



NO/LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS



CELEBRATE TRADITION

SAVE UP TO £400pp
PLUS A 10% PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT
IF YOU BOOK BY 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND WITH US



Secure your spot now for Christmas and early 2024

Christmas may not be at the forefront of your mind right now but it will be on us before too long and here at Brightwater Holidays we can't wait to start spreading the old Yuletide spirit! That's why, at the front of this short brochure, you will find five festive offerings, three of which are brand new tours. These include highly colourful seasonal treats at Kew and RHS Garden Wisley, a chance to enjoy some traditional family entertainment in Norfolk and an opportunity to sample Christmas (or should I say Le Noël) in true French style.

Elsewhere you will find a selection of the holidays we have coming up in 2024 so you can start looking ahead and deciding where in the world you would like to go next year. You won't have long to wait for some of these, as we have a selection of holidays to banish those winter blues, such as our Snowdrop tours in both England and Scotland or the colourful Orchid Festival at Kew Gardens.

Perhaps next year will be the time you make that trip you've promised yourself to the Outer Hebrides, not the easiest place to get to on your own but with one of our friendly drivers at the wheel and an efficient tour manager looking after you, it's a piece of cake! It's just one of a wide range of Scottish island tours we offer, all the way from Arran to Orkney and Shetland.

Our long-established programme of escorted garden and special interest tours extends throughout the British Isles and into Europe, to destinations such as the Canary Islands, the villas and gardens of the Italian Lakes and Andalucia. For the more adventurous we have a comprehensive selection of Long Haul tours, including new destinations such as Egypt, Malaysia and Victoria & Tasmania.

I do hope you find something to tempt you and we look forward to you joining us.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson

Managing Director

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. In 2020, we won Bronze for the same prize and then the year before that we won Gold for Best Coach Holiday Company and Silver for Best Special Interest Holiday Company. 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.



Previous accolades and continued success



Elsewhere, the past couple of years have been a wonderful journey for us, with our very own Jenni Duncan being 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.

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 237 998

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

2023 Offers

EARLY BOOKING - SAVE £50pp

If you book any of the five festive tours featured on pages 4-5 before 30 September 2023 you can save £50pp

2024 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 30 September 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 30 September 2023.

*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 in 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 30 September 2023 but may be withdrawn at any time. Pay in full offer not applicable to travel agent bookings.

4 DAYS FROM
£745

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

Christmas in the Scottish Borders

The Macdonald Cardrona Hotel, Golf & Spa, nestling on the banks of the River Tweed in a tranquil valley a few miles to the east of Peebles in the Scottish Borders, provides the perfect setting for a relaxing, stress-free Christmas break. From the moment you arrive at the hotel, welcomed with a cream tea, you will enjoy the best of Scottish hospitality and a full festive programme that includes carol singing and a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. We also enjoy an excursion into the rolling Borders hills and a visit to Peebles.

Day 1 Christmas Eve. We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) and head into the Borders, breaking our journey at **Peebles**, a peaceful little town on the banks of the River Tweed. In the afternoon we continue to our hotel, where we are welcomed on arrival with festive teas. Following dinner there will be a drinks reception and Christmas carols with the hotel staff. (*D*)

Day 2 Christmas Day. The day gets off to a festive start with a glass of Buck's Fizz with breakfast. The morning is free to relax or perhaps take a stroll by the river to sharpen your appetite for the feasting to come. A traditional **Christmas carvery lunch** with all the trimmings follows and after the King's Speech you are free to use the

leisure facilities, read your new book or even succumb to a postprandial nap. A buffet supper is served this evening. (*B, L & D*)

Day 3 Boxing Day. After breakfast we depart on a scenic coach tour of the **Border country**. Alternatively, for those who would prefer to relax around the hotel you may take advantage of the hotel's leisure facilities. Perhaps enjoy an optional spa treatment or, for golfers, the chance for a bracing round of winter golf (*subject to weather and availability, supplements apply*). (*B & D*)

Day 4 After breakfast it is time to leave the Cardrona hotel as we head for our original departure points. (*B*)

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



River Tweed

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and full breakfast at the 4-star Macdonald Cardrona Hotel Golf & Spa, near Peebles
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as described in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2023		
24 - 27 Dec	£795	£745
Single Supplement		£195

