



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



PRESENTS A PATHFINDERS 2027 TOUR

Coast to Coast: from Winchester, England to Saint Malo, France

Gardens & Sights of the English Channel Islands

JUNE 24 - JULY 5, 2027



Grab your hat and sunglasses and join us on this garden-centric, island-hopping tour of the British islands of Wight, Guernsey, Herm, Sark, and Jersey. Before our island explorations, we'll visit outstanding gardens on the southern English mainland as we make our way from Winchester to the Isle of Wight. Not only will we see the finest gardens these regions have to offer, but our journey will include sites of cultural and historical interest, too.

With their mild maritime climate, the Channel Islands offer the ideal conditions for growing a wide palette of flowering vegetation - from *Aeonium* to *Zauschneria*. Our tour includes a wide array of gardens, both private and public, and a wide array of garden styles, from English cottage gardens to broad borders to design-centric styles.

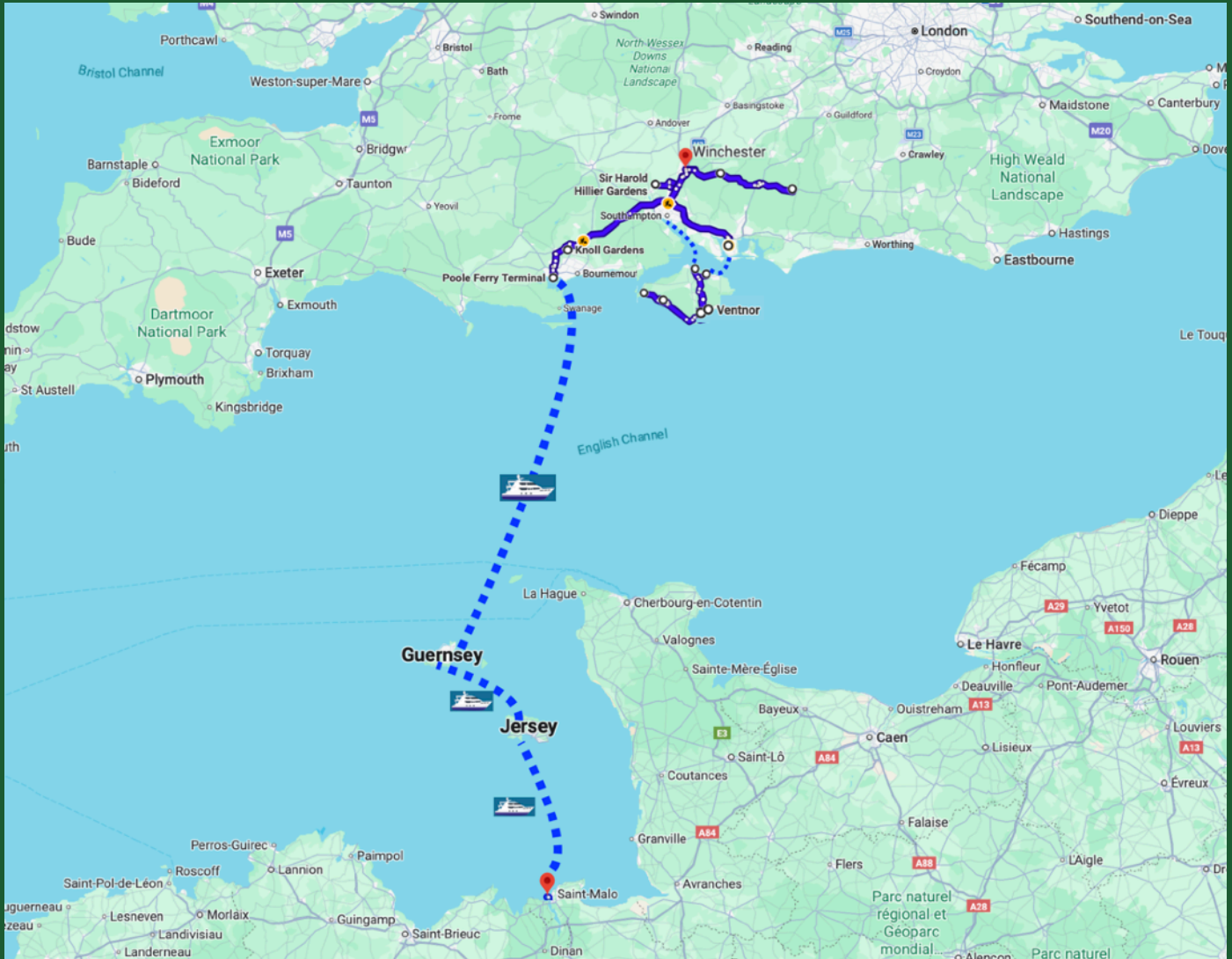
For the visiting traveler, the Channel Islands are a justly popular destination offering sun-kissed beaches, delicious seafood, idyllic landscapes and fascinating history - a mix of both British and French influences. Please join us on this adventure to England's summer playground!

