



I have always been drawn to gardens of every size, variety and setting. There is something special about time spent in a lovely garden which melts your cares away and fills you with a zest for life.

This year we celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of England's greatest gardener, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, best known for designing gardens and landscapes at some of the country's grandest stately homes including Blenheim Palace, Chatsworth and Highclere Castle.

'Capability' Brown's landscape gardens are synonymous with England's green and pleasant land, with their seemingly natural rolling hills, curving lakes, flowing rivers and majestic trees.

Brown earned the nickname of 'Capability' as he told his clients that he could see the capabilities for improvement in their gardens and landscapes. He is associated with as many as 260 sites, a large number of which can still be seen today. By the time he died in 1783, 4,000 gardens had been landscaped according to his principles. His design influence on parks and gardens spread across Northern Europe to Russia and to the United States through Thomas Jefferson.

In honor of "The Shakespeare of English garden design," 2016 has been named The Year of The English Garden, with events taking place throughout the year. [Please click here for further information.](#)

Below you will find information on and beautiful photographs of stunning gardens in many different locations around the world. Please do get in touch about any of the hotels and services featured, or anything else I may be able to help you with. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very best wishes

Rebecca

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Great Fosters

Great Fosters is set amongst 50 acres of formal gardens and parkland. Framed on three sides by a Saxon moat, the formal gardens are both extensive and exceptional. Originally designed by W. H. Romaine Walker and Gilbert Jenkins, the gardens are among the finest Arts and Crafts gardens in Europe. Designed to reflect the intricate beauty of a Persian rug, the knot garden is embellished with fragrant beds of flowers and herbs bordered by manicured

hedges and topiary. At the heart of it all is the Drake sundial, which historians suggest may have been donated by Sir Francis Drake and is believed to date back to 1585. In addition, the hotel is surrounded by some fabulous gardens which are open to visitors. Here is a synopsis of just a few, including the drive time from the hotel.

[RHS Wisley](#)

Wisley is the flagship garden of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) and is home to some of the largest plant collections anywhere in the world. It offers the chance to view alpine plants at close quarters in the Alpine Display Houses, and glean planting, design and cultivation ideas. Planting varies enormously, from the mingling of herbaceous perennials and shrubs in the famous Mixed Borders to the lower-maintenance, prairie-style planting in the Glasshouse Borders. Open every day excluding Christmas Day. Drive time from Great Fosters is 25 minutes.

[The Savill Garden](#)

Part of the Royal Landscape and Windsor Great Park, Savill Garden is a natural haven of beautifully designed gardens and woodlands. Created in the 1930s, there are 35 acres of interconnecting gardens arranged in stunning seasonal displays including the Hidden Gardens, Spring Wood, the Summer Gardens, the New Zealand Garden, Autumn Wood and the Winter Beds. The Great Park offers even more to see with Virginia Water Lake, The Valley Gardens and The Long Walk and Deer Park. Drive time from Great Fosters is 10 minutes.

[Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew](#)

Kew Gardens is world-famous for its historic glasshouses, magnificent vistas and precious specimen trees, not to mention royal buildings, the Pagoda, beautiful woods and the Treetop Walkway. There are free guided walking tours and the Kew Explorer land train as alternative ways of viewing the grounds, particularly for anyone with mobility issues. Open every day excluding 24th and 25th December. Drive time from Great Fosters is 30 minutes.



[Hampton Court](#)

Relax in over 60 acres of the beautiful Hampton Court Palace gardens that run down to the River Thames, featuring sparkling fountains, glorious displays of over 200,000 flowering bulbs and 750 acres of tranquil royal parkland. Highlights of the gardens include the Maze, the Great Vine (planted in 1768 by the celebrated gardener 'Capability' Brown) and The Privy Garden. The RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show takes place annually in June/July. Drive time from Great Fosters is 30 minutes.

[Claremont Landscape Garden](#)

Steeped in nearly 300 years of history, many of the great names in gardening have played a part in the creation and development of this 18th century estate including 'Capability' Brown. There are many unique and unexpected features to discover, including the large turf amphitheatre, serpentine lake, grotto and Camellia Terrace. Open every day excluding Christmas Day. Drive time from Great Fosters is 25 minutes.

[Blenheim Palace](#)

This British stately home of Blenheim Palace sits among more than 2,000 acres of extraordinary landscaped parkland and formal gardens. It varies from great open spaces punctuated by mature trees, intricate formal gardens and water terraces to peaceful areas like the Secret Garden and the Roundel. There is also a Churchill Memorial Garden and the private Italian Garden of the Duke of Marlborough can be enjoyed by the raised private walkway. Open every day excluding Christmas Day. Drive time from Great Fosters 1 hour.



