

a breath of fresh air

AWARD-WINNING UK & WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS 2025



Unforgettable journeys in 2025



12 NEW TOURS FOR 2025 | EARLY BOOKING OFFER | PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT | SAVE UP TO £400pp

First Edition

Welcome to 2025



Our Awards

We were absolutely delighted to win Gold for Best Travel Company for Coach Holidays at the 2023 British Travel Awards, along with Silver for Best Company for UK Coach/Touring Holidays, a great achievement for our hard-working team. We also won the Feefo 2024 Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service throughout 2023, and were voted Garden Tour Operator of the Year at the International Garden Tourism Awards in Canada. This is a superb accolade and one of which we are all extremely proud.



Financial Protection

All our holidays are fully bonded and financially protected. Holidays with flights included are protected by ATOL and those without flights by ABTOT.



Latest Offers

OFFER 1 - SAVE UP TO £400 PER PERSON*

If you book selected holidays featured in this brochure, you can save up to £400 per person. **This offer has limited places and ends on 31 May 2024.**

ALTERNATIVELY

OFFER 2 - PAY IN FULL AND SAVE 10%*

If you pay in full at the time of booking you will receive a discount of 10% off your pre-discounted holiday price. This offer is only valid by contacting our Specialist Sales Executives on 01334 657 133. **This offer ends on 31 May 2024.**

*The above offers are valid for tours departing in 2025 and discount can only be applied at the time of booking. These offers cannot be combined with each other or with any other offers - Offer 1 can be booked on our website or by phone. Offer 2 can only be booked by phone - please speak to a Specialist Sales Executive for details. Offers expire on 31 May 2024 but may be withdrawn at any time. Pay in full offers are not applicable to travel agent bookings or private groups.

Welcome to this, our first edition brochure for 2025, in which you will find a small selection of tours departing in the first half of next year in the UK and Europe, plus our extended range of Worldwide departures throughout 2025.

We never stand still here at Brightwater and we have a dozen new holidays to unveil, seven of them in the Worldwide section. These include Honshu and Hokkaido, a companion piece to our regular Japan tour, and our Journey through Vietnam, a highly colourful tour which also promises some classic 'botanising by the side of the road'. We have two new holidays in the Caribbean, visiting gardens in St Lucia and in Guadeloupe, which should also be of interest to fans of a certain Sunday night detective drama, and in the Americas we return to the gardens and natural wonders of the Hudson Valley, California and Brazil.

Closer to home, we have a new addition to our Archaeology portfolio in Cyprus, along with a lovely springtime tour in the Douro valley and a stroll among the art and architecture of Antwerp. Finally we have a Tudor tale woven around the fascinating Mary Rose museum in Hampshire and a look at the contrasting architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh.

I do hope you enjoy this first look at 2025 and look forward to the pleasure of your company once again.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson
Managing Director

PS: Please keep an eye on our website as new tours and departure dates are being added all the time!



Get in touch *with an expert*

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

01334 657 133

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

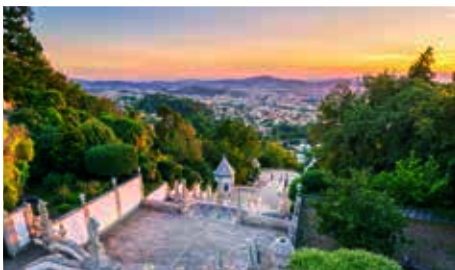
For further details, please visit our website:

www.brightwaterholidays.com

Find your perfect holiday



Explore our wonderful world



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What makes our tours special?

AWARD-WINNING HOLIDAYS

•
GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY WITH COACH TRAVEL, VISITS,
ACCOMMODATION AND MOST EVENING MEALS INCLUDED

•
OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

•
24/7 ACCESS TO UK-BASED ASSISTANCE TEAM WHILST ON TOUR

•
PERSONALISE YOUR HOLIDAYS WITH PRE- & POST-TOUR EXTENSIONS

•
UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE HOLIDAYS THAT ARE WELL PLANNED AND PERFECTLY PACED

•
EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO PRIVATE GARDENS AND VISITS

•
NO HIDDEN EXTRAS

•
NO & LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

•
FRIENDLY AND AUTHORITATIVE TOUR MANAGERS

•
WELCOMING, FRIENDLY SERVICE FROM FIRST CONTACT

•
ENJOY PEACE OF MIND WITH FINANCIAL PROTECTION



Back-to-back tours

Many of our tours can be linked together with just a night or two in between, to give you an extra special holiday experience and make the most of your time. If you book two holidays back to back we offer a discount of **£50pp** and **£100pp** for three (with a maximum of three nights in between each tour, and subject to a minimum spend of **£750pp** per tour). We can assist you with possible combinations and with additional accommodation as required.

Multi-tour discounts

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

Solos

We recognise that many of our guests are single travellers and to that end we have increased the number of holidays we offer with no single room supplement – just look for the 'NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT' flash on the tour page.

In Expert Hands: Our Tour Managers



Enjoying a holiday with Brightwater means that everything is taken care of – something that starts with our experienced Tour Managers, whose job it is to make sure everything runs smoothly from start to finish. 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.

David *Hurriion*

David has a wealth of horticultural experience and has been growing plants for more than 50 years. A former Associate Editor of BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, he has travelled all over the world to discover plants and gardens.



Richard *Baines*

Richard is Curator of Logan Botanic Garden, a specialist garden of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. He has participated in botanical expeditions around the world including China, Chile, Turkey, USA and the Canary Islands.



Kate *Williamson*

One of our most popular tour managers, largely on account of her obvious passion for Italy, her adopted country. Kate qualified as a fully certified guide, with a specialisation in the Italian Lake district.



Trevor *Edwards*

Award-Winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor is one of our most popular Tour Managers. Trevor's deep knowledge and love of horticulture along with the planning he does before any new tour speaks volumes.



Colin *Crosbie*

Colin was the Head Gardener to Her Majesty The Queen Mother and former Head Curator at RHS Garden Wisley. His extensive horticultural knowledge and good humour have established him as one of Brightwater's most popular guides.



Mike *Nelham*

Mike is the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens and one of Brightwater Holidays' most popular and well-travelled garden experts. His association with us goes back to the earliest days and he has acquired his own loyal following of guests.



Holiday Extensions

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 holidays 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 assist with 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 reasonable supplement.

Private group travel

A small group of friends, a club of 50 or anything in between we can tailor-make a tour for you! For over 30 years we have been creating memorable bespoke tours for private groups and societies. From private garden tours to historic escapes, walking holidays to grand castles and from rail tours to cruises – there is nothing we can't do!

BESPOKE PACKAGES EXCLUSIVELY FOR YOUR GROUP

•
LOCAL PICK-UP POINTS OR AIRPORTS

•
HOTEL ACCOMMODATION - 3-STAR TO 5-STAR LUXURY

•
ADMISSION TO ALL VISITS, EXCLUSIVE ACCESS AND PRIVATE GUIDED TOURS

•
SERVICES OF A SPECIALIST TOUR MANAGER, IF REQUIRED

•
FREE MARKETING MATERIALS AND ALL BOOKING AND ADMIN

•
DEDICATED GROUP TRAVEL DEPARTMENT


brightwater
tailor-made group travel



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 658 008** or emailing groups@brightwaterholidays.com to get things started. You can also visit our website for some inspiration: 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.



What our customers say

Beyond expectations, fabulous, wonderful. Would highly recommend it. A stunningly beautiful country. Wildlife/birds/plants ... wow! The sheer variety of all we did from private gardens to boat trips and a lovely, friendly group of fellow travellers.

Guest on Gardens of Costa Rica, Jan 2024

It was great. A real experience. Well planned and designed for all abilities. Northern Lights of Iceland was an excellent experience. Natural beauties of Iceland were amazing and Reykjavik is a very charming city.

Guest on Iceland Northern Lights, Feb 2024

The Itinerary was excellent and all our local guides were so knowledgeable. Altogether it was an outstanding holiday. A gold star for Brightwater Holidays!!!

Guest on Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt, Feb 2024

Overall, this is one of the most enjoyable Brightwater tours I have taken. Excellent itinerary, hotels very comfortable.

Guest on Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes, Oct 2023

We saw and learned so much about Malta and were well looked after by Corinna and local guide Julia. Cannot fault anything.

Guest on Cultural Malta, Nov 2023

A great experience and looked after superbly.

Guest on Flora and Fauna of Madagascar, Nov 2023

Really great. Colin Crosbie was exceptional. His knowledge about plants and Japanese gardens was excellent.

Guest on Seasonal Gardens of Japan, Nov 2023

Very good. The description of the tour was very accurate. The driver and guide were excellent as was the hotel.

Guest on Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds, Jan 2024

The holiday was great from start to finish. Our tour manager Trevor Edwards organised our daily excursions very well and was very entertaining.

Guest on Gardens of Barbados, Nov 2023

New Tours for 2025

Our Product team has been working tirelessly to come up with a dozen brand new tours for 2025. From our own front doorstep in Edinburgh to the distant mountains of Hokkaido, we have a selection of tours to fire the imagination and open up a whole new world of travel and holiday opportunities.

The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh

The contrast between Victorian Glasgow and Georgian Edinburgh is at the heart of this tour, although there are many other architectural eras and styles to be discovered. Visits in Edinburgh include the 500-year-old Gladstone's Land, the controversial Scottish Parliament building and the fascinating Georgian House, while in Glasgow we explore the impressive City Chambers, the humble Tenement House and the Mackintosh Willow tea room. **p20**



The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale

The raising of Henry VIII's flagship the Mary Rose was one of the most complex and expensive maritime salvage projects in history and the surviving section of the ship and thousands of recovered artefacts are of great value as a Tudor period time capsule. The museum which houses her is one of the foremost visitor attractions on the south coast and forms the centrepiece of this new tour which takes in a series of properties associated with the great Tudor age. **p26**



The Art & Architecture of Antwerp

A gem in the Flanders region of Belgium, famed for its medieval streets and Renaissance monuments, Antwerp is home to thousands of paintings by the Old Masters housed in some of the most famous museums in the world. Our tour explores some of the wonderful architecture to be found here, including the Cathedral of Our Lady and the impressive Central Station which has been voted the most beautiful in the world on several occasions. **p42**



Portugal - Route of the Almond Blossom

Take a scenic train ride through the Douro Valley and enjoy the stunning almond blossom vistas which are comparable with the more famous cherry blossoms in Japan - just a lot closer to home. We also explore the vibrant city of Porto with its colourful houses and narrow cobbled streets, visit some of the Douro Valley's notable Manor Houses including Casa Mateus and Casa do Campo and explore some of the area's fascinating gardens. **p44**



The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus

The Mediterranean Island of Cyprus has a rich Prehistoric, Classical and Medieval past. In recent years, research has shown that the earliest occupation of the island dates back over 10,000 years, and over these millennia the Cypriot people have developed their own distinctive artefacts, buildings, art and culture. Among the highlights are three UNESCO World Heritage sites, the Archaeological Park and the Tomb of the Kings at Paphos. **p50**



Gardens of Honshu and Hokkaido

Compared to our long-running Seasonal Gardens holiday, this tour takes us deeper into Japan, both in terms of the countryside and the culture. On Honshu we visit for the first time two of the gardens considered to be the top three landscape gardens in the country. Moving north to the island of Hokkaido we discover pristine wildernesses, waterfalls and thermal springs, a diverse range of wildlife and the most amazing wisteria you will ever see. **p60**



Journey through Vietnam

Richard Baines, the Curator of Logan Botanic Gardens, will guide this new venture to Vietnam. From Hanoi we head into the hill country and sample the slower pace of life, surrounded by steeped rice terraces and misty mountains. We find one of the best floral displays in the country at the Da Lat Flower Park but there will also be opportunities for some 'botanising by the side of the road' in true Brightwater style. **p62**



Gardens of Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia is unique in its natural splendour due to its volcanic origin. The soil, rich in minerals, coupled with the equatorial climate, makes it the perfect place for lush vegetation, where all manner of tropical plants flourish. We explore some of the island's most notable gardens, including the Diamond Botanical Gardens and Marantha Prayer Garden, as well as the Rabot Estate, where we learn about cocoa processing and craft our very own chocolates. **p64**



Gardens of Guadeloupe: Life in Paradise

If you have ever wondered where the popular Caribbean detective drama 'Death in Paradise' is filmed, the answer is the French island of Guadeloupe. While we will of course take the opportunity to visit some of the familiar locations from the series, this tour is more about the wonderful gardens, bewitching vistas and delightful French ambience that this butterfly-shaped island has to offer, not to mention a chance to enjoy some beautifully warm weather. **p66**



Spring Flowers of Namaqualand

Namaqualand, in South Africa's Northern Cape, is a place of rare and exquisite beauty, an unspoilt expanse of open spaces broken by outcrops of granite - and a plant lover's delight. With an intensity dependent on the winter rains, come spring the barren ground bursts into a carpet of flowers, a vast tapestry of stunningly interwoven colour. Our tour also includes coastal and mountain fynbos, succulent plants, proteas and heaths and a game drive. **p78**



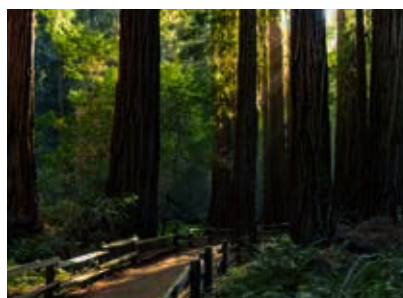
Gardens of the Hudson Valley

This corner of the USA is rife with examples of horticultural mastery that offer interest in every season. We visit in the lushness of summer where the long days and balmy weather combine and allow for meditative strolls and peaceful reflection surrounded by colourful wildflowers and spectacular views. Highlights include the traditional walled Italianate Garden of Blithewood and the sprawling Innsifree Garden designed by the landscape architect Lester Collins. **p72**



California – In the footsteps of John Muir

Mike Nelhams, Curator of the Abbey Gardens Tresco, cannot wait to lead this tour to one of his favourite parts of the world. Our unique horticultural tour starts in the San Francisco district, moves to Yosemite, comes back to Monterey and follows the coastal route down to Santa Barbara. Of course we are only scratching the surface of the Golden State, however what we have included in our full itinerary will stay with you forever. **p74**



Brazil's Gardens and Natural Wonders

While taking in the famous sights, this tour also ventures off the well-worn tourist trail of Rio de Janeiro, with guided visits to some of the private gardens designed by Roberto Burle Marx, one of the most important landscape architects of the 20th century. We then fly south to view the awesome waterfalls at Iguazu and for a thrilling conclusion to our tour we travel into the interior to explore the Pantanal, the world's largest continuous wetland area. **p76**

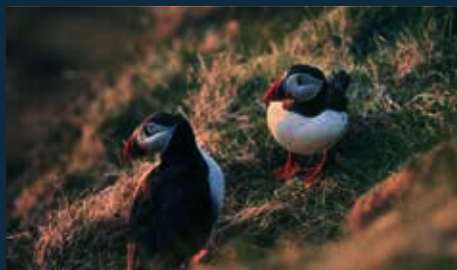


United Kingdom *and Ireland*

Glorious gardens, historic houses, 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.



Unforgettable adventures close to home





Up Helly Aa festival

5 DAYS FROM
£1,195

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

AN AIR PACKAGE IS ALSO AVAILABLE
PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Up Helly Aa - Shetland's Festival of Fire

Wander through the streets of Lerwick at the end of January and it's likely to be nothing short of a unique experience. Very large squads 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 the Up Helly Aa Festival.

Day 1 We depart from our designated departure points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar*) and travel to Aberdeen for the overnight ferry to Lerwick. (*D*)

Day 2 After breakfast on board, we disembark and set off for the northerly isles of **Yell** and **Unst**. We travel north through **Tingwall** and **Girgista** 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. We then take another ferry to Unst and enjoy the marvellous views from **Saxa Vord Hill**. We then continue to our hotel in **Scalloway**, the original capital of Shetland. (*B, D*)

Day 3 We travel to **Lerwick**, where you are free to explore at your leisure 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 (*and since 2023, women*) who choose a theme and dress up as whatever takes their fancy each year. Only one squad, a different one every year, is allowed to dress up as Vikings and are known as 'jarls', the Viking term for Earl. As darkness falls the squads begin to assemble for the torchlight parade and eventually a procession of 1,000 men snakes its way through the streets carrying aloft flaming brands of paraffin-soaked hessian and carrying the superbly crafted galley which will then be ceremoniously burned in the spectacular finale to the day's events. (*B, D*)

Day 4 We depart on a full day tour as we head to the south of Mainland Shetland, where we visit the outstanding Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlishof**, 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. We continue to **Sumburgh Head**, the southern tip of mainland Shetland, which is an **RSPB reserve** and site of a lighthouse that is still functioning remotely, but incorporates museum aspects of its earlier operation as a manned station. In season, thousands of puffins, kittiwakes and razorbills nest here, but in January they will still be out at sea. We then return to Lerwick in time for the overnight sailing back to Aberdeen. (*B, D*)

Day 5 Disembark in Aberdeen and return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

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



Jarlishof



Up Helly Aa festival



Scalloway

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: two nights at the Scalloway Hotel and two nights on the overnight ferry from Aberdeen to Shetland in a twin-berth inside cabin
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

26 - 30 Jan **£1,295** **£1,195**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£295
Outside cabin supplement	£60
Shetland Hotel Lerwick Supplement	From £150

Tour code: **BUHF**



The Jacobite steam train

4 DAYS FROM
£745

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

NO/LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

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. We also enjoy a taste of steam as we cruise aboard the newly restored SS Sir Walter Scott on the calm waters of Loch Katrine amid the spectacular scenery of the Trossachs. There are two more boat trips to enjoy as we cruise on Loch Lomond, with tales of Rob Roy MacGregor and other local legends, and take a ride on the Falkirk Wheel, the world's first rotating boat lift and a modern engineering marvel. Back on dry land we visit historic Inveraray Castle, home to the Dukes of Argyll, set in beautiful grounds on the shore of Loch Fyne. 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.

