



# NEW FOR 2017 SUMMER GARDENS & CASTLES OF BRITAIN & FRANCE

Saturday 8 July – Friday 28 July 2017 | 20 nights

## TOUR

Many of us grew up steeped in English history, marvelling at the exploits of much-married King Henry VIII, the ancient castles, grand mansions and the splendid gardens that surrounded them.

This tour by land and sea showcases some of those great properties and significant events, not just in England but also in Ireland, the Isle of Man, Guernsey and France.

For the first week, your base is Surrey, an ideal location for walking in royal footsteps in gardens in the south-east of England. Then it is a short journey to Portsmouth to board the boutique vessel *Minerva* for 12 days of relaxed cruising with visits to inspiring gardens en route.

Your New Zealand tour manager, is Gillian Vine, a widely travelled prize winning writer specialising in gardening. Guest lecturers will accompany you.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- See Knole House, where England's most famous gardener, Vita Sackville-West, grew up.
- Compare Knole with Sissinghurst Castle, the great garden Vita and her husband Harold Nicolson created.
- Appreciate the contribution to gardening made by William Robinson at his 16th-century home, Gravetye Manor.
- Fall in love with Guernsey's capital, St Peter's Port.
- Get in touch with your artistic side at Claude Monet's Giverny, where he planted water lilies to paint.
- Marvel at the restoration of Heligan's lost gardens and the scope of the nearby Eden Project.
- Take in one of England's best flower shows, Tatton Park.
- See Henry VIII's warship, Mary Rose, and learn her fascinating history.
- Enjoy the comfort and full service on the *Minerva* with speakers from the Royal Horticultural Society talking about the gardens you'll be visiting.

## THE SHIP

An elegant small ship carrying a maximum of 350 passengers, *Minerva* offers comfort and friendly service to make the voyage memorable. Reminiscent of an English country house, it is decorated with paintings that reflect the regions in which it has cruised.

The influential publication 'Cruise Critic' gives *Minerva* a high rating and considers it good value for money, especially as all gratuities and meals with wine are included.

Priced from \$NZ13,995 twin share, the price includes economy class fares, a tour manager from New Zealand, all accommodation, local guides, many meals included, sightseeing as described in the itinerary and numerous extras to make the tour memorable.



Contact us for itinerary and details

Forward this newsletter to family and friends for them to receive our travel inspirations straight to their mailbox.

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