

a breath of fresh air

**2024 LATE DEPARTURES
MAY - NOVEMBER
PLUS NEW CHRISTMAS TOURS**



Don't miss out

The clocks have gone forward at last, officially bringing an end to winter and welcoming in the prospect of (hopefully) another long, hot summer. What better way to take advantage of the coming season than a holiday visiting beautiful gardens, exploring historic houses or simply enjoying magnificent scenery pass by from the comfort of your coach.

That's why we have brought together this collection of holidays departing from May onwards, both in the UK and further afield. Many of these departures are filling up, of course, so we do advise you to book soon, while there is still space available and while our special offers remain in place.

In the following pages you will find our holidays to the Scottish highlands and islands, which continue to be popular as travelling by coach is one of the easiest ways to get there. Similarly, our range of garden holidays throughout the UK and Ireland brings some wonderful properties within easy reach. There are also numerous overseas destinations to choose from, opening up a whole world of gardens, natural landscapes and archaeological sites.

I hope you enjoy this selection and look forward to you joining us very soon.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson
Managing Director

Latest Offers

Summer Special Offer*

If you book selected holidays departing in 2024 over the phone, you can save up to £400pp*
Please quote **SUMMER24** at the time of booking.

*T&C's savings applicable £150pp on UK tours, £250pp on European tours and £400pp on Worldwide tours. Offer is valid for tours departing before 31st December 2024. Discount can only be applied at the time of booking via the phone and holidays must be paid for in full at the time of booking. This offer cannot be combined with any other offers – please speak to a Specialist Sales Executive for details. Offer expires 31st May 2024 but may be withdrawn at any time and is not applicable to travel agent bookings or private groups. The prices shown in the following pages include the relevant discount. Excludes Christmas Tours.

Our Awards

We were 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, we also won the Feefo 2024 Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service throughout 2023. We were also voted Garden Tour Operator of the Year at the International Garden Tourism Awards in Canada.



A Classic Scottish Steam Break

2024 Departures:
9 & 17 MAY, 20 JUN, 12 JUL, 8 AUG, 10 OCT

4 DAYS FROM
£625

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

NO/LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



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, and take a boat trip on the Falkirk Wheel, the world's first rotating boat lift and a modern engineering marvel. Different packages for this tour following the same itinerary: one staying at the Arrochar Hotel and one staying at the Stirling Highland Hotel.

Tour code: **BSTH / BSTB**

Scenic Scottish Railways

2024 Departures:
3 MAY, 26 JUL, 13 SEPT, 4 OCT

4 DAYS FROM
£695

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



The north of Scotland is blessed with some wonderfully scenic railway lines. The challenge of building railways through difficult terrain was taken up by the great engineers of the Victorian age. Their legacy is in the sweeping curves and majestic viaducts of the single track lines which cross wild moors and lonely glens. Highlights on this short break include train journeys to Wick and Kyle of Lochalsh and a visit to the much photographed Eilean Donan Castle, and a ride aboard the Jacobite steam train that takes us over the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct.

Tour code: **BSSR**

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

2024 Departures:
14 & 26 MAY, 23 JUN,
19 AUG, 22 & 30 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£945

6 DAYS FROM
£1,345

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



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. After visiting the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra, 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 tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gairranan.

Tour code: **BGTS / BGTB / BGTO**

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

2024 Departures:
6 JUL

5 DAYS FROM
£1,195

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



In about 1800 BC, at around the time that the Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt was flourishing, an equally vigorous civilisation was leaving its mark on the far flung islands of the Outer Hebrides. The Standing Stones at Callanish, tall and slender slabs of silvery Lewisian gneiss, are the enduring testament to the skill and knowledge of a long-vanished and mysterious community, who laid out these stones according to precise astronomical observations, lining up the main avenue with the point at which the full moon of midsummer sets. In the company of a specialist guide we will tour a succession of sites, from Lewis in the north to Harris in the south, including the Bosta Iron Age Village and St Clement's Church at Rodel.

Tour code: **BAOH**

Arran, Scotland in Miniature

2024 Departures:
20 MAY, 12 AUG, 9 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£1,045

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Often described as "Scotland in Miniature", Arran has a blend of Highland and Island scenery with granite peaks and deep glens to the north of the island, contrasting with its rolling and lush farmlands to the south. As you board the ferry at Ardrossan, you see the distinctive silhouette of Goat Fell rising dramatically from the clear waters of the Firth of Clyde giving a foretaste of your destination whose unique magic never disappoints.

From Blackwaterfoot we will visit Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick - the capital of Arran - the pretty village of Corrie under the shadow of Goat Fell and Sannox before passing the '12 Apostles' at Lochranza.

Tour code: **BARR**

Autumn Tints of Arran

2024 Departures:
16 OCT

4 DAYS FROM
£745

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



Our Autumn departure is a day shorter but features the same visits on the Isle of Arran, including Brodick Castle, which leaves a lasting impression, as the tall stately building beckons with the glow of warm sandstone. The setting is staggering and its garden is a mass of year-round colour, especially at this time of year when trees don their autumn cloaks and the foliage blazes with reds, golds and ambers.

