

Exploring the City's Pocket Gardens

Duration: 2 to 3 hours

Stroll through 2000 years of history on our walk through the City of London. Nestled next to steel and glass office buildings, the City's gardens and green spaces provide havens for wildlife, support biodiversity, and offer calm in the bustle. We'll visit several pocket gardens, including a garden designed to reflect the dome of St Paul's Cathedral, a lush green churchyard where Shakespeare's plays were first sold, a Victorian memorial garden commemorating stories of heroism, and sunken gardens created on bombsites in the aftermath of World War II.

London's Gardens, Old & New

Duration: Half day

Explore legal London's hidden gardens at the Inns of Court, which date back to the 1300s. Once home to the Royal Horticultural Society's flower shows, today these gardens are maintained by a small team taking a contemporary approach to planning and planting. Then head to King's Cross to discover some of London's newest gardens now blooming against a backdrop of industrial heritage, including a public fountain garden, an Islamic garden, a park in a gas holder, and a community nature reserve.

Galleries & Gardens

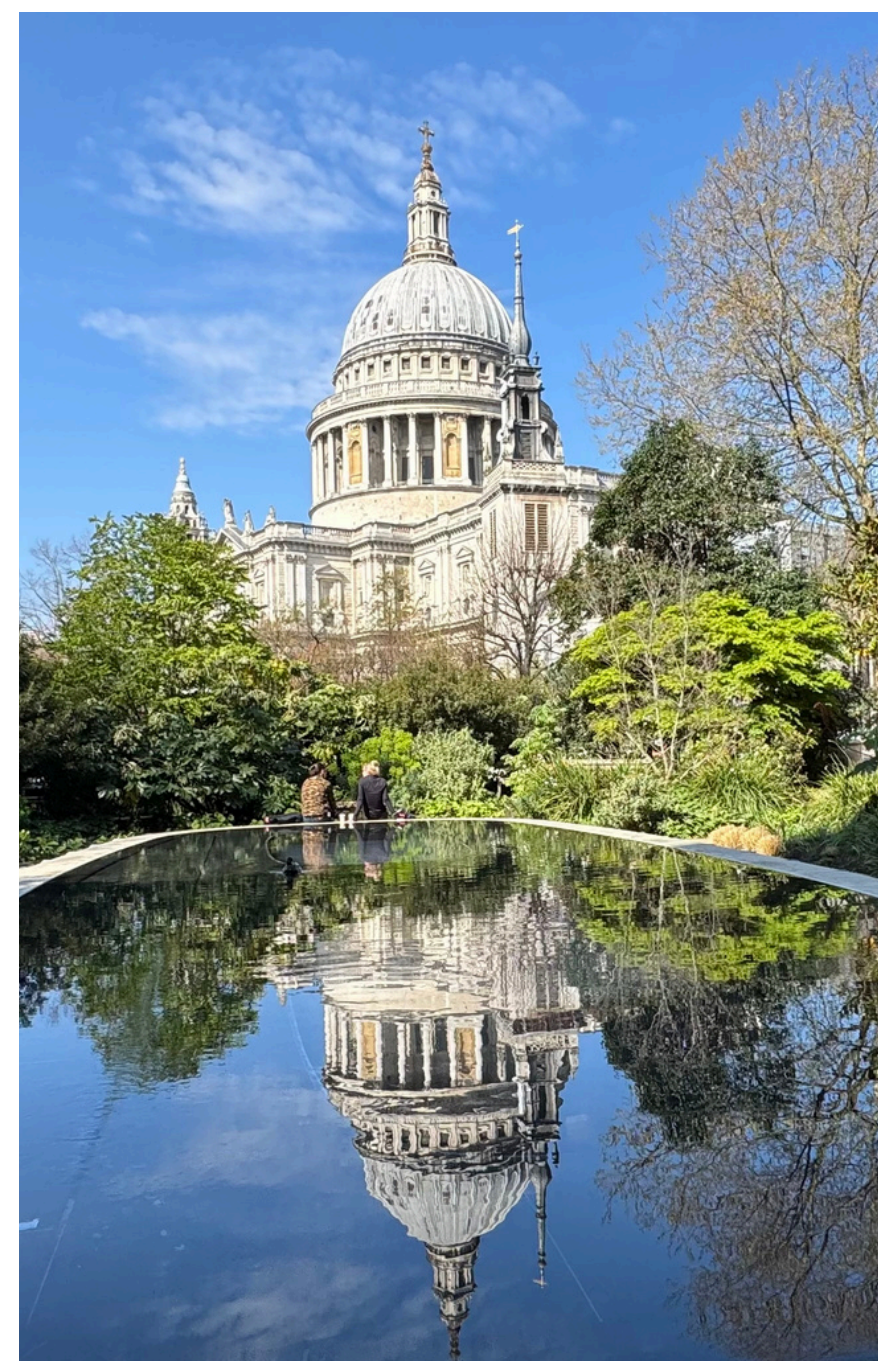
Duration: Half day or Full day

Step into the garden at Tate Britain to explore art from a garden lover's perspective. Then cross the Thames to visit the Garden Museum, celebrating the art, history and design of gardens. This tour can be combined with a walking tour through Westminster and The Royal Parks, or a visit to Chelsea Physic Garden.

Parks and Palaces

Duration: From 2 hours to a half day

Explore the hidden histories of London's Royal parks. Options include a walk through Kensington Gardens, a ramble through the hidden gardens of The Regent's Park, or a stroll through Hyde Park, Green Park and St James's Park. These tours can be combined with visits to Kensington Palace, Westminster Abbey and or the National Gallery.



Hampstead's Green Havens

Duration: Full day

Escape to the green spaces of Hampstead, an area of north London that has long been home to artists, writers, and musicians. Discover scenic back streets, the walled garden at Fenton House and the magical Hill House Pergola. After lunch at a historic pub, walk on through shady woods and across Hampstead Heath to Kenwood House, a grand C18 mansion set in parkland landscaped in the C18 by Humphrey Repton, with time to explore the house and its art collection.

Tour cost from £320 for a half day (4 hours) and from £480 for a full day (6 to 8 hours).

Talks bring gardens to you, lifting the spirits when the autumn draws in. See below for sample topics.

London's Gardens, Old & New

