 per person is due at time of booking.

Full payment is due March 20, 2026

Individual Cancellation Terms

Up to and including March 20, 2026: deposit non-refundable

Between March 21, 2026, day of departure and after departure: 100% of the total tour price is non-refundable

Rates (USD)

N/A