The Goring

The Goring Gin Garden - A Hepple Gin Safari

From June 2016, The Goring will be recreating the wilds of Northumberland in the heart of London. Working with emerging British spirits brand Hepple Gin, together they will create a one-off living bar and gin safari, aptly named The Goring Gin Garden, bringing a taste of the soul-restoring English Moors to Belgravia.

The Goring Gardens will be awash with English juniper, Douglas fir, lovage, blackcurrant and other key botanicals which form the distinctive Hepple flavour. A delicious array of new Hepple Gin cocktails will be available, paired with an exciting range of canapés, light bites and dishes from Executive Chef Shay Cooper and Chef Valentine Warner, co-founder of Hepple Gin.

[Click here to find out more.](#)



The Nare

Cornwall has a mild sub-tropical climate due to its geographical location on the edge of the Gulf Stream. The great plant hunters of the previous centuries realized this significant factor and as a result Cornish gardens are today considered some of the most famous in the world. The historic nature of these gardens are a testament to their founder families and gardeners and a tribute to those who nurture them today.

The Nare, being on the south coast, is conveniently located for many of these beautiful gardens many of which are open all year round. [Please click here to have a look at the Cornish Gardens page when planning your visit to Cornwall.](#)

Cornwall's Gardens

Cornwall's world famous gardens are within easy reach of the hotel. The Lost Gardens of Heligan and The Eden Project are close by and are both worth visiting. Both of these attractions have powerful stories to tell and it is impossible to not feel moved by some aspect of time spent here.

Less well known but no less impressive are the gardens at Caerhays Castle. Overlooking Porthluney beach, the gardens surrounding this beautiful castle are home to The National Collection of Magnolias. From February to April these magnificent plants put on a breath taking display of color that you don't expect to experience in early spring. Cornwall is also home to some of the UK's largest private botanical gardens and The Nare is able to arrange private guided visits for guests to these special places.

[Please click here for a more detailed list of the gardens close to the hotel,](#) The Nare has concessionary rates for many of these gardens if tickets are purchased from the Hotel Reception.

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The G&V Royal Mile Hotel

[Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh](#)

The Botanic captures the imagination of everyone who visits and is world renowned for its horticultural excellence. Over 70 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds provide a tranquil haven just one mile from the city center.

The Glasshouses with 10 climatic zones are a delight all year round. The Orchids and Cycads House brings together primitive cycads which dominated the land flora some 65

million years ago, and a diverse range of orchids, the most sophisticated plants in the world. In summer, giant water lilies called *Victoria amazonica*, are the star attraction in the Tropical Aquatic House. Plants with vibrant flowers and fascinating foliage thrive in the Rainforest Riches House. The complex ecosystems in the world's deserts are explored in the Arid Lands House. A large collection of gingers (Zingiberaceae), one of the largest collections of vireya rhododendrons in the world and a case housing carnivorous plants are among other attractions. (picture credit: <http://www.alva.org.uk>)

[Please click here to visit G&V Royal Mile Hotel's website.](#)



Blanket Bay

Blanket Bay sits on 59 acres with absolute lake frontage. The alpine climate plays a significant role in the most suitable plants used to enhance the gardens around the Lodge. The gardens utilize the natural contours of the land immediately around the lodge and chalet cottages with strategically placed pathways for guests to roam the property. There is a mix of New Zealand natives including red tussocks, native cabbage tree, pittosporum broad leaf, four different varieties of flaxes and white flowering hebe. To complement the native plants, both perennial and annual flowers have been introduced to give vibrant colors and style that is pleasing to the eye and captures the magic of their summer. Lavender shrubs line pathways with cosmos, lobelia and osteospermum dotted throughout the lush gardens. In spring, cherry trees line the driveway and blossom vivaciously making for a memorable entrance to Blanket Bay Lodge.

[Click here to visit Blanket Bay's website.](#)



Castle Leslie Estate

There is a sense of renewal and new life all around at Castle Leslie Estate as we progress through spring time. Seeds sprout, flowers bloom, and the sun warms the earth. While winter was a time to conserve energy and reduce activity, spring is a time of regeneration, new beginnings, and a renewal of spirit. With 1,000 acres of undulating Irish countryside, the team at Castle Leslie Estate have carefully chosen some idyllic spots for the perfect picnic... up and down hills, beside the glittering lake and under the trees. We'll pack up the most perfect picnics for you to enjoy and leave it to you!