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. Once the wheel has made its ascent to join the **Union Canal** 35m above, we sail under the Antonine Wall, the Romans' most northern frontier. We continue to our hotel. (*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 coast at Mallaig. (*B, D*)

Day 3 Today we head for **Loch Lomond**, where we enjoy a cruise with commentary on this beautiful stretch of water, followed by a visit to historic **Inveraray Castle** on the shores of Loch Fyne. (*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, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*



Loch Katrine

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Stirling Highland Hotel or Arrochar 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

STIRLING HIGHLAND HOTEL

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

23 - 26 May **£925** **£875**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£160**

Tour code: **BSTH**

ARROCHAR HOTEL

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

24 - 27 Apr **£795** **£745**

8 - 11 May **£845** **£795**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£90**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APRIL

Tour code: **BSTB**



Loch Lomond



Barra Airport

5 DAYS FROM
£1,095

6 DAYS FROM
£1,495

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

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 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 main Callanish site will be closed from 1 Sept 2024 until 2025 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead), the tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gairrannan.



Kisimul Castle



St Clement's Church

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**. We will visit **Castlebay** with views of **Kisimul Castle**; watch as the plane lands on the beach which serves as the island's runway, and visit **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 Gairrannan** and **Norse Mill** at Shawbost await us today. (B, D)



Gairrannan

Day 5 We visit **Lews 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**. (B, D)

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

*Our Stornoway to Benbecula itinerary operates in reverse, with two nights in Stornoway and three nights in Benbecula. *The main Callanish site will be closed from 1 September 2024 until 2025 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead.*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Benbecula

WHAT'S INCLUDED - 5-DAY ITINERARY

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula and two nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway (one dinner and one breakfast served aboard 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

2025 - OFFER 1		
14 - 18 Apr	£1,195	£1,095

STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA

17 - 21 Aug	£1,295	£1,195
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OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement		£200
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Tour code: **BGTO**

WHAT'S INCLUDED - 6-DAY ITINERARY

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula 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

2025 - OFFER 1		
8 - 13 Jun	£1,595	£1,495
20 - 25 Jul	£1,595	£1,495

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement		£250
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Tour code: **BGTB**



Glasgow

NEW

4 DAYS FROM
£845

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh

Lying just 45 miles apart, Scotland's two largest cities enjoy a healthy rivalry and are often contrasted with each other. In terms of their architecture, Glasgow's city centre is predominantly Victorian, with vast edifices built on a grand scale to reflect its status as the 'Second City of the Empire'. In contrast, Edinburgh is most noted for its Georgian architecture, in particular the elegant terraces and wide streets of the New Town, though it also boasts a historic Old Town. Visits in Edinburgh include the 500-year-old Gladstone's Land, the controversial Scottish Parliament building and the fascinating Georgian House, while in Glasgow we have a private guided tour of the impressive City Chambers, visit the humble Tenement House and discover the city's social history at the People's Palace.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh*) and travel to central **Edinburgh**, where we begin with a tour of the **Old Town**, the historic area either side of the Royal Mile that runs from Edinburgh Castle down to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Included is a visit to **Gladstone's Land**, which has been a commercial and social hub for more than 500 years. Continuing on a short walk down the High Street, we will visit **St Giles' Cathedral**, the scene of Her Majesty The Queen's lying-in-state and later the 'Scottish Coronation' of His Majesty The King. (*D*)

Day 2 We return to Edinburgh and conclude our exploration of the Old Town with a tour of the **Scottish Parliament** building, which was built to a bold design by the Spanish architect Enric Miralles. We then walk a short distance to the official royal residence of The King when in Edinburgh, the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, where we explore the 14 historic and state apartments and the manicured gardens. In the afternoon our attention turns to the **New Town**, actually over 250 years old. After a panoramic tour taking in the principal buildings and elegant terraces we visit **The Georgian House**, restored to reflect the lives of those who lived and worked here in the late 18th and early 19th century. We continue to the **Royal Scottish Academy** and

the **National Gallery of Scotland**, whose neo-classical design helped to transform Edinburgh into the so-called 'Athens of the North', and which have now been connected by an extension. (*B, D*)

Day 3 This morning we head for **Glasgow**, which has a look and feel that is altogether different from Edinburgh. We begin with a walking tour of the **Merchant City**, one of Glasgow's oldest quarters, dating back to the 1750s. We then have a **private guided tour** of the **Glasgow City Chambers**, a grand edifice completed in 1888 as a symbol of Glasgow's wealth. We continue with a panoramic tour of the city, picking out some architectural highlights both old and new, followed by **afternoon tea** at **Mackintosh at the Willow**, the famous tea rooms on Sauchiehall Street. We conclude today at **The Tenement House**, a rare glimpse into life in Glasgow in the early 20th century. (*B, AT, D*)

Day 4 Returning to Glasgow once more, we begin with a look at **Templeton on the Green**, one of Glasgow's best-known landmarks and the adjacent **People's Palace**, Glasgow's social history museum. Our final visit is to the **Riverside Museum**, built to a striking design by internationally renowned architect, Dame Zaha Hadid. Following our visit we return to our original pick-up points. (*B*)

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



Edinburgh

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

28 - 31 Mar **£895** **£845**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BAGE**



Smoo Cave

4 DAYS FROM
£645

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 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 **Lairg**, 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*



Suilven



Assynt

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

2025 - OFFER 1		
18 - 21 Mar	£695	£645
8 - 11 Apr	£725	£675

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£120**

Tour code: **BXNW**



Kelvingrove Museum

4 DAYS FROM
£645

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.



Holmwood House

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 cheekily crowned 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 **Burrell Collection** which, following an ambitious and far-reaching refurbishment programme, was voted **Art Fund Museum of the Year** in 2023. 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*



Gallery of Modern Art

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Best Western 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

2025 - OFFER 1

21 - 24 Mar **£695** **£645**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BGAT**



Snowdrops

4 DAYS FROM
£695

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

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, 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 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*



Museum in the Park



Galanthus 'Atkinsii'



Painswick

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

7 - 10 Feb **£745** **£695**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BSNC**



Lost Gardens of Heligan

4 DAYS FROM
£695

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

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 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 bookended 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, Bristol*) and travel to **Knightshayes Court**, whose celebrated garden features a water lily pool, topiary, specimen trees,



Knightshayes Court

rare shrubs, seasonal colour and an impressive Victorian kitchen garden. We 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*)

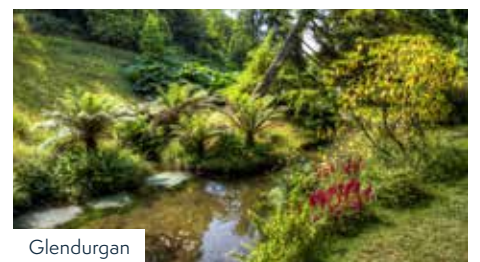
Day 3 Following breakfast we depart for a visit to **Trebah**, a wild and colourful Cornish garden with something for everyone. We then continue to **Glendurgan**, a place of great beauty and tranquillity. At this time of year we can expect outstanding spring displays of magnolias and camellias. Look 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*



Eden Project



Glendurgan

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

17 - 20 Mar **£745** **£695**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£150**

Tour code: **BSGC**



Laugharne

5 DAYS FROM
£1,195

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

TOUR MANAGER
TONY RUSSELL

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 meticulously restored. 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 **Tredegar House** and explore the gardens, which comprise a wild and colourful orchard garden, a formal garden framed by herbaceous borders and an intricate parterre filled with colourful minerals, reflecting how this garden might have looked over 200 years ago. *(B)*

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



Aberglasney

YOUR TOUR MANAGER **TONY RUSSELL**

As 'Our Man in Wales' Tony designed this 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
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

11 - 15 Apr **£1,295** **£1,195**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£295**

Tour code: **BGSW**



Mary Rose ©

NEW

4 DAYS FROM
£845

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale

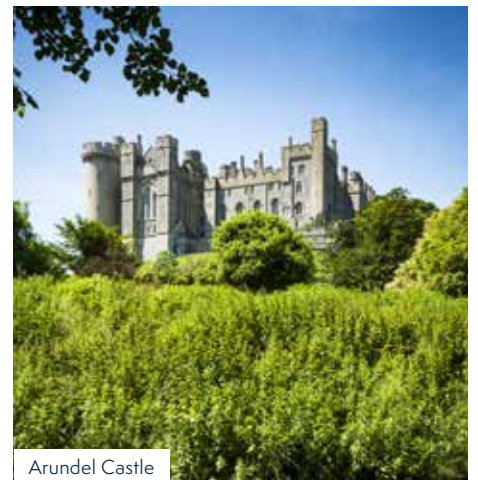
The raising of Henry VIII's flagship the Mary Rose was one of the most complex and expensive maritime salvage projects in history and the surviving section of the ship and thousands of recovered artefacts are of great value as a Tudor period time capsule. Today the museum which houses her, rebuilt in 2013, is one of the foremost visitor attractions on the south coast and forms the centrepiece of this new tour which takes in a series of properties associated with the great Tudor age.

We begin at Hampton Court Palace, which became one of Henry VIII's most favoured residences and is home to the last medieval great hall built for the English monarchy. We then visit the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth, home to the Mary Rose Museum, where we have a private talk on how the life of the Mary Rose and the tumultuous reign of King Henry VIII were intertwined, followed by a guided tour of the museum. In the afternoon we visit the Tudor House and Garden in Southampton. We take a trip along the south coast with visits to Henry VIII's fourth wife Anne of Cleve's house in Lewes; Arundel Castle and its distinguished Tudor connections and the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. Finally we visit the great 16th century 'powerhouse' The Wyne, completing our Tudor tale.

Day 1 We depart by coach from our central London pick-up point and head for a visit to **Hampton Court Palace**. The building of the palace began in 1514 for Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the chief minister of Henry VIII. In 1529, as Wolsey fell from favour, the cardinal gave the palace to the king to check his disgrace. The palace went on to become one of Henry's most favoured residences; soon after acquiring the property, he arranged for it to be enlarged so it could accommodate his sizeable

retinue of courtiers. In later years it was much extended, in various architectural styles, but at its heart it remains Tudor, and symbolic of the enormous power that dynasty wielded. We continue to our hotel in Winchester. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast we head for Portsmouth for a visit to the **Historic Dockyard**, home to the **Mary Rose**. Built between 1510-1511 she was for many years Henry VIII's favourite warship, fast, well-armed



Arundel Castle

and successful. She sank, not on her maiden voyage as Blue Peter presenter Sarah Greene mistakenly informed the nation, but on a fine summer day in 1545 as she sailed into action against the French fleet, with Henry VIII watching aghast from Southsea Castle. The raising of the Mary Rose and her subsequent restoration was a remarkable achievement, while the collection of some 19,700 genuine Tudor artefacts is unparalleled and provides an invaluable insight into 16th century life. Our visit begins with an **exclusive one-hour talk** on the relationship between Henry VIII and the Mary Rose. One of the first things Henry did as King was order the ship and she sank two years before his death in 1545. We will discover how the life of the Mary Rose and the tumultuous reign of King Henry VIII were intertwined throughout that time. We then enjoy a **live tour** of the museum by a knowledgeable member of the Mary Rose team, who will provide us



Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

with a unique insight into some of the most interesting items in the collection. Our afternoon visit takes us to Southampton and the **Tudor House and Garden**. This Grade 1 listed half-timbered building dates to Norman times and was established as Southampton's first museum in 1912. In the 16th century it was extended and developed by Sir John Dawtrey, a major landowner, MP and Sheriff. He received large sums of money from Henry VIII to supply food for the navy and to help in the defences of the town. Money was also provided for the building, fitting out and provisioning of ships – including The Mary Rose. The house is home to an eclectic range of artefacts covering 800 years of history, while the garden is a recreation of a Tudor knot garden. We return to our hotel. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning we head east along the south coast to the Sussex town of Lewes where we find **Anne of Cleve's House**. This stunning timber framed medieval house was given to Anne, the

fourth wife of Henry VIII, at the end of her short-lived marriage, although she never lived there. Nevertheless, it provides great insight into the Tudor period with well-preserved interiors including a Tudor kitchen, a light and airy parlour and a beautiful bedroom complete with four poster bed. Next we visit **Arundel Castle**. It has been home to the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors since its founding in the 11th century. In the Tudor period these included Lord Howard of Effingham, the Earl of Surrey and the 3rd Duke of Norfolk, uncle of Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. Later this afternoon we visit the **Weald & Downland Open Air Museum** which is set in 50 acres of beautiful Sussex countryside. Exhibits include a Tudor kitchen and Tudor Market Hall; a majestic timber framed farmhouse from Kent; a medieval shop and carpenters, plumbers and brickmakers workshops. If the Court Barn looks familiar, you've probably seen it on the BBC's The Repair Shop. We return to the hotel in time for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning we depart for home but en-route we still have time for one final visit, **The Wyne**, near Basingstoke. Originally built as a great Tudor 'power house', The Wyne was visited by Henry VIII on at least three occasions and was later home to the Chute family for more than 350 years. Dramatic improvements and changes have made The Wyne a fascinating microcosm of changing fads and fashions over five centuries. The attractive gardens and grounds feature an ornamental lake, one of the earliest summerhouses in England and woodland walks. Lunch is available here (*not included*). Following our visit we head for our original pick up point. (B)

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



Hampton Court Palace

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

28 - 31 March **£895** **£845**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BMRT**



Highgrove ©Robert Smith

4 DAYS FROM
£895

SAVE PER PERSON
£50

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 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. Following our tour we enjoy lunch in The Orchard Room, an elegant dining room overlooking the Orchard Terrace. In the afternoon we visit **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, L, 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
- ▶ Lunch at Highgrove
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
30 May - 2 Jun	£945	£895
27 - 30 Jun	£945	£895

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£195**

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 2025.

Tour code: **BHGC**



Tresco

5 DAYS FROM
£1,195

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 created 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 Head of Gardens Alasdair Moore, where we also hope to have 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. 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 hope to 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**. After **lunch** here 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. Blessed with the optimum microclimate for growing tea, Tregothnan produces some of the world's rarest and highest rated teas and new varieties are tested all the time. There will of course be an opportunity to taste and buy some of the teas produced here. (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

2025 - OFFER 1		
24 - 28 Mar	£2,095	£1,195
15 - 19 Apr	£2,145	£2,045

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£295
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Tour code: **BCMN**

Europe

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.



Holidays just a short hop away





MS Botticelli ©CroisiEurope

8 DAYS FROM
£2,795

SAVE PER PERSON
£200

TOUR MANAGER
TREVOR EDWARDS

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 almost 100 years after his death.

Other garden highlights include Château de Miromesnil, which represents four centuries of harmonious architectural styles, 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)



Rouen

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, **Château de Miromesnil**, which represents four centuries of harmonious architectural styles including a rare example of Louis XIII monumental style. Of particular interest will be the kitchen garden which



Château de Canon

was restored forty years ago by the Comtesse de Vogüé, grandmother of the present owners. We continue to the nearby garden of **Le Vasterival**. In 1957 Princess Sturdza, 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 Sturdza 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, PL, 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'Évêque 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, PL, D)



Les Andelys

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. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, PL: Packed Lunch, D: Dinner

THREE-DAY PARIS EXTENSION FROM £495pp

Why not extend your holiday with a two-night stay at a 4-star centrally located hotel including breakfast and station transfers giving you the freedom to explore more of the city at your own pace.

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 a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

23 - 30 May

Main deck **£2,995** **£2,795**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Upper Deck Supplement **£225**

Single Supplement **£595**

Tour code: **BSEI**



Keukenhof Gardens

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. We begin in the Belgian city of Antwerp with a visit to the newly refurbished reception centre, library and Baroque gardens at Rubens House, before enjoying a visit to the Botanic Gardens. We then embark on our cruise to Rotterdam, via a succession of waterways and sheltered inlets off the North Sea. 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, from where we visit De Haar Castle and Kasteel Museum Sypsteyn, both surrounded by splendid gardens. 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 welcome 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 International to Antwerp, where we visit **Rubens House** and its newly revamped reception building and library, along with the Baroque gardens, filled with over 17,000 plants, followed by a visit to 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 in Amsterdam and visit 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, followed by some free time to explore **Amsterdam**. In the afternoon, we catch the train from Amsterdam Centraal railway station to London St Pancras International. (B)

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



Amsterdam

THREE-DAY AMSTERDAM EXTENSION FROM £465pp

Why not extend your holiday with a two-night stay at a 4-star centrally located hotel including breakfasts, station 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 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 (first class upgrades and regional connections also available on request)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

14 - 18 Apr **£1,595** **£1,495**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£395
Middle Deck Supplement	£100
Upper Deck Supplement	£130
Optional Excursion: Amsterdam canal cruise	On request

Tour code: BCDB



Jardín de Cactus, Lanzarote

8 DAYS FROM
£3,995

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
TREVOR EDWARDS

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 depart 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 **on board 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 Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

1 - 8 Feb

Deck 3	£4,295	£3,995
Deck 4	£4,725	£4,425
Deck 5	£5,155	£4,855
Panorama	£5,585	£5,285
Riviera	£6,075	£5,775
Ocean	£6,395	£6,095

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	from £1,495
Optional Excursions:	
La Gomera	£65
Las Palmas/Bandama	£55
Teror/Garden	£65
Fuerteventura	£50

Tour code: **BGCI**



Villa Giulia

8 DAYS FROM
£2,395

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO
£200

TOUR MANAGER
TREVOR EDWARDS*

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, with a strong emphasis on gardens, which is what sets this holiday apart from other Sicilian offerings.

