



NO/LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS



**SAVE UP TO £400pp**  
PLUS A 10% PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT  
IF YOU BOOK BY 31 OCTOBER 2023

8 NEW 2024 TOURS

# AWARD-WINNING UK & WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS 2024

PART OF THE SPECIALIST JOURNEYS GROUP OF TOUR OPERATORS







# Your 2024 holiday awaits!

We never stand still here at Brightwater Holidays and following on from our first edition earlier this year, we are thrilled to bring you a new brochure featuring several new additions to our 2024 holiday programme, the inspiration for which has come from a range of sources as well as the team here.

We have two new holidays with an emphasis on the wonderful private properties that take part in the National Garden Scheme and in doing so raise thousands of pounds for charity. In Somerset, a county with historic ties to Brightwater, we visit a host of gardens large and small, where we will be welcomed by enthusiastic and green-fingered owners. A similar welcome awaits in Hampshire, where we also take the opportunity to cross into neighbouring West Sussex to take in the colour and spectacle of the Chichester Festival of Flowers.

We operate a number of bespoke tours for private groups and societies, which often provide the basis for tours that go on to be part of our own programme. One such example is the Gardens of Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, which includes a visit to Barnsdale, the garden of much-loved broadcaster Geoff Hamilton.

Our talented tour managers are also a source of new ideas, and we are grateful to Trevor Edwards for a mouth-watering new holiday to the gardens of Waterford and Cork; to Tony Russell who has come up with a new tour around the south-west corner of Wales, and to Mike Nelhams, who ran an approving eye over the content of our Summer Gardens of Cornwall. The Best Rhododendron Gardens in the World? (surely the first tour we have had with a question mark in the title) came about as a result of a holiday to Galloway earlier this year for our Senior Product Manager, who was blown away by the sheer spectacle of the rhododendrons he encountered there. Finally, we are delighted to be returning once again to the Singapore Garden Festival on a flower-filled tour that will be led by the aforementioned Mike Nelhams, Curator of the Abbey Gardens on Tresco.

As always, do keep an eye on our (soon to be revamped) website for details of further new developments. As I said, we never stand still!

Best wishes,

*Alison Wilson*  
Managing Director

## Previous accolades and continued success



Last year was a momentous one for us here at Brightwater Holidays as we won Gold for Best Travel Company for Coach Holidays at the 2021/22 British Travel Awards, following on from our Bronze for the same prize in 2020. The year before that we won Gold for Best Coach Holiday Company and Silver for Best Special Interest Holiday Company 2019. Additionally, we also won the Feefo 2023 Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service throughout 2022, so you can book with Brightwater safe in the knowledge that your holiday will be operated by a multi-award-winning travel company.

Elsewhere, our very own Jenni Duncan was named a finalist for the coveted Excellence Award, which rewards brilliant service to group travel organisers, and Brightwater being shortlisted for the Best Coach or Tour Operator at the Group Leisure and Travel Awards. We do hope that 2024 offers as many such occasions to celebrate.

### How to book

Once you've finished browsing these pages at your leisure and you're ready to treat yourself to a place on one of our holidays, just get in touch and we'll do the rest!

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call from Monday to Friday between 9am and 6pm, on:

**01334 457 009**

Alternatively, send us an email to:

**info@brightwaterholidays.com**

For further details on any of the trips mentioned, including information on our day-by-day itineraries or full booking conditions, please visit our website:

**www.brightwaterholidays.com**

### Offers

#### EARLY BOOKING - SAVE £400pp

If you book one of the holidays featured in this brochure, you can save up to £400pp. Offer has limited places and ends 31 October 2023. Maximum saving of £400 applies to holidays such as Chile and the Falkland Islands.

#### PAY IN FULL AND SAVE UP TO £1,200pp MORE\*

What's more, if you choose to pay in full at the time of booking you'll get a further 10% off the discounted price meaning you could save up to a huge £1,200 per person!

But hurry, these offers are only valid until the 31 October 2023.

Look out for these badges:

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

\*Pay in full discounts of 10% relate to the amount payable after the Early Booking Offer and any Credit Notes or Customer Holiday Vouchers have been applied. Offer is valid for tours departing from 1 March 2024 and discount can only be applied at the time of booking. These offers cannot be combined with any other offers – please speak to a Specialist Sales Executive for details. Offer expires 31 October 2023 but may be withdrawn at any time. Pay in full offer not applicable to travel agent bookings.

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# The perfect choice

## Brightwater Holidays



When choosing a company to book a holiday with, there are many things to consider. Choose Brightwater Holidays and look forward to a trip booked by multi-award-winning specialists with over 30 years of experience in the travel industry. We pride ourselves on creating memorable itineraries that visit the world's most spectacular gardens, Scottish islands, archaeological sites and much more.

### Fantastic value for money

With the cost of almost everything on the rise, we understand how important it is to offer affordable holidays where many aspects are included, leaving you free to enjoy your time away with nothing to worry about. With Brightwater, everything is taken care of so all you need to do is choose your holiday and meet us at your pick-up point. One of our experienced Tour Managers will be on hand throughout to ensure the smooth running of your trip and other inclusions range from all visits to hotel accommodation, not forgetting transport between visits aboard one of our comfortable coaches.

### Hassle-free travel

An escorted coach tour is the ultimate hassle-free way to enjoy a holiday. Our friendly drivers will collect you from your designated pick-up points (*details of which can be found on each tour page*), your luggage will be safely stowed away and you can sit back and enjoy the view as your trip gets off to a relaxing (*and often scenic*) start.

### Let the experts take the lead

We know that planning a holiday that involves visits to multiple gardens or different islands can be quite a challenge, what with the logistics of travelling from one place to another or ensuring you arrive on time for ticket entry, so choose a Brightwater holiday and we'll do all that for you.

### Knowledgeable tour managers

All of our holidays are led by experienced and friendly Tour Managers, among whom you will find a former Head Gardener to HM the Queen Mother at Windsor, popular horticulturalists, award-winning garden designers and broadcasters.

### Financial protection

All our tours are fully bonded and protected via the Civil Aviation Authority's ATOL scheme (*flight-based holidays*) or through ABTOT (*for holidays that don't include flights*).

### We cater for different needs & activity levels

As our collection of holidays is so broad, it means that we can cater for all kinds of interests – from ancient archaeological sites to island-hopping adventures – and varying activity levels.

### Personalise your holiday

When you travel with Brightwater Holidays, your enjoyment of the trip is our priority. This is why we offer a variety of ways in which you can tailor your holiday to best fit your needs as there are always things we can do to help! From extending your stay with extra nights before or after your escorted tour to room upgrades and even booking regional flights, there's nothing we can't help with.

### Back to back tours

Many of our tours can be linked together with just a night or two in between. If you book two holidays back-to-back we offer a discount of £50 per person, with a maximum of three nights in between each tour, subject to a minimum spend of £750 per person per tour.

### Multi-tour discounts

If you book three or more tours in the same calendar year, you will receive £100 per person off your third booking. To qualify for this discount, at least two of your three tour bookings must be for overseas tours.



# Customer Testimonials

We also value feedback shared by guests when they return from our carefully crafted holidays and here are some of our most recent reviews:



*"Highly enjoyable. We managed to see so much of the island thanks to the knowledge of the local driver Phil and the enthusiasm of our guide, Alastair Walker. I had a list of must sees which I saw and so much else was offered. I feel I have seen more of Shetland than I expected."*

Guest on Shetland and its Outer Isles, July 2023



*"It is rare for us to have no problems or complaints about a holiday... but this is a first! From the airport meet and greet to the return flight it all went like clockwork. The holiday greatly exceeded our expectations!"*

Guest on The Irish Rover, June 2023



*"For years I have wanted to visit Monet's Garden and I am so happy that I have waited to do that with Brightwater. The tour was magical. Our accommodation at the Château, our daily visits, and especially our tour manager, Michael Gill, made this a special holiday. It was the perfect length, and we were given just the right amount of free time. It couldn't have been better. Thank you, Brightwater."*

Guest on The Genius of Monet, May 2023



*"An amazing holiday with an excellent itinerary and a very knowledgeable tour leader, as well as a great selection of stunningly beautiful gardens. Overall, a holiday I will never forget. I'm nostalgic already!"*

Guest on Seasonal Gardens of Japan, March 2023



*"This was an outstanding holiday with a variety of archaeological sites on a daily basis. The visit to Knossos was the highlight for me, a real treat. Would definitely recommend this holiday to anybody interested in the ancient world"*

Guest on Crete Archaeology, April 2023



# What's New

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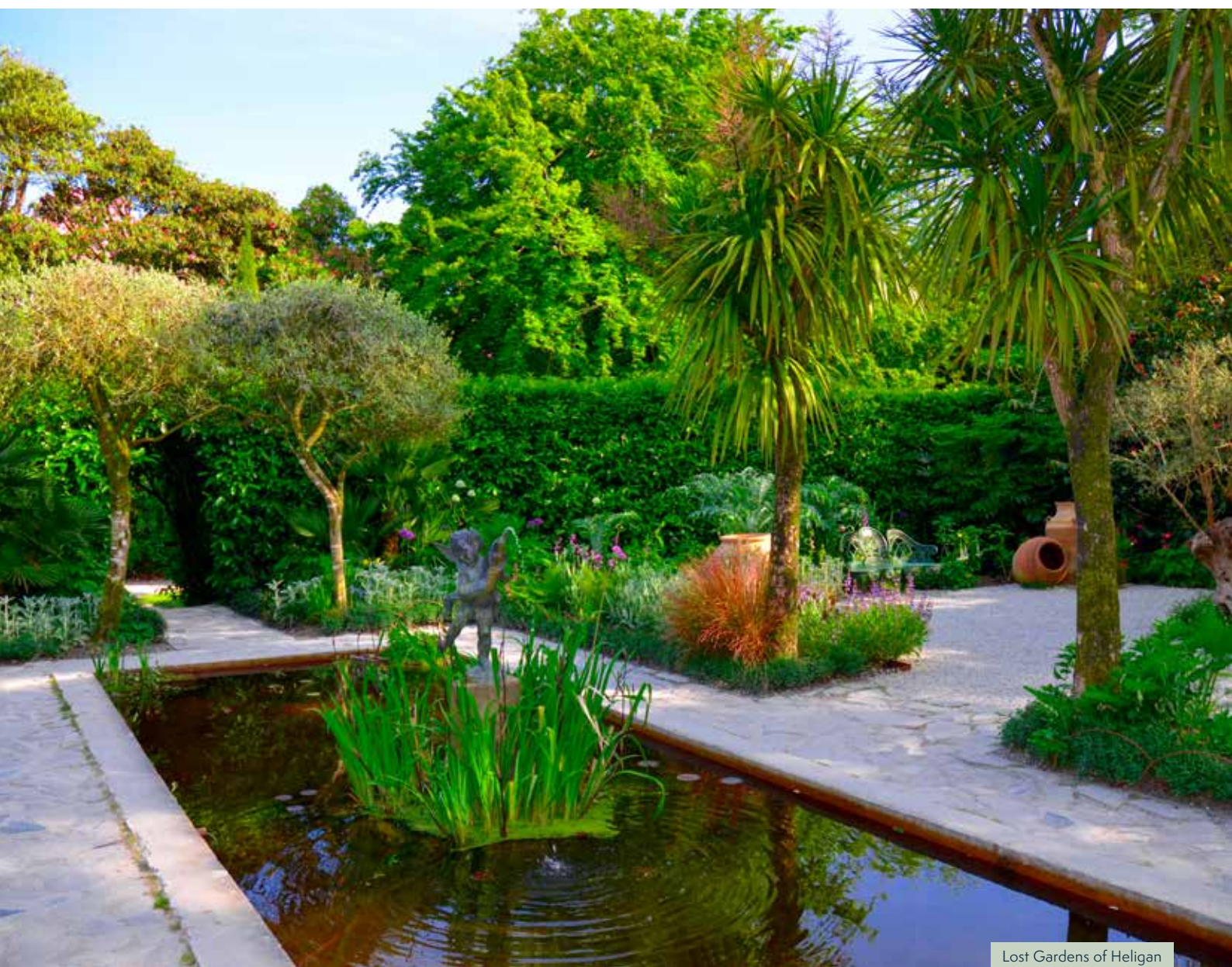
We are unveiling eight new holidays in this edition, from Cornwall and Somerset and the Chichester Flower Festival to a little-known corner of England and the magnificent rhododendrons of Galloway, as well as sizzling Singapore.

## Summer Gardens of Cornwall

A visit to Cornwall in early summer is a rewarding experience and there is an abundance of gardens to choose from. Thanks to the benign climate a wide range of plants can be grown here, from the great Asiatic shrubs to tender exotics. Among the outstanding visits is a specially arranged guided tour of the garden at Tregrehan with owner Tom Hudson, who will give us his personal insight into the pleasures and pitfalls of gardening here in the Duchy of Cornwall. We also offer the chance to visit the wonderful Abbey Gardens on Tresco. **Discover more on page 44.**

## Somerset's Secret Gardens

One of England's most scenic counties is Somerset, whose lush green pastures, orchards and little villages provide a wonderful backdrop to a most colourful and varied collection of private gardens at a time when they will be looking at their absolute best. Most of them take part in the National Gardens Scheme which raises money for charity and we are grateful to the Somerset County Organiser for helping us to select the very best gardens. Pick of the bunch is Batcombe House, a plantswoman's and designer's garden in two parts: one a riot of colour and the other a calm contemporary amphitheatre with large herbaceous borders and interesting trees and shrubs. **Discover more on page 42.**



Lost Gardens of Heligan





### The Chichester Flower Festival and Gardens of Hampshire

The Chichester Flower Festival only comes round every two years so 2024 is a great opportunity to visit this most colourful spectacle, set in the magnificent 940 year-old Cathedral. Tour Manager Julia Corden (*currently Head Gardener at Goodwood House*) helped us select the gardens that complete our itinerary. These include Hinton Ampner, widely acknowledged as a masterpiece of 20th-century garden design; Bramdean, with its famous mirror-image borders, and Mottisfont Abbey, whose peerless collection of pre-1900 old roses will be in full bloom. **Discover more on page 41.**

### Gardens of Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire

This brand new holiday represents a perfect example of a tour that was originally a bespoke tour for one of our private groups. It was so successful that we have added it, in slightly altered form, to our own programme so that the horticultural delights of this corner of England can be brought to a wider audience. Barnsdale, the garden of the late and much-loved broadcaster Geoff Hamilton is perhaps the standout visit. **Discover more on page 43.**





Lismore Castle

## The Best Rhododendron Gardens in the World?

Brightwater's Senior Product Manager Andrew Sharples and his wife took a holiday in Galloway in May this year and were bowled over by the stunning spectacle of masses of rhododendrons in full bloom at Castle Kennedy and Glenwhan gardens. The idea for a new tour was quickly formed and with the help of Tour Manager and local resident Colin Crosbie it was a simple task to create a four-day itinerary that brings together the best rhododendron gardens in Galloway - if not the world! **Discover more on page 35.**

## Gardens of Waterford and Cork

Tour manager, garden designer, broadcaster and all round good egg Trevor Edwards has personally selected the gardens in this new tour in the south of the Republic of Ireland. From our two bases in Cork and Waterford we explore one horticultural gem after another, from Fota Arboretum to the Lafcadio Hearn Japanese garden and the Ballymaloe Cookery School. We also visit Mount Congreve, home to one of the largest private collections of plants in the world, which at Trevor's suggestion has also been added to our long-running Irish Rover tour. **Discover more on pages 38 and 52.**

## Gardens of South and West Wales

Tony Russell, former Head Forester at Westonbirt Arboretum, is affectionately known as 'Our Man in Wales' and it's to him we turn when looking for new tours to the Principality. He duly obliged with this lovely little tour of South and West Wales which features smaller private gardens such as Llwyngarreg and Dyffryn Fernant as well as large and famous properties like Upton Castle, Aberglasney and the National Botanic Garden of Wales. **Discover more on page 46.**



## Singapore Garden Festival

We are delighted to be returning to the island country and city-state of Singapore for their biennial Garden Festival. Lying just one degree above the equator, Singapore's geographic location makes the Festival an ideal platform to showcase horticultural and gardening products and services from the northern and southern hemispheres, as well as from Asia and New World nations. It was the first event to bring together top international award-winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturalists from around the world, who are invited to the Festival to work alongside Singapore's own talented horticulturalists. The tropical climate is delightful and of course makes for lush gardens, while the multicultural and peaceful population is always welcoming. Mike Nelhams, Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens, will be our tour leader and is very much looking forward to returning to this vibrant city-state.

**Discover more on page 76.**





# You're in good hands with our Tour Managers

Enjoying a holiday with Brightwater means that everything is taken care of – something that starts with our experienced Tour Managers. From a former royal Head Gardener and one of Britain's leading authorities on trees and shrubs to highly knowledgeable experts in various fields, our Tour Managers make the Brightwater experience truly memorable, and many guests go on to choose future holidays led by the same people. Allow us to introduce some of them to you.



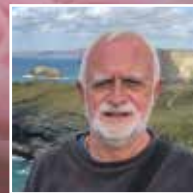
**Trevor Edwards**

*"As the Dalai Lama once said, if you contribute to other people's happiness, you will find the true meaning of life. Using my garden knowledge and experience, I see it as my job as Tour Manager to bring happiness to my fellow travellers".*



**Colin Crosbie**

*"The first time I witnessed the cherry blossom in Japan it blew me away and no photo can prepare you for the overwhelming experience. I remember this tour with great fondness as I have always had a great passion for Japanese plants, gardens and culture."*



**Michael Gill**

*"My favourite Tour within Britain has to be the seven-day Chelsea Flower Show Tour. What wonderful sights it encompasses - from the amazing spectacle and excitement of Chelsea, to the quiet contemplation of sacred Sissinghurst sequestered in the heart of the Garden of England."*



**Alastair Walker**

*"One of my most memorable experiences is bathing in the dark at naturally occurring thermal springs in Iceland before spending the rest of the evening enjoying the fantastic spectacle of the northern lights. Just two of the many unique experiences to be found here in one of my favourite destinations."*



**David MacLennan**

*"I enjoy the company of like minded travellers who enjoy tours of all subject matter, and find the task of enhancing their tours stimulating, satisfying and rewarding. A smiling face is a happy satisfied one."*



**Sue Pomeroy**

*"Birdwatching and Wildlife Safari in Tanzania" is perfectly named as at the airport we were welcomed by a flock of "Superb starlings". This was just a prelude to the incredible abundance that was to follow. From weaver birds and lilac-breasted rollers to elephants and leopards, the list is endless."*

# Extensions and group travel

When you travel with Brightwater Holidays, it is important that you enjoy every second of your trip. This is why we offer a variety of ways in which you can tailor your holiday to best fit your needs, and there are always things we can do to help.

Lots of previous travellers have tasked us with securing connecting flights to help them reach their departure points and many more have requested flights from regional airports to make their journeys easier. Should you wish to enhance your experience, we can also sort out hotel room upgrades or help you to extend your time away. We can, where possible, accommodate your requests for rooms with walk-in showers or try to ensure they are on lower floors – no question is too challenging and where we can, we will always do our best to meet your needs.



## Extend pre- or post-tour

If you want to explore more of what your chosen destination has to offer, why not extend your trip by adding extra nights before or after your tour.



## Room and cabin upgrades

Whether you want to treat yourself to a room with a sea view, sprawl out in a junior suite or gaze across the water from an upper deck cabin, let us know and we'll do what we can to make it happen.



## Air connections

Many guests contact us to help them get to their departure points and we can always book your regional flights, should you require them. We can also help you with airport parking, just get in touch to discuss your needs.



## Extra nights either side

If you have to travel to reach your departure point, you may want to take it easy with a night at a hotel on either side of your holiday either in a relevant city or at an airport. We can help you to book this for a supplement.

## Private group travel

Since our inception over 30 years ago, we have provided tailor-made travel arrangements for many private groups and societies, with a dedicated Group Travel department providing a highly personal service.

The itineraries and packages have been as varied as the groups themselves, ranging from a short city break in Europe to an extended tour of South Africa. Typically, our tours include all transportation, accommodation and entry costs, visiting gardens, stately homes, art galleries and other specialist attractions – depending on the group's individual requirements. On most occasions we also provide an experienced Tour Manager, who will ensure the smooth running of the holiday, leaving the group organisers free to relax and enjoy themselves.

We aim to fully understand the requirements of your group, so if you are a group travel organiser or a group of friends, and would like some advice or a quote, please contact our Private Groups Manager, Jenni Duncan, who would be delighted to help tailor-make a package for you. Jenni was named a finalist for Group Leisure & Travel's prestigious Excellence Award in 2021, which rewards brilliant service to group travel organisers, so you'll be in fantastic hands.

If you're organising a holiday for a small group of friends, a club of 40 or anything in between – we'll find the visits and hotels that offer the perfect fit. We can tailor-make an itinerary to suit your budget, style and imagination – the possibilities are endless!



## Get in touch and get the ball rolling

Jenni Duncan is our Private Groups Manager and she would love to help plan your next group holiday.

Please get in touch by calling her on 01334 766 064 or emailing [groups@brightwaterholidays.com](mailto:groups@brightwaterholidays.com) to get things started. You can also visit our website for some inspiration: [www.brightwaterholidays.com](http://www.brightwaterholidays.com)

No matter what stage of planning you're at, our team will be able to work with you every step of the way.

**brightwater**  
tailor-made group travel



## The Excellence Award

Our very own Jenni Duncan was shortlisted for Group Leisure & Travel's coveted Excellence Award. We are incredibly proud of her for being named a finalist and the support she received from previous clients to make it that far was outstanding. Well done, Jenni!





# United Kingdom and Ireland

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Glorious gardens, historic homes, world-class art and evocative archaeological sites await in the British Isles, and a tour here will show you just how much there is to discover. We have a broad range of UK-based holidays that can take you from private gardens to grand castles and their grounds, and everything in between.











The Jacobite steam train

4 DAYS FROM

**£695**

SAVE PER PERSON

**£50**

NO/LOW SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## A Classic Scottish Steam Break

Steam locomotion has an enduring fascination for many of us and combined with the wonderful scenery of Scotland it becomes utterly irresistible. The Jacobite steam train, from Fort William to Mallaig, is one of the longest steam-hauled rail journeys available in Britain today, an 84-mile round trip through some spectacular scenery that also includes the 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct. A gentler pace is set as we sail 'Doon ra Watter' on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, the PS Waverley\*, still elegantly plying her trade on the Clyde. There can be no better way to enjoy the gentle beauty of the Argyll hills and the Kyles of Bute than from the deck of this grand old lady. We also enjoy a relaxed and informative cruise on the calm waters of Loch Katrine amid the spectacular scenery of the Trossachs and a boat trip on the Falkirk Wheel, the world's first rotating boat lift and a modern engineering marvel. We offer two different packages for this tour following the same itinerary: one staying at the Arrochar Hotel and one staying at the Stirling Highland Hotel.



Falkirk Wheel





The Waverley



Loch Katrine

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh*) and travel to the **Falkirk Wheel**, the world's first rotating boat lift. We enjoy spectacular scenery as the wheel makes its ascent to join the **Union Canal** 35m above. We sail along the canal and under the Antonine Wall, the Romans' most northern frontier, and explore the visitor centre. We continue to our hotel for dinner. (*D*)

**Day 2** Today is long but rewarding as we journey back in time aboard the **Jacobite steam train** and experience one of the most spectacular railway journeys in the world, the **Fort William to Mallaig line**. From the slopes of Ben Nevis, the line runs through rugged mountains, past sea and inland lochs and on to the shores of the Atlantic at Mallaig. The route also takes us over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct** overlooking Loch Shiel, where

Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745. Enjoy some free time in **Mallaig**. (*B, D*)

**Day 3** Today we sail on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, **The Waverley\***, built in 1946 to replace the 1899 Waverley, which was sunk at Dunkirk. We leave the ship at Tighnabruaich and our coach will take us back to the hotel, travelling by the "Rest and Be Thankful". (*B, D*)

**Day 4** Following breakfast we cruise on **Loch Katrine**, set among the Trossachs. We continue by Aberfoyle, the Duke's Pass and Loch Venachar to **Callander**, where free time awaits before we return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

**Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*

*\*Please note that the itinerary is subject to the Waverley's sailing schedule.*

#### STIRLING HIGHLAND HOTEL

##### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Stirling Highland Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel on the Jacobite steam train
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

##### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

###### 2024

17 - 20 May	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
12 - 15 Jul	<b>£875</b>	<b>£825</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£135</b>

Tour code: **BSTH**

**THE PACKAGE ABOVE IS ALSO OFFERED BY AIR FROM LONDON STANSTED (AND OTHER AIRPORTS ON REQUEST) ON 28 JUNE AND 2 AUGUST, FOUR DAYS FROM £1095PP (£995PP IF BOOKED BEFORE 31 OCTOBER 2023)**

Tour code: **BSTL**

#### ARROCHAR HOTEL

##### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Arrochar Hotel, Loch Long
- ▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel on the Jacobite steam train
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

##### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

###### 2024

18 - 21 Apr	<b>£745</b>	<b>£695</b>
9 - 12 May	<b>£775</b>	<b>£725</b>
20 - 23 Jun	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
8 - 11 Aug	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
10 - 13 Oct	<b>£775</b>	<b>£725</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£90</b>

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR AND OCT**

Tour code: **BSTB**





Luskentyre

5 DAYS FROM  
**£945**

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1,295**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

Whether you choose our five or six day itinerary, our best-selling grand tour takes in all the beauty and diversity of this very special environment with ten different islands and four ferry trips included. Two comfortable hotels ensure that this holiday is as relaxing as possible while at the same time offering great variety and the sense of a true journey of discovery which will live long in the memory. Our odyssey begins as we travel via Glencoe, Fort William and Glenfinnan to Mallaig. From here we take the ferry to Lochboisdale in South Uist and cross the causeway to Benbecula, the 'stepping stone' between the Uists, before visiting the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra.

A captivating journey follows as we travel by ferry from North Uist and on through the magnificent mountain scenery of Harris, the rolling moorland of Lewis, and on to Stornoway. We continue with visits to the Standing Stones of Callanish, the tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gearranan.



St Clement's Church





Callanish Standing Stones



Kisimul Castle

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow) for Mallaig, where we take the ferry to Lochboisdale, with dinner served on board. On arrival we continue to our hotel in **Benbecula**. (D)

**Day 2** We drive south to the island of **Eriskay** and continue by ferry to **Barra**. On our tour of the island we will see **Kisimul Castle**; **Cockleshell Beach**, which serves as the island's runway, and **Vatersay** with its amazing beaches of white sand and turquoise sea. (B, D)

**Day 3** We travel north today as we take the ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh on the isle of **Harris**, visiting **St Clement's Church** at Rodel before continuing through the mountains to **Lewis** and our hotel in Stornoway. (B, D)

**Day 4** The 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, **Black Houses of Gearrannan** and **Norse Mill** at Shawbost await us today. (B, D)

**Day 5** We visit **Lewis Castle and Museum** and **St. Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important

archaeological sites in the area. We then see the **Port of Ness** and the **Butt of Lewis**, home to the Stevenson lighthouse. (B, D)

**Day 6** We take an early ferry to **Ullapool** and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

*The Stornoway to Benbecula itinerary operates in reverse, with two nights in Stornoway and three nights in Benbecula.*

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

#### 5-DAY ITINERARY DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 – 22 Mar	<del>£995</del>	£945
15 – 19 Apr	<del>£1,095</del>	£995
30 Sep – 4 Oct	<del>£1,095</del>	£995
Single Supplement	from £120	

Tour code: **BGTO**

**AN AIR VERSION OF THIS TOUR IS ALSO AVAILABLE DEPARTING ON 18 MAR & 30 SEP 2024 - FROM £1,495PP (£1,395PP IF BOOKED BY 31 OCT). PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.**

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED - 6-DAY ITINERARY

- Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island / Isle of Benbecula Hotel and three nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway (one dinner and one breakfast served on board the ferry)
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

#### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON BENBECULA TO STORNOWAY

2024		
21 - 26 Apr	<del>£1,395</del>	£1,295
23 - 28 Jun	<del>£1,495</del>	£1,395

#### STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA

2024		
14 - 19 May	<del>£1,445</del>	£1,345
19 - 24 Aug	<del>£1,495</del>	£1,395
Single Supplement	£250	

Tour code: **BGTS**





St Magnus Cathedral

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1,495**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT\*

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Highlights of Orkney & Shetland

Sail away to lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery – the Orkney and Shetland isles. Many people have landed there before us, some as early as 3,000 BC. Most famous of all were the Vikings, but they were not alone and all around you historical treasures can be found. Both Orkney and Shetland have their own identities - Orkney is green and fertile, while Shetland has rugged cliff and sea loch landscapes. However, both share a colourful history of Picts, Norsemen, ancient antiquities and seafaring legends – bound together with an independent spirit that sets them apart from the rest of Scotland. We sail with Serco Northlink Ferries aboard their modern, purpose-built vessels overnight from Aberdeen to Lerwick, and then there are two full days to tour Shetland. After rejoining the ship for an evening sailing to Kirkwall, we have two days to explore Orkney.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth*) and head for Aberdeen and take the overnight ferry to Lerwick. (*D*)

**Day 2** We leave the ship after breakfast and start our Shetland tour. Our first stop is in **Scalloway**, the former capital of Shetland, where we visit the ruined castle. We then continue north towards the spectacular cliffs of **Eshaness**, and the narrow isthmus known as **Mavis Grind**. (*B, D*)

**Day 3** Our day starts at the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. Over three acres of remains are here, spanning 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age, including Bronze Age houses, Iron Age broch and wheel houses, Viking long houses and medieval farmhouses. We also visit **Sumburgh Head** with its RSPB reserve and enjoy free time in Lerwick. Later we re-join our ship for the evening sailing to Kirkwall, with dinner served on board. On arrival we transfer to the Kirkwall Hotel. (*B, D*)

**Day 4** This morning we have an all day excursion of west mainland Orkney visiting the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney – World Heritage Sites**. We begin at **Maeshowe**, the finest chambered

tomb in Western Europe. Built before 2700 BC Maeshowe was raided by Vikings in the 12th Century. It thus houses the largest collection of runic inscriptions to be found in any one place in the world. We shall also visit the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, with the adjacent Neolithic village of **Barnhouse**, before continuing to **Skara Brae**, with its new visitor centre depicting the history of this world famous monument and **Skaill House**, a fascinating architectural medley to the side of Skara Brae. (*B, D*)

**Day 5** This morning, we have free time to explore **Kirkwall** at leisure. Later, we tour the south end of Orkney, crossing the **Churchill Barriers** and visiting the charming **Italian Chapel**, which was built on a former prisoner of war camp. (*B, D*)

**Day 6** After breakfast we catch the ferry from Stromness back to the mainland. From here, we return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

**Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



Sumburgh Head

THERE IS AN AIR VERSION OF THIS TOUR ON 25 MAR & 25 MAY FROM £1,895PP (£1,795PP IF BOOKED BY 31 OCT). SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ One night's dinner, bed and breakfast at the Busta House Hotel, Shetland and three nights' bed and breakfast (plus two dinners) at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ All ferry crossings, including one night's accommodation in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjaltland on the outward sailing
- ▶ One breakfast and two dinners on board ship
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 16 May	<b>£1,595</b>	<b>£1,495</b>
29 Jun - 4 Jul	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
14 - 19 Aug	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
16 - 21 Sep	<b>£1,595</b>	<b>£1,495</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£425</b>
Outside Cabin Supplement		<b>£55</b>
<b>NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR*</b>		

Tour code: **BOSH**





Jarlshof

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1,595**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland

The islands of Orkney and Shetland are littered with archaeological remains. People first came here over 5,000 years ago and many of their remains survive. Research is ongoing here and excavations by archaeologists continue to uncover new information. The islands are therefore of enormous interest to anyone who enjoys first-hand contact with ancient settlements and buildings as well as the people who once lived here.

During our time on Shetland we will visit the uninhabited island of Mousa with its 2,000-year-old full size broch, the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof; St. Ninian's Isle with its 6th century church and the ruined castle of Scalloway. We then travel to Orkney where we visit the Italian Chapel and the Churchill Barriers; Maeshowe, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe; the stone circles of Stenness and Brodgar and the famous site at Skara Brae as well as Skail House. En route to Aberdeen, we will stop for a photo opportunity at Dunnottar Castle, a cliff top fortress dating back to the 3rd century.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth) and head for Aberdeen. We will stop for a photo opportunity at **Dunnottar Castle**, a dramatic ruined clifftop fortress, before taking the overnight ferry to Lerwick. (D)

**Day 2** We begin our exploration of Shetland with a visit to the Iron Age broch on the little island of **Mousa**. Remarkably the broch of Mousa still stands to its original height of 13m. The island is also a nature reserve and is rich in wildlife. We continue to the outstanding Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, spanning 3,000 years of human habitation. Finally, we stop at the nearby cliffs at **Sumburgh Head**, an RSPB reserve renowned for the puffins and seabirds that reside here. (B, D)

**Day 3** Our first visit of the day is to **St. Ninian's Isle** and its church dating from the 6th century when Christianity first came to Shetland. We then travel to **Scalloway** to visit the ruined castle and continue through the **Tingwall Valley**, the site of the old Norse parliament. (B, D)

**Day 4** We tour the southern end of Orkney

Mainland with visits to the **Churchill Barriers** and the **Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. Several hundred Italians, captured during the North African campaign of World War II were sent here to work on the Causeways and converted two huts into a chapel. Later, we return to **Kirkwall** for some free time and a chance to visit the architectural masterpiece of St. Magnus Cathedral. (B, D)

**Day 5** Today we head west into the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, where we find some of the most impressive and important archaeological sites in Europe, including the mysterious stone circles at **Stenness and Brodgar**, the chambered tomb at **Maeshowe** and the famous stone age village at **Skara Brae**. (B, D)

**Day 6** After breakfast we take the ferry back to the mainland and continue to our original departure points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Churchill Barriers



Dunnottar Castle

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' bed & breakfast (plus two dinners) at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ All ferry crossings, including two dinners and one night's accommodation in two berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjaltland on the outward sailing
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
22 - 27 Apr	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
24 - 29 Jun	<b>£1,795</b>	<b>£1,695</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£425</b>
Outside cabin supplement		<b>£55</b>

Tour code: **BOSA**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,395**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Undiscovered Orkney

An archipelago of 70 islands, each with their own distinctive charm, Orkney is home to boundless history and natural beauty. Based in Kirkwall, on the mainland, we will discover the landmarks and landscapes of the North and South Isles. On Westray, we relive Orkney's Viking past; on Mainland, we discover Neolithic Orkney; and on Hoy, we enjoy dramatic scenery as we sail across the Scapa Flow. Over the years we have explored almost every nook and cranny of Orkney, yet these beautiful islands contain many more secrets and hidden gems that demand to be discovered.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness) and travel north to Scrabster, where we catch the ferry to Orkney. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit **Westray** and the **Scaun Natural Arch**, where guillemots and fulmars can be spotted. After a visit to the unique **Quoygreu** 10th century Norse site, we visit the **Kirk of St Mary** in Pierowall Village, and then **Castle O'Burrian**. Finally we visit the **Westray Heritage Centre**, and tour **Noltland Castle**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Tour the island of **Hoy**, visiting the **Dwarfie Stane** and **Rackwick Bay**, once home to composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. We also visit the **Scapa Flow Museum**, the **Martello Tower** at Hackness and the **Naval Cemetery**. (B, D)

**Day 4** We have a full day excursion of mainland Orkney. Visits include **Maeshowe**, **Skara Brae** and the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, lying to the north side of the Orphir Hills. Later, we continue to Stromness to visit the local Museum and the Pier Arts Centre, and then it's on to the **Highland Park Distillery**, which uses the same traditional methods of production as it did 200 years ago. (B, D)

**Day 5** We catch the ferry back to the mainland and visit the **Timespan Museum and Arts Centre** in Helmsdale, which is described as a meeting place between past, present and future. From here, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Westray, Orkney islands

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
10 - 14 Jun	<b>£1,495</b>	<b>£1,395</b>
27 - 31 Aug	<b>£1,495</b>	<b>£1,395</b>
<b>NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT</b>		

Tour code: **BUOR**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1,495**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Up Helly Aa by Air

Wander through the streets of Lerwick at the end of January and it's likely to be nothing short of a unique experience. A large squad of bearded Vikings, resplendent in gleaming chain-mail and winged helmets can be seen carrying a 30ft longship, which is fated to be ceremoniously set alight. As the sky over Lerwick shimmers with heat and light, fireworks explode, brass bands play and the gloom of winter is lifted for another year - this is Up Helly Aa.

**Day 1** Depart from Aberdeen Airport on a morning flight to Sumburgh (alternative flights from Edinburgh Airport are available at a supplement of £190.00 per person). On arrival we depart for the north mainland of Shetland to **Mavis Grind**, an isthmus just 100 yards wide, and through a stark landscape of hills, moors and lochans. Next, we will stop for a walk (weather permitting) along the spectacular sea cliffs of **Eshaness**. We then continue to the Brae Hotel for dinner. (D)

**Day 2** We travel to **Lerwick**, where you are free to explore at your leisure, soak up the atmosphere and view the various activities associated with the **Up Helly Aa festival**. Keep an eye out for the various 'squads' of 'guizers' - groups of about 20 men who choose a theme and dress up as whatever takes their fancy each year. Only one squad is allowed to dress up as Vikings and are known as

'jarls', the Viking term for Earl. A procession of 1,000 men snakes its way through the streets carrying the superbly crafted galley which will then be ceremoniously burned. (B, D)

**Day 3** We set off for the northerly isles of **Yell** and **Unst**, travelling through **Tingwall** and **Girlisha**, and past the oil terminal at **Sullom Voe**. We head north to **Baltasound** and enjoy the views from **Saxa Vord Hill**. (B, D)

**Day 4** We depart on a tour of mainland Shetland, including visits to **Scalloway** and the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. We continue to **Sumburgh Head**, the southern tip of mainland Shetland. We then return to Sumburgh Airport in time for our return flight to Aberdeen. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Up Helly Aa festival

ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SEVEN-DAY  
TOUR TRAVELLING BY OVERNIGHT  
FERRY FROM ABERDEEN, FROM £1,595PP  
(£1,495PP IF BOOKED BY 31 OCT)

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Brae Hotel
- ▶ Return flights from Aberdeen to Sumburgh
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
29 Jan - 1 Feb	<b>£1,595</b>	<b>£1,495</b>
Single Supplement		On request
Edinburgh flight supplement		<b>£190</b>

Tour code: **BUAA**





Sumburgh Head

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,295**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Shetland and its Outer Isles

If you want to get away from it all, Shetland is the place to be. As close to Norway as it is to Scotland, Shetland is rugged and remote, with a raw natural beauty, a unique culture and wonderful wildlife. There are over a hundred islands here, only 16 of which are inhabited, each with its own individual character, and our tour offers the opportunity to visit four of them, providing a real taste of the diversity of this amazing archipelago, not to mention the simple pleasure of travelling by boats, both large and small, as the indomitable inhabitants of these islands have done for hundreds of years.

We hope to visit the little island of Mousa, whose Iron Age broch is the best-preserved example anywhere in the world, the Shetland Croft House Museum which gives an insight into a typical 19th century croft, while Jarlshof provides a unique archaeological time-capsule, spanning 3,000 years of successive settlements. Finally we have a tour of the northernmost islands of Yell and Unst, a day of stunning seascapes and air so fresh it takes your breath away.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar, Stonehaven) and travel to Aberdeen. From here, we sail overnight to Lerwick with Serco Northlink Ferries. (D)

**Day 2** Disembarking at Lerwick, we begin our visits at the **Shetland Croft Museum**, housed in a typical thatched croft house of the 19th century restored with traditional materials, low doorways and uneven floors and warmed by a peat fire. Next, we explore the outstanding Norse settlement of **Jarlshof**, with over three acres of remains, spanning 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age, including oval shaped bronze age houses, iron age broch and wheel houses, Viking long houses and medieval farmhouses. This afternoon, weather permitting, we visit the little island of **Mousa** and the 2,000 year old broch, the best preserved example in the world. The island is also a nature reserve and is rich in wildlife. Storm petrels, Arctic terns and skuas nest here, and harbour seals lounge on the shore. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we enjoy a full day tour to the northern isles of **Yell** and **Unst**. We travel north through Tingwall and Girda and past the oil terminal at **Sullom Voe**, which has transformed life

in Shetland over the last 40 years, before arriving at Toft, where the ferry departs for the island of Yell. On arrival in Unst, we visit **Muness Castle**, **Baltasound** and **Saxa Vord Hill**. (B, D)

**Day 4** After breakfast, we return to **Lerwick** to enjoy some free time. Later, we take the overnight ferry to Aberdeen. (B, D)

**Day 5** We disembark and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Lerwick



Puffins on the Shetland coast

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Brae or Busta House Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
6 - 10 Jul	<b>£1,395</b>	<b>£1,295</b>
17 - 21 Aug	<b>£1,395</b>	<b>£1,295</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£325</b>
Outside cabin supplement		<b>£55</b>

Tour code: **BSHI**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,195** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100** NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT\*

## Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

In about 1800 BC, at around the time that the Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt was flourishing, an equally vigorous civilisation was leaving its mark on the far flung islands of the Outer Hebrides. In the company of a specialist guide we will tour a succession of sites, from Lewis in the north to Harris in the south. Highlights include the Bosta Iron Age Village and St Clement's Church at Rodel.