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June 24 - July 5, 2027

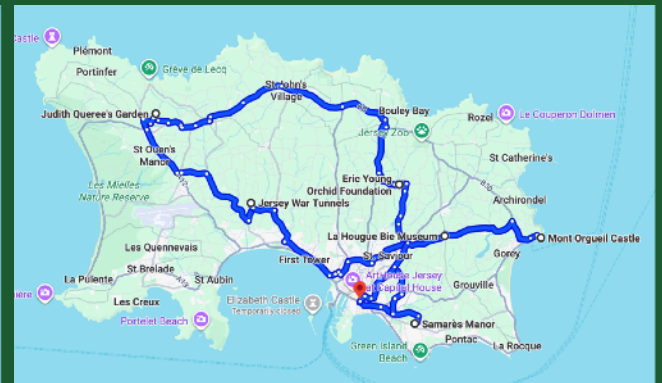
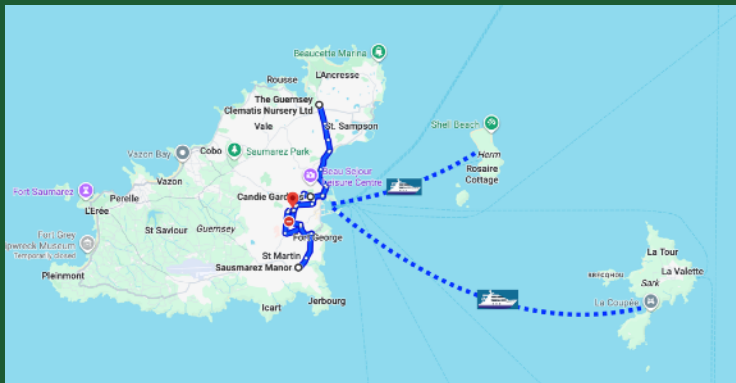
Approximate route

Includes ferry to/from Isle of Wight; ferry from Poole to Guernsey; ferry to/from Guernsey and Herm; ferry to/from Guernsey and Sark; ferry from Guernsey to Jersey; ferry from Jersey to Saint Malo, France



Guernsey-Herm-Sark route

Jersey route



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Day 1 (Thursday, June 24) - London. D

Arrive in **London** at Heathrow Airport and make your way to our first tour hotel in Winchester. Your day is at leisure to explore the sights of this lovely small city (or to rest after a long flight)! In the evening, join the group at the hotel for our “welcome dinner”. Stay the next two nights in Winchester.

Day 2 (Fri., June 25) - Winchester B

Following a hearty breakfast, we head to our first garden, **Woolbeding Gardens**. This National Trust property has been recently upgraded to include a new entrance “dry garden” designed by contemporary English landscape designers, Julian and Isabel Bannerman. Also of special interest is the new 10-sided glasshouse and the “Silk Route Garden”. Next, we head to another beautiful, 5-acre **private garden** known for its mirror herbaceous borders and collection of unusual plants. In the afternoon, we visit the world famous **Sir Harold Hillier garden**. Originally created as an arboretum, it is now so much more — including the longest double herbaceous border in England! The garden contains several national collections of plants, and it also has the largest number of champion trees in the UK. Afterwards, we return to our hotel in Winchester where we stay for one more night. Dine on our own this evening.



Day 3 (Sat., June 26) - Isle of Wight B,D

Our morning begins after breakfast with an early departure to the southern coastal city of Portsmouth where we board our ferry to the Isle of Wight.

Following our arrival on the Isle after a short crossing, we head to **Osborne House**, a former royal residence of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. We take a tour of the house, and then wander the surrounding Victorian gardens. After our visit,



we proceed to the southern tip of the island to Ventnor which is our home base for the next two nights. Depending on our arrival time, we may have free time to visit the town shops and enjoy the coastal scenery before settling into our hotel. In the evening, we gather again as a group and enjoy a fine dinner.