Tour code: **BXSB**

4 DAYS FROM
£1,245

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

NEW

Christmas at the Château de Montvillargenne

Christmas is observed slightly differently in France so, if you are looking for a change from the normal routine, this is an opportunity to celebrate in true Gallic style. The tradition is for everyone to sit down together on Christmas Eve for a long meal called a *réveillon*, and that is exactly what we will do in the unique surroundings of the Château de Montvillargenne. Christmas Day is spent relaxing in the hotel and on Boxing Day (known here as St Stephen's Day and not a public holiday) we will have a day of shopping and sightseeing in Paris.

Day 1 Christmas Eve. We depart by Eurostar from London St Pancras International for Paris, where on arrival we transfer by coach to our accommodation at the **Château de Montvillargenne** in Chantilly, where all our bedrooms are in the original castle building. In the evening we sit down to an extended festive dinner that begins with *amuses bouches* followed by four courses with wine and finally some *mignardises* to enjoy with your coffee. (*D*)

Day 2 Christmas Day. After breakfast the day is spent relaxing in the hotel, an opportunity to use the leisure facilities that include a spectacular indoor pool, sauna, and relaxing individual massage booths, or take a walk in the surrounding area. A three-course dinner with wine is served in the evening. (*B, D*)

Day 3 Boxing Day. We depart for the centre of **Paris**, where after an introductory city tour the day is free for shopping and sightseeing at leisure. As 26 December is not a public holiday in France, the shops will be open so there will be plenty of opportunities for some retail therapy. Other suggestions include a cruise on the **River Seine** or a trip up the **Eiffel Tower**, where the first level is traditionally decorated in delightful Christmas style. Among the museums open on a Tuesday are the **Musée d'Orsay** and the **Musée Yves Saint Laurent**. Dinner with wine is served back at the hotel in the evening. (*B, D*)

Day 4 After breakfast we return to Paris and take the Eurostar back to London. (*B*)

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



Eiffel Tower

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner (with wine), bed and full breakfast at the Château de Montvillargenne, Chantilly
- ▶ Return rail travel on Eurostar between London and Paris in standard class (upgrades available)
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as described in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2023		
24 - 27 Dec	£1,295	£1,245
Single Supplement		£295

Tour code: **BCMx**

4 DAYS FROM
£595

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Christmas Delights of East Yorkshire and Lincoln

Let the festive fun begin and join us for a yuletide break to East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. As the evenings draw in and the decorations go up, an early December break is a great way to kick off the season of celebration. During our tour, we experience two spectacular interpretations of the Twelve Days of Christmas, one at Doddington Hall with contributions from staff, volunteers and local artists, and one at Belvoir Castle, curated by the talented Charlotte Lloyd-Webber. We also spend some time in Lincoln with a chance to visit the magnificent Norman castle and the towering Gothic cathedral, and enjoy an optional excursion to Burton Constable Hall and Beverley Minster, filled with Christmas trees.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*London, Peterborough*) to our hotel in Hull. This evening, we enjoy a festive mulled wine before dinner. (*D*)

Day 2 Today we begin in **Lincoln** with an opportunity to visit the Cathedral and/or the Castle, both of which date back to the 11th century (*admission not included*). Later, we transfer to **Doddington Hall**, where we will sample their interpretation of the **Twelve Days of Christmas**. From partridges in pear trees to drummers drumming, we will step into the classic carol as it unfolds over three floors of the Elizabethan Hall, all with a Doddington twist! We return to our hotel for the evening. (*B & D*)

Day 3 After breakfast this morning, you may choose to spend the day at leisure or alternatively join us for an optional excursion to the East Yorkshire countryside. We visit **Burton Constable Hall**, where the rooms are transformed with seasonal floral displays, and glittering decorations, and **Beverley Minster**, where we enjoy the Christmas Tree Festival, featuring around 100 wonderfully decorated trees. (*B & D*)

Day 4 This morning we visit historic **Belvoir Castle**, where we will be treated to another interpretation of the Twelve Days of Christmas, created with artistic flair by Charlotte Lloyd-Webber. Return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

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



Lincoln Cathedral

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
7 - 10 Dec	£645	£595
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		
Optional Excursion (Burton Constable Hall and Beverley Minster)		
		£35

Tour code: **BXLY**



© RBG Kew

3 DAYS FROM
£495

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

NEW

RHS Wisley Glow and Christmas at Kew

RHS Garden Wisley brings the festive season alive with its magical Glow Experience. Enjoy illuminated trails through the trees as dusk falls and sparkling hi-tech lights transform this stately garden into a winter wonderland. Not to be outdone, the Royal Botanic Garden Kew has its own Christmas event, with glittering tunnels of light.