**Day 1** Depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness*) and head north to **Ullapool** to catch the early evening ferry to Stornoway and our centrally located hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We cross to the island of Great Bernera, where we visit **Bosta Iron Age Village** and the nearby **museum**. From here we travel to the 5,000 year old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, undoubtedly the most remarkable antiquity in the Western Isles. In the afternoon we visit **St Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important archaeological sites on the Isle of Lewis. (B)

**Day 3** Following breakfast we travel south to **Harris**, which in contrast to the rolling moorland of Lewis is more mountainous and fringed by superb white sandy beaches. Here we visit **St Clement's Church** at Rodel, whose tombs are

among the most spectacular in Scotland, followed by the **Genealogy Centre** at Northton, a chance to learn how island communities have evolved over the centuries. We continue to the ancient standing stone known as **Clach Mhic Leoid**, which overlooks the island of Taransay. Finally, we return to Stornoway and visit **Lewis Castle**. (B)

**Day 4** Today we discover the stunning scenery of **Lewis** as we take a journey through time from the Bronze and Iron Ages to the days of Norse settlement and the more recent past. Visits include **Carlway Broch, Black Houses, Norse Mill** and the standing stone **Clach an Trushal**. (B)

**Day 5** We take the ferry from Stornoway to **Ullapool** then continue our journey back to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Standing Stones of Callanish

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 3-star Royal Hotel, Stornoway
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout and all ferry crossings
- Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
21 - 25 Apr	<b>£1,295</b>	<b>£1,195</b>
6 - 10 Jul	<b>£1,345</b>	<b>£1,245</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£175</b>
<b>NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR*</b>		

Tour code: **BAOH**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£745** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50** LOW SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## In the Footsteps of the Picts

Living beyond the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, the people of northern Scotland in the Dark Ages were known as the Picts – a name given by the Romans meaning the 'painted, tattooed ones'. They were renowned as one of the most warlike of the Celtic barbarian tribes of Europe, successfully attacking the Roman army, and yet few of their homes or forts have ever been found. They did, however, leave behind some of the finest carved stones and jewellery from early medieval Europe.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh*) and head to the **National Museum of Scotland**. Here we view their collection of the Pictish jewellery and sculpture held here, which includes the **St Ninian's Isle Treasure**, which was discovered in Shetland in 1958 and is the only Scottish hoard of fine metalwork of this date to survive in its entirety. (D)

**Day 2** We enjoy a sculptural high-point with a visit to **Aberlemno**, with its four magnificent Pictish stones. We then visit a professional stone-carver, **David McGovern**, who will give us an exclusive Pictish stone carving demonstration. Then we travel the short distance to **St Vigeans Museum of Pictish Sculpture**, which houses one of the most important collections of early medieval sculpture in Western Europe. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today begins with a visit to the symbol-inscribed cross-slab depicting angels and a striding cloaked figure at Eassie. From here we continue to **Perth Museum** with its fine display of Pictish sculpture, and Dundee's **McManus Museum** to meet a digital reconstruction of a Pictish woman. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning we drive to **St Andrews**, where we see the decorated stone sarcophagus of a great Pictish king, featuring biblical royal imagery along with artistic influences showing their European connections. Our final visit is to the **East Lomond Hillfort**, for a specially-arranged tour led by the leader of the current archaeological investigations. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Aberlemno Pictish Stone

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Links Hotel, Montrose
- Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 - 17 Jun	<b>£795</b>	<b>£745</b>
2 - 5 Aug	<b>£795</b>	<b>£745</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£60</b>

Tour code: **BPIC**



6 DAYS FROM  
**£1,645** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Knitting in the Shetland Isles

Even those who think they know all there is to know about the art of knitting can pick up a thing or two in the scenic Shetland Isles, and we're not just talking about those pesky dropped stitches! There are workshops aplenty, both starting off our mornings and rounding off our afternoons. These present the perfect opportunity to hone our skills - and perhaps even learn some new ones - under the watchful eye of experienced local tutors.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee) and travel to Aberdeen for our overnight sailing to **Shetland**. Dinner is served on board. (D)

**Day 2** Disembark in Lerwick, before travelling to the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. We stop at **Sumburgh Head**, the award-winning **Textile Gallery of the Shetland Museum and Archives** for a guided tour, and finally the **Shetland Textile Museum**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today is the first of our **interactive workshops** to learn the basics of Shetland hand knitting. After lunch, we visit the **Nielanell Design Studio at Sandwick** and **Hoswick Visitor Centre**, housed in a former woollen mill. We will also visit the Laurence Odie Knitwear outlet at **Hoswick Woollen Mill**. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** We depart on a tour of the western mainland of Shetland with visits to **Walls**, terminus for the ferry service to the island of Foula, and the headland at **Sandness**, overlooking the island of Papa Stour. We return to our hotel in the afternoon for the second of our **knitting workshops**. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** Our final **knitting workshop** is followed with a visit to **Scalloway**. The castle built by Earl Patrick Stewart still dominates the skyline. We continue to **Lerwick** where the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure. Later, we board our ferry back to Aberdeen and have dinner in the ship's restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** After our overnight sailing we arrive in Aberdeen this morning and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Fair isle knitting

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Busta House Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on ferry
- Three lunches
- Three knitting workshops with expert local tutor
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 24 Sep	<b>£1,745</b>	<b>£1,645</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£375</b>
Outside cabin supplement		<b>£55</b>

Tour code: **BKSH**

5 DAYS FROM  
**£995** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100** NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT\*

## Arran, Scotland in Miniature

Often described as "Scotland in Miniature", Arran has a blend of Highland and Island scenery with granite peaks and deep glens to the north of the island, contrasting with its rolling and lush farmlands to the south. From our base in Blackwaterfoot, we visit Brodick Castle and its wonderful gardens, we enjoy a circular tour of Arran that passes through Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Corrie and Sannox, and we can look forward to both a tour and a tasting at the Isle of Arran Distillery.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow) and head to Ardrossan for our ferry to Arran and transfer to our hotel in **Blackwaterfoot**. (D)

**Day 2** Today we have a **circular tour of Arran** visiting **Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick, Corrie, Sannox, Catacol, Pirmill and Isle of Arran Distillery**. Only 56 miles around its coastline, the small villages are compared to 'jewels on a necklace' strung out like pearls around the island. (B, D)

**Day 3** Explore at your leisure or take an optional excursion to the little Hebridean island of **Gigha** including a visit to **Achamore Gardens**. Nestling close to the mainland just off the Kintyre peninsula, this is a gem of an island often overlooked by the island-hopper. Sir James Horlick came here in 1944

and created a woodland garden. The mild climate combined with high levels of rainfall means that there is always something in bloom. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning we visit **Brodick Castle and Gardens**, looking east across the Firth of Clyde. The present garden dates from 1932 when the Duchess of Montrose started an ambitious woodland garden with a collection of rhododendrons. From the castle, paths wind downhill towards the seashore, and in a shady place there is a fernery and a delightful Bavarian summer house embellished with rustic work and lovely inlaid panels of pinecones. (B, D)

**Day 5** Morning ferry to Ardrossan and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Brodick Castle

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Best Western Kinloch Hotel, Blackfoot
- Return ferry crossing
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
22 - 26 Apr*	<b>£1,095</b>	<b>£995</b>
20 - 24 May	<b>£1,095</b>	<b>£995</b>
17 - 21 Jun	<b>£1,095</b>	<b>£995</b>
12 - 16 Aug	<b>£1,095</b>	<b>£995</b>
9 - 13 Sep	<b>£1,095</b>	<b>£995</b>

Single Supplement **£180**  
Optional excursion Gigha: on request  
**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR\***

Tour code: **BARR**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,995** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Islay and Jura

Islay represents the southern extreme of the Inner Hebrides. Once the ancient home of the Lord of the Isles, it has always been popular with archaeologists and historians. Today the island is perhaps better known for its distinctive malt whiskies, its sandy beaches and its diverse birdlife. While we are here we visit the Bowmore Distillery, the oldest distillery on the island, and Loch Gruinart RSPB Nature Reserve, where we will hopefully have the opportunity to see many bird species.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow) and catch the ferry from Kennacraig to **Port Askaig**, Islay. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel.. (D)

**Day 2** Our first stop will be at **Loch Finlaggan**, which was once the centre of the 'Lordship of the Isles'. We then enjoy a guided tour of **Bowmore Distillery** before visiting the **Museum of Islay Life**. Our final stop of the day will be at **Loch Gruinart RSPB Nature Reserve** where we will have an introductory talk and view many species of seabirds. (B, D)

**Day 3** Following breakfast, you are free to explore **Islay**. Alternatively, you may wish to join our optional excursion to **Colonsay**, where we visit the gardens of **Colonsay House** and **Kiloran Bay**, the

most famous of Colonsay's beaches, a crescent of sand over a mile long with waves rolling in from the Atlantic Ocean. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning we travel to the neighbouring island of **Jura**, which has a record of habitation stretching back over 5,000 years. We enjoy a scenic tour before having some free time in **Craighouse**, the main settlement on the island with a shop, tearoom and Jura's distillery. (B, D)

**Day 5** We leave Islay this morning and make our way home, stopping at the picturesque village of **Inveraray**, before returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Port Charlotte, Islay

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Islay Hotel (or similar)
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 12 Jul	<del>£2,095</del>	£1,995
9 - 13 Sep	<del>£2,095</del>	£1,995
Single Supplement		£495

Tour code: **BIJA**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1,395** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Mull, Staffa and Iona

The Isle of Mull is a place of tumbling burns, high peaks, dramatic views, and a silent, lonely beauty. We will explore some of the highlights of the island including the multi-coloured buildings that line the waterfront of the island's principal town, Tobermory. We sail on a wildlife cruise that takes us to the Treshnish Isles, and the little island of Staffa, whose natural cathedral of basalt columns is one of the wonders of the west coast. We also visit Duart Castle, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean and the sacred isle of Iona.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow) and head for **Oban**, where we board the late afternoon ferry to **Mull**. (D)

**Day 2** Today we will drive through the spectacular scenery of the Ross of Mull to Fionnphort, from where we cross as foot passengers to the 'sacred isle' of **Iona**. Here you have the opportunity to visit the **Abbey** and wander over the island, taking in the atmosphere of calm and contemplation which attracts visitors from all over the world. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we depart for **Tobermory**, the island's 'capital', and the starting point for our wildlife cruise to the **Treshnish Isles** and **Staffa**. We will land on the idyllic Isle of **Lunga**, the largest of the Treshnish Isles which is surrounded by wildflowers and

stunning scenery, the main attraction that can be seen close up is the large Puffin colony nesting in burrows in the grassy hillside. Next, we take the short crossing to the geological wonder of **Staffa**, which was formed by volcanic eruptions over 50 million years ago. We have a chance to explore the island and the massive natural cathedral known as **Fingal's Cave**. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** Today we visit **Duart Castle**, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean. We can explore the dungeons, the state rooms and appreciate the strategic position of the castle from the top of the keep before our ferry crossing back to the mainland and our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Tobermory

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the comfortable Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, Craignure
- ▶ One packed lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
29 Jun - 2 Jul	<del>£1,495</del>	£1,395
29 Sep - 2 Oct	<del>£1,495</del>	£1,395
Single Supplement		£395

Tour code: **BMSI**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,295** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Castles and Palaces of the Highlands

This tour takes us through some of the most stunning and dramatic landscapes of Scotland. We head north to Blair Castle, nestled in the secluded Perthshire countryside. From our base in the heart of Speyside we visit a compilation of castles including the privately owned Ballindalloch Castle, the château-style Dunrobin Castle and blush-coloured Brodie Castle. We also stand in awe beneath the mighty ramparts of Fort George, one of the most impressive fortifications in Europe. The highlight of the tour is our visit to Cawdor Castle, immortalised in William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* as the scene of King Duncan's murder, where we are delighted to be joined by Lady Cawdor herself for a private drinks reception.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth) and head north to **Blair Castle**, home to some of the finest views in Scotland, not to mention the only private army in Britain. A **private guided tour** of the Castle has been arranged, after which we enjoy a **light lunch**. (L, D)

**Day 2** This morning we visit **Ballindalloch Castle**, a privately owned castle that is a much-loved home and has been continuously lived in by the original family since the 16th century. Then we head to **Cawdor**, home to a magnificent garden. **Lady Cawdor** will host a **drinks reception** and share her experiences as a chatelaine. (B, D)

**Day 3** We travel north into Sutherland for a full day at **Dunrobin Castle**, which appears to have been

plucked from the Loire Valley. (B, D)

**Day 4** We visit **Brodie Castle**, which has been the ancestral home of the Brodie clan for over 400 years, and continue with a visit to **Fort George**, one of the most impressive fortifications in Europe. (B, D)

**Day 5** We conclude in the historic surroundings of **Scone Palace**, where we have a guided tour of the gardens in the company of Head Gardener **Brian Cunningham** of Beechgrove Garden fame. We will also explore the palace and have lunch before returning to our pick-up points. (B, L)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Cawdor Castle

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 21 Jul	<b>£1,395</b>	<b>£1,295</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£240</b>

Tour code: **BPHL**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£845** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50** LOW SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Highland Wildlife Safari

Scotland's natural environment is second to none with a more diverse range of habitats than almost any other country of comparable size. This tour of the Highlands aims to provide close encounters with a wide range of wildlife, all set against a backdrop of magnificent scenery.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth) for the **Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve**, where the star attraction is a pair of breeding ospreys. We continue to the **Highland Wildlife Park**, near Aviemore, which has an extensive collection of both native and exotic animals. (D)

**Day 2** We make our way to **Inverness**, capital of the Highlands, where we will leave for our **Dolphin Cruise** and head out onto the Moray Firth. We hope to see a variety of bird life such as terns, gannets, fulmars, razorbills, kittiwakes, red kites and ospreys, and a variety of wading birds on the shoreline. We later visit the **House of Aigas Field Centre** near Beaulieu. Here we will enjoy **lunch using produce from the estate** before embarking on a guided walk around the estate to view the beaver dam, Scottish Wildcat project and other native wildlife such as red squirrels. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** After breakfast we travel through some glorious mountain scenery to Loch Maree, where we enjoy a gentle woodland walk at the **Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve**. It is the oldest nature reserve in Britain comprising 10,500 acres and it was established in 1951. In the afternoon, we visit **Inverewe Gardens**, unquestionably recognised as one of the most outstanding gardens in the country with a host of botanical specimens both native and exotic. (B, D)

**Day 4** We visit the **Abernethy National Nature Reserve** at Loch Garten, where we hope to see a number of different birds, including the crested tit, crossbills and ospreys. Our final stop is at **Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder**, an opportunity to see salmon passing upstream on the River Tummel. An interesting new visitor centre tells the story of the construction of the dam. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Red Squirrel

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Craiglynne Hotel, Speyside (or similar)
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
21 - 24 Jun	<b>£895</b>	<b>£845</b>
19 - 22 Jul	<b>£925</b>	<b>£875</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£90</b>

Tour code: **BHWS**



4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

Re-opened in March 2022 after an ambitious refurbishment, Glasgow's Burrell Collection allows visitors for the first time to explore all three floors in the building, set out as galleries, visible stores and special exhibition spaces. This incredible collection holds treasures from all over the world, including 5,000-year-old porcelain from China, paintings by renowned French artists including Manet, Cézanne and Degas, and medieval artefacts such as stained glass, armour and tapestries. Our tour includes visits to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where notable works of art from across Britain and Europe are featured alongside a diverse collection of exhibits; the Hunterian, Scotland's oldest public museum, the Gallery of Modern Art located in the centre of Glasgow, Holmwood House and the House for an Art Lover, built in the 1990s to a design by Charles Rennie Mackintosh from 1901.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh, Glasgow) to visit the **Gallery of Modern Art** housed in an impressive neo-classical building in Royal Exchange Square. Outside is one of Glasgow's iconic landmarks, the equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington. (D)

**Day 2** Today we explore the **Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum** and the **Hunterian Museum**, part of the University of Glasgow, which was founded in 1807, making it Scotland's oldest public museum. You may be interested in viewing the **Mackintosh Collection** here. (B, D)

**Day 3** We start our day at the newly renovated **Burrell Collection**. This ambitious refurbishment allows visitors to explore all three floors in the building, set out as galleries, visible stores and special exhibition spaces. This afternoon we head to **Holmwood House**, the finest and most elaborate residential villa designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we visit the **House for an Art Lover**, whose origins lie in drawings prepared by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1901 as his entry to a competition. We later return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Gallery of Modern Art

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Garfield House Hotel, Glasgow
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

22 - 25 Mar	<b>£645</b>	<b>£595</b>
13 - 16 Sep	<b>£645</b>	<b>£595</b>

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

Tour code: **BGAT**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£895**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## In the Footsteps of Robert Burns

Burns Night comes but once a year, and when it does we at Brightwater need no excuse to get involved. Neeps, tatties, whisky, haggis and poetry by the plateful: what better way to celebrate? This fantastic four-day tour charts the life and times of the brilliant Robert Burns, peerless poet of the lowlands, through the beautiful pastoral settings that inspired him. Basing ourselves in the west of Scotland, we follow in Burns' fascinating footsteps, from his humble Ayrshire beginnings in 1759, to his untimely death in Dumfries at the age of just 37.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh, Glasgow) and journey to Ayrshire. We arrive at the village of Kirkoswald and **Soutar Johnnie's Cottage**. Soutar Johnnie is one of the three main characters in Burns' much-loved poem **Tam O'Shanter**, along with Jean Kirkton and Tam himself. We will also visit the nearby graveyard where these real-life people who inspired Burns are buried. We continue to our hotel in Troon. (D)

**Day 2** Visit the **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum** and then we follow in his footsteps through the village where he spent the early years of his life. Find out what made the great poet and song writer tick, and visit **Alloway Auld Kirk**. After lunch we continue to **Rozelle House**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we explore the lowlands of Scotland and see the landscapes which are captured in

Burns' lyrical verses. We visit **Ellisland Farm**, the **Robert Burns House Museum** and the **Robert Burns Mausoleum**, which stands at the eastern end of the churchyard of St Michael's Church, Dumfries. We can enjoy a traditional **Burns Supper** at our hotel this evening. (B, D)

**Day 4** After breakfast we head for Mauchline and the **Burns House Museum**, located in the former lodging of the poet and his wife. The museum showcases original manuscripts and inspirational objects he had surrounding him. We continue to Glasgow and the **Mitchell Library** for an exclusive **private viewing** of some of the most important Burns material with the Curator. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Robert Burns

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Piersland House Hotel, Troon
- ▶ Two dinners and one Burns Supper in the hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

23 - 26 Jan	<b>£945</b>	<b>£895</b>
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**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

Tour code: **BFRB**



4 DAYS FROM  
**£895**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

## Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire is dotted with historic houses and castles, many of them outstanding examples of Scots Baronial architecture. Each one has a fascinating story to tell with countless legends and several royal connections including Balmoral, sadly now remembered as the place where Her Majesty The Queen passed away.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee*) and head to **Drum Castle and Gardens**. The sweep of 700 years of history is stamped into Drum's stalwart battlements, medieval square tower and sprawling extensions. The beautiful Garden of Historic Roses is divided into quadrants that show how roses have been cultivated from the 17th to the 20th century and an ancient oak forest adjoins the castle. (D)

**Day 2** Our first visit of the day is to **Haddo House**. Unusual for Aberdeenshire in that it is not a castle, the house elegantly blends Georgian architecture with late Victorian interiors. We'll also see its terrace garden with geometric rosebeds, a lavish herbaceous border and secluded glades. Later we visit the magnificent fortress of **Fyvie Castle** with ghosts, legends and folklore woven into its 800-year history. Outside we find an 18th century walled garden for fruit and veg. (B, D)

**Day 3** We start at **Castle Fraser**, one of the grandest of the Scottish baronial tower houses, with a strikingly simple Great Hall. Next is **Craigievar Castle**, another fine example of Scots Baronial architecture, which seems to have grown naturally out of the rolling hills. We round off the day at **Balmoral**, which needs little introduction as a favourite royal residence. Built around 1854 for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, it is relatively modern though clearly in the style of a 'Scottish' castle. (B, D)

**Day 4** We conclude at **Crathes Castle**, set against a backdrop of rolling hills and within its own glorious gardens. Crathes is every inch the classic Scottish tower house, with a labyrinth of cultural and family history. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Balmoral

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Ardoe House Hotel, Aberdeen
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
3 - 6 Jun	<b>£945</b>	<b>£895</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£150</b>

Tour code: **BHHA**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£945**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT\*

## Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders

The Scottish Borders are often overlooked in comparison with the Highlands and Islands, whose grandeur and drama have an obvious attraction. Yet the Borders have a quiet, understated beauty of their own, with softly rolling hills draped in early morning mist, peaceful valleys dotted with sheep farms and the sinuous, salmon-filled River Tweed, which runs like a silver thread from the Lowther Hills to the sea at Berwick.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh*) and drive into the Scottish Borders for our visit to **Manderston House**, built in the finest Georgian country house style in the 1790s. The mansion was rebuilt in the early 20th century, and when the architect asked how much he could spend, he was told that "it simply doesn't matter." (D)

**Day 2** Travel through Tweeddale to **Abbotsford House**, built by Sir Walter Scott following the success of his great novels. There are extensive grounds leading down to the River Tweed, a fine walled garden and a woodland walk, however it is the house that steals the show. In the afternoon we visit **Traquair House**, which is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. (B, D)

**Day 3** This morning we visit **Mellerstain House**, one of Scotland's great Georgian houses. We move on to Kelso to visit **Floors Castle**, home of the Duke & Duchess of Roxburghe, situated on a natural terrace overlooking the River Tweed and facing the Cheviot Hills. This romantic fairytale castle boasts a roofscape of turrets, pinnacles and cupolas. (B, D)

**Day 4** We conclude at **Thirlestane Castle**, a magnificent 16th century castle set in a quiet meadow landscape. The family home of the Duke of Lauderdale, Thirlestane Castle is one of the oldest and finest castles in Scotland, and dates back to at least the 12th century. Lunch is provided in the authentic Victorian Kitchen here. We return to our original pick-up points. (B, L)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Traquair House

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Peebles Hydro Hotel
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
28 Apr - 1 May*	<b>£995</b>	<b>£945</b>
23 - 26 Jun	<b>£995</b>	<b>£945</b>
15 - 18 Sep	<b>£995</b>	<b>£945</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£120</b>

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR\***

Tour code: **BHSB**





Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness

7 DAYS FROM  
**£2,095**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

8 DAYS FROM  
**£3,295**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO  
**£300**

## Lord of the Glens Secrets of the Highlands & Islands

The MV Lord of the Glens, with its 27 beautifully appointed cabins, is the perfect vessel from which to enjoy the majesty of the Scottish highlands and islands. With all meals and shore excursions included the cruises offer excellent value, while providing a luxurious treat.

This seven-night cruise also combines both fresh and saltwater cruising, as the Lord of the Glens sails from Kyle of Lochalsh to the islands of Skye and Mull to Oban, featuring some of the remote and breathtakingly beautiful scenery of Scotland's west coast, and then through the Caledonian Canal to Inverness. In between our cruising, there is a full programme of shore excursions including visits to Armadale on the Isle of Skye, the little islands of Eigg and Iona, colourful Tobermory and the 13th century Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull; romantic Eilean Donan Castle, the Glenfinnan Viaduct, the Culloden Battlefield visitor centre and the prehistoric Clava Cairns. Please note that the itinerary below also operates in reverse order.

**Day 1** Travel under our own arrangement to **Inverness**, where we embark the **MV Lord of the Glens**. Later, we join the crew for a welcome drinks reception. (D)

**Day 2** Enjoy an excursion to the National Trust of Scotland's Visitor Centre at **Culloden** and the **Clava Cairns**. Later we set sail on the Caledonian Canal built between 1803 and 1822 to connect with the four lochs of the **Great Glen**. En route we pass **Urquhart Castle** before arriving at **Fort Augustus**. (FB)

**Day 3** The vessel descends **Neptune's Staircase** before we arrive in **Corrach**. Later, we depart by train along part of the **West Highland Railway**, travelling over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. (FB)

**Day 4** We journey to **Oban** and upon arrival, we walk up to **McCaigs Tower**. (FB)

**Day 5** We sail to Craginure, pausing for photographs in front of **Duart Castle**. We head to the **Isle of Iona** and then it's on to **Tobermory**. (FB)

**Day 6** Visit the tiny island of **Eigg** and then the village of **Inverie** on Loch Nevis. (FB)

**Day 7** Sail across the **Sound of Sleat** to **Armadale** on the Isle of Skye. Here we visit the **Clan Donald Centre**, before we sail to Kyle of Lochalsh to visit **Eilean Donan Castle**. (FB)

**Day 8** Transfer by coach to Inverness. (B)

Inc. meals: FB: Full Board, D: Dinner



Lord of the Glens

ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SEVEN-DAY CRUISE, DEPARTING 11 - 17 APR, FROM £2095PP - SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED (8 DAYS)

- ▶ Seven nights' accommodation in a lower, middle or upper deck twin en-suite cabin on a full board basis
- ▶ Shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- ▶ Return coach transfers from Inverness

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

#### 2024

Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh

29 Apr - 6 May; 13 - 20 May; 2 - 9 Sep

Lower Deck **£3,495** £3,295

Middle Deck **£3,995** £3,795

Middle Deck Superior **£4,595** £4,295

Upper Deck **£4,595** £4,295

Single Supplement from £2,000

Tour code: **BLSW**

Kyle of Lochalsh to Inverness

6 - 13 May; 23 - 30 Sep

Lower Deck **£3,495** £3,295

Middle Deck **£3,995** £3,795

Middle Deck Superior **£4,595** £4,295

Upper Deck **£4,595** £4,295

Single Supplement from £2,000

Tour code: **BLIW**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,245** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Scenic Journeys of Argyll and Bute

The West Highland Line from Glasgow to Oban is one of the most scenic in Scotland, and unjustly receives less attention than the more famous routes. Here there are many visual delights to enjoy, such as the views over Loch Long and Loch Lomond, the remote Glen Douglas, and the dramatic ruins of Kilchurn Castle. Enjoy the two island gems of little Gigha, home to Achamore Gardens, and the isle of Bute, where we find one of the most extravagant stately homes in the British Isles.

**Day 1** Travel independently to Glasgow and assemble at Queen Street Station where we board the lunchtime train to Oban. The **West Highland Line** takes us along the shores of the Firth of Clyde, through Glen Falloch before joining the former Callander and Oban line and on to Dalmally, where we will leave the train and continue by coach to our hotel in **Inveraray** on the shores of Loch Fyne. (D)

**Day 2** Today we depart on excursion to the little Hebridean island of **Gigha** and the **Achamore Gardens**, the former home of the Horlick family. (B, D)

**Day 3** We take the ferry to the Isle of Bute. Here we visit the spectacular house and gardens of **Mount Stuart**, which is one of the largest, most spectacular High Victorian Gothic houses in Britain and yet one of the least known. These 300 acres of woodlands

and gardens are a real treasure trove for the garden enthusiast. (B, D)

**Day 4** We begin at **Ardringlas**, considered to be one of architect Sir Robert Lorimer's masterpieces. Following a **private tour** of the house there will be time to look around the Woodland Gardens. This afternoon we have a **guided tour** of **Inveraray Castle**, the seat of the Duke of Argyll since the 17th century. (B, D)

**Day 5** Today we visit **Arduaine**, full of the most magnificent plants. After a farewell lunch, we drive north to Oban and take the afternoon train along the West Highland Line back to Glasgow Queen Street. (B, L)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Inveraray Castle

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Inveraray Inn, Loch Fyne
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel, ferry crossings and standard class rail travel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
7 - 11 May	<b>£1,345</b>	<b>£1,245</b>
7 - 11 Sep	<b>£1,345</b>	<b>£1,245</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

Tour code: **BSAB**

7 DAYS FROM  
**£1,795** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands

The Highlands and Islands of Scotland provide such a wealth of scenic journeys that it can be a daunting prospect to work out how best to take them all in. This tour aims to provide the answer to this Caledonian conundrum with an itinerary that ticks off a whole host of visual gems. At the same time it provides a series of relaxing, undemanding journeys driving through Glen Coe, travelling by train along the West Highland Line, a round trip on the historic Jacobite steam train and cruise along Loch Linnhe, in the shadow of Ben Nevis.

**Day 1** Assemble at Glasgow Queen Street Station where our tour begins, we depart on a rail journey for Fort William, with views of mountains, lochs and glens. (D)

**Day 2** Today we drive down to Oban and take the ferry to **Mull** to visit **Duart Castle** and **Tobermory** before crossing by ferry to Morvern en route to Fort William. (B, D)

**Day 3** After a look at the canal locks known as **Neptune's Staircase**, we cruise on **Loch Linnhe** and take a scenic drive through the magnificent mountain scenery of **Glen Coe**, an accident volcanic caldera. (B, D)

**Day 4** A treat lies in store as we ride aboard the **Jacobite steam train** forging over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct** to **Mallaig**, following 'The Road of the Isles'. (B, D)

**Day 5** We cruise on **Loch Ness**, with views of the ruins of **Urquhart Castle**, and travel to the shores of the **Moray Firth** where we hope to spot the resident pod of dolphins. (B, D)

**Day 6** Using the scheduled diesel train service from Inverness, our route takes us through Strath Bran and the isolated little station at Achnasheen, on into Strath Carron to the head of Loch Carron, passing Stromeferry, the one-time terminus of the line, before we reach the current terminus at **Kyle of Lochalsh**. This afternoon, we visit the iconic **Eilean Donan Castle**. (B, D)

**Day 7** Board the **Cairngorm funicular railway** for sweeping views. Later, we'll catch the train from Aviemore to Glasgow, where the group will disperse or make onward connections. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Jacobite train

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in the Fort William area and three nights in the Inverness area
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel, ferry crossings and standard class rail travel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 - 20 Jun	<b>£1,895</b>	<b>£1,795</b>
1 - 7 Sep	<b>£1,895</b>	<b>£1,795</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

Tour code: **BSJH**



4 DAYS FROM

**£795**

SAVE PER PERSON

**£50**LOW SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Scenic Scottish Railways

The north of Scotland is blessed with some wonderfully scenic railway lines. The challenge of building railways through difficult terrain was taken up by the great engineers of the Victorian age. Their legacy is in the sweeping curves and majestic viaducts of the single-track lines which cross wild moors and lonely glens. Highlights on this short break include a visit to the much-photographed Eilean Donan Castle, a ride aboard the Jacobite steam train that takes us over the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct and a visit to Boat of Garten on the Strathspey Line, which you may recognise from the BBC series, *Monarch of the Glen*.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth*) and travel by coach to Aviemore for a return trip on the **Strathspey Railway**. Our train of maroon-liveried coaches will be hauled by a lovingly restored steam locomotive as we travel to Boat of Garten and Broomhill, with the Cairngorm Mountains providing a scenic backdrop. We continue our journey by coach to our hotel. (*D*)

**Day 2** We transfer to **Inverness** and board the morning diesel train service to **Wick**. The line takes us along the shores of the **Cromarty** and **Dornoch Firths** and follows the spectacular coastline as far as **Helmsdale**, where it turns inland before reaching the terminus at **Wick**. We re-join our coach and return to our hotel by the more direct but equally scenic coastal route. (*B, D*)

**Day 3** We depart by diesel train from Inverness, this time heading for **Kyle of Lochalsh**, travelling over what is often considered to be the most scenic of all Scotland's railway lines. In the afternoon we explore the iconic 13th century castle of **Eilean Donan**, with its impossibly romantic setting on Loch Duich. (*B, D*)

**Day 4** Today we travel to Fort William, where we join **'The Jacobite'** steam train and experience one of the most memorable and spectacular railway journeys in the world, crossing the famous **Glenfinnan Viaduct** as we steam on a return trip to **Mallaig**. After some free time and an opportunity for lunch (*not included*) in Mallaig, we return on the train to Fort William. We then return by coach to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

**Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Strathspey Railway

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Craiglynne Hotel, Speyside (or similar)
- ▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
3 - 6 May	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
26 - 29 Jul	<b>£895</b>	<b>£845</b>
13 - 16 Sep	<b>£895</b>	<b>£845</b>
4 - 7 Oct	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£90</b>

Tour code: **BSSR**

4 DAYS FROM

**£615**

SAVE PER PERSON

**£50**

## Scotland's Extreme North West

The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the early spring and autumn months as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty. The coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking and the warmth of our highland hotel is very welcoming at these times of year.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness*) and head north for **Kinlochbervie** on the tip of the north west coastline and our accommodation at the Kinlochbervie Hotel, which overlooks the fishing harbour and the open sea beyond. (*D*)

**Day 2** Today we travel south into **Assynt**, an extraordinary landscape of vast, undulating moorland studded with hundreds of freshwater lochans. We will spend some time in **Lochinver**, a large village with a busy harbour, set on the shores of Loch Inver with superb views inland to the famous mountain of **Suilven**. Though relatively small in Scottish terms at 2,389ft, Suilven presents a fearsome sight with its seemingly unconquerable summit, which we can expect to be flecked with snow. (*B, D*)

**Day 3** This morning we will have a walk along the beach at **Oldshoremore**, one of the most beautiful in Scotland, before travelling up the single track road and through spectacular scenery to **Durness**, where we will visit the beautiful old church graveyard of Balnakeil. We will also visit the wonderful chocolatier at **Cocoa Mountain** where you have the opportunity to buy the finest hot chocolate drink anywhere in the world (*official!*). We also visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** and travel by Loch Eribol and the old Norse settlement of **Tongue**. (*B, D*)

**Day 4** We begin our homeward journey, which takes us through more splendid scenery as we travel via **Laxford Bridge**, **Loch More**, **Loch Shin** and **Laig**, crossing high moorland and secluded straths. We continue via **Bonar Bridge** and **Tain** and return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

**Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Smoo Cave

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 22 Mar	<b>£665</b>	<b>£615</b>
9 - 12 Apr	<b>£695</b>	<b>£645</b>
8 - 11 Oct	<b>£675</b>	<b>£625</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£120</b>

Tour code: **BXNW**



5 DAYS FROM

£995

SAVE PER PERSON

£100

## Scotland's Northern Edge

On the northern edge of Scotland, where ancient rock meets restless sea, the views are among the most spectacular to be found in the British Isles. Dunnet Head in particular, the most northerly point on the mainland, offers extensive sea views, as do the cliffs at Duncansby Head. Following much of the North Coast 500 route, our tour also takes in John O'Groats and the late Queen Mother's Castle of Mey; the impressive Smoo Cave and the Knockan Crag Geo Park, which tells the story of the unique geology of the area and also provides some of the most stunning views on this highly scenic tour.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness) and head to our hotel in Thurso. (D)

**Day 2** This morning, we visit **Duncansby Head**, which offers stunning views from the cliff top. After a brief stop at **John O' Groats**, the landmark at the "end of the road", we continue to the **Castle of Mey**, former holiday home of the late Queen Mother, and **Dunnet Head**, which boasts some of the most extensive views in northern Scotland. (B, D)

**Day 3** We travel to **Tongue**, where we have some free time for lunch before we visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** then continue to our hotel in Kinlochbervie. (B, D)

**Day 4** We travel to **Knockan Crag**, an open air visitor centre within the NW Highlands Geo Park

with information panels describing the history and geology of the local landscape, which also enjoys stunning views across the Sutherland hills. We continue with a look around the ruins of **Ardvreck Castle** and then on to **Lochinver** for some free time and an opportunity for lunch (*not included*). After a visit to **Highland Stoneware**, which produces beautiful hand-painted pottery, we continue over the highly scenic road via Drumbeg and Eddrachillis Bay back to Kinlochbervie. (B, D)

**Day 5** We journey home today, travelling via **Laxford Bridge**, **Loch More**, **Loch Shin**, **Lairg**, **Bonar Bridge** and finally **Tain**. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Duncansby Head

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the 3-star Station Hotel, Thurso (or similar) and two nights at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
6 - 10 May	£1,095	£995
11 - 15 Jun	£1,095	£995
10 - 14 Sep	£1,095	£995
Single Supplement		£90

Tour code: BSNE

4 DAYS FROM

£595

SAVE PER PERSON

£50

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Snowdrops of Eastern Scotland

As the dainty white flowers of the snowdrop break through the winter frosts, it's a sure sign that spring is on the way. This tour takes us to some of the most dazzling displays of *Galanthus* to be found on the eastern side of Scotland. Our visits include Cambo Gardens, home to the Plant Heritage national collection of snowdrops, and the private garden of Bruckhills Croft, with its informal cottage-style gardens.

At Ellon Castle, carpets of snowdrops can be seen throughout the grounds and at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, there is a collection of specialist snowdrops. Other visits include St Andrews Botanic Garden, filled with plants from around the world. Crathes Castle whose woods are filled with snowdrops and the Cruickshank Botanic Garden in Old Aberdeen.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline) for the **Cambo Estate**, where we enjoy a guided tour of the snowdrop collection of over 200 varieties. We continue to **St Andrews Botanic Garden**, a living research and conservation experiment with plants from around the world. (L, D)

**Day 2** We pay a visit to the the gardens of **Ellon Castle**, where among its ancient yews we find a carpet of snowdrops. This afternoon we explore **Cruickshank Botanic Garden**, which includes shrub borders, a rock and water garden and is home to a nationally important collection of over 2,500 labelled plants. (B, D)

**Day 3** We visit the private garden of **Bruckhills Croft**, which has an impressive display of snowdrops. Later we depart for **Crathes Castle**, where there are marked trails through the woodlands, with a fine display of snowdrops. (B, D)

**Day 4** We head south to **Ecclesgreig Castle**. Known principally for its excellent example of Renaissance gardening, there is also a charming display of snowdrops. We also explore the **Royal Botanic Gardens** in Edinburgh, where we view a collection of specialist snowdrops. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Snowdrops

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Village Hotel, Aberdeen in a standard room (or similar)
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
16 - 19 Feb	£645	£595
Club room supplement		£45
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		

Tour code: BSNE





Logan Botanic Garden

4 DAYS FROM  
**£795**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway

In the south-western corner of Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway is home to some of the country's most attractive gardens. The artistic highlight of our tour is undoubtedly Dumfries House, actually in Ayrshire and which King Charles helped to save. One of the Adam Brothers' finest achievements, the stunning interiors showcase a unique collection of Chippendale furniture, while the walled garden is one of the most exciting new garden developments in all of Scotland.

We see something rather different at Broughton House – an artist's garden at the restored former home of 'Glasgow Boy' E. A. Hornel, which shows the influence of his time in Japan and is always full of colour. Further highlights include Drumlanrig Castle, one of the most important Renaissance buildings in Scotland, and Crawick Multiverse, a gem hidden among the rolling hills of Dumfriesshire.

Local resident Colin Crosbie will lead our July and September departures.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) and head for **Dumfries House**, whose stunning interiors are home to a world class collection of furniture, and explore the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**, one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland. We continue to our hotel in Dumfries. (*D*)

**Day 2** We begin with a visit to the lavishly planted **Glenwhan Garden**, with marvellous views over Luce Bay. At its heart is an extensive pool, divided by a grassy causeway and fed by a tumbling stream. This afternoon we explore the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens**. The gardens are beautifully laid out, particularly in the walled garden with its fine terraces and well-planned borders under an avenue of cabbage palms. The climate here is exceptionally mild and several different habitats provide conditions for a huge range of plants. (*B, D*)

**Day 3** This morning sees us at the former artist's studio of **Broughton House**, whose compact but colourful garden displays Japanese influences. Next we spend some more time in **Kirkcudbright**, a

haven for artists, as paid testament to by its abundance of art galleries. We visit one such gallery and browse the work of local artists. Following this we visit the wonderful plantsman's nursery of **Ellenbank**. This wonderful nursery is full of cottage garden perennials such as violas, clematis and penstemons. Our last visit of the day is will be to the gardens of the **Threave Estate**, whose extensive gardens have been largely created by students at the School of Horticulture which started here in 1960. (*B, D*)

**Day 4** Art and horticulture are beautifully combined at **Drumlanrig Castle**. Surrounded by the 120,000 acre Queensberry Estate, Country Park and grand Victorian gardens, Drumlanrig Castle was completed in 1691 by William Douglas, 1st Duke of Queensberry and is one of the first and most important Renaissance buildings in the grand manner in Scotland. Our final visit is to the **Crawick Multiverse**, a hidden gem nestled in a bowl of rolling hills. We return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

**Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



Dumfries House



Drumlanrig castle

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Cairndale Hotel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 5 Jun	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
21 - 24 Jul	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
15 - 18 Sep	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£160</b>

Tour code: **BDAG**





Castle Kennedy

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

4 DAYS FROM  
**£895**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

**NEW**

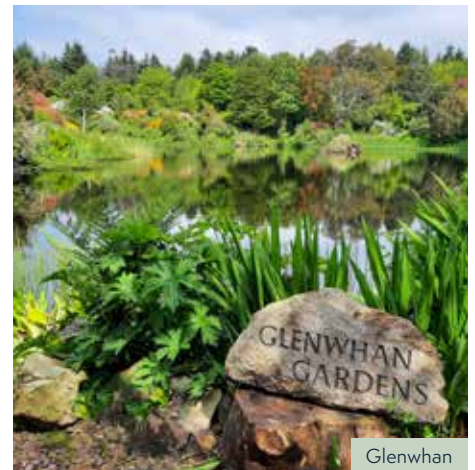
LOW SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

TOUR MANAGER  
COLIN CROSBIE

## The Best Rhododendron Gardens in the World?

Visit the gardens of Galloway in May and one plant species catches the eye ahead of all others – the Rhododendron. Though of course native to eastern Asia and the Himalayas, rhododendrons seem to thrive particularly well in the mild climate of south-western Scotland. With over 1,000 species to choose from they have long attracted gardeners for their extravagant show of blossom in the spring, in myriad shades of red, pink and purple. We will see some magnificent specimens as we tour the gardens specially selected for their rhododendron displays, along with azaleas, magnolias, pieris and other flowering shrubs.

