Manchester Language School

ENGLISH LANGUAGE GARDEN TOURS

THE GREAT YORKSHIRE GARDEN EXPERIENCE

Sunday 23 to Saturday 29 June 2019

Yorkshire is the artist David Hockney's home county, where the warm heart of England beats strong and fast. This is the biggest of the historic counties, the white rose county of the Shakespearean Wars of the Roses. It has a varied and rich landscape of green farmland, chalk wolds (downs), rugged heather moor land, a stunning coastline and ancient historic cities like York itself. It is a vast experience to explore and a garden lover's ‘go to’ destination.

Yorkshire was also the birthplace of the sculptors Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth and their artistic heritage enhances the garden landscapes of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park and the Hepworth gallery. In Yorkshire, architecture and garden making was financed by the wealth of wool, coal and steel. The cultured and cultivated context of Yorkshire will create unforgettable memories and literary resonances with the Brontë oeuvre (*Wuthering Heights*, *Jane Eyre*) or the contemporary landscape poetry of Simon Armitage.

**Programme and Itinerary**

The final details of the course are a work in progress but here is a taste of the items on the menu.

CASTLE HOWARD is a sublime arcadian landscape and the setting for a baroque treasure house. The Seven Wonders of the ancient world can be found in its gardens - temples, pyramids. obelisks, statues and a mausoleum among many. It houses the Yorkshire arboretum and a national rose collection.

HAREWOOD HOUSE is a neo classical treasure house filled with art works. ‘Capability’ Brown refined the landscape park and Italianate terraces offer formal parterres between art and nature [improved. Th](http://improved.Th)is place has a contemporary art gallery and museum quality contents. It is also a private house with a penguin colony!

SCAMPSTON Piet Oudolf's best work in England is here. His currents of planting and rivers of grasses find a strongly defined realisation in this walled kitchen garden remake.

STUDLEY ROYAL takes us for a picturesque promenade through a landscape valley to deliver the grandest ‘Eyecatcher’ in England, the ruins of Fountains Abbey.

THE YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK is a world class exhibition landscape. Sculpture interacts with its setting and like a treasure trail the park is experienced as an enticing chain of interventions. In the open air, sculpture reminds us that stone and metal are as old as the earth and older than the most ancient trees . Moore and Hepworth were haunted by the morphology of the Yorkshire landscape all their working [lives. Th](http://lives.Th)ey reflect its significant form as much as Hockney presents it as a feast of colour.

Sheffield is where NIGEL DUNNETT has perfected his *rus in urbe* signature planting of ‘pictorial meadows’. Annual flowers from seed are cheap and easy and provide summer long colour in urban spaces. Wildflowers come to town.

Italy also came to this part of England at RENISHAW. Here Sir George Sitwell, after 20 years studying gardens in Italy, took the precepts of Alberti (*De Re Aedificatoria*), and planted them with ’Arts and Crafts’ English informality. Renishaw, home of a literary dynasty, reminds us that Yorkshire moorlands produced the Brontë Family.

THERE IS SO MUCH TO YORKSHIRE. It is famed for its afternoon teas, its freshly caught Fish and Chips which we’ll eat on the coast at SCARBOROUGH, and the glorious Yorkshire Pudding which turns roast beef into a banquet! There are so many gardens that creating our detailed programme will be selecting the best of the best.

THE CITY OF YORK, our base for the week, is the history of England preserved and alive today in a rich continuum. York’s Gothic Minster (cathedral) is one of the finest in Europe and the medieval streets are an exploration into history. This plus SHAKESPEARE’S *TEMPEST* performed in a reconstruction of London’s Globe/Rose theatres will surely make this Yorkshire experience one of the finest that Manchester Language School has ever offered.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR EARLY REPLY SO PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND COME AND JOIN US- PLACES ARE LIMITED.

Accommodation and breakfast: Hotel, York

Selected evening meals: Various restaurants still to be decided

Course fee: £1,650