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 Aroma 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

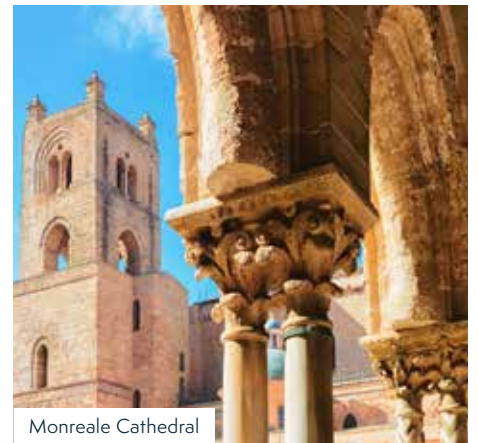
abundance of fresh herbs and devotion. Free time in **Ragusa** follows. (B, L, D)

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



Monreale Cathedral

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' dinner including wine, 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 (*Trevor Edwards in May) and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

18 - 25 Mar	£2,495	£2,395
13 - 20 May*	£2,695	£2,495

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£395
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Tour code: **BSIC**



Isola Bella

8 DAYS FROM
£2,495

SAVE PER PERSON
£200

TOUR MANAGER
KATE WILLIAMSON

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 lush gardens and colourful blooms to be seen throughout the year. 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, where we also enjoy a delightful lunch. 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 Villa Taranto, with its rare botanical species, and a little-known private garden set on the hillside above Lake Orta. Monumental trees and seasonal blooms 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 **Lake Orta** and take a boat trip to the tiny island of **San Giulio**, followed by a visit to a little-known **private garden**. (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**, with its narrow cobbled streets and pretty harbour, and **Isola Madre**, which in contrast to Isola Bella has a simple, unspoilt aspect. (B, D)

Day 4 Tour the private garden of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**, home to a remarkable collection of camellias, with over 500 plants and 318 cultivars. The garden is, of course, in full bloom in spring and provides the perfect setting for a delightful and relaxed lunch. (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 the flowering changes throughout the year. The house itself has its own story to tell, full of neo-classical art treasures including paintings by Hayez and sculptures by Canova. (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



Isola Madre

YOUR TOUR MANAGER KATE WILLIAMSON

Kate enjoys nothing more than showing off the wonderful gardens of her adopted country, and has a fantastic store of local knowledge.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Hotel Milan Speranza Au Lac, Lake Maggiore and three nights (with wine) at the 4-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior, Lake Como
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Milan
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
26 Mar - 2 Apr	£2,695	£2,495
7 - 14 May	£2,895	£2,695

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£495
Lake View Supplement	On request

Tour code: **BLSG**



Gardens of Ninfa

4 DAYS FROM
£1,695

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. **Rome** has a justified claim as one of the world's greatest cities, combining the magnificence of the Renaissance with the vibrancy and excitement of a thriving city. We see the **Colosseum, St. Peter's Square and Basilica** and the **Spanish Steps**. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast we head to **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." This study in geometry and symmetry dates back to 1568 when it was designed for Cardinal Gianfrancesco Gambara by the architect Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola. The dominant theme is water, and in front of the palazzine is a central water parterre, which is a classic example of late Renaissance or mannerist style. A later addition is the ornate French-style parterre de broderie, with intricate shapes in clipped box set against a ground cover of reddish gravel. (B)

Day 3 The gardens of **Castel Gandolfo** await discovery this morning, the traditional papal residence outside of Rome. In the afternoon, we visit **Ninfa** – named after a mythical nymph and with a curious history. The garden is now deemed by many to be the most beautiful garden in Europe, though for hundreds of years the site lay deserted due to malaria. After the mosquito hazard was removed in 1922, the Duchess of Sermoneta and her son Prince Caetani began to lay out a romantic garden among the village ruins. At least 10,000 plants were collected and planting has continued ever since, giving Ninfa an entrancing beauty. (B)

Day 4 This morning we visit **Villa d'Este** in Tivoli, the 16th century gardens known for their use of water. From the upper terrace, the valley seems to be full of sparkling spray and the senses are confused by the continual sound of cascading water. Amble along the Path of One Hundred Fountains to the remains of the miniature Rometta. Later, we transfer to Rome airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Villa d'Este

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' bed & breakfast at the 3-star centrally located Albergo Santa Chiara Hotel in Rome
- ▶ Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- ▶ Return flights from London to Rome
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

13 - 16 May **£1,795** **£1,695**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£420**

Tour code: **BRNI**



Villa Pisani

8 DAYS FROM
£2,095

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

TOUR MANAGER
KATE WILLIAMSON

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 on our tour. The first on our list is one of the most recognisable buildings of the Renaissance - the palladian masterpiece, Villa Rotonda. The UNESCO World Heritage Site was designed for elegant entertainment and is definitely one for art lovers as it is lavishly decorated with stucco and frescoes.

A short walk along a leafy lane takes us to an outstanding architectural and artistic site, the Villa Valmarana. With members of the aristocratic Valmarana family giving us personal tours and hosting dinner, this is a unique experience.

It's easy to get lost in the beauty of Villa Barbarigo at Valsanzibio. The exceptional Baroque gardens have been described as some of the most entertaining gardens in Italy. Amongst our visits to the remaining villas, we also enjoy the beautiful little town of Asolo - "The City of a Hundred Horizons". Our farewell dinner is a special affair, hosted by yet another member of the old Italian nobility, the Godi Malinverni family.

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. From here, we transfer to our hotel. (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 dovecote and the well, the walk through the hornbeam and the 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 fountains. 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** (Botanic Garden) followed by the **Scrovegni Chapel**, with its exquisite Giotto frescoes, before we transfer to Venice airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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



Villa Rotonda



Asolo

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
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

20 - 24 May **£2,195** **£2,095**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement

£195

Tour code: **BVEN**



Alfabia

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 spring 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; visit the unique prehistoric necropolis of Son Real and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Soller, a heritage train also known as the Orange Blossom Express, that runs through spectacular mountain scenery.

Day 1 We depart from London on a flight to **Palma** and on arrival transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Our day starts at the gardens of **Raixa**, once part of a Moorish estate. The garden is divided into seven terraces with parterres, pergolas, fountains and loggias, and a semi-circular belvedere, which offers a fine view over the valley towards Palma. From here, we take a tour of the garden of **Son Marroig**, which is arranged in a series of attractive terraces and the dramatic views of the rocky coastline make this garden memorable. Later, we take a ride on the vintage narrow gauge train, known as the **Orange Blossom Express** that runs along a highly scenic route from Soller to Palma. (B, D)

Day 3 We visit the **Jardines de Alfabia**, which date back to the 14th and 15th centuries. Young chusan palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) contrast with more substantial mature date palms; there are also bougainvillea-covered pergolas, flowers cascading over stone terraces and vistas of olive trees. Later, we visit the monastery of **Real Cartuja de Valldemosa** with its green bell tower. (B, D)

Day 4 Today we tour the city of **Palma**. Visits here include the **Gothic cathedral**, the former royal residence **Palacio de la Almudaina** and the adjacent **S'Hort del Rei** and the **Castell de Belver**, a heavily fortified Gothic castle that is now the city's museum. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we transfer to the unique necropolis of **Son Real**, the largest prehistoric cemetery in the Balearic Islands, dating back over 2,500 years. After lunch in the former capital of the island, **Alcudia**, we transfer to the **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca**, which showcases a collection of modern art exhibitions with surrounding beautiful gardens linking art, nature and architecture, to promote cultural development and respect for the natural environment. The gardens boast a sculpture park and medieval walled garden with more than 100 varieties of old English roses. (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



Necropolis of Son Real



Garden at Son Marroig

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel THB Maria Isabel, Playa de Palma, plus one lunch
- ▶ 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

2025 - OFFER 1		
18 - 23 Mar	£1,595	£1,495
22 - 27 Apr	£1,995	£1,895

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£395**

Tour code: **BMCA**



Generalife gardens at Alhambra

8 DAYS FROM
£1,995

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

Gardens and Architecture of Andalusia

Andalusia is unrivalled in Europe for its wealth of history, culture, Moorish architecture and gardens – as both Michael Portillo and Monty Don have revealed to us recently. 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 the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos with its characteristic terraced pools. Our tour then takes us to the beautiful city of Seville, where we visit the Cathedral and the Orange Tree Courtyard that belonged to the old mosque; the amazing Royal Palaces of the Alcázar; the Patio de la Ysería, the Old Jewish Quarter of Santa Cruz and some of its beautiful courtyards; the Maria-Luisa Park, the Plaza de España and the Gardens of Murillo.

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

Day 2 Visit the **Alhambra Palace** and **Generalife Gardens**. The Alhambra has one of the most spectacular sites in the world. Alhambra means “red castle”, and the buildings are of a seductive pink stone and were built in the 14th Century. We will also visit the gardens of The Generalife which was the summer palace of the Sultans of Granada in the 14th Century. 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. After lunch (not included) we will have some free time to

discover the charms and attractions of this most Spanish of towns. (B, D)

Day 5 Enjoy a guided tour of **Seville** including the **Plaza de España**, **Gardens of Murillo** planted in honour of the famous painter from Seville, the **Cathedral**, Seville’s **Orange Tree Courtyard** and the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar**. The Alcázar is a magnificent palace which mixes Christian and Moorish styles and has several patios and salons all of which are grand and very highly decorated. After the wonder of the palace it is refreshing to walk through the beautiful gardens made up of a mixture of several eras. (B)

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

Day 7 We visit **Ronda**, a spectacular town rising above the gorge of the River Tajo. Here we visit the **Alameda del Tajo Gardens**, with spectacular views over the gorge, and the **Palacio de Mondragon**, with its ancient Moorish courtyards and gardens. (B, D)

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Great Mosque of Cordoba

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

2025 - OFFER 1		
12 - 19 May	£2,095	£1,995
8 - 15 Sep	£2,095	£1,995

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£395
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Tour code: **BANG**



Centraal Station

NEW

5 DAYS FROM
£1,295

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

The Art & Architecture of Antwerp

A gem in the Flanders region of Belgium, famed for its medieval streets and renaissance monuments, Antwerp is home to thousands of paintings by the Old Masters, housed in some of the most famous museums in the world. Our tour explores some of the wonderful architecture to be found in the city, including the Cathedral of Our Lady which is still unfinished although construction began in 1351, and the impressive Centraal Station which has been voted the most beautiful in the world on several occasions. We are joined by expert local guides as they take us through the notable art collections of some of Antwerp's best museums, including the KMSKA – Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Snijders & Rockox Huis and the Plantin-Moretus Museum. We also have a visit to the newly re-opened Rubens House Experience and Gardens.

Day 1 We depart London St Pancras International on the morning Eurostar service to Brussels with onward connection to Antwerp. On arrival we transfer to our hotel. (D).

Day 2 After breakfast, we head into the historic heart of Antwerp on an introductory walking tour. We will join our local guide for a visit to the **Antwerpen-Centraal Station**. With a combination of stonework, a Pantheon-inspired cupola and a steel structure covering the tracks, the station is now one of the most impressive in Europe. From here we head to the **Saint James Church**, one of the largest in the city and home to the burial chapel of the painter Rubens. Other highlights of the tour include the **Steen**, a medieval fortress, along with the beautiful **town hall** and **guild houses**. Finally, we head along the charming **Vlaaikengang**, a medieval street filled with antique shops and art galleries, before visiting the **Cathedral of Our Lady** where an experienced guide will take us on a tour of the Cathedral, home to beautiful statues and masterpieces by Peter-Paul Rubens. We conclude this afternoon with a visit to the **Diamond Quarter**, several square blocks covering an area of around a square mile, home to a host of diamond cutters and traders, known as diamantaires. (B)

Day 3 Today after breakfast we visit the **KMSKA – Royal Museum of Fine Arts**. After a **guided tour** through the collections we have time to discover works by numerous Flemish masters. This afternoon we have a guided tour at **Snijders & Rockox Huis**, housed in two former townhouses, which showcase a collection of 16th and 17th century art, including works by Rubens, Jordæns and Van Dyck, and many other treasures. (B)

Day 4 This morning we depart for the **Rubens Experience Centre and Gardens**. The new building is due to open in June 2024 and delves deeper into Rubens' life and work, with interactive displays, multimedia presentations, and even a reconstructed version of his studio. This afternoon we visit the **Plantin-Moretus Museum**, the original residence and workplace of the Plantin and Moretus publishing house. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning we enjoy an 'Art Nouveau along the railway' walking tour and discover the hidden gems of the frivolous architectural style located either side of the Antwerp – Mechlen railway line. We later depart Antwerp by rail, connecting to the Eurostar service returning to London St Pancras in the early evening. (B)

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



Cathedral of Our Lady

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star Mercure Antwerp (or similar)
- ▶ Two dinners
- ▶ Return Eurostar from London to Brussels and onwards rail to Antwerp (first class upgrades and regional connections also available on request)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager plus expert local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

27 - 31 Mar **£1,395** **£1,295**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BANT**



Santiago de Compostela

6 DAYS FROM
£1,395

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

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 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 Mariñan** 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 return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Camellia

**YOUR TOUR MANAGER
TONY RUSSELL**

Tony is looking forward to returning to one of his favourite corners of Spain



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Five nights' hotel accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis, plus three dinners with wine; two nights at the 4-star Eurostars Ciudad de La Coruña; two nights at the 4-star Eurostars Grand Hotel, Santiago de Compostela; one night at the 4-star Eurostars de Vigo (or similar)
- ▶ Return flights from London to La Coruña
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

12 - 17 Mar **£1,495** **£1,395**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£195**

Tour code: **BCGG**



Almond trees, Douro Valley

NEW

8 DAYS FROM
£2,395

SAVE PER PERSON
£200

TOUR MANAGER
TREVOR EDWARDS

Portugal - Route of the Almond Blossom

This new tour travels through the Douro Valley taking in the stunning almond blossom vistas which are comparable with the more famous cherry blossoms in Japan - but a lot closer to home. Spend some time exploring the vibrant city of Porto with its UNESCO World Heritage Centre - the Ribeira district is home to colourful houses, narrow cobbled streets and a surfeit of Portuguese charm. Departing from the city we enjoy a scenic train ride through the Douro Valley with its spectacular vistas and ranks of flowering almond trees. Our destination is Vila Nova de Foz Côa, whose almond trees bloom with delicate pink and white flowers, a magnificent sight to behold. We also visit some of the Douro Valley's notable Manor Houses including Casa Mateus and Casa do Campo as well as some of the area's fascinating gardens.

Day 1 We depart from London and upon arrival in **Porto** we enjoy a **city tour** of this, the capital of northern Portugal. The **Ribeira** area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with charming narrow streets, old churches and buildings and views over the Douro River. The city is famous for its iconic **Dom Luís I Bridge**, which connects Porto to Vila Nova de Gaia, where many of the Port wine cellars are located. We explore the city's many landmarks, such as **Porto Cathedral**, the **Clérigos Tower** and the **Lello Bookshop**. To conclude we will visit the **Crystal Palace Gardens** which are one of the main attractions in the city. From the top of the gardens, we enjoy a breathtaking panoramic view of the River Douro, the Dom Luís I Bridge and the city of Porto, making the place even more enchanting. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the old **Quinta da Arcadia**, bought in 1839 by João Allen, the British consul in Porto and an art collector. The gardens have several interesting features such as the lake, the woodland area, the greenhouse, the Swan Garden, several specimens of camellias and a formal garden. This afternoon there is time to spend at leisure further exploring Porto or perhaps you may wish to join our optional tile painting experience. (B)

Day 3 Today after breakfast, we leave Porto behind, heading in the direction of **Vila Nova de Foz Côa**, a small town located in the north of Portugal, known for its stunning landscape and historical significance and, at this time of year, its almond trees with their masses of delicate white and pink flowers, creating a breathtaking spectacle. During the almond blossom



Ribeira district

season, the streets are filled with festivities and events to celebrate this natural wonder. After lunch in a local restaurant, we visit **Barca d'Alva** to view the blossom before heading back to our hotel. (B, L)

Day 4 Today we visit **Casa de Mateus**, which was completed in 1744 but is a symbol of a much older history, a time machine that allows us to travel through the last five hundred years of the history of Portugal and the wider world. After lunch we visit **Casa do Campo**, reputedly home to Portugal's oldest camellia tree, around 250 years old. The garden, regarded as one of the most artistic in the region, is crossed by a graceful set of paths of boxwood and trimmed camellias that transport us to different environments, surrounded by parasols, arches and camellia domes. (B, L)



Bom Jesus do Monte Sanctuary

Day 5 After breakfast we head to the **Bom Jesus do Monte Sanctuary** which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its stunning architecture, beautiful gardens and religious significance. The sanctuary is situated on top of a hill, which offers panoramic views of the surrounding area. There is also a delightful landscaped garden, with fountains, statues and quiet footpaths. In the afternoon we head to the **Biscainhos House Museum**. The rich heritage of the Casa dos Biscainhos Gardens was reinforced in 2020 when the Portuguese Historic Gardens Association awarded it the Historic Garden Quality Seal, raising its status and making it part of the "Baixo Minho Historic Gardens Route". (B)

Day 6 After breakfast, in the heart of the Vinho Verde region, we discover the magical **Quinta da Aveleda**. Among the trees are rare species of centenary trees (i.e. more than 100 years old), such as the Japanese cedar, the marsh cypress or the American sequoia, while a vast array of camellias lends a luxuriant gradient from pink to red. We continue to **Guimarães**, located 50 kilometres north-east of Porto and a UNESCO World Heritage

Site. Here, we explore narrow medieval streets, picturesque squares and ancient buildings, such as the Castle of Guimarães and the Ducal Palace. The city also has several churches and chapels, including the Church of São Miguel do Castelo and the Church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira. We have some free time to explore at leisure before reconvening to head to our last visit of the day, the **Flavius camellia nursery**, home to more than 2,300 varieties and strains of camellia. It presents a vast collection of Portuguese camellias, an enormous variety of japonicas, sasanquas and hybrids and also the largest collection of camellias reticulatas in the country. The most important strains in the nursery are the *Camellia changii*, the *Camellia amplexicaulis* and the *Camellia chrysantha*. (B)

Day 7 We start our day visiting the **Santa Bárbara Garden** in Braga, one of the oldest gardens in the city, with a history dating back to the 18th century. The garden's highlight is a central fountain in Baroque style, which is one of the most photographed sights in the city. We later return to Porto. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Porto airport for our return flight to London. (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' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Hotel Vila Gale Porto, one night at the Quinta de Terrincha, three nights at the 4-star Vila Gale Collection Hotel Braga
- ▶ Return flights from London to Porto
- ▶ Welcome and farewell dinner
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

12 - 19 Mar ~~£2,595~~ £2,395

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement £395

Optional Excursion:
Tile Painting £45

Tour code: **BALM**



Guimarães



Menton Lemon Festival parade

6 DAYS FROM
£1,895

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 the International Rose Festival in Grasse takes the place of the Lemon Festival.