Tour code: **BATA**

Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring The Burrell Collection

2024 Departures:
13 SEP

4 DAYS FROM

£495

SAVE PER PERSON

£150

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



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. Our tour also includes visits to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum; 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.

Tour code: **BGAT**

Highland Wildlife Safari

2024 Departures:
21 JUN, 19 JUL

4 DAYS FROM

£745

SAVE PER PERSON

£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



Scotland's natural environment is second to none with a more diverse range of habitats than almost any other country of comparable size. This tour of the Highlands aims to provide close encounters with a wide range of wildlife, from the Moray Firth dolphins to the endangered Scottish wildcat, all set against a backdrop of magnificent scenery. Included is a visit to the Highland Wildlife Park, whose collection of rare and endangered animals and birds includes both native and non-native species, such as Snow Leopard and Polar Bear. It was in the news earlier this year when one of its macaques escaped for a few days and became known as 'Kingussie Kong'.

Tour code: **BHWS**

Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire

2024 Departures:
3 JUN

4 DAYS FROM

£795

SAVE PER PERSON

£150



Aberdeenshire is dotted with historic houses and castles, many of them outstanding examples of Scots Baronial architecture. Each one has a story to tell with countless legends and several royal connections, including Balmoral, now sadly remembered as the place where Her Majesty The Queen passed away on 8 September, 2022. Our tour starts with a bang at Drum Castle, where 700 years of history is woven into its battlements. Haddo House showcases the crisp neo-classical style of William Adam, while Fyvie Castle presents a prime example of the more extravagant Scots Baronial form. Castle Fraser is the most elaborate Z-plan castle in Scotland, while Craigievar seems simply to have grown naturally out of the rolling hills.

Tour code: **BHHA**

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders

2024 Departures:
23 JUN, 15 SEP

4 DAYS FROM

£845

SAVE PER PERSON

£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



The Scottish Borders are often overlooked in comparison with the Highlands and Islands, but they have a quiet, understated beauty of their own, with softly rolling hills draped in early morning mist, peaceful valleys dotted with sheep farms and the sinuous, salmon-filled River Tweed, which runs like a silver thread from the Lowther Hills to the sea at Berwick. During this short break, we will explore the Georgian masterpieces at Mellerstain and Manderston, visit Traquair House and admire Sir Walter Scott's personal collections at Abbotsford. Perhaps the grandest of all is Floors Castle, the magnificent home of the Duke of Roxburghe.

Tour code: **BHSB**

Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands

2024 Departures:
1 SEP

7 DAYS FROM

£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON

£150



The Highlands and Islands of Scotland provide such a wealth of scenic journeys that it can be a daunting prospect to work out how best to take them all in. This tour provides the answer to this Caledonian conundrum with an itinerary that ticks off a whole host of visual gems while at the same time providing a series of relaxing, undemanding journeys by train, coach and boat. We ride the West Highland Line to Fort William, followed by an excursion to the Isle of Mull, a cruise on Loch Linnhe and a round trip on the Jacobite steam train. Heading north to Inverness, we enjoy possibly the most scenic of all the Scottish railway routes to Kyle of Lochalsh and a visit to iconic Eilean Donan Castle.

Tour code: **BSJH**

In the Footsteps of the Picts

2024 Departures:
14 JUN, 2 AUG

4 DAYS FROM

£645

SAVE PER PERSON

£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



Living beyond the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, the people of northern Scotland in the Dark Ages were known as the Picts – a name given by the Romans, meaning the 'painted, tattooed ones'. They left behind fine carved stones and jewellery from early medieval Europe, and this tour showcases it all. During this tour we will travel through the heartland of the southern Picts in Perthshire and Angus, tracking down these elusive people and coming face-to-face with them through the clues of their everyday life as seen in the incredible artistry of their monumental stone sculpture. We view their exquisite jewellery and symbols of power in important museum collections in Edinburgh and Perth – with unique access to new discoveries.

Tour code: **BPIC**

Mull, Staffa and Iona

2024 Departures:
29 JUN, 29 SEP

4 DAYS FROM
£1,345

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



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

Tour code: **BMSI**

Lord of the Glens Secrets of the Highlands and Islands

2024 Departures:
2 SEP

8 DAYS FROM
£3,845

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



The MV Lord of the Glens, with its 27 beautifully appointed cabins, is the perfect vessel from which to enjoy the majesty of the Scottish highlands and islands. With all meals and shore excursions included the cruises offer excellent value, while providing a luxurious treat. This seven-night cruise combines both fresh and saltwater cruising, as the Lord of the Glens sails through the Caledonian Canal from Inverness to the islands of Skye and Mull and the bustling harbour of Oban, featuring some of the remote and breathtakingly beautiful scenery of Scotland's west coast, and concluding in Kyle of Lochalsh.

Tour code: **BLGG**

Highlights of Orkney & Shetland

2024 Departures:
11 & 18 MAY, 29 JUN,
14 AUG, 16 SEP

6 DAYS FROM
£1,425

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Sail away to lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery – the Orkney and Shetland isles. Many people have landed there before us, some as early as 3000 BC. Most famous of all were the Vikings, but they were not alone and all around you historical treasures can be found. Both Orkney and Shetland have their own identities - Orkney is green and fertile, while Shetland has rugged cliff and sea loch landscapes. However, both share a colourful history of Picts, Norsemen, ancient antiquities and seafaring legends – bound together with an independent spirit that sets them apart from the rest of Scotland.