Colin Crosbie, former Head Curator at RHS Garden Wisley, will be our guide and will also show us round his own garden, which has a very good selection of deciduous azaleas.



Glenwhan

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) and head for the private garden at **Millhall**. This impressive five-acre garden has a large collection of mature shrubs, including over 200 rhododendron species which hopefully will be in full bloom. (*D*)

**Day 2** Today we visit **Glenwhan Gardens**, spread out over a windy hilltop with marvellous views of Luce Bay and the Mull of Galloway. At its heart is an extensive pool, divided by a grassy causeway and fed by a tumbling stream. The slopes above are lavishly planted with trees and shrubs and at this time of year we can expect the rhododendrons to be at their peak. The garden is also dotted with interesting sculptures and statuary – look out for the fearsome boar next to a frothy azalea! In the afternoon we travel a short distance to the spectacular garden at **Castle Kennedy**. This is a vast and historic piece of landscaping with the garden lying between two castles - the 15th century Castle Kennedy and the 19th century Lochinch Castle. (*B, D*)

**Day 3** We visit the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens**. The garden was started by the McDougall family who lived here for 800 years,

and since 1969 it has been in the care of the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh. Logan Botanic Garden is beautifully laid out, particularly in the walled garden with its fine terraces and well-planned borders under an avenue of cabbage palms. Next door are the gardens of **Logan House** which features seven United Kingdom and fourteen Scottish champion trees. (*B, D*)

**Day 4** Today we visit the gardens at **Corsock House**, where a large variety of acid-loving trees and shrubs, including many varieties of rhododendron, enhance the natural glades which run down from the loch to the ornamental water garden. Our final visit is to Colin Crosbie's own garden, **Dalswinton Mill**, where we enjoy a visit and lunch. As one would expect, this is very much a plantsman's garden, set around an 18th-century watermill with the Pennyland Burn running through it. The garden contains a wide range of perennials, trees and shrubs that favour the local climate and have been planted during the last few years, including a good collection of deciduous azaleas, a relative of the rhododendron. A variety of statuary can be found throughout the garden. We later return to our pick-up points. (*B, L*)

**Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin leads tours for Brightwater Holidays all over the world but on this occasion he is literally in his own back yard, as a visit to his own garden is included.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed, and breakfast at the 3-star Fernhill Hotel, Portpatrick
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

15 - 18 May	<b>£945</b>	<b>£895</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£90</b>

Tour code: **BRHO**



5 DAYS FROM

£545

SAVE PER PERSON

£50

## Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island and Alnwick Castle

This break to Northumberland explores the best the region has to offer. Home to rugged hills, spectacular seascapes, ancient castles, rolling moorland and bustling cities this corner of Northeast England has something for everyone. On this captivating break we explore the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle, the second largest inhabited castle in England and the university city of Durham, home to a wide array of historical buildings including the Norman Castle and the Romanesque Cathedral. We also explore Hadrian's Wall, one of Britain's most significant Roman sites, as well as Chester's Fort, one of the best-preserved Roman cavalry forts and Vindolanda, a Roman auxiliary fort.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Luton, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Middlesbrough) and head northwards to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Today we depart for the **Holy Island of Lindisfarne**, where you are free to explore. You may wish to visit the Castle, which was converted into a private house by the young Edin Lutyens, or the Priory one of the most important centres of early Christianity in Anglo-Saxon England. We later head to **Alnwick Castle**, the historic home of the Duke of Northumberland, which has been described as the Windsor of the North and is the second largest inhabited castle in England. (B, D)

**Day 3** We have a full day exploring the university city of **Durham**. Among the attractions you may wish to visit are the Norman Castle and Romanesque Cathedral; the 13th century Crook Hall and its beautiful gardens and Durham University's Botanic Garden with its woodland and tropical plants (entrance fees not included). (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we discover the Roman heritage of the region, with visits to **Hadrian's Wall**, **Vindolanda Museum** and **Chester's Fort**. (B, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Lindisfarne Castle

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Ramada, Newcastle Gateshead
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
9 - 13 Jun	£595	£545
29 Sep - 3 Oct	£595	£545
Single Supplement		£120

Tour code: **BENB**

4 DAYS FROM

£945

SAVE PER PERSON

£50

## Castles and Houses of Northumberland

A visit to the low lying coast and wide open spaces of Northumberland is always a treat but when it includes a host of historic houses and castles the pleasure is magnified greatly. Perhaps the most impressive of these is Bamburgh Castle, which sprawls over a rocky plateau on the coast, close to the Farne Islands. Further highlights include a trip to the holy island of Lindisfarne and visits to both the castle and priory; a visit to Belsay Hall, Wallington House, which dates back to 1688 and Alnwick Castle, which has been described as the 'Windsor of the North'.

**Day 1** We depart from London Kings Cross by train for Newcastle and continue to the house and gardens of **Belsay Hall**, a classical brown stone mansion, built in the 19th Century in Greek revival style to the design of its owner, Sir Charles Monck. (D)

**Day 2** We travel north along the dramatic Northumberland coast to **Bamburgh Castle**, an impressive fortress that has stood here for over 1,400 years. Nearby lies the Holy Island of **Lindisfarne**, where we will visit both the 16th century **Castle**, converted to a private house by Lutyens, and the **Priory**, one of the most important centres of early Christianity. (B, D)

**Day 3** This morning we visit **Alnwick Castle**, the historic home of the Duke of Northumberland, described as the 'Windsor of the North' and the second largest inhabited castle in England, along with the neighbouring **Alnwick Garden**. Later we explore **Craggside House**, which has the appearance of something from a Grimms fairy tale but when built in 1870 was crammed with the latest gadgets. (B, D)

**Day 4** We conclude at **Wallington House** which dates back to 1688 and was home to many generations of the Blackett and Trevelyn families, all of whom have left their legacy behind. We then return to Newcastle for our afternoon train journey back to London Kings Cross. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Bamburgh Castle

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Maldron Hotel, Newcastle
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel from London to Newcastle (first class upgrades and regional rail connections available; £100pp discount for no rail)
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 5 Jun	£995	£945
1 - 4 Sep	£995	£945
Single Supplement		£120

Tour code: **BCHN**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,195** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Coastal Castles and Magnificent Mansions of Dorset

We wind our way through the stunning Surrey countryside, the rolling downs of Hampshire and the New Forest National Park to discover the coastal castles and magnificent mansions of Dorset. We visit the ancestral home of William and Ali Hanham, Deans Court, whose family has lived here for nearly 500 years. We also have a private guided tour of Highcliffe Castle, visit the opulent Kingston Lacy, as well as the Russell-Cotes House and Gallery.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Basingstoke). Our first stop is **Deans Court**, an exquisite historic house set in mature gardens that has been owned by the same family for almost 500 years. (D)

**Day 2** We take a nostalgic trip on the **Swanage Railway** and explore the ruins of **Corfe Castle**, partially destroyed by Cromwell's troops in 1646. Later we visit **Highcliffe Castle**, said to be one of the most important surviving houses of the Romantic and Picturesque styles. (B, D)

**Day 3** Visit the opulent **Kingston Lacy**, built to emulate a Venetian Palace with lavishly decorated interiors and notable collections of paintings and Egyptian artefacts. Later, we head to the **Russell-Cotes House and Gallery**, home to exceptional collections of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite art. (B, D)

**Day 4** Two splendid castles feature today. **Sherborne Castle** was built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 and has been home to the Wingfield Digby family since 1617. It reflects some 400 years of decorative styles and there are nationally important collections of furniture, paintings, and porcelain to discover inside. The grounds were landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. **Portland Castle** was built almost 50 years earlier by Henry VIII as a coastal defensive fortress. There is much to explore including the Tudor Kitchen, Herb Garden, the Armoury and the Gun platform. (B, D)

**Day 5** We conclude at **Athelhampton Hall**, one of the finest Tudor manor houses in England. The Great Hall showcases great Tudor architecture in the form of its linenfold panelling, ancient heraldic stained glass and minstrel's gallery. We later return to our original pick-up points. (B, L)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Highcliffe Castle

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Marsham Court, Bournemouth (or similar)
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 15 Jun	<b>£1,295</b>	<b>£1,195</b>
5 - 9 Sep	<b>£1,295</b>	<b>£1,195</b>

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

Tour code: **BCMD**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£895** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50** NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Colours of the Lake District

It's easy to see why so many celebrated literary figures chose to call the Lake District home - this part of the country is simply spectacular. By far the UK's most popular national park, the Lake District was given UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2017 and its spellbinding landscape of rolling mountains and sprawling lakes is sure to inspire even the most uncreative soul!

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Luton, Northampton, Birmingham, Lancaster) and head to **Sizergh Castle**. Originally built in the Middle Ages by the Strickland family, this imposing house at the gateway to the Lake District stands proud in a rich and beautiful garden, with a pond, a lake, an important collection of hardy ferns and a superb limestone rock garden. We continue to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We visit two of William Wordsworth's former homes including **Dove Cottage**, featuring the couch referred to in the poem 'Daffodils' and **Rydal Mount**, which contains many of his prized possessions. (B, D)

**Day 3** We tour **Hill Top**, the delightful 17th century farmhouse where **Beatrix Potter** lived and worked, complete with the little garden that inspired 'Peter Rabbit'. Our theme continues at the **Beatrix Potter Gallery**, a 17th century solicitor's office now home

to her original watercolours and sketches. Then we visit **Brantwood**, a medieval-style garden which contains an extensive collection of British native herbs. (B, D)

**Day 4** We visit **Levens Hall**, with its world-famous topiary gardens created in 1694 by Monsieur Guillaume Beaumont, who had been trained under Le Nôtre at Versailles, and who laid out the gardens at Hampton Court before returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Derwentwater, Keswick

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Skiddaw Hotel, Keswick
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 20 Jun	<b>£945</b>	<b>£895</b>
29 Sep - 2 Oct	<b>£945</b>	<b>£895</b>

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

Tour code: **BATL**





Lismore Castle

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1,895**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**NEW**

TOUR MANAGER  
TREVOR EDWARDS

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens of Waterford and Cork

Our bases in Cork and Waterford make a fabulous foundation for a journey visiting the very best gardens this corner of Ireland has to offer, personally selected by our host and tour manager, Trevor Edwards.

Ask us about the multifarious charms of world-beloved Irish capital Dublin, and we could keep going for hours. But venturing further afield on the Emerald Isle holds rich rewards indeed, not least a hoard of horticultural gems. Explore colourful collections of camellias at Tourin House; rare and tender trees at Fota Arboretum, and one of the largest collections of plants anywhere in the world. We also include private gardens owned by passionate plantsmen and women, who are kind enough to give us personal guided tours of their treasured outdoor havens.

**Day 1** We depart on a flight from London for Cork, and on arrival visit **Fota Arboretum and Garden**, home to one of the finest collections of rare and tender trees throughout the British Isles. In the afternoon we continue to the private garden of **Hester Forde** at Coosheen, which houses a unique collection of plants and has been described by Shirley Lanigan in her book *The 100 Best Gardens in Ireland* as 'nothing short of a tour de force'. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit **Anne's Grove**, a historic estate located near Castletownroche. In the afternoon we visit the historic gardens of **Lismore Castle**. Set within the outer defensive walls, the gardens are divided into three distinct parts, the Reilig Garden, the Upper Garden, and the Lower Garden. The gardens collectively cover 10 acres and are the oldest cultivated gardens in the country. (B)

**Day 3** We visit the garden at **Salterbridge House**, filled with camellias, magnolias, rhododendrons and many other woodland shrubs. We continue to **Cappoquin House**, a Georgian mansion, before visiting **Dromana House**, another former castle site occupying a spectacular position high above the river. (B, D)

**Day 4** We spend the entire morning exploring the palatial **Curraghmore Estate**, the historic home of

the 9th Marquis of Waterford. Its 2,500 acres of formal gardens and woodland make it the largest private demesne in the country, and one of its most impressive stately homes. We continue to **Tourin House and Gardens**. The 16th century tower house originally built on the plot can still be seen from the garden. (B)

**Day 5** Today we visit **Mount Congreve Gardens**, home to one of the largest private collections of plants in the world and **Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens**, which are a living biography of the Greek/Irish writer Patrick Lafcadio Hearn. (B)

**Day 6** We visit the gardens at **Ballymaloe Cookery School** first today, a verdant paradise filled with treasures, then conclude our tour at **Hillside**, the private garden of Mary Byrne. As well as ancient woodland there is a scree bed filled with treasures such as salvias, irises, saxifrages, gentians and phloxes; a large border with a series of calming penstemons, crocosmias and lobelias, and small gravel paths lined with shade lovers such as hellebores, hostas and ferns. Following our visit we transfer to Cork airport for our flight home. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Mount Congreve Gardens

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Trevor helped us with the content of this new tour and is looking forward to sharing one of his favourite corners of Ireland with our guests.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' bed and breakfast: two nights at the Maldron Shandon Hotel, Cork and three nights at the Tower Hotel, Waterford (or similar), and two dinners
- Return flights from London to Cork
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

22 - 27 Jun	<b>£1,995</b>	<b>£1,895</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£425</b>

Tour code: **BWCG**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,495** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Gardens of Jersey

Situated within touching distance of France, the island of Jersey is blessed with wonderfully mild and sunny weather and is home to some splendid gardens which make the most of this favourable climate to produce stunning displays, not to mention the profusion of wildflowers that thrive in the lush green meadows. Creux Baillot Cottage Garden is set in a tranquil valley and packed full of unusual plants and elegant features. At the Domain des Vaux, fine trees and shrubs are set around a traditional Jersey farmhouse and at Les Aix we find nut and camellia trees, and borders with old English roses. We also visit the excellent Samarès Botanical Gardens and the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.

**Day 1** Fly from London to Jersey and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. Our local guide will host a pre-dinner welcome meeting to introduce us to this wonderful island. (D)

**Day 2** Three private gardens await this morning, starting with **Domain des Vaux**, whose attractive gardens and woodland are set around a traditional Jersey farmhouse. We continue to **Les Aix** with its borders of old English roses and on to **Creux Baillot**, where we will meet the enthusiastic owner of this, one of the most established gardens on the island, filled with many rare and unusual plants. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today is free for us to explore all that **Jersey** has to offer. Alternatively, join our optional excursion to neighbouring **Guernsey**, which includes a guided

tour of historic **Sausmarez Manor** followed by time to explore its lush sub-tropical gardens. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning we visit the privately owned **Samarès Botanic Gardens**, a development of gardens created in the 1920s by Sir James Knott. After some free time in Gorey, we head to the **Eric Young Orchid Foundation** which has an outstanding collection of orchids, followed by **Ransoms Garden Centre**, where we enjoy a cream tea and a chance to pick up some souvenirs. (B, CT, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, CT: Cream Tea, D: Dinner



Mont Orgueil

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Pomme d'Or Hotel, St Helier
- ▶ Return flights from London to Jersey
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
15 - 19 May	<del>£1,595</del>	<b>£1,495</b>
4 - 8 Sep	<del>£1,795</del>	<b>£1,695</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£295</b>

Tour code: **BJER**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£895** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

## The Gardens of Kent and Sussex

If there's one tour that epitomises the joy of strolling around a perfect English country garden, it is this one – with one shining example after another to be savoured and enjoyed. Even if you have visited some of these properties before, such is their allure that you can return again and again, just as you would re-read your favourite novel. First-time visitors will be bowled over by the quality and pedigree of these gardens, which capture the essence of the English country garden. We start at Great Comp, filled with rare and beautiful shrubs, followed by Lullingstone Castle. Nymans Garden offers outstanding plants in a theatrical setting and is twinned with the Sussex Prairie Garden, reminiscent of the work of the great Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf. We also visit Sissinghurst, surely the most-copied flower garden in the world, and Great Dixter. A stroll around the gardens of Scotney Castle and a special visit to RHS Garden Wisley round off a distinguished tour.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Gatwick) for **Great Comp Garden**, home to rare shrubs, perennials and hardy plants. Continue to **Lullingstone Castle**, with its unique World Garden of Plants. (D)

**Day 2** Today, we set off for **Sussex Prairie Garden** at Henfield. Surrounded by mature oak trees, this garden has a naturalistic style, reminiscent of the work of Piet Oudolf. We continue to **Nymans Garden**, an outstanding plant collection in an inspirational setting. (B, D)

**Day 3** This morning, we are privileged to have an 'early bird' visit to the manicured gardens of **Sissinghurst**. This famous garden, created by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, became the most admired English Garden of its time. We continue to another classic English Country Garden, **Great Dixter**. (B, D)

**Day 4** Our first visit is to **Scotney Castle**, which boasts a picturesque garden. We conclude in the distinguished surroundings of **RHS Garden Wisley**, with lunch and a guided tour. (B, L)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Wakehurst Place © Jim Holden - RBG Kew

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Donnington Manor Hotel, Sevenoaks (or similar)
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
21 - 24 Jun	<del>£995</del>	<b>£945</b>
16 - 19 Aug	<del>£945</del>	<b>£895</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

Tour code: **BKSG**



4 DAYS FROM

£945

SAVE PER PERSON

£50

## Gardens of Northumberland

The largely rural county of Northumberland is home to a range of individual and imaginative gardens, with each one giving an unusual insight into the pleasure of gardening in this most beautiful and tranquil corner of England. We visit the gardens of Belsay Hall, which are uniquely set in the quarry that provided the stone to build the house itself. Mindrum, with its large and generous garden, in Whalton, one of Northumberland's prettiest villages, we find Manor House. Newbiggin House, in the equally pretty village of Blanchland, offers us delightful old fashioned herbaceous borders, while, by way of contrast, the Alnwick Garden, whose inspiration stems from the unbridled passion of the Duchess of Northumberland, gives us a garden for the 21st century, full of innovative features and bold planting.

**Day 1** We travel by rail from London's Kings Cross to Newcastle and transfer to **Belsay Hall**, a Grade I listed medieval Manor House with a banqueting hall that dates back to at least the 13th century. (D)

**Day 2** Today we travel through the wild and rugged landscape of north Northumberland to **Mindrum**. The garden was created with great skill and verve by the owner, and is now looked after by her son. We transfer to her new garden, created a few years ago at **Kirky Cottage**, where lunch is included. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** Today, we visit **Alnwick Garden**, one of the world's most ambitious new gardens. The Duchess of Northumberland's vision for a forgotten plot is

now a 21st century experience full of imagination, inspiration and fun. Our second visit today will be to the garden at the **Manor House**. (B, D)

**Day 4** Before heading home, we travel to the Northumberland/Durham border to **Newbiggin House**, a five-acre landscaped garden at 1,000ft started in 1996, which has matured beautifully. We then catch a train from Newcastle back to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Alnwick Gardens - The Grand Cascade

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the centrally located 4-star Marriott Royal County Hotel, Durham and one lunch
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel from London Kings Cross to Newcastle (first class upgrades and regional rail connections available; £100 reduction for no rail travel) and comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

28 - 31 Jul	£995	£945
Single Supplement		£120

Tour code: **BNBG**

4 DAYS FROM

£745

SAVE PER PERSON

£50

TOUR MANAGER  
TONY RUSSELL

## Grand Gardens of Anglesey and Snowdonia

Set among glorious scenery that includes the mountains of Snowdonia, dramatic seascapes and ancient castles, North Wales is home to some outstanding gardens. One of the best is Plas Cadnant, whose new owner brought it back to life. It has since emerged as a gem of a garden full of interest. Further highlights include Plas yn Rhiw, Bodnant Garden and the eccentric Italianate village of Portmeirion.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Luton, Northampton, Birmingham) and head to the gardens of **Powis Castle**. This amazing garden is cared for by the National Trust and has some of the most flamboyant and stylish herbaceous planting of any garden in the British Isles. From here, we continue to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We visit the gardens at **Plas Branadanw**, followed by the village of **Portmeirion** – both created in a unique Italianate style by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. Much work has been carried out in recent years to improve the gardens here, enhancing the architecture's beauty. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we visit **Mynydd Heulog**, an 18th century stone cottage set in a sloping garden with amazing views over the bay. Gradually being developed over 25 years, the garden is now an eclectic mix of mature trees, shrubs, perennials and

exotics. We then visit **Plas yn Rhiw**, a delightful manor house with an ornamental garden which contains many beautiful flowering trees and shrubs, with beds framed by box hedges and grass paths. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we travel to the privately owned garden of **Maenan Hall**, a beautiful property set among mature hardwoods on the slopes of the Conwy Valley. In the afternoon we travel to **Colwyn Bay** to visit **Bodnant Garden** and then we tour **Plas Cadnant**, a historic hidden garden which is slowly being uncovered and restored to its former glory. Later, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Bodnant Garden

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

As a resident of Snowdonia, Tony is intimately acquainted with the wonderful gardens in this particularly scenic corner of Wales.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

10 - 13 May	£795	£745
5 - 8 Aug	£795	£745
Single Supplement		£195

Tour code: **BNWA**





Chichester Cathedral

4 DAYS FROM  
**£845**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

**NEW**

TOUR MANAGER  
JULIA CORDEN

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## The Chichester Flower Festival and Gardens of Hampshire

The biennial Chichester Flower Festival, in the magnificent setting of the 940 year-old Cathedral, is the centrepiece of this garden tour, an opportunity to experience a host of handcrafted floral arrangements along with an exhibition of sculptures. Whether you are a keen gardener or simply appreciate the beauty of flowers, you will find something here to inspire and delight you. Our colourful and fragrant tour begins at the garden at Hinton Ampner, widely acknowledged as a masterpiece of 20th-century garden design. Next we visit the Sir Harold Hillier Garden & Arboretum, whose unique collection of plants makes this one of the best arboretums and nurseries in Britain, and Mottisfont Abbey, whose collection of old roses will be at the peak of its flowering glory. We visit Bramdean House, famous for its mirror-image herbaceous borders and conclude at Longstock Water Garden.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points (*London, Heathrow, Basingstoke*) this morning and head for our first visit, the garden at **Hinton Ampner** near Winchester. The garden covers 12 acres and has some excellent topiary as well as colourful borders and a delightful walled garden, which dates back to Tudor times when it may have been the hop garden. We then continue to our hotel in Winchester. (D)

**Day 2** This morning we visit **Sir Harold Hillier Garden & Arboretum**. The unique collection of plants here make this one of the best arboretums in Britain. Several National Collections of plants are held, including cotoneaster, dogwoods, hazels and hornbeams, but every genus of hardy woody plants in the British Isles is represented, and it is a great delight to see so many fine plants in close proximity. Our afternoon visit is to **Mottisfont Abbey**, home to the National Collection of pre-1900 old roses. Ancient trees, rolling lawns and bubbling brooks surround the house, but it is the roses that steal the show here and at this time of year they will be at their peak, filling the air with their delicate fragrance. (B, D)

**Day 3** We begin today with a visit to the garden of **Bramdean House**, which has a large and unusual collection of plants and shrubs. A large walled garden features prize-winning vegetables, fruit and flowers. Following this we transfer to Chichester Cathedral, the venue for the **Festival of Flowers**. Here we have the opportunity to experience 60 floral arrangements, handcrafted by talented florists and flower enthusiasts from across the county. The Festival will also see the return of celebrated Sculptor Philip Jackson, who will be presenting an exhibition of sculptures exclusively for ticket holders. (B, D)

**Day 4** We depart for **Longstock Water Garden and Nursery**. With its varied habitats, the garden provides the ideal environment for cultivating a great diversity of water-loving plants, with over eighty different types of water lily alone. The nursery is also home to the NCCPG National Collection of *Buddleia* - there are over 100 different varieties, many of which are displayed for sale in the nursery's beds. We later continue to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Longstock Water Garden



Sir Harold Hillier Garden

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn Winchester
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of Julia Corden as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

3 - 6 Jun	<b>£895</b>	<b>£845</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

Tour code: **BCFF**





Quantock Hills

4 DAYS FROM  
**£795**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

**NEW**

## Somerset's Secret Gardens

One of England's most scenic counties is Somerset, whose lush green pastures, orchards and little villages provide a wonderful backdrop to a most colourful and varied collection of private gardens. We begin with a visit to Coldharbour Cottage, an idyllic rural garden with a sublime mix of thoughtful planting. The same can be said of Batcombe House, an outstanding plantswoman's garden in two parts, one a riot of colour, the other an oasis of contemporary calm. We visit Milton Lodge, an Edwardian terraced garden, and sympathetically planted Stoberry, both with breathtaking views over the Vale of Avalon. We continue with Bradon Farm, a classic formal garden; Lane End House, a well-stocked garden with specimen trees, and Hillcrest, a garden full of interest and with stunning views. Finally we visit the Walled Gardens of Cannington, which our guide Roy Cheek helped to create.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points (*London, Reading, Swindon and Bristol*) and head for our first visit, the privately-owned **Coldharbour Cottage** near Radstock, an idyllic rural garden set in peaceful countryside. Here we find a sublime mix of thoughtful planting and natural areas reflecting the historical and modern heritage of this secluded acre. We then continue to our accommodation at the Holiday Inn, Taunton. (*D*)

**Day 2** We visit the privately-owned garden at **Batcombe House** near Shepton Mallet. This is a plantswoman's and designer's garden of two parts: one a riot of colour through kitchen terraces and a potager leading to a wildflower orchard; the other a calm contemporary amphitheatre with large herbaceous borders and interesting trees and shrubs. We then visit the beautiful cathedral city of **Wells** for some free time before continuing to the garden at **Milton Lodge**, a mature Grade II, terraced garden conceived around 1900. It was in 1960 when the garden was lovingly restored to its former glory by replacing an orchard with a raised collection of ornamental trees. We finish today at **Stoberry Garden**, which provides a stunning combination of vistas accented with wildlife ponds, water features and sculpture. (*B, D*)

**Day 3** We begin today with a visit to **Bradon Farm**, a classic formal garden demonstrating the effective use of structure, featuring a parterre, a knot garden, a pleached lime walk, a formal pond, herbaceous borders and an orchard. In the village of Stoke St Gregory we find **Lane End House**, where a rough grazing field has been transformed into a well-stocked garden with a large number of specimen trees, as well as an apiary, pond and flower-filled borders. Close by is the garden of **Hillcrest**, which enjoys stunning views over the Somerset Levels, Burrow Mump and Glastonbury Tor. There are woodland walks, varied borders, a flowering meadow and several ponds, along with a produce garden and a large gravel garden. (*B, D*)

**Day 4** This morning we enjoy a scenic drive through the heaths and woodlands of the **Quantock Hills** on the way to our final visit, the **Walled Gardens of Cannington**, which our guide, horticulturalist **Roy Cheek**, helped to construct. Classic and contemporary features include a hot herbaceous border, a blue garden, a sub-tropical walk and a Victorian style fernery. There is also a botanical glasshouse where arid, sub-tropical and tropical plants can be seen. Following this we continue to our original departure points. (*B*)

**Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



Wells Cathedral



Stoberry Garden

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn Taunton
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of Roy Cheek as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
9 - 12 May	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
4 - 7 Jul	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

Tour code: **BSSG**





Barnsdale ©Steve Hamilton

4 DAYS FROM  
**£795**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

**NEW**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens of Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire

The late Geoff Hamilton is fondly remembered as a long-serving presenter of the BBC's *Gardeners' World*, often broadcasting from his beloved garden at Barnsdale, which for many will be the highlight of this East Midlands experience. But there are many other gems to be enjoyed here, such as Belton House, often described as the perfect English country estate, and the 400-year old Easton Walled Garden, brilliantly brought back to life after decades of neglect. The owners of The Old Vicarage had a similar task on their hands and have transformed an overgrown wilderness into a wonderful garden. We also have visits to Stowe Landscape Gardens, one of 'Capability' Brown's most notable works, and the extensive Coton Manor Gardens. Aside from gardens we enjoy a relaxing cruise on Rutland Water and, seeing as we are in Leicester, discover the remarkable story behind the discovery of the body of Richard III.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points (*London, Luton*) and head to **Stowe Landscape Garden**, where Lancelot 'Capability' Brown joined the gardening staff as Head Gardener in 1741. Over the next few years Brown created one of the finest Georgian landscaped gardens, comprising valleys and vistas, narrow lakes and rivers with more than 30 temples and monuments designed by leading architects of the 18th century. (D)

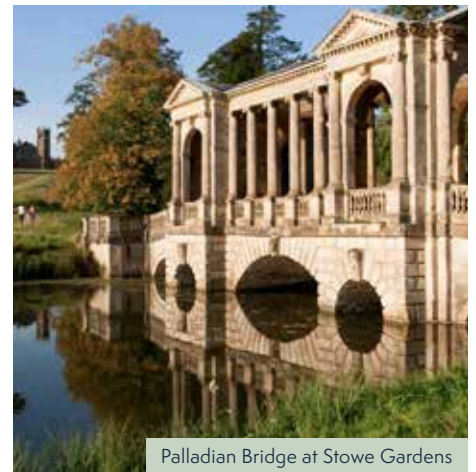
**Day 2** Today, following breakfast, we begin with **Barnsdale Gardens**, near Oakham. These gardens were designed and made famous by Geoff Hamilton, who presented BBC *Gardeners' World* from 1979 until his death in 1996. Barnsdale is now home to Britain's largest collection of individually designed gardens, the 38 plots ranging in style from traditional cottage plantings to modern gardens, allotments, woodlands and formal ponds and have been likened to a theme park for gardeners. Following our visit here we transfer to **Rutland Water**, England's largest reservoir by surface area, where we will enjoy an hour-long cruise aboard the Rutland Belle. We conclude today with a visit to a private garden, the **Old Vicarage** at Burley. The garden sits on a hill, and when the current owners took over the garden in 1996, it was a wilderness of

nettles, brambles and barbed wire. This wonderful garden is now divided into different areas including a pond, rose garden and walled garden. (B, D)

**Day 3** Our first visit is to **Belton House**, often cited as the perfect example of an English country house estate. Later we visit **Easton Walled Gardens**, which are at least 400 years old and were abandoned in 1951 when Easton Hall was pulled down. Since 2001 the 12 acres of forgotten gardens have undergone extensive renovation and today the 16th century garden with its Victorian embellishments can be enjoyed once again. (B, D)

**Day 4** Before we leave Leicester we will call in at the **King Richard III Visitor Centre**, which tells the remarkable story of the amazing evidence gathering that led to the discovery of the long-lost remains of Richard III under a car park. We break our journey back to London with a visit to **Coton Manor Gardens**, near Guilsborough. The ten acre garden occupies a hillside position and is noted for its luxuriant borders using a wide range of unusual plants. We then continue our journey back to our original departure points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Palladian Bridge at Stowe Gardens



Coton Manor Gardens

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Holiday Inn, Leicester (or similar)
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

14 - 17 Jun	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

Tour code: **BRBG**





RHS Garden Rosemoor

7 DAYS FROM  
**£2,145**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**NEW**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Summer Gardens of Cornwall

A visit to Cornwall in early summer is a rewarding experience and there is an abundance of gardens to choose from - thanks to the benign climate a wide range of plants can be grown here, from the great Asiatic shrubs to tender exotics. Among the outstanding visits is a specially arranged guided tour of the garden at Tregrehan with owner Tom Hudson, who will give us his personal insight into the pleasures and pitfalls of gardening here in the Duchy of Cornwall. Other highlights include the garden at Marsh Villa, the result of years of hard labour by the enthusiastic owner, and the Tremenheere Sculpture Garden near Penzance, which has established itself as a major attraction over the last decade. We also offer the option to visit one of the wonders of the garden world, the unique Abbey Gardens on the island of Tresco, and take the opportunity to visit RHS Rosemoor in the neighbouring county of Devon, where the huge collection of roses will be at their peak of flowering.

**Day 1** We depart by coach from our pick-up points (London, Reading, Swindon and Bristol) and head for Cornwall, breaking our journey with a visit to **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit **Tregrehan** where we will be privileged to have a guided tour with owner **Tom Hudson**. Tregrehan is now an important green gene bank of known source plants including camellias bred by the late owner. We continue today with a visit to **Marsh Villa**, situated in a former tidal creek made famous by Daphne du Maurier's book 'The House on the Strand'. (B, D)

**Day 3** This morning we visit **Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens**, near Penzance. The garden is set in a beautiful sheltered valley, surrounded by woods, a stream and dramatic vistas, and is filled with high quality contemporary art installations. We continue to the gardens at **Trengwainton**, which contain many rare and unusual species, which are difficult to grow in the open anywhere else in the country. (B, D)

**Day 4** We begin today with a visit to the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**. The award winning gardens, asleep for more than seventy years, are the scene of the largest garden restoration project in Europe

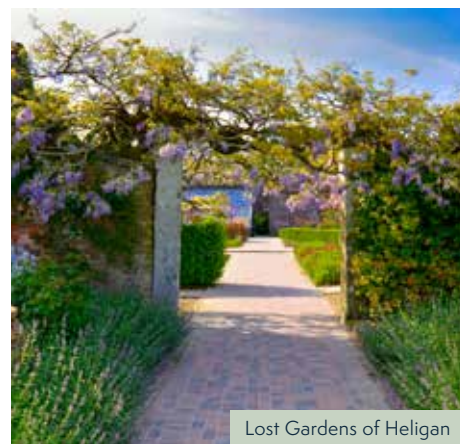
and we will discover the story as well as enjoy a guided tour of the garden by a member of staff. We then transfer to the remarkable **Pinetum Park and Pine Lodge Gardens**, which has consistently received rave reviews over the years. (B, D)

**Day 5** We begin today with a trip on the **River Fal** to visit **Trelissick**, a modern garden which is constantly evolving, with new planting and fresh ideas. We transfer to the garden of **Lamorran House**, where we will have an introductory talk before viewing the garden, which has both Italianate and Japanese styles. (B, D)

**Day 6** A free day to relax in the hotel or explore the surrounding area. Alternatively we offer an optional excursion by helicopter to **Tresco** and the fabulous **Abbey Gardens**, famously described as 'Eden with the lid off'. (B, D)

**Day 7** We break our return journey with a detour into north Devon as we visit **RHS Garden Rosemoor**. At this time of year the roses which grow in abundance here will be at their peak, providing a kaleidoscope of colour, as we will discover in the course of our guided tour. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Lost Gardens of Heligan

### OPTIONAL EXCURSION - £250PP

After an early breakfast we depart for Land's End Airport from where we will fly to St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly. On arrival you will be taken to the quayside for a short boat transfer to Tresco, where we visit the unique **Abbey Gardens**, home to more than 3,000 species and magnificent vistas, colours and scents. The head gardener will be on hand to answer any questions.

PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Vara, Truro
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 - 30 Jun	<b>£2,245</b>	<b>£2,145</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£395</b>
Optional Excursion - Tresco		<b>£250</b>

Tour code: **BUCO**





Tresco

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,895**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

TOUR MANAGER  
MIKE NELHAMS

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams

With the help of Mike Nelhams, Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens and a long-standing friend of Brightwater Holidays, we have put together this very special tour of Cornwall, featuring not only the gardens but the personalities behind them. These include Sir Tim Smit, the driving force behind both the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project, and Charles Williams of Caerhays Castle. At our base in the comfortable Alverton Hotel, Truro, our tour begins with a presentation from Mike Nelhams on the great Gardens of Cornwall.

Over the following three days we will see the gardens for ourselves, beginning with a tour of the Lost Gardens of Heligan with Garden Manager Alasdair Moore, after a personal introduction from Sir Tim Smit, and a visit to the wonderful gardens of Caerhays Castle, which includes lunch and a welcome from the owner Charles Williams. After an exciting day on Tresco and a tour of the outstanding Abbey Gardens led by Mike himself, our tour concludes with a visit to the private garden of Lamorran House and a tour of the unique Tregothnan Tea Plantation.

**Day 1** We depart by train from London Paddington for Truro and continue by coach to our hotel in Cornwall. Before dinner, our guide **Mike Nelhams** will give a presentation on his favourite Cornish gardens. (D)

**Day 2** We begin with a visit to the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, where we will be welcomed by Sir Tim Smit who 'discovered' and restored the gardens to their former glory. We will then be joined by Alasdair Moore, Head of Gardens and a former assistant to Mike Nelhams on Tresco, for a tour of the gardens. Following this we transfer to **Caerhays Castle**, where we will be welcomed by Charles Williams, whose family have owned Caerhays since the mid-19th century. After **lunch in the castle** we will enjoy a guided tour of the garden with a member of the family. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** We transfer to Penzance and take a helicopter flight to **Tresco**, where Mike will take us on a personal guided tour of the **Abbey Garden**, without doubt one of the most stunning gardens in the British Isles. Caressed by the Gulf Stream, the

exceptionally mild climate allows a wide range of exotic, sub-tropical plants to thrive here. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning we depart for a visit to the privately-owned garden of **Lamorran House**, which has been designed by the owner in an Italianate style, although there are also Japanese influences here. Many features are included to divide the garden into intimate compartments which the visitor can explore. We continue to **Tregothnan Estate**, where we hope to be welcomed by the owner Lord Falmouth. After **lunch** we will be joined by Managing Director Jonathon Jones for a tour of the unique **Tregothnan Tea Plantation**, which has expanded greatly since the first bushes were planted in 1999. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** Following breakfast, the morning is free to explore **Truro** and perhaps visit the Cathedral. Later, we return by train to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Tregothnan

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

Mike Nelhams is the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens and one of Brightwater Holidays' longest-serving, most popular and well-travelled garden experts.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Alverton Hotel, Truro
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Truro (regional rail connections and upgrades can also be arranged at a supplement; (£100pp discount for no rail travel)
- ▶ Return helicopter flight to the Scilly Isles
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Mike Nelhams as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
25 - 29 Mar	<b>£1,995</b>	<b>£1,895</b>
15 - 19 Apr	<b>£2,045</b>	<b>£1,945</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£295</b>

Tour code: **BCM N**





Laugharne

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,045**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

**NEW**

TOUR MANAGER  
TONY RUSSELL

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens of South and West Wales

Tucked away in the rolling countryside of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire are some fine parks and gardens, both large and small; ancient and modern. The centrepiece of our tour is the National Botanic Garden of Wales, the first garden of its type to be created in the United Kingdom for 200 years. This spectacular re-interpretation of the historical garden blends the careful restoration of the historic, double-walled garden with Norman Foster's Great Greenhouse, the largest single span glasshouse in the world, where mere panes of glass separate the familiar green hills of Wales from a panoramic sweep of warm, Mediterranean scenery. By contrast Aberglasney is a superb 16th/17th century garden, which was discovered after 50 years of neglect and has been restored to produce a garden with immense appeal. We visit superb woodland gardens at Upton and Picton Castle along with some interesting private gardens, including Dyffryn Fernant, built from scratch.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points (*London, Reading, Swindon, Bristol*) and travel to Cardiff, near which lies the magnificent **Dyffryn Botanic Gardens**, a Grade 1 listed Edwardian garden designed by landscape architect Thomas Mawson, displaying a series of garden 'rooms' enclosed within clipped Yew hedges. Our tour manager **Tony Russell** will join us here and conduct a guided tour of the garden. We continue our journey to Pembrokeshire and our accommodation at the **Beggars Reach Hotel**, Burton. Prior to dinner, Tony will give us an introductory talk on the gardens of the region. (D)

**Day 2** Following breakfast we will travel to the **National Botanic Garden of Wales** in the exquisite location of a 568 acre estate in the heart of Carmarthenshire. Among the innovative and informative features here are the Great Greenhouses, the oval walled garden and the herbaceous boardwalk. We continue to **Aberglasney**, set in the beautiful Towy valley. This is a superb 16th/17th century garden, which was rediscovered after 50 years of neglect and has been restored to produce a garden with immense appeal. Set within nine acres are six different spaces with a rich and diverse collection of plants,

including three walled gardens and the unique Elizabethan/Jacobean cloister. (B, D)

**Day 3** We depart for **Dyffryn Fernant Garden**, a plantsman's garden, created from scratch by the owners, with a number of 'rooms' including an azalea bank, a bog garden and a fernery and camellia walk. This afternoon we will visit **Picton Castle**, home to some of the most beautiful woodland gardens in West Wales. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning we visit the gardens of **Upton Castle**, 35 acres of listed historic gardens, surrounded by ancient woodlands. We then transfer to the village of **Laugharne** where the poet **Dylan Thomas** lived and worked in his later years. Our final visit today is to the private garden of **Llwyngarreg**, which makes the most of the local climate. (B, D)

**Day 5** We travel to **Dewstow Gardens**, a garden of tunnels and underground grottoes that was buried underneath thousands of tons of soil for over 50 years until 2000 when the gardens were rediscovered and renovated. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Protea - National Botanical gardens

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

As 'Our Man in Wales' Tony has designed this new itinerary which features some of the best gardens in the south and west of the Principality.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Beggars Reach Hotel, Burton
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

12 - 16 Apr	<b>£1,145</b>	<b>£1,045</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£275</b>

Tour code: **BGSW**





Highgrove ©Robert Smith

4 DAYS FROM

**£795**

SAVE PER PERSON

**£50**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Highgrove and the Cotswolds

Our tour of the Cotswolds features an exclusive visit to Highgrove House, the country home of His Majesty The King. This will be a rare opportunity to see these fascinating gardens, which, of course, are cultivated using wholly organic methods.

