

# GARDENS OF THE EASTERN HEARTLANDS

A FIVE-NIGHT ESCORTED TOUR STAYING AT THE JOCKEY CLUB, NEWMARKET  
WITH LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA & CHANTAL COOKSON

24<sup>TH</sup> TO 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2027



NOBLE CALEDONIA



After the success of our inaugural visit to the prestigious Jockey Club in Newmarket in 2026, we are delighted to announce the details for our 2027 tour. One of the foremost decisions when planning a tour is where will be our base. In allowing us to take over the accommodation at the Jockey Club Rooms, we have the perfect location for our itinerary and in addition can enjoy the exceptional facilities of this renowned historic club.

The Club's location in Newmarket on the Suffolk/Cambridgeshire border has allowed us to include a number of gardens that have not been geographically possible on past tours. In Norfolk we will be captivated by the gardens at Bressingham Hall, begun in the 1950s by Alan Bloom and truly a mecca for perennial lovers. On the Suffolk/Cambridgeshire border, stroll in the 35 acres of formal and informal gardens at Chippenham Park, and in Cambridgeshire enjoy the inspirational gardens at Peckover House. Being in Suffolk we simply had to include some old favourites: the picture-perfect Fullers Mill, magnificent Helmingham Hall and the exquisite formal gardens of Wyken Hall.

Accompanying us throughout the tour will be an expert garden speaker who will share their knowledge and enthusiasm, providing fascinating insights into the gardens we visit. In addition to the wonderful gardens on our itinerary, London Festival Opera will be performing for us at The Jockey Club, and at the historic Bury St Edmunds Guildhall, the civic hub since the 1220s. Adding further interest will be a visit to Ely Cathedral with an opportunity to attend Evensong. For those interested in horse racing we have also included a visit to the Newmarket Horse Racing Museum and the National Stud.

The itinerary has been planned to avoid early morning departures allowing for leisurely breakfasts. The accommodation at the Club limits us to just 40 places and it promises to be a fascinating five days so I do hope you can join us.

*Andrew Cochrane, Noble Caledonia Founder & Director*



Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds



Bressingham Hall



Peckover House



The Gallops, Warren Hill, Newmarket

## TOUR LEADER – CHANTAL COOKSON



Chantal was born in Suffolk very near the sea and now lives in Northumberland where her husband farms. Chantal has been associated with Noble Caledonia since the company was founded in 1991 and has led tours, be it cruising or land, all over the world. Chantal's initial experience of cruising in British waters was in 1991 when Noble Caledonia undertook its first cruise around the British Isles, which was a groundbreaking voyage and led to a very successful and popular concept. Though her main job over the last 25 years has been working for Sotheby's, she is now a Travel and Fine Art Consultant intertwining in her busy life still working periodically as part of the Noble Caledonia field staff team. Chantal is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

## LONDON FESTIVAL OPERA



We are delighted that London Festival Opera will be joining us for our stay and presenting two concerts in superb settings – performing a selection of celebrated arias and ensembles from the operas of Handel, Mozart, Rossini, Bizet and Puccini as well as some lighter pieces from the world of operetta and musicals. We have long been associated with London Festival Opera and each year our music themed tours grow in popularity. London Festival Opera has achieved a considerable reputation for presenting opera in the UK and overseas and has performed for Presidents, Prime Ministers and senior members of the British and European Royal Families. The company has performed at 10 Downing Street, the British Embassy in Paris, the President's Palace in Malta and as a guest company in one of Italy's greatest opera houses, La Fenice in Venice. Bringing together artists from the major British opera companies including the Royal Opera, English National Opera and Glyndebourne the programmes presented include a wide and varied range of repertoire, performed in formal evening dress and authentic period costume for an added visual impact.



Stallion Statue, Newmarket



Wyken Hall Gardens



Ely Cathedral



Bressingham Gardens

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 Newmarket, England.** A transfer to Newmarket from Cambridge Railway Station will be provided to those arriving by train. Those driving may park at the Jockey Club's car park. Meet in the evening for welcome drinks and dinner in the Club Room. (D)

**Day 2 Bressingham Hall Gardens & Wyken Hall Gardens.** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast in the Club's historic Coffee Room. The morning is free for you to relax or join a visit to the nearby Horse Racing Museum, our venue for lunch. This afternoon travel into Norfolk to Bressingham Hall Gardens to explore the Dell, Foggy Bottom, Adrian's Wood and the Fragrant Garden. Later cross the county border into Suffolk to Wyken Hall where we explore the beautiful formal gardens. Dinner tonight will be in the locally renowned Leaping Hare restaurant located in the grounds of the Hall. (B, L, D)