The Traditional One

This traditional simple and tasty picnic is packed with a selection of freshly prepared sandwiches, homemade biscuits, fruit cake, scones and preserves, fruit salad and

mineral waters. A selection of wine is also available for you to enjoy and will incur an additional charge. Based on 2 people €50.

The Lovers Champagne Picnic

This indulgent picnic is packed full of delicious produce: Irish smoked salmon with red onion and capers, prawn cocktail, wheaten bread, charcuterie selection, selection of Irish cheeses, strawberries and cream, a chocolate selection, and a perfectly chilled bottle of bubbly! Based on 2 people €130.

The Fisherman's Picnic

A freshly prepared ham, cheese and tomato ciabatta, charcuterie selection, homemade biscuits, a chocolate bar, a selection of fruit and mineral water. Please note bottled beer is available on request but would incur an additional charge. Based on one person €20.

The Family Basket

This family picnic basket is packed with a selection of sandwiches, scones with preserves, traditional Irish Tayto crisps, sweet treats, fruit, mixed yogurts and mineral water. A selection of wine is available on request and will incur an additional charge. Based on 2 adults and 2 children



Bodysgallen Hall

Bodysgallen Hall's award-winning gardens are of interest to gardeners and wildlife lovers alike.

Bodysgallen is surrounded by over 200 acres of its own parkland and beautiful gardens, both manicured and wild.

The gardens have been recognized for their award-winning restoration. Featured within the estate's grounds are a rare 17th century parterre of box hedges filled with sweet-scented herbs, naturally occurring limestone outcrops, a rockery with a cascade, a walled garden, lily-pad ponds, and several follies. The gardens also include a formal rose garden and a number of well-established and interesting trees and shrubs including medlar and mulberry, which add further dimension to the gardens.

Various springs traverse the parklands, and there are several woodland walks such as the Terrace Walk, the Ladies Walk, the Eastern Covert Walk or the Pydew Village Walk that lead to a Gothic Tower and the obelisk located on top of Pydew mountain.

"One of the Ten best UK hotels with gardens" - The Independent, Aug 2015

Gardening tours at Bodysgallen with Head Gardener, Robert Owen

Recently featured on Prime Time Television "Glorious Gardens from Above," Bodysgallen's award-winning gardens are continually undergoing seasonal work and restoration. Our Head Gardener Robert Owen and his team take delight in planning and hosting an exciting programme of tours throughout the seasons. [Click here for more information.](#)



Barnsley House

Expertly maintained by Head Gardener Richard Gatenby and his team, Barnsley House's gardens are the perfect place to unwind morning, noon and night.

Featuring knot gardens, statues by Simon Verity, the Laburnum Walk and an ornamental fruit and vegetable garden, the grounds are among England's most famous settings. It was Rosemary Verey who began redesigning Barnsley House's gardens in the 1950s, to both critical acclaim and global interest.

Rosemary Verey was a garden designer, lecturer and prolific garden writer. Rosemary began designing the Barnsley House gardens in the 1950s and went on to design many more gardens, both here in the UK and internationally - including the famous New York Botanical Gardens, as well as gardens for Prince Charles, Sir Elton John and Princess Michael of Kent. Notorious for taking inspiration from large public gardens, she adapted those ideas for the smaller space at Barnsley House. In 1962, her husband, David Verey, brought the Temple from Fairford Park to Barnsley House; a fitting choice for a famed architectural historian. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, a younger generation of country gardeners came to Barnsley House to learn from Rosemary's horticultural skills.

Rosemary was awarded an OBE in 1997 and the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour in 1999. Her gardens also captivated the Prince of Wales, following his first visit to Barnsley House in 1986. The Prince returned regularly to see Rosemary and her gardens, with a final poignant visit following her funeral in June 2001.

Everyone at Barnsley House is extremely proud of the gardens and the teams there work tirelessly to maintain them. They provide much of the wonderful produce that you'll find on the menus at the hotel, as well as constant enjoyment all year round as the garden changes softly throughout the seasons, providing beautiful backdrops to Barnsley House.