Some of the finest gardens in England are to be found nestled among the green and rolling hills of Gloucestershire. Our tour begins at the Arts and Crafts house of Rodmarton Manor, whose fine garden comprises a series of 'outdoor rooms'. Hidcote Manor's contrasting garden rooms are one of the most impressive sights in England and Kiftsgate's splendid views are justly famous. We also visit Painswick Rococo Garden, a recreation of a pleasure ground from the early 18th century and finally Westonbirt, the National Arboretum.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (*London, Reading, Swindon, Bristol*) and head for **Rodmarton Manor**, an 'Arts and Crafts' house with a fine eight-acre garden comprising a series of 'outdoor rooms', each with its own distinctive character. The architect Ernest Barnsley started Rodmarton in 1909 and it became a shrine to the Cotswolds crafts movement. The grey gabled house has an intricate garden of lively atmosphere, formal in spirit but with a cottage-garden feel to it. There are superb vistas throughout and plenty of places to sit and admire the surroundings. We continue to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** More garden rooms feature today as we visit **Hidcote Manor**, an outstanding garden of dramatic contrasts and carefully framed vistas. It was started before World War I by an American, Major Lawrence Johnston, who devised a type of garden that many think of as quintessentially English. Although among the best-known gardens in Britain, Hidcote Manor still has the power to startle. We continue to **Kiftsgate Court**, which offers an admirable selection of plants and flowers, not least of which is the well-known rambling rose *R. filipes* 'Kiftsgate'. The house, in a splendid setting with views to the Vale of Evesham, is surrounded by a series of enclosed gardens, whose formality is blurred by generous planting. (B, D)

**Day 3** This morning we explore **Highgrove**, the country home of His Majesty The King. This will be a rare opportunity to see these fascinating gardens which of course are cultivated using wholly organic methods. In the afternoon, we will enjoy a visit to **Painswick Rococo Garden**. This is a pleasure ground created in the decadent and fun loving early 18th century, where follies nestle in a hidden valley surrounded by magnificent Cotswolds views. Using a painting, by Thomas Robins in 1748, the garden is being fully restored to its eighteenth century character. Its main features are rococo buildings, woodland walks and well-planned vistas. (B, D)

**Day 4** We conclude among the sylvan delights of **Westonbirt**, the **National Arboretum**, which is perhaps the most important and widely known arboretum in the United Kingdom. It comprises some 18,000 trees and shrubs, over an area of approximately 600 acres. We will see numerous 'champion' trees including rare magnolias, tree rhododendrons and maples as well as a wide variety of smaller trees and shrubs. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Hidcote Manor

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at a comfortable hotel in the Cotswolds
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 20 May	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
21 - 24 Jun	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
2 - 5 Aug	<b>£845</b>	<b>£795</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

*Please note, by the very nature of this holiday we are dependent on a successful application for admittance to Highgrove. Departures are expected to be confirmed in February 2024.*

Tour code: **BHGC**



4 DAYS FROM

£645

SAVE PER PERSON

£50

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

NEW

## Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds

The Cotswolds are home to some of the best gardens for snowdrops in the British Isles, so this winter break will be of great appeal not just to ardent galanthophiles but to anyone who enjoys the uplifting sight that says spring is not too far away. Colesbourne is considered to be the greatest snowdrop garden of them all and for many will be the highlight of the tour, but there are many other outstanding displays to be enjoyed. These include Newark Park, Cerney House, Painswick Rococo Garden and the famous 'Arts and Crafts' house of Rodmarton Manor, where we find a staggering 150 different varieties of snowdrop.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Reading, Swindon and Bristol) and head to **Newark Park**, a secluded country estate upon the Cotswolds escarpment. Carpets of snowdrops cover the gardens and estate at this time of year. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast, we visit **Colesbourne Gardens**, considered to be England's greatest snowdrop garden. The collection is probably the most varied of any garden on display, with over three hundred varieties of this spectacular harbinger of spring on show during the short season. Later, we head to the gardens at **Cerney House**, where there are swathes of snowdrops to be discovered in all corners of this romantic garden. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we head to the town of Stroud and visit the **Museum in the Park**, in whose gorgeous walled garden there is an impressive display of snowdrops. Later we head for **Painswick Rococo Garden**, which is home to one of the country's largest naturalistic plantings of snowdrops, with 15 different species. It is said to be the spiritual home of the tall, honey-scented *Galanthus 'Atkinsii'* variety. (B, D)

**Day 4** We travel to the 'Arts and Crafts' house of **Rodmarton Manor**, where over 150 different species and varieties of snowdrops provide a spectacular conclusion to our celebration of this most charming and uplifting of flowers. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Snowdrops

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn Gloucester-Cheltenham
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

9 - 12 Feb

£695

£645

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: BSNC

3 DAYS FROM

£645

SAVE PER PERSON

£50

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Spring Gardens in Surrey featuring Kew Orchid Festival

Join us in the early spring in search of the first signs of life returning to gardens after the long winter months as we embark on a tour around some of Surrey's best spring gardens. For many the highlight will be our visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, which will once again be hosting its orchid festival. This wonderfully vibrant and colourful event encompasses a series of stunning horticultural displays and living sculptures, all featuring members of the hugely diverse Orchid family of plants.

Our other visits include **Claremont**, a green oasis in the heart of Surrey with a history dating back nearly 300 years, the gardens of **Polesden Lacy** where golden aconites carpet the ground and the **Savill Garden** with its stunning Daffodil Valley. We also visit **RHS Garden Wisley**, the home of the Royal Horticultural Society where we can enjoy the bursts of colour that the early bulbs and blossom bring before sitting down to dinner in this historic setting.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (Bristol, Swindon, Reading, London) and travel to **Claremont**, which features a serpentine lake and Camellia Terrace. A short drive takes us to **Polesden Lacey**, where the ground is covered with yellow aconites sprinkled with pearly white snowdrops. (D)

**Day 2** We head to the **Royal Botanic Garden Kew** where we visit the **Orchid Festival**. Details of the theme for 2024 are yet to be confirmed, but we can be sure of seeing impressive displays hand-

crafted by expert horticulturists. Later, we head to **RHS Garden Wisley**, where the highest standards of practical horticulture are deployed. We will also enjoy dinner in the elegant surroundings of this prestigious garden. (B, D)

**Day 3** We depart for the **Savill Gardens** in Windsor, one of Britain's greatest ornamental gardens where we enjoy a guided tour. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Kew Orchid Festival

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Two nights' bed & breakfast at the Holiday Inn Guildford
- ▶ Two dinners, one at the hotel and one at RHS Wisley
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

1 - 3 Mar

£695

£645

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: BGIS



4 DAYS FROM

£695

SAVE PER PERSON

£50

NEW

## Spring Gardens of Cornwall

Spring comes early in Cornwall, as trees, shrubs and bulbs bring life and colour back to the gardens. The near neighbours of Trebah and Glendurgan illustrate this perfectly, with the great Asiatic shrubs of rhododendron, magnolia and camellia all featuring, rich with blossom. The award-winning Lost Gardens of Heligan continue to fascinate, while over at the Eden Project things have come a long way since that disused chalk pit was transformed into a futuristic microcosm of botanical diversity. Our tour is bookedend with visits to two top-class National Trust properties at Knightshayes Court and Killerton.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points (London, Reading, Swindon and Bristol) and travel to **Knightshayes Court**, whose celebrated garden features a water lily pool, topiary, specimen trees, rare shrubs, seasonal colour and an impressive Victorian kitchen garden. Continue to our hotel in Newquay with views over the Atlantic. (D)

**Day 2** We visit the **Eden Project**, which since its opening in 2001 has become one of Cornwall's star attractions, with its huge controlled-environment plant conservatories. Our next visit is to the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, the scene of the largest garden restoration project in Europe. This time of year sees the reawakening of Heligan's fabulous collection of historic shrubs, including their notable camellias and rhododendrons. (B, D)

**Day 3** Following breakfast we depart for a visit to **Trebah**, a wild and colourful Cornish garden with something for everyone. We then continue to **Glendurgan**, a place of great beauty and tranquillity. At this time of year we can expect outstanding spring displays of magnolias and camellias. Look out too for the hedge maze, originally built by the owners in the 1830s to entertain their 12 children. (B, D)

**Day 4** We head for home and call in at the house and gardens of **Killerton**, set on a steep wooded hillside with the remains of an Iron Age Hill fort on top of it. Countless trees and shrubs thrive in the gardens including rhododendrons and magnolias which should be coming into full bloom. We later return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Lost Gardens of Heligan

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the comfortable Pentire Hotel, Newquay
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

18 – 21 Mar	£745	£695
Single Supplement		£150

Tour code: BSGC

6 DAYS FROM  
£1,795

SAVE PER PERSON  
£100

## In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll

Over the last hundred years, few would doubt the great influence Gertrude Jekyll had on garden design. In her lifetime Jekyll was a prolific garden designer creating over 400 gardens; she was a plantswoman extraordinaire, painter and writer, however she is perhaps best remembered for her association with the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Basingstoke) and head towards **Durmast House** where we find the private garden originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll. (D)

**Day 2** This morning we visit **Hestercombe**, one of Jekyll and Lutyens' greatest masterpieces, where we enjoy a tour with the **Head Gardener**. Later, we proceed to **Knightshayes Court**, a Grade I listed Victorian country house designed by William Burgess. (B, D)

**Day 3** We visit **East Lambrook**, recognised throughout the world as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening', having been created in the 1940s, 50s and 60s by the late gardening icon, Margery Fish. Her informal style of planting was unique and her work as an outstanding plantswoman, writer and journalist has made her one of the most important influences on gardening in the 20th century. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we visit **Munstead Wood**, which is where Gertrude Jekyll lived until her death in 1932 and was the scene of her highly influential garden experiments. The garden today is mainly woodland with many oaks, Scots pines, silver birches and chestnuts. (B, D)

**Day 5** We begin at **Loseley Park**, a highlight of which is the Walled Garden, an extensive area divided into 'rooms'. Later, we visit the gardens at **Gravetye Manor**, home to William Robinson, one of the greatest gardeners of all time. After a look around the garden we have an **exclusive private dinner** experience. (B, D)

**Day 6** Following breakfast, we visit the garden at **Vann**, which incorporates Gertrude Jekyll's 1911 water garden. Later, we visit the garden at **Upton Grey Manor House**, which is believed to be the most comprehensive and authentic Jekyll Garden. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



The grapevine arch in Loseley Park

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Five nights' bed and breakfast: two nights at the boutique Lanes Hotel, Yeovil and three nights at the 4-star Frensham Pond Hotel, Farnham (or similar)
- ▶ Four dinners at the hotels and one at Gravetye Manor
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

4 - 9 Jun	£1,895	£1,795
Single Supplement		£495

Tour code: BJEK



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,495** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Gardens of Guernsey & Sark

The island of Guernsey, just 20 miles off the coast of France, flourishes in the warmth of summer and is home to some wonderful gardens. On our first day here we visit the Guernsey Millennium Tapestry which provides a colourful introduction to the island's history, followed by Castle Cornet where a profusion of plants nestles within the ancient walls, a large town garden with good planting in St. Peter Port as well as a small private garden. Local resident Rachel Dovey will be our expert guide to the island.

**Day 1** We fly from London to Guernsey, where we begin with a visit to the **Guernsey Millennium Tapestry**, illustrating 1,000 years of local history. We continue with visits to the gardens at **Castle Cornet**, where there is a profusion of plants both ancient and modern, followed by two **private gardens**. We transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Today we explore the walled garden at **Saumarez Park** and the **Guernsey Folk & Costume Museum**, followed by a visit to a **private garden** set in a very old estate. We continue to the workshop of jewellers **Bruce Russell & Son** before concluding today with a visit to **Candie Gardens** with panoramic views over St Peter Port. (B, D)

**Day 3** A **private garden** awaits us this morning with its wide variety of unusual and tender plants and shrubs. We continue with a visit to a **Craft and Farmers Market**, followed by **Le Friquet Garden**

**Centre**, which is the largest on the island and offers a huge array of plants, seeds and bulbs, together with a relaxed covered shopping area and lively eateries. Later we enjoy a **scenic guided coach tour** of the island, stopping off at points of interest along the way. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today is free to explore Guernsey at leisure, or alternatively join our optional excursion to neighbouring Sark, where we visit the lovely gardens of **La Seigneurie** and enjoy a ride on a pony and trap on this traffic-free little island. (B, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast, we have free time for shopping. There's time to visit a **private garden** before we transfer to the airport in time for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



La Seigneurie Gardens

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast; three nights at 3-star La Barbarie Hotel, St Peter Port, Guernsey
- ▶ Return flights from London to Guernsey
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of Rachel Dovey as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 15 Apr	<del>£1,595</del>	<b>£1,495</b>
12 - 16 Sep	<del>£1,795</del>	<b>£1,695</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£395</b>

Tour code: **BGYS**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£645** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

## RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West

Currently the largest gardening project in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater opened to the public in 2021 and we are delighted to be able to visit it as it develops and matures. Based on an overall design by leading landscape architect and Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith, highlights include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials. We also take the opportunity to visit some of the best gardens in the North West.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Luton, Northampton, Birmingham, Stoke) and head to the gardens of **Trentham Estate** in Staffordshire, where the contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was led by renowned designer and multi-Chelsea gold-medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith. (D)

**Day 2** Today we travel to the **RHS Garden Bridgewater**. Based on an overall design by leading landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith, highlights will include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials. In the afternoon we visit a nearby **private garden** which in contrast to Bridgewater is much smaller but no less intriguing. (B, D)

**Day 3** We visit **Dunham Massey**, a great plantsman's garden full of native favourites and exotic treasures set around an elegant Georgian mansion. Next, we explore **Tatton Park**, whose gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we visit **Arley Hall**, which preserves the atmosphere of a garden kept for its own delight. A pair of herbaceous borders were laid out here in 1846 and they survive to this day, beautifully maintained - one of the great garden sights of England. Following this, we return to our original departure points. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Italian Gardens, Trentham Estate

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star BW Pinewood Hotel in Wilmslow
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 14 May	<del>£695</del>	<b>£645</b>
22 - 25 Jun	<del>£695</del>	<b>£645</b>
3 - 6 Aug	<del>£695</del>	<b>£645</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£120</b>

Tour code: **BBNW**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,295**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk

Our historical tour of Norfolk takes us through verdant rolling countryside to many of the fine stately homes including Sandringham, the much-loved retreat of the British monarchy, where we enjoy an afternoon tea followed by a private guided tour. Other highlights include the 500-year-old Oxburgh Hall, Blickling Estate, a stunning Jacobean mansion, a trip on the North Norfolk Heritage Railway, Wolterton Park, and the charming, moated manor of Mannington Hall. We round off the tour with a visit with Lady Walpole at her ancestral family home, where we enjoy a guided tour and lunch.

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Colchester) and head to **Oxburgh Hall**, a stunning moated country house before continuing to **Castle Rising**. (D)

**Day 2** We begin at **Blickling Estate**, a Jacobean mansion surrounded by magnificent gardens, historic parklands and delightful meadows before enjoying a nostalgic trip aboard the **North Norfolk Railway**. From here, we pay a visit to **Sandringham**, the private home to five generations of British monarchs, here we will enjoy afternoon tea and a guided tour. (B, AT, D)

**Day 3** We tour **Holkham Hall**, the home of the Earls of Leicester with a vast collection of art. Nearby is **Hindringham Hall**, where we enjoy a private tour of the lovely gardens. (B, D)

**Day 4** We depart for **Hoveton Hall**, which has been in the Buxton family since 1946 and is a much-loved family home. We have a tour of the house with the owner. This afternoon we head to **Wolterton Hall**, set in over 150 acres of sculptured parkland. We have in depth tour of the house and the garden followed by some light refreshments in the Saloon. (B, D)

**Day 5** We depart for **Mannington Hall**, a charming moated medieval manor house and home to the Walpole family where we join **Lady Walpole** for a tour of her estate. Enjoy some time to view the gardens then a light lunch before we take to the road to return to our original pick-up points. (B, L)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Oxburgh Hall

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star Knights Hill Hotel, King's Lynn
- ▶ One lunch and one afternoon tea
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 23 May	<b>£1,395</b>	<b>£1,295</b>
1 - 5 Sep	<b>£1,395</b>	<b>£1,295</b>

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

Tour code: **BPCN**

5 DAYS FROM  
**£895**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£50**

## The Manx Explorer

The Isle of Man is something of a mecca for steam and rail enthusiasts, with three different railway experiences, not to mention a delightful horse-drawn tram.

Travelling to the Isle of Man by the traditional, stress-free ferry route, our first trip sees us ride the Isle of Man Steam Railway, the longest narrow-gauge steam line in the British Isles that still uses its original locomotives and carriages. Next, it's all aboard the Manx Electric Railway, which connects with the Snaefell Mountain Railway at Laxey and takes us to the summit 2,000 feet above sea level. A visit to the iconic Laxey Wheel follows, along with another opportunity to ride the Electric Railway. On our penultimate day on the island, we explore several more historical attractions before enjoying the gentlest of rides on one of the horse-drawn trams that ply back and forth along the promenade on Douglas Bay.

**Day 1** Travel independently to **Heysham** in time to check in for our afternoon ferry to the **Isle of Man**. On arrival we will be met by our local coach and driver/guide and transfer to our hotel in Douglas, the island's principal town. (D)

**Day 2** Today we take a trip on the **Isle of Man Steam Railway** to Port Erin. Here we rejoin our coach and transfer to the ancient capital of **Castletown**, visiting **Castle Rushen**. We also visit the **Old House of Keys** and then it's on to **Cregneash**, one of the last strongholds of traditional customs, crafts and skills. (B, D)

**Day 3** We travel on the **Manx Electric Railway** and the **Snaefell Mountain Railway** which winds its way up 2,000 feet to the top of Snaefell. We'll also visit the iconic **Laxey Wheel** and the **Grove Museum of Victorian Life**. (B, D)

**Day 4** Visits today include **Peel Castle**, **The House of Manannan**, and **Tynwald Hill**. We'll also take a trip on the **Douglas Bay Horse Tram**. (B, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast we take the ferry back to Heysham for our independent journeys home. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Snaefell Mountain Railway

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Ellan Vannin Hotel
- ▶ Return ferry crossings from Heysham to the Isle of Man
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel on the Isle of Man
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a local driver/guide

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 22 Jun	<b>£945</b>	<b>£895</b>
24 - 28 Sep	<b>£945</b>	<b>£895</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£225</b>

Tour code: **BMXE**





Powerscourt gardens

8 DAYS FROM  
**£2,195**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

TOUR MANAGER  
**TREVOR EDWARDS**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## The Irish Rover

Just like the Van Morrison song, this Irish Rover is wrapped up in glory – the glory of some of Ireland’s finest gardens. A rich feast of horticultural excellence awaits, with memorable and beguiling gardens, enthusiastic and skilful owners and an ever-changing backdrop of lush green hills, fertile fields and glittering seascapes. Our north to south journey is packed full of gems yet relaxed and unhurried, taking in the very best that the Emerald Isle has to offer.

We begin in Northern Ireland at the dazzling and idiosyncratic garden of Mount Stewart, truly one of the great gardens of the world. We also visit romantic Rowallane and atmospheric Castle Ward.

We move on to Dublin where we meet June Blake, a passionate plantswoman who grows a unique mix of bamboos, ornamental grasses and perennials, and her brother Jimi Blake at Hunting Brook, with its fusion of prairie and tropical planting. We also visit the Airfield Estate, which came to prominence under Jimi Blake; Malahide, one of the oldest and most historic castles in Ireland, with its own splendid botanic garden and Powerscourt, one of Ireland’s most famous gardens with magnificent vistas over the surrounding countryside.

**Day 1** We fly to Belfast and continue to **Mount Stewart**, the dazzling and idiosyncratic gardens that bask in the micro-climate that exists here. (D)

**Day 2** We visit **Rowallane Garden**, filled with dazzling borders, shrubs and trees, and **Castle Ward**, adorned with exotic planting. (B, D)

**Day 3** Travelling south into the Republic, we call in at **Malahide Castle**, one of the oldest and most historic castles in Ireland, with an exceptional botanic garden. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we visit plantsman Jimi Blake’s garden **Hunting Brook**, which is home to Ireland’s largest collection of ornamental grasses with over 200 different species and cultivars. We continue to Jimi’s sister’s garden at **June Blake’s Nursery**, in which she grows a unique mix of bamboos, ornamental grasses and perennials. Later, we visit **Russborough**, featuring both a woodland and a walled garden, which has been restored in recent years. (B)

**Day 5** Visit the gardens of **Kilruddery**, among the oldest in Ireland and the perfect destination for

leisurely walks, along with **Powerscourt**, Ireland’s most famous historic garden. (B)

**Day 6** On our way to Cork we call in at **Mount Usher**, a lovely informal garden which dates back to 1850, and **Mount Congreve**, home to one of the largest collections of plants in the world. The majestic gardens comprise seventy acres of intensively planted woodland, a four-acre walled garden and ten miles of walkways. (B, D)

**Day 7** This morning we take the ferry to Garinish Island to visit **Ilnacullin**, surely one of the highlights of our visit to Ireland, with its Italianate folly overlooking a sunken garden. We continue to **Blarney Castle and Gardens**, perhaps most famous for its eloquence-conferring stone but which also has a lovely garden. (B, D)

**Day 8** We transfer to Cork airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Blarney Castle Garden

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Trevor has been our own ‘Irish Rover’ for many years now and as this popular tour continues to evolve he is looking forward to leading it once again.



### WHAT’S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights’ bed & breakfast: two nights at the 4-star Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim; three nights at a 3-star hotel in Dublin; and two nights at the 3-star Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel, Cork (hotels subject to change)
- ▶ Five dinners
- ▶ Flights from London to Belfast, returning from Cork
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 - 20 Jun	<del>£2,295</del>	<b>£2,195</b>
8 - 15 Aug	<del>£2,295</del>	<b>£2,195</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£495</b>

Tour code: **BIFG**





RHS Chelsea Flower Show

7 DAYS FROM  
**£1,695**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## The RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Classic English Gardens

This tour combines the colour and excitement of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with some of the south of England's finest gardens, affording the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of horticultural excellence.

We begin in the West Country with visits to Tyntesfield, a fine National Trust Victorian country house with a glorious walled garden, Henry Hoare's famous landscape garden of Stourhead and the ancient Bishop's Palace in Wells. We continue to Hestercombe, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces, the Harold Peto designed garden at Iford Manor and the beautiful gardens of Wilton House near Salisbury, before transferring to our hotel near London. Following visits to the classic English gardens of Great Dixter and Sissinghurst we spend a full day at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show before concluding with a visit to the unmissable RHS Garden Wisley.

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points (*London, Reading, Swindon, Bristol*) and transfer to **Tyntesfield**, near Bristol, a fine Victorian country house. Terraced lawns give way to spacious parkland filled with hundreds of trees and a glorious walled kitchen garden. (*B, D*)

**Day 2** This morning we visit the garden at **Stourhead**. Temples, urns, a grotto and a wealth of trees all contribute to the special atmosphere of this celebrated landscape garden. In the afternoon we transfer to the historic city of **Bath** for some free time. (*B, D*)

**Day 3** We visit the **Bishop's Palace** in Wells, a stunning mediaeval palace which has been home to the Bishops of Bath and Wells for 800 years. Here we will enjoy a special 'Horticulture at the Palace' tour. In the afternoon we visit **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. (*B, D*)

**Day 4** We make our way to the gardens of **Iford Manor**, where we have an exclusive private visit. We continue to the gardens of **Wilton House**, an impressive Palladian mansion near Salisbury. (*B, D*)

**Day 5** This morning we head for **Great Dixter**, where we are treated to an exclusive guided tour. We continue to the famous gardens of **Sissinghurst**. The history here is rich and fascinating and the gardens are simply stunning, as close to gardening perfection as you can get. (*B, D*)

**Day 6** This morning we depart for our full-day visit to the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, which holds a rare position as a great British tradition and an exciting source of inspiration and advice. One of the highlights of the show is the collection of over 20 full-sized show gardens. (*B, D*)

**Day 7** We travel to **RHS Garden Wisley**, which is where the Royal Horticultural Society shows the gardening public how it should be done. Here the highest standards of practical horticulture are deployed in the setting of a splendid old site, rich in fine trees against a backdrop of other plants, all impeccably labelled. A guided tour is included here. Following this we return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

**Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*



RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey



Sissinghurst

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner bed and breakfast at the Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton, Somerset and three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn Farnborough (or similar)
- ▶ Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
20 - 26 May	<b>£1,795</b>	<b>£1,695</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£375</b>

Tour code: **BCHA**



# Europe

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Europe is home to some truly incredible destinations, all within easy reach whether by air or rail. Discover the elegant gardens of the south of France, enjoy some spring sunshine in Sicily or explore the amazing gardens of Ninfa in Italy.











MS Botticelli ©CroisiEurope

8 DAYS FROM  
**£2,495**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

TOUR MANAGER  
TREVOR EDWARDS

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Seine River Cruise featuring Monet's Garden and the Gardens of Normandy

Join us on a relaxing cruise on the sinuous River Seine, into which we have woven a series of visits to the outstanding gardens of Normandy, including Monet's garden at Giverny, which continues to enthral countless visitors more than 90 years after his death.

Other garden highlights include the Bois des Moutiers, where the influence of Gertrude Jekyll can be clearly seen, and Le Vasterival, one of the finest gardens of its type and a lasting legacy of its creator, the Princess Sturdza. At the Jardin de Plume we will discover a natural yet structured contemporary garden in a typical Normandy orchard and at the Jardins d'Angélique we explore a romantic and delightfully old-fashioned garden. A visit to the interesting garden at Château de Canon is combined with a heart-warming taste of Normandy at the cellars of Calvados Père Magloire. Waking up to a new view every day (without having to pack and unpack) is always a lovely experience and combined with these wonderful gardens this promises to be an unforgettable cruise holiday.

**Day 1** We depart from London St Pancras International on the morning Eurostar service through the Channel Tunnel to Paris Gare du Nord. *(First Class upgrades and regional connections also available on request).* On arrival we will be met by our comfortable local coach and transfer to our ship on the banks of the River Seine. In the evening once you have settled into your cabin we will be introduced to the crew and enjoy a **welcome cocktail** before dinner on board. Water levels permitting, we will also enjoy a cruise through **Paris 'by night'**. (D)

**Day 2** Following breakfast we depart for a morning

excursion to the **Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries**, which is home to the series of 2-metre high murals entitled **Les Nymphéas**, a sequence of impressions such as clouds, reflections and sunsets which Claude Monet installed between 1914 and 1918, when he was at the height of his extraordinary powers. We return to the ship for lunch with the afternoon free to go ashore to shop and sightsee at your leisure. Paris is, of course, the most romantic city in the world with wonderful art galleries, churches and shops. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** This morning is spent cruising to **Vernon**. After lunch on board we depart for nearby Giverny



and the world famous house and gardens of **Claude Monet**. Both the house and gardens have been lovingly and accurately restored - one would believe that the family have just gone out to walk in the garden. You will have plenty of time to explore this marvellous garden at your leisure, followed by an opportunity to visit the little church where Monet is buried. We return to our ship in time for dinner followed by entertainment as we cruise through Rouen to our overnight berth in **Duclair**. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** After breakfast we depart by coach for the first of two garden visits today, **Le Bois des Moutiers** on the northern coast, near Dieppe. The garden, in part influenced by the English designer Gertrude Jekyll, is full of charm. Near the house a white garden, held in check by disciplined box hedges, is full of white valerian, Iceberg roses, white irises and other ghostly plants. We continue to the





Château de Canon

nearby garden of **Le Vasterival**. In 1957 Princess Sturza, a talented plantswoman, started to create this magnificent garden in a natural style covering 7 hectares of acid soil, a kilometre from the sea. Princess Sturza died in 2009 but the garden continues to thrive, with a huge range of plants which grow to perfection in its composted earth. A guided tour is included here. We will rejoin the ship at **Honfleur**, our overnight stop at the mouth of the Seine. A packed lunch is included today. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast this morning we drive along the Côte Fleurie from Honfleur to **Caen**, pausing for a visit to the **Pegasus Bridge Memorial Museum**. In the afternoon we visit the garden at **Château de Canon at Mezidon-Canon**, which was redesigned by a barrister who knew Horace Walpole. The layout is best understood as a French interpretation of the Augustan Style. We conclude today in Pont L'Evêque at the famous **Calvados house of Père Magloire**. We will be guided by the Cellar Master with the aid of the audio-visual presentation, and have a visit to the cellars followed by a tasting in the shop. A packed lunch is included today. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** As we sit down to breakfast this morning the ship will sail back upstream towards Paris, arriving in the city of **Rouen** around midday. After lunch on board we depart for a visit to the **Jardin de Plume**. Since 1997, Sylvie and Patrick Quibel have been creating this natural yet structured contemporary garden in a typical Normandy orchard. Making generous use of grasses and perennials, the four acre garden includes seasonal plantings, a central square mirror pool and a kitchen garden. We return to the ship in time for dinner and moor in Rouen overnight. (B, L, D)

**Day 7** The morning is spent cruising. After lunch on board we visit the impressive **Jardins d'Angélique** at Montmain. This garden displays intense bursts of flower in a relaxing environment characteristic of Normandy. We rejoin the ship at **Les Andelys**, a little town on a bend in the river which is dominated by a ruined castle, built by Richard the Lionheart in 1196. A **farewell gala dinner** is served tonight on board the ship, a chance to discuss with new-found friends the many sights we have seen along the River Seine. (B, L, D)

**Day 8** After breakfast on board we disembark and transfer to the Gare du Nord for our Eurostar train back to London where we expect to arrive in the evening. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

#### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards is one of our busiest and most popular garden Tour Managers, and has led many garden tours around the world.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights in a lower deck cabin on the MS Botticelli on a full board basis
- ▶ Drinks on board with meals and at the bar (excluding premium drinks and spirits)
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel from London St Pancras International to Paris. (First Class upgrades and regional connections also available on request)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel in France
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

#### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

21 – 28 May

Main deck **£2,695** £2,495

Upper deck **£2,890** £2,690

Single Supplement from £595

Tour code: BSEI



Les Andelys





Jardín de Cactus, Lanzarote

8 DAYS FROM  
**£3,995**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

TOUR MANAGER  
**TONY RUSSELL**

## Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands

This volcanic archipelago off the coast of north-western Africa is home to black sand beaches, lunar landscapes, lush forests and hidden gardens filled with indigenous plants, some of which are on the verge of extinction. During this eight-day voyage we not only have the opportunity to enjoy some much-needed winter sun, we also explore six of the eight main islands. Our adventures will include visits to Mount Teide National Park, the largest park in the Canary Islands, the garden of Sitio Litre in Tenerife, the National Park of Caldera de Taburiente and the Botanical Garden of La Palma. While on the Island of Gran Canaria, we'll explore the lovely garden of La Marquesa de Arucas and on Lanzarote we'll visit the Cactus Garden, a former quarry that has been transformed by extensive plantations of prickly pear cacti, and the Green Heart of Haria, an oasis for wildlife and endemic plants.

**Day 1** We fly from London to Tenerife and transfer to Puerto De La Cruz. This afternoon is spent at leisure relaxing on board before dinner. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast, we enjoy a trip to **Mt Teide National Park** in central Tenerife - a unique landscape of craters, volcanoes and petrified lava. This afternoon we visit the **Botanical Gardens of Puerto De La Cruz**, with many species of exotic and sub-tropical plants including *Coussapoa dealbata*, a tree with intertwining trunks found in South America. Later, we depart for **The Orchid Gardens** of Sitio Litre, famous for its Dragon Tree which is believed to be nearly 600 years old. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** We arrive in La Palma this morning and have the chance to enjoy an **onboard lecture**. After lunch, we head to **Caldera de Taburiente National Park**, home to an enormous crater and a declared UNESCO Biosphere reserve. Next, we visit the island's **Botanical Gardens**, home to over 200 plant species. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** We dock at the island of **La Gomera**, filled with craggy mountains and sprinkled with verdant forests of ferns and moss-covered trees. Enjoy the day at leisure here or join an optional excursion to **Garajonay National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a traditional lunch we enjoy a

demonstration of the island's unique whistled language **Silbo Gomero**. (B, L, D)

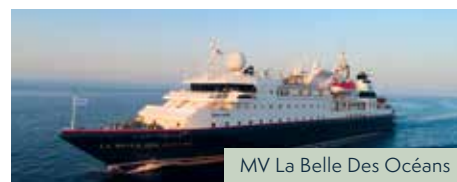
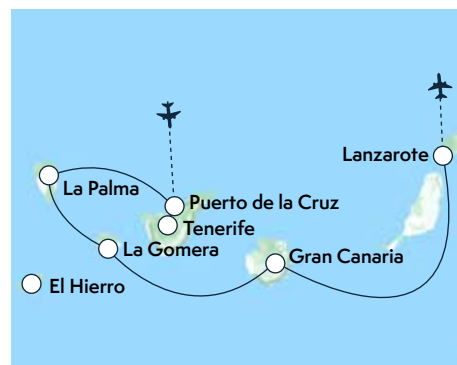
**Day 5** We continue to **Gran Canaria** where this morning's optional excursion is to the **Casa de Colon**, which chronicles the Canaries' history, and the 569m-high **Bandama Caldera**. In the afternoon our optional excursion is to **Teror**, a place of pilgrimage for the islanders, and the garden of **La Marquesa de Arucas**. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** We cruise to **Fuerteventura**, where our optional excursion offers the opportunity to discover an award-winning **goat's cheese**, a cosmetics producer who takes advantage of the abundant **aloe vera** crop, and historic **Betancuria**, the island's first colony. (B, L, D)

**Day 7** Today we reach the last stop of the cruise, **Lanzarote**. We visit the **Jardín de Cactus**, a former quarry that has been transformed into a wonderful garden, and **The Green Heart of Haria**, an oasis for wildlife with a vast collection of native plants. (B, L, D)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we transfer to Lanzarote airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



MV La Belle Des Océans

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' full board on board the MV La Belle Des Océans in a Horizon cabin on deck 3
- ▶ Drinks on board with meals and at the bar (excluding premium drinks and spirits)
- ▶ Flight from London to Tenerife, returning from Lanzarote
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

17 - 24 Feb

Deck 3	<del>£4,295</del>	<b>£3,995</b>
Deck 4	<del>£4,615</del>	<b>£4,315</b>
Deck 5	<del>£4,925</del>	<b>£4,625</b>
Deck 6	<del>£5,255</del>	<b>£4,955</b>

Single Supplement from **£1,195**

Optional Excursions:

La Gomera	<b>£62</b>
Las Palmas/Bandama	<b>£50</b>
Teror/Garden	<b>£59</b>
Fuerteventura	<b>£45</b>

Tour code: **BGCI**





Keukenhof Gardens

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,495** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Dutch Bulbfields in Spring

Enjoy a riot of colour among the beautiful bulbfields of Holland where nothing quite compares to the sight of not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of flowering bulbs, carpeting the fields in a radiant vision of patterns and patchwork. We begin in the Belgian city of Antwerp with a visit to the Museum Mayer Van Den Bergh with its wonderful collection of works by Bruegel and other Belgian artists before enjoying a visit to the botanic gardens. We then embark on our cruise to Rotterdam. We enjoy a visit to one of the most famous gardens in the world – Keukenhof, a magnificent display of different tulip, daffodil and hyacinth varieties. We arrive in the Dutch capital of Amsterdam, where we visit the 700-year-old Castle Muiderslot and Kasteel Museum Sypsteyn.

On this cruise, we'll enjoy four nights on board MS La Bohème. Our comfortable vessel transports us across rivers and sea, ensuring that our journey is just as special as the destinations it brings us to. Think welcoming cocktails, lunches and dinners with complimentary wine and beer, and, of course, the always convivial company of like-minded travellers.

**Day 1** We depart by rail from London St Pancras to Antwerp, where we visit the **Museum Mayer Van Den Bergh**, which has an intimate and homely atmosphere and showcases work by Belgian artists from the 16th century, and the **Botanic Garden**. We later embark the MS La Bohème and enjoy a **welcome cocktail reception** before dinner. (D)

**Day 2** This morning we cruise from Antwerp to **Rotterdam**. On arrival we venture ashore and explore at leisure. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** This morning we cruise from Rotterdam to Utrecht and in the afternoon we depart for **Keukenhof**, one of the most famous gardens in the world. Over seven million bulbs are planted annually and around one million visitors pass through it from mid-March to mid-May. We rejoin the ship in **Amsterdam** and following dinner you are free to explore ashore, or alternatively join our optional canal cruise, an opportunity to view this spectacular city from the water. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** Today we explore **Kasteel Museum Sypsteyn**, built in the early 20th century in 17th

century style. Located beside the Loosdrecht lake and River Vecht, the castle is surrounded by stunning gardens. Later, we visit **De Haar Castle** which has equally splendid grounds including a Roman garden, ponds and canals. As was the fashion when the garden was reconstructed around 1895, the garden closest to the castle was in the French style while the surrounding parkland was in a Romantic English landscape style. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** We disembark and have the morning free to explore **Amsterdam**. Recommended is a visit to the **Museum Van Loon**, a magnificent canal-side private residence from the Dutch 'Golden Age', with a large collection of paintings, fine porcelain and silver. In the afternoon, we catch the train from Amsterdam Centraal railway station to London St Pancras. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



### THREE-DAY AMSTERDAM EXTENSION FROM £345

Why not extend your holiday with a two-night stay at a 4-star centrally located hotel including breakfasts, transfers and a three-day Amsterdam Travel Card, giving you the freedom to explore the city at your own pace.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' full board accommodation on board the MS La Bohème in a Main or Upper deck cabin
- ▶ Drinks on board with meals and at the bar (excluding premium drinks and spirits)
- ▶ Standard class rail travel from London to Antwerp, returning from Amsterdam
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

15 - 19 Apr

Main Deck **£1,595** **£1,495**

Upper Deck **£1,735** **£1,635**

Single Supplement **from £375**

Optional Excursions:

Amsterdam canal cruise **On request**

Tour code: BCDB





Mouse Island

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,595** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Discover The Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell

Explore the Greek island that inspired Gerald Durrell's hilarious accounts of a sun-kissed childhood with his eccentric family (and other animals), as well as ITV's *The Durrells*. During this tour, we meet naturalist and writer Lee Durrell, who will give a talk on her late husband Gerald's pioneering role in wildlife conservation and will accompany us as we visit some of her family's favourite places in Corfu. We also enjoy a walking tour of historic Corfu town and an excursion to Vidos, a thickly wooded islet in the bay opposite which is home to a special array of flora and fauna and is therefore protected as a nature reserve.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Corfu. On arrival we will transfer to our luxurious home for the next four nights: the 5-star **Corfu Holiday Palace**, which has superb facilities including two swimming pools and a private beach. In the afternoon, we ease into our holiday with an optional guided walking tour through picturesque **Corfu Town**. (D)

**Day 2** Our local guide joins us again as we start today with an excursion to **Vidos**, a thickly wooded islet in the bay opposite Corfu Town which is home to a special array of flora and fauna and is therefore protected as a nature reserve. The 15-minute boat trip across the bay is very pleasant in itself and on arrival we will have free time to explore and take in the peaceful atmosphere, with an opportunity to enjoy the views over a drink in the taverna. Worth a visit is the **Serbian Mausoleum**, which commemorates the 150,000 Serbian soldiers who fled to Corfu in 1915. On our return to Corfu Town we discover the tragic yet fascinating story of wartime exiles at the **Serbian Museum**. After a free afternoon, this evening we will meet naturalist and writer **Lee Durrell**, who will give a fascinating talk about the Durrell family's love affair with Corfu and its wildlife and tell the story of her and Gerald's pioneering work for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. (B, D)

**Day 3** We are joined once again by Lee as we visit some of the unforgettable locations from Gerald Durrell's books and the TV series, beginning with

**Mouse Island**, a place that Gerald and his sister Margo both loved to visit, and where Gerald Durrell's ashes are scattered. We continue to the **White House** in Kalami, the beautiful building on the north-east coast of Corfu that was once the home of Lawrence Durrell, Gerald's novelist brother, where we have lunch. In the afternoon we continue to the **Lake of the Lillies**, where Lee will give a poignant reading from the chapter in which it features in *My Family and Other Animals*. We conclude today at the abandoned but picturesque village of **Perithia**, where we meet a local bee keeper with an opportunity to buy some delicious honey. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** Today is free to discover more of Corfu at your leisure, or to relax and make use of the swimming pool, spa and private beach at our hotel. A regular bus service into Corfu Town picks up just outside the hotel. Local excursions and boat trips to other islands or over to Albania can also be arranged. (B, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast, we transfer to Corfu airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



### HOLIDAY EXTENSION

Don't want to go home? For those who'd like to stay in Corfu a little longer, we have arranged an optional, great value two-night extension for an additional £250 per person, including airport transfers and breakfast (single price £360).

PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 5-star Corfu Holiday Palace
- One lunch
- Return flights from London to Corfu
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Special Appearance by Lee Durrell, including a tour of locations and exclusive evening talk and Q&A session
- Services of a professional tour manager and local guide

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
7 - 11 May	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
7 - 11 Oct	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£225</b>

Tour code: **BCFU**





Gardens at Soutomaioir

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1,395**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

TOUR MANAGER  
**TONY RUSSELL**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Galicia's Camellia Route

With a milder, wetter climate than the rest of Spain, the gardens in Galicia have a luxuriant air, accentuated by the fact that many belong to grand country mansions (pazos). Another happy feature of the climate is that camellias thrive here, and in the spring sunshine they provide welcome splashes of colour, blooming exuberantly in shades of white, pink and red. We will follow the length of the camellia route, which extends from La Coruña in the north by way of the historic pilgrimage centre of Santiago de Compostela to Vigo in the south. Along the way, we visit a collection of splendid gardens, including the outstanding Castillo de Soutomaioir, while enjoying some spring sunshine and the uplifting sight of one of the garden world's favourite flowering plants in full bloom.