Tour code: **BOSH**

Orkney and Shetland by Air

2024 Departures:
25 MAY, 21 AUG

5 DAYS FROM
£1,795

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



You asked and we listened! As it's a long way by road and sea, we have launched this alternative itinerary that explores the glorious and wild Orkney and Shetland Isles, which includes a flight from Aberdeen to Sumburgh and back from Kirkwall. This makes the journey to the start point of our tour far shorter and avoids us having to take an overnight sailing to Lerwick. Over the course of five memorable days, we will explore lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery, far from the jostling crowds as we lose ourselves in the haunting beauty of the Orkney and Shetland Isles.

Tour code: **BAOS**

Undiscovered Orkney

2024 Departures:
10 JUN, 27 AUG

5 DAYS FROM
£1,345

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Orkney is an archipelago of 70 islands, each with their own distinctive charm, history and natural beauty. These beautiful islands contain many secrets and hidden gems that need to be discovered. Based on Mainland, we will have an opportunity to visit previously unexplored areas as we discover the historic landmarks and captivating landscapes of the North and South Isles. Based in Kirkwall, on the mainland, we discover the landmarks and landscapes of the North and South Isles. On Westray, we relive Orkney's Viking past; on Mainland, we discover Neolithic Orkney; and on Hoy, we enjoy dramatic scenery as we sail across Scapa Flow.

Tour code: **BUOR**

Shetland and its Outer Isles

2024 Departures:
3 JUL, 17 AUG

5 DAYS FROM
£1,245

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



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

Tour code: **BSHI**

Knitting in the Shetland Isles

2024 Departures:
19 SEP

6 DAYS FROM
£1,495

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Even those who think they know all there is to know about the art of knitting can pick up a thing or two in the scenic Shetland Isles, and we're not just talking about those pesky dropped stitches! There are workshops aplenty, both starting off our mornings and rounding off our afternoons. These present the perfect opportunity to hone our skills - and perhaps even learn some new ones - under the watchful eye of experienced local tutors. We also take the opportunity to sample some of the other delights these remote yet fascinating islands have to offer, such as the historic archaeological site at Jarlshof and the spectacular sea cliffs at Sumburgh Head.

Tour code: **BKSH**

Scotland's Northern Edge featuring the North Coast 500

2024 Departures:
6 MAY, 10 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£945

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



The coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking – sometimes quite literally, as the wind whips in off the Pentland Firth and snatches the very breath from your mouth. Standing here on the northern edge of mainland Britain you are moved to reflect on the awesome, unstoppable power of the sea and the equally indomitable strength of the ancient rock beneath your feet, the two locked together in a timeless and never-ending battle. Following much of the popular North Coast 500 route, our tour takes in Duncansby Head, John O'Groats, the late Queen Mother's Castle of Mey and the impressive Smoo Cave.

Tour code: **BSNE**

Scotland's Extreme North West

2024 Departures:
8 & 22 OCT

4 DAYS FROM
£525

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the autumn months as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty. Enormous waves roll in from the Atlantic and hurl themselves against the shore in an awesome display of raw natural power. The coastal views and landscapes are even more breathtaking and the warmth of our highland hotel even more welcoming at this time of year. From our base in Kinlochbervie, we visit Oldshoremore - an exquisite beach of white sand - and Smoo Cave at Durness, a huge sea cave with a waterfall and a 'blowhole'. In the evenings we enjoy fine food among good company.

Tour code: **BXNW**

The Best Rhododendron Gardens in the World?

2024 Departures:
15 MAY

4 DAYS FROM
£795

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



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

Tour code: **BRHO**

Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway

2024 Departures:
2 JUN, 21 JUL, 15 SEP

4 DAYS FROM
£695

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



In the south-western corner of Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway is home to some of the country's most attractive gardens. For many the highlight of our tour is undoubtedly Dumfries House, actually in Ayrshire, which King Charles helped to save. One of the Adam brothers' finest achievements, the stunning interiors showcase a unique collection of Chippendale furniture, while the walled garden is one of the most exciting new garden developments in Scotland. Other highlights include exotic plants at Logan Botanic Gardens, Glenwhan Gardens with its hilltop vistas and Drumlanrig Castle with its extensive gardens and world-class collection of fine art.

Tour code: **BDAG**

Gardens of the Northern Highlands

2024 Departures:
8 JUL

5 DAYS FROM
£1,145

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



A journey to the far north of Scotland brings many rewards, not least the sense of freedom and open space to be found in the thrilling seascapes of the coasts or the vast, empty expanses of mountain and moorland. Rewards also come in the shape of some enchanting castles and gardens, such as the Castle of Mey, where the late Queen Mother had one of her favourite retreats, and Inverewe, a truly wonderful garden. We also visit the gardens of Culloden House, a sympathetically restored walled garden, Dunrobin Castle, the imposing ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland, and several private gardens of contrasting styles.