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Day 4 (Sun., June 27) - Isle of Wight B

This will be a full and busy day! We begin by visiting the National Trust garden at *Montistone*. Because of the mild climate found here and because of its location in a valley sheltered from wind, the garden is filled with colorful blooms nearly year-round. After lunch, we visit *Farringford Historic House & Garden*. The former home of poet Alfred Lord Tennyson, we will have a guided tour of the house and then access to the gardens. Mid-afternoon, we return to Ventnor for a visit to the *Ventnor Botanic Gardens*. The remainder of the day is free. [Daylight hours are long in Britain this time of year, and so we may wish to explore the town and the nearby coast if we haven't done that already.] Dine on our own this evening.

Day 5 (Mon., June 28) - To Guernsey B,D

We depart our hotel early this morning as we must catch the ferry in Cowes for our return to the mainland. Our ferry takes us to Southampton where we re-board our coach and head southwest towards Dorset. En route, we visit an *RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Partner Garden*. Here we find a 4-acre area planted in a naturalistic style with an emphasis on ornamental grasses and flowering perennials. The garden also includes a new Mediterranean gravel garden. Afterwards, we continue to the port city of Poole where we board our ferry to Guernsey. After a 3-hour cruise across the English Channel, we check into our centrally-located hotel in St Peter Port. Stay the next three nights in St Peter Port, Guernsey. Dine as a group this evening.

Day 6 (Tues., June 29) - Guernsey B,L

After a hearty breakfast, we begin exploring the horticultural highlights of this special island. First, we head to *Sausmarez Manor* to enjoy the surrounding gardens. Next, we head back to the port for *Castle Cornet* with its spectacular views. We lunch here on our own. Afterwards, we head to Ray Evison's famous clematis nursery, *The Guernsey Clematis Nursery*, where we have a tour and get a sneak peek at the latest introductions! Finally, we visit *Grange Court Gardens* before being set free to shop or explore St Peter Port at leisure. Dinner is on our own this evening.



Day 7 (Wednesday, June 30) - Sark Island B,L

Today we hop on a ferry for a half-day excursion to the island of Sark, just about an hour away. We head to *Le Seigneurie Gardens* and enjoy the walled garden with its collection of roses as well as subtropical plants. At the end of our visit here, we enjoy a lobster lunch at a local brasserie. Time-permitting, we take a tour of the island by traditional horse & carriage. In the afternoon, we return to Guernsey where we are free for the rest of the day, perhaps to visit the *Candie Gardens* near our hotel. [The Candie Gardens is a green oasis in the heart of St Peter Port that not only shelters plants from all over the world, it also houses the Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery.] Dine on our own this evening. Stay two more nights in St Peter Port.

Day 8 (Thurs., July 1) - Herm Island B,L

Once again, we hop on a boat and make a quick journey to another of the nearby islands - to *Herm*. Here, we join Herm's Estate Manager for a *tour of the island's gardens*. The tour gives us the chance to learn about the unique plant life and challenges associated with gardening on this tiny island. With our two-hour tour, we explore the harbor, hotel and church gardens and get a behind-the-scenes look at the nursery. We then enjoy a group lunch at the White House Hotel (& Garden) before returning to Guernsey. In the afternoon, we visit a *private 5-acre garden* followed nearby with a visit to the home and garden of Victor Hugo, *Hauteville House*, recently reopened after renovations. For the remainder of the day, we are free to enjoy wandering about in St Peter Port one more time. Stay the night in St Peter Port. Dine on our own this evening.



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Day 9 (Fri., July 2) - to Jersey

B,D

It is time to say goodbye to Guernsey and say hello to Jersey. We board our boat and set sail for our next channel island stay. After arrival, we drop our bags off at our hotel and then make our way to the ***Samares Manor e's Garden*** where we find a mixture of formal and wild gardens, including an herb garden, Japanese garden, lake garden, exotics border, lavender garden and a Mediterranean-style hot garden. Next, we visit the ***Eric Young Orchid Foundation***. This has been described as possibly the finest collection of orchids in Europe. Afterwards, we visit a small ***private garden*** absolutely crammed with more than 2500 species and cultivars. When we have completed our garden visits today, we head to our hotel for some relaxation before meeting as a group for dinner. Stay the next two nights on Jersey.