Discover London's garden history, from the City's Roman roots. Meet several horticultural heroes along the way, from the Royal women who developed gardens at Kew Palace, and adventurous plant hunters who brought seeds back from around the world, to public servants who championed London's green spaces, and charities and community groups creating gardens today.

Up on the Roof

Hear about the gardens and green spaces hidden high above the London's busy streets. Examples include a vegetable garden in the heart of the West End, a City twist on an English country garden, serene Islamic gardens in King's Cross, vertical gardens created to cover hotels and office blocks, and public spaces currently in the planning.

American Roots in English Gardens

Consider the influence of America on English gardens, from the introduction of new plants and ideas on garden design, to the creation of grand gardens including Hever Castle, Hidcote, Waddesdon Manor and more.

Green Legacies: Creating new public spaces

Explore how public spaces are developed, funded and maintained, creating a lasting legacy with communities at heart. Case studies include the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, the Highline in New York, public spaces in post-war Britain, and new gardens and green spaces developed across the country in recent years.

Day Tripping

Ideal for horticultural societies, gardening clubs, and other groups planning trips. Take a whirlwind online tour through beautiful gardens within easy reach of London, with itineraries to the North, South, East and West, to prompt ideas for day trips and independent visits.



Talks last 60 minutes, including 10 minutes for questions, and cost £125 (excluding travel costs).

I also offer guiding services for day trips and extended tours for small groups.

Along with highlights tours of London galleries and museums, including the British Museum, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery, Tate Britain, The Courtauld and the Garden Museum, examples of themed tours include:

A Floral Tour of the National Gallery

Consider the symbolism of flowers in Renaissance art, the realism and exquisite detail of Dutch and Spanish still life, flowers and fashion in art, and the freeflowing expression of nature by Impressionist and Post-Impressionist artists, including Manet, Monet, Gauguin and Van Gogh.

Into the Garden at Tate Britain

Explore gardens depicted across four hundred years of British art, from unique Tudor portraits, and idealised landscapes by C18 English artists including Thomas Gainsborough, Joshua Reynolds and George Stubbs, to the intense style and storytelling of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in the late C19.