Tour code: **BGNH**

Castles and Palaces of the Highlands

2024 Departures:
17 JUL

5 DAYS FROM
£1,245

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



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

Tour code: **BPHL**

Gardens of Northumberland

2024 Departures:
28 JUL

4 DAYS FROM
£845

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



The largely rural county of Northumberland is home to a range of individual and imaginative gardens, with each one giving an unusual insight into the pleasure of gardening in this most beautiful and tranquil corner of England. We visit the gardens of Belsay Hall, which are uniquely set in the quarry that provided the stone to build the house itself; Mindrum, with its large and generous garden and the newer sister garden at Kirky Cottage, where we enjoy a delightful lunch. Newbiggin House, in the pretty village of Blanchland, offers us delightful old fashioned herbaceous borders, while, by way of contrast, the Alnwick Garden, gives us a garden for the 21st century.

Tour code: **B???**

Castles and Houses of Northumberland

2024 Departures:
2 JUN, 1 SEP

4 DAYS FROM
£845

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



A visit to the low lying coast and wide open spaces of Northumberland is always a treat but when it includes a host of historic houses and castles the pleasure is magnified greatly. Perhaps the most impressive of these is Bamburgh Castle, which sprawls over a rocky plateau on the coast, close to the Farne Islands. Late in its long life it was bought by the visionary inventor and philanthropist Lord Armstrong, whose innovative house at Cragside we will also visit. Further highlights include a trip to the holy island of Lindisfarne; a visit to Belsay Hall, built in 19th century Greek revival style, and Alnwick Castle, the second largest inhabited castle in England.

Tour code: **BCHN**

Coastal Castles & Magnificent Mansions of Dorset

2024 Departures:
5 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£1,145

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



We wind our way through the stunning Surrey countryside, the rolling downs of Hampshire and the New Forest National Park to discover the coastal castles and magnificent mansions of Dorset. We visit Deans Court, the ancestral home of William and Ali Hanham, whose family has lived here for nearly 500 years. We also have a private guided tour of Highcliffe Castle, visit the opulent Kingston Lacy, as well as the Russell-Cotes House and Gallery. We enjoy a nostalgic journey on the heritage Swanage Railway and have the chance to explore the ruins of Corfe Castle. Our tour is rounded off with a delightful lunch at historic Athelhampton.

Tour code: **BCMD**

Grand Gardens of Anglesey & Snowdonia

2024 Departures:
5 AUG

4 DAYS FROM
£645

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Set among glorious scenery with its dramatic views of Snowdonia, North Wales is home to outstanding gardens. One of the best is Plas Cadnant, which 25 years ago was an abandoned wilderness of ivy and decrepit fruit trees. It has since emerged as a gem of a garden full of interest. Further highlights include Maenen Hall, the sumptuous Bodnant Garden and the eccentric Italianate village of Portmeirion. Our tour is led by local resident and expert horticulturalist Tony Russell.

Tour code: **BNWA**

Colours of the Lake District

2024 Departures:
17 JUN, 29 SEP

4 DAYS FROM
£795

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



It's easy to see why so many celebrated literary figures chose to call the Lake District home - this part of the country is simply spectacular. By far the UK's most popular national park, the Lake District was given UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2017 and its spellbinding landscape of rolling mountains and sprawling lakes is sure to inspire even the most uncreative soul! Taking a leaf from the books of the area's most famous residents, we will embark upon a scenic, story-filled tour, paying visits to Beatrix Potter's 17th century farmhouse known as Hill Top, William Wordsworth's idyllic Dove Cottage and artist and critic John Ruskin's Brantwood.

Tour code: **BATL**

Gardens of Jersey

2024 Departures:
15 MAY, 4 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£1,445

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Situated within touching distance of France, the island of Jersey is blessed with wonderfully mild and sunny weather, making it the perfect destination for an early summer holiday. It is also home to some splendid gardens which make the most of this favourable climate to produce stunning displays, not to mention the profusion of wildflowers that thrive in the lush green meadows. Highlights include Creux Baillot Cottage Garden, packed full of unusual plants and elegant features, the Domain des Vaux, where fine trees and shrubs are set around a traditional Jersey farmhouse, the excellent Samarès Botanical Gardens and the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.

Tour code: **BJER**

The Gardens of Kent and Sussex

2024 Departures:
21 JUN, 16 AUG, 27 SEP

4 DAYS FROM
£745

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Wakehurst Place © Jim Holden - RBG Kew

If there's one tour that epitomises the joy of strolling around a perfect English country garden, it is this one – with one shining example after another to be savoured and enjoyed. Even if you have visited some of these properties before, such is their allure that you can return again and again, just as you would re-read your favourite novel. First-time visitors will be bowled over by the quality and pedigree of these gardens, which capture the essence of the English country garden. Visits include Great Comp, Lullingstone Castle and its World Garden of Plants, Nymans Garden, the Sussex Prairie Garden, Sissinghurst, Great Dixter and RHS Garden Wisley.