Day 1 We depart from London on a flight 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 conclude in the glamorous surroundings of **Monte Carlo**, playground of the rich and famous. Here we will enjoy a walk through some of the charming public parks and gardens that bring splashes of colour and open space to the tightly packed urban landscape. Later, we transfer to Nice airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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



Monte Carlo



Jardin Exotique d'Èze

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

2025 - OFFER 1

Menton Lemon Festival

13 - 18 Feb **£1,995** **£1,895**

Single Supplement **£325**

International Rose Festival

8 - 13 May **£2,395** **£2,295**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£585**

Tour code: **BLEM**



Botanical Garden Monte

8 DAYS FROM
£2,395

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

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 boast 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 **Jasmine 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)

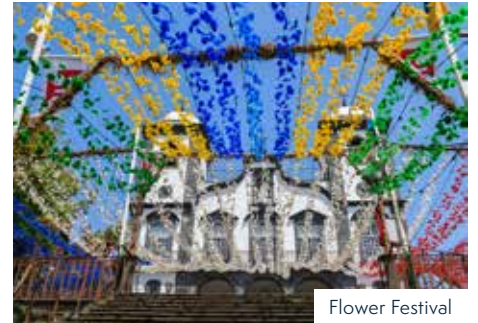
Day 5 Today is at leisure to relax in the hotel or explore on your own. Alternatively join us on an **optional full day tour** of the island, with lunch. Highlights include the picturesque villages of **Camara de Lobos**, made famous by Sir Winston Churchill in 1950 when he painted here, **Porto Moniz**, 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



Flower Festival



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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
1 - 8 May*	£2,495	£2,395

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£395
Optional Excursion: Island tour	£95

*Includes Madeira Flower Festival

Tour code: **BGMD**



Mouse Island

5 DAYS FROM
£1,695

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

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 over two days as we visit some of her family's favourite places in Corfu. We also enjoy a walking tour of historic Corfu town and a visit to the Achilleion Museum, which is filled with statues and other mementoes of its former royal owners.

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**, taking in the Spianada Square and the 16th-century St Spyridon Church, one of the island's iconic sights. (D)

Day 2 We start today with a visit to one of Corfu's must-see destinations, the **Achilleion Museum**, which is filled with statues and other mementoes of its former royal owners: Empress Elisabeth of Austria and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. Along with our local guide, **Lee Durrell** will join us today and accompany us as we follow in the footsteps of the Durrells, first by taking a trip to **Pontikonisi**, or Mouse Island, a place that Gerald and his sister Margo both loved to visit, and where Gerald Durrell's ashes are scattered. This evening Lee 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 childhood, his books and the TV series, beginning at 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. 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 picturesque village of **Perithia**, the oldest on the island, dating back to the 14th century. We will enjoy **lunch** featuring local specialities in one of the tavernas and later meet a local bee keeper with an opportunity to buy some delicious wild 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



Lee Durrell

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 £280 per person (single supplement £115 per person), including airport transfers and breakfast.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 5-star Corfu Holiday Palace
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Return flights from London to Corfu
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ 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

2025 - OFFER 1

6 - 10 May **£1,795** **£1,695**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£225**

Tour code: **BCFU**



Menara Garden

5 DAYS FROM
£1,695

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



Gardens of Anima

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**, a renowned garden designer. *(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 visit **Le Jardin Secret**, designed by Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith, and the **artisan quarter**, before 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 Marrakech airport for our return flight to London. *(B)*

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



El Bahia Palace detail



La Majorelle Garden

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

2025 - OFFER 1

2 - 6 Apr **£1,795** **£1,695**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£400**

Tour code: **BMRK**



Tomb of the Kings

NEW

8 DAYS FROM
£1,995

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus

The Mediterranean Island of Cyprus has a rich Prehistoric, Classical and Medieval past. In recent years research has shown that the earliest occupation of the island dates back over 10,000 years, and over these millennia the Cypriot people have developed their own distinctive artefacts, buildings, art and culture. At this time of year, Cyprus lends itself perfectly as an escape from the cooler weather at home, while providing the opportunity to explore the sites in the comfort of mild spring weather rather than the heat of the summer.

Among the highlights are three UNESCO World Heritage sites, Khirokitia and the Archaeological Park and Tomb of the Kings at Paphos, along with a host of other fascinating sites, including the very spot where the newborn goddess Aphrodite came ashore in her shell, a popular subject for classical painters.

Day 1 We depart from London to Cyprus and upon our arrival we transfer to our hotel in **Limassol**. A welcome dinner at a local restaurant is included. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for the site of **Khirokitia**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This exceptionally well-preserved Neolithic walled village is home to over 60 stone round houses. Following this we visit the village of **Kalavassos**, situated on the west bank of the Vasiliko River. Here the settlement of **Tenta** is of special interest, an aceramic Neolithic settlement that dates back to 7000 BC and is one of the most significant sites on the island. According to local tradition its name dates to 327 AD when St. Helen – mother of

Constantine the Great stayed in a tent (*tenta*) at this location during her visit to the island following the discovery of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem. Our last visit of the day is to the **Amathous Archaeological Site**, which has yielded some interesting finds such as the Agora, public baths, the Temple of Aphrodite, early Christian Basilicas and several tombs. (B)

Day 3 Today we have a full day discovering the Cypriot capital of **Nicosia**. A settlement since the Bronze Age, the city has been continuously inhabited for almost 5,000 years. We have a visit to the **Cyprus Archaeological Museum** which is home to the world's most extensive collection of



Kato Paphos

Cypriot archaeology. We have **lunch** in a local taverna with wine included, followed by some free time to explore the old town, including the well-preserved Venetian walls, built in an attempt to defend the city from the Ottoman invasion. There is also the chance to cross the border into Turkish Cyprus at the Ledra check point. (B, L)

Day 4 Today is yours to spend at leisure. (B)

Day 5 After breakfast we check out of our hotel and head to our first visit of the day, the **Kourion Archaeological site** which is one of Cyprus's most important city-kingdoms from antiquity. Built on a hillside, overlooking the valley of the River Kouris, the site has revealed evidence that suggested the inhabitants of Kourion believed they were descendants of Argean immigrants. This once thriving kingdom was decimated in a severe earthquake in 365 AD. The centrepiece of the site is the impressive Greco-Roman theatre that was built in the 2nd century BC and further extended during the 2nd century AD. Other remains include the private villa 'House of Eustolios' where we can see the remains of 5th century mosaic floors and a bathing complex. More impressive mosaic floors can be found in the 'House of Achilles' and the 'House of the Gladiators' – named after the images



Aphrodite's Rock

depicted in the mosaics. Our next visit is to the **Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates** (*God of the Woodland*). The sanctuary was built around 100 AD and was one of the most important religious centres in Cyprus. The final stop of the day is **Aphrodite's Rock**, the goddess's mythical birthplace. According to legend the Greek Goddess of Love and Beauty (*known to the Romans as Venus*), was born from the sea foam here and was escorted on a shell to the beach, an iconic scene frequently depicted in Western art. We later head to our hotel in Paphos where the evening is at leisure. *(B)*

Day 6 Today we have a long but rewarding day. Our first visit after breakfast is the **Archaeological Park** at Kato Pafos (*Paphos*), which has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1980. Here we discover sites and monuments from the 4th century through to the Middle Ages, while most of the remains date to the Roman period. There are four Roman villas which house intricate mosaic floors to discover, as well as the Asklepieion, the Odeon, the Agora and the Saranta Kolones Castle. We then head to **Paphos Archaeological Museum**. Here we explore the collection of finds from the region dating from the Neolithic Age to 1700 AD. Separated into five rooms covering different periods of time, the first room covers the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze Age, the second the Iron Age and classical period and the third presents the Hellenistic and Roman periods. In the fourth room we find items from the late Roman and Christian periods and the final room showcases artefacts from the Byzantine periods and Middle Ages. After **lunch** at a local restaurant, we depart for the **Tomb of the Kings**, near Paphos, an elaborate rock-cut necropolis which dates from the 3rd century BC and features frescoed walls and



Kourion

Doric columns, another of Cyprus's most significant sites that has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage site list since 1980. This afternoon we visit **Lemba Archaeological Project**, home to prehistoric projects in western Cyprus for over 30 years. *(B, L)*

Day 7 Today is yours to spend relaxing. Later this evening we enjoy a farewell dinner with wine at a local restaurant. *(B, D)*

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

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

FOUR-DAY PAPHOS EXTENSION FROM £175pp

Why not extend your holiday with a three-night stay at the 4-star Mayfair hotel *(or similar)* including breakfast and airport transfers giving you the chance to spend a few days at leisure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed and breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Mediterranean Hotel, Limassol and three nights at the 4-star Mayfair Hotel Paphos *(or similar)*
- ▶ Two dinners and two lunches at local restaurants with wine
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

25 Mar - 1 Apr **£2,095** **£1,995**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement

£325

Tour code: **BCYP**



Palace of Knossos

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**. 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. *(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 **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**, on the south slope of Ida Mountain. *(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 We visit the Minoan cemetery of **Armeni** and Byzantine monuments in the picturesque **Amari valley**. We enjoy a farewell dinner with wine in a local taverna this evening. *(B, D)*

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

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



Rethymnon

FOUR-DAY RETHYMNON EXTENSION FROM £375pp

Why not extend your holiday with a three-night stay at the 4-star BIO Suites hotel *(or similar)* including breakfast and airport transfers giving you the chance to spend a few days at leisure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Marin Hotel, Heraklion and four nights at the 4-star Bio Hotel in Rethymnon *(or similar)*
- ▶ One dinner in the hotel and a farewell dinner *(with wine)* in a local taverna
- ▶ Return flights from London to Crete
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
22 - 29 Apr	£2,095	£1,995

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£450
Optional Excursions:	
Arkadi Monastery	£120
Spinalonga	£115

Tour code: **BCRE**



Gortyn



Upper Barrakka Gardens

7 DAYS FROM
£1,695

SAVE PER PERSON
£100

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

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.



Marsaxlokk

Day 1 We depart 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 **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum**. This historic wonder is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B, D)

Day 7 After breakfast, we transfer to Malta 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 Doubletree by Hilton, 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

2025 - OFFER 1		
4 - 10 Mar	£1,795	£1,695
6 - 12 May	£1,995	£1,895

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Seaview Room Supplement	£75
Optional Excursion: Gozo	£145

Tour code: **BMAL**



Aurora borealis, Reykjavik

5 DAYS FROM
£2,195

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!

On our tour of Reykjavik, the world's most northerly capital, it becomes clear that even Iceland's man-made efforts have that same air to them — the cavernous and craggy Lutheran church of Hallgrímskirkja, seemingly more suited to a spot in Middle Earth than the North Atlantic; and the parliamentary buildings of Alþingi, thought to be the oldest parliament in the world. Bucket list at the ready...

Day 1 We depart from London to **Reykjavik**. 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** with its impressive volume of cascade in the whole of Iceland. We continue to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 Our full-day tour of south Iceland includes **Skógafoss waterfall** and a visit to **Skógar Folk Museum**, which will give you a taste of how Icelanders lived in past centuries. We also enjoy a wonderfully unique experience where we walk behind **Seljalandsfoss waterfall**. On our journey we see some stunning views of glaciers and the famous black sand coastlines. *(B, D)*

Day 3 The remote **Skálholt church** and **Pingvellir National Park** await, where the tectonic plates of Europe and North America meet. This creates the stunning landscape we admire today, including the **Gullfoss waterfall** and the **Geysir Geothermal Area** where we can see **Strokkur** erupt. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 We enjoy a city tour of Reykjavik, including its iconic **Hallgrímskirkja church**, the capital's

landmark with its magnificent 73m high steeple. We move on to the Icelandic parliament '**Alþingi**' which was founded in AD930 and is considered the oldest Parliament in the world. Next, we visit the panoramic viewing platform at the **Perlan** and the **Aurora Reykjavik centre**. Later, we bathe in the geothermal **Laugarvatn Fontana springs** and after dinner in a local restaurant we go in search of the **Northern Lights**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We head for the **Reykjanes Peninsula** today, which lies on one of the world's major tectonic plate boundaries, the Mid Atlantic Ridge. Next, we make our way past **Reykjanes Lighthouse** towards the **Gunnahver Hot Springs**, a highly active geothermal area and home to the biggest mud pool in Iceland. Nearby is the fishing town of **Grindavik**. En route to Reykjavik airport for our return flight to London, we visit **Kleifarvatn Lake**. *(B)*

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



Strokkur geyser

YOUR TOUR MANAGER ALASTAIR WALKER

A finalist for Wanderlust's World Guide Awards Best Tour Leader prize in 2021, Alastair has been leading tours for Brightwater since 2014.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Stracta Hotel, Hella and two nights at the Grand Hotel Reykjavik
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Return flights London to Keflavik
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Alastair Walker as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
9 - 13 Feb	£2,295	£2,195

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

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**



Casa Rocca Piccola

8 DAYS FROM
£1,095

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 4-star 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 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; **Faġar 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 Malta airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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



Palazzo Parisio



Valetta

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star Doubletree by Hilton, 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

2025 - OFFER 1

4 - 8 Mar **£1,195** **£1,095**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Sea View Supplement	£50
Optional Excursions:	
Gozo	£145
Southern Malta	£85

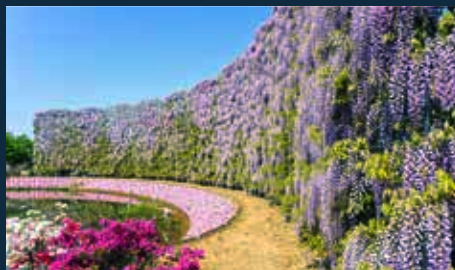
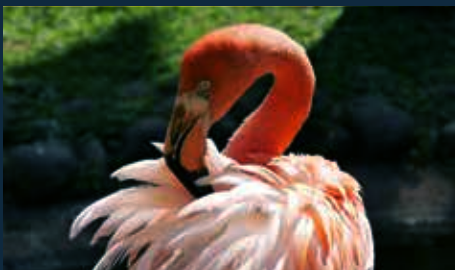
Tour code: **BMAC**

Worldwide

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 pristine wilderness of Hokkaido in Japan and the hill villages of Vietnam to stunning Caribbean gardens in sun-soaked St Lucia and Guadeloupe. 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.



Unforgettable long-haul adventures





Mount Fuji

13 DAYS FROM
£6,595

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
COLIN CROSBIE

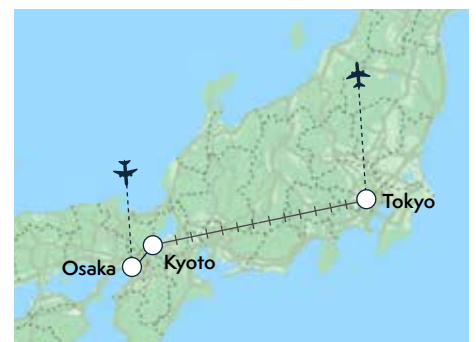
FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

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.



Golden Pavilion, Kyoto



Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart 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 **Omihachiman** and the **Hachimanbori Canal**. Before returning to Kyoto, we'll also visit the **Nishikawake House**, the former residence of a wealthy merchant family. *(B)*



Heian-jingu Shrine

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Japan is one of Colin's favourite destinations, whether at cherry blossom time or in the autumn.



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 horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
24 Mar - 5 Apr*	£7,295	£6,995
2 - 14 Nov	£6,895	£6,595

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement £1,250

Optional Excursion:
Hiroshima On request

*Cherry blossom departure

Tour code: **BJPG**



Ashikaga

NEW

14 DAYS FROM
£7,495

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
COLIN CROSBIE

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

Gardens of Honshu and Hokkaido

It's time once again to expand our horizons in the land of the rising sun and explore more of this fascinating country. Hokkaido, the mountainous, arrowhead-shaped northern island, seems like the perfect place to start. We get the impression that it is such a beautiful place that the Japanese would really rather keep it a secret. Nevertheless, we can expect the usual warm welcome from our hosts, many of whom still find westerners highly intriguing! Compared to our regular garden holiday, this tour takes us deeper into Japan, both in terms of the countryside and the culture. This holiday should appeal both to those who have been with us to Japan before and want to discover more, and to those who want to explore a beguiling region of mountains, lakes and thermal springs, interwoven with a unique cultural experience.