Day 10 (Sat., July 3) - Jersey

B

We are going to be more like regular tourists today as we re-live pages out of history books (primarily from World War II). We visit some of the main historical interest sites - ***Mont Orgueil Castle, La Hougue Pie Museum, and the German war tunnels.*** With any time remaining, we enjoy wandering at leisure through the main shopping streets of St Helier, Jersey. Dine on our own this evening. Stay one more night in Jersey.



Day 11 (Sun., July 4) - Saint Malo

B,D

After breakfast, we once again put on our sea legs as we must depart Jersey for our journey to the Emerald Coast of Brittany, France. Our ferry takes us to the gateway port of **Saint Malo**. On arrival just before noon, we go to our hotel, drop our bags, and then head out to explore the old city center. We have the afternoon free! We enjoy shopping in this beautiful coastal French town. In the evening, we gather as a group again for our farewell dinner as we take in the views of the sea. Stay just one night in Saint Malo, France.

Day 12 (Monday, July 5)

B

After breakfast, we say goodbye to our many new friends. Transfers will be provided to local regional airports (Saint Malo or Rennes) or to the local train station. Happy travels!



SAINT MALO, BRITTANY

TOUR COMPANY



Stita House, 11 Trinity Lane
Cheltenham, GL52 2NT, UK

PRICING INFORMATION

Tour & Dates in 2027	What's included	Per Person Sharing a double room	Single Rate
<p>Coast-to-Coast tour June 24-July 5, 2027</p> <p>(Price is based on a tour size of 27 participants.)</p> <p>A deposit of £750 will be required to hold your reservation.</p>	<p>11 nights (12 days) in 4-star hotels</p> <p>All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 5 dinners</p> <p>Services of a motor coach (bus) & driver & local tour guide</p> <p>All gratuities for included meals & services, tour guide, & driver</p> <p>Admissions to features as specified in itinerary</p> <p>Ferry transport between: Portsmouth-Isle of Wight Isle of Wight-Southampton Poole-Guernsey Guernsey-Sark & return Guernsey-Herm & return Guernsey-Jersey Jersey-Saint Malo</p>	<p>GBP £3,656</p> <p>US\$4,930**</p>	<p>GBP £4,826</p> <p>US\$6,508**</p>

****The prices above include a \$350 non-tax deductible donation to the Northwest Horticultural Society**

The minimum number of participants required is identified above. If the minimum is not reached, an additional amount (approx. 5%) will be assessed. The US prices quoted above are estimates based on the exchange rate of \$1.3486 to £1.00 as of February 23, 2026. The actual price will be based on the exchange rate at the time payment is made to the tour company.

Please note that airfare to/from England/France is not included. Other items not included: Gratuities for housekeeping staff, room service, laundry, phone calls made from your room, items of a personal nature, etc. Participants will need a valid passport for entry into the UK. Prior to departure, participants will also need to purchase the UK ETA (electronic travel authorization) online. Please see the next page for additional terms and conditions and other information.

NHS TOUR HOST & PATHFINDERS GUIDE

Bruce Wakefield will be the host for this tour. A past president of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, an avid gardener, plantsman, traveler, and the co-creator of Old Germantown Gardens — a 2-acre plantsman's garden near Portland, Oregon. This will be the 48th tour that Bruce has planned and hosted.



By special request from past tour participants, Emma Fox will be returning as our in-country guide. Ms Fox guided us on our 2023 Wales tour as well as our 2025 Southwest England tour. A native of Manchester, England, she is a certified UK blue badge guide — a mark of excellence. We are delighted to have her join us again!



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TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Tour Registration

By submitting a booking for this tour, you confirm that you have read, and accept, these Terms & Conditions.

Membership in the Northwest Horticultural Society is required in order to register and participate on this tour.

You will receive an online confirmation from Pathfinders via the WeTravel portal when your booking has been submitted.

2. Willingness & Ability to Participate

The success of a tour depends on each person's ability to participate fully and to cooperate with other tour members, the tour guide, the driver, and your tour escort. Tour participants must be capable of meeting the tour company-designated activity level for this tour.