Tour code: **BKSG**

Gardens of Guernsey and Sark

2024 Departures:
12 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£1,645

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



The island of Guernsey, just 20 miles off the coast of France, flourishes in the warmth of late summer and is home to some wonderful gardens. On our first day here we visit the Guernsey Millennium Tapestry which provides a colourful introduction to the island's history, followed by Castle Cornet where a profusion of plants nestles within the ancient walls, a large town garden with good planting in St. Peter Port as well as a small private garden. Further highlights on Guernsey include Saumarez Park and the Guernsey Folk and Costume Museum, the workshop of a local jewellers and Candie Gardens, a Victorian gem with sweeping views over St Peter Port.

Tour code: **BGYS**

Highgrove and the Cotswolds

2024 Departures:
17 MAY, 13 JUN*, 2 AUG*

4 DAYS FROM
£695

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Highgrove © Robert Smith

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.

*Lunch at Highgrove included

Tour code: **BHGC**

Gardens of Rutland, Leicestershire & Lincolnshire

2024 Departures:
14 JUN

4 DAYS FROM
£695

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Barnsdale © Steve Hamilton

The late Geoff Hamilton is fondly remembered as a long-serving presenter of the BBC's Gardeners' World, often broadcasting from his beloved garden at Barnsdale, which for many will be the highlight of this East Midlands experience. But there are many other gems to be enjoyed here, such as Belton House, often described as the perfect English country estate, and the 400-year old Easton Walled Garden, brilliantly brought back to life after decades of neglect. We also have visits to Stowe Landscape Gardens, one of 'Capability' Brown's most notable works, and the extensive Coton Manor Gardens, plus a relaxing cruise on Rutland Water.

Tour code: **BRBG**

Somerset's Secret Gardens

2024 Departures:
4 JUL

4 DAYS FROM
£695

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



One of England's most scenic counties is Somerset, whose lush green pastures, orchards and little villages provide a wonderful backdrop to a most colourful and varied collection of private gardens. Highlights include Bradon Farm, a classic formal garden with good use of structure; Batcombe House, an outstanding plantswoman's garden and Lane End House, where a rough grazing field has been transformed into a well-stocked garden. We conclude at the Walled Gardens of Cannington, which our guide, RHS judge and vastly experienced horticulturalist Roy Cheek, helped to create.

Tour code: **BSSG**

RHS Garden Bridgewater & Gardens of the North West

2024 Departures:
11 MAY, 3 AUG

4 DAYS FROM
£545

SAVE PER PERSON
£150

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



Known for being one of the largest and most ambitious gardening projects in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater was created by leading landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith. Highlights include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials. We also take the opportunity to visit some of the best gardens in the region, including Trentham Estate, where the contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was also led by Tom Stuart-Smith, the plantsman's garden at Dunham massey and Arley Hall, whose double herbaceous border is one of the great garden sights of England.

Tour code: **BBNW**

In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll

2024 Departures:
4 JUN

6 DAYS FROM
£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Over the last hundred years, few would doubt the great influence Gertrude Jekyll had on garden design. In her lifetime Jekyll was a prolific garden designer creating over 400 gardens; she was a plantswoman extraordinaire, painter and writer, however she is perhaps best remembered for her association with the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. Our tour stretches across the south of England: from the scenic West Country to the Home Counties of Kent, Sussex and Surrey – where she lived for most of her life. Among the gardens we visit are Manor House, a Jekyll garden dating from 1908, and the historically significant Gravetye Manor, where we enjoy a private dinner.

Tour code: **BJEK**

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show & Classic English Gardens

2024 Departures:
23 MAY

7 DAYS FROM
£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



This tour combines the colour and excitement of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with some of the south of England's finest gardens, affording the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of horticultural excellence. Our two centre holiday includes visits to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and the unmissable gardens of RHS Garden Wisley, Sissinghurst in Kent and Great Dixter. We then head west, breaking our journey at the beautiful gardens of Wilton House near Salisbury and 'Capability' Brown's famous landscape garden of Stourhead. We also visit the ancient Bishop's Palace in Wells and the Harold Peto designed garden at Iford Manor and Hestercombe.

Tour code: **BCHB**

The Irish Rover

2024 Departures:
13 JUN, 8 AUG

8 DAYS FROM
£2,145

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



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

Tour code: **BIFG**

The Manx Explorer

2024 Departures:
18 JUN, 24 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£795

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



The Isle of Man is something of a mecca for steam and rail enthusiasts, with three different railway experiences, not to mention a delightful horse-drawn tram. Travelling to the Isle of Man by the traditional, stress-free ferry route, our first trip sees us ride the Isle of Man Steam Railway, the longest narrow-gauge steam line in the British Isles that still uses its original locomotives and carriages. Next, it's all aboard the Manx Electric Railway, which connects with the Snaefell Mountain Railway at Laxey and takes us to the summit 2,000 feet above sea level. A visit to the iconic Laxey Wheel follows, along with many of the important historical sites on the island.