Our visits and excursions include: Glow Experience and Festive Tea at RHS Garden Wisley, Christmas at Kew, Windsor Castle and Polesden Lacey.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 4-star Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2023		
23 - 25 Nov	£545	£495
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		

Tour code: **BGLO**



3 DAYS FROM
£525

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

NEW

Thursford and Cromer Christmas Shows

This festive treat offers not one but two live shows that will get you well and truly in the mood for Christmas. The Thursford Christmas Spectacular is one of the largest shows of its kind, with a cast of 130 professional singers, dancers and musicians, while the Cromer Pier Christmas Show provides traditional family entertainment.

Our visits and excursions include: Ickworth House and Rotunda, Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts, Norwich Market and tickets for the Thursford Christmas Spectacular and Cromer Pier Show.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 4-star Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2023		
12 - 14 Dec	£575	£525
Single Supplement		£75

Tour code: **BXTC**

5 DAYS FROM
£945 SAVE PER PERSON
£50

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

Our best-selling grand tour takes in all the beauty and diversity of this very special environment with ten different islands 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. We take the ferry to South Uist and cross the causeway to Benbecula, from where we visit the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra. Moving on to Harris and Lewis we continue with visits to the Standing Stones of Callanish, the tranquil Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gearrannan.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow) and head to Mallaig. We catch a ferry to Lochboisdale, enjoying dinner on board before continuing to **Benbecula**. (D)

Day 2 We head for Barra, travelling via **Eriskay**. Upon arrival, we tour the island with views of **Kisimul Castle**. Next, we visit **Cockleshell Beach** with its unique airport runway and then it's on to **Vatersay**, with its brilliant white beaches. (B, D)

Day 3 A ferry takes us from Berneray to Leverburgh on the **Isle of Harris**. Here, we visit **St. Clement's Church** at Rodel, built on top of an earlier structure in the 16th century. Later, our journey continues and we make our way to Lewis and our hotel, located in Stornoway. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we head to the 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish** and its visitor centre. From here, we move on to the **Black Houses of Gearrannan** and **Norse Mill** at Shawbost, a reconstruction of the type of grain mill used originally by Viking settlers and by islanders up until the 1930s. A short walk past a small lochan leads to two beautifully restored little thatched buildings with a fine view to the ocean beyond. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning we check out of the hotel and take the early morning Caledonian MacBrayne ferry from Stornoway to **Ullapool**. From here, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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



Eriskay Harbour © Graham Addison

WE ALSO OFFER A SIX-DAY TOUR WITH AN ADDITIONAL DAY IN LEWIS from £1,295 per person

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 22 Mar	£995	£945
15 - 19 Apr	£1,095	£995
30 Sep - 4 Oct	£1,095	£995
Single Supplement	from £120	

Tour code: **BGTO**



4 DAYS FROM
£595 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.

Our visits and excursions include: Assynt, Lochinver, Oldshoremore Beach, Durness, Cocoa Mountain, Smoo Cave, Tongue, Laxford Bridge, Lairg and Bonar Bridge.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 3-star Hotel
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 22 Mar	£645	£595
9 - 12 Apr	£675	£625
8 - 11 Oct	£675	£625
Single Supplement	£120	

Tour code: **BXNW**



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 and excursions include: Cambo Estate, Barnhill Rock Garden, Ellon Castle, Cruickshank Botanic Garden, Bruckhills Croft Garden, Crathes Castle, Ecclesgreig Castle and Gardens and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 4-star Hotel plus one lunch
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- 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: **BSES**

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 was recently voted Art Fund Museum of the Year 2023. 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 also includes visits to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum; the Hunterian, Scotland's oldest public museum; Holmwood House and the House for an Art Lover, built to a design by Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

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, which borrows, collects and displays contemporary artworks from around the world. Outside the museum is the equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington, upon whose head there invariably sits a traffic cone! (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,

numbering around 1,000 items, including architectural, furniture and interior designs, textile designs, flower drawings and watercolours. (B, D)

Day 3 We start our day at the newly renovated **Burrell Collection**. The refurbishment allows visitors to explore all three floors in the building, set out as galleries 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. From here, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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



Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
22 - 25 Mar	£645	£595
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. Among the highlights is an exclusive private viewing with a Curator at the Mitchell Library of some rare and important Burns material.