**Day 3 Newmarket & Helmingham Hall.** Join a morning visit to the world-famous Gallops and the National Stud before we continue on to Helmingham Hall, the home of the Tollemache family since 1510. The Hall appears to float on the surface of its broad surrounding moat. After lunch in the Coach House, wander around the extensive and beautiful gardens with the Head Gardener, who will explain how over the past 30 years the owners have succeeded in melding the older garden forms into a harmonious whole. Return to Newmarket for dinner at the Jockey Club and enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera. (B, L, D)

**Day 4 Chippenham Park, Fullers Mill Garden & Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds.** Relax after breakfast before a late morning departure for nearby Chippenham Park with its 300 acres of parkland. See the four acre Walled Garden and the 'Wilderness', a scenic woodland walk full of interesting trees and shrubs, some of which are quite rare. After a light lunch at Chippenham Park we continue to Fullers Mill, a wonderful thought-provoking garden created by the late Bernard Tickner on the banks of the River Lark. After exploring the garden we depart for nearby Bury St Edmunds to the celebrated grade 1 listed Guildhall. Dating back to the thirteenth century, the building has a fascinating history and during World War II housed operational rooms that played a role in the Battle of Britain. Enjoy a performance by London Festival Opera in the Banqueting Hall followed by dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Peckover House & Ely Cathedral & Gardens.** After breakfast in the Coffee Room drive north to Peckover House near Wisbech. This elegant Georgian House and walled garden was developed from the banking wealth of the Peckover family, and their philanthropy has left a lasting mark on the town. Tucked away behind the house sits a beautiful Victorian garden boasting a stunning orangery and herbaceous borders which will be alive with spring colour. In the early afternoon we continue on to the city of Ely, a compact city with a rich history and magnificent cathedral. After lunch at the atmospheric Old Engine Firehouse Restaurant, we will visit the cathedral and adjacent gardens. Return to Newmarket following Evensong or free time in the city for a farewell dinner at the Jockey Club. (B, L, D)

**Day 6 Newmarket.** After breakfast a transfer will be provided to Cambridge Railway Station for those returning home by train. (B)

### PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Category	Price
Club Double/Twin Room	£3595
Deluxe Double/Twin Room	£3995
Queen's Suite	£4195
King's Suite	£4495
Club Single	£3595
Deluxe Double/Twin Room for sole occupancy	£4495

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Five nights accommodation at The Jockey Club Rooms • Meals as indicated (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Drinks with included lunches and dinners • Excursions as described • Two performances by London Festival Opera • Tour Leader • Guest Speaker • Group transfers.  
**Not Included:** Travel insurance.



## THE JOCKEY CLUB ROOMS, NEWMARKET

For our five-night stay we have taken over all the accommodation at The Jockey Club, a building steeped in history with wonderfully elegant rooms adorned with some of the finest collections of equine art and countless historical artefacts. Located in the centre of Newmarket in a large attractive garden it has been at the heart of British Racing for over 250 years.

The history of The Jockey Club Rooms is endlessly fascinating, and we will learn more during our stay of how the building evolved and of the good and famous who walked its corridors and stayed in its chambers over the centuries. Everything is here that could possibly be required for a stay of great comfort and interest. Rooms are located in the Chambers, set back from the road at the rear of the club grounds, ensuring a quiet and peaceful stay.

### The King's Suite

Situated on the first floor of the Chambers, the beautiful King's Suite offers guests their own private sitting room, antique four poster bed and luxurious bathroom, which houses Edward VII's original bath and taps, all of which have been lovingly restored. With large bay windows, guests can relax and unwind with views over the manicured lawns and beyond the walled garden.

### The Queen's Suite

Situated on the third floor of the Chambers, the newest suite is named after her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the most successful British Monarch in British horse racing. The suite offers views for miles up to the Gallops and neighbouring training yard, and features a bedroom, dining room and private sitting room.

### Deluxe Rooms

Situated on the ground and first floors of the Chambers, the Deluxe Rooms all individually styled to a very high level of comfort and style, with extra large, luxurious bathrooms. The Deluxe Rooms overlook the pristinely manicured lawn, walled garden and one of Newmarket's oldest racehorse training stables.

### Club Rooms

All of the Club Rooms at the Chambers at The Jockey Club Rooms are individually decorated in a traditional homely style, feature en-suite bathrooms and are situated on the first, second or third floors.



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.  
Cover image: Wyken Hall Gardens.