Tour code: **BMXE**

Gardens of Waterford and Cork

2024 Departures:
22 JUN

6 DAYS FROM
£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Our bases in Cork and Waterford make a fabulous foundation for a journey visiting the very best gardens this corner of Ireland has to offer, personally selected by our host and tour manager, Trevor Edwards. We explore colourful collections of camellias at Tourin House; rare and tender trees at Fota Arboretum, and one of the largest collections of plants anywhere in the world. We also include private gardens owned by passionate plantsmen and women, who are kind enough to give us personal guided tours of their treasured outdoor havens.

Tour code: **BWCG**

Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk

2024 Departures:
19 MAY, 1 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£1,245

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



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

Tour code: **BPCN**

Summer Gardens of Cornwall

2024 Departures:
24 JUN

7 DAYS FROM
£2,095

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



A visit to Cornwall in early summer is a rewarding experience and there is an abundance of gardens to choose from - thanks to the benign climate a wide range of plants can be grown here, from the great Asiatic shrubs to tender exotics. Among the outstanding visits is a specially arranged guided tour of the garden at Tregrehan with owner Tom Hudson, who will give us his personal insight into gardening here in the Duchy of Cornwall. Other highlights include the garden at Marsh Villa and the Tremenhoe Sculpture Garden. On the way to and from Cornwall we also visit Gertrude Jekyll's masterpiece of Hestercombe and the impeccable RHS Garden Rosemoor.

Tour code: **BUCO**

The Chichester Flower Festival and Gardens of Hampshire

2024 Departures:
7 JUN

4 DAYS FROM
£745

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



The biennial Chichester Flower Festival, in the magnificent setting of the 940 year-old Cathedral, is the centrepiece of this garden tour, an opportunity to experience a host of beautiful handcrafted floral arrangements along with an exhibition of sculptures. Our colourful and fragrant tour features, among others, Bramdean House, a lovely five-acre garden famous for its mirror-image herbaceous borders; the Sir Harold Hillier Garden & Arboretum, with its unique collection of plants, and Mottisfont Abbey, whose collection of old roses will be at the peak of its flowering glory. This tour is led by experienced horticulturalist Julia Corden.

Tour code: **BCFF**

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

2024 Departures:
1 OCT

6 DAYS FROM
£1,445

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



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. 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. We also tour the island's principal city of Palma and take an exhilarating ride on the scenic Tren de Soller, a heritage train.

Tour code: **BMCA**

Gardens and Architecture of Andalusia

2024 Departures:
13 MAY, 9 SEP

8 DAYS FROM
£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



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

Tour code: **BANG**

Cultural Malta

2024 Departures:
5 NOV

5 DAYS FROM
£945

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



Nowhere on earth concentrates as much history into such a small land mass as Malta, so if you want to learn as much as possible about the rich heritage of the Mediterranean region in just five days, this is the tour for you! Arriving in Malta, with its golden limestone-cliff coasts, lucid seas, beautiful laid-back towns and heart-stirring views, you could be forgiven for thinking that you've already seen all there is to see. But take a peek beneath the surface, and no doubt you'll be astounded by the wealth of wonders to be found there, from sweeping views of the harbour from the Barrakka Gardens to the spectacular cliffs and caverns of the famed Blue Grotto.

Tour code: **BMAC**

Dutch Bulbfields in Spring

2024 Departures:
4 MAY

5 DAYS FROM
£1,595

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



Enjoy a riot of colour among the beautiful bulbfields of Holland where nothing quite compares to the sight of not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of flowering bulbs, carpeting the fields in a radiant vision of patterns and patchwork. Included in this relaxing cruise aboard a comfortable ship with a delightful French ambience is a visit to one of the most famous gardens in the world: Keukenhof, a stunning display of bulbs of every variety. Further visits include The Museum Mayer van den Bergh, which showcases work by Belgian artists from the 16th century, and Kasteel Museum Sypesteyn home to a fascinating art collection and a beautiful garden.

Tour code: **BCDB**

Gardens of Madeira

2024 Departures:
25 NOV

8 DAYS FROM
£1,645

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



Set in a bright blue sea, some 400 miles off the coast of Africa, lies the lush, volcanic Portuguese island of Madeira. Much of the island is assigned as a conservation area where rare flowers cover the island like a green mantle. 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.

Tour code: **BGMD**

Discover The Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell

2024 Departures:
7 MAY, 7 OCT

5 DAYS FROM
£1,445

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



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 to some of her family's favourite places in Corfu. We have arranged the very best accommodation for our stay on the island - the five-star Corfu Holiday Palace. There will also be plenty of time to relax by the pool or on the hotel's private beach, and to explore Corfu at your own pace.

Tour code: **BCFU**

Palladian Villas of Veneto

2024 Departures:
21 MAY, 17 SEP

5 DAYS FROM
£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



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 lavishly decorated with stucco and frescoes. We are honoured to be shown round by the owner himself, Count Valmarana. Others featured on this stunning itinerary include Villa Valmarana, Villa Barbarigo and Villa Valmarana, where family members give us a personal tour and host dinner. We also have a special farewell dinner, hosted by old Italian nobility - the Godi Malinverni family.

Tour code: **BVEN**

Gardens of Marrakech

2024 Departures:
2 OCT

5 DAYS FROM
£1,445

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



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. Other attractions in this most alluring of North African cities include El Bahia Palace, with sunlit courtyards, planted with cypress, orange trees and jasmine and furnished with wells and fountains and El Badi Palace, a vast, ruinous site with a lingering sense of grandeur.