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)

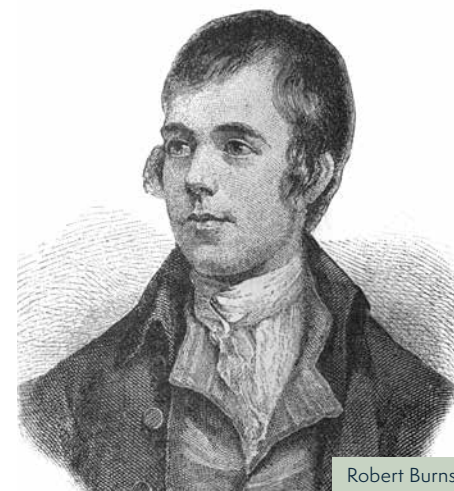
Day 2 Visit the **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum** and then we follow in his footsteps through the village where he spent the early years of his life. Find out what made the great poet and song writer tick, and visit **Alloway Auld Kirk**. After lunch we continue to **Rozelle House**. (B, D)

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, L: Lunch, 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	£945	£895
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		

Tour code: **BFRB**

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 **Girlsta**, 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, L: Lunch, 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 30 SEPT)

WHAT'S INCLUDED		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ 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	£1,595	£1,495
Single Supplement	On request	
Edinburgh flight supplement	£190	
Tour code: BUAA		

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, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



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		

5 DAYS FROM
£1,895 SAVE PER PERSON
£100 TOUR MANAGER
MIKE NELHAMS

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. Our tour begins with a presentation from Mike Nelhams on the great Gardens of Cornwall, followed by a sequence of very special visits.

Day 1 We depart by train from London Paddington for Truro and continue by coach to our hotel in Cornwall. Our guide **Mike Nelhams** will tell us about 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 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. (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. 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



Tresco

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	£1,995	£1,895
15 - 19 Apr	£2,045	£1,945
Single Supplement		£295
Tour code: BCMN		



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.

Our visits and excursions include: the gardens of **Newark Park**, **Colesbourne**, **Cerney House**, **Rodmarton Manor**, **Painswick Rococo Garden** and the **Museum in the Park**, **Stroud**.

WHAT'S INCLUDED		DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
▶ 4-star Hotel		2024	
▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits		9 – 12 Feb	£695 £645
▶ Services of a professional tour manager		NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	
Tour code: BSNC			



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 gardens of **Trebah** and **Glendurgan** illustrate this perfectly, with the great Asiatic shrubs all featuring, rich with blossom. The **Lost Gardens of Heligan** continue to fascinate, while at the **Eden Project** things have come a long way since a disused chalk pit was transformed into a botanical marvel.

Our visits and excursions include: the gardens of **Knightshayes Court**, **Trebah**, **Glendurgan**, **Killerton**, **Heligan** and the **Eden Project**.

WHAT'S INCLUDED		DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
▶ 3-star Hotel		2024	
▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits		18 - 21 Mar	£745 £695
▶ Services of a professional tour manager		Single Supplement	£150
Tour code: BSGC			

5 DAYS FROM
£1,995

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

TOUR MANAGER
ALASTAIR WALKER

Iceland

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 **Þingvellir 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 **Gunnhver Hot Springs** before returning to Keflavík for our flight to London. (B)

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



Northern Lights

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Strætó 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	£2,095	£1,995
17 - 21 Nov	£2,295	£2,195
Single Supplement		£395

*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
£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, lush forests and hidden gardens filled with indigenous plants. 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.