We begin in Honshu, the largest of the four main islands that comprise Japan, with two nights in Tokyo. This is one of the most modern cities in the world, yet offers surprises at every turn – where else can you find ancient temples and exquisite gardens, surrounded by skyscrapers? We then visit two of the top three landscape gardens in Japan as we visit Kairakuen Garden in Mito and then take the Bullet Train to Kanazawa in the west to visit Kenrokuen Garden. A visit to the stunning wisteria gardens at Ashikaga is included en route to Tokyo from where we fly north to Hokkaido. On the eastern side of the island our exploration includes the Shiretoko Peninsula, a pristine wilderness typified by lush virgin forest, waterfalls and thermal springs; the strange, withered trees of Todowara Woods and the Notsuke Peninsula, home to a diverse range of birdlife. We then transfer to western Hokkaido and our base in Sapporo, from where we explore further gardens and the natural wonders of the Shikotsu Toya National Park.



Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart on an overnight flight from London to Tokyo. *(IF)*

Day 2 On arrival, we transfer to our hotel in the centre of **Tokyo**.

Day 3 We depart by coach this morning for **Mito**, the capital of the Ibaraki Prefecture, where we find **Kairakuen**, ranked among Japan's three finest landscape gardens. In addition to its famous plum trees, of which there are more than three thousand, Kairakuen also features a bamboo grove, cedar woods and a traditional building used in tea ceremonies. We return by coach to our hotel. *(B)*

Day 4 This morning we enjoy one of the unique experiences of a trip to Japan as we take the **Bullet Train** to **Kanazawa**, where we visit **Kenrokuen**, another of the top three landscape gardens. The name "having six factors", represents the attributes



Kenrokuen

which bring out the garden's stunning beauty: spaciousness, tranquillity, artifice, antiquity, water sources and magnificent views. Following our visit we take a stroll around **Higashi Chaya**, the Geisha District of Kanazawa, with restored teahouses and taverns reminiscent of bygone Japan. We continue to our hotel for an overnight stay. (B)

Day 5 Depart by **Bullet Train** for Takasaki in Japan's eastern Kantō region, where we visit the **Ashikaga Flower Park**, famed for its spectacular Wisteria Festival, which will be taking place at this time. Following our visit here we transfer by coach to Tokyo. (B)

Day 6 Today we fly to Memanbetsu in **Hokkaido**. On arrival we travel the short distance to our comfortable, western-style hotel in **Abashiri**, stopping on the way at the observation point at **Mt Tenozan**, which affords panoramic views over Abashiri and the Okhotsk Sea beyond. (B, D)

Day 7 We begin our exploration of the unspoilt natural wonders of eastern Hokkaido today by touring the area around **Lake Saroma**, which is the largest lake in Hokkaido. A visit is included to the **Lake Saroma Wakka Nature centre**, which gives background information on the flora and fauna of the area. We will also visit the **Wakka Gensei Kaen 'Natural Garden'**, an area of natural grassland that sits between Lake Saroma and the sea, home to a huge variety of wildflowers, forests, meadows and wetlands. We return to our hotel in Abashiri in the afternoon. (B, D)

Day 8 Leaving our hotel in Abashiri, we will tour the **Shiretoko Peninsula**, an area of untouched primeval forest, lakes and mountains, protected as a National Park. Included are visits to the **Shiretoko Nature Centre**, **Furepe Falls** and **Shiretoko Five Lakes**. It takes about an hour to walk round the five lakes. Following our visit here we will continue to our comfortable hotel by **Lake Kussharo**. (B, D)

Day 9 We depart today on a full day excursion to the **Notsuke Peninsula**, whose shape is said to resemble a shrimp's bent back and has been formed by sea currents moving the sand and earth that has been flushed out of the Shibetsu-gawa River. It is accessed by the **Flower Road**, named for the profusion of wild flowers that grow here in the

summer months. We will also see the woods of withered trees known as **Todowara (fir straw) Woods**, the result of fir trees which were washed by seawater until they withered. We later visit the **Notsuke Peninsula Nature Centre**, long established as a rest house, which provides background information. (B, D)

Day 10 After breakfast we will transfer to Kushiro Airport, with a visit en route to **Lake Mashu**, and depart on an early afternoon flight to **Sapporo**, where on arrival we will have an introductory **sightseeing tour** of the city and visits to **Nijo Market** and **Sapporo Beer Museum**. (B)

Day 11 A day among spectacular volcanic lakeland scenery in the **Shikotsu-Toya National Park** begins with a boat cruise on **Lake Shikotsu**, a caldera lake formed over 30,000 years ago by volcanic activity. **Lake Okotanape** by contrast is relatively small, and was formed when the lava flow of Mt Eniwa-dake dammed the Okotanape River. We continue to **Jozankei** for another uniquely Japanese experience as we visit the **Onsen**, the naturally occurring hot springs used for bathing and relaxation. We also visit the **Iwato Kannondo**, a 120m long cave in which have been placed 33 different statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy. (B)

Day 12 We will spend today touring **Sapporo**, including **Odori Park**, a flower-filled oasis which extends for 1500m through the city centre; the **Hokkaido University Botanic Garden**, which retains sections of virgin forest and contains some 4,000 varieties of plants collected from all over Hokkaido; and **Yurigahara Park**. We continue to **Otaru**, the Venice of Japan, to see the **Otaru Canal**, constructed in 1923 and now a popular photo-stop with its stone-built warehouses lining the canal side. On our return to the hotel we will have some time in the **Sakaimachi Shopping Street**, an opportunity perhaps for some final souvenir shopping. (B)

Day 13 Sadly our tour ends today and after checking out of the hotel we transfer to Sapporo Airport for our onward connecting flight back to London. (B, IF)

Day 14 We arrive in London.

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



Sapporo

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin will be in his element here with such a wide range of plants and trees to help identify.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 11 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation: two nights at the 4-star Grand Prince Takanawa, Tokyo; one night at the 3-star Daiwa Roynet Hotel in Kanazawa; one night at the 4-star Villa Fontaine Grand Haneda, Tokyo; two nights at the 4-star Hokuten No Oka Abashiri Tsuruga Resort in Abashiri; two nights at the 3-star Kussharo Prince Kussharo; three nights at the 4-star Gracery Sapporo in Sapporo
- ▶ Four dinners
- ▶ Flights from London to Tokyo and from Chitose to London
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ All domestic flights and rail travel in Japan
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager plus local English-speaking guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

4 - 17 May **£7,795** **£7,495**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£995**

Tour code: **BGHH**



Mai Chau

NEW

16 DAYS FROM
£3,995

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
RICHARD BAINES

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

Journey through Vietnam

Vietnam - a land of wondrous natural beauty, cultural complexities, bustling cities and hill-tribe villages. As we embark on our journey, we discover the capital Hanoi, famed for its centuries-old architecture and rich cultural influences from both Asia and France. We discover some of the city's highlights before heading into the hill country to sample the slower pace of life here, surrounded by steeped rice terraces and misty mountains. We also spend some time in Hue, where we have an informative visit to the Imperial Citadel, once the seat of the Nguyen Dynasty emperors. Our tour continues into the central highlands of Vietnam and the town of Da Lat. Here we find some of the best floral displays in the country at the Flower Park and the Fresh Gardens, along with hydrangeas and other flowers. Our final stop is the southern city of Ho Chi Minh, where we have a glimpse into the city's war-torn past and today's modern day-to-day life. Our tour manager Richard Baines will also conduct some informal botanising whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London to Hanoi on our overnight flight. *(IF)*

Day 2 Upon arrival in **Hanoi**, we transfer to our hotel and have the rest of the day to relax. We gather this evening for a welcome dinner. *(D)*

Day 3 This morning after breakfast we embark on a city tour of **Hanoi**, the cultural heartbeat of Vietnam. Accompanied by our local guide we explore ancient temples and bustling markets and from the exterior we view the **Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh** and the **Presidential Palace**. We later

visit the **Temple of Literature**, founded over 1,000 years ago as a temple dedicated to Chinese philosopher Confucius. We also visit the **Ethnology Museum** which focuses on the 54 officially recognised ethnic groups who call Vietnam home. In the early evening, there is the chance to join an optional **'Street Eats'** tour. We explore Hanoi's **Old Quarter** with our local guide and sample some of the local dishes. *(B)*

Day 4 We depart Hanoi and travel west through rolling hills, verdant rice paddies and charming villages to **Mai Chau**, home to a White Tai community *(the third largest of the 54 ethnic groups)*.



This afternoon we have a walking tour of **Pom Coong**, which offers a more off-the-beaten-track experience compared to better-known villages. Next, we head through paddy fields to the village of **Lac 2** where we have an opportunity to speak with a local resident before enjoying a dyeing class with the chance to dye your own items. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 This morning, we depart on a leisurely walk through selected villages granting us a first hand glimpse into the daily lives of the local White Tai community of the area. After lunch we return to Hanoi. *(B, L)*

Day 6 After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight to **Hue**, where on arrival we visit the **Minh Mang Tomb**, said to be one of the most majestic of



Hoi An

the Nguyen Dynasty royal tombs, consisting of around 40 palaces, temples and pavilions. This afternoon we visit the **tomb of Emperor Khai Dinh**, which features a blend of Vietnamese and western architectural styles. (B)

Day 7 We depart for a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed **Imperial Citadel** and explore the remains of the **Purple Forbidden City**. Later we discover the traditional art of **paper flower making**. After lunch, we take a short boat ride to view the **Thien Mu Pagoda**. Later we visit the **Ancient Garden House**, a traditional residence of the Mandarins who lived in the vicinity. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Today we have a long but rewarding day as we travel from Hue to the **Ba Na Hills**. On arrival we take a cable car ride to the summit, from where we enjoy spectacular views across the mountains, along with a visit to the **Linh Ung Pagoda** and the **Giant Buddha statue**. We then visit the flower garden at **Le Jardin D'Amour**, located on the top of Chua Mountain and divided into nine smaller areas. After lunch, we visit the 150-metre long **Golden Bridge**. Continue to Hoi An. (B, L)

Day 9 We enjoy a tour of **Hoi An Ancient Town**, whose impeccable preservation has earned it recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Alternatively, you may join the optional **Ky Anh Tunnels Experience**, as we follow in the footsteps of one of the witnesses of the Vietnamese war. (B)

Day 10 Today is free to explore at your leisure. Alternatively, you may wish to join our optional **Vietnamese Cooking Class**. (B)



Da Lat Flower Park

Day 11 This morning we transfer to the airport for a flight via Ho Chi Minh City to **Da Lat** in southern Vietnam's central highlands. (B)

Day 12 Today we visit the picturesque **Fresh Garden**, considered one of the largest green gardens in Da Lat, followed by the opportunity to visit a local flower field and hydrangea garden. (B, L)

Day 13 We visit the **Da Lat Flower Park**, with more than 300 species of flowers blooming throughout the year. Later, we transfer to the airport for our flight to **Ho Chi Minh City** (formerly known as Saigon). Upon arrival, we start our Story of Saigon tour with a visit to the **War Remnants Museum**. The museum contains displays of military aircraft, weaponry and many photographs. (B)

Day 14 We have an early start, as on today's walking tour we immerse ourselves in the **local culture**, witnessing the lives of resident population through their daily exercise routines, vibrant flower markets and religious observance. The afternoon is free, or you may wish to join the optional **Bean to Bar Chocolate Tasting** experience at Maison Marou. Later we enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 15 Morning at leisure before we transfer to the airport in time for our return flight to London. (B, IF)

Day 16 Arrive in London.

Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

FOUR-DAY PHAN THIET BEACH EXTENSION FROM £495pp

Why not extend your holiday with a three-night stay at the 4-star Phu Hai Beach Resort (or similar) including breakfast and airport transfers giving you the chance to spend a few days at leisure.

FOUR-DAY SIEM REAP EXTENSION FROM £995PP

Why not extend your holiday with a three night extension exploring the Temples of Angkor Wat. Price includes regional flight to Siem Reap, three nights at the 4-star Sokha Angkor Resort (or similar), airport transfers and sightseeing programme.

YOUR TOUR MANAGER RICHARD BAINES

Richard is Curator of Logan Botanic Garden and in recent years he has led four expeditions to Vietnam resulting in the discovery of five species new to science.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 13 nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis: three nights at the 4-star Thang Long Opera Hotel, Hanoi; one night at the 4-star Mai Chau Ecolodge, Mai Chau; two nights at the 4-star Eldora Hotel, Hue; three nights at the 5-star La Siesta Hotel, Hoi An; two nights at the 4-star Du Parc Hotel, Da Lat; two nights at the 5-star New World Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City (or similar)
- ▶ Five lunches and four dinners
- ▶ Flights from London to Hanoi and from Ho Chi Minh City to London and all domestic flights
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Richard Baines as tour manager plus local English-speaking guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

24 Apr - 9 May **£4,295** **£3,995**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£695**

Optional Excursion:

Hanoi Street Eats **£55**
 Hoi An - Ky Anh Tunnels & Rum Tasting **£145**
 Hoi An - Cooking Class **£50**
 Ho Chi Minh Bean to Bar Chocolate Experience **£60**

Tour code: **BVIE**



Praslin Bay

NEW

9 DAYS FROM
£3,895

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

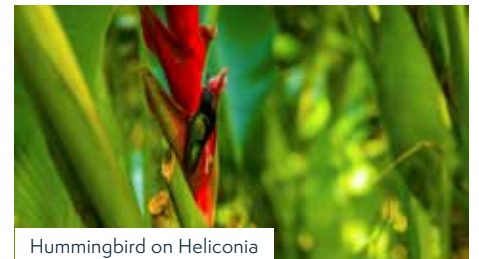
TOUR MANAGER
DAVID HURRION

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

Gardens of Saint Lucia

When travelling to the Caribbean you expect sun, sea and beautiful beaches, and while we can promise all of that, this bespoke tour of Saint Lucia takes us much further. Saint Lucia is unique in its natural splendour partially due to its volcanic origin. The soil, rich in minerals, coupled with the equatorial climate, makes it the perfect place for lush vegetation, where all manner of tropical plants flourish. We not only explore some of the island's most notable gardens including the Diamond Botanical Gardens and Marantha Prayer Garden but we also visit one of the island's most famous sustainable farms, the Rabot Estate, where we learn about cocoa growing and processing and craft our very own chocolates.

A melting pot of cultures with influences from the Arawak and Carib Indians, then later colonial influences from the French, English and Dutch means today's Saint Lucia has flourished into a truly wonderful place to explore.



Hummingbird on Heliconia

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive Lounge before we depart from London to Saint Lucia. On arrival, we will transfer to our hotel. (1F)

Day 2 Today after breakfast, we visit the **Eclectic Garden** nestled at a private home, an oasis in the midst of a bustling neighbourhood. We explore the private and enchanting garden which is carefully tended and crafted by the owners. As the name suggests, the Eclectic Garden provides a mishmash of plants against the backdrop of twittering tropical birds and fluttering butterflies. We complete our visit with a stop at the renowned **Castries market**, noted by National Geographic as the 5th best market worldwide, before heading back to our hotel. (B)

Day 3 Today we enjoy panoramic views and embrace the magical scenery of the west coast of the island as we travel through fascinating coastal villages and verdant vegetation to the enchanting town of **Soufrière**, which is dominated by the majestic Pitons rising from the sea to the skies. We embark on an enchanting journey through the



Castries market



Pitons

acclaimed and award-winning **Diamond Botanical Gardens**, where a stunning display of profound beauty of flora and fauna awaits, and the senses are captivated by a cascading waterfall. We travel onwards to **Emerald Estate**, a delightful exploration of organic farming featuring the cultivation of mangoes, avocados, guavas, and cocoa and a wide variety of tropical plants awaits. Here, we can also witness the traditional handcrafted process of brewing local beer. We enjoy lunch at the **Mango Tree Restaurant** before our visit to the **Marantha Gardens** nestled above Soufrière. This is a small but exquisitely designed garden which serves as a sanctuary for prayer and reflection which infuses a touch of serenity into this immersive experience. (B, L)

Day 5 Today is free to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities. Alternatively, you may wish to join our optional excursion onboard a Rainforest Aerial Tram, gliding through the tropical canopy on an open-air gondola. (B)

Day 6 This morning, after breakfast we depart for **Mamiku Gardens**, nestled on Saint Lucia's picturesque east coast with a panoramic view of Praslin Bay. Renowned for its historical significance, Mamiku Gardens witnessed a notable battle during the 18th-century English military occupation. We will delve into the world of medicinal herbs, uncovering their various uses, and gain insights into the conservation of endangered trees and plants along the forest trails. To complement our visit, we enjoy a snack and a refreshing beverage. (B)

Day 7 Today we depart by boat to visit **Project Chocolat**. We set sail aboard a power boat along the panoramic west coast of the island to Soufrière, often at times called the "Garden of Saint Lucia".

We indulge in a unique chocolate-making adventure at "Hotel Chocolat" on the historic **Rabot Estate**. Guided by a skilled Cocoa Grower and chocolatier, we will stroll through a cocoa grove, see coca pods, before creating our very own chocolate bar. Participate in the entire chocolate-making process, from seedling nursery to tasting. After crafting our chocolates, we savour a delightful lunch at Rabot Market, and leave with our delicious creations as we shop at the Rabot retail store. Unforgettable chocolate moments await! (B, L)

Day 8 After breakfast we visit **Greenwood Terrace** – a Heritage and Cultural Site which is home to over 350 flowering plants, tropical foliage, fruit trees and a Heritage Museum which showcases aspects of life on Saint Lucia in days gone by. We will be amazed at the range of the colours and vibrancy that greets and inspires. Learn how the islanders' forebears used traditional herbs, bushes, and blooms in their daily lives to cure their ailments. We can view numerous artefacts around the grounds and in the museum that offer an overview of the rich historical and cultural journey of the island. Relax and enjoy lunch in the tropical aura and relish this experience. Later this evening we head to the beautiful Rodney Bay Marina and **Sea Salt Restaurant** which offers local and International Cuisine. Here we enjoy a farewell dinner while enjoying views of the marina. (B, L, D)

FOUR-DAY BEACH EXTENSION FROM £575pp

Why not extend your holiday with a three-night stay at the 4-star Coco Palm Hotel (or similar) including breakfast and airport transfers giving you the chance to spend a few days at leisure.