**Day 1** We depart from London to **La Coruña**. On arrival we will be met by our local coach and transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** This morning we have a **tour of the city** to see its modern parks and the historic city centre, and the tomb of Sir John Moore on the city ramparts. We then visit the garden of **Pazo de Mariñán** overlooking the quiet waters of a river estuary. Amongst the botanical varieties to be found here are many old camellia plants with multiple trunks, along with others which have been planted over the years to add fragrance and colour to the garden in the winter and spring. (B)

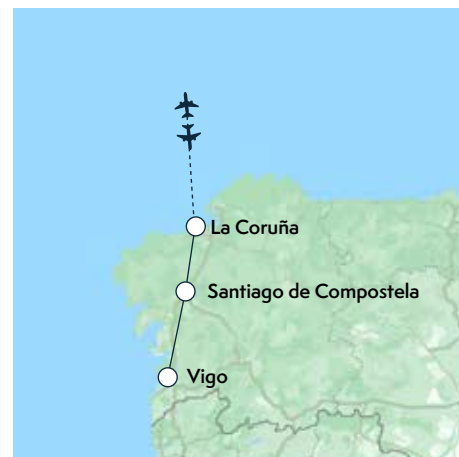
**Day 3** We leave La Coruña and head for **Santiago de Compostela** where we will visit the **Monasterio de San Lorenzo de Trasouto**. Its garden is occupied by an extraordinary masterpiece of box topiary; a wriggling rounded hedge with only the smallest of spaces separating its parts creating a sculpture of the Virgin clothed in ivy. We then visit the great Romanesque **Cathedral** with its Baroque façade and its Cloisters, which is reputed to hold the remains of **St James**. This has made Santiago a centre for pilgrimage and thousands walk the pilgrim's way of El Camino de Santiago each year. (B, D)

**Day 4** We depart for the **Pazo de Oca** at La Estrada, where the practical and the beautiful are united in a network of canals and ponds in a mainly 18th century garden. Our next visit is to the **Pazo de Santa Cruz de Rivadulla** at Vedra-Ortigueira. Once the home of the canon of Santiago Cathedral, this charming manor house now boasts one of the region's best plant collections, including hundreds of varieties of Camellia. (B)

**Day 5** We visit the **Pazo de Rubianes** at Arousa, where the well-proportioned garden features fountains, pools and camellia walks, which perfectly complement the handsome villa. We then visit the impressive hill top **Castillo de Soutomaioir**, which has an important and historic camellia collection and commands views over the wild yet attractive countryside of Galicia. We continue to our hotel in Vigo. (B, D)

**Day 6** We visit the **Pazo de Quiñones de León**, a Baroque mansion, which became a city museum in 1937 and is situated at the top of Castrelos Park, through which the Lagares River flows. We later transfer to La Coruña airport for our retrun flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Camellia

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' hotel accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis, plus three dinners with wine; two nights at the Eurostars Ciudad de La Coruña; two nights at the Eurostars Gran Hotel, Santiago de Compostela; one night at the Eurostars de Vigo (or similar)
- Return flights from London to La Coruña
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Tony Russell as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 - 18 Mar	<b>£1,495</b>	<b>£1,395</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

Tour code: **BGAL**





Isola Bella, Taormina

8 DAYS FROM  
**£2,295**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO  
**£200**

TOUR MANAGER  
**TREVOR EDWARDS**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens and Villas of Sicily

Sicily has become one of Europe's best-loved destinations in recent years and it is truly an island of the senses. As soon as you step on to its warm and fertile shores you'll understand why. Our eight-day tour takes in the best that the island has to offer, from the popular beach-side city of Taormina to the rugged landscapes of the Madonie Mountains.

We begin on the slopes of Mount Etna, Europe's highest active volcano, as we visit an elegant garden which thrives on the fertile soil here and then ascend the mountain itself, observing the change from lush groves to stark, desert landscapes. In Taormina we visit a private garden which boasts spectacular views across the bay before exploring the Greco-Roman remains of the city itself. Heading south we gain an exclusive insight into Sicilian gardening with a member of the team at Villasmundo and visit the private garden of a Sicilian aristocrat. A treat for the senses awaits at Gli Aromi Sicily as we discover an extensive selection of herbs and spices and we also enjoy lunch at a monastery high in the mountains. We conclude in Palermo, a melting-pot of architectural styles with both Norman and Arabic influences.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Catania and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Visit **Villa Trinità**, an elegant garden born from lava, which thrives on the slopes of Etna. This afternoon we take an excursion to **Mount Etna**, Europe's highest active volcano. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** Today is ours to explore **Taormina** and its many highlights, including the private garden of **Casa Cuseni**. Created by Robert Kitson, a British painter of the early 20th century, its house and exuberant plantings demonstrate clear links with the Arts and Crafts movement. (B, D)

**Day 4** We begin at the **Gardens of Princess Maria Carla Borghese**, created out of barren ground almost 50 years ago. Next it's on to **San Giuliano**, where a member of the team gives us an exclusive insight into Sicilian gardening. (B, D)

**Day 5** We discover an extensive collection of herbs and spices with a multisensory tour of **Gli Aromi Sicily**. Lunch here makes for today's biggest highlight: a home-made feast prepared with an

abundance of fresh herbs and devotion. Free time in **Ragusa** follows. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** After lunch at a former **Benedictine monastery**, we transfer to the village of Monreale and visit the **Cathedral and Abbey**, with its 70,000 square feet of mosaics, amazing gold leaf and glass interiors. This astounding display echoes the opulence of the Alhambra, and is a sight not to be missed. (B, L, D)

**Day 7** Palermo was once known as Sicily's "garden city". We find out why during our morning visit to the local **Botanical Gardens**, one of the oldest and most significant centres of plant research in the Mediterranean. We also visit the public garden of **Villa Giulia** and the impressive **Norman Palace**. (B, D)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we transfer to Palermo airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Ragusa

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

One of my favourite features of this tour is the typically Sicilian lunches – superb!



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in Giardini Naxos; two nights in Ragusa; two nights in Palermo
- ▶ Three lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Sicily
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager and a local guide

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 26 Mar	<b>£2,395</b>	<b>£2,295</b>
16 - 23 Apr	<b>£2,595</b>	<b>£2,395</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£395</b>

Tour code: **BSIC**





Villa Carlotta, Tremezzo

8 DAYS FROM  
**£2,395** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes

The fabulous scenery and warming climate of the Northern Italian Lakes have attracted eager aristocrats and the wealthy for years. The beguiling beauty of this unique corner of Europe shows no signs of waning with camellias providing splashes of colour in March, giving way to spring flower in May. Elegant villas and lush gardens complement the natural landscape of the Northern Italian Lakes. We have a real treat when we visit the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society, home to a collection of over 500 plants. Nowhere captures the extravagant spirit of the Lakeland gardens better than the three Borromean islands, Bella, Madre and Pescatori, which feature sumptuous terraced gardens, shaded woodland walks, flowered terraces and elegant statuary. Other highlights during our stay include a fascinating wholesale specialist plant nursery, Villa Taranto and Villa Pallavicino, where animals from the villa's own zoo roam the grounds. Monumental trees and English roses put on a dazzling display at Villa Carlotta and the impeccably maintained and manicured garden of Villa Balbianello completes our memorable tour.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Milan and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel at Lake Maggiore where we enjoy lunch. (L, D)

**Day 2** Visit the gardens of **Villa Taranto**, flourishing with rare botanical examples and a wide range of plants. Later, we visit the most remarkable wholesale nursery business in the Italian Lake District, **Compagnia Del Lago**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Spend a full day exploring the famous Borromean islands. We start with a cruise from Stresa to **Isola Bella** to see the vast baroque palace built from the island's rock and surrounded by terraced gardens. We then continue to **Isola Pescatori** and **Isola Madre**. (B, D)

**Day 4** Tour the private garden of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**, home to 500 plants and 318 cultivars. After lunch, we have some free time in Stresa before we visit **Villa Pallavicino**. Ornate ponds, greenhouses with rare exotic plants, various architectural styles and a charming tiny Swiss-style chalet complete this idyllic spot. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** Explore the perfect example of a formal Italian garden at **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni** situated in

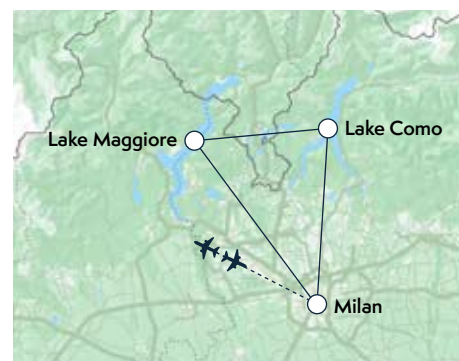
what were ancient hunting grounds for the nobility, in the foothills between Varese and Lake Lugano. Here we will be privileged to enjoy a private guided tour with the owner. Later we transfer to our hotel in Como, where wine is included each night with dinner. (B, D)

**Day 6** Today is free to explore at your own pace. Take a boat trip on the lake or visit the nearby **Villa Melzi d'Eril** (admission not included). (B, D)

**Day 7** Spend the day on **Lake Como**, so similar and yet so different from its larger neighbour, Maggiore. On arrival in **Tremezzo** we will have time to enjoy the elegant 18th century **Villa Carlotta**, where camellias in March give way to spring colour in May. (B, D)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we transfer to Milan airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Lake Como

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Grand Majestic Hotel, Lake Maggiore (Hotel La Palma in March) and three nights at the 4-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior, Lake Como
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Milan
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
20 - 27 Mar	<b>£2,595</b>	<b>£2,395</b>
1 - 8 May	<b>£2,895</b>	<b>£2,695</b>
Single Supplement	from £495	

Tour code: **BLSG**



8 DAYS FROM  
**£1,795** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Gardens and Architecture of Andalusia

Andalusia is unrivalled in Europe for its wealth of history, culture, Moorish architecture and gardens – all set against the backdrop of the snow-capped mountains of the Sierra Nevada. We visit the gardens which complement the adjoining palaces and discover the wild mountain landscapes. A highlight for many will be the wonderful Generalife Gardens in Granada, where patios and terraces are filled with colour, and captivating views of the city are framed by archways. Moving on to Córdoba we will visit the Great Mosque, one of the most ancient garden sites in the world, and continue to the vibrant city of Seville, where visits include the Cathedral and the Maria-Luisa Park. Our tour concludes in the dramatically situated town of Ronda with its Moorish courtyards.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Málaga and upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel for our evening meal. (D)

**Day 2** Visit the **Alhambra Palace** and **Generalife Gardens**, Granada's outstanding attraction. Later we wander through the medieval streets of the **Albaicín**, catching glimpses of patio gardens. (B)

**Day 3** We are joined by a local guide as we head to the **Alpujarra** and **Sierra Nevada** region, paying visits to small villages and enjoying beautiful scenery along the way. (B)

**Day 4** En route to Seville, we visit **Córdoba**. Here we discover the **Great Mosque** with its Orange Grove, which was first laid out in the late 8th

century. The gardens of **The Royal Palaces of the Alcázar** are Moorish in style, laid out in rows around long pools with numerous fountains. (B, D)

**Day 5** Enjoy a guided tour of **Seville** including the **Plaza de España**, **Gardens of Murillo**, the **Cathedral**, Seville's Orange Tree Courtyard and the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar**. (B)

**Day 6** Today is free to explore **Seville**. (B)

**Day 7** We visit **Ronda**, a spectacular town rising above the gorges of the River Tajo. (B, D)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we transfer to Málaga airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Generalife gardens at Alhambra

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Hotel Santos Saray in Granada; three nights at the 3-star Hotel Macarena in Seville; one night at the 3-star Hotel R. Polo in Ronda (or similar)
- ▶ Three dinners
- ▶ Return flights from London to Málaga
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager & local guides

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 25 Mar	<b>£1,895</b>	<b>£1,795</b>
13 - 20 May	<b>£2,195</b>	<b>£2,095</b>
9 - 16 Sep	<b>£2,195</b>	<b>£2,095</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£395</b>

Tour code: **BANG**

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1,495** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

Away from the busy beach resorts, the Balearic island of Mallorca offers a timeless, verdant landscape of wooded hills and orange groves, sweeping bays and rocky mountains. Dotted around the island is a host of historic gardens whose origins date back hundreds of years, as well as more modern creations, providing a rich range of horticultural delights to be enjoyed in the warm sunshine. These include the gardens at Raixa and Alfaiba, both with Moorish origins and later Christian influences, and Son Marroig, a former residence of Archduke Luis Salvador with dramatic views.

Elsewhere we visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, with its peerless location high in the mountains; tour the island's principal city of Palma with its Gothic cathedral and Arab baths and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Soller, a heritage train that runs through spectacular mountain scenery.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Palma and upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Our day starts at the gardens of **Raixa**, once part of a Moorish estate. From here, we take a tour of the garden of **Son Marroig**, which is arranged in a series of attractive terraces. Later, we take a ride on the **vintage train** that runs along a highly scenic route Palma. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** We visit the **Jardines de Alfabia**, where young chusan palms contrast with more substantial mature date palms. After lunch, we visit the

monastery of **Real Cartuja de Valldemosa** with its green bell tower. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** Today we tour the city of **Palma**. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** We visit the unique necropolis of **Son Real** before lunch in the former capital of the island, **Alcudia**. Later we transfer to the **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca**. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** After breakfast, we transfer to Palma airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Garden at Son Marroig

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel THB Maria Isabel, Playa de Palma, plus four lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Palma
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 24 Mar	<b>£1,595</b>	<b>£1,495</b>
23 - 28 Apr	<b>£1,895</b>	<b>£1,795</b>
1 - 6 Oct	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£325</b>

Tour code: **BMCA**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,495** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Patios of Córdoba with Carmona and Seville

The festival of the Patios is very much a traditional Spanish affair when locals wander from house to house admiring the astonishing displays in the spring sunshine, while proud owners keep a careful eye on their handiwork. There will be two opportunities to view the courtyard gardens, along with a visit to Viana Palace, which has wonderful gardens itself and no fewer than fourteen patios. Prior to our visit to Córdoba we will stay in the beautiful city of Seville to visit the Cathedral and the Orange Tree Courtyard, followed by the amazing Royal Palaces of the Alcázar. We will also see the Maria-Luisa Park, the Plaza de España and the Gardens of Murillo. We visit nearby Carmona, where we will see more richly decorated patio gardens and visit the intriguing private garden of Moratalla.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Seville. In the afternoon we will visit the gardens of the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar**. (D)

**Day 2** We visit **Maria-Luisa Park** and the **Plaza de España**, before continuing to the **Gardens of Murillo**, planted in honour of the famous painter from Seville, the majestic **Cathedral** and the **Orange Tree Courtyard**. This afternoon we visit **Carmona**, where we will enjoy a walking tour of the old city and see some of the patio gardens and the **Alcázar of Pedro the Cruel**. (B)

**Day 3** Today we visit the private garden of **Moratalla**, before continuing to **Córdoba**, where we will have the first of our visits on foot to the patio gardens. No two patios are exactly the same

and as we wander from one to another, we can expect an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour and fragrance. (B, D)

**Day 4** Further patio gardens on foot in Córdoba, plus the **Viana Palace**, which has wonderful gardens itself and no fewer than fourteen patios. The stunning gardens of the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar**, which are Moorish in style. (B)

**Day 5** After breakfast, we transfer to Seville airport for our return flight to London. (B)

*Please note that a good degree of mobility is required for this holiday.*

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' bed & breakfast accommodation, plus two dinners: two nights at the Macarena Hotel in Seville and two nights at Hotel Ciudad de Córdoba (or similar)
- Return flights from London to Seville
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 – 17 May	<b>£1,595</b>	<b>£1,495</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£295</b>

Tour code: **BCRB**

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,595** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Gardens of Marrakech

This timeless city has an enduring appeal with its low-rise pink and red buildings set against the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. Its beating heart is the square of Jemaa El Fna, where musicians and story-tellers and snake-charmers act out compelling scenes which have changed little over the centuries, and you will find yourself irresistibly drawn here.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Marrakech and upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel, where there will be a **guided tour** of the resort grounds. (D)

**Day 2** We begin our tour of Marrakech at **El Bahia Palace**. The garden here spans over two-acres with rooms opening onto sunlit courtyards, planted with cypress, orange trees and jasmine. From here we will walk to **El Badi Palace** before continuing on to famous garden of **La Majorelle**, which was made in the 1920s by the French painter Jacques Majorelle, with marble pools, raised pathways, banana trees, groves of bamboo, coconut palms and bougainvilleas. Later, we explore **Yves Saint Laurent Art and Design** for a brief visit before we drive to the expansive gardens of **M. Ben Chaabane**, who is a renowned Garden Designer and botanist. (D)

**Day 3** Our first visit today is to the tranquil **Menara Garden**, which has its origins in a 12th century orchard of palm, olive and fruit trees. We continue

with a walk in **Arset Moulay Abdessalam** then on to **Jnane Harti**, known for its cactus and other exotic plants. After lunch, we explore one of the most sumptuous palaces of Marrakech, **Dar el Basha**. Later, we explore **Le Garden Secret**, the **artisan quarter** and then a guided walk on the square of **Jemaa El Fna**. (D)

**Day 4** We head into the **Atlas Mountains** to visit a **Saffron Plantation** and learn all about this ancient, expensive and almost mythical spice. Then, we travel to **Nectarome**, an aromatic garden located deep in the valley, for a guided tour. This afternoon we visit the contemporary gardens of **Anima**, created by an Austrian artist who skilfully combines plants and indigenous African art. (L)

**Day 5** After breakfast, enjoy some free time for some last-minute shopping and sightseeing before we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 5-star El Saadi Hotel, Marrakech
- Three dinners and one lunch
- Return flights London to Marrakech
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 – 6 Oct	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£400</b>

Tour code: **BMRK**





Botanical Garden Monte

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1,895** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens of Madeira

Set in a bright blue sea, some 400 miles off the coast of Africa, lies the lush, volcanic Portuguese island of Madeira. Just 36 miles long and 14 miles wide, it is an island of outstanding natural beauty. Much of the island is assigned as a conservation area where rare flowers cover the island like a green mantle. Orchids, bougainvillea, lilies, hydrangeas, magnolias, jacarandas and azaleas bloom effortlessly throughout the year, and delight the eye at every turn. One of the best ways to explore the island is by following the footpaths alongside the “levadas” (small man-made irrigation canals), which wind their way around the island, and we have included a gentle half-day levada walk, with the opportunity to take further walks on your free days. Further highlights include the splendid Palheiro Gardens and the glorious Monte Palace Gardens, to name but two of Madeira’s horticultural wonders.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Funchal. On arrival we transfer to our hotel accommodation, where a welcome dinner is included this evening. (D)

**Day 2** We begin our exploration of Madeira with a visit to the **Quinta da Boa Vista**, a historic former estate that is home to the best orchid collection on the island. In the afternoon we visit the **Botanical Gardens**, which boasts more than 2,000 exotic plants. (B)

**Day 3** We visit the **Quinta do Palheiro** (formerly known as **Blandy Gardens**). Established over several generations, the gardens have something for everyone with green fingers. In the afternoon we will enjoy a gentle half-day walk on the footpaths alongside the “levadas” (small irrigation canals), which wind their way around the island. In the late afternoon we stop for tea and cake at the **Jasmin Tea House**. (B)

**Day 4** Today we visit the local market, the **Mercado dos Lavradores**, followed by the **Quinta Vigia**, a small garden which is part of the Presidential Palace, and the neighbouring **Santa Catarina Park**, set in a natural amphitheatre. We conclude at a tea house where we enjoy some Madeiran specialities. (B)

**Day 5** Today is at leisure to relax in the hotel or explore on your own. Alternatively join us on an optional full day tour of the island, with lunch. Highlights include the picturesque villages of **Camara de Lobos**, made famous by Sir Winston Churchill in 1950 when he painted here, **Porto Moniz**, famous for its natural bathing pools and lovely scenery, and **Ponta do Sol**, which as the name implies is the sunniest part of the island. (B)

**Day 6** We take the 10-minute cable car ride from the centre of Funchal to the fashionable hill town of Monte, which offers splendid views over the harbour and the bay. Here we visit the wonderful **Monte Palace Gardens** which surround the chateau-like Palace. In the afternoon we go to the famous **Reid’s Palace Hotel** for a look around the lush gardens followed by a delicious afternoon tea in luxurious surroundings. (B, AT)

**Day 7** Today is at leisure to relax in the hotel or explore on your own. A farewell dinner will be served in the hotel in the evening. (B, D)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner



Porto Moniz

### WHAT’S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights’ bed and breakfast at the 4-star Golden Residence Hotel, Funchal (or similar)
- ▶ Welcome and farewell dinners at the hotel and afternoon tea at Reid’s Palace
- ▶ Return flights from London to Funchal
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 25 Mar	<b>£1,995</b>	<b>£1,895</b>
6 - 13 May*	<b>£2,295</b>	<b>£2,195</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£395</b>
*Includes Madeira Flower Festival		

Tour code: **BGMD**





Giverny

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1,195** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## The Genius of Monet

Just as the gardens at Giverny inspired Monet, who spent half his life nurturing and enjoying them, so they continue to enthrall countless visitors more than 90 years after his death. The lovingly restored gardens give a vivid impression of Monet's favourite subjects. The gardens are filled with poppies, lupins, delphiniums and peonies, and throughout the year the atmosphere is of abundant colour and luxuriant growth. Arched bridges, painted an acid apple green, are festooned with wisteria and the draped fronds of weeping willow frame the water lilies - Monet's paintings brought unnervingly to life.

The perfect complement to Giverny is the Orangerie Museum in Paris. The centrepiece of this outstanding collection is Monet's breathtaking series of murals, *Les Nymphéas*. Housed in two vast elliptical rooms, the 2-metre-high murals extend to almost 200m in length and provide a moving and unforgettable testament to the genius of a painter at the height of his powers. Besides Giverny, we visit the Château de Chantilly, with its extensive collection of fine art and its gardens designed by Le Nôtre, and also the pleasant market town of Senlis.

**Day 1** We depart from London by Eurostar and upon arrival in Paris we are met by our comfortable coach. We travel to the charming town of **Chantilly**, in the heart of the Chantilly Forest, where our hotel is set in its own wooded grounds. Later, we enjoy a welcome glass of kir before sitting down to dinner. (D)

**Day 2** This morning, we transfer to the **Château de Chantilly**, one of the jewels in the crown of France's cultural heritage, a magnificent edifice surrounded by water. Our visit includes the sumptuously decorated Grands Appartements, along with time to stroll around the extensive formal gardens, designed in part by André le Nôtre. Later we transfer to **Senlis**, a market town typical of Picardy, where we can explore the shops or enjoy some pâtisserie. (B, D)

**Day 3** The famous house and gardens of **Claude Monet** await discovery today, along with free time in **Giverny** where you can visit the church where Monet is buried. (B, D)

**Day 4** We travel to Paris today and visit the **Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries**. The highlights of its

collection are Monet's two-metre-high murals, entitled **Les Nymphéas**. Thereafter, there is time to sightsee at leisure before we catch our Eurostar train back to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



House and garden of Claude Monet



Château de Chantilly

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the Château de Montvillargenne, Chantilly
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Paris with Eurostar
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 - 27 May	<b>£1,295</b>	<b>£1,195</b>
19 - 22 Jul	<b>£1,295</b>	<b>£1,195</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£295</b>

Tour code: **BMOG**





Menton Lemon Festival parade

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1,795** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens of the French Riviera - Menton Lemon Festival and International Rose Festival

Menton's zesty Lemon Festival brings a vibrant burst of colour to our tour of the French Riviera. Exotic gardens, cacti collections and azure seas complete our sparkling itinerary.

At the Clos du Peyronnet we have an exclusive tour, where a passion for exotic plants is reflected in the colour and variety of this fascinating garden. At St. Jean Cap Ferrat, we visit the exquisite gardens of the Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, while a short hop over the border to Italy finds us at the incomparable Hanbury Gardens.

*In May 2024 the International Rose Festival in Grasse will take the place of the Lemon Festival.*

**Day 1** We depart from London to Nice, where we visit the garden of **Serre de la Madone**, created by American Lawrence Johnston, who travelled the world over a 30-year period seeking plants to acclimatise here among the ancient olives. This is a place of luxuriant and exotic beauty, a tropical forest planted on the shores of the Mediterranean. (L, D)

**Day 2** We visit the **Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild** at St Jean Cap Ferrat, a garden designed as a series of compartments, each reflecting a different architectural style with many interesting tender plants thriving in the favourable climate. We continue to the **Jardin Exotique d'Èze**, on the site of a medieval fortress. In the midst of several hundred species of exotic plants (cacti, aloes, agaves) the visit is an invitation to discover not only plants but art. (B, L)

**Day 3** We begin at the private garden of **Clos du Peyronnet** for a guided tour. To one side of the house is a splendid water garden, where a long canal-like pool runs at right angles to the slope. Exotic flowers and foliage press in from all sides, giving the impression of a jungle only just kept at bay. Next, we go from France to Italy and tour the stunning gardens of La Mortola. **La Mortola** is perhaps the greatest of the Riviera Gardens, in the

richness of its collections, the power of its presence and not least in the impact it has had all over the French Riviera. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** Our day is spent at the **Lemon Festival in Menton** and our ticket includes a grandstand seat for the parade. (B)

**Day 5** We drive to **Cap d'Antibes** for a visit to **Villa Thuret**. A botanist and expert on seaweeds, Gustav Thuret lived here and over a period of twenty years he amassed a collection of rare plants – among them the first eucalyptus to be planted on the Côte d'Azur. We continue to **La Mouissone**, whose gardens reflect the attributes and restrictions presented by the terrain and the Mediterranean climate. We conclude at the village of **St Paul de Vence**, which serves as a creative haven even today. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** We finish on a high at the **Exotic Gardens of Monte Carlo**. This fascinating garden specialises almost exclusively in succulent plants, making it a prickly paradise for cactus lovers. Later, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Jardin Exotique garden

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Le Grimaldi, Nice (or similar)
- Three dinners and four lunches
- Return flights from London to Nice
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
Menton Lemon Festival		
15 - 20 Feb	<b>£1,895</b>	<b>£1,795</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£295</b>
2024		
International Rose Festival		
11 - 16 May	<b>£2,295</b>	<b>£2,195</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£495</b>

Tour code: **BLEM & BFRR**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,995**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

TOUR MANAGER  
ALASTAIR WALKER

## Iceland's Northern Lights

Seeing the Northern Lights is a bucket list item for many of us, but aurora borealis aside, Iceland offers a host of attractions, quite unlike anywhere else in the world. From geothermal dips to moonlit trips, this tour is a Who's Who of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. It may be the focus of our tour, but the aurora borealis is only one of the many natural wonders present in Iceland. It's unlikely you'll find another country with such extensive otherworldly appeal: lunar lava-formed landscapes, thunderous waterfalls, moody geysers and glistening glaciers — and those are just the geological bits!

Our tour is split between Reykjavík, the world's most northerly capital, and the southern town of Hella, to maximise our chances of seeing the aurora. Bucket list at the ready...

**Day 1** We fly from London to Keflavík. Upon arrival, we visit the **Raufarhólshellir Lava Tunnel**, a unique experience exploring the inner workings of a volcanic eruption. From here we head to **Eyrarbakki Village** and then onto the **Urriðafoss waterfall**. We continue to our hotel in Hella. (D)

**Day 2** Our full-day tour of south Iceland includes **Skógafoss waterfall**, a visit to **Skógar Folk Museum** and a unique experience as we walk behind **Seljalandsfoss waterfall**. (B, D)

**Day 3** The remote **Skálholt church** and **Pingvellir National Park** await, where the tectonic plates of Europe and North America meet. We also view the **Gullfoss waterfall** and visit the **Geysir**

**Geothermal Area** where we can see **Strokkur** erupt. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** We enjoy a city tour of Reykjavík, including its iconic **Hallgrímskirkja church**, the panoramic viewing platform **Perlan** and the **Aurora Reykjavík centre**. We bathe in the geothermal **Laugarvatn Fontana springs** and after dinner go in search of the **Northern Lights**. (B, D)

**Day 5** We tour the **Reykjanes Peninsula** including the **Gunnahver Hot Springs** before returning to Keflavík for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Northern Lights

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Stracta Hotel, Hella and two nights at the Grand Hotel Reykjavík
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Return flights London to Keflavík
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Alastair Walker as tour manager and local guides

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
4 - 8 Feb	<del>£2,095</del>	<b>£1,995</b>
17 - 21 Nov	<del>£2,295</del>	<b>£2,195</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£395</b>

\*The Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon and therefore unpredictable. The order of the itinerary may be changed to accommodate the best viewing conditions but no guarantees of seeing the lights can be given.

Tour code: **BICE**

8 DAYS FROM  
**£2,795**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Alpine Flowers of Wengen

Lying in the Bernese Oberland region in the heart of Switzerland, Wengen — at a height of some 1,274 metres — is ringed by some of Europe's highest and best-known mountains. This is a super destination from which to spot a wide range of native flora as well as birds and butterflies. Each day we walk up to five miles, sometimes taking a cable car or mountain railway, as we explore local wildflowers.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Zurich and upon arrival we continue by train to the car-free resort of **Wengen**. (D)

**Day 2** We take the train to **Kleine Scheidegg**, gateway to the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau where the mountain farmers converge with their cattle and where some of Switzerland's most attractive walks begin. From here, we walk to **Wengernalp**, which offers spectacular views of the surrounding peaks and Ibex Wood, looking for flowers on the way. (B, D)

**Day 3** We take the cable car from Wengen to Männlichen and walk to **Kleine Scheidegg**, approaching from the opposite direction to yesterday. (B, D)

**Day 4** An exciting cable car ride takes us to the **Schilthorn** with a moderate walk back down, seeking out wildflowers on the way. (B, D)

**Day 5** Take the train to Wengernalp and walk down to **Slipper Valley**, to look for the most spectacular plant of the area, including the Lady Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium calceolus*). (B, D)

**Day 6** Travel by cable car to the glacier village of **Grindelwald**. There's a fine view of the massif that features the Wetterhorn, Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains, and we enjoy a gentle walk in this most scenic part of the **Bernese Oberland**. (B, D)

**Day 7** Take the rack railway to **Schynige Platte** and visit the **Alpine Botanic Garden**, set among a picture-postcard panorama. Many of the different species of plants in the garden here have been saved from extinction. (B, D)

**Day 8** Today we return to Zurich by train for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Wengen

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Bellevue, Wengen
- ▶ Return flights from London to Zürich
- ▶ Return rail transfers between Zürich and Wengen and a Berner Oberland Rail Pass
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
25 Jun - 2 Jul	<del>£2,995</del>	<b>£2,795</b>
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		



Please note a good degree of mobility is required to make the most of this holiday.

Tour code: **BWEN**



5 DAYS FROM  
**£1,695** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Palladian Villas of Veneto

Veneto is one of Italy's wealthiest regions, reflected in the extravagance of its grand villas and their stunning gardens. Many of the villas we visit were designed by Andrea Palladio, one of the most influential individuals in the history of western architecture. Join us as we discover no fewer than five glorious villas, including Palladio's masterpiece Villa Rotonda.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Venice and visit the grand gardens of the **Villa Pisani**. The high walls here enclose an impressive array of greenhouses, where prize winning camellias were once grown. (D)

**Day 2** We are joined by a local guide for a walking tour of Vicenza's historic city centre, including the wonderful **Teatro Olimpico**. We continue to **Villa Rotonda**, where we have a personal guided tour with the aristocratic owner. From here, we visit the **Villa Valmarana** and enjoy a personally guided tour followed by dinner in a room adorned with Tiepolo's frescoes. The Villa's surroundings are designed to suit different tastes and functional needs, ranging from an Italian garden with a dovecote and well, a walk through the hornbeam and a pagoda in the woods. (B, D)

**Day 3** We start at the **Villa Barbarigo**, surrounded by an exceptional example of Baroque gardens. One of the most striking features is a series of

ascending pools decorated with statues and fountain. Next, we'll have a photo opportunity outside **Villa Vescovi** in the Euganean Hills. Dating from 1535, this was the summer retreat of the Bishops of Padua. Later, we explore **Le Paradis des Papillons**, a wonderful garden which is a haven for butterflies and birds. (B, D)

**Day 4** After breakfast, we explore the **Villa Barbaro**, with its secret garden behind the villa. In the evening we visit the lustrous **Villa Godi Malinverni**, where we have a **gala dinner**, hosted by the aristocratic owners. (B, D)

**Day 5** We head for Padua and visit the **Orto Botanico** followed by the **Scrovegni Chapel**, before our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Villa Rotonda

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' bed and breakfast in the 4-star Sweet Hotel in Schiavon (or similar)
- ▶ Four dinners
- ▶ Return flights London to Venice
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 - 28 Mar	<del>£1,795</del>	<b>£1,695</b>
21 - 25 May	<del>£2,095</del>	<b>£1,995</b>
17 - 21 Sep	<del>£1,995</del>	<b>£1,895</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£195</b>

Tour code: **BVEN**

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1,595** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the beautiful gardens of Ninfa. We also have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Popes as we visit the gardens of Castel Gandolfo.

The romantic flower-covered ruins at Ninfa, are as close to gardening perfection as you can get. Scented roses, hydrangeas and jasmines curtain what remains of the walls of medieval buildings and paths meander beside a crystal-clear river.

The Villa Lante is a study in geometry and symmetry dating back to the 16th century, with many water features including a huge, balustraded water fountain which is a superb example of late Renaissance style. The 16th century gardens at Villa D'Este, romantically overgrown with tall pines, evergreen oaks and cedars, are renowned for their use of water and the garden seems to be full of sparkling spray.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Rome, where upon arrival we have a short city tour, including sights such as the **Colosseum**, **St. Peter's Square and Basilica** and the **Spanish Steps**. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast we depart for **Viterbo**, where we have a guided tour. We'll see a number of grand palaces and a host of old churches which are enclosed by an intact set of medieval walls. Nearby, we find the gardens of **Villa Lante**, described as "one of Italy's greatest Renaissance gardens." (B)

**Day 3** The gardens at the traditional papal residence of **Castel Gandolfo** await this morning and in the afternoon we visit **Ninfa**, which after being abandoned for hundreds of years because of malaria is now deemed by many to be the most beautiful garden in Europe. (B)

**Day 4** This morning we visit **Villa d'Este** in Tivoli, the 16th century gardens known for their use of water. Later, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Gardens of Ninfa

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' bed & breakfast at a centrally located 4-star hotel in Rome
- ▶ Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- ▶ Return flights from London to Rome
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 - 17 May	<del>£1,695</del>	<b>£1,595</b>
3 - 6 Sep	<del>£1,695</del>	<b>£1,595</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£420</b>

Tour code: **BRNI**



5 DAYS FROM

**£995**

SAVE PER PERSON

**£100**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

## Cultural Malta

Nowhere on earth concentrates as much turbulent past into such a small land mass as Malta, so if you want to learn as much as possible about the complex history and rich cultural heritage of the Mediterranean region in just five days, at a time of year when the weather offers a pleasant winter escape, this is the tour for you! The island has been inhabited since 5900 BC and ruled by a succession of powers, so it is little wonder it presents such a captivating tapestry.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Malta and upon arrival, we transfer to our comfortable hotel in St Paul's Bay, overlooking the sea. (D)

**Day 2** We spend a full day in **Valletta**, Malta's bustling capital city with its unique combination of architectural styles. We will enjoy views over the Grand Harbour from the **Barrakka Gardens**, admire the art works in **St John's Co-Cathedral**, one of the most spectacular in Europe, and visit the **Casa Rocca Piccola**, which gives an insight to the customs and traditions of the Maltese nobility over the last 400 years. We conclude at the **Malta Experience**, where a state-of-the-art presentation brings 7,000 years of history to life. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today is free to explore the island at your leisure, or join one of two optional excursions - a full day on the peaceful neighbouring island of

**Gozo**, including visits to the prehistoric **Ggantija Temples**, the capital city of **Victoria** and the picturesque **Bay of Xlendi**, or a half-day touring the southern half of Malta, with visits to **Vittoriosa**, including a boat trip around the harbour, and the village of **Marsaxlokk**. (B, D)

**Day 4** A full day's tour takes us to the **Palazzo Parisio**, where we will have an **exclusive afternoon tea** in the most opulent surroundings. We also visit **Mdina**, Malta's former capital city; **Ħaġar Qim**, Malta's main historic site; and the **Blue Grotto**, where we enjoy a boat trip. (B, AT, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Valletta, capital of Malta

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star AX ODYCY, St Paul's Bay
- Return flights from London to Malta
- Afternoon tea at Palazzo Parisio
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

#### 2024

5 - 9 Mar	<b>£1,095</b>	<b>£995</b>
5 - 9 Nov	<b>£1,195</b>	<b>£1,095</b>

#### NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Sea View Supplement	from <b>£40</b>
Optional Excursion - Gozo	<b>£145</b>
Optional Excursion - Southern Malta	<b>£85</b>

Tour code: **BMAC**

7 DAYS FROM  
**£1,595**SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Malta's Archaeological Heritage

Malta's diminutive archipelago is by no means any indication of the vast riches it holds — from the Neolithic to now, they are many and varied — a land of golden limestone cliff coasts, lucid seas, beautiful laidback towns and heart-stirring views. During this tour, we venture inside the walled citadel of Mdina, explore the warren of narrow tomb lined passages of St Paul's Catacombs, and take to the waves for a boat trip around the spectacular cliffs and caverns of the famed Blue Grotto. But most startling of all, perhaps, are the mysterious sites left by civilisations with whom we are just starting to get acquainted — the millennia-old Mnajdra Temples and the megaliths of Ħaġar Qim: which make for a truly unforgettable archaeological expedition.

**Day 1** We fly from London to Malta and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We explore **Valletta**, Malta's capital city, including the **Upper Barrakka Gardens**, the **Grand Master's Palace** and the **Archaeological Museum**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today we explore **Mosta Church** and the walled citadel of **Mdina**. Later we visit the **Skorba Temples**, the **Museum of Roman Antiquities** and **St. Paul's Catacombs**. (B, D)

**Day 4** Visit **Ħaġar Qim** and the **Mnajdra Temples**. We then take a **boat trip** to the stunning **Blue Grotto** and the **Dingli Cliffs**. (B, D)

**Day 5** Today is free to spend at leisure or there is an optional excursion to the neighbouring island of **Gozo**, which has archaeological wonders of its own. (B, D)

**Day 6** Take a tour of the fishing village of **Marsaxlokk**, visit the **Tarxien Temples** and explore the world-renowned **Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum**. This historic wonder is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B, D)

**Day 7** After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Ħaġar Qim

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Six nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star AX ODYCY, St Paul's Bay
- Return flights from London to Malta
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

#### 2023

5 - 11 Mar	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
7 - 13 May	<b>£1,895</b>	<b>£1,795</b>
5 - 11 Nov	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>

Single Supplement	<b>£195</b>
Seaview Room Supplement	from <b>£60</b>
Optional Excursion: Gozo	<b>£145</b>

Tour code: **BMAL**



8 DAYS FROM  
**£2,595** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

## Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden

The neighbouring Nordic nations of Sweden and Denmark offer a host of archaeological and historical sites, from Neolithic megaliths to Viking forts, from fairytale castles to a magnificent royal warship. We visit the archaeological sites at Gamla Uppsala, Anundshög and Baroque Skokloster Castle, and the excellent Historical Museum and impressive Vasa Museum. A relaxing rail journey takes us to Malmö in the south of Sweden, where we tour the Österlen region before crossing the Öresund Bridge to Copenhagen. We have a day in the Danish capital, including Rosenborg Castle, then transfer to Aarhus in mainland Denmark, where we visit the Moesgård Viking Museum and the Viking Castle at Fyrkat.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Stockholm, where we visit the archaeological site of **Gamla Uppsala** with its three Royal Mounds. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit the archaeological site at **Anundshög**, and then **Skokloster Castle**, one of the great castles of Baroque Europe. (B)

**Day 3** We visit the **Vasa Museum** with its impressive model of the ill-fated warship and the **Swedish History Museum** whose collections comprise archaeological artefacts and ecclesiastical art. We take a late afternoon train to the city of **Malmö**. (B, LM)

**Day 4** The ancient megaliths of **Ales Stenar** before crossing the **Öresund Bridge**. (B, D)

**Day 5** Visit **Copenhagen's** historic sites and museums, including **Rosenborg Slot**, the **National Museum of Denmark** and the **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**. (B)

**Day 6** We tour **Frederiksborg Slot**, the largest Renaissance Palace in Scandinavia. (B, D)

**Day 7** Today we visit the **Viking Museum** (subject to opening times), the Viking site of **Fyrkat** and then the astonishingly well preserved 'Bog Bodies' at **Silkeborg Museum**. (B)

**Day 8** We visit the archaeological site of **Jelling**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site before transferring to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, LM: Light meal, D: Dinner



Frederiksborg Palace

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast in 3- and 4-star hotels: two nights Uppsala, one night Malmö, two nights Copenhagen and two nights Aarhus
- ▶ Three dinners and one light meal on board the train
- ▶ Flights from London to Stockholm and Copenhagen to London
- ▶ Standard class rail journey from Stockholm to Malmö
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 9 Sep	<b>£2,795</b>	<b>£2,595</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£495</b>

Tour code: **BDSA**

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1,595** SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Archaeology of the Peloponnese

A place of timeless beauty, the Peloponnese is home to 3,000-year-old relics at Mycenae, classical ruins at Epidaurus and Byzantine churches at Monemvasia – the whole region is rich with history. The Greeks and the Spartans fought out the Peloponnesian war here, to be followed in turn by Romans, Goths and Slavs, Franks, Turks and Venetians. Nowadays the atmosphere is one of peace and tranquillity, but the connection with the past, with battles won and civilisations lost, is inescapable.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Athens and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel in **Nafplion**, a charming Venetian port. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast, we visit **Mycenae**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Greece and the centre of the Mycenaean culture. (B)

**Day 3** Discover the **Archaeological Museum of Nafplion and Tiryns** with its Cyclopean walls praised by Homer. We later visit **Epidaurus**, touring its famous theatre in the atmospheric forest setting. (B)

**Day 4** From Nafplion, we head south via **Argos**, considered to be the oldest city in the world, with an imposing though neglected theatre, and **Tripoli**, where we will stop for lunch (not included), before continuing to our comfortable hotel in **Sparta**. (B, D)

**Day 5** We explore the fascinating dead city of **Mystras**, which casts its silent gaze over modern Sparta. A unique atmosphere pervades this somewhat melancholic but beautiful site. (B)

**Day 6** Today we visit the UNESCO-listed archaeological site of ancient **Messene** and the coastal town of **Kalamata**. Here, we explore the **Archaeological Museum of Messenia**. (B, D)

**Day 7** This morning we visit the **Fort City of Monemvasia**, a wonderful time capsule where history unfolds before you, along the narrow-cobbled lanes that wind among Byzantine churches and red-tiled houses. (B)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we transfer to Athens airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Mystras

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights in Nafplion, two nights in Sparta, two nights Gythion; three dinners
- ▶ Return flights from London to Athens
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a local guide

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
20 - 27 Mar	<b>£1,695</b>	<b>£1,595</b>
30 Sep - 7 Oct	<b>£1,895</b>	<b>£1,795</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£295</b>

Tour code: **BPEL**



9 DAYS FROM  
**£2,195**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

TOUR MANAGER  
CLIVE WARSOP

## Portuguese Archaeology

With the roar of the Atlantic Ocean and the tranquillity of the Iberian hillsides as constant companions, we travel through time stopping off at Megalithic standing stones, Iron Age settlements, Roman ruins and medieval plazas.