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. This afternoon we visit the **Botanical Gardens of Puerto De La Cruz**, with many species of exotic and sub-tropical plants. Later, we depart for **The Orchid Gardens** of Sitio Litre, famous for its Dragon Tree. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Arrive in La Palma. After an **onboard lecture** we head to **Caldera de Taburiente National Park**, home to an enormous crater, and the island's **Botanical Gardens**. (B, L, D)

Day 4 We dock at the verdant island of **La Gomera**. Enjoy the day at leisure here or join an optional excursion to **Garajonay National Park**,

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

Day 5 Continue to **Gran Canaria** with optional excursions to the **Casa de Colon** and the **Bandama Caldera**, and **Teror** and the garden of **La Marquesa de Arucas**. (B, L, D)

Day 6 We cruise to **Fuerteventura**, with an optional excursion featuring **goat's cheese** and **aloe vera**. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Today we reach **Lanzarote** and visit the **Jardín de Cactus** 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



Jardín de Cactus, Lanzarote

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	£4,295	£3,995
Deck 4	£4,615	£4,315
Deck 5	£4,925	£4,625
Deck 6	£5,255	£4,955
Single Supplement		from £1,195

Optional Excursions:

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

Tour code: BGCI



Menton Lemon Festival parade

6 DAYS FROM
£1,795

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

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 fly 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



Nice



St. Jean Cap Ferrat

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	£1,895	£1,795
Single Supplement		£295

2024

International Rose Festival		
11 - 16 May	£2,295	£2,195
Single Supplement		£495

Tour code: BLEM & BFRR



5 DAYS FROM
£945 SAVE PER PERSON
£50

Cultural Malta

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, this is the tour for you!

Our visits and excursions include: tour of Valletta, Mdina, Ħaġar Qim, Dingli Cliffs and afternoon tea at Palazzo Parisio.

WHAT'S INCLUDED	DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">4-star Hotel & return flights from LondonComfortable coach travel and all visitsServices of a professional tour manager	2024
	5 - 9 Mar £995 £945
	Single Supplement £130
	Sea View Supplement from £100
	Optional Excursions
	Gozo £145
	Vittoriosa £85
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 Neolithic to now, they are many and varied, and all out there to be discovered on this very special tour...

Our visits and excursions include: tour of Valletta; Skorba Temples and Mosta Church; St Paul's Catacombs; Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, the Tarxien Temples and Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.

WHAT'S INCLUDED	DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">4-star Hotel & return flights from LondonComfortable coach travel and all visitsServices of a professional tour manager	2024
	5 - 11 Mar £1,695 £1,595
	7 - 13 May £1,895 £1,795
	Single Supplement £195
	Sea View Supplement from £120
	Optional Excursion: Gozo £145
Tour code: BMAL	

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

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. Included in this relaxing cruise aboard a comfortable ship with a delightful French ambience is a visit to one of the most famous gardens in the world: Keukenhof, a stunning display of bulbs of every variety.

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 We cruise from Rotterdam to Utrecht then depart for **Keukenhof**, one of the most famous gardens in the world with over seven million bulbs. We rejoin the ship in **Amsterdam** with the evening 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 well as both French and Romantic English landscape styles. (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



Keukenhof Gardens

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**

6 DAYS FROM
£1395 SAVE PER PERSON
£100 **NEW** TOUR MANAGER
TONY RUSSELL

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. We will follow the length of the camellia route, which extends from La Coruña in the north to Vigo in the south.

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

Day 2 This morning we have a **tour of the city** then visit the garden of **Pazo de Mariñan** overlooking the quiet waters of a river estuary. (B)

Day 3 We leave La Coruña and head for **Santiago de Compostela** where we will visit the **Monasterio de San Lorenzo de Trasouto**. 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**, which 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, and the impressive hill top **Castillo de Soutomaio**, which has an important and historic camellia collection and commands views over the wild yet attractive countryside of Galicia. (B, D)

Day 6 We visit the **Pazo de Quiñones de León**, a Baroque mansion at the top of Castrelos Park, through which the Lagares River flows. We later return to La Coruña for our flight London. (B)

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



Gardens at Soutomaio

WHAT'S INCLUDED	DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 scheduled flights from London to La CoruñaComfortable coaching throughoutAll visits as outlined in the itineraryServices of Tony Russell as tour manager	2024
	13 - 18 Mar £1,495 £1,395
	Single Supplement £195
Tour code: BGAL	



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**.