Tour code: **BMRK**

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo

2024 Departures:
14 MAY, 3 SEP

4 DAYS FROM
£1,445

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the beautiful gardens of Ninfa. The romantic flower covered ruins 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. We also have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Popes as we explore the gardens of Castel Gandolfo. We also visit Villa Lante, a study in geometry and symmetry, and tour the 16th century gardens at Villa D'Este, romantically overgrown with tall pines, evergreen oaks and cedars.

Tour code: **BRNI**

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes

2024 Departures:
1 MAY

8 DAYS FROM
£2,545

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



Our tour begins with a real treat as we visit the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society, home to a collection of over 500 plants. We also discover the three Borromean islands, Bella, Madre and Pescatori, which feature sumptuous terraced gardens and elegant statuary. Other highlights include Villa Taranto and Villa Pallavicino, and a private guided tour at Villa Cicogna Mozzoni. During our stay on Lake Como we will have a private tour with the owner of Villa Cicogna Mozzoni. Azaleas and rhododendrons will put on a dazzling display at Villa Carlotta while the manicured Villa Balbianello, will be an undoubted highlight.

Tour code: **BLSG**

The Genius of Monet

2024 Departures:
24 MAY, 15 JUL

4 DAYS FROM
£1,045

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



Just as the gardens at Giverny inspired Monet, who spent half his life nurturing and enjoying them, they continue to enthral visitors more than 90 years after his death. The restored gardens give a vivid impression of Monet's favourite subjects. The perfect complement to Giverny is the Orangerie Museum in Paris. The centrepiece of this outstanding collection is Monet's breathtaking series of two-metre high murals, *Les Nymphéas*, which provide a moving testament to the genius of the painter. Besides Giverny, we visit the Château de Chantilly, with its collection of fine art and its gardens designed by Le Nôtre, and also the market town of Senlis.

Tour code: **BMOG**

The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale

2024 Departures:
11 OCTOBER

4 DAYS FROM
£745

SAVE PER PERSON
£150



Mary Rose ©

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.

Tour code: **BMRT**

Iceland Northern Lights

2024 Departures:
17 NOV

5 DAYS FROM
£2,045

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



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: lunar lava-formed landscapes, thunderous waterfalls, moody geysers and glistening glaciers — and those are just the geological bits! Other highlights include the Lutheran Church of Hallgrímskirkja and the ancient parliamentary buildings of Alþingi, the oldest parliament in the world.

Tour code: **BICE**

Gardens of the French Riviera - International Rose Festival

2024 Departures:
11 MAY

6 DAYS FROM
£2,045

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



With elegant gardens, dazzling azure skies and a stunning coastline which inspired a generation of artists, the French Riviera has retained its glamorous allure for over a century. Our tour is timed to coincide with the International Rose Festival in Grasse. We also visit some of the finest gardens that were created here in this sun-kissed playground of the rich including those of Thomas Hanbury and the Rothschilds. At St Jean Cap Ferrat we visit the exquisite gardens of the Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, which contain many interesting plants and are surrounded by marvellous sea views.

Tour code: **BFRR**

Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden

2024 Departures:
2 SEP

8 DAYS FROM
£2,545

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



The neighbouring Nordic nations of Sweden and Denmark offer a host of archaeological and historical sites, from Neolithic megaliths to Viking forts, from fairytale castles to a magnificent royal warship. We visit the archaeological sites at Gamla Uppsala, Anundshög and Baroque Skokloster Castle, and the excellent Historical Museum and impressive Vasa Museum. After we tour the Österlen region with its megalithic monuments we the Öresund Bridge to Copenhagen. We have a day in the Danish capital, including Rosenborg Castle, then transfer to Aarhus in mainland Denmark, where we visit the Moesgård Viking Museum and the Viking Castle at Fyrkat.

Tour code: **BDSA**

Archaeology of the Peloponnese

2024 Departures:
30 SEP

8 DAYS FROM
£1,645

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



A place of timeless beauty, the Peloponnese is home to 3,000-year-old relics at Mycenae, classical ruins at Epidaurus and Byzantine churches at Monemvasia – the whole region is rich with history. The Greeks and the Spartans fought out the Peloponnesian war here, to be followed in turn by Romans, Goths and Slavs, Franks, Turks and Venetians. Nowadays the atmosphere is one of peace and tranquillity, but the connection with the past, with battles won and civilisations lost, is inescapable. Archaeological highlights include the Lion's Gate at Mycenae, the amazingly well-preserved site at Messene and the eerie, dead city of Mystras.

Tour code: **BPEL**

Portuguese Archaeology

2024 Departures:
15 OCT

9 DAYS FROM
£2,345

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



With the roar of the Atlantic Ocean and the tranquillity of the Iberian hillsides as constant companions, we travel through time stopping off at Megalithic standing stones, Iron Age settlements, Roman ruins and medieval plazas. We will enjoy a host of UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the city of Évora, Sintra and Guimarães. We also explore the vibrant maritime city of Lisbon, the ancient University town of Coimbra and Porto, a mecca for connoisseurs of wine. Other highlights include the Almendres Stone Circle from the Megalithic Age, the Iron Age hilltown of Citânia de Briteiros and Castelo de Pena, one of the seven wonders of Portugal.