[Click here to download Private Garden Tours Brochure.](#)



Middlethorpe Hall

York's 18th Century Destination House Featuring Grand Cottage Gardening At Its Finest

York is rich in 18th century houses of superlative quality, not least Middlethorpe Hall & Spa which was built for Thomas Barlow c.1699-1701. Today the 29-bedroom hotel showcases decoration in the manner of the 18th century and is furnished with antiques and fine paintings whilst looking out on 20 acres of stunning manicured gardens and parkland. Middlethorpe is also a plants man's garden full of unusual and interesting treasures scattered throughout a

maze of small gardens and it is here that visitors often spend hours on a journey of gardening discovery.

The foundation to the original garden wall at the end of the south lawn now acts as an interesting ha-ha planted with scented shrubs such as lavender and *Trachelospermum*. Part of the extensive Victorian walled kitchen garden has been retained and planted with a magnificent central double herbaceous border and box-edged bed containing species of old fashioned roses.

The walled kitchen garden holds herb beds, fruit trees and a mellow brick dovecote, now used as a wine cellar, clothed in *Azara micropphylla* and *Clematis cirrhosa*. The walls themselves shelter peaches, pears, apples and plums. A potager containing heritage vegetables was recently recreated with the entire production being used in the hotel kitchen.

To the west of the kitchen garden is the rose garden noted for the wide stone path lined with lavender, the flowers of which almost touch in the center, and for the tall razor-sharp yew hedge that surrounds it. The white garden, with its high holly hedge on one side and the kitchen garden wall on the other, is planted with white flowering plants such as *Wisteria floribunda* with *Agapanthus campanulatus albus* below, but also has blue *Ceanothus* as a contrast clipped to the wall. The walk leads to the spring garden where cherry and apple trees are planted in grass around a noble red oak.

Gardening fans also have a vast selection of local gardens around Middlethorpe Hall to visit including the RHS Harlow Carr, Newby Hall & Gardens, Castle Howard and Harewood House.



Hartwell House

In keeping with the national celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, Hartwell House is offering this country break. You can explore Hartwell's 92 acres of grounds as landscaped by Richard Woods, a contemporary of Capability Brown, or perhaps visit the grounds at nearby Stowe or Blenheim Palace and view two of Brown's lasting legacy.

This break is from £310 per room based on two people sharing from Sunday to Thursday, and from £360 on Friday or Saturday, includes a £43 dinner allowance each in the main dining room, accommodation, free wifi, cooked breakfast, use of the Hartwell Spa and VAT. Available from 1st May to 31st July 2016.

Friday 20th May 2016

In the footsteps of Lancelot Capability Brown

The work of Richard Woods at Hartwell, a talk and dinner with Richard Wheeler.

Join Richard Wheeler who will give an insight into Richard Woods, "Master of the Pleasure Garden" and the man responsible for how the grounds at Hartwell look today.

Friday 5th August 2016

A Summer Garden Tour with Richard Jones

Enjoy summer in the gardens and grounds of Hartwell House, and what better way than to join Richard Jones our Head Gardener who will take you on a guided tour to view the many plants, shrubs and trees in bloom. We will commence with coffee on arrival at 11am prompt in the Library, followed by the tour and then a two-course lunch, a glass of wine and coffee, all for £30 per person.

[Click here for further information on these and other events at Hartwell House.](#)



The Torridon

The fruit and vegetable garden at The Torridon extends to two acres in size and is lovingly cared for year-round to ensure freshness.

The garden offers a superb crop of apples, blackberries, raspberries, potatoes and carrots and other vegetables most of the year as well as a wide selection of herbs. These are all actively used in the kitchen, bringing fresh food and unique tastes to the table. Many of the flowers you see in the house are also grown in the garden from Dahlias,

Crocuses, Gladioli and Tulips.

The Torridon is close to several renowned gardens including:

Inverewe Gardens

Created by Osgood Mackenzie in the 19th century and now managed by the National Trust for Scotland, Inverewe Gardens is also one of the world's greatest gardens with many beautiful and exotic plant species. Visiting this beautiful and tranquil place is an unforgettable experience. The Garden is built on a craggy hillside with a majestic setting on the water's edge of Loch Ewe and features a famous Walled Garden with plants from around the world.

Armadale Gardens are situated on the Island of Skye, just over an hour and a half's drive from The Torridon but well worth the journey (which offers spectacular views). The gardens are part of a 20,000 acre Highland estate where a giant castle stands over you. The gardens are in all 40 acres and originally date back to the 17th century, although the gardens which you see today were not started until 200 years later. Keen wildlife enthusiasts should take binoculars as you can see many birds from Scottish and foreign shores and otters - a rare opportunity indeed.

