

WELCOME TO Glorious Gardens & Historic Houses in Southern England

Since the first flowers bloomed outside an English window, gardens have held a special place in the nation's heart. Over the centuries, garden lovers have harnessed nature in pursuit of perfection, striving to create that little piece of paradise as a fit setting for a cottage or a castle, a city centre, an abbey or a stately home.



Exbury Gardens

This guide is a celebration of their success, painting a picture of houses and gardens through the ages which illustrate the triumph and diversity of the gardener's art. There are magical gardens of every fashion, scale and style: majestic landscapes of classical magnificence, sketched on a grand canvas by such famous designers as Capability Brown; small, contemporary gardens, etched in exquisite detail by modern masters; royal gardens, botanic gardens, pleasure gardens, civic gardens, seaside gardens and secluded gardens, tucked away in ancient quadrangles or timeless cloisters. There are enchanting cottage gardens, which are the very essence of modest English charm and gardens of unabashed abundance, born of the passion of wealthy collectors who funded plant-hunting expeditions to far-flung corners of the earth.

Together they present a pageant of ever-changing interest with misty winter vistas, splashes of spring flowers, gentle drifts of soft summer colour or woodlands ablaze with autumn leaves. As an added horticultural treat, many also host one or more of our National Collections, each a wonderful living archive of the plant world.

Indulge yourself with a day out or a garden-lover's break, based around any of the themes suggested by the guide. Enjoy their special sense of beauty and tranquillity and take away something of their inspiration as an extra touch of magic for your own garden at home.

ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION STAR & DIAMOND RATINGS



English Tourism Council

When you see one of the signs showing Stars and Diamonds, you'll know that the accommodation has been visited overnight by qualified inspectors.

★★★ Stars for Hotels

Stars, from one to five, symbolise overall quality, level of service, food standard and range of facilities available.

◆◆◆ Diamonds for Guest Accommodation

Diamonds range from one to five and indicate the level of quality you can expect.

★★★ Stars for Self Catering

Stars, from one to five reflect quality, comfort, space and cleanliness.

★★★ Stars for Camping Parks

Stars, from one to five, show the quality rating.

The English Tourism Council's Gold and Silver Awards are awarded to establishments which reach the highest levels of quality in the specific areas which guests identify as being really important to them.

Prices in this Guide

All prices quoted are inclusive of VAT. Prices were supplied in 2003 and cover the period 1st January to 31st December 2003. They are correct at the time of going to press, but are sometimes subject to change and visitors are advised to check prices when booking in advance.

Prices for hotels and bed & breakfast establishments are quoted per person per night sharing double/twin room unless otherwise stated.

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Hotel, Guesthouses, and Bed & Breakfast

- Central heating throughout
- Television in room
- No smoking
- Children welcome
- Swimming pool
- Direct dial telephone
- Sporting facilities on site/nearby
- Credit cards accepted
- Licensed
- Off road parking
- Tea/coffee making facilities
- Ground floor room available
- Lift
- Euros accepted

Places to Visit

- Toilet facilities
- Disabled toilet facilities
- Free parking
- Guide service available
- Access for disabled
- Café/restaurant
- Credit cards accepted
- Children welcome
- Shop
- Dogs welcome
- Guide dogs
- Open all year
- Seasonal opening

Welcome Host



Look out for the Welcome Host Sign
A Commitment to Courtesy and Service