



Join Us for the International Maple Symposium Post-Tour

Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum • Kew Gardens • Savill • Valley Gardens

Four World Class Gardens in Three Days

Wednesday – Friday, 28-30 October, 2026

Hosted by TMSBI and TMSNA

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum

The tour begins at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum. This award-winning garden, covering 180 acres, is famous the world over. Our day will be guided by the head gardener, and focusing particularly on maples. Sir Harold, already a distinguished plantsman, established the Gardens and Arboretum in 1953, and went on to build world-class collections and make many introductions. Luncheon will be in a room put at our disposal for the day, and we will explore the unique herbarium before heading back into the garden.



Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum

In 1977 Sir Harold donated the Gardens to the public. It is now run as a charity by Hampshire County Council, dedicated to horticulture, conservation, education and recreation. It is one of the most comprehensive and unrivaled collection of trees, shrubs, and hardy plants in the UK.



Temperate House, Kew Gardens

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Thursday is dedicated to visiting Kew Gardens, arguably the premier Botanic Garden in the world. In the morning, the Kew Explorer bus will give us an overview of the entire site. Following lunch, tree collection supervisor Kevin Martin will be our guide to the garden. The 300 acres of landscaped grounds on the River Thames, originally a Royal Garden, features more than 14,000 trees planted over 250 years, including many original introductions and very rare specimens. There are many other attractions, including the famous Victorian era Temperate House.

After our tour of the historic plantings and specimens, we expect a bit of time for discovery, according to the wishes of each, the many other features of the site.



Plantings at Kew Gardens



Grouped planting of Acer x conspicuum 'Phoenix'

The Savill Gardens

Set across 35 acres of beautifully designed gardens, woodland and ever-changing seasonal displays, The Savill Garden is a peaceful retreat in the heart of Windsor Great Park. Commissioned by King George V and created by renowned horticulturist Eric Savill in 1932, the Garden has been inspiring nature lovers, photographers, friends and families for generations.

Our Friday morning will be spent at this gem of a garden, with a tour guided by John Anderson, the Keeper of Gardens, and an extremely knowledgeable plantsman. After lunch at Savill, we will adjourn to the nearby Valley Gardens, also in Windsor Great Park.



Sunlight filtering through a brook in Valley Gardens

Valley Gardens

First established in the 1940's, with the blessing of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Valley Gardens covers 250 acres of trails and flowering beds. It features the National Collections of Magnolia, Rhododendrons, Himalayan and Chinese birches, and much more. This spectacular garden holds innumerable treasures for every plant and garden lover among the carefully curated landscapes. Keeper of Gardens John Anderson will continue to guide us through its wonders.



Post-Conference Tour Details

Transport and Lodging

The coach will leave the Westonbirt and Tetbury pickup points, and take us to each destination as well as the hotel in the evenings. On Friday evening, the coach will drop attendees off either at the Gerrards Cross train station—with easy access to Central London by train, or to Heathrow by taxi—or at the initial pickup points in Tetbury. We have booked a block of 10 single- and 15 double-rooms at [The Bull in Gerrards Cross](#), for £99 or £110 respectively. Other lodging is available in town at the discretion of the attendees.

Cost per Attendee £230

Cost includes all garden visits, coach and bus fees, guides and lunches. Not included is lodging, or Wednesday or Thursday dinners. Breakfast is included in the negotiated hotel price at the Bull. Attendees are responsible for booking their hotel reservations. To benefit from the negotiated rate at The Bull, please use the reference 2610MAPLES

Don't Wait to Register!

Please note, we can only guarantee the first forty places, so we urge you to act soon, and book early. Any additional bookings will be placed on a waiting list, and accommodated only if there are adequate numbers to book additional transport.