We will enjoy a host of UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the city of Évora, Sintra and Guimarães. We also explore the vibrant maritime city of Lisbon, the ancient University town of Coimbra and Porto, a mecca for connoisseurs of wine.

**Day 1** We depart from London to **Lisbon** and upon arrival we enjoy a tour of the city. Later, we transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We travel to **Évora** to visit the **Almendres Stone Circle Menhir** and the **Anta Grande do Zambujeiro**. (B)

**Day 3** Visit the **Museu Caloste Gulbenkian**, which houses a world-class collection of art, and the **Mosteiro dos Jerónimos**, a Manueline monastery. (B)

**Day 4** We visit the **Palácio Nacional de Sintra**, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and the best preserved medieval royal palace in Portugal, and the **Castelo de Pena**. (B)

**Day 5** We tour the **Mosteiro de Batalha**, erected in commemoration of the 1385 Battle of Aljubarrota, and which would serve as the burial

church of Portuguese royals. We also visit the Roman city of **Conimbriga**. (B, D)

**Day 6** Enjoy the **Buçaco Forest** and be treated to a **wine-tasting** in Porto. (B, D)

**Day 7** A free day to explore **Porto**, or join our optional excursion – a boat trip on the **River Douro**, including lunch and free time to explore Regua. (B)

**Day 8** Visit **Bom Jesus Do Monte**, **Citania de Briteiros** and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Guimarães**. (B)

**Day 9** After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Bom Jesus do Monte

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Eight nights' bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Marriott Hotel, Lisbon; one night at the 4-star Melia Hotel, Coimbra and three nights at the 4-star Vila Gale, Porto (or similar)
- ▶ Three dinners
- ▶ Flights from London to Lisbon and Porto to London
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 26 Mar	<b>£2,395</b>	<b>£2,195</b>
15 - 22 Oct	<b>£2,595</b>	<b>£2,395</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£595</b>
Optional Excursion: Douro River boat trip		<b>£125</b>

Tour code: **BPOA**

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1,995**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£100**

## Crete Archaeology

The Greek island of Crete presents a rich tapestry of archaeological treasures, sleepy villages and lively towns, all set in a Homeric landscape of mountains, gorges and flower-strewn pastures. It was home to one of the earliest European civilisations, the Minoans, who roamed these hills some 4,000 years ago. Their legacy can be seen all over the island, in particular at the legendary Palace of Knossos, the centre of the Minoan civilisation in Europe.

**Day 1** We depart from London to Crete and upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit the **Archaeological Museum** and the mighty **Palace of Knossos**, the centre of the Bronze Age Minoan civilization, which leaves the visitor breathless with wonder at the technology and facilities of that period. (B)

**Day 3** Free day, or join our optional excursion to the island of **Spinalonga**, a former leper colony. Later, we enjoy some free time in charming **Agios Nikolaos**. (B)

**Day 4** The first stop is at **Gortyn**, an old Greek-Roman town with its famous law stones, Roman amphitheatre and the ruins of the **Saint Titus**, before we visit **Phaistos**, one of the most important centres of Minoan civilisation, and the most wealthy and powerful city in southern Crete. We continue

to **Zaros**, located on the south slope of Ida Mountain, where we stop at the lake. (B)

**Day 5** Enjoy a walking tour of **Rethymnon**, which is a mixture of Venetian and Turkish influences. Later, we travel to **Chania** to explore its historic centre and Venetian harbour. (B)

**Day 6** We have free time to explore the local area, or alternatively join our optional excursion to the **Arkadi Monastery** and **Eleutherna Museum** including lunch. (B)

**Day 7** Today, we visit the Minoan cemetery of **Armeni** and Byzantine monuments in the picturesque **Amari valley**. (B, D)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS



Palace of Knossos

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Atrion Hotel, Heraklion and four nights at the 4-star Bio Hotel in Rethymnon
- ▶ One dinner in the hotel and a farewell dinner (with wine) in a local taverna
- ▶ Return flights from London to Crete
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
23 - 30 Apr	<b>£2,195</b>	<b>£2,095</b>
8 - 15 Oct	<b>£2,095</b>	<b>£1,995</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£295</b>
Optional Excursions: Arkadi Monastery Spinalonga		<b>£110 £95</b>

Tour code: **BCRE**



# Worldwide

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If you're looking to explore more of our wonderful world, we have a spectacular array of long-haul holidays to choose from, which can take you from the forest temples of Japan to stunning Caribbean gardens in sun-soaked Barbados. So, whether you're looking for a wild escape or a scenic break, you're bound to find inspiration from our once-in-a-lifetime itineraries on the following pages.











Gardens by the Bay

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

9 DAYS FROM  
**£4,495**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

**NEW**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

TOUR MANAGER  
MIKE NELHAMS

## Singapore Garden Festival

The Singapore Garden Festival takes place every two years and is among the top flower and garden shows on the international calendar. It was the first event to bring together top international award-winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturalists from around the world, who are invited to the Festival to work alongside Singapore's own talented horticulturalists. Singapore's geographic location makes the Festival an ideal platform to showcase horticultural and gardening products and services from the northern and southern hemispheres, as well as from Asia and New World nations. A colourful and stimulating experience with a truly international flavour, the Festival is a treat for the senses. Other highlights include the spectacular Gardens by the Bay, whose illuminated Supertrees have gained iconic status, and afternoon tea at Raffles, the famous Singaporean institution.



Jurong Gardens



Hort's Park

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

Mike Nelhams, the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens, is looking forward to returning to one of his favourite destinations, the multi-cultural city-state of Singapore.



**Day 1** We depart from London Heathrow on our overnight flight to Singapore. (If)

**Day 2** Upon arrival in Singapore we will be met and taken to our 4-star city centre hotel. In the afternoon we depart on a city sightseeing tour of Singapore, which includes visits to **Chinatown** and **Little India**. Later we return to our hotel to freshen up before we transfer to a local restaurant for our welcome dinner. (D)





Singapore Botanical Garden

**Day 3** This morning we visit **Singapore Botanical Garden**, which was founded in 1859 and showcases the best and most spectacular of tropical flora, set in a stunning verdant landscape. Entrance to the **national orchid garden** is also included. In the afternoon we tour the **Colonial District**, where we will see the Cricket Club, Parliament House, the Supreme Court and the City Hall. We then visit the **Marina Bay Sands**, a landmark hotel and leisure complex, with a distinctive rooftop garden known as the Skypark, 57 stories above the ground. The views over city are spectacular and include the Gardens by the Bay and Supertree Grove, the capsules of the Singapore Flyer and the orange-tiled roofs of the shophouses that line the Singapore River. We continue with a visit to the **Merlion Park**, home to the Merlion statue, half fish and half lion, another of Singapore's iconic sights. Finally today we enjoy a cruise along the **Singapore River**. (B, D)

**Day 4** We visit Singapore's iconic horticultural attraction, **Gardens by the Bay**. Spanning 101 hectares, this award-winning venue houses over 250,000 rare plants in an innovative and imaginative way. There are obvious similarities to our own Eden Project, in particular the huge domed conservatories, but other features are strikingly unique, such as the impressive Supertrees. In the afternoon we visit the **Cloud Forest**, a mysterious botanical world veiled in mist, with breath-taking mountain views surrounded by diverse vegetation and hidden floral gems. After dinner in a local restaurant we return to the Gardens by the Bay for the evening performance of the **Rhapsody** light and sound show at the **Supertree Grove Gardens**,

a truly spectacular event. At night the Supertrees can be seen to full effect as they are brilliantly illuminated in an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour, complemented by a garden rhapsody of well-known music from the movies. (B, D)

**Day 5** Today is given over to the **Singapore Garden Festival**, where we will enjoy viewing the garden displays and orchid extravaganza and attending talks and demonstrations. (B, D)

**Day 6** This morning we visit Singapore's Chinese and Japanese Gardens, known as the **Jurong Gardens**. The Chinese Garden is modelled along the northern Chinese imperial style of architecture and landscaping, while the Japanese Garden takes its inspiration from the Muromachi period of 1392 to 1568 and the Azuchi-Momoyama period of 1568 to 1615. We return to the hotel to freshen up and change into the requisite smart-casual attire for **Afternoon Tea at Raffle's Hotel**. Established by Armenian hoteliers in 1887, the hotel is named after Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the founder of the original trading station and has become an unmissable part of the city's heritage. (B, AT)

**Day 7** We begin today with a visit to **Hort Park**, a series of botanical and horticultural parks and gardens in the southwestern corner of Singapore, connected by elevated walkways and bridges. The afternoon is free to shop and sightsee at leisure, or join our optional excursion to **Sentosa Island**, the extensive park that lies just off the main island and is accessed by cable car. Admission is included to all the major attractions, including the Aquarium, Madame Tussauds, Images of Singapore and the 4D Adventureland Ride. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, D)

**Day 8** After checking out of the hotel we have time for one more visit, the **Fort Canning Spice Garden**. Here we will discover the trees and plants that produce many familiar spices such as nutmeg and cloves, on a site that was originally Singapore's first Botanical and Experimental Garden, started in 1822 by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. Following our visit we transfer to the airport for our overnight flight back to London. (B)

**Day 9** We arrive in London this morning, where the group will disperse. (IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Six nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star Orchard Rendezvous Hotel, Singapore (or similar), plus five dinners and one afternoon tea
- ▶ Return flights from London to Singapore
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Mike Nelhams as tour manager and a local guide

#### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
4 - 12 Aug	£4,795	£4,495
Single Supplement		£695
Optional Excursion:		
Sentosa Island		On request

Tour code: **BSIN**





Mount Fuji

13 DAYS FROM  
**£6,295**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Seasonal Gardens of Japan

Surround yourself with the splendours of the Far East with an itinerary of rare gardens, bamboo forests, ancient temples, golden Buddhas, and, of course, the majestic Mount Fuji. Experience the otherworldliness of this mystical country on a garden tour unlike any other. Travel aboard the iconic bullet train, visit the historic town of Omihachiman, take a cruise beneath Mount Fuji's snow-capped peaks on Lake Ashi, and embark upon an optional excursion to Hiroshima and its Peace Memorial Park. We have included a variety of different natural styles in order to bring this tour to life, from landscape gardens and stroll gardens to pond-and-island spaces. A popular addition to this tour is dinner with a maiko – an apprentice geisha – in traditional costume. Tradition, stories and natural beauty await. Travel in March for stunning cherry blossom or in November for vibrant autumn colours.



Geisha



**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Osaka on our overnight flight. *(IF)*

**Day 2** Upon arrival in Osaka, we head to the gardens of the **Imperial Palace** which feature broad gravel paths, lawns and groves of trees, including attractive weeping cherry trees, which should be in blossom for our spring tour. From here, we continue to our hotel for dinner and a welcome drink. *(D)*

**Day 3** We enjoy a full day in **Kyoto** visiting some outstanding gardens. These include **Daisen-in temple**, **Ryogen-in**, **Zuiho-in**, **Kinkakuji temple** and **Ryoan-ji temple**. *(B)*

**Day 4** We journey to the **Prefecture of Shiga**. Beginning in **Otsu**, we visit the ancient temple of **Ishiyamadera**, which was established around the middle of the 8th century by Roben Osho. From here we continue along the shores of **Lake Biwa-ko** to the historic town of **Omi Hachiman** and the





Golden Pavilion, Kyoto

**Hachimanbori Canal.** Before returning to Kyoto, we'll also visit the **Nishikawake House**, the former residence of a wealthy merchant family. (B)

**Day 5** Today we explore **Ginkaku-ji** or 'Silver Pavilion', a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the private garden of **Hakusasonso** and **Kyoto Botanical Garden**, which displays over 120,000 plants. We'll also visit the **Bamboo Forest Path** in Sagano, a strange, otherworldly forest of dense bamboo, whose soaring trunks shade the path, their leaves rustling musically in the breeze. (B)

**Day 6** Enjoy Kyoto at leisure or join an optional excursion by train to **Hiroshima** and view the **Peace Memorial Park**. (B)

**Day 7** This morning we transfer to **Nara** and explore the **Toda-ji Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will also enjoy **Nara Park** and visit the **Kasuga Grand Shrine**, one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines. Later, we discover the **Kodai-ji Temple** and this evening we have a special treat as we transfer to the geisha district of Gion to have **dinner with a maiko**. (B, L, D)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and visit the **Heian-jingu Shrine**, a rare example of an extensive pond garden in the grounds of a Shinto shrine. Next, we explore the **Nanzen-ji Temple complex**, a quintessential Zen temple that exudes an air of serenity. This afternoon we leave Kyoto, taking the famous 'Shinkansen' or **Bullet Train** to Tokyo. (B)

**Day 9** We journey to the historic seaside town of **Kamakura** to visit the **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine**, located between two lotus ponds. Next, we admire the **Great Buddha**, which has survived tidal

waves, earthquakes, fires and typhoons. We continue to the **Hase Kannon Temple**. Simple and elegant, the temple is home to a superb 11-faced Kannon, Goddess of Mercy, which is said to date from the 8th century. (B, L)

**Day 10** Enjoy a full day excursion to **Hakone** and **Mount Fuji**, which begins with a visit to **Onshi Hakone Park**, an area of forested mountains and deep ravines. We will also enjoy a cruise on **Lake Ashi**, the principal attraction of Hakone, 723m above sea level. After lunch, we drive along the foot of **Mount Fuji** for a further photo stop at **Lake Kawaguchi**. (B, L)

**Day 11** Our day begins at the garden of **Kyu Furukawa**, a masterpiece of modern design, combining the authentic Japanese style with an Italian terraced-style garden full of roses. Next, it's on to **Mukojima Hyakkaen Garden**, the only surviving flower garden of the Edo period. Free time follows. (B)

**Day 12** Following breakfast we have a full day sightseeing in **Tokyo** today. We begin with a visit the **Senso-ji Temple**, Tokyo's most sacred temple. Directly in front of the **Senso-ji Temple** lies the **Nakamise-dori**, the temple's shopping precinct, where you will have free time to browse the stalls which sell everything from haircombs, fans and kimonos to wigs and genuine Edo crafts. We continue to **Rikugien Garden**, often considered Tokyo's most beautiful Japanese landscape garden. Our next visit is to the **Imperial Palace East Garden**, which has a fine collection of bamboo and Japanese spring blossom. In the afternoon, we explore **Hamarikyu Garden** and take a cruise along the

**Sumida River**. We conclude with a farewell dinner this evening. (B, D)

**Day 13** We check out of our hotel today and transfer by coach to Tokyo Airport, for our return flight to London. (B, IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 11 nights' bed & breakfast; six nights at the 4-star ANA Hotel, Kyoto and five nights at the 4-star Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa, Tokyo (or similar)
- ▶ Dinner and welcome drink on first evening, a dinner with a maiko, three lunches and a farewell dinner
- ▶ Flights from London to Osaka, returning from Tokyo
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager and a local guide

#### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
27 Mar - 8 Apr*	£6,795	£6,495
6 - 18 Nov	£6,595	£6,295
Single Supplement		£1,500
Optional Excursion:		
Hiroshima		On request
*Cherry blossom departure		

Tour code: **BJPG**





Putra Mosque

12 DAYS FROM  
**£2,995**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens of Malaysia

Peninsular Malaysia, the long finger of land that extends south from Asia and points towards the equator, is a multi-cultural and contrasting country of tropical jungle and palm-fringed beaches, high-rise cities and aboriginal villages. Our journey takes us from the steamy heat of Malacca in the south to the ultra-modern capital city of Kuala Lumpur; up into the cool, tea-growing valleys of the Cameron Highlands and on to Penang with its colourful mixture of colonial architecture and Chinese culture.

**Day 1** We depart from London on an overnight flight to Kuala Lumpur. (IF)

**Day 2** On arrival at Kuala Lumpur airport this morning we transfer by coach to our hotel in Malacca. (IF, D)

**Day 3** We depart on a full day guided coach tour of **Malacca**, beginning with a visit to the **Botanic Garden**, which has a lush and tranquil setting, surrounded by indigenous forest and divided up into five gardens. As the name suggests, the beautifully landscaped **Garden of a Thousand Flowers** contains a wide range of flowering plants. Following a stroll along Malacca's famous **Jonker Street**, we enjoy a tour of the city. (B)

**Day 4** Transfer by coach to Kuala Lumpur, stopping en route at the **Agricultural Heritage Park**. After a visit to the charming public **botanic garden** in Putrajaya we continue our journey north to Kuala Lumpur, where on arrival we will visit the 'secret garden' on top of the **Utama Shopping Centre**. Evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 5** This morning, we depart for a visit to **FRIM** (*Forest Research Institute Malaysia*) forest reserve at Kepong, which features a canopy walkway system suspended from the trees at about 30m above ground level. Returning to Kuala Lumpur we visit the **Lake Gardens** (*Taman Tasik Perdana*) which date back to the 1880s. We will also visit the **Orchid Garden** here, which contains over 800 species from Malaysia alone. We round off with a guided coach tour of **Kuala Lumpur**. (B)

**Day 6** We depart for **Cameron Highlands**, which was developed in the 1920s and was originally intended as a health resort before the growing of tea was established as the primary activity, and we should see tea pickers in action. (B, D)

**Day 7** After breakfast we enjoy a full day guided coach tour of the countryside of the **Cameron Highlands** which is packed full of local colour and variety. We also visit **Tan's Camellia Garden**, where the passionate owner grows a wide range of anthuriums, amaryllis and camellias. (B, L)

**Day 8** We depart for Penang, breaking our journey with visits to **Sam Poh Tong Cave Temple**, a Chinese Buddhist temple built into a limestone hillside. We continue our journey via Kuala Kangsar, where we see the **Ubudiah Mosque** and **Iskandariah Palace** before reaching the **Taiping Lake Gardens**. We continue to **Penang**, referred to as the Pearl of the Orient for its natural beauty and exotic heritage. (B, L)

**Day 9** We depart on a full day tour of Penang, including visits to the **Tropical Spice Gardens**, **Fort Cornwallis**, **Little India** and **Chinatown** and **Penang Botanic Gardens**. (B)

**Day 10** The day is free to relax in the hotel or go shopping or sightseeing on your own. (B)

**Day 11/12** We transfer to the airport in Penang for an internal flight to Kuala Lumpur, where we connect with our overnight flight to London, where we arrive the following day. (B, IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Malacca

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Nine nights' bed and breakfast: two nights at the Baba House, Malacca, two nights at the 4-star Four Points by Sheraton, Kuala Lumpur, two nights at the 4-star Century Pines Resort, Cameron Highlands; three nights at the 4-star Wembley Hotel, Penang (or similar)
- Two dinners and three lunches
- London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Return flights from London to Kuala Lumpur and internal flight Penang to Kuala Lumpur
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 – 24 Feb	<b>£3,195</b>	<b>£2,995</b>
17 – 28 Oct	<b>£3,595</b>	<b>£3,395</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£550</b>

Tour code: **BMAY**





Peggy's Cove lighthouse

9 DAYS FROM  
**£5,495**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Nova Scotia in the fall

Nova Scotia is the crown jewel of Canada's east coast. Comprising a peninsula and its surrounding islands, it offers the chance to indulge yourself in the Canadian outdoors at its best, while offering excellent accommodation and dining. October is a spellbinding time of year here, as hardwood trees such as maple, beech, poplar and birch blaze in the most brilliant colours. The variety of colour is enormous, ranging from dark wine red to scarlet, orange and yellow. Inland, it is still wild and densely forested, with quiet rivers and lakes reflecting the blue sky. You are never more than 56km from the sea in Nova Scotia and the coastline is infinitely varied, from rocky peninsulas to seemingly endless empty beaches.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Halifax, Nova Scotia. On arrival we transfer to our downtown Halifax hotel. (IF)

**Day 2** Enjoy a city tour of Halifax this morning, with visits to the **Halifax Citadel**, **Victorian Public Gardens** and sites of the **Halifax Explosion** of 1917. We continue with a tour of the **Alexander Keith's Brewery**, founded in 1820 and one of the oldest working breweries in North America. We head to the **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**, which houses artefacts from the **Titanic**. (B, D)

**Day 3** Today, we drive the Lighthouse route along Nova Scotia's South Shore for breakfast by the iconic **Peggy's Cove Lighthouse**. We then head to **Mahone Bay** for a photo stop, and continue to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Lunenburg** for a tour of this historic fishing town before heading to Yarmouth, where we spend the evening. We visit the historic Victorian houses and the **Cape Forchu Lighthouse**, to see one of the clearest night skies in North America. (B, D)

**Day 4** This morning we visit the **Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens**, with 17 acres of impeccably manicured rose gardens. We then travel to Acadia University to tour the **Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens**, which includes 50 acres of woodlands and six acres of botanical gardens. (B, D)

**Day 5** We visit the **Hector Heritage Quay** in Pictou, an incredible waterfront development where a full-scale replica of the Hector ship has been built. Next, we tour the **Alexander Graham Bell Museum**, dedicated to the most famous resident of Cape Breton, and the site of his early work on the telephone and powered light. (B, D)

**Day 6** We spend today touring around the incredible **Cabot Trail**, one of the most spectacular drives in all of Canada, with visits to **Cheticamp**, home to Acadian culture and craft, and the winding, rocky splendour of **Cape Breton Highland National Park**. (B, L)

**Day 7** We make our way to the **Fortress of Louisbourg** today, a reconstruction of an early French colonial town and the largest of its kind in North America. We then head back towards **Halifax**, for our farewell dinner. (B, D)

**Day 8** We have a guided tour of the **Victorian Public Gardens** in Halifax before we transfer to the airport for our overnight flight. (B, IF)

**Day 9** Arrive back in London. (IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Cabot Trail

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis: four nights in Halifax, one night in New Glasgow, two nights in Baddeck
- ▶ Five dinners and one lunch
- ▶ Flights from London to Halifax
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a local tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 16 Oct	<b>£5,795</b>	<b>£5,495</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£875</b>

Tour code: **BNOV**





New York Botanical Garden

9 DAYS FROM  
**£3,595**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

TOUR MANAGER  
TREVOR EDWARDS

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Arts and gardens of Philadelphia & New York

Join us on this discovery of some of America's finest art institutions and inspirational gardens. We begin in Philadelphia, one of the nation's most historically rich cities, home to Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution were signed, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, with its vast collection of masterpieces by world famous artists. We also spend a day at the Philadelphia Flower Show, America's premier horticultural event, where we enjoy early access and a guided tour. We then head to the 'Big Apple' - New York - where we find an impressive collection of art institutions and exciting gardens. Highlights here include the New York Botanical Gardens, the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frick Collection, the Met Cloisters and the High Line, an abandoned section of elevated railway line that has been transformed into a suburban garden by Piet Oudolf.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Philadelphia and transfer to our hotel. (IF)

**Day 2** This morning we depart for the **Philadelphia Museum of Modern Art**, the cultural heart of Philadelphia, where we have a guided tour. Later we have a city tour accompanied by a local guide. (B)

**Day 3** Enjoy a full day exploring America's largest and longest-running horticultural event, the **Philadelphia Flower Show**, including early access and a two hour guided tour. (B)

**Day 4** Our day starts at the **Masonic Temples of Philadelphia**, a National Historic Landmark which features a Norman-style exterior. Later, we board a train for our journey to the 'Big Apple' - New York. (B)

**Day 5** We head to the Bronx and the **New York Botanical Gardens**. We enjoy a guided tour of the **Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden** and the Native Plant Garden, which celebrates the diversity of plant life to be found in northeast America. This afternoon we head to the **Museum of Modern Art**, one of the most influential in the world. (B)

**Day 6** Following breakfast, we head to the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, one of the world's finest museums, where we have a guided tour. We continue to **The Frick Collection**, which was assembled by the industrialist Henry Clay Frick and is housed in his former residence overlooking Central Park. The collection includes masterpieces by Bellini, Rembrandt, Gainsborough and Vermeer to name but a few. (B)

**Day 7** This morning the **Met Cloisters** is on the agenda, first opened to the public in 1938 as a branch of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Fort Tyron Park, Northern Manhattan. This afternoon is at your leisure to explore some of the sights of New York. (B)

**Day 8** Today we will visit the **High Line**, an abandoned stretch of elevated railway line on the West Side of Manhattan, which has been converted into a linear park and naturalistic garden, designed by the legendary Dutchman Piet Oudolf. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we catch our flight to London. (B, IF)

**Day 9** We arrive in London. (IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast



Display at Philadelphia Flower Show

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards is one of our busiest and most popular garden Tour Managers, and has led many garden tours around the world.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast in 4-star hotels: three nights in Philadelphia and four nights in New York
- ▶ Flights from London to Philadelphia, returning from New York
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Rail travel from Philadelphia to New York
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 10 Mar	<b>£3,795</b>	<b>£3,595</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£665</b>

Tour code: **BPNY**





Butchart Gardens

10 DAYS FROM  
**£5,395**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens and Wildlife of Western Canada

Spectacular scenery and a warm, friendly welcome await us in Vancouver, a city which owes its vibrancy and cosmopolitan flavour to the diverse cultural background of its inhabitants. Set amidst majestic mountains and surrounded by blue Pacific waters, Vancouver's gentle climate keeps the city green year-round and makes it the perfect backdrop for many outstanding gardens. Our journey also includes the opportunity to enjoy a whale watching trip, and, if we're lucky, we'll catch a glimpse of orca, grey, humpback and minke whales. From the resort of Tofino, we embark on a bear watching boat tour along the calm coastal waters and we'll explore the Naa'Waya'Sum Gardens (formerly known as Tofino Botanical Gardens) spread over 12 hectares of gardens, forest and shoreline.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Vancouver, where on arrival we transfer to our hotel. (IF)

**Day 2** We take an introductory tour around **Vancouver**, a modern metropolis surrounded by nature on all sides. This afternoon we visit **Van Dusen Botanical Gardens**, which features one of the most extensive arrays of ornamental plants in Canada, and the first authentic full-sized classical Chinese garden built outside China, that of **Dr Sun Yat-Sen**. (B)

**Day 3** This morning we explore the **UBC Botanical Garden**, the oldest university botanical gardens in Canada. The gardens showcase British Columbia's native flowers and trees as well as a collection of plants from every corner of the globe. Later, we head northwards to the **Capilano Suspension Bridge Park** which seamlessly blends history, culture and nature. (B)

**Day 4** After a ferry trip to Vancouver Island we head to the world famous **Butchart Gardens**, one of the world's premier floral show gardens. Later we enjoy some sightseeing as we travel through the unhurried streets of **Victoria**, where highlights include the Inner Harbour, which is sprinkled with pleasure craft and the impressive Parliament buildings. (B,)

**Day 5** This morning we offer an optional whale watching cruise, a chance to see killer, grey, humpback and minke whales. This afternoon, we take a scenic route to the historic **Hatley Estate**, one of Canada's largest and most diverse National Historic Sites, noted for its heritage planting and majestic native trees. (B)

**Day 6** We traverse Vancouver Island to its Pacific coast and visit the **Milner Gardens and Woodland**, a seaside garden perched on an oceanfront bluff with views across the Strait of Georgia. (B)

**Day 7** We head out onto the calm shallow waters in search of the **black bears** which at this time of the year venture to the shoreline. Later, we visit the **Naa'Waya'Sum Gardens**, 12 hectares of gardens, forests and shorelines. (B)

**Day 8** We travel across Vancouver Island and board the ferry to **Horseshoe Bay**. Upon arrival, we head into **Vancouver** for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 9** Explore at your own leisure this morning before we transfer to Vancouver airport for our return overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

**Day 10** Arrive London, where the group will disperse or make onward connections. (IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Victoria inner harbour

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Eight nights' bed & breakfast in 3-star hotels: four nights Vancouver, two nights Victoria & two nights Ucluelet
- One dinner
- Return flights from London to Vancouver
- London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 - 22 Sep	<b>£5,695</b>	<b>£5,395</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£895</b>
Optional Excursion:		
Whale watching		from <b>£90</b>

Tour code: **BGWC**





Quito

15 DAYS FROM  
**£5,295**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Ecuador: An Orchid Lover's Paradise

Ecuador, named for its position astride the line that divides the planet into north and south, offers a fabulous range of flora and fauna, with one of the most diverse eco-systems in the world. For lovers of orchids this is paradise – one in every four plants here is an orchid and the variety is bewildering, as we will see when we discover countless species, both cultivated and in their natural habitat. And what a habitat this is – the cloud forests of the Andes, where still-active volcanoes add to the sense of drama here in one of the most spectacular landscapes on earth. Bromeliads, epiphytes and alpine plants feature alongside more familiar cultivated species in a selection of gardens, national parks, jungle and forests as we journey from north to south and take in some of the highlights of a captivating country - including the opportunity to stand with a foot in either hemisphere!

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to **Quito**, where we transfer to our hotel. (IF, D)

**Day 2** After breakfast we take a guided walking tour in Quito's **old town** and in the afternoon we visit the **Botanical Garden of Quito**. (B, L)

**Day 3** Visit the **Quitsato Sundial** which is situated exactly on the equator. Continue with a visit to a **rose plantation** and the indigenous handcrafts market at Otavalo. (B, D)

**Day 4** We stop at the **Pahuma Orchid Reserve** then visit a **coffee plantation** before driving to **Mindo**. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** Today we visit a **butterfly farm** and after a short **cable car ride** through the cloud forest, we discover Ecuadorian **chocolate**. (B, D)

**Day 6** We visit **Alambi**, where we enjoy the wonderful experience of seeing many different types of **hummingbird**. Later, see the **Cotopaxi** volcano as we continue to Quito. (B, L, D)

**Day 7** Following the **Pastaza River**, we take a short hike to the **Devil's Cauldron** waterfall, where we enjoy the verdant forest landscape. Continue to Puyo and visit the **Amazonian Flora Rescue Centre**. In the afternoon, we continue to the **Omaere Ethnobotanical Park**. (B, L)

**Day 8** Today we visit Ecuador's highest volcano, the **Chimborazo**. (B, L, D)

**Day 9** We visit the most important Inca complex in the country, **Ingapirca**, followed by a visit to the orchid farm at **Ecuagenera**. (B, L)

**Day 10** After a city tour of **Cuenca** the afternoon is free to explore at leisure. (B)

**Day 11** Located in the majestic Andes mountain range, the **Cajas National Park** is one of Ecuador's natural wonders. (B, L)

**Day 12** Travel south on the Panamerican Highway to **Loja** and continue to the botanical garden **Espinosa** which has 1,210 plant species. (B, L)

**Day 13** Visit, the **Podocarpus National Park**, estimated to be home to over 3,000 different species of plants and orchids. (B, L, D)

**Day 14** We take an internal flight to Quito and later our return overnight flight to London (B, IF).

**ALTERNATIVELY TAKE ONE OF OUR GALAPAGOS CRUISE EXTENSIONS.**

**Day 15** We arrive in London. (IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Thirteen nights' bed and breakfast: two nights at 4-star Hotel Dann Carlton in Quito, one night at 3-star Hacienda Cusin in San Pablo del Lago, two nights at Hotel Septimo Paraiso in Mindo, two nights at 3-star Hotel Sangay in Banos, one night at 3-star Hosteria Abraspungo in Riobamba, three nights at 4-star Hotel San Juan in Cuenca, two nights 4-star Howard Johnson or Sonesta Hotel Loja in Loja (or similar)
- ▶ Day room at Wyndham Quito Airport
- ▶ Seven dinners and nine lunches
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge pass
- ▶ Return flights from London to Quito, from Loja to Quito
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a Brightwater Holidays tour manager and local guides

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
15 - 29 Feb	<b>£5,595</b>	<b>£5,295</b>
21 Nov - 5 Dec	<b>£5,795</b>	<b>£5,495</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£695</b>
Galapagos Cruise Extensions		<b>On request</b>

Tour code: **BECU**





Arenal Volcano

13 DAYS FROM  
**£4,695**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

TOUR MANAGER  
COLIN CROSBIE

## Gardens of Costa Rica

The term biodiversity may have been coined with Costa Rica in mind, such is the range of different species within its pristine, tropical forests. Throw in some spectacular scenery and resplendently laid-back citizens, and you have all the makings of a life-affirming holiday experience.

Visit a broad range of gardens both public and private, such as the Else Kientzler Botanical Gardens with its world-class collection of plants. At the Monteverde Cloud Reserve we will see some of the 100 mammals, 400 bird species and more than 2,500 varieties of plants that thrive here, including, if we are lucky, the famously elusive resplendent quetzal.

This tour will be led by Colin Crosbie, former Curator of RHS Wisley and currently President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to San José, arriving in time for dinner. (IF, D)

**Day 2** After breakfast, we visit the stunning **Else Kientzler Botanical Garden**, home to a vast array of tropical plant species from around the globe. Later, we will visit a **private garden**. (B, L)

**Day 3** Today we visit **La Paz Waterfall Gardens** where we explore the world's largest **butterfly garden** and learn about the surprisingly complex life of the butterfly. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** Travel to La Tirimbina reserve to visit an **organic cacao plantation** and learn about pineapple farming at the **Organic Paradise Tour**. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** Explore a medicinal garden at the majestic **Arenal Volcano** and discover how various endemic plants are used to produce effective medicines. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** A full day awaits at the **Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge**, where we can expect to see a diverse range of flora. Later we enjoy **Arenal's hot springs**. (B, L)

**Day 7** After a **boat trip** on **Lake Arenal**, Costa Rica's largest body of fresh water, we head south to **Monteverde**. (B, L, D)

**Day 8** Wander around **orchid and butterfly gardens** today. This evening, there is the opportunity to dine at the Tree House restaurant (not included). (B, L)

**Day 9** Tour the **Monteverde Cloud Reserve**, with its complex ecosystem and vast array of flora and fauna. Animal species include the jaguar, ocelot and Baird's tapir and birds such as the three-wattled bellbird. (B, L)

**Day 10** Explore the **Manuel Antonio National Park**, one of the most beautiful and bio-diverse areas in the world, before touring the **Rainforest Spices Plantation**. (B, L)

**Day 11** Today we tour La Garita's **Orchid Garden** en route to San José. (B, L, D)

**Day 12** We transfer to San José airport for our return overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

**Day 13** We arrive in London.

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



### YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin is really looking forward to returning to Costa Rica, one of his favourite destinations.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 11 nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the Bougainvillea Hotel, San José; two nights at La Quinta, Sarapiquí; two nights in the Arenal area, two nights in Monteverde, two nights in Manuel Antonio (hotels subject to change)
- ▶ Six dinners and ten lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to San José
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Colin Crosbie as tour manager and a local guide

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

26 Jan - 7 Feb	<b>£4,995</b>	<b>£4,695</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£995</b>

Tour code: **BCOS**





Torres del Paine

17 DAYS FROM  
**£12,495**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£400**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

TOUR MANAGER  
COLIN CROSBIE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Chile and the Falkland Islands

In one of the most exciting holiday packages that Brightwater Holidays has ever offered, with a limited number of places, we combine Chile, that amazing 'land of contrasts' with snow-capped volcanoes, towering glaciers and spectacular flora and fauna, with the unique thrill of travelling to the remote Falkland Islands.

We begin in the Chilean capital, Santiago, a huge city of shining skyscrapers and beautiful parks. We tour the National Park of La Campana (in the footsteps of Charles Darwin) before flying south to Punta Arenas and the Torres del Paine National Park. Two full days are set aside to do justice to the extraordinary range of plants, birds and animals to be found here in the magnificent desolation of Patagonia, and we have also included a boat trip on Lake Grey and the Grey Glacier. We then fly from Punta Arenas to the Falkland Islands, situated 400 miles off the coast of South America in the South Atlantic Ocean. The Falklands offer fresh air, big skies and an abundance of wildlife, much of which is very tame and approachable – we will discover that the penguins have no hesitation in coming up to investigate visitors! There are also elephant seals, sea lions and albatross amongst other birds and animals and in the course of our stay we will visit several different islands providing endless photo opportunities and an unforgettable experience of life on these unspoilt and proudly British islands. Truly a trip of a lifetime!