Attadale Gardens, situated between Strathcarron and Strome, offer spectacular scenery whilst you explore the paths that lead through rhododendrons and rare trees. With a Japanese garden and kitchen garden and in a unique part of the Scottish Highlands, Attadale is not-to-be-missed.



Oddfellows

Chester

Chester is known for its beautiful river walks, fantastic shopping and luscious parks and botanical gardens. A short walk from Oddfellows Chester you will find Grosvenor Park, the main ornamental park in Chester. Extremely popular with residents and visitors to the city alike, it is typically Victorian in its layout with formal avenues lined with trees, statues, large sweeping lawns surrounded with ornamental shrub beds and display bedding. The park has become the focus for many significant cultural and horticultural events, including the Summer Music Festival, 'Art In The Park', and the annual prize-giving show for 'Chester In Bloom' and Allotments competition. However, despite this annual frenzy of activity, Grosvenor Park continues to retain its peaceful character and charm with visitors enjoying more informal activities in this attractive setting.

[Click here to visit Oddfellows website.](#)

Cheshire

Roald Dahl at Tatton Park

Throughout spring and summer 2016 Tatton Park, a National Trust estate located in the heart of Cheshire, will be celebrating the life and works of Roald Dahl with a series of events.

Until the end of September visitors will be invited to join DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD in the Gardens, FANTASTIC MR FOX at the Farm and MATILDA in the Mansion... and out in the Parkland THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE will be lurking in a special children's trail.

Quarry Bank Mill (pictured)

Home to the Channel 4's television series 'The Mill' and one of Britain's greatest industrial heritage sites, Quarry Bank Mill is opening its gardens this summer. An exhibition shows how the people past and present have influenced the gardens at the mill and how they have grown over the last 200 years.

[Click here for Oddfellows' Top Ten Things To Do in Cheshire.](#)



Aldourie Castle

Castle grounds in the Scottish Highlands

As if the delights of the Castle itself were not enough, the great outdoors of Aldourie Estate offer an equally spectacular appeal. Stay at Aldourie and the 500 acre Estate is yours in its entirety.

The wonderful gardens and woodland have been beautifully restored to the splendor of their 19th century heyday. Intricate, quaint and colorful with arbours, orangeries and bridges, the formal gardens are a delight.

The manicured lawns that slope gently down to Loch Ness itself are perfect for afternoon strolls and the overlooking terrace offers a peaceful haven to enjoy summer barbecues and garden parties.

Aldourie Castle's parkland features an idyllic tree house, a marina with boating tours on Loch Ness, beautiful formal gardens - and its own family graveyard!

[Click here for more information on Aldourie Castle.](#)



Original Travel UK

Chelsea Flower Show (24th - 28th May)

This long-established spring flower show is a society event that even the Queen loves! Set to inspire, enjoy member's day tickets to marvel at the fascinating and often cutting-edge garden displays before they are open to the public. OTUK can help arrange a brilliant tour to suit any green-fingered enthusiasts after the Show. On the 300th anniversary of Capability Brown's birth, the foremost

contributor to the English landscape style and the country's greatest cultural export, OTUK would suggest heading to some of his most famous landscapes such as Stowe, Bowood, Blenheim Palace or Highclere for an in-depth tour of these important gardens. Enjoy a visit to his seductive parklands which include spectacular feats of water and earth engineering imperceptible to the garden visitor.

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (5th - 10th July)

Although not as famous as the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, the Hampton Court Flower Show has some definite advantages. The fabulous setting of the ground of Hampton Court Palace makes for a beautiful day trip. Keen gardeners will love the different range of seasonal displays and flowers in bloom at this time of the summer.

Hampton Court Palace is in peak rose season so the team at OTUK would advise combining your visit to the flower show with a brilliant tour with one of their fabulous driver-guides. After your visit why not head to the newly restored Jellicoe Rose Garden at Cliveden, which is a riot of color during the summer. After a stay at Cliveden head up to Broughton Castle, famous for television series Wolf Hall, for a private visit before exploring Kiftsgate - home of the famous rambling rose. A visit to David Austen Roses would round off any garden lover's perfect trip.



Off the beaten track:

OTUK's garden's expert, Caroline, recently headed to Southern England on a scouting trip of Cornish Gardens. She advises that no visit to Cornwall would be complete without a visit to the mysterious and recently re-discovered Lost Gardens of Heligan or the space-like eco Eden Project. Caerhays Castle offers such beauty and history on the coastline and the team can even arrange a private tour of the Castle & Woodland gardens. Visit Trebah in the spring for the 100-year-old rhododendrons, magnolias and camellias. OTUK can also arrange expert-led garden visits

by the owner of one of Cornwall's best known-gardens for groups and tours.