Day 8 After a morning at leisure, we transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

Day 9 We arrive in London.

Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

YOUR TOUR MANAGER DAVID HURRION

A vastly experienced horticulturalist, David has travelled the world in search of new plants and gardens.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star Coco Palm Hotel, Saint Lucia
- ▶ Three lunches and one dinner
- ▶ Return flights from London to Saint Lucia
- ▶ London pre-flight executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of David Hurrion as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
27 Feb - 4 Mar	£4,595	£4,295
13 - 20 Nov	£3,995	£3,895

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£1,195
Pool View Supplement	from £87.50
Optional Excursion: Rainforest Aerial Tram	£110

Tour code: BSLU



Deshaies waterfront

NEW

9 DAYS FROM
£3,995

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
DAVID HURRION

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

Gardens of Guadeloupe: Life in Paradise

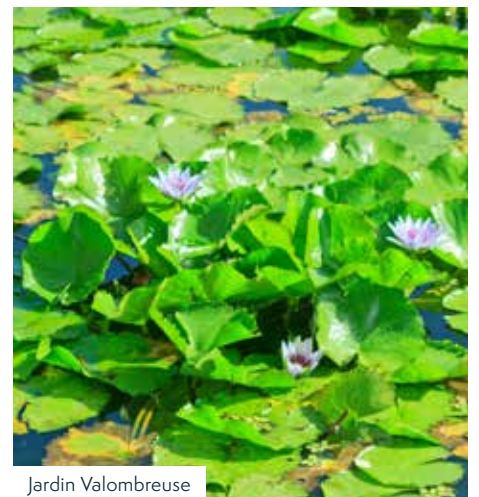
If you have ever wondered where the popular Caribbean detective drama 'Death in Paradise' is filmed, the answer is the French island of Guadeloupe in the Lesser Antilles. While we will of course take the opportunity to visit some of the familiar locations from the series, this tour is more about the wonderful gardens, bewitching vistas and delightful French ambience that this butterfly-shaped island has to offer. It is also a chance to escape our own winter and enjoy some beautifully warm weather and a little taste of Life in Paradise.

Garden visits include the Jardin Botanique de Deshaies, offering the perfect introduction to the flora of the West Indies; the Jardin Valombreuse, an exceptional botanical collection created from scratch following a devastating hurricane, and the Jardin Botanique du Désert which by way of contrast offers a huge selection of cacti and succulents – with the added pleasure of a boat trip across turquoise waters to reach it.

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport executive lounges before we depart from London to Guadeloupe. On arrival we transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to rest and relax in the hotel, before a welcome dinner is served in the evening. *(I, D)*

Day 2 We begin our exploration of Guadeloupe in Basse-Terre, the westerly, more sheltered of the two 'wings' of the butterfly-shaped main island, with a visit to the **Jardin Botanique de Deshaies**, which offers the perfect introduction to the surprising flora of the West Indies, though it is planted with both native and exogenous species and is divided into a number of different 'worlds'. As we discover

more than 1,000 plant species, keep an eye out too for pink flamingos and two species of colourful lorikeets, similar to parrots. The town of Deshaies is used as a location for '**Death in Paradise**' and will be instantly recognisable to viewers of the series, in particular the red tower of the building which doubles as 'Honoré Police Station', which we will view along with some of the other locations such as the fishing port and Catherine's Bar. In fact, the garden that we visited this morning has also been used as a location - it was the site of the murder of the original Inspector, as played by Ben Miller. We continue with a visit to **Habitation Côte sous le Vent** *(House on the leeward side)* which as well as a



Jardin Valombreuse

botanical park and an arboretum offers a museum of piracy, thematic exhibitions, a treehouse and a Creole house. In the garden and arboretum we find coffee and cacao plants, orchids and spices along with precious woods, royal palms and majestic mahoganies. *(B)*

Day 3 We begin today with a tour of a local **rum factory**, followed by a visit to the **Jardin de la Rencontre**, 1.5ha of totally tropical gardens featuring plants such as Alpinia, Parrot's Beak and Strelizia. There is also a banana plantation, where we will discover different varieties along with banana flowers and a 'pharmacy' garden with medicinal herbs. After a guided tour of the garden



Jardin Botanique de Deshaies

we have lunch, prepared with carefully selected and fresh local products and enjoyed in delightful surroundings. In the afternoon we visit the nearby garden of **Cantamerle**, which offers a more intimate experience but packs in over 400 plant species into a relatively small space, with tropical flowers, palm trees and fruit trees. (B, L)

Day 4 We turn our attention this morning to Grand-Terre, the easterly side of the main island, as we drive to the port of Saint-François, where we board the ferry that will take us to the island of La Desirade where we visit the **Jardin Botanique du Désert**. As the name suggests, this garden presents a stark contrast to the lush properties we have seen so far, specialising in cacti and other succulents. Created by a husband and wife team, along with a dozen volunteers, this is an inspiring botanical garden and the largest of its kind in the Caribbean, with around 3,500 plants across 800 different species from the West Indies, North and South America, Africa, Asia and southern Europe. Returning to Grand-Terre we will take a scenic route back to our hotel. (B)

Day 5 Following breakfast this morning, the day is free to stroll along the beach, take a swim or perhaps venture further afield. (B)

Day 6 We return to Basse-Terre this morning as we visit the **Sylvathèque**. Managed by the National Forestry Office, this extraordinary garden contains most of the trees, flowers and plants of the tropical forest of the Caribbean Mountains. After a look at the reconstructed Creole garden which gives us an understanding of the cultivation methods inherited from the Amerindians, we will take a gentle walk along one of the forest trails. In the heart of the town of Basse-Terre we find Guadeloupe's oldest

Botanical Garden, created in 1820. Its aim today is to inform the public about the richness of the archipelago's ecosystems and the need to preserve them. We conclude today with a visit to the garden of **Beauvallon**, home to 80 species of palm trees, some of them over 100 years old. There are also ponds filled with carp and aquatic plants and around 20 free-flying conures, a species of small, colourful parrot. (B)

Day 7 We call in at the **Ecomuseum of Sainte-Rose**, located on the heights above this coastal town. The site includes a botanical garden that has become a conservatory, supported by local authorities and UNESCO, and which has been awarded the Remarkable Garden label. We continue with a visit to the **Jardin Valombreuse**. Nestled in the hollow of a lush valley in the 'green' commune of Petit Bourg, the garden is the work of a passionate plantswoman. Designed as a work of art, this magical world displays all the richness of an exceptional botanical collection. Look out for some wonderful *Strelitzia*, commonly known as the 'bird of paradise'. This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner in the hotel. (B, D)

Day 8 We will have some free time to do some last-minute shopping or relaxing before we check-out of the hotel and transfer to the airport in time for our overnight flight back to London (B, IF)

FIVE-DAY BEACH EXTENSION FROM £645pp

Why not extend your holiday with a four-night stay at the 4-star Le Creole Beach Hotel & Spa (or similar) including breakfast and airport transfers giving you the chance to spend a few days at leisure.

Day 9 We arrive in London.

Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

YOUR TOUR MANAGER DAVID HURRION

A vastly experienced horticulturalist, David has travelled the world in search of new plants and gardens.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star La Creole Beach Hotel & Spa, Le Gosier (or similar)
- ▶ Welcome and farewell dinner and one lunch
- ▶ Return flights from London to Guadeloupe. (Regional flight connections and upgrades available on request)
- ▶ London pre-flight executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of David Hurrion as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

19 - 27 Mar	£4,295	£3,995
18 - 26 Nov	£4,295	£3,995

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£795
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Tour code: BGGL



Monteverde

13 DAYS FROM
£4,695

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
COLIN CROSBIE

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

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 resplendent 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 Head Curator of RHS Garden Wisley and currently President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London to **San José**. (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 visit **Ark Herb Gardens** where there are more than 1,600 species of ornamental plants and fruits. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Today we visit **Lankester Botanical Garden**, a research centre that is part of the University of Costa Rica and which is dedicated to the exhibition, conservation and study of orchids. (B, L, D)

Day 4 This morning we visit the **CATIE Botanical Gardens** home to a century old kapok tree, dripping orchids, and hanging bromeliads. Later, we visit **Hacienda Tayutic** a century-old plantation. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Today after breakfast, we head for **Palmitour** where we learn about the growing and processing of palm hearts. This afternoon we visit a **Pineapple plantation**. (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, D)

Day 7 After a **boat trip** on **Lake Arenal**, we head south to **Monteverde**. In the afternoon we visit an **orchid garden**. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Tour the **Monteverde Cloud Reserve**, with its complex ecosystem and vast array of flora and fauna. Animal species include the jaguar, ocelot, Baird's tapir and birds such as the three-wattled bellbird. (B, L)

Day 9 This morning we visit a **butterfly garden**, where we can expect to see myriad different species of these delicate, colourful creatures. (B, L)

Day 10 Today we visit **Villa Vanilla**, where we have a tour of the farm and can see a variety of spices such as vanilla, true Ceylon cinnamon, cocoa, black pepper and allspice. (B, L)

Day 11 Explore the **Manuel Antonio National Park**, one of the most beautiful and bio-diverse areas in the world before we return 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



FOUR-DAY MANUEL ANTONIO BEACH EXTENSION FROM £745pp

Why not extend your holiday with a three-night stay at the 4-star Parador Resort & Spa (or similar) including breakfast and airport transfers giving you the chance to spend a few days at leisure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 11 nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Bougainvillea Hotel, San José; two nights at the 3-star Villa Florencia, Turrialba; two nights at the 3-star Arenal Paraiso, Arenal; two nights at the 3-star Heliconia, Monteverde; two nights at the 4-star Parador, Manuel Antonio (or similar)
- ▶ Eight dinners and ten lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to San José
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

26 Jan - 7 Feb **£4,995** **£4,695**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£995**

Tour code: **BCOS**



Hunte's Botanical Garden © Trevor Edwards

9 DAYS FROM
£3,395

SAVE PER PERSON
£200

TOUR MANAGER
DAVID HURRION

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 depart 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, L)

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, L)

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, L)

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, L)

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, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



YOUR TOUR MANAGER DAVID HURRION

A vastly experienced horticulturalist, David has travelled the world in search of new plants and gardens.



FOUR-DAY BEACH EXTENSION FROM £445pp

Why not extend your holiday with a three-night stay at the 4-star Accra Beach Hotel (or similar) including breakfast and airport transfers giving you the chance to spend a few days at leisure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Accra Beach Hotel, Barbados (or similar)
- ▶ Two dinners and four packed lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Bridgetown
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of David Hurrion as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

6 - 14 Feb	£3,595	£3,395
3 - 11 Nov	£3,595	£3,395

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£795
Ocean View Suite	from £210
Deluxe Ocean View Suite	from £840

Optional Excursion: Catamaran Cruise	£120
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Tour code: **BGOB**



Butchart Gardens

10 DAYS FROM
£5,395

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

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 in Vancouver and Victoria. 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 depart from London to **Vancouver**, where we transfer to our hotel. *(F)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we take a tour around **Vancouver**, a modern metropolis surrounded by nature on all sides. We explore **Stanley Park** with its famous Totem Poles, **English Bay**, **Canada Place**, historic **Gastown**, **Chinatown** and **Vancouver Lookout** at Harbour Centre. We ascend the building in a glass lift to the observation deck 167 metres above sea level for panoramic views. This afternoon we visit **Van Dusen Botanical Gardens**, which is spread over 55 acres and features one of the most extensive arrays of ornamental plants in Canada. We also visit the first

authentic full-sized classical Chinese garden built outside China, that of **Dr Sun Yat-Sen**. The garden is a five million dollar "architectural space" shaped by artisans brought to Vancouver from China and is constructed in an authentic Ming Dynasty-style, the first of its type built since the late 15th century. *(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 A long but rewarding day awaits. We start with a ferry trip to **Vancouver Island** and upon arrival, we head to the world famous **Butchart Gardens**, one of the world's premier floral show gardens. Originally created to beautify a worked out quarry, the property now extends to 55 acres of breathtaking gardens, divided into four sections. We later enjoy some sightseeing, travelling 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 Our day begins with an optional **whale watching** cruise tour. We head out onto the coastal waters in search of orca, grey, humpback and minke



Totems in Stanley Park

whales. During our voyage we may also see sea lions, seals and porpoises. 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. At the centre is a magnificent castle built in 1908 by former British Columbia Premier and coal baron, James Dunsmuir. We have ample time here to explore the Japanese, Italian and Rose Gardens. (B)

Day 6 We venture to **Ucluelet**, enjoying the scenery as we traverse Vancouver Island to its Pacific coast. Enroute we have a visit to the **Milner Gardens and Woodland**, a seaside garden set in Qualicum beach on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island, which covers an impressive 28 hectares of

unspoiled natural beauty perched on an oceanfront bluff with views across the Strait of Georgia. (B)

Day 7 After breakfast, we head out onto the calm shallow waters on the coastline in search of the **Vancouver Island black bears** which at this time of the year venture to the shoreline in search of rock crab and other seafood treats. Later, we visit the **Naa'Waya'Sum Gardens**. Formerly known as the Tofino Botanical Gardens, the site is spread over 12 hectares of gardens, forests and shorelines and it explores the relationship between culture and nature. There is a network of paths and boardwalks which take you through cultivated gardens, a sculpture park and old growth temperate rainforest. (B)

Day 8 This morning as we travel across **Vancouver Island**, passing through Parksville to Nanaimo where we 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 We arrive in London.

Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Orca

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Eight nights' bed and 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

2025 - OFFER 1

12 - 21 Sep ~~£5,695~~ £5,395

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement £1,295

Optional Excursion:
Whale watching £95

Tour code: **BGWC**



Untermeyer Gardens

NEW

9 DAYS FROM
£3,995

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
TREVOR EDWARDS

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

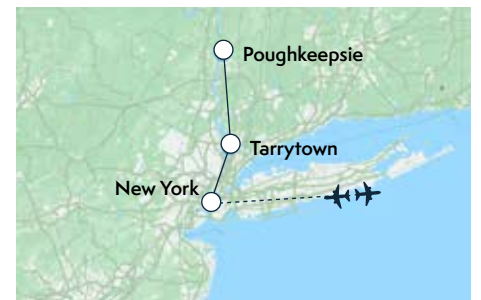
Gardens of the Hudson Valley

Prepare to be immersed and inspired as we explore the very best gardens of the Hudson Valley. This corner of America is rife with examples of horticultural mastery that offer interest in every season. We visit in the lushness of summer where the long days and balmy weather combine and allow for meditative strolls and peaceful reflection surrounded by colourful wildflowers and spectacular views. During our floriculture foray some highlights include the traditional walled Italianate Garden of Blithewood, the sprawling 165-acre Innsfree Garden designed by the landscape architect Lester Collins and the garden at Bellefield Mansion designed by the master gardener Beatrix Farrand. We also visit the Locust Grove estate which is perched on a hill with sweeping views overlooking the Hudson River and the smaller but perfectly formed Stonecrop Gardens home to a water garden, woodlands, rock garden and English-style flower garden.