**Day 1** We depart from London on an overnight flight to Santiago, Chile. (IF)

**Day 2** On arrival at the airport in Santiago we will be met and transferred to our hotel. In the afternoon we depart on a half day tour of historical **Santiago**, Chile's capital city. (D)

**Day 3** After breakfast this morning we depart for a full day excursion to **La Campana National Park**, which was created in 1967 to help preserve one of the most important ecosystems of the region and is now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. (B)

**Day 4** Transfer to Santiago airport for our flight to Punta Arenas. We will be met on arrival and transferred to **Torres del Paine National Park**. As





Falkland Islands

we drive through the vast Patagonian steppes we will take the opportunity to look for some of the great array of plants endemic to this dry region of Patagonia as well as surrounding regions of southern Argentina and the Falkland Islands. (B, D)

**Day 5** A full day excursion to **Torres del Paine National Park**, where we can expect to find a very interesting array of plant species. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** Transfer to the Grey area and take a boat trip across **Lake Grey**, which is fed by the Grey Glacier. Smaller inflatable boats will take us up to the glacier itself. Later we continue our exploration of the **Torres del Paine National Park** and aim to discover representative species of the Patagonian steppes. The grandeur of the scenery should make for a truly memorable day in this magnificent Biosphere Reserve. (B, L, D)

**Day 7** Transfer to Punta Arenas where we will stay overnight. (B, L)

**Day 8** Transfer to Punta Arenas airport for our flight to Mount Pleasant International Airport on the **Falkland Islands**. On arrival a 30-minute internal flight will take us to **Bleaker Island**, which lies close to the south-east coast of East Falkland, at the entrance to Adventure Sound. (B, D)

**Day 9** We will explore **Bleaker Island** today, beginning with an orientation tour. Flowers on Bleaker include the yellow and dog orchids, lady's slipper, common violet and vanilla daisy. Queen of the Falklands butterflies breed in the Pebbly Bay area, feeding on native flowers. (B, L, D)

**Day 10** Our exploration of Bleaker and its wildlife continues today. Forty different breeding birds have been recorded, including Magellanic, southern

rockhopper, macaroni and gentoo penguins and a very large colony of imperial cormorants. Peale's dolphins reside in the bays south of the settlement year-round and sea lions can also be seen at this time of year. (B, L, D)

**Day 11** After breakfast we fly to the penguin paradise of **Pebble Island**, named after the unusual pebbles that were once abundant on its beaches. Around 40 bird species have been recorded, including over 1,000 pairs of imperial cormorants that breed on Tamar Point. (B, L, D)

**Day 12** We have a full day excursion exploring **Pebble Island**, which is home to several large colonies of gentoo, Magellanic and southern rockhopper penguins. Eight of the Falkland endemic plants grow here, including vanilla daisy and lady's slipper. (B, L, D)

**Day 13** After breakfast we depart on an internal flight to **Stanley**. (B, L, D)

**Day 14** Depart on a full day excursion to **Volunteer Point**, a stunning three-mile long beach which is home to the Falklands' largest colony of breeding King penguins, here at the northerly limit of their breeding range. The birds are usually very tame and approachable and will not hesitate to come and greet visitors! (B, L, D)

**Day 15** We take a flight back to **Santiago**, Chile, where we stay overnight. (B)

**Day 16/17** Return to Santiago Airport for our overnight flight back to London, arriving the following day. (B, IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin rates the Falkland Islands as one of the most amazing habitats he has ever visited.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' accommodation in Chile: three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Marina Las Condes, Santiago; three nights' half board at the Hotel Las Torres, Torres del Paine; one night bed and breakfast at the Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas (or similar)
- ▶ Welcome drink and dinner and three lunches
- ▶ Seven nights' accommodation on a full board basis in the Falkland Islands: three nights at Cassard House/Cobb's Cottage on Bleaker Island; two nights at the Pebble Island Lodge on Pebble Island; two nights at the Malвина House Hotel, Stanley
- ▶ Return flights from London to Santiago, and all connecting and internal flights in Chile and the Falkland Islands
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager and local guides

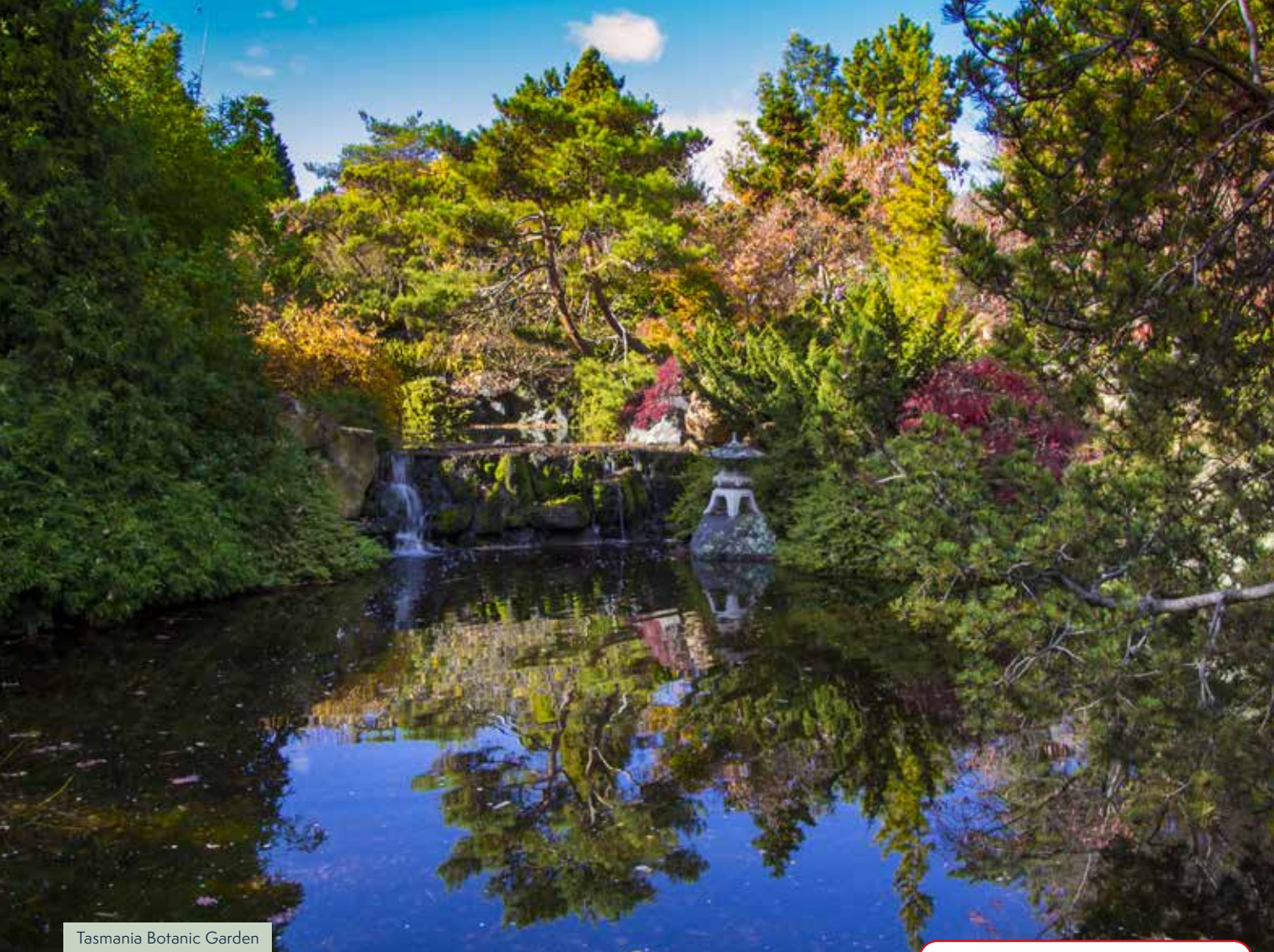
### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

30 Nov – 16 Dec	£12,895	£12,495
Single Supplement		£3,995

Tour code: BCFK





Tasmania Botanic Garden

20 DAYS FROM  
**£8,995**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

TOUR MANAGER  
COLIN CROSBIE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens and Flora of Tasmania and Victoria with Colin Crosbie

In late 2022, Colin Crosbie, former head gardener to HM The Queen Mother and later Curator of RHS Wisley, went on a working holiday to Australia, in particular the states of Victoria and Tasmania, where he visited a large number of gardens, from small privately owned properties to distinguished botanical establishments. On his return he gave us his ideas for a tour which, if followed in its entirety, would have lasted about six weeks, such is the abundance of wonderful gardens to be found there!

Selecting the very best places to visit, while reluctantly discarding others, we have whittled this down to just under three weeks, and a tour that we think will provide the opportunity to experience a broad cross-section of beautifully landscaped and lavishly planted gardens as well as native flora, and a truly unforgettable holiday experience.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Melbourne on our overnight flight. (IF)

**Day 2** Upon arrival in **Melbourne** this evening we transfer to our city centre hotel.

**Day 3** After breakfast, our tour begins in earnest with a visit to one of Melbourne's most exciting green spaces, **Cruden Farm**, created and nurtured for more than eighty years by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, the mother of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch. We continue to the **Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne**, which offers a natural bushland experience as well as an award-winning,

contemporary botanic garden celebrating the beauty and diversity of Australian landscapes and flora. (B)

**Day 4** We depart this morning for a visit to **Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden**, Victoria's premier cool-climate garden. We continue to **Cloudehill Garden and Nursery**, whose principal terraces evoke the Arts and Crafts style of gardens associated with Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens. In the afternoon we continue with a visit to the **SkyHigh Gardens** on Mount Dandenong. (B)

**Day 5** We return to the Dandenong Ranges for a visit to the **Karwarra Australian Native Botanic**



**Garden and Nursery**, which uses exclusively native plants. We continue to the **Alowyn Gardens** in the Yarra Valley, comprising a number of different gardens and in the afternoon visit the **private garden** of a local plant lover. (B)

**Day 6** We take a short flight to **Hobart**, Tasmania and on arrival visit the **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens**, Australia's cool climate garden, with a number of unique collections, including Australia's only Subantarctic Plant House. (B, D)

**Day 7** After breakfast it's off to Margate for a visit to the **Inverawe Native Garden**, a sustainable garden whose plants are water wise, low





Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne

maintenance and require little in the way of fertilisers. In the afternoon we have a specially arranged visit to a **private garden** in Kingston, Hobart. (B, D)

**Day 8** We spend today in the magnificent surroundings of the **Styx Tall Tree Conservation Area**, where we will see some of the largest and tallest eucalypts, hardwoods and flowering plants on earth. (B, L, D)

**Day 9** This morning we depart for **Launceston**, breaking our journey with a visit to the **Brickendon Estate and Heritage Gardens**, for a glimpse into Tasmania's convict heritage. (B, D)

**Day 10** We begin today at the **Wychwood Garden and Nursery** and continue to the nearby **Marakoopa Café** in Mayberry, with its sweeping flower beds and productive garden. Our afternoon visit is to the privately-owned 'English Heritage Garden' of **Old Wesley Dale**. (B, D)

**Day 11** We begin with a visit to the **Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden** at Romaine, an outstanding garden with a unique design. We continue to the **Tasmania Arboretum** home to the world's largest collection of Tasmanian woody plants. Later we call in at the **Grey Sands Vineyard** for a wine tasting and nibbles. (B, D)

**Day 12** We return to Hobart, breaking our journey with a number of visits en route, including the scenic **Liffey Falls State Reserve** and the **Steppes Reserve**, which protects Tasmania's high country sheep-grazing heritage. (B, D)

**Day 13** Today we are privileged to have specially arranged visits to three **private gardens**, in and around Hobart. (B, D)

**Day 14** We begin this morning at the **Corinda Garden**, judged to be one of the finest private gardens in the whole of Tasmania. We continue to the privately-owned garden of **Crawleighwood**, which will be a definite contender for the most outstanding garden of our tour. (B, L, D)

**Day 15** Today we take our leave of Tasmania, but not before we have explored the gardens of **Government House Tasmania**, regarded as one of the finest private gardens from the Victorian era in Australia. We then transfer to the airport for our flight back to Melbourne. (B)

**Day 16** A day of botanical discovery in Melbourne lies ahead, beginning with a visit to the **University of Melbourne Burnley Gardens**, home to nearly 1,000 different species of plants; the **Maranoa Botanic Gardens**, and the distinguished surroundings of the **Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**. (B)

**Day 17** We visit the **Geelong Botanic Garden** and the **Yarrabee Native Garden**, with the afternoon free in Melbourne. (B)

**Day 18** Our last touring day begins with a return to the Dandenongs, where we visit the **William Ricketts Sanctuary** and the **Ferry Creek Ornamental Gardens Reserve**. Our tour concludes at **Heronswood Garden**, where we tour the garden and enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, D)

**Day 19** We depart from Melbourne and our flight back to the UK. (B, IF)

**Day 20** Arrive in the UK. (IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

#### YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin is looking forward to returning to the wonderful gardens he discovered in Tasmania and Victoria and sharing them with our guests.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 16 nights' bed and breakfast in 4-star hotels – seven nights Melbourne, six nights Hobart and three nights Launceston
- ▶ Nine dinners (eight in the hotel and one at Heronswood gardens) and two lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Melbourne and Melbourne to Hobart
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager

#### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
28 Oct - 16 Nov	<del>£9,295</del>	£8,995
Single Supplement		£1,895

Tour code: BTAS





Taj Mahal

14 DAYS FROM  
**£3,095**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens and Palaces of India

Prepare for an assault on the senses as we plunge into the vibrant, chaotic, other-world that is India. In Delhi, the teeming capital city, we see contrasts of old and new, with visits to Humayun's Tomb and the museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a stimulating day that features the Garden of the Five Senses. Continuing by train to Agra we visit the Red Fort and, of course, the Taj Mahal - enjoying stunning views at both sunset and sunrise. We discover the Abhaneri stepwell before continuing to Jaipur, where we tour the impressive Amber Fort and visit the elegant gardens of the Rambagh and Sisodia Palaces. Moving on to Jodhpur we enjoy walks through the bustling bazaars and markets and explore the charming Mandore Gardens with a variety of flora and some chattering monkeys. We conclude in Udaipur, where we see an incredible Hindu temple and the treasures of the Jagmandir Island Palace. We also offer the options to extend your stay in either Shimla or Amritsar.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London on an overnight flight to Delhi. (IF)

**Day 2** We visit **Lodhi Gardens**, a majestic park featuring ancient tombs. Later we enjoy a welcome drink followed by dinner. (B, D)

**Day 3** Enjoy a sightseeing tour of **Delhi** and visit **Humayun's Tomb**. Our February departure also includes a visit to the rarely opened **Mughal Gardens**. (B, D)

**Day 4** We visit to the **Sunder Nagar Nursery** and the **Garden of Five Senses**, designed to stimulate sensory responses to the environment. This evening we have organised a talk from a **botanist** on various gardens in India. (B, D)

**Day 5** Take the morning **Gatimaan Express** to Agra and visit the **Fort**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Later we see **Mehtab Bagh** with stunning sunset views of the Taj Mahal. (B, D)

**Day 6** We return to **Taj Mahal** in time for sunrise and incredible views. Later we visit **Abhaneri Stepwell**, merited for its amazing stepwell and Hindu Temple. After lunch at **Umaid Palace** we continue to our hotel at Samode. (B, L, D)

**Day 7** A relaxing morning with free time to explore and enjoy the ambience of **Samode Bagh**. We depart for Jaipur and lunch at the **Samode Palace**, before continuing to our hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 8** Enjoy a guided excursion to **Amber Fort**, and visit the **Gardens of Rambagh Palace** and **Maharaja's City Palace**. (B, L, D)

**Day 9** We visit the **Sisodia Gardens and Palace** then drive to Jodhpur and our hotel. (B, D)

**Day 10** This morning we explore **Jodhpur**, visiting **Mehrangarh Fort** and **Jaswant Thada** before a **private meeting** with the curator of the **Umaid Bhawan Palace**. Later visit the stunning **Mandore Gardens**. (B, D)

**Day 11** We head for **Udaipur** and en-route visit the **Ranakpur Jain Temple**. (B, D)

**Day 12** We visit **Jagdish Temple**, the **City Palace**, and the beautifully designed **Garden of Maidens**. Later we take a cruise on the placid waters of **Lake Pichola**. (B, D)

**Day 13** We transfer to Udaipur airport for our flight to Delhi and overnight stay. (B, D)

**Day 14** We take our flight back to London. (B, IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Twelve nights' dinner, bed, and breakfast: three nights at 4-star Oberoi Maidens in New Delhi, one night at 4-star Trident in Agra, one night at the 4-star Samode Bagh in Samode, two nights at heritage Alsisar Haveli in Jaipur, two nights at 4-star the Radisson in Jodhpur, two nights at 4-star the Trident in Udaipur, one night at 4-star Novotel Aerocity in Delhi (or similar)
- ▶ Three lunches
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge pass
- ▶ Return flights from London to Delhi
- ▶ Flight Udaipur to Delhi
- ▶ Rail travel Delhi to Agra in Executive Chair
- ▶ Gardens of India guidebook (on arrival)
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Service of a professional tour manager and local guide throughout

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
27 Feb - 11 Mar	£3,295	£3,095
15 - 28 Oct	£3,595	£3,395
Single Supplement		£795
Shimla Extension		from £895
Amritsar Extension		from £675
Please note that tourist visas are not included		

Tour code: **BIND**





Karnak Temple

12 DAYS FROM  
**£3,995**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt

Over the millennia, countless civilizations have come and gone, risen and fallen, turned from towering citadels to piles of rubble and ash. Not so Ancient Egypt. Within 24 hours of landing in the modern country we will find ourselves face to face with one of the most recognisable and iconic monuments anywhere in the world - the Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza. That is just the start of our journey along the Nile, the mighty river that sustained one of the greatest civilizations ever seen, and whose legacy remains in such gloriously tangible form. We will also see the Step Pyramid, the first of its kind, built nearly 5,000 years ago; the Temple of Luxor and Karnak Temple; the Valley of Kings, filled with the funerary temples of one Pharaoh after another, and the Edfu Temple, one of the best-preserved shrines in Egypt, though a mere youngster at slightly more than 2,000 years old. A unique feature of this holiday is our four nights aboard a Nile river cruise ship.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Cairo and transfer to our hotel. (IF, D)

**Day 2** We begin our full day of discovery in the company of a local expert Egyptologist visiting **Pharaonic Cairo, Saqqara and The Step Pyramid**. After lunch we discover **The Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza**, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World and one of most important sites in Egypt. (B, L, D)

**Day 3** Today we visit the **Old Egyptian Museum** then visit the **Al-Orman Garden** – a stunning botanical garden which dates from 1875. Later we visit **Khan El-Khalili bazaar**, filled with tempting treasures. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** Today we fly to **Luxor** and head for the luxurious **Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor** which has a history of hosting royalty and celebrities throughout the years. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** This morning we enjoy a private half-day tour, visiting the **Temple of Luxor** and the **Karnak Temple**. We later transfer to our **5-star river vessel** and enjoy lunch, a free afternoon and entertainment in the evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** A full day visiting the ancient tombs of the **West Bank** today, including visits to **The Valley of**

**the Kings, Antef, the Temple of Seti I** and the **Valley of Asasif**. We return to our river vessel for lunch and cruise overnight to **Esna**. (B, L, D)

**Day 7** We begin with a private tour by **horse drawn carriage** and visit **Edfu Temple**, one of the best-preserved shrines in Egypt. Later we visit the **Kom-Ombo Temple**, built by the Ptolemaic dynasty during the Roman invasion. (B, L, D)

**Day 8** Cruise to **Aswan** where we have a private tour visiting the **High Dam** and the **Unfinished Obelisk**. We then visit **Philae Temple**, take a Felucca around Aswan Islands and visit the **Botanical Gardens**. (B, L, D)

**Day 9** Optional excursion to **Abu Simbel**, a temple built by Ramesses II. Later enjoy **afternoon tea** at the Old Cataract Hotel where Agatha Christie wrote *Death on the Nile*. (B, AT, D)

**Day 10** Free time to relax before we transfer to Aswan airport for our flight to Cairo. (B, D)

**Day 11** Visit **Alexandria** for full day tour including the **Montazah Palace Gardens**. (B, L, D)

**Day 12** We take our return flight to London. (B)  
**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: five nights at the 5-star Ramses Hilton in Cairo, one night at 5-star Jolie Ville Luxor, one night at 5-star Mövenpick Aswan (or similar)
- ▶ Four nights on a full board basis aboard a 5-star Nile Cruise
- ▶ Four lunches and one Afternoon Tea
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge pass
- ▶ Return flights from London to Cairo
- ▶ Flights Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo
- ▶ Porterage at all hotels
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ On arrival Tourist Visa Entry Fee
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 19 Feb	<b>£4,295</b>	<b>£3,995</b>
7 - 18 Nov	<b>£4,895</b>	<b>£4,595</b>
Single Supplement	from £995	
Optional Excursion: Abu Simbel	from £395	

Tour code: **BEGY**





Hunte's Botanical Garden

9 DAYS FROM  
**£3,195**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Gardens of Barbados

At 21 miles long and 14 miles wide, Barbados is a small and perfectly formed vision of pure Caribbean paradise. This is a place of upbeat welcomes, radiant seas, sandy beaches, golden palms, and thick gleaming rainforest – the quintessential island idyll. It's also a place where private gardens blossom, lilies and heliconias burst vibrantly out of the undergrowth, and species of orchid thrive in their thousands. This laid-back tour really does have something for everyone. Picture gazing across the sweeping vistas of Cherry Tree Hill, watching the lively resident monkeys of the Andromeda Botanical Garden and exploring the George Washington House, an important remnant of the island's plantation past. Join us as we escape the bustle of mainland life, and channel your inner castaway.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Bridgetown and transfer to our hotel. (IF, D)

**Day 2** Our tour of Barbados begins at the **George Washington House**, where the young George and his ailing brother Lawrence resided for two months in 1751. Our next visit provides a most colourful and fragrant experience as we explore the **Tropical Gardens**, home to more than 20,000 orchids. (B)

**Day 3** Today we visit the **Andromeda Botanical Gardens**, which play an important part in horticultural research and education. Later, we discover **Hunte's Garden**, located in a gully in the centre of Barbados' rainforest. Thanks to such an interesting location, the garden offers a multi dimensional experience, with vigorous plants densely growing on many levels, from sunny and open spaces, down to a mysterious, dark heart of real Caribbean jungle. (B)

**Day 4** We explore **Harrison's Cave** this morning, a crystalline limestone cavern which lies in the centre of the island. We will also take a leisurely walk along the nature trail that has been created here. We continue with a visit to the **Flower Forest**, located in one of the most beautiful areas of Barbados and built on a former sugar plantation. (B)

**Day 5** We explore the **St. Nicholas Abbey Plantation**, 400 acres of undulating sugar cane fields, lush tropical gullies, mahogany forests and formal gardens. We will also enjoy a scenic ride on the **heritage railway** that winds through the plantation. Later, we visit historic **Speightstown**, which dates back to 1630 and has a pleasing blend of colonial and modern architecture. (B)

**Day 6** Today is free to stroll along the beach, take a swim or perhaps venture further afield. Alternatively, join our **optional excursion**, a cruise aboard a **Catamaran yacht**. Relax on board watch the beautiful coastline of Barbados slip by, then drop anchor for a swim followed by a sumptuous Barbadian lunch. (B)

**Day 7** We explore the island's capital **Bridgetown** today, which was founded by English settlers in 1628. Historic Old Bridgetown and its Garrison is now inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There will also be free time for shopping. (B, D)

**Day 8** Enjoy some last minute shopping before we transfer to the airport for our return overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

**Day 9** We arrive in London.

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Harrison's Cave

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the Dover Beach Hotel, Barbados (or similar)
- ▶ Two dinners
- ▶ Return flights from London to Bridgetown
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
7 - 15 Feb	<b>£3,395</b>	<b>£3,195</b>
6 - 14 Nov	<b>£3,495</b>	<b>£3,295</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£695</b>
Optional Excursion: Catamaran		<b>from £120</b>

Tour code: **BGOB**





St. George's

9 DAYS FROM  
**£3,195**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

TOUR MANAGER  
TREVOR EDWARDS

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

## Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island

Lying at the southern end of the Lesser Antilles, the little island of Grenada offers a typical slice of Caribbean life, flavoured with spice and full of colour. With a lush, mountainous interior and a coastline fringed with silky-smooth beaches, it is home to some wonderful privately-owned gardens, which we have threaded together like a richly-flavoured kebab of delicious horticultural morsels.

Given that Grenada has just won its 16th gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show, it's reasonable to assume that people here know a thing or two about gardening, and we can expect some real treats as we visit a host of gardens. We are based at the Blue Horizons Garden Resort, set back 300 yards from Grand Anse Beach, which provides accommodation in self-contained one-bedroom units offering both comfort and privacy. The grounds are extensive and merit a guided tour in their own right, as well as a bird-watching tour.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Grenada, where welcome drinks and dinner are served on arrival. (IF, D)

**Day 2** We begin our holiday with a guided tour of our hotel's lush **gardens and grounds**. (B)

**Day 3** Today gets off to a fabulous start with an exploration of the island, with visits to a trio of private gardens; **Gemrose Eden**, **Hyde Park** and the historic **Tower Garden**. (B, AT)

**Day 4** After breakfast, a full day island tour awaits, beginning at **Mount Edgecombe**, where we will follow a botanically fascinating trail through the grounds. Next it's on to the botanical wonders at the **Belmont Estate**. Known as the Caribbean's finest Agro-tourism experience, visitors are given the opportunity to participate in and observe the workings of a fully functional historic plantation. A delicious buffet lunch is served here. This afternoon we have a tour and tasting at the **River Antoine Rum Distillery**. (B, L)

**Day 5** Our day starts at **Smithy's Garden**, where we enjoy a relaxed Grenadian breakfast with the owner. We will then tour the gently sloping garden, which is noted for its wild and natural feel, and be

entertained by the resident birds. We continue to **Annandale Waterfall** and the **Grand Etang Rainforest**. Our day concludes at the **Balthazar Estate**, where we will see giant heliconia, musa and ginger. (B)

**Day 6** Visit the beautiful **Sunny Side Garden**, home to koi ponds, an orchard and an excellent variety of palms, orchids and hibiscus. The afternoon sees us at **Palm Tree Gardens**, where two acres are filled with thousands of flowering plants, not to mention some resident tortoises and turtles. (B)

**Day 7** Our last full day is free to relax or join our optional excursion - a **full day cruise**. We leave St. George's Harbour and set sail up the West Coast stopping to snorkel at the Mollinaire Underwater Sculpture Park. (B, D)

**Day 8** After a morning in the capital town of **St George's** we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B, IF)

**Day 9** We arrive in London.

**Inc. meals:** Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner



### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards has a special affection for the island of Grenada.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the Blue Horizons Garden Resort in a superior garden view studio
- ▶ Two dinners, one lunch, one afternoon tea, welcome and farewell drinks
- ▶ Return flights from London to Grenada
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager and local guides

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 19 May	<b>£3,395</b>	<b>£3,195</b>
28 Sep - 6 Oct	<b>£3,395</b>	<b>£3,195</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£495</b>
Deluxe One Bedroom		
Garden View Room Supplement		<b>from £55</b>
Deluxe One Bedroom Partial		
Ocean View Room Supplement		<b>from £95</b>
Optional Excursion: Cruise		<b>£120</b>

Tour code: **BGRE**





Grand Bassin

**SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 10%  
IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

12 DAYS FROM  
**£3,695**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£200**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

## Gardens of Mauritius

The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius is only the size of the county of Surrey, yet it is blessed with a rich and diverse flora and fauna, and is home to some of the rarest plants and creatures in the world. Caressed by a benign climate and light but regular rainfall, virgin forests and coastal lands provide ideal habitats for myriad species, many of them unique to the island – of the 1,000 or so plants indigenous to Mauritius, about 300 are totally unique. Our exploration will reveal trees that will be the last of their kind in existence, giant waterlilies, and colourful Cannas and Heliconias. We will witness outstanding conservation work with almost extinct plants and animals and there will also be plenty of time to enjoy the facilities of our resort hotel, the white sandy beaches and turquoise waters, and soak up the local culture, with its unique combination of European, Indian and African influences.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London on our overnight flight to Mauritius. (IF)

**Day 2** Upon arrival in Mauritius, we transfer to our hotel and have the rest of the day to settle in and relax. (D)

**Day 3** Our day starts at **La Vanille Tropical Garden**, where we will have a guided tour of the flora and fauna in this unique zoo, which is beautifully landscaped with tropical plants. In the afternoon we visit the **Domaine de Saint Aubin**, a colonial house from 1819, which offers a number of

different visitor experiences. You can also explore the Botanical Garden which houses one of just two *Chorisia* (silk floss trees) in Mauritius and a Spice Garden. (B, D)

**Day 4** Today we take a boat trip to the island's nature reserve of **l'Île aux Aigrettes**, where we will see plants and animals on the verge of extinction, which have been saved and now thrive here, such as rare orchids and pink pigeons. We continue to the well-stocked **Vaneron Garden Centre and Nursery at Trianon**. An afternoon tea with pastries is included here. (B, AT, D)



**Day 5** After breakfast, we visit the estate of **Gros Cailloux in Petite Rivière** on the west coast of the island. There are five different sectors which we will discover in our tour: agriculture, fruit and vegetables, a nursery, landscaping and leisure and events. Later we transfer to the capital city of **Port Louis** to explore the modest but very interesting **Natural History Museum** whose exhibits include a rare skeleton of the dodo, which became extinct in the 17th century. (B, D)

**Day 6** Free day to relax and enjoy the facilities of the hotel or explore the surrounding area at your leisure. (B, D)





Seven Coloured Earths

**Day 7** Enjoy a guided visit to **Curepipe Botanical Garden** and **Le Petrin Nature Reserve**. The little botanic garden is notable for its palm *Hyphorbe amaricaulis*, a doomed species as it is the last of its kind in the world and has proved impossible to propagate. In the afternoon we visit **Ebony Forest**, a conservation project which is helping reverse the impacts of habitat destruction and invasive species to provide a refuge for the island's threatened wildlife. Our day concludes at the **Seven Coloured Earths**, a rare geological oddity created by volcanic activity which brought together a number of different minerals and elements. (B, D)

**Day 8** We depart on an excursion to the **Black River Gorges National Park**. This beautiful highland area south-west of Curepipe is like no

other part of the island and looks more like North America than an island in the Indian Ocean. Look out for the rare tambalacoque or dodo tree, black ebony trees and the exotic birds that perch in them. We also visit the **Plaine Champagne**, the **Grand Bassin** and stop at **La Morne beach** where those who wish can have a swim. (B, D)

**Day 9** This morning we travel to the capital **Port Louis** for some free time before we depart for a visit to the **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolan Botanic Garden** at Pamplémousses, famous for its canal full of giant waterlilies. Later we visit the **Domaine de Labourdonnais**, which has become one of the most attractive cultural visits in Mauritius. We will discover the Château and the Nursery which has a wide range of plants before enjoying a tasting of local rum or fruit juice. (B, D)

**Day 10** Today we visit the **Exotica Garden Centre and Nursery**, the largest on the island with a vast range of colourful plants including a huge flowered Hibiscus. We also visit the **Garden of Clothilde** at Anthelme and in the afternoon, we explore **Eureka House**, a colonial mansion where as well as the garden we will see a dramatic woodland ravine and where lunch is included. (B, L, D)

**Day 11** For our final day we relax in the hotel and then transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

**Day 12** We arrive in London.

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Giant tortoise

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Nine nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Anelia Resort and Spa
- Return flights from London to Mauritius
- London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

#### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
27 Mar - 7 Apr	£3,895	£3,695
12 - 23 Nov	£3,995	£3,795
Single Supplement	£795	
Superior Ocean View Supplement	from £135	

Tour code: **BMAU**





Milford Sound

20 DAYS FROM  
**£8,695**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

TOUR MANAGER  
TREVOR EDWARDS

## Gardens of New Zealand including Singapore

For us in the United Kingdom, visiting New Zealand is rather like entering a parallel universe. On the surface, everything appears familiar, but look more closely and you notice subtle differences – an unusual plant, an outlandish insect or a brightly coloured bird – which tell you that you are in fact a long way from home. There are parts of New Zealand that could be anywhere in the British Isles, from a Hampshire country garden to a Highland glen, an illusion which is strengthened by the abundance of familiar place names and by the plants which were imported by the early settlers to make them feel more at home. This is a long tour but we have made it as comfortable as possible, with a stopover in Singapore and dinner included on most days.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Singapore on our overnight flight. *(IF)*

**Day 2** Upon arrival, we take a tour of Singapore. Visits include **Singapore Botanic Gardens**, **Chinatown** and **Little India**. Enjoy an evening at leisure.

**Day 3** After breakfast visit Singapore's iconic horticultural attraction, **Gardens by the Bay**, an award-winning venue home to over 250,000 rare

plants. Later, we catch our overnight flight to Auckland. *(B, IF)*

**Day 4** We arrive in Auckland and head to **Totara Waters** which was recently awarded the honour of being one of New Zealand's "Gardens of National Significance". *(D)*

**Day 5** Beverley McConnell's 12-acre country garden, **Ayrlies**, is our first stop today. There are collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and masses of old roses and other climbers twining



through trees and over pergolas. We continue to **Rotorua**, stopping for a visit at the **Hamilton Gardens** en route. Tonight we are treated to a **Maori cultural experience**. *(B, D)*

**Day 6** We depart for New Plymouth this morning and upon our arrival, we visit **Tikorangi**. This large landscaped garden has one of the best plant collections in the country and has been rated as a Garden of National Significance. We also stop at the **Te Rewa Rewa Bridge**. *(B, D)*

**Day 7** Following breakfast we take a sightseeing tour of **New Plymouth**, featuring the gardens and beaches of this unique city. Visits include **Te Kainga Marire**, **Holland Garden**, **Tupare** and **Pukeiti Garden**. *(B)*

**Day 8** Transfer to **Wellington**, stopping en route at the **Paloma Gardens** in Wanganui, which has four distinct areas. *(B, D)*

**Day 9** Our day starts with an informative sightseeing tour of the city, including the **Parliament Buildings**, **Old St Paul's Cathedral**, the **Botanical Gardens**, **Victoria University** and the views from **Kelburn**. We continue to **Otari**, or Wilton's Bush, New Zealand's only native botanic garden, devoted solely to the cultivation and preservation of indigenous plants. Later today, we visit the **Zealandia Ecosanctuary**, home to over



Rotorua





Christchurch Botanical Gardens

225 hectares of regenerating native forest and 40 species of birds. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to explore Wellington. Highly recommended is a visit to the **Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa**. (B)

**Day 10** We board a ferry from Wellington harbour to the bustling port of Picton. From here, we continue to **Blenheim** where we visit the tasting room and cellar at **Wither Hills Vineyards**. (B, D)

**Day 11** A full day of garden visits awaits. We start at the private garden of **Hortensia House**. The owner Huguette did not set out to create a particular style, it simply evolved with time, like a cottage garden, with masses of colour co-ordinated flowers. We continue to **Woodend Gardens**, **Bhudevi Garden** and **Welton House**. (B, D)

**Day 12** Explore **Blenheim** independently before we board the **Coastal Pacific** train for one of the most astonishingly beautiful journeys in New Zealand. (B, D)

**Day 13** We travel south to North Canterbury to visit **Flaxmere Garden** which was established over 50 years ago on a sheep farm. Later, we continue down the coast to Christchurch, where on arrival we enjoy the sights of the 'Garden City', including a visit to the **Christchurch Botanic Gardens**. (B, D)

**Day 14** This morning we travel out to Governor's Bay, to visit **Ohinetahi**, which is well known for its displays of art, architectural works and sculptures. Our next garden visits include the **Akaunui Historic House and Gardens** and **Trott's Garden**. (B, L)

**Day 15** A day for spectacular sights as we say farewell to Christchurch and head for the magnificent blue waters of **Lake Tekapo**. We visit the **Church of the Good Shepherd** and the statue of the **Collie dog**, before continuing on to Cromwell where we visit **Mrs Jones' Fruit Shop**. This amazing shop is a Central Otago icon which also has a lovely rose garden attached. (B, D)

**Day 16** Spend the day at leisure in **Queenstown**, with a range of optional activities available to book locally. (B)

**Day 17** Enjoy a full day at **Milford Sound**. Here, we enjoy a boat trip which will take us to the edge of the fjord to the open sea and back again with a picnic lunch included. (B, L, D)

**Day 18** This morning we visit **Chantecler Garden**, a 12-acre themed garden with specific aspects based on plants and garden styles from around the world. We continue to the **Gibbston Valley Winery** for a guided tour and tasting. For our last evening together we take a cruise across **Lake Wakatipu** on the steamer **TSS Earnslaw** to Walter Peak Station to dine at the **Colonel's Homestead** – this has proved to be one of the absolute highlights of this tour. (B, D)

**Day 19** We transfer to Queenstown airport for our flight to Christchurch and overnight return flight to London. (B, IF)

**Day 20** We arrive in London.

**Inc. meals:** Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner

#### YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards is one of our busiest and most popular garden Tour Managers, and has led many garden tours around the world.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 16 nights' bed & breakfast: one night in Singapore; one night Auckland; one night Rotorua; three nights New Plymouth; two nights Wellington; three nights Blenheim; two nights Christchurch; three nights Queenstown
- ▶ 11 dinners and two lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Auckland (with stopover in Singapore on the outbound flight) and an internal flight from Queenstown to Auckland
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager (Trevor Edwards in 2024)

#### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 Jan - 2 Feb	£8,995	£8,695
2025		
19 Jan - 7 Feb	£9,295	£8,995
Single Supplement		£1,695

Tour code: **BNZG**





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IF YOU PAY IN FULL**  
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

16 DAYS FROM  
**£4,595**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

## South Africa's Garden Route

South Africa's stunning Garden Route winds its way for some 200km between richly forested mountains and a crinkle-cut coastline dotted with beautiful beaches and empty bays. Vividly coloured wildflowers delight the eye at every turn and progress tends to be leisurely, as one stunning photo opportunity after another presents itself. Visits include the Wilderness National Park, the sea cliffs at Knysna and the famous suspension bridge at Tsitsikamma. Also returning from the wilderness to grace our tour are the Drakensberg Mountains, where we do some gentle botanising and can visit neighbouring Lesotho. We also visit Pietermaritzburg, known as the City of Flowers, and delightful Durban, home to some splendid gardens.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Cape Town on our overnight flight. (IF)

**Day 2** Upon arrival in Cape Town we visit the historic **Old Company Garden**. Later we transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 3** We discover the indigenous flora on top of **Table Mountain**, followed by **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens**, home to some 6,000 different species. (B)

**Day 4** We visit **Babylonstoren**, one of the best preserved werfs (farm yards) in the Cape Dutch tradition. In the afternoon we visit **Stellenbosch Botanical Garden**, featuring an enormous variety of plants from across the globe. (B)

**Day 5** Today we visit the **Helderberg Nature Reserve** with its diverse flora in the mountain fynbos. At the **Vergelegen Wine Estate** we shall view their beautiful gardens before continuing to our hotel in Hermanus. (B)

**Day 6** Enjoy an optional whale watching trip before visiting the **Fernkloof Nature Reserve**. (B)

**Day 7** Setting out on the Garden Route, we head to **Mossel Bay** and visit the **Diaz Complex Museum**. We continue to our hotel at the seaside town of Wilderness. (B)

**Day 8** Full day touring the **Wilderness National Park**, which protects major zones of indigenous forest, lakes and waterways. (B)

**Day 9** Continue along the Garden Route to **Tsitsikamma National Park**, with glorious views of the turquoise ocean. We continue to our hotel at Port Elizabeth. (B)

**Day 10** Fly to Durban and drive to our hotel in the **Drakensberg Mountains**. (B, D)

**Day 11** Enjoy a leisurely **botanical walk** in the area surrounding the hotel. (B, D)

**Day 12** Optional excursion to **Lesotho**, a glimpse into traditional Africa. (B, D)

**Day 13** Visit the **Kwa-Zulu Natal Botanical Gardens** which focus on conservation and propagation of rare and endangered indigenous plants. From here, we journey to Durban. (B)

**Day 14** Full day in **Durban** to discover the **Japanese Gardens** with traditional ponds and water lilies and **Makaranga Garden Lodge**, a luxury hotel with a private botanic garden. (B, L)

**Day 15** We transfer to Durban airport for our return overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

**Day 16** We arrive in London.

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 13 nights' accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis: three nights at the Signature Lux by ONOMO, Cape Town; two nights at the Windsor Hotel, Hermanus; two nights at the Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness; one night at the Kelway Hotel, Port Elizabeth; three nights at the Drakensberg Gardens Hotel and two nights at the Garden Court Marine Parade, Durban (all hotels subject to change)
- ▶ Four dinners and one lunch
- ▶ Flights from London to Cape Town; Port Elizabeth to Durban and Durban to London
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 Sep - 9 Oct	<del>£4,895</del>	<b>£4,595</b>
Single Supplement		<b>£595</b>
Optional Excursions:		
Whale watching		<b>£85</b>
Lesotho		<b>£100</b>

Tour code: **BSAG**





Superb Starling

11 DAYS FROM  
**£5,295**

SAVE PER PERSON  
**£300**

FREE AIRPORT  
LOUNGE

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

TOUR MANAGER  
SUE POMEROY

## Birdwatching and Wildlife Safaris in Tanzania

Join us in the wilderness of Tanzania, where in the shadow of Africa's highest mountain we embark on a truly unique wildlife experience. This tour offers not only the chance of wonderful birdwatching but also other exceptional wildlife experiences. We have the chance to glimpse a vast array of endemic and migratory avian species and also witness some of Africa's finest game viewing. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park are home to over two million large mammals and some 500 species of birds including ostriches, secretary birds, black eagles, lark and kori bustards to name but a few. The Rift Valley Soda Lake Manyara is a haven for wildlife and a key habitat for over 300 bird species, and the Tarangire National Park is home to the highest number of bird species of all of Tanzania's national parks.

**Day 1** Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania on our overnight flight. (IF)

**Day 2** Upon arrival, we transfer to **Arusha** and have lunch at our lodge. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. (L, D)

**Day 3** Following breakfast, we drive to **Tarangire National Park**, the sixth largest national park in Tanzania spanning 2,600 square kms and home to a staggering 550 different species of birds. We may also see some of the park's other residents, including buffalo, lion, antelope and a large herd of elephants. (B, L, D)

**Day 4** We have another full day exploring the **Tarangire National Park** and the abundance of wildlife it has to offer. (B, L, D)

**Day 5** This morning we travel to **Lake Manyara National Park**. The shores are fringed with vast flocks of pink flamingos who head to the shallow shorelines of the lake for feeding, along with numerous other species. (B, L, D)

**Day 6** A long but rewarding day as we make our way from Lake Manyara to the **Serengeti National Park**. Spanning over 30,000 square kilometres the park is home to an impressive number of animals.