[Get in touch with OTUK today for further information. Click here to visit the website.](#)



Decouvertes

France has always been a country of great horticultural skills: from the traditional French style of very formal bedding schemes such as Chateau de Versailles to the smaller relaxed planting schemes which are becoming increasingly popular, discover the best gardens the country has to offer.

Few medieval and renaissance gardens still survive. They were followed by the Baroque Gardens which lasted over two centuries.

In the last years of the twentieth century, France began making great public parks and highly original small gardens by landscape designers with global reputations.

[Click here to view Decouvertes' beautiful online brochure with more information on gardens in France.](#)

Gardens in Provence

Provence has become famous for its fabulous botanical and aromatic gardens. Plants thrive in the mild Mediterranean climate as geometrical designs give way to more natural settings. Provence gardens are both rural and sophisticated, which make them more attractive than ever.

[Please click here to view highlights from a selection of remarkable gardens in Provence](#), some of which are open to the general public, others are very exclusive and only accessible by special arrangement.



Discover New York and Beyond

Philadelphia

Although Philadelphia's Magic Gardens is really an art installation, you can enjoy over 30 gardens in and around the city that focus on arboretums, botanical, formal or naturalistic features. The Brandywine Area includes Longwood Gardens with 11,000 varieties of plants and 1,050 acres of gardens, fountains, meadows and woodlands. A visit to Henry Francis duPont's Winterthur Museum & Country Estate is also a great day trip.

Gettysburg National Military Park

The Battle of Gettysburg was the turning point in the Civil War. The Union Victory ended General Robert E. Lee's

second and most ambitious invasion of the North. Often referred to as the "High Water Mark of the Rebellion," Gettysburg was the war's bloodiest battle with 51,000 casualties. It was also the inspiration for President Abraham Lincoln's immortal "Gettysburg Address".

Norfolk, Williamsburg

Visit Norfolk's most lush and colorful gardens including the Norfolk Botanical Garden, dating back to 1938. Explore 155-acres of rare flowers, mature forests and one of the largest collections of azaleas, camellias, and roses on the East Coast. Relax during a wine tasting led by a certified sommelier where you will sample several varieties of Virginia-made wines and take home tasting tips and tricks for future pairings. Visit the Hermitage Foundation Museum, a Tudor-style mansion that provides a sense of the life and artistic interests of a wealthy family during the first half of the 20th century focusing on an outstanding collection of Eastern and Western art.

Charleston - Historic Private Homes and Gardens

Beginning in 1670, Charles Towne was settled by the English. The homes date from pre-Revolutionary America and have strong ties with Bostonians who summered in the city. Walk the neighborhood with an expert who can bring the stories of the families to life. You can visit private homes and gardens not open to the public.

Antebellum Charleston

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens is a 17th century Estate and features America's oldest gardens (c.1680). Take a private tour of Middleton Place, an 18th Century rice plantation including 65 acres of America's oldest landscaped gardens. Boone Hall Plantation spans 300 years and is still a working plantation with house tours, gardens and reproduction of slave cabins. Drayton Hall is considered one of the finest examples of Georgian-Palladian architecture.

Savannah, Ghosts and Goblins— Bonaventure Cemetery

Learn the history behind “Haunted Savannah” from story tellers that bring the past to life. Hear about the paranormal on an adventure through the many beautiful streets of the city and visit the haunted, historic homes and hidden cemeteries of the city. At Bonaventure Cemetery you’ll learn about its plantation history, Victorian burial rituals and practices. See character portrayals of famed warriors, poets, industrialists, painters and dramatic life tales ranging from romantics to the reckless!

[Click here to read accounts from Discover New York and Beyond's clients and be inspired.](#)



Ventours International

Floating gardens for the landless

Flood-affected areas in coastal Odisha, India have adopted new ways of farming. Floating gardens, a concept which is not new to India thanks to Srinagar’s Dal Lak, are farms made on water bodies which have the scope to reduce the food insecurities of the landless poor.

(Image courtesy of RCDC Odisha).

[Click for more information.](#)

A Garden For Women

The city of Belagavi in Karnataka, India is creating the first women-only garden anywhere in India. The Belagavi Cantonment Board is revamping its two-acre garden in the camp area into an exclusive facility for women, with lamps installed for their safety.

[Click here for further information.](#)

All offers and packages are subject to availability.

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