XX Activity Level 2, Active

Tolerate long travel times each day. Board and disembark a coach without assistance. Walk, in segments, several miles a day, and stand repeatedly for 30-45 minutes or more at a time. Climb and descend stairs. Navigate uneven paths at sites with no accommodation or access for disabled persons. Handle your own luggage, including loading it on the coach and carrying it to your hotel room whenever necessary. [Porterage is not assured. Participants will often likely be handling their own luggage].

Proof of full vaccination for Covid-19 is no longer required of all tour participants prior to the start of the tour. However, full vaccination is highly recommended, and participants should maintain awareness of local government health guidelines.

A valid passport is required for this international tour. Currently, a visa is not required for travel to the UK or France for US citizens. However, the UK Electronic Travel Authorization (UK ETA) is required in order to enter the country and the European ETIAS may be implemented prior to departure. It is each participant's individual responsibility to comply with entry requirements.

This is a non-smoking tour; smoking is not permitted during group activities including meals. Local customs may make it impossible to prevent exposure to smoke by others at times during the tour.

3. Tour Price

The tour price and services included in the price of the tour are described in the Tour Brochure.

The tour price is directly related to the number of participants in it. This tour is priced for a group size of 27. If this group size is not met, the tour may be canceled or postponed, or tour members may have the option of

agreeing to a change in pricing. Once the maximum participation of 27 is met, a wait list is created in the order in which bookings are received.

International tours are priced in the local currency but options are available for paying in US Dollars at the exchange rate in effect at time of payment. The tour brochure indicates the currency in which the tour is priced. Until full payment for the tour is received, your price for the tour in US Dollars is an estimate and subject to currency fluctuation.

4. Booking Confirmation & Deposit

Once your participation in the tour is submitted, a deposit is required to hold the reservation. The tour deposits are as follows:

— Channel Islands (Coast-to-Coast) tour: £750 (750 British Pounds)

Deposit payments will be due at the time of booking.

Each tour participant must also submit a signed Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement within 30 days of confirmation of tour participation.

Please do not book any non-refundable air travel that may be associated with the tour until you are notified by the tour escort that the tour has reached the minimum required level of participation, and you have signed and submitted the *Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement*.

5. Invoicing & Payment

You are invoiced for the full cost of the tour in one or more installments. The payment schedule is presented to tour members upon confirmation of their registration for the tour. Your tour deposit is applied to the balance.

Payments by credit card incur a service charge. The amount of the service charge is indicated at the time of payment. Late payment of tour invoices exceeding 21 days are subject to a 10% penalty. If an installment or final payment is not received by the Tour Agent's deadlines, non-payment will be treated as the participant's withdrawal from the tour, and subject to the terms herein.

6. Withdrawals, Cancellations & Refunds

Any booking & processing fees are non-refundable.

A withdrawal from the tour after confirmation of acceptance, regardless of the reason, is subject to the following terms:

- After payment of your tour deposit, but prior to the first installment payment, the withdrawal fee is equal to 10% of your cost for the tour (not including any booking and processing fees).

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- After payment of the first installment and prior to the payment of the final installment, the tour deposit is forfeited, as well as any prepayments made by the Tour Agent/Companies that are non-recoverable.
- After payment of the final invoice, the tour deposit and all installments are forfeited.

Where the space on the tour resulting from your withdrawal can be filled with another traveler, the withdrawal fee is equal to the greater of 10% of the cost of your tour, or the amount of any non-recoverable prepayments made by the Tour Agent/Company.

If the tour is canceled because the minimum number of participants is not reached by the Tour Agent's deadline for payment, the Tour Agent/Company will refund in full the deposit and any installment payments made by tour members.

If the tour is canceled by the Tour Agent due to circumstances beyond their control, including travel bans

or health regulations, the amount of any refund is determined by the recoverable portion of your tour payments.

Travel insurance is highly recommended. It can mitigate many, if not all, the potential penalties described here. It may also provide coverage for illness, injury, death, property loss, delay or cancellation, or other circumstance. Travel insurance is not included in the price of the tour. Tour registrants are encouraged to secure coverage at their own expense. For some types of coverage ('cancel for any reason,' or for pre-existing medical conditions, for example), coverage often must be obtained at the time you make a deposit for the tour.

7. Tour Agent/Operator

Pathfinders/STITA is the tour agent/operator for this tour.

8. Tour Host

Bruce Wakefield, as the tour host is acting solely as a **volunteer** with respect to advising the Tour Operator and Tour Guide regarding featured visits.



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