Bird species include the wonderful Lilac-breasted Roller and three endangered Tanzanian species: Grey-rumped Spurfowl, Fischer's Lovebird and the Rufous-tailed Weaver. (B, L, D)

**Day 7** We have a full day's game drive in the **Serengeti National Park** today where we may have the chance to see some other interesting birdlife such as ostrich, secretary bird, black eagle and kori bustard to name but a few. There are also frequent sightings of lion, cheetah and leopard in the area. (B, L, D)

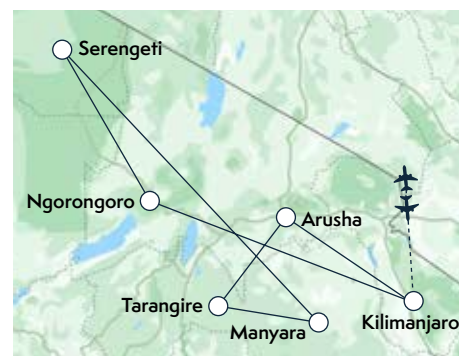
**Day 8** Journey to the **Ngorongoro Conservation Area** and spend the afternoon at leisure. (B, L, D)

**Day 9** Descend into the **Ngorongoro Crater**, the world's largest caldera. The crater is a paradise for birdwatchers with annual migratory birds from Europe and Asia, grassland birds, ground-nesting birds, tree nesting birds, water birds and birds of prey. (B, L, D)

**Day 10** We drive back towards **Arusha** and then to the airport for flight to London. (B, L, IF)

**Day 11** We arrive in London. (IF)

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



White Rhinoceros

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Eight nights' accommodation on a full board basis: one night at the Ngaresero Mountain Lodge, two nights at the Tarangire Safari lodge, one night at the Lake Manyara Serena, two nights at the Serengeti Serena and two nights at the Ngorongoro Serena (hotels subject to change)
- ▶ Return flights from London to Kilimanjaro
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Transport in 4x4 safari land cruiser with the services of an English-speaking guide
- ▶ Entry fees to all parks and reserves included in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Sue Pomeroy as tour manager
- ▶ Field Guide to Birds of East Africa

### DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

8 - 18 May **£5,595** **£5,295**

**NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

Tour code: **BBTZ**



# 2024 Calendar

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## January

Gardens of New Zealand including Singapore  
14 Jan - 2 Feb

In the Footsteps of Robert Burns  
23 - 26 Jan

Gardens of Costa Rica  
26 Jan - 7 Feb

Up Helly Aa - 7 day  
27 Jan - 2 Feb

Up Helly Aa - 4 day by air  
29 Jan - 1 Feb

## February

Iceland's Northern Lights  
4 - 8 Feb

Gardens of Barbados  
7 - 15 Feb

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt  
8 - 19 Feb

Snowdrops in the Cotswolds  
9 - 12 Feb

Gardens of Malaysia  
13 - 24 Feb

Ecuador: An Orchid Lover's Paradise  
15 - 29 Feb

Gardens of the French Riviera - Menton Lemon Festival  
15 - 20 Feb

Snowdrops of Eastern Scotland  
16 - 19 Feb

Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands  
17 - 24 Feb

Gardens and Palaces of India  
27 Feb - 11 Mar

## March

Spring Gardens in Surrey including Kew Orchid Festival  
1 - 3 Mar

Arts and Gardens of Philadelphia and New York  
2 - 10 Mar

Cultural Malta  
5 - 9 Mar

Malta's Archaeological Heritage  
5 - 11 Mar

Galicia's Camellia Route  
13 - 18 Mar

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days  
18 - 22 Mar

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides by Air  
18 - 22 Mar

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia  
18 - 25 Mar

Gardens of Madeira  
18 - 25 Mar

Spring Gardens of Cornwall  
18 - 21 Mar

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca  
19 - 24 Mar

Gardens and Villas of Sicily  
19 - 26 Mar

Portuguese Archaeology  
19 - 26 Mar

Scotland's Extreme North West  
19 - 22 Mar

Archaeology of the Peloponnese  
20 - 27 Mar

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes  
20 - 27 Mar

Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection  
22 - 25 Mar

Palladian Villas of Veneto  
24 - 28 Mar

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the company of Mike Nelhams  
25 - 29 Mar





Orkney & Shetland by Air  
25 - 29 Mar

Gardens of Mauritius  
27 Mar - 7 Apr

Seasonal Gardens of Japan  
27 Mar - 8 Apr

## April

Scotland's Extreme North West  
9 - 12 Apr

Private Gardens of Guernsey and Sark  
11 - 15 Apr

Lord of the Glens - 7 day cruise (Voyages Through the Heart of Scotland)  
11 - 17 Apr

Gardens of South and West Wales  
12 - 16 Apr

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the company with Mike Nelhams  
15 - 19 Apr

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days  
15 - 19 Apr

Dutch Bulbfields in Spring  
15 - 19 Apr

Gardens and Villas of Sicily  
16 - 23 Apr

A Classic Scottish Steam Break  
18 - 21 Apr

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (B-S)  
21 - 26 Apr

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides  
21 - 25 Apr

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney & Shetland  
22 - 27 Apr

Arran, Scotland in Miniature  
22 - 26 Apr

Crete Archaeology  
23 - 30 Apr

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca  
23 - 28 Apr

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders  
28 Apr - 1 May

Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise  
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)  
29 Apr - 6 May

## May

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes  
1 - 8 May

Scenic Scottish Railways  
3 - 6 May

Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise  
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands) 6 - 13 May

Gardens of Madeira  
6 - 13 May

Scotland's Northern Edge  
6 - 10 May

Discover the Durrell's Corfu with Lee Durrell  
7 - 11 May

Malta's Archaeological Heritage  
7 - 13 May

Scenic Journeys of Argyll and Bute  
7 - 11 May

Birdwatching and Wildlife Safaris in Tanzania  
8 - 18 May

A Classic Scottish Steam Break  
9 - 12 May

Somerset's Secret Gardens  
9 - 12 May

Grand Gardens of Anglesey and Snowdonia  
10 - 13 May

Gardens of the French Riviera - International Rose Festival  
11 - 16 May

Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island  
11 - 19 May

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland  
11 - 16 May

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West  
11 - 14 May



Gardens & Architecture of Andalusia  
13 - 20 May

Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise  
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands) 13 - 20 May

Patios of Cordoba with Carmona and Seville  
13 - 17 May

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (S-B)  
14 - 19 May

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo  
14 - 17 May

Gardens of Jersey  
15 - 19 May

The Best Rhododendron Gardens in the World?  
15 - 18 May

A Classic Scottish Steam Break (Stirling Highland Hotel)  
17 - 20 May

Highgrove and the Cotswolds  
17 - 20 May

Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk  
19 - 23 May

Arran, Scotland in Miniature  
20 - 24 May

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Classic English Gardens  
20 - 26 May

Palladian Villas of Veneto  
21 - 25 May

Seine Cruise featuring Monet's Garden  
21 - 28 May

The Genius of Monet  
24 - 27 May

Orkney & Shetland by Air  
25 - 29 May

## June

Castles and Houses of Northumberland  
2 - 5 Jun

Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway  
2 - 5 Jun

Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire  
3 - 6 Jun

The Chichester Flower Festival and Gardens of Hampshire  
3 - 6 Jun

In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll  
4 - 9 Jun

Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island and Alnwick Castle  
9 - 13 Jun

Undiscovered Orkney  
10 - 14 Jun

Coastal Castles and Magnificent Mansions of Dorset  
11 - 15 Jun

Scotland's Northern Edge  
11 - 15 Jun

The Irish Rover  
13 - 20 Jun

Gardens of Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire  
14 - 17 Jun

In the Footsteps of the Picts  
14 - 17 Jun

Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands  
14 - 20 Jun

Arran, Scotland in Miniature  
17 - 21 Jun

Colours of the Lake District  
17 - 20 Jun

The Manx Explorer  
18 - 22 Jun

A Classic Scottish Steam Break  
20 - 23 Jun

Gardens of Kent & Sussex  
21 - 24 Jun

Highgrove and the Cotswolds  
21 - 24 Jun

Highland Wildlife Safari  
21 - 24 Jun

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West  
22 - 25 Jun

Gardens of Waterford and Cork  
22 - 26 Jun

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (B-S)  
23 - 28 Jun

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders  
23 - 26 Jun

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney & Shetland  
24 - 29 Jun

Summer Gardens of Cornwall  
24 - 30 Jun

Alpine Flowers of Wengen  
25 Jun - 2 Jul

A Classic Scottish Steam Break (Stirling Highland Hotel) by Air  
28 Jun - 1 Jul

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland  
29 Jun - 4 Jul

Mull, Staffa and Iona  
29 Jun - 2 Jul

## July

Somerset's Secret Gardens  
4 - 7 Jul

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides  
6 - 10 Jul

Shetland and its Outer Isles  
6 - 10 Jul

Islay and Jura  
8 - 12 Jul

A Classic Scottish Steam Break (Stirling Highland Hotel)  
12 - 15 Jul

Castles and Palaces of the Highlands  
17 - 21 Jul

Highland Wildlife Safari  
19 - 22 Jul

The Genius of Monet  
19 - 22 Jul

Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway  
21 - 24 Jul

Scenic Scottish Railways  
26 - 29 Jul

Gardens of Northumberland  
28 - 31 Jul

## August

A Classic Scottish Steam Break (Stirling Highland Hotel) by Air  
2 - 5 Aug

Highgrove and the Cotswolds  
2 - 5 Aug

In the Footsteps of the Picts  
2 - 5 Aug

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West  
3 - 6 Aug

Singapore Garden Festival  
4 - 12 Aug

Grand Gardens of Anglesey and Snowdonia  
5 - 8 Aug



A Classic Scottish Steam Break  
8 - 11 Aug  
The Irish Rover  
8 - 15 Aug  
Arran, Scotland in Miniature  
12 - 16 Aug  
Highlights of Orkney and Shetland  
14 - 19 Aug  
Gardens of Kent & Sussex  
16 - 19 Aug  
Shetland and its Outer Isles  
17 - 21 Aug  
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (S-B)  
19 - 24 Aug  
Undiscovered Orkney  
27 - 31 Aug

## September

Castles and Houses of Northumberland  
1 - 4 Sep  
Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands  
1 - 7 Sep  
Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk  
1 - 5 Sep  
Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden  
2 - 9 Sep  
Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise  
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)2 - 9 Sep  
Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo  
3 - 6 Sep  
Gardens of Jersey  
4 - 8 Sep  
Coastal Castles and Magnificent Mansions of Dorset  
5 - 9 Sep  
Scenic Journeys of Argyll and Bute  
7 - 11 Sep  
Arran, Scotland in Miniature  
9 - 13 Sep  
Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia  
9 - 16 Sep  
Islay and Jura  
9 - 13 Sep  
Scotland's Northern Edge  
10 - 14 Sep  
Private Gardens of Guernsey and Sark  
12 - 16 Sep  
Gardens and Wildlife of Western Canada  
13 - 22 Sep  
Scenic Scottish Railways  
13 - 16 Sep  
Glasgow's Art Treasures including the Burrell Collection  
13 - 16 Sep  
Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway  
15 - 18 Sep  
Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders  
15 - 18 Sep  
Highlights of Orkney and Shetland  
16 - 21 Sep  
Palladian Villas of Veneto  
17 - 21 Sep  
Knitting in Shetland  
19 - 24 Sep  
Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise  
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)23 - 30 Sep  
South Africa's Garden Route  
24 Sep - 9 Oct

The Manx Explorer  
24 - 28 Sep  
Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island  
28 Sep - 6 Oct  
Colours of the Lake District  
29 Sep - 2 Oct  
Mull, Staffa and Iona  
29 Sep - 2 Oct  
Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island and Alnwick Castle  
29 Sep - 3 Oct  
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days  
30 Sep - 4 Oct  
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides by Air - 5 days  
30 Sep - 4 Oct  
Archaeology of the Peloponnese  
30 Sep - 7 Oct

## October

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca  
1 - 6 Oct  
Gardens of Marrakech  
2 - 6 Oct  
Scenic Scottish Railways  
4 - 7 Oct  
Discover the Durrell's Corfu with Lee Durrell  
7 - 11 Oct  
Crete Archaeology  
8 - 15 Oct  
Nova Scotia in the Fall  
8 - 16 Oct  
Scotland's Extreme North West  
8 - 11 Oct  
A Classic Scottish Steam Break  
10 - 13 Oct  
Gardens and Palaces of India  
15 - 28 Oct  
Portuguese Archaeology  
15 - 22 Oct  
Gardens of Malaysia  
17 - 28 Oct  
Gardens and Flora of Tasmania and Victoria with Colin Crosbie  
28 Oct - 16 Nov

## November

Cultural Malta  
5 - 9 Nov  
Malta's Archaeological Heritage  
5 - 11 Nov  
Gardens of Barbados  
6 - 14 Nov  
Seasonal Gardens of Japan  
6 - 18 Nov  
Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt  
7 - 18 Nov  
Gardens of Mauritius  
12 - 23 Nov  
Iceland's Northern Lights  
17 - 21 Nov  
Ecuador: An Orchid Lover's Paradise  
21 Nov - 5 Dec  
Chile and the Falkland Islands  
30 Nov - 16 Dec

## 2025 dates

Gardens of New Zealand including Singapore  
19 Jan - 7 Feb



# Booking terms & conditions

## Your package holiday booking is with

**Brightwater Holidays, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.**

**Telephone: 01334 766 129**

These Booking Conditions set out the terms on which you contract with us and this contract is made on the terms of these booking conditions, which are governed by Scottish Law, and the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts. If you reside in England or Northern Ireland you may choose the applicable law and jurisdiction if you wish to do so.

In these booking conditions, "you" and "your" includes all persons named on the booking (*including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date*). "We", "us" and "our" means Brightwater Holidays. Brightwater Holidays is a subsidiary of Specialist Tours Limited (*company number 08395250*). Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us and which we agree to make, provide, or perform (*as applicable*) as part of our contract with you. All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "contract" or "arrangements" mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated.

## KEY POINTS

You enter into a booking with us when we issue our booking confirmation/invoice. If you then cancel, there will be cancellation charges. Initially as a minimum this may only be a deposit but can go up to 100%. In certain circumstances you may be able to make changes to your booking however charges will apply. We can change and cancel your booking. We'll pay you compensation in certain circumstances. It is a condition of booking that all travellers are covered by comprehensive travel insurance. We are responsible to you for providing your holiday but there are legal limits.

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## 1. BOOKING

All information provided in the brochure/website is, to the best of our knowledge or belief, correct at the time of publication. We will advise you of any changes that are fundamental to the contract, or which we believe will affect your enjoyment of the holiday. Please advise us if there is any requirement, which you believe is fundamental to your holiday so that we can give you the latest information at the time of booking.

When you ask us to proceed with a booking you will be required to make a (minimum) deposit payment which will vary dependent on the specific holiday you are booking. This will be advised at the time of booking and confirmed in your booking confirmation. It may also be necessary to collect payment at the time of booking for other (non-refundable) costs e.g. flight tickets, transfers etc. In the case of bookings made after the balance due date, we will require full payment for the holiday.

You must be at least 18 years old to make a booking and you guarantee that you have the authority to accept, and do accept, these terms and conditions for all members of the party (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date), and in particular payment for all the persons on the booking. We reserve the right in our absolute discretion to refuse to accept any booking without necessarily specifying a reason.

A contract is made when we accept your booking and issue our written booking confirmation/invoice. If we cannot accept or confirm the booking, any money paid will be promptly refunded. On receipt of the booking confirmation/invoice it is important to check the details and if there is any inaccuracy this must be notified to us immediately. It may not be possible to make changes or corrections later, or additional costs may be incurred which we will have to pass on to you.

Many of our holidays are based on specially negotiated airfares booked in a specific airline booking class. At the time of booking if these fares are not available, we will endeavour to secure an alternative air fare and advise you of any additional cost. Please note that most special air fares are non-refundable and non-changeable.

## 2. PAYMENT

We hold your deposit (and any additional payment required at the time of booking) towards the full cost of the holiday. The balance must be received by us no later than the final payment due date shown on your booking confirmation/

invoice, as appropriate to your holiday. If you do not pay the full cost within the time specified, we may treat your holiday as cancelled by you in which case the cancellation charges shown in point 4 - Cancellation by You, will apply.

### Deposit Payments (per person):

**UK guests** - £125 for holidays without flights, £250 for UK/Europe holidays with flights, 10% for long-haul holidays  
Deposit for Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price.

**US guests** - \$175 for holidays without flights, \$350 for UK/Europe holidays with flights, 10% for long haul holidays  
Deposit for Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price. You must pay the balance in full as follows (unless otherwise stipulated):

**Final Balance payment:** 12 weeks prior to tour departure date (20 weeks for cruises).

*If we are booking bespoke flight arrangements for you or deviating from the group flights, we will charge you any difference in cost and payment will be taken in full when the flights are booked.*

**Ways to Pay** - we accept payment by Visa, MasterCard, cheque (GBP ONLY), or bank transfer for which no levy is charged by us. Your bank or credit card provider may charge an additional financial processing charge and we cannot be responsible for any such charges.

Please Note: if you are paying from an overseas bank account, you must accept all bank charges incurred by us. A surcharge of 2.5% will be applied for card payments made with cards registered outside the EEA and USA.

## 3. YOUR HOLIDAY PRICE

- Prior to booking you will receive a verbal quote based on your specific holiday requirements and travel dates.
- We reserve the right to notify you of any alteration in the advertised or quoted price and any changes in holiday arrangements before accepting your booking.

Note: We make every effort to ensure that the most up to date and correct prices are shown on our website, but we reserve the right to correct pricing errors at any time. We operate a pricing policy which means that the earlier you book the cheaper the holiday will be. Our very best prices are reserved for those who book early. We also commit that we will not offer the same holiday at a lower price to anyone that has booked after you (or we will refund you the difference between your price and the price they pay). If you do not wish to accept the corrected and actual price of the holiday, we will cancel the booking and provide a full refund of any monies you have already paid. Alternatively, you may amend your booking or select an alternative holiday at the applicable and correct price.

- Subject to these conditions, once we have confirmed your booking, the price is fully guaranteed and will not be subject to any additional 'surcharges', which means any increase due to changes in the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from changes to the cost of fuel or other power sources, the level of taxes or fees imposed by third parties, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at port and airports or exchange rates.

- Prices in our brochures and/or on our website are calculated on rates of exchange linked to those available to us; either based on rates previously secured or our view of currency exchange rates applicable at the time payments are due.

## Single, Double, Twin Bedded Rooms

Single supplements are payable for sole occupancy of a room. A single room does not guarantee the provision of a double or twin room, and in some instances may be smaller. A 'double' bed is often two single beds pushed together, sometimes with double bed base linen (although it is not unusual for single duvets to be provided in some hotels for doubles).

## 4. CANCELLATION & VARIATION BY YOU

### Cancellation by You

If you or any member of your party wish to cancel your holiday, or if you fail to pay the full cost of the holiday within the specified time you will be liable, as a minimum, to pay the charges detailed below up to the point of cancellation, in addition to any non-refundable items\*. Or in the case of failure to pay, at the date that we deem your booking to have been cancelled. Notification from the person who made the booking must be received at our offices. This can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter. The cancellation charge will be calculated according to the date this is received, or the date upon which your cancellation is treated as occurring because of non-payment.

*\*Non-refundable holiday costs charged including upgraded air tickets, hotel upgrades, extensions, extra nights, transfers etc., will be charged at 100% and the charges shown below will then apply to the remainder of the holiday cost and any amendment charges are not refundable. Additional accommodation costs for reduced occupancy or other components, may be payable in the event that one or more passengers cancels but where remaining passengers still wish to travel.*

**Group Bookings** - cancellation charges will apply to any guests in the group who may wish to cancel in the unlikely event of cancellation by the lead passenger.

**Note:** If your cancellation falls within the provisions of your travel insurance policy you may be able to make a claim which must be made direct to your insurance company.

### Cancellation Charges - if you cancel your holiday

**Up to 84 days:** deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **83-64 days:** 35% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **63-46 days:** 55% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **45-31 days:** 75% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **From 30 days to departure:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs.

### Lord of the Glens:

**Up to 6 months:** deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **6 months-0 days:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs.

We will observe travel advice provided by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Should circumstances dictate, you can cancel your booking without paying cancellation charges if the performance of your holiday, or the carriage of passengers to your destination, is significantly affected by unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. In such circumstances, we will arrange for your booking to be cancelled and for you to receive a full refund.

### Variation by You

**Booking alterations:** If, after our booking confirmation/invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, for example your chosen departure date or accommodation, we will do our utmost to make these changes (subject to agreement by our suppliers) but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes to be made must be received at our offices. This can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking. You will be asked to pay an administration charge starting from £50 per person in addition to any associated costs of the changes imposed by our suppliers and any extra arrangements, these costs are non-refundable. Quotes normally have a 24-hour time frame before they expire, and the price is therefore subject to change. You should be aware that these costs could increase as the departure dates becomes closer and you should contact us as soon as possible. Additional fees may be charged, depending on the cost and work caused to us by the requested change.

**Booking transfer to another person:** You can transfer your existing booking to another person suggested by you (subject to agreement by our suppliers)\*. Notice be made



must be received at our offices, this can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking at least 25 days before departure. The replacement traveller must satisfy and fulfil any conditions that apply to the holiday, and all costs of the original booking. Both you and the new traveller are responsible for paying all costs we incur before the transfer can be made by us. The cost of the transfer will consist of both an administration charge of £50 and any costs which our suppliers impose\*.

**Note:** Certain travel arrangements may not be transferable after a reservation has been made, for example, some airlines may require payment of 100% cancellation charges and the cost of a new ticket for ANY variation that is made, and changes to other arrangements may incur a cancellation charge of up to 100%.

\* If you are unable to travel, you may wish to check whether cover is provided for your cancellation within the terms of your travel insurance policy as this may incur less cost to you.

**Booking transfer to an alternative holiday:** It may be possible at our discretion for you to transfer to another holiday; however this is subject to availability and time frame of departure. You must transfer within 7 days of notifying Brightwater Holidays and the new departure must be within 1 year of notification. Any price difference between what you paid for your original tour and the price of the new tour will be payable. An administration fee of £50 per person applies to any transfer.

**While on holiday:** If you decide to cut short your holiday for your own reasons, or not stay at accommodation that has been booked for you, take any pre-booked meals, excursions, or other holiday components, then we are unable to offer you any refund or cover any costs. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for such curtailment, so we suggest that you check the conditions and requirements of your policy.

## 5. CANCELLATION & VARIATION BY US

We start planning the holidays we offer many months in advance. Occasionally, we have to make changes to and correct errors and other details both before and after bookings have been confirmed or cancel confirmed bookings, events or activities. Holidays to remote and in some cases, underdeveloped parts of the world carry the risk that parts of the holiday may be subject to alterations beyond our control, sometimes at short notice. While we always endeavour to avoid changes and cancellations, we must reserve the right to do so.

### Cancellation by Us:

We reserve the right to cancel your booking. Whilst we will endeavour not to cancel your confirmed booking after the final 'balance due' payment date, we may need to do so if, through late cancellations or other factors, the tour falls below its minimum number of participants (see below); additionally, as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances (see point 6) or failure by you to pay the final balance of your holiday.

**Minimum Numbers** - some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to enable us to operate them. If the minimum number of bookings required for a particular holiday or flight have not been received, we are entitled to cancel it even after the final 'balance due' payment date. Please note that in such cases we are not able to accept responsibility for any costs you may have incurred, including costs of other travel arrangements made in association with the cancelled holiday, unless booked through Brightwater Holidays.

We are happy to give you an indication at any time of the current number of passengers booked on a trip, but this should not be taken as any guarantee whether the holiday will or will not go ahead as booking numbers can fluctuate. There may be certain circumstances when a holiday may operate with less than the minimum number than the advertised group size.

We will endeavour to do all possible to have a tour operate. If the tour is not viable due to numbers, where possible we will see if suppliers will supply a more 'private' tour and we will come back to you with a revised cost. If everyone currently booked is willing to pay this, then the tour may continue with a much smaller group. If your holiday is cancelled, you can either have a refund of all monies paid or accept an alternative holiday of comparable standard from us if we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

In the event a refund is paid to you, we will compensate you

for reasonable, non-refundable costs (eg flight tickets) which you have incurred, to be mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis.

### Cancellation as a result of global travel disruption

If it becomes necessary to cancel your tour as a result of global travel disruption, we reserve the right to refund the cost of your tour in the form of credit for a limited amount of time, to be used against any other tour in the Specialist Journeys portfolio. If you do not use this credit within that time, a refund would be payable. This change to the standard booking conditions would only apply if approved by the UK Government and enshrined in the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations (PTRs) as an emergency measure to support tour operators in extraordinary circumstances such as the 2020 Covid-19 outbreak. The exact credit terms and timeframe would be defined by the PTRs. Furthermore, at times of global travel disruption, when we may have thousands of guests to reimburse, refunds may take as long as 12-14 weeks to process.

### Variation by Us:

It is a term of your booking that we are able to make changes to any aspect of your booking. If the change is insignificant, we will ensure that you are notified about it. Examples of insignificant changes include a change of airline or aircraft type, alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, change of airports and/or local connecting transport, tour staff and changes to supplementary arrangements such as site visit, or change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard.

Occasionally, we may have to make a significant change. If we are constrained by circumstances beyond our control to significantly alter any of the main characteristic of the travel services that make up your package, you will have rights set out below.

- We will contact you and you will have the choice of accepting the change or having a refund of all monies paid. You can also accept an alternative holiday, where we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of lower value) or purchase an alternative holiday subject to availability and applicable cost. We will tell you the procedure for making your choice. Please read any notification of changes carefully and respond promptly as if you do not respond to us within the timescale given, your booking may be cancelled.
- If you choose to accept a refund, we will compensate you for reasonable, non-refundable costs (e.g. flight tickets) which you have incurred, to be mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis.

Very rarely, we may be forced by 'circumstances beyond our control' (see point 6) to change or terminate your holiday after departure but before the scheduled end of your time away. This is extremely rare, if this situation does occur, we regret we will be unable to make any refunds (unless we obtain these from our suppliers), pay you any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result.

We do not control the day-to-day management of your accommodation, and in exceptional cases it is possible that we may be advised that the reserved accommodation has been overbooked. If this happens before your departure or on arrival in a location, we will endeavour to provide accommodation of at least the same standard in the same area. If only accommodation of a lower standard is available, we will refund the difference of the holiday price between the accommodation booked and that available and will pay up to £50 per person for any inconvenience.

If under any circumstances a refund is applicable, this will be made to the lead passenger who made the original booking and to the payment method used for that booking.

## 6. CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation, reimburse expenses, or cover losses where the performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by, or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense of any nature as a result of 'circumstances beyond our control'. In these booking conditions, 'circumstances beyond our control' means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include actual or threatened war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity and its consequences (including suspected terrorist activity and all action taken during any "terror alert"), industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, epidemics and pandemics, unavoidable

technical problems with transport, airport or airspace closures, as well as other air traffic management decisions (that may result in long or overnight delays or cancellations), fire, concert/event changes or cancellation and all similar events outside our control. This list is not exhaustive.

**Group-based holidays and activities** - worldwide weather patterns are becoming ever more erratic and unpredictable. If it is not possible to operate certain excursions for this reason, we will endeavour to offer alternatives if this is possible. Such circumstances are totally beyond our control and you therefore should proceed with your booking on this basis.

**Public Holidays, Sporting & Local Events** - in addition to public holidays, many countries host other national or international events or there may be local festivals, which may impact on local/tourist services or travel arrangements, including the reduction or closure of facilities, route diversions etc. during your visit. We have no control over these events, and as dates and details of arrangements are often changeable year on year, it is not possible for us to guarantee to forewarn you of specific details that may be relevant to your holiday or accept any responsibility for disruption that may be caused. During public holidays, shops, restaurants, and tourist attractions may also be closed.

**Third-Party Information & Websites** - your booking is based on the information supplied to you by Brightwater Holidays. We understand you may conduct additional research into your holiday through other third parties and associated websites, but as we have no control over such information this does not form any basis of our contract with you.

**Wi-Fi** - where the provision of Wi-Fi may be indicated in a property description, no guarantee is given or implied that it will be operative during your holiday and its availability is outside our control. Some properties may charge for this service and the areas where it is available may be limited and not necessarily available in guest rooms. In all cases, no compensation or refund will be paid in the event that it is not available for whatever reason.

**Dietary Requests & Allergies** - even nowadays, in some destinations, basic well-known dietary requirements (such as vegetarian, gluten free etc.) are often misunderstood and seldom catered for adequately, despite the best intentions and assurances from hoteliers and restaurateurs. While we are happy to pass on any such requests, we cannot guarantee choice or availability - especially with any airline meal options. We cannot accept detailed lists of specific dietary or food preparation requests and are unable to accept any other requests (eg. personal preferences) that are not for medical or religious reasons. Note: Whilst on tour it is your responsibility to double-check and reconfirm any allergy or dietary requirements directly with the various holiday suppliers.

**Other Hotel Guests** - it is not unusual for hotels or other accommodation to receive group bookings (sometimes with large numbers) from guests participating in conventions and conferences or other gatherings. At certain times of the year, there may be an influx of groups such as students on organised educational visits (popular during school holidays), associations or clubs. This may result in hotel facilities being much busier than usual or additional demands on hotel staff and services, but we are unable to accept any responsibility for any inconvenience caused by such groups or their activities.

**Guides** - we reserve the right to substitute any named guide, guest lecturer or other escort with an alternative qualified person and this will not be deemed as any significant change to your arrangements.

**Flights** - if you have booked a flight upgrade and there is a change of airline prior to departure as a result of circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible to offer an equivalent upgrade, or an addition cost may apply.

## 7. FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH TRAVEL ADVICE, HEALTH, VISAS & DOCUMENTS

- a) Your specific passport and visa requirements, and other immigration requirements including, inoculations and health certificates are your responsibility, and you should confirm these for all countries to, or through which you are intending to travel, and cover all costs for this. Requirements should be checked well in advance of travel and we do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements.
- b) Essential information for British citizens (only), including health, passport and visa requirements along with up-to-date Foreign Office travel, safety and security advice can



be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>. We also strongly recommend that you sign up for the latest email updates as travel and safety information can change at any point without notice.

- c) If you or a non-British member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non-British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the Embassy or Consulate of the country or countries to, or through which, you are intending to travel and consult the relevant authority for the latest travel and safety advice for the destinations you are visiting.
- d) We recommend that you consult your doctor well in advance of travel for the latest advice on inoculations and health certificates. You can also obtain the latest health information ahead of travel by visiting the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) website <https://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk>.

## 8. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Our holidays are not designed for party members to undertake special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise. We cannot accept any liability for any losses or damages arising out of such use or planned use nor for any loss or damage which has special financial consequences. Please note if you do intend to use one of our holidays for such purposes you should obtain adequate insurance in respect of it and any special equipment you decide to bring with you on such holidays.

## 9. HOLIDAY PARTICIPATION

It is a condition of participation on our holidays that you agree to accept the authority and decisions of our employees, tour leaders and agents while on holiday with us. If in the opinion of such a person your health or conduct at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable, or happy progress of a holiday, you may be excluded from all or part of the holiday and/or we may terminate your holiday, and any additional costs incurred by you as a result of such exclusion will be your responsibility. In the case of ill health, we may make such arrangements as we see fit and recover any resulting costs from you.

**Note:** While there are no age limits or health requirements on our holidays, please note that for certain destinations require a degree of mobility and fitness to get the most out of the holiday and need to keep up with the group. Should you have any concerns or your mobility changes as your holiday gets closer, please contact us to discuss further.

## 10. OUR LIABILITY TO YOU

We make every effort to ensure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to provide as part of our contract with you are delivered with reasonable skill and care. It is the laws and regulations of the country in which the services are actually provided which apply to your holiday arrangements and not those of the UK or your home country and any resulting complaint or claim will be judged on this basis. If the particular services which gave rise to the claim or complaint complied with local laws and regulations applicable to those services at the time, the services will be treated as being properly provided. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care have not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers). Also bear in mind that standards of, for example, safety, hygiene, and quality may vary and services and transport your holiday involves may differ to the stringent standards we are accustomed to in the UK or your home country. Including for example, the absence of seatbelts on coaches contracted outside the UK as this is not always a legal requirement elsewhere.

Certain holidays involve risks and hazards of travel to and in remote and/or uninhabited areas where injury, illness, death, delay, or unanticipated events may occur as a result of forces of nature, wildlife and adverse weather conditions. Medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible in some parts, and the medical facilities that do exist could be of inferior quality compared to what is available at home. In remote regions risks may include but are not limited to: mechanical breakdown of expedition vehicle(s); becoming stranded in remote and/or uninhabited areas; being subjected to rugged terrain and a harsh climate; encounters with wild animals, insects and pests,

and the possibility of illness, injury or death therefrom; the uncontrollable and unpredictable behaviour of wild animals in their natural habitat; the possibility of not seeing certain animals; and dangerous weather and climate conditions.

You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. If any of the travel services included in your package are not performed in accordance with the contract, or improperly performed, by us or the travel service suppliers, and this has affected the enjoyment of your travel arrangements, you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. We will not be liable where any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services is due to you or another member of your party; or a third party unconnected with the provision of the travel services in the package and is unforeseeable or unavoidable.

Our liability, except in cases involving death, injury, or illness, shall be limited to a maximum of three times the cost of your travel arrangements (excluding amendment charges). Our liability (if we are found liable to you on any basis) will also be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to:

- a) The contractual terms of the companies that provide the travel services that made up your package.

These terms are incorporated into this booking contract; and

- b) Any relevant international convention, for example the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of and conditions under which compensation can be claimed for death, injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage (there are strict Conditions of Carriage obligations for making claims for missing or damaged baggage that must be followed). We are regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of the extent of or the conditions under which compensation is to be paid under these or any conventions.

You can ask for copies of the travel service contractual terms, or the international conventions from Brightwater Holidays. Where a carrier or hotelier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. Under EU law [Regulation 261/2004] you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation, or delay to flights – see point 11 below.

If it is impossible to ensure your return as scheduled due to unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, we will bear the cost of necessary accommodation, if possible, of equivalent category, for a maximum of three nights if this is not provided by your airline, in accordance with Regulation 261/2004. The limit doesn't apply to persons with reduced mobility and any person accompanying them, pregnant women and unaccompanied minors, or persons in need of specific medical assistance, provided that you notified us of these needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday.

**Note:** this entire clause does not apply to any services which do not form part of your contract with us i.e. 'own arrangements'. This includes for example, any additional services, including excursions, that you organise independently, or services which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where these are not organised by us as part of our contract with you. We recommend that sufficient and appropriate insurance is taken out. In addition, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any description (1) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (2) which did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees, or where we are responsible for them, our suppliers or (3) arises out of use of our services for special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise or (4) is connected with any business. We further advise you, and you agree that in the event of any claim against us, that such claim shall be governed by Scottish Law and Jurisdiction shall lie in any Court of Competent Jurisdiction in the United Kingdom and you further acknowledge these requirements and waive any objection(s) thereto.

## 11. TRAVEL DELAYS & CARRIAGE BY AIR

Should delays due to weather conditions disrupt your itinerary, additional costs may be incurred and these would be the responsibility of you, the client. You will be assisted by the airlines in accordance with the airlines' policy on delay. We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in point 6 of these booking conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board a flight on time).

Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation, or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be published at EU airports and will also be available from airlines. However, reimbursement in such cases will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday cost from us. Your right to a refund and/or compensation from us is set out in these booking conditions. If any payments to you are due from us, any payment made to you by the airline will be deducted from this amount. You are required to make any claim under this regulation directly with the airline, but if your airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority on 0207 453 6424 <https://www.caa.co.uk>.

Where long flight delays result in lost holiday time, we are unable to offer any refunds for unused accommodation or other services as reimbursement will not be made by our suppliers in these circumstances, and hotel rooms are held for delayed arrivals and not re-let. We strongly recommend you have adequate insurance provisions in place to fully cover such eventualities.

We are unable to guarantee that all parties will be seated together. With some airlines it is possible to request, or in some cases, reserve certain preferred seats on the aircraft (most airlines will make an additional charge for this). We are happy to assist with this, but this is an additional service over and above your contractual arrangement for 'carriage by air' with the airline. Airlines reserve the right to make changes to any specific seat numbers for operational or safety reasons either before, or on the day of departure and you will be notified of any such change upon check-in. Where applicable, any additional charge made for pre-booking specific seats, will be refunded.

In accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005 Article 9, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a "Community list" which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban within the EU. The Community list is available for inspection at [https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban_en).

In accordance with EU Regulations, we are required to advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to an operating ban as above as a result of which we/the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative, the provisions of point 5, "Cancellation and Variation by us" will apply.

We are not always in a position at the time of booking to confirm the flight timings, which will be used in connection with your flight. The flight timings shown in our brochure, on our website and/or detailed on your booking confirmation/invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration. Flight timings are outside our control. They are set by airlines and are subject to various factors including air traffic control restrictions, weather conditions, potential technical problems and the ability of passengers to check in on time. Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct and up to date flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been dispatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions. We advise that you keep check on your flight's departure information on the day of departure in case of any late flight changes.



In accordance with EU legislation, we are required to draw your attention to restrictions concerning the import of food items which cannot be brought into the EU (including the UK), from outside the EU. For details, please see <http://www2.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/personal-imports/> or contact this office.

## 12. INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking with us that you and all members of your party obtain travel insurance for all overseas Brightwater holidays and is highly recommended for UK Brightwater Holidays. It should include cover for COVID-19 cancellation, curtailment, repatriation, and quarantine. We also strongly recommend that you do not travel against medical advice. The cost of repatriation, medical and other treatment overseas can be high and we are unable to assist in meeting those costs. You should organise it immediately when you book to ensure you have cover against possible cancellation charges, medical treatment, and repatriation. Should you have your travel insurance in place we will need to know the details of your policy 6 weeks before departure at the latest. It is a requirement of booking that you provide us with an emergency contact number while you are on holiday stating your relationship (e.g. family member, neighbour, workplace). This is purely for your benefit in the unlikely event of you becoming ill or incapacitated on tour. Please note that we no longer sell travel insurance but do work closely with Global Travel Insurance who will be happy to provide you with a quotation (01903 235042). Please see our website for more details: [brightwaterholidays.com/travel-insurance/](http://brightwaterholidays.com/travel-insurance/)

## 13. SPECIAL REQUESTS & MEDICAL CONDITIONS / DISABILITIES

If you or any member of your party have any special requests, you must advise us at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your booking confirmation/invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. For your own protection, you should obtain confirmation in writing that a special request will be provided (where it is possible to give this) where it is important to you. We regret we cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as "standard" bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), you must tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops or worsens after your booking has been confirmed.

Brightwater Holidays cannot provide individual assistance with boarding coaches or other forms of transport, baggage handling, walking or other personal requirements, etc. and guests should be confident that they can do these tasks unaided. We are happy to give advice and assistance with the choice of your holiday which will be dependent upon the nature of any disability. Our brochures also give a simple guide per tour regarding how active the tour is. In order to ensure your enjoyment of the holiday, we ask all clients to provide full details of any disability or special requirements at the time of booking. Some suppliers such as airlines and cruise lines may request certification from your GP to confirm that you are fit to travel. We regret that we cannot be held liable for any costs you may incur as a result. You are urged to contact our Sales department for further information if you have any difficulty in walking or mobility problems and they will be pleased to advise you on the suitability of any particular holiday.

## 14. CLIENT BEHAVIOUR

When you book a holiday with Brightwater Holidays you accept responsibility for the proper conduct of you and your party. Brightwater Holidays reserves the right in its reasonable discretion to terminate the holiday of any member of your party whose conduct is disruptive or detrimental to the enjoyment of other clients, or whose conduct may prejudice the reputation of Brightwater Holidays with our suppliers or hotel owners. In that situation Brightwater Holidays shall have no further responsibility or liability to you. The departure of a coach, ship train, plane or other modes of transport will not be delayed for passengers who are not on board by the stated boarding time.

## 15. COMPLAINTS & ASSISTANCE ON HOLIDAY

If you have any reason to be unhappy with any element of your holiday, we would ask you first to bring this to the attention of the person in charge of the relevant service, on the spot. If this is not possible, please either contact our local representative or our UK office, using the number provided with your travel documents. It is essential that you do this to enable us to try and put matters right where possible. If a problem remains unresolved during your holiday you should make a complaint which must be received at our offices within 28 days of the completion of your holiday giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. This can be or in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking. We will reply to you within 28 days of receipt of your complaint. Please keep your complaint concise and to the point. If you fail to follow the requirement to report your complaint while on holiday, we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify it and this may affect your rights under this booking. If you're in difficulty while on holiday and ask us to help, we will provide appropriate assistance, in particular by providing information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance; and helping you to find alternative arrangements and any necessary phone calls/emails. You must pay any costs we incur if the difficulty is your fault.

The terms of this contract are exclusively governed by Scottish Law and the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts.

## 16. PROTECTING YOUR MONEY

**We provide full financial protection for our package holidays.**

### Flight inclusive tours:

we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the CAA (ATOL No. 4498) which provides for your protection in the event of Brightwater Holidays Ltd insolvency. The price of your air holiday packages includes the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. The ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL scheme as explained below.

### Tours without flights arranged by us:

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Brightwater Holidays Ltd - Member 5001, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

#### Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Brightwater Holidays Ltd. In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made>

## 17. DATA PROTECTION

To process your booking and to ensure that your travel arrangements run smoothly and meet your requirements we need to use the information you provide. Depending on what's required, the personal data we collect may include names and contact details, credit/debit card or other payment information and special requirements such as those relating to any disability or medical condition which may affect holiday arrangements and any dietary restrictions which may disclose your religious beliefs.

The person who makes the booking is responsible for ensuring that other members of your party are aware of our booking conditions and this privacy policy and that they consent to your acting on their behalf in your dealings with us.

Any such personal data that you provide will be held securely and for the purpose you have provided it, in accordance with both UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

We take appropriate technical and organisational measures which are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

We must pass the information on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements such as airlines, hotels, transport companies, etc. We will not however, pass any information on to any person not responsible for part of your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. In making a booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons only.

We may need to disclose personal data to a third party within countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of providing your holiday. Controls on data protection in your destination may not be as stringent as in the UK. In addition, your data may be disclosed to regulatory bodies or public authorities such as customs or immigration for the purposes of monitoring and/or enforcing compliance with any regulatory rules/codes.

We will only send you information about special offers, brochures, new holidays and competitions if you have 'opted in' to receive marketing emails from Brightwater Holidays Ltd. If at any time you do not wish to receive this information you can use the 'unsubscribe' function at the bottom of any marketing email or call us.

For full details of how we may use your personal information and your rights in relation to your personal information, please see our Privacy Policy on our website: <https://brightwaterholidays.com/privacy>. By booking online, or over the phone, you are stating that you have read and agreed to our Privacy Policy.

**We are Brightwater Holiday Ltd, registered limited company no: SC137295.**

**Registered Office: Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.**





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