

Stately Homes & Gardens

Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens ...*"One of the finest Gardens I have ever visited"* *Alan Titchmarsh*

Magnificent Victorian walled garden set in 20 acres of woodland valley. The unique micro climate enables rare and exotic species from all over the world to thrive here. Children's adventure play area. Nature trail. Sunken gardens with golden pheasants. Superb colonial style teahouse with veranda overlooking the sunken garden.

Website: www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk/gardens

Athelhampton House & Gardens

Athelhampton House is one of the finest 15th century examples of Tudor architecture and is surrounded by one of the great architectural gardens of England. The Gallery in the west wing exhibits works by the Russian artist Marevna who lived at the house in the 1940s and 50s. The striking Grade I Listed gardens date back to 1891 and are most famous for their pyramid shaped yew trees that dominate The Great Court. The house is also well known for the octagonal pond and their collections of tulips, roses, magnolias, clematis and lilies.

Website: www.athelhampton.com

Bennetts Water Gardens

Explore the scenic bliss that lies within Bennetts Water Gardens and follow pathways as they lead you through the series of stunning ponds and lakes blanketed in 140 different varieties of water lilies. The eight acre site of tranquil lakes and a world famous lily collection is surrounded by wetland plants, native trees, palms, wild plants and flowers.

Website: www.bennettswatergardens.com

Compton Acres

Compton Acres has 10 acres of gardens with lovely views over Poole Harbour and the distant Purbeck Hills. The historic Compton Acres Gardens include formal and woodland areas which were superbly designed and have been brought back to life by the present owners. There are viewpoints overlooking the sea which is around 1 mile away.

Website: www.comptonacres.co.uk

Forde Abbey Historic House and Gardens

A beautiful and historic country house with 30 acres of beautiful award-winning gardens that offer romance, elegance, grandeur and beauty.

Website: www.fordeabbey.co.uk

Kingston Lacy

Kingston Lacy was built in the 17th century. It is an elegant country mansion designed to replicate an Italian Palace and is home to a fine art collection. These include paintings by Rubens, Van Dyck, Titian and Brueghel.

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kingston-lacy

Kingston Maurward Gardens and Animal Park

Beautifully situated in peaceful Dorset countryside, Kingston Maurward's 12 formal gardens are surrounded in an intimate yet broad 35 acres of character. Explore the vast landscape where you will find sweet scented flowers in The Japanese Garden, a hidden romantic stone throne in The Secret Garden and exotic fruit in The Elizabethan Walled Garden. Climb up to the temple for a panoramic view of the gardens and Dorset's sweeping countryside.

Website: www.kmc.ac.uk/gardens

Knoll Gardens

Whilst Knoll is renowned for ornamental grasses, the garden features an equally impressive, though less well-known, collection of rare and unusual trees and shrubs.

Website: www.knollgardens.co.uk

Mapperton House & Gardens

Voted the 'Nation's Finest Manor House' by Country Life and location of the 2015 film 'Far from the Madding Crowd'. Glorious Jacobean manor with Earl of Sandwich collection, overlooking 15 acre garden with orangery, topiary and borders, descending to ponds and arboretum. Outstanding views of the Dorset hills and woodlands.

Website: www.mapperton.com

Minterne House & Gardens

Laid out in a horse shoe shape, Minterne Gardens host world renowned and unique collections of flowers and plants. Meander along the mile long trail and use the benches to sit and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of your surroundings and picturesque views.

Website: www.minterne.co.uk

Stock Gaylard House

Stock Gaylard Estate is approximately 1800 acres with around 300 acres of predominantly oak woodland, 80 acres of common land and an enclosed 80 acre deer park with a lake.

Website: www.stockgaylard.com