Our visits and excursions include: the gardens of Villa Pisani, Villa Barbarigo, Le Paradis des Papillons, Villa Barbaro and Padua Botanic Garden; guided tour of the Villa Rotonda with Count Valmarana; Scrovegni Chapel in Padua; gala dinner at Villa Godi Malinverni.

WHAT'S INCLUDED	DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">4-star Hotel & return flights from LondonComfortable coach travel and all visitsServices of a professional tour manager	2024
	24 - 28 Mar £1,795 £1,695
	21 - 25 May £2,095 £1,995
	17 - 21 Sep £1,995 £1,895
	Single Supplement £195
Tour code: BVEN	



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

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia

Andalucia 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.

Our visits and excursions include: the Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens in Granada; excursion into the Sierra Nevada mountains; the Great Mosque and Royal Palaces of the Alcázar in Córdoba; full day tour of Seville and the Alameda del Tajo in Ronda.

WHAT'S INCLUDED	DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">3- and 4-star Hotels & return flights from LondonComfortable coach travel and all visitsServices of a professional tour manager	2024
	18 - 25 Mar £1,895 £1,795
	13 - 20 May £2,195 £2,095
	9 - 16 Sep £2,195 £2,095
	Single Supplement £395
Tour code: BANG	

8 DAYS FROM
£1,895 SAVE PER PERSON
£100 **NEW**

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. 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 Gatwick on a flight to Funchal and transfer to our hotel. (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**. (D)
Day 3 We visit the gardens at **Quinta do Palheiro**, followed by a gentle half-day walk on the footpaths alongside the “levadas”, followed by a stop for tea and cake. (B, AT)
Day 4 We visit the local market, the **Mercado dos Lavradores**, followed by the **Quinta Vigia**, a

small garden at the Presidential Palace, and the neighbouring **Santa Catarina Park**, before enjoying some tasty Madeiran specialities. (B, AT)
Day 5 Today is at leisure or alternatively join us on an optional full day tour of the island, (B)
Day 6 We visit the wonderful **Monte Palace Gardens** and later we enjoy afternoon tea at the famous **Reid’s Palace Hotel**. (B, AT)
Day 7 Today is at leisure before our farewell dinner in the evening. (B, D)
Day 8 We take our flight home. (B)
Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner



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 three afternoon teas including Reid’s Palace
- Return flights from London Gatwick to Funchal
- Comfortable coaching
- All visits as described in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 25 Mar	£1,995	£1,895
6 - 13 May*	£2,295	£2,195
Single Supplement		£395
*Includes Madeira Flower Festival		

Tour code: BGMD

8 DAYS FROM
£2,295 SAVE PER PERSON UP TO
£200

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 then ascend the mountain itself. In Taormina we visit a private garden which boasts spectacular views across the bay before exploring the Greco-Roman remains of the city itself. 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 before moving on to Palermo.

Day 1 We fly from London to Catania, where we transfer to our hotel. (D)
Day 2 Visit **Villa Trinità**, an elegant garden born from lava, which thrives on the slopes of **Mount Etna**, Europe’s highest active volcano. (B, L, D)
Day 3 We explore **Taormina** and its many highlights, including the private garden of **Casa Cuseni**. (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**. 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. (B, L, D)
Day 7 Visit Palermo’s **Botanical Gardens**, the public garden of **Villa Giulia** and the impressive **Norman Palace**. (B, D)
Day 8 We transfer to Palermo airport for our return flight to London. (B)
Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



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 a professional tour manager and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

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

Tour code: BSIC

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 Alfabia, 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 fly from London to Palma and 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 to 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 Alcudia**. Later we transfer to the **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca**. (B, L, D)
Day 6 We take a return flight to London. (B)
Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



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	£1,595	£1,495
23 - 28 Apr	£1,895	£1,795
Single Supplement		£325

Tour code: BMCA



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. Our visits and excursions include: Megaliths at Évora, Gulbenkian Museum, Sintra Palace, Conimbriga, wine tasting in Porto.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- 4-star Hotels & return flights from London
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 26 Mar	£2,395	£2,195
15 - 22 Oct	£2,595	£2,395
Single Supplement		£595
Optional Excursion: Douro River boat trip		£125

