

# THE GARDENS OF BAR HARBOR & MT. DESERT ISLAND

*September 6-9, 2018*

Sponsored by the Berkshire Botanical Garden  
Tour Arranged by Classical Excursions



*Skylands (1925), Seal Harbor, Duncan Candler, Architect.*

*Photos: Architectural Digest.*

Mt. Desert Island is considered one of Maine's most revered summer resort islands where such towns as Bar Harbor, Seal Harbor and Northeast Harbor dot the area. The island has been a destination for inspiration, relaxation and outdoor activities since the 1840s. At first, Hudson Valley School painters, most notably Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, travelled to Mount Desert Island and in particular to Bar Harbor to paint images of the area's spectacular seascapes and landscapes.

After the Civil War, great hotels were built for vacationers or “rusticators,” but ultimately the “cottages,” rambling shingle-style mansions, and middleclass summer residences took over the landscape. Today, with a social history that rivals Newport, the Berkshires and Tuxedo Park and great scenic beauty all its own, Mt. Desert remains a major summer destination.

A major aspect of Mt. Desert Island is nature and the cultivation of beautiful gardens. Not only is its beauty unique, according to the Wild Gardens of Acadia organization, but also “the glacial accidents which left it with flora from both the cold north and the warmer south.”

One person stands out for her highly talented contribution, the legendary landscape designer Beatrix Farrand, who summered at Bar Harbor for over half a century, creating over 60 gardens on the island. One of her greatest projects was the **Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden** at Seal Harbor. Collections of plants from her Reef Point home can now be seen at the **Asticou Azalea Garden** and **Thuya Garden**, both at Northeast Harbor. Another Farrand garden can be found at her last home, **Garland Farm**, Salisbury Cove, now maintained by the Beatrix Farrand Society.

The Berkshire Botanical Garden invites you to join an exclusive tour to discover these gardens and more, including a collection of private gardens scattered throughout the island: a garden still maintained as designed by Farrand, a charming floral garden overlooking a harbor, and the naturalistic landscaping that encloses a 1920s stone house whose owner is known for gracious living.



*Garland Farm, Salisbury Cove. Beatrix Farrand. Photos: Beatrix Farrand Society*

## *PARTIAL TOUR HIGHLIGHTS*

A private visit to **Skylands** (1925) by Duncan Candler, built of local pink granite with grounds designed by landscape architect Jens Jensen. Edsel Ford and his family summered here and it is now the Seal Harbor estate of **Martha Stewart**, who calls it "my favorite place."

A private tour and lecture at **Garland Farm** at Salisbury Cove with the president of the Beatrix Farrand Society. Garland Farm was the last home of Beatrix Farrand.

A tour of the **Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden** created between 1926 and 1930 by the legendary designer Beatrix Farrand.

A visit to the **Thuya Gardens**, designed in 1956 by long time North East Harbor resident Charles Savage using plants from Beatrix Farrand's garden at Reef Point. The design is based on the style of Gertrude Jekyll.

Lunch and a tour of the **Asticou Gardens** also designed by Charles Savage using the plant materials from Farrand's Reef Point garden.

Lunch at a **private home** with a **Beatrix Farrand designed garden**

**A three night stay in a centrally located Bar Harbor hotel with water views.**

**Tour Price is \$1350 per person including a tax-deductible donation to the Berkshire Botanical Garden. Registration deadline is Saturday August 3, 2018. Please contact Lani Summerville of Classical Excursions to reserve your space.**

**[lani@classicalexcursions.com](mailto:lani@classicalexcursions.com) Telephone number: 413 446 8728.**