



Gardens of Kent



There many gardens in Kent being "the garden of England" here are a few you many enjoy:

Charts Edge Garden –



Charts Edge is a member of the National Gardens Scheme which opens fine gardens to the public to raise money for charity. Following the success of this venture the owners have recently decided to open the garden to the public themselves on Friday and Sunday from mid - April until mid - September from 2.00 - 5.00 PM.

Charts Edge comprises seven acres of spectacular gardens and contains many unusual and diverse features. These Include magnificent displays of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Camellias and Magnolias, a Victorian Folly and Dell garden, water gardens and cascades, large mixed and herbaceous borders (including the new rill garden with rainbow border), a superb rock garden with over 150 varieties of plants and a sculpture trail.

The garden contains many rare and unusual plants the majority of which are labelled. There is also a tearoom and plant sales. The garden is still being restored and extended by the present owners and offers fine views over the North Downs.

Charts Edge garden is located on the outskirts of Westerham in Kent on the B2026.

Charts Edge Gardens are located on the Kent / Surrey border and are only 22 miles from central London.

By road: Charts Edge Gardens are located just off the A25 on the B2026, 0.6 mile South of Westerham. We are easily accessed from junctions 5 and 6 of the M25 – follow the signs to the A25 to Westerham.

By Rail: Sevenoaks station is 6.5 miles (direct line from London's Charing Cross Station) or Oxted station is 5.5 miles (direct line from London's Victoria Station). You are then able to catch a bus to Westerham – please see below

By Bus: Metrobus 246 from Bromley South, Metrobus 401 from Sevenoaks or Metrobus 410 from Oxted. All of these routes pass through Westerham, from where you need to disembark. The gardens are approximately 1 mile from the centre of Westerham, along the B2026.

ADMISSION PRICES - the entry charges for 2006-7 are: website

Adults - £3.50

OAPs - £3.00

Children – free

Groombridge Place Gardens –



Surrounded by acres of beautiful parkland, Groombridge place has history dating back to the 17th century. The backdrop to the formal walled gardens, is the classical Restoration manor house (not open to the public) which is surrounded by a medieval moat..

Philip Packer designed the formal pleasure gardens in 1674, having recently finished building his new house. For the following three hundred years the gardens were unseen except by a favoured few but are now open for the public to enjoy.

The formal gardens are divided into a series of outside rooms, together with extensive herbaceous borders, designed to provide views from the house. The beauty of the formal gardens at Groombridge lies in their structure, including the walls, gates, pathways, stone steps, urns and pools.

Vibrant colour and imaginative planting provide interest throughout the seasons, from drifts of daffodils, tulips and blossom in spring, to the stunning displays of the herbaceous borders in summer, the white rose garden featuring an exquisite blend of 20 different varieties of white roses. This is followed in autumn by the hot reds and golds of perennial asters, sunflowers and dahlias and the dramatic leaf colours.

On the steep hills beyond the formal gardens lies the more recently created enchanted forest, with mysterious themed gardens combined with adventure playgrounds, to entertain the younger visitors.

Groombridge is located 4 miles south west of Tunbridge Wells on the B2110.

Higham Park –



The Higham Park estate can be traced back to 1320 when it was ceded to the 'De Hegham' family by Edward II. Since those early days it has been home to many important and colourful characters, including in the 1920's Count Louis Vorrow Zborowski who conceived and built the first aero-engine powered racing cars on the estate, later immortalised by Fleming's fantasy film 'Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang'. Higham Park has also been frequented by the rich and famous including Mozart, Jane Austen, General Charles de Gaulle and royalty.

The Fortunes of the estate declined following its use as a Hospital for an prolonged period commencing during the second World War and extending to 1981 when it was closed and estate fell into neglect and disrepair.

In 1995 an amazing restoration project commenced with three people pooling their resources to buy the derelict mansion and some 25 acres of wilderness, following a life changing decision to undertake the extensive renovation of Higham Park.

These three people are Barry Gibb his mother Patricia and Amanda Harris-Deans who knowing more about horses than houses and gardening, embarked upon the massive restoration of the mansion and gardens. The restoration is still ongoing but the major part is complete and a conducted tour of the house reveals the fascinating story of the highs and lows of ten years of renovation.

The result is the creation of one of the area's most impressive stately homes, with gardens extending for 25 acres, including a spectacular sunken Italian water garden and a terraced rose garden.

Higham Park is located at Bridge off the A2, three miles south of Canterbury. *BRIDGE NR CANTERBURY, KENT, CT4 5BE, UNITED KINGDOM. Phone: +44 (0)01227 830830*