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London to New York. On arrival, we will transfer to our hotel. (IF)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit **Kykuit** garden which was begun by the oil billionaire John D. Rockefeller and served as a Rockefeller family summer retreat from 1913 to 1991. Kykuit (pronounced 'cake-8') means 'lookout' in Dutch and it has fine views over the magnificent scenery of the Hudson Valley. A host of attractive features includes terraces, a semi-circular rose garden, fountains, a Japanese Garden and an Italian loggia. Here we enjoy the **classic estate tour**. This afternoon, we visit **Untermeyer Gardens**. In 1899 Samuel Untermeyer

purchased Greystone and in the forty-one years he owned the property he transformed the gardens and greenhouses into some of the most celebrated gardens in America. The gardens are now managed by the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy, a non-profit making organisation. The Indo-Persian Walled Garden is divided into quadrants by waterways and bordered by crenellated walls anchored by octagonal towers; the Vista was modelled on a similar series of descending stairs at the Villa D'Este in Italy and here they cascade towards the Hudson River. We have a private tour of the gardens included. (B)



Day 3 This morning we visit **Stonecrop**. At just 12 acres, it might seem at first like a little gem, but it's really a vault full of jewels. Surrounding a country manor house built in 1958 are thickets of blooms: *Salvia uliginosa*, *Ruta graveolens*, *Tweedia caerulea* and dozens more. Stonecrop changes dramatically as you walk from one area to the next. One minute a bamboo grove so thick you have to hold back the branches; the next a rocky ledge amid tiny alpine blossoms of brilliant red, purple and pink. A guided tour is included here. Our final visit of the day is to **Locust Grove Estate**. First purchased in 1895 by William and Martha Young, they soon began adding onto the property, and now Locust Grove has nearly 200 acres of grounds and formal gardens, including a historically accurate cutting garden and a kitchen garden for fruits and vegetables. Here we enjoy a tour of the house and gardens. (B)

Day 4 This morning after breakfast we depart for our first visit of the day which is **Vanderbilt**



Vanderbilt Mansion rose garden

Mansion where we have a guided tour included. One of several homes owned by the renowned Frederick William Vanderbilt, the 54-room mansion was constructed in the late 19th century and is an example of Beaux-Arts style. Situated overlooking the Hudson River, the surrounding grounds include manicured lawns, formal gardens and woodlands. Next, we have a treat in store as we visit the **Culinary Institute of America's** campus in Hyde Park, where we will enjoy a tour followed by lunch. Afterwards, we visit **Bellefield** which was designed in 1912 by Beatrix Farrand, a renowned landscape architect who pioneered the concept of "garden rooms" with their own feel. Bellefield has three such garden rooms, which stretch from the house's terrace to an arched doorway, with a velvety green lawn down the middle that narrows twice, elongating the space. (B, L)

Day 5 This morning we visit **Blithewood Garden**, a classic example of a walled Italianate Garden. Perched on a sloping bluff above the Hudson River, Blithewood Gardens sprawls over a 45-acre section of the Bard College campus with the awe-inspiring Catskills mountains as its backdrop. Here we enjoy a tour of the gardens. Later, we return to the hotel where the afternoon is at leisure. (B)

Day 6 This morning following breakfast, we tour **Innisfree Garden**, a sprawling 165-acre garden designed by the landscape artist Lester Collins. The garden combines mid-century modernist and romantic principle with traditional Chinese and Japan garden design and include rock, water, and wood features. We then visit **Wildflower Island**, a two-acre island refuge home to more than 250 species of wildflowers, trees, ferns, and grasses. (B)

Day 7 We visit **Lyndhurst**, a Gothic Revival home originally designed by the America architect Alexander Jackson Davis in 1838. Despite the house's imposing size and looming towers, there is a real family home feel to the estate. During the mid 19th-century the Master Gardener Ferdinand Mangold revitalized the parklands bringing the latest trends from European royal estate to Lyndhurst. Afternoon is at leisure. (B)

Day 8 Today we visit the gardens of **Wave Hill** in the Bronx which enjoys fabulous views over the River Hudson. After a period of decline in the 1960s the garden was transformed into a vibrant horticultural experience, with a flower garden filled with many unusual plants at its heart. There is also a herb garden, an aquatic garden, dry and wild gardens, an alpine house and conservatory, but it is the view over the river that may provide the lasting

memory of our time here in New York and the Hudson Valley. We will then head to the the **New York Botanical Garden** for a guided tour. Established in 1891, the 250-acre garden, the largest in any city in the USA, is a National Historic Landmark and comprises 50 speciality gardens and collections which are home to over one million plants. Highlights include the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, the Native Plant Garden and 30,000 distinguished trees some of which are over 200-year-old. We later 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

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: four at the 4-star Courtyard Tarrytown and three at the 3-star Residence Inn Poughkeepsie (or similar)
- ▶ One Lunch
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Return flights from London to New York
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

5 - 13 Jul **£4,295** **£3,995**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement

£795

Tour code: **BHUD**



Wave Hill



Muir Woods

NEW

15 DAYS FROM
£6,695

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
MIKE NELHAMS

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

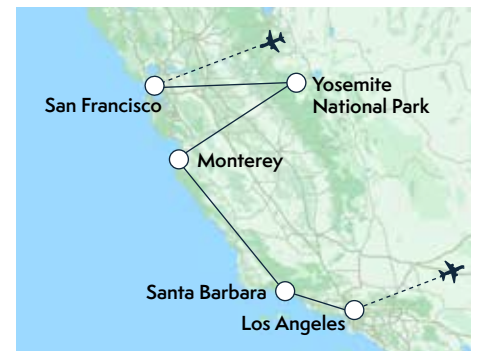
California – In the footsteps of John Muir

California is a paradise on the Pacific, a place of mythic proportions blessed with an intoxicating climate. Its monumental landscapes, including ocean, mountains, mighty redwood forests and barren sweeps of deserts all fill the senses. Our unique horticultural tour starts in the San Francisco district, moves to Yosemite, comes back to Monterey and follows the coastal route down to Santa Barbara.

Of course we are only scratching the surface of the Golden State, however what we have included on our full itinerary will stay with you forever. With its breathtaking landscapes, diverse climates and rich plant life, California contains some of the most exciting and stunning landscapes in the world. We have a combination of famous botanical gardens such as those of Berkeley University, Santa Barbara, Strybing and Huntington, one of the most famous gardens in North America. We also visit private gardens such as Filoli with its beautifully preserved Georgian revival house and Lotusland, for many the outstanding garden of this tour.

All these man-made features will be dwarfed in comparison with the redwood forests and the National Park of Yosemite. In 1868 the young Scotsman John Muir ventured through California's wild landscape and was so entranced by the beauty of the place that his enthusiasm to conserve it for eternity eventually led to the formation of America's network of National Parks. We also visit the Channel Islands National Park, five remarkable, uninhabited islands with a wealth of natural and cultural resources which afford a glimpse of southern California as it once was.

Our tour is led by the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens and expert horticulturalist Mike Nelhams, who rates the Pacific coast of California as one of his favourite destinations in the world.



Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport executive lounge before we depart from London to San Francisco. Upon arrival in **San Francisco**, we will be met by our coach and transferred to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free to explore and relax after our journey. *(IF)*

Day 2 This morning we will board the coach for our **city tour** taking in the sights of this "City by the Bay" including **North Beach**, famous for its Italian community; **Nob Hill**, where the city's elite have their homes; **Chinatown**, which boasts the largest Chinese community in North America, and fashionable **Union Square**, home of some of the finest shopping in the country. In the afternoon we will visit **Botanic Garden** at the **University of California, Berkeley**. We return to our hotel in San Francisco where the evening is at leisure. *(B)*

Day 3 This morning we cross the famous **Golden Gate Bridge** to visit **Muir Woods**, a 559-acre forest



Filoli Gardens

of towering coast redwood trees. In the afternoon we enter the **Golden Gate Park** for our visit to **Strybing Arboretum & botanical garden**. There is much to see here, including Mediterranean and Tropical Climate Gardens, Temperate Gardens and a host of Speciality Gardens. (B)

Day 4 This morning we head to **Filoli Gardens**, a 654-acre estate situated 30 miles to the south of San Francisco. These magnificent gardens are untouched by the passage of time and surround the grand Georgian mansion with hundreds of rare flowers, plants and trees. Afternoon free, or alternatively, you may wish to take part in our optional excursion to **Alcatraz**, the infamous prison island in the middle of San Francisco Bay. (B)

Day 5 We enjoy a full day tour to the **Napa Valley** and the **Francis Ford Coppola Winery**. Francis Ford Coppola is perhaps better known for making movies but has been making wines since 1977. (B)

Day 6 We leave our hotel in San Francisco and head to the suburbs of Walnut Creek to the **Ruth Bancroft Gardens and Nursery**. One of the finest dry gardens in the world, we see an expansive display of climate resilient plants. We later travel to **Yosemite National Park**, a region of outstanding natural beauty with a grand collection of waterfalls, meadows and forests. (B)

Day 7 This morning we tour **Yosemite**. Highlights include the Mariposa Grove, which contains hundreds of the giant sequoias and a sub-alpine meadow surrounded by mountain peaks. (B)

Day 8 Today we leave our hotel in Yosemite and travel to **Monterey Peninsula**. Described as the greatest meeting of land, sea and sky, this beautiful seaside community combines all the charm of small-town America with an endless variety of recreational activities. (B)

Day 9 We have a real treat in store today as we travel along the stunning **17 Mile Drive**. Passing through the **Del Monte Forest** there are approximately 20 stops along this well marked route, each with a landmark of interest. We then visit the **Mission San Carlos Borromeo** in Carmel, one of the most popular tourist sites in California

and a place of pilgrimage for visitors from all over the world, including Pope John Paul II in 1987. (B)

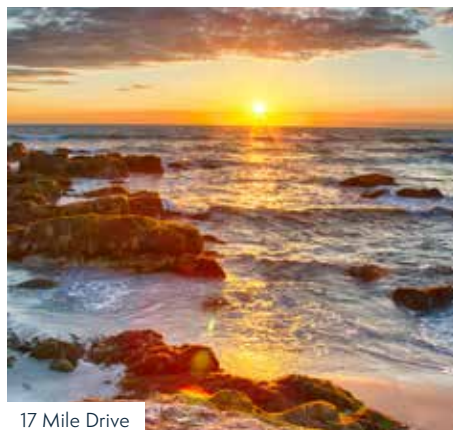
Day 10 This morning we explore **Monterey Bay**, which has an abundance of sea life such as sea otters and sea lions. Heading south, we will visit **Hearst Castle**, which is now a State Monument giving glimpses into the Hearst's opulent lifestyle. Continue to our hotel in **Santa Barbara**. (B)

Day 11 This morning we depart for Ventura Harbor, 30 miles south of Santa Barbara, the starting point for our boat trip to the **Channel Islands National Park**. Encompassing five remarkable, uninhabited islands and their ocean environment, the Park preserves and protects a wealth of natural and cultural resources. (B)

Day 12 We visit the **Lotusland Gardens**, where highlights include an outdoor theatre, a topiary garden, large collection of rare cycads and a lotus pond. In the afternoon we will visit the **Santa Barbara Mission Garden** and the private garden of **Casa del Herrero**, giving us an insight into the pleasures of gardening here in California. (B)

Day 13 This morning we visit the **California Botanic Garden**, the largest of its kind, focussing solely on the Golden State's native plant species. (B)

Day 14 We depart for **Fullerton Arboretum**, a former orange grove and now the largest botanical garden in Orange County. En route to the airport,



17 Mile Drive

our final visit is to **Huntington Botanical Gardens**, which consist of 15 specialised gardens arranged within a park-like landscape. Among the most remarkable is the Desert Garden with its mature cacti. We then transfer to Los Angeles International Airport for our return evening flight to London. (B, IF)

Day 15 On arrival in London the group will disperse or make onward connections.

Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

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

- ▶ 14 nights accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis: five nights in San Francisco, two nights in Yosemite National Park, two nights in Monterey, four nights in Santa Barbara and one night in Anaheim
- ▶ Flights from London to San Francisco and from Los Angeles to London
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of Mike Nelhams as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

23 Sep - 7 Oct ~~£6,995~~ £6,695

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement £1,895

Optional Excursion:
Alcatraz £60

Tour code: BCAL



Rio de Janeiro

NEW

17 DAYS FROM
£9,595

SAVE PER PERSON
£400

TOUR MANAGER
TREVOR EDWARDS

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

Brazil's Gardens and Natural Wonders

"I had just returned from my Piranha fishing excursion to find two yellow frogs in my bathroom" exclaimed a passenger on our first tour - such is the excitement of Brazil! The tour opens in Rio de Janeiro with a cruise round the calm waters of Guanabara Bay on a Brazilian schooner followed in the next few days by a cable car ride up Sugar Loaf Mountain and a train ride to the Christ the Redeemer statue — talk about sensory overload!

We will also, however, venture off the well-worn tourist trail of Rio, with a guided visit to the garden and former home of Roberto Burle Marx, one of the most important landscape architects of the 20th century, as well as the botanical garden and an outstanding National Park, with native species of the Atlantic Rainforest in a stunning natural setting.

After five nights in Rio we travel along the coast to Paraty, once the main port for shipping gold to Portugal and now a charming and well-preserved colonial town. Two full days of touring here gives us the opportunity to visit further gardens and sites of botanical interest. From Rio we fly on to Iguazu and our hotel adjacent to the awesome waterfalls, seven times the size of Niagara. An excursion into neighbouring Argentina is included here as we view the falls from every possible angle.

For a thrilling conclusion of our tour we travel into the interior to explore the Pantanal, the world's largest continuous wetland area. From our base at the comfortable Caiman Lodge we will have an in-depth tour of the region and its diverse natural inhabitants, from trees and flora to an astonishing profusion of birds and aquatic wildlife.



Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London for Brazil. *(IF)*

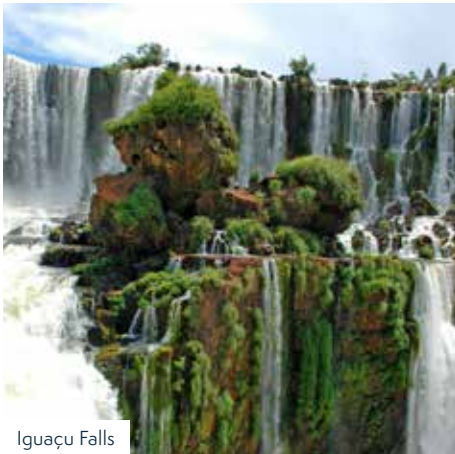
Day 2 We arrive in **Rio de Janeiro** early this morning, to be met by our local coach and guide. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore Rio. *(IF)*

Day 3 As an introduction to the flora of Brazil there could be no better place to start than the **Botanical Garden** in Rio de Janeiro, one of the largest in the world with approximately 8200 species of living plants. Later we drive along Copacabana beach and on to **Flamengo Park**, a large landfill area in the bay which was designed by Burle Marx. We continue to one of Rio's most famous attractions, the **Sugar Loaf Mountain**, with a short stroll along the **Bem Te Vi** path, surrounded by lush vegetation, before we take the cable car to the top of the mountain and some stunning views. *(B)*

Day 4 We begin this morning with a guided tour of a garden associated with **Roberto Burle Marx** (1909-1994), known internationally as one of the



Pantanal



Iguazu Falls

most important landscape architects of the 20th century, the **Sítio Burle Marx** in Barra de Guaratiba on the outskirts of Rio. This was his private home for most of his adult life, which is now open to visitors. The "sítio" - a small farm - boasts a marvellous collection of his work, including paintings, sculptures, glass paintings, as well more than 3,500 plants in the gardens. Lunch in a local restaurant is included today. (B, L)

Day 5 We take the rack railway for a close-up look at the iconic statue of **Christ the Redeemer**. This afternoon we enjoy a cruise around the calm waters of **Guanabara Bay** aboard a refurbished Brazilian schooner, which will give us marvellous views of Rio. The evening is at leisure or alternatively enjoy an optional barbecue dinner at Barra Brasa. (B)

Day 6 We have arranged an exclusive visit to one of the most famous of Roberto Burle Marx's gardens, **Fazenda Marambaia** (known formerly as the *Monteiro Garden*), which includes a guided tour. We return to Rio later in the afternoon, with the evening at leisure. (B)

Day 7 We leave Rio and travel along the coast to **Paraty**, once the main port for shipping gold to Portugal and now a charming and well-preserved colonial town. (B)

Day 8 This morning we enjoy a **cruise** on a **Brazilian 'Saveiros'** along the calm waters of Paraty

Bay. Paraty has 65 islands dotted around the turquoise and crystal-clear waters, surrounded by exuberant rainforest and secluded beaches. (B)

Day 9 We visit a **bromeliad and orchid plantation**, before enjoying lunch at **Villa Verde**, a beautiful, small restaurant owned and run by a Swiss chef, who has found his own piece of tropical paradise. (B, L)

Day 10 This morning we return to Rio in time for our flight to **Foz do Iguazu**. On arrival we transfer to our luxurious hotel, uniquely located in the Brazilian National Park, next to the Falls. (B)

Day 11 In the morning we have a guided tour of the Brazilian side of the **Iguazu Falls**. After an opportunity for lunch (not included) we transfer by coach to the 'Birds Park', a large reserve located next to the Falls boasting a variety of species including the familiar toucan. (B)

Day 12 The morning is free to relax and in the afternoon we travel via Paraguay into Argentina for further thrilling views of the falls, and a train through the park to the various viewpoints. This evening there is an optional Dinner Show. (B)

Day 13 We return to the airport in time for our flight to **Campo Grande** situated in the **Pantanal**, the world's largest continuous wetland area. On arrival we shall travel to **Caiman Eco Lodge** where we enjoy a drinks reception and presentation. (B, D)

Day 14 We have a full and rewarding day dedicated to observing the Pantanal's flora and fauna at the **Caiman Eco Lodge** private reserve. The bird-life alone features an extraordinary range of species, including bare-faced curassow, buff-necked ibis and the horned screamer. Both lunch and dinner are served at the Lodge today. (B, L, D)

Day 15 Today we enjoy another fascinating day at the **Caiman Eco Lodge** private reserve. You may wish to enjoy more activities or learn about the customs and culture of the local cowboys, known as "Pantaneiros" or enjoy learning about the Hyacinth Macaw Project which is based at the lodge. The project's main objective is to observe and collect data about the Hyacinth Macaw (*Blue Macaw*), a bird threatened with extinction, as well as to find new nesting sites and monitor those that

already exist. Once again lunch and dinner are served at the Lodge today. (B, L, D)

Day 16 Sadly it is time to say 'adeus' to Brazil as we return to the airport at Campo Grande for our return flight back to London. (B, IF)

Day 17 On arrival in London today the group will disperse or make onward connections. (IF)

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

- ▶ 14 nights' accommodation: five nights bed and breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Rio de Janeiro; three nights bed and breakfast at the Pousada do Sandi in Paraty; three nights bed and breakfast at the 5-star Hotel das Cataratas in Iguazú; three nights full board at the Caiman Lodge in the Pantanal (or similar)
- ▶ Return flights between London and Brazil
- ▶ All transfers and flights within Brazil
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager plus local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1
18 - 30 Oct **£9,995** **£9,595**

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **£3,895**

Optional BBQ dinner at Barra Brasa **On request**

Tour code: **BBRZ**



Namaqualand

15 DAYS FROM
£4,995

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

TOUR MANAGER
COLIN CROSBIE

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

Spring Flowers of Namaqualand

Namaqualand, in South Africa's Northern Cape, is a place of rare and exquisite beauty, an unspoilt expanse of open spaces broken by ancient outcrops of granite - and a plant lover's delight. With an intensity dependent on the winter rains, come spring the barren ground bursts into a carpet of flowers, a vast tapestry of stunningly interwoven colour. In addition to this spectacular display our tour includes coastal and mountain fynbos, succulent plants, bulbs and orchids, proteas and heaths, a game drive, a chance to go whale watching and of course a vineyard!

We begin in Cape Town with visits to familiar destinations such as Kirstenbosch and Table Mountain, but as we head north we move into less well-known territory, through the homelands of the San people with their distinctive clicking language and on into Namaqualand. A series of visits will bring us into close contact with swathes of colourful flowers for a truly memorable experience.