Tour code: BPOA



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. Nowadays the atmosphere is one of peace and tranquillity, but the connection with the past is inescapable. Our visits and excursions include: Mycenae and the Tomb of Agamemnon, Tiryns, Epidavros, Monemvasia, Mystras, Messene and the Archaeological Museums of Nafplion and Messene.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- Hotels & return flights from London
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
20 - 27 Mar	£1,695	£1,595
30 Sep - 7 Oct	£1,895	£1,795
Single Supplement		£295

Tour code: BPEL



New York Botanical Garden

Discover Experiences Further Afield

With a whole world of possibilities to explore, it can be a daunting task to decide in which corners of the planet we should plant the Brightwater flag. But for 2024 we think we have a selection as tempting as any, that can take you from the Caribbean to the Indian Ocean, from Nova Scotia to New Zealand.

Our most ambitious offering is perhaps our tour to Chile and the Falkland Islands, truly a trip of a lifetime and a rare opportunity to visit this proudly British outpost as well as one of South America’s most diverse landscapes. Other new ventures include the Gardens of Malaysia, which takes us from Kuala Lumpur to the Cameron Highlands and Penang; Gardens and Palaces of India, featuring the classic ‘Golden Triangle’ of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, and Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt, your chance to walk in the footsteps of Pharaohs. We also offer the chance to enjoy the spectacular autumn colours of Nova Scotia in the Fall, discover orchids by the thousand in Ecuador, and explore a host of amazing Antipodean gardens, personally selected by horticultural expert and tour manager Colin Crosbie, in Victoria and Tasmania.

Returning favourites include the Caribbean gems of Barbados and Grenada; Costa Rica with its astonishingly diverse flora and fauna, and Seasonal Gardens of Japan, with its exquisite blend of ancient tradition and dazzling modernity. On the African continent we travel along South Africa’s Garden Route and go on safari in Tanzania, complimentary field guides in hand. Finally we fly to the Indian Ocean paradise island of Mauritius, and all the way to the other side of the world for our epic but endlessly rewarding tour of the Gardens of New Zealand. Take your pick and discover experiences you will never forget!



Torres del Paine



White Rhinoceros



Karnak Temple

2024 DEPARTURES & PRICES

Seasonal Gardens of Japan

27 Mar - 8 Apr*	£6,795	£6,495
6 - 18 Nov	£6,595	£6,295
Single Supplement	£1,500	
*Cherry blossom departure		

Gardens of Malaysia

13 – 24 Feb	£3,195	£2,995
17 - 28 Oct	£3,595	£3,395
Single Supplement	£550	

Gardens and Palaces of India

27 Feb - 11 Mar	£3,295	£3,095
15 - 28 Oct	£3,595	£3,395
Single Supplement	£795	

Gardens of Costa Rica

26 Jan - 7 Feb	£4,995	£4,695
Single Supplement	£995	

Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island

11 - 19 May	£3,395	£3,195
28 Sep - 6 Oct	£3,395	£3,195
Single Supplement	£495	

Gardens of Barbados

7 - 15 Feb	£3,395	£3,195
6 - 14 Nov	£3,495	£3,295
Single Supplement	£695	

South Africa’s Garden Route

24 Sep - 9 Oct	£4,895	£4,595
Single Supplement	£595	

Gardens and Wildlife of Western Canada

13 - 22 Sep	£5,695	£5,395
Single Supplement	£895	

Nova Scotia in the fall

8 - 16 Oct	£5,795	£5,495
Single Supplement	£875	

Gardens and Flora of Tasmania and Victoria with Colin Crosbie

28 Oct - 16 Nov	£9,295	£8,995
Single Supplement	£1,895	

Gardens of Mauritius

27 Mar - 7 Apr	£3,895	£3,695
12 - 23 Nov	£3,995	£3,795
Single Supplement	£795	

Chile & Falklands Islands

30 Nov – 16 Dec	£12,895	£12,495
Single Supplement	£3,995	

Gardens of New Zealand including Singapore

14 Jan - 2 Feb	£8,995	£8,695
Single Supplement	£1,695	

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt

8 - 19 Feb	£4,295	£3,995
7 - 18 Nov	£4,895	£4,595
Single Supplement	from £995	

Ecuador: An Orchid Lover’s Paradise

15 - 29 Feb	£5,595	£5,295
21 Nov - 5 Dec	£5,795	£5,495
Single Supplement	£695	

Birdwatching and Wildlife Safaris in Tanzania

8 - 18 May	£5,595	£5,295
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		

Arts and gardens of Philadelphia & New York

2 - 10 Mar	£3,795	£3,595
Single Supplement	£665	

For Full itinerary details please see our website www.brightwaterholidays.com or contact our office on 01334 237 998 for more details.



