



World's Most Spectacular Sights

Gardens Of Earthly Delights



BLOOMING LOVELY. That's how many would describe the gorgeous gardens of Great Britain. Now, you can see for yourself online and in person.

(NAPSA)—The British have a passion for gardening, evidenced by the enormous variety of gardens, large and small, elaborate and simple, found throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

Thanks partly to horticultural expeditions in past centuries, you can see more species of plants in Great Britain than anywhere else in the world. To share this beauty, the British Tourist Authority has launched a new web site—www.travelbritain.org/gardens—and a free pocket-sized map-folder called “Britain’s Gardens.”

The map folder, sponsored by Jarvis Hotels, identifies 100 of the finest gardens in the country, and highlights the history of gardens and gardening. The web site has searchable information on more than 400 gardens, a listing of horticultural events and suggested itineraries to help visitors plan their trips.

A good reason to travel to England in 2001 and beyond is that both English Heritage, a government agency responsible for the conservation of historic places, and the National Trust, an independent charity which preserves historic buildings and gardens as well as landscapes and coastlines, plan to make it a big year for gardens.

English Heritage is creating contemporary gardens in historic

settings, including a ruined Norman fortress and a medieval Bishop’s Palace. The National Trust commissioned contemporary artists to design planting schemes in the garden at the Rothschilds’ family home.

One of the most remarkable gardens, described as a “living theater of plants and people,” is called the Eden Project. It has two massive conservatories called biomes. One, at 146-ft. high, is the world’s largest and houses hundreds of plants from the Amazon, West Africa, Asia and the South Pacific. The other contains plants from California, Southern Africa and the Mediterranean.

In Wales, the world’s largest glasshouse features 1,000 species of Mediterranean flora and features including a ravine, rock terraces, a waterfall and even a lake.

Those interested in the history of gardening can visit the exhibition, “Seven Centuries of Gardening” at Penshurst Place, a stately home which lays claim to having one of the oldest gardens in Britain. Its records date from 1346, and much of its formal garden is just as it was in Elizabethan days.

You can learn more online at www.travelbritain.org/gardens. Or to obtain a free copy of Great Britain’s map-folder, call toll-free 1-877-899-8391.