Join the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Botanic Gardens Conservation International to experience this very special week celebrating Virginia’s 80th Historic Garden Week.

Nestled in the shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains is your home base, Charlottesville, Virginia, where you’ll find extraordinary gardens, southern hospitality, natural beauty, cultural pursuits and premier wineries. Step inside some of the area’s most beautiful private homes and gardens.

Step back into history by touring the University of Virginia’s pavilion gardens and Monticello, the mountaintop home of Thomas Jefferson. Explore Jefferson’s lifelong interest in gardening, botany, and agriculture while enjoying the beauty and variety of Monticello’s restored flower and vegetable gardens, groves, and orchards.

Then visit Montpelier, James Madison’s home, and three famous plantations along the James River: the Brandon plantation, an example of colonial architecture; the Berkeley plantation, the home of President Harrison and the first Thanksgiving; and the Shirley plantation, the most intact 18th-century estate in Virginia.

Take this opportunity to participate in the oldest and largest garden tour event in the nation on its 80th anniversary! Tours showcase formal gardens, walled gardens, cottage gardens, cutting gardens, annual and perennial gardens, herb gardens, water gardens and even secret gardens.

“No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.”
-Thomas Jefferson, 1811

Included Features:
- Roundtrip airfare from Minneapolis-St. Paul to Charlottesville, Virginia
- Round-trip transfers between airport and hotel
- Ground transportation
- Five nights accommodations in Charlottesville, Virginia
- Breakfast daily
- Two lunches
- Welcome dinner
- Participation in Virginia’s famous Historic Garden Week including visits to private gardens
- All activities, guided tours and entrance fees during scheduled sightseeing
- Luggage service (one bag per person)
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Donation to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum or Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- Expert host throughout tour: Peter Olin of University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Not included in the tour: Any airline fees for checked luggage, optional sightseeing activities, gratuities to drivers and guides, meals not indicated in the itinerary, excess luggage charges, travel insurance and any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary.
Virginia’s 80th Historic Garden Week

Monday, April 22—Travel along the historic and scenic Route 5 to some of the famous James River Plantations, built as early as 1613, with breathtaking views of the James River. Explore the magnificent gardens and grounds at your own pace. One of our stops will be at Shirley Plantation, Virginia’s first plantation (still a working plantation), whose direct link between the past and present features the “Flying Staircase” and Queen Anne Forecourt.

Tuesday, April 23—After breakfast, venture off to Whispering Pines, home to Carol and Bernard Tautkus. Included are many artistic features within the park-like, wooded setting with accented stone and brick walkways that wind through open woodlands. A disappearing fountain featuring a 500-pound piece of granite will calm the soul. Return to the hotel and gather your bags before your transfer to Charlottesville airport for you flight home.

Itinerary subject to change.

B = Breakfast   L = Lunch  D = Dinner

Not a member? You can still come along! Non-members will need to add $100 per person to the tour price. To qualify for the Arboretum member’s price, each traveler must be a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum or the Botanic Gardens Conservation International. For MNL membership information, please call 952-443-1440. For BGCI membership information, please call 011-44-208-332-5953.

Thursday, April 18—Depart Minneapolis for Charlottesville. Upon arrival, collect your luggage and transfer to the hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia, just 10 miles from the airport. Enjoy an afternoon on your own before we gather for a group welcome dinner.

Friday, April 19—Enjoy a breakfast buffet in the hotel restaurant before departing for Montpelier, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Here you will tour the plantation estate for the Madison family, established by the grandfather of President James Madison in the early 1700s. Montpelier features 2,600 acres of rolling hills, spacious horse pastures, an old-growth forest, mountain vistas, and spectacular gardens featuring formal walkways, sweeping beds, an herb garden, and magnificent marble lions and urns.

A highlight of the day will be a visit to Barboursville Winery, home to the wine that has come to define the viticulture region envisioned by Thomas Jefferson. Here you will enjoy a three-course lunch and wine tasting.

Saturday, April 20—Today you will visit the picturesque rural communities of Ashland and Elmont, among the original villages of Hanover County. This traditional farming area located on the old Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad was once served by electric trolley car, linking it to Richmond. Visit a charming French/Italian stone country house set on 8½ acres of field, forest and river; an 1885 Queen Anne graced by old plantings; the Old Elmont School, now a lovely home with cottage and shade gardens; and a newly-built, European-influenced stone and brick home whose ceiling beams come from the Old Lucky Strike factory.

Sunday, April 21—Immerse yourself in the history and lore of Thomas Jefferson by touring the Rotunda, Academic Village and Pavilion Gardens that he designed at the University of Virginia. Then visit Monticello where you’ll view authentic ornamental landscaping, beautiful vistas, Jefferson’s revolutionary vegetable garden and more. Today we will also enjoy a lovely lunch at Mitchie Tavern.

For more details or to register, please contact Carlson Wagonlit Group Travel

800-533-0324

Want to extend your trip with a visit to Washington, DC? Call us to make arrangements to visit our nation’s capital after this tour. We can recommend some amazing garden experiences in addition to the historic highlights of this area.