Mount Fuji

13 DAYS FROM
£6,295

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

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**



Golden Pavilion, Kyoto

and the **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 **Todai-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**



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



Rotorua



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 225 hectares of regenerating native forest and 40 species of birds. The rest of the afternoon is at



Christchurch Botanical Gardens

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 Huguetta 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: IF: In-flight, 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

- ▶ 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 Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 Jan - 2 Feb	£8,995	£8,695
Single Supplement		£1,695

Tour code: **BNZG**



Hunte's Botanical Garden



Arenal Volcano

9 DAYS FROM
£3,195

SAVE PER PERSON
£200

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

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, D)

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, L: Lunch, 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	£3,395	£3,195
6 - 14 Nov	£3,495	£3,295
Single Supplement	£695	
Optional Excursion: Catamaran	£120	

Tour code: **BGOB**

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)

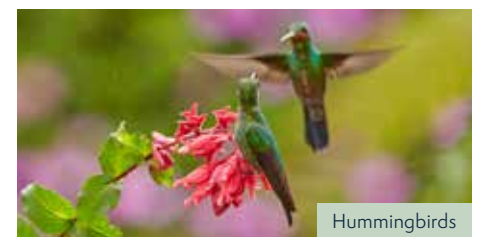
Day 10 Explore the **Manuel Antonio National Park**, one of the most beautiful and bio-diverse areas in the world, before touring the **Rainforest Spices Plantation**. (B, L)

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



Hummingbirds

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	£4,995	£4,695
Single Supplement	£995	

Tour code: **BCOS**

WHY CHOOSE BRIGHTWATER?



From start to finish, you'll be looked after by the award-winning team here at Brightwater. Travelling aboard our comfortable coaches in the company of people who share your interest – whether it's for gardens, Scottish islands or archaeology – we will take you to fabulous places in all corners of the world. Our friendly tour managers are always on hand to ensure that your every need is met, our itineraries are designed by a highly experienced team and at all times we put you, our guest, first. Your comfort and enjoyment are at the heart of what we do, and we recently won the Feefo 2023 Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service throughout 2022.

FIND YOUR PERFECT TOUR

Scenic Scottish tours

Our selection of Scenic Scottish tours is second to none and offers the opportunity to experience Scotland's stunning landscapes, colourful history and unique wildlife first hand, taking the stress out of navigating its many islands and opening up its wonderful cities and sites on the mainland.



Garden tours

The restorative power of the great outdoors is something that needs no introduction and we are delighted to offer a range of garden tours both at home and abroad that will put you at the heart of the world's flora and fauna, from the Spice Islands of Grenada to the beautiful Cornish coastline.



Archaeology tours

Is there anything more fascinating than the history of the world around us? If you are intrigued by ancient tales, captivated by evocative ruins and fascinated by former generations, explore outstanding destinations such as Orkney & Shetland, Crete and Malta.



Wildlife tours

Whether you choose bird-watching in Scotland, going on safari in Tanzania or taking to the water to spot whales and dolphins, encounters with our animal friends are always uplifting. We have a range of holidays that can take you to woodland walks, national parks and RSPB reserves alike.



Long-haul tours

Make the most of your travels this year with one of our long-haul tours, which include visits to gardens and sightseeing spots and feature cultural encounters. They can take you from the cherry blossom-lined streets of Japan to the gardens of Western Canada and beyond, the choice is yours.



Solo tours

Many Brightwater guests are solo travellers and to give them great options for holidaying with us, we offer tours with no and low single supplement spaces to destinations all over the world.



brightwater
holidays



01334 237 998



BRIGHTWATERHOLIDAYS.COM