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London to Cape Town on our overnight flight. (IF)

Day 2 Upon arrival in Cape Town, we will transfer to the hotel to drop off our luggage. We will then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before departing for **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**. Established in 1913, today it is one of the finest botanic gardens in the world and provides the perfect introduction to South Africa's flora. (L)

Day 3 After breakfast we will ascend to the top of **Table Mountain** by cable car and discover some of

the many floral species to be found here. Later, we have a city orientation tour including a walk in the **Company's Garden**. Afternoon is at leisure, or you may join the optional excursion to Robben Island - the island prison which housed Nelson Mandela during his 18-year incarceration. (B)

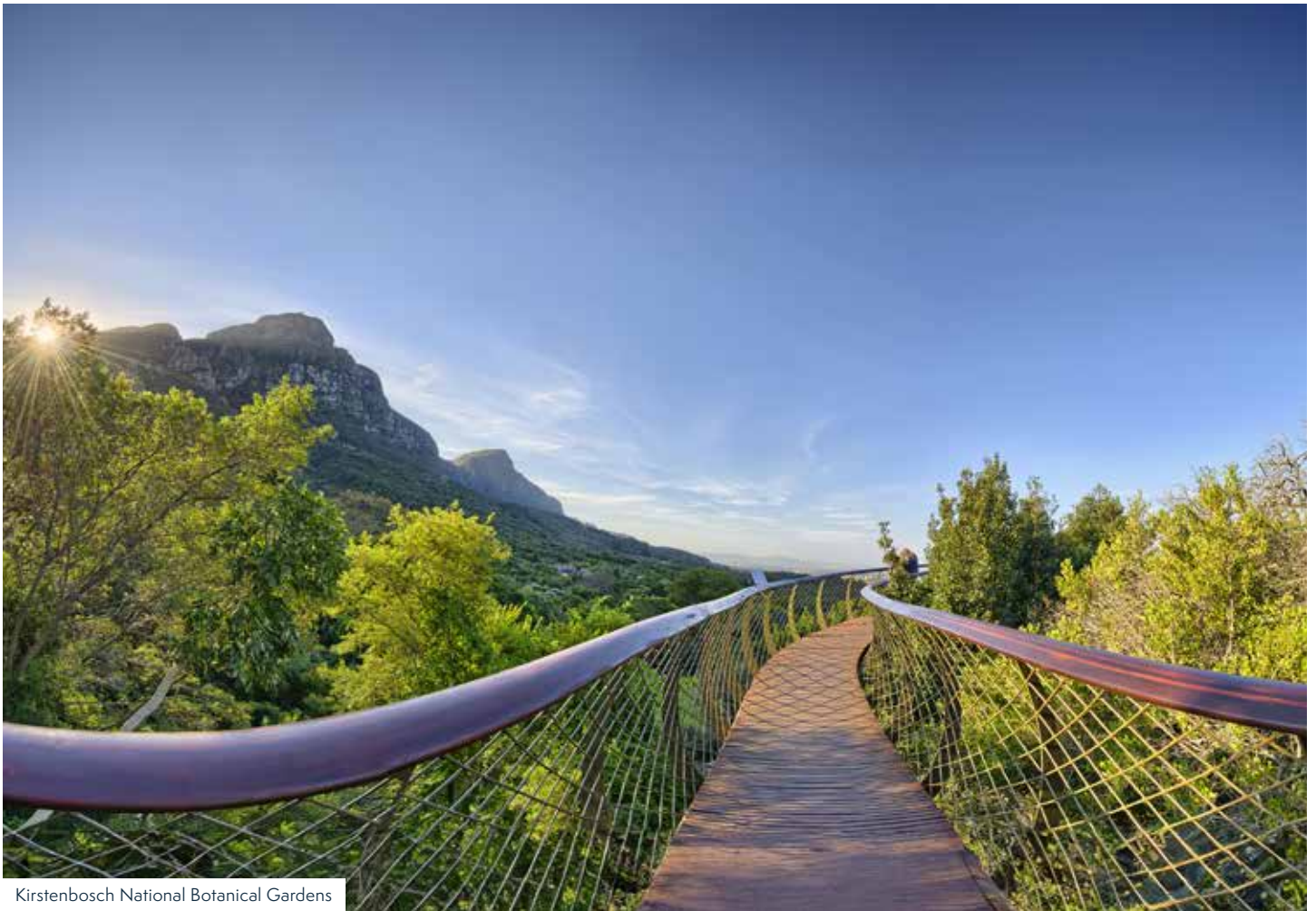
Day 4 Today we depart for a long but rewarding day as we explore the **Cape Peninsula**. We head along **Chapman's Peak Drive** and visit the **Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve**. At **Boulder's Beach** where we find a colony of over 3,000 African Penguins. (B, L)



Day 5 We depart for a visit to **!Khuwa Ttu San Cultural Centre and Nature Reserve**. Here we try the memorable, health-giving tea and hear a story in the !Kung language, with its distinctive click consonants. Later we have the chance to embark on an **Open Vehicle Game Drive** in the reserve where Eland, Zebra, Springbok, Black Wildebeest, Ostrich roam free. This afternoon we visit the **West Coast National Park** and the **Postberg Nature Reserve** within the park, which is famous for its carpets of spring flowers such as the rain daisy. (B, L, D)

Day 6 We drive up the West Coast and see the beautiful, bright yellow canola fields, enjoy lunch by the sea and, weather permitting, a lovely walk on the beach. We continue north and enter the unique region of **Namaqualand**. (B, L, D)

Day 7 We drive up the breathtaking **Vanrhyns Pass** and visit the quiver tree forest before continuing to Matjiesfontein to enjoy the fields of flowers that stretch as far as the eye can see. (B, L, D)



Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens



Quiver tree

Day 8 We head further north and spend the day in the **Namaqua National Park**, walking along the flower paths and discovering the native flora and fauna. (B, L, D)

Day 9 We depart for Clanwilliam, marvelling at the amazing rock formations, and visit the **Ramskop Wild Flower Garden**, home to more than 350 species of cultivated wild flowers. (B, L, D)

Day 10 We visit the **Karoo National Botanical Gardens**, home to over 400 naturally occurring plant species, one of the largest collections of indigenous succulents in South Africa. (B, L)

Day 11 We head to **Stellenbosch Botanical Garden**, the oldest university garden in South Africa, featuring a huge variety of plants from across the globe. After a picnic lunch, we visit the **Vergelegen Wine Estate**. (B, L)

Day 12 We visit the **Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve**, a place of beauty and conservation. Afternoon at leisure in **Hermanus**. Alternatively, you may choose to join the optional afternoon whale watching excursion. (B)

Day 13 Visit **Fernkloof Nature Reserve**, which protects coastal and mountain fynbos and a small patch of evergreen forest. Later, we visit **Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens**, renowned for its waterfalls and amber pools. (B, L)

Day 14 Time at leisure before transferring to the airport for our overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

Day 15 Arrive in London. (IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin extensive horticulturalist knowledge will considerably add to our experience when we return to the amazing floral landscapes of Namaqualand.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 12 nights' bed and breakfast basis: three at the 4-star Commodore Hotel, Cape Town; one night at the 3-star Saldanha Bay Hotel, Saldanha; three nights at the 3-star Letsatsi Lodge, Vanrhynsdorp; one night at the 3-star Clanwilliam Hotel, Clanwilliam; two nights at the 4-star De Zalze Lodge, Stellenbosch, two nights at the 3-star Windsor Hotel, Hermanus (or similar)
- ▶ Ten lunches and five dinners
- ▶ Return flights from London to Cape Town
- ▶ 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 local guide

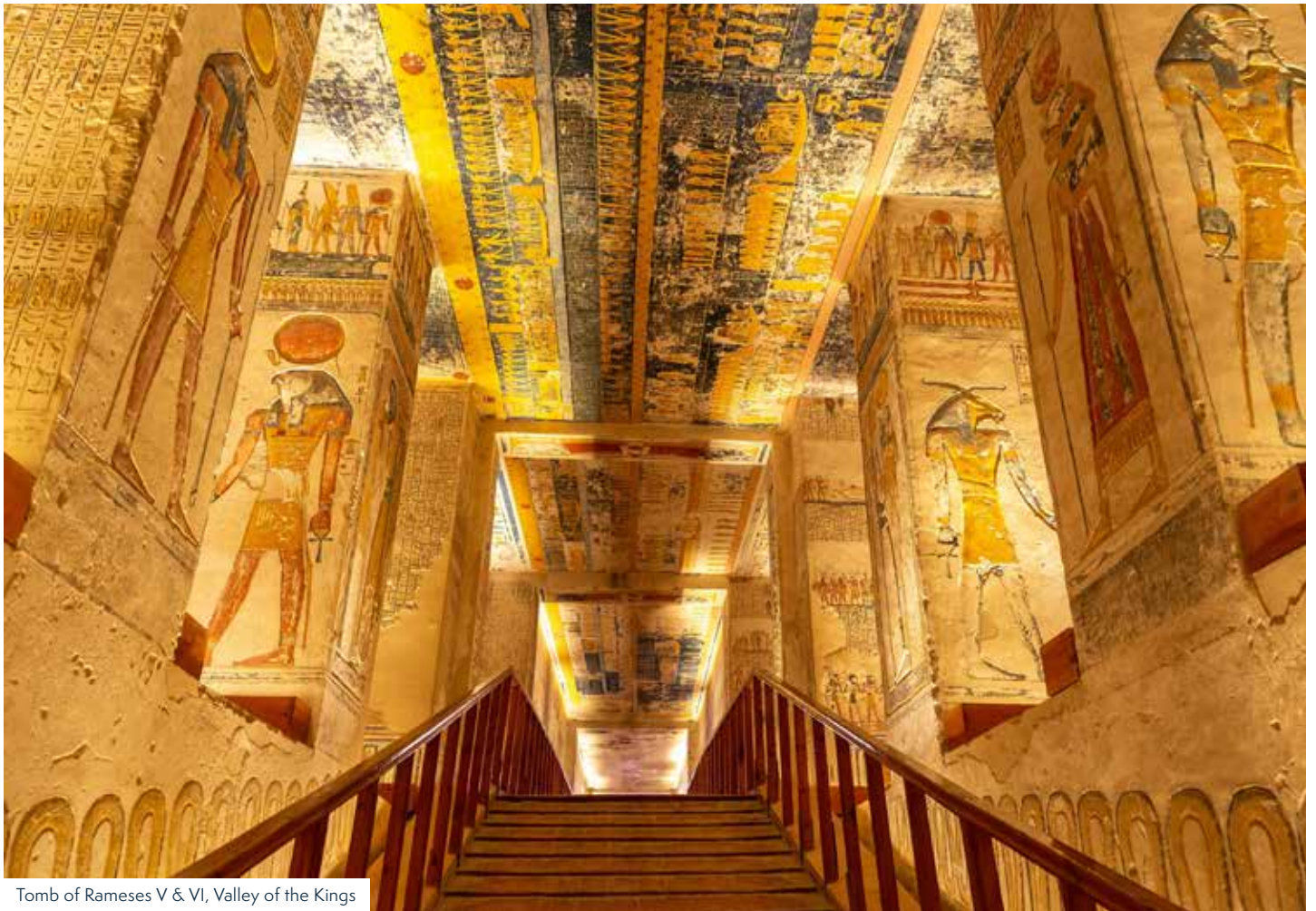
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
29 Aug - 12 Sep	£5,295	£4,995

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£495
Optional Excursions:	
Whale watching	£90
Robben Island	£40

Tour code: **BNAM**



Tomb of Rameses V & VI, Valley of the Kings

12 DAYS FROM
£4,295

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

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 the 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.



Saqqara



Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London to **Cairo** and transfer to our hotel. (I, F, 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)



Luxor

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)*

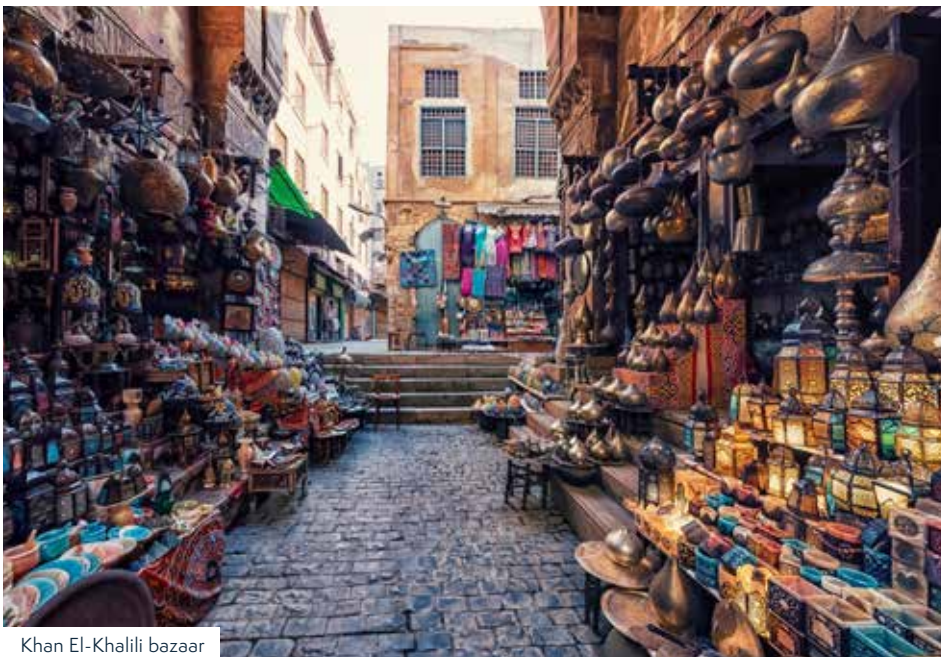
Day 9 Optional excursion to **Abu Simbel**, a temple built by Ramesses II. Later enjoy **afternoon tea** at the Old Cataract Hotel where Agatha Christie wrote *Death on the Nile*. *(B, AT, D)*

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*



Khan El-Khalili bazaar

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 access
- ▶ Return flights from London to Cairo
- ▶ Flights Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ On arrival Tourist Visa Entry Fee
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1

6 - 17 Feb **£4,595** £4,295

6 - 17 Nov **£5,295** £4,995

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement **from £1,175**

Optional Excursion:
Abu Simbel **£475**

Tour code: **BEGY**



Île aux Aigrettes

12 DAYS FROM
£3,895

SAVE PER PERSON
£300

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.



Port Louis

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



Giant waterlilies

Chorisia (silk floss trees) in Mauritius and a Spice Garden. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we head to Morcellement St André on north coast where we visit a **large greenhouse** filled with plants and flowers and meet the owner. Afterwards, we travel to the capital **Port Louis**, where we visit the colourful **market** and the **Blue Penny Museum**, which is wholly devoted to Mauritius. The museum collection includes the 1847 Blue and Red Penny stamps, which are amongst the rarest and most sought after stamps in the world. Later we have a visit to **Caudan Waterfront** including the local handicraft market. (B, D)

Day 5 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** and the **Grand Bassin** and our day concludes at the **Seven**



Seven Coloured Earths

Coloured Earths, a rare geological oddity created by volcanic activity which brought together a number of different minerals and elements. (B, D)

Day 6 Today we take a boat trip to the island's nature reserve of **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 7 Free day to relax and enjoy the facilities of the hotel or explore the surrounding area at your leisure. (B, D)

Day 8 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 **Le Domaine de Bois Cheri**, the largest and oldest tea plantation in Mauritius, where we will tour the museum and

enjoy a tasting of the finished product. (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 Pamplemousses, famous for its canal full of giant waterlilies. Later we visit the **Domaine de Labourdonnais**, where we 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 We begin today with a visit to the **plantations** in Moka situated on the central plateau of the island, where we will see fields and greenhouses filled with all manner of plants. Later we visit a **pineapple plantation** followed by a tasting of the delicious fruit. In the afternoon we explore **Eureka House**, a colonial mansion with a dramatic woodland ravine as well as a garden, with lunch 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, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner

FIVE-DAY BEACH EXTENSION FROM £645pp

Why not extend your holiday with a four-night stay at the 4-star Anelia Resort & Spa (or similar) including dinner, breakfast and airport transfers giving you the chance to spend a few days at leisure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Nine nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Anelia Resort and Spa
- ▶ One Afternoon Tea and one lunch
- ▶ Return flights from London to Mauritius
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- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025 - OFFER 1		
26 Mar - 6 Apr	£4,195	£3,895
12 - 23 Nov	£4,295	£3,995

OFFER 2 - Pay in full at the time of booking and save 10% off the pre-discount total price until 31/05/24

Single Supplement	£795
Superior Ocean View Supplement	from £135

Tour code: **BMAU**



Giant tortoise

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.

BRIGHTWATER HOLIDAYS holds ATOL number 4498 issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. For all other packages, The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

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 - £175pp for holidays without flights, £350pp for UK/Europe holidays with flights, 15% 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, 15% 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: 14 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

a) Prior to booking you will receive a verbal quote based on your specific holiday requirements and travel dates.

b) 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. The price you pay at the time of booking is the price we guarantee. Prices can go up when demand is so high, so we recommend you book early to avoid disappointment. Alternatively, you may amend your booking or select an alternative holiday at the applicable and correct price.

c) 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.

d) 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 98 days: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **97-84 days:** 15% 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 £75 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 date 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 £75 and any costs which our suppliers impose³.

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 £75 per person applies to any transfer up to 14 weeks prior to departure. Less than 14 weeks prior to departure and full cancellation fee will apply.

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 will 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.

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 characteristics 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 any 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 any 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, eg. Covid-19, 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:

- 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
- 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 airline in accordance with the airlines' policy on delays. 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 publicised 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.

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://ww2.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/

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 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 (only valid for UK residents):

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.



Get in touch

with an expert

To book call our Specialist Sales Executives

01334 657 133

or visit our website

www.brightwaterholidays.com

brightwater
holidays

a breath of fresh air