The Art of Love at the National Gallery

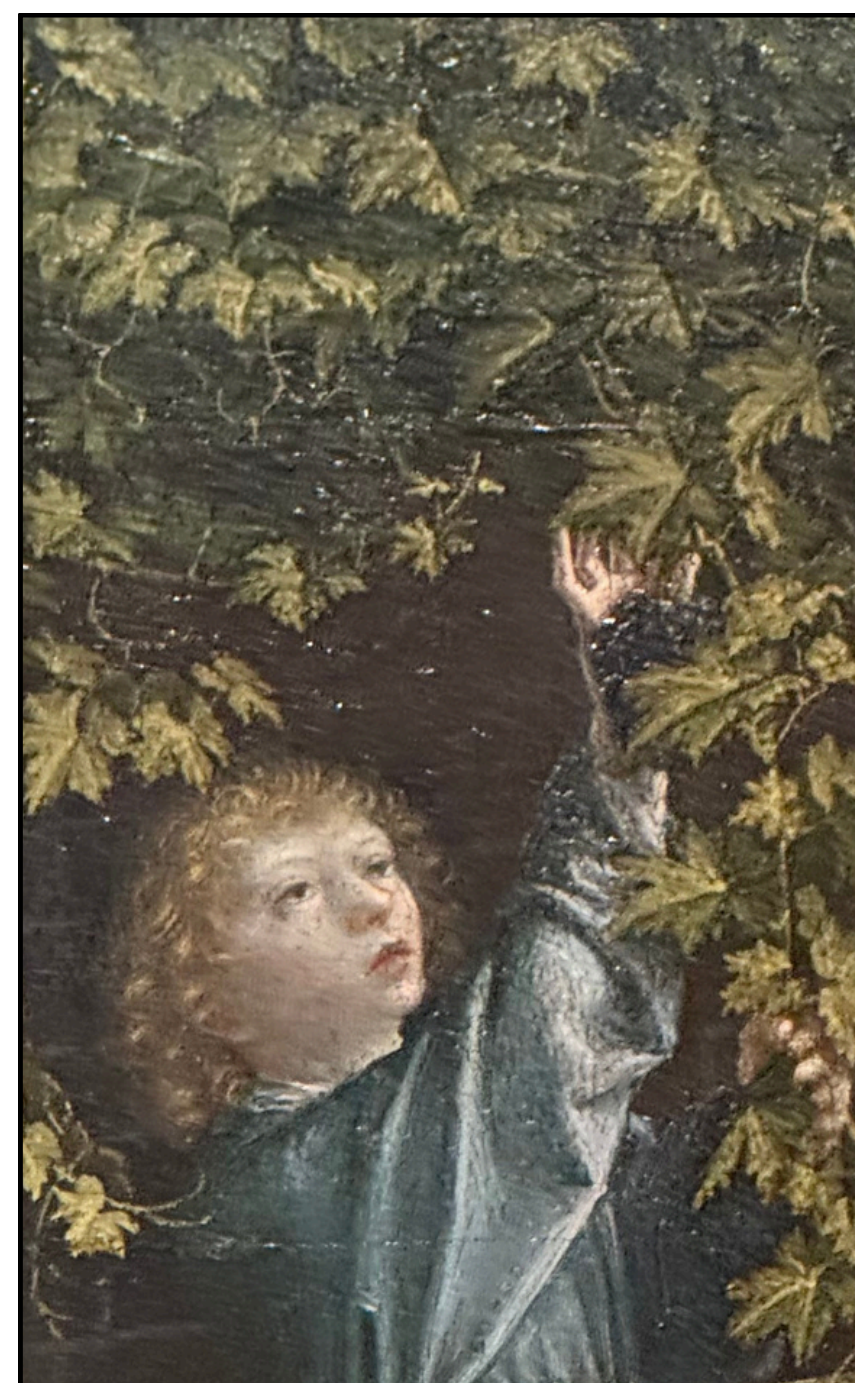
Top tips on love and marriage from painters through the centuries, including Van Eyck, Botticelli, Gainsborough and Hogarth. We consider domestic bliss, domestic boredom, a cautionary tale of why you should never marry for money or social standing, and how to keep the spark alive.

Women Who Rock at the National Portrait Gallery

Celebrate daring, often controversial women who rocked their worlds. We meet queens and courtesans, writers, politicians, activists and artists, all of whom have left a vital legacy of social and cultural change. Who would you add to the list?

British Museum Time Travel Adventure

Travel back in time and across continents to meet Greek gods, ancient Egyptian pharaohs and fierce Viking warriors at the British Museum. What will you put into your time capsule?



Festive tours for Christmas at the British Museum and the National Gallery

Scour the British Museum for unique presents, including games, jewellery and must have fashion items from 2500 BCE to the present day.

Or join a host of angels to celebrate Christmas at the National Gallery. Will you spot the Christmas pudding?

Gallery and museum tours last around 60 to 120 minutes and cost from £280.