Tour code: **BPOA**

Crete Archaeology

2024 Departures:
8 OCT

8 DAYS FROM
£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



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. From this distant starting point we journey through time, from the Hellenic-Roman era to the periods of Turkish and Venetian domination, as illustrated by the archaeological ruins and buildings which remain to this day.

Tour code: **BCRE**

Malta's Archaeological Heritage

2024 Departures:
7 MAY, 5 NOV

7 DAYS FROM
£1,445

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



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, and all out there to be discovered on this very special tour. 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, the megaliths of Hagar Qim and the ancient Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.

Tour code: **BMAL**

Albanian Archaeology

2024 Departures:
8 OCT

8 DAYS FROM
£1,745

SAVE PER PERSON
£250



After 50 years of political isolation, Albania has only recently emerged as a holiday destination, with a refreshing lack of modern development and a timeless quality. In archaeological terms, it offers some of the best sites in Europe with a host of Classical cities that were once on a par with those in Greece and Italy. A dramatic landscape of mountains and rugged coastline adds to the experience as we tour the country visiting the best of the sites. These include Durrës, one of the largest amphitheatres in the Balkans; Apollonia, the second largest Greek colony in Albania; the UNESCO World Heritage site at Butrint, and the remote mountain city of Byllis.

Tour code: **BALB**

Nova Scotia in the Fall

2024 Departures:
8 OCT

9 DAYS FROM
£5,395

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



Nova Scotia is the crown jewel of Canada's east coast. Comprising a peninsula and its surrounding islands, it offers the chance to indulge yourself in the Canadian outdoors at its best, while offering excellent accommodation and dining. October is a spellbinding time of year here, as hardwood trees such as maple, beech, poplar and birch blaze in the most brilliant colours. The variety of colour is enormous, ranging from dark wine red to scarlet, orange and yellow. Inland, it is still wild and densely forested, with quiet rivers and lakes reflecting the blue sky. Lush river valleys connect the coast to the forested interior, dotted with tranquil farms and tiny villages.

Tour code: **BNOV**

Gardens and Wildlife of Western Canada

2024 Departures:
13 SEP

10 DAYS FROM
£5,295

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



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. We will be privileged to visit some of the finest private 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.

Tour code: **BGWC**

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt

2024 Departures:
7 NOV

12 DAYS FROM
£4,495

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



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. A unique feature of this tour is a four-night Nile cruise aboard a 5-star river vessel on full board basis.

Tour code: **BEGY**

Gardens and Palaces of India

2024 Departures:
15 OCT

14 DAYS FROM
£3,095

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



Prepare for an assault on the senses as we plunge into the vibrant, chaotic, other-world that is India. In Delhi, the teeming capital city, we see contrasts of old and new, with visits to Humayun's Tomb and the museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a stimulating day that features the Garden of the Five Senses. Continuing by train to Agra we visit the Red Fort and, of course, the Taj Mahal - enjoying stunning views at both sunset and sunrise. We discover the Abhaneri stepwell before continuing to Jaipur, where we tour the impressive Amber Fort and visit the elegant gardens of the Rambagh and Sisodia Palaces, concluding in Jodhpur and Udaipur.

Tour code: **BIND**

Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island

2024 Departures:
11 MAY, 28 SEP

9 DAYS FROM
£2,895

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



Lying at the southern end of the Lesser Antilles, the little island of Grenada offers a typical slice of Caribbean life, flavoured with spice and full of colour. With a lush, mountainous interior and a coastline fringed with silky-smooth beaches, it is home to some wonderful privately-owned gardens, which we have threaded together like a richly-flavoured kebab of delicious horticultural morsels. Given that Grenada won its 16th gold medal at the 2023 Chelsea Flower Show, it's reasonable to assume that people here know a thing or two about gardening, and we can expect some real treats as we visit a host of gardens.

Tour code: **BGRE**

Gardens of Barbados

2024 Departures:
6 NOV

9 DAYS FROM
£3,095

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



Hunte's Botanical Garden © Trevor Edwards

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 from the undergrowth and orchids 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 enjoying a rum punch with the owner of Hunte's Gardens.

Tour code: **BGOB**

Gardens of Costa Rica

2024 Departures:
19 NOV

13 DAYS FROM
£4,595

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



The term biodiversity may have been coined with Costa Rica in mind, such is the range of different species within its pristine, tropical forests. Throw in some spectacular scenery and resplendently laid-back citizens, and you have all the makings of a life-affirming holiday experience. Visit a broad range of gardens both public and private, such as the Else Kientzler Botanical Gardens with its world-class collection of plants. At the Monteverde Cloud Reserve we will see some of the 100 mammals, 400 bird species and more than 2,500 varieties of plants that thrive here, including, if we are lucky, the famously elusive resplendent quetzal.

Tour code: **BCOS**

Gardens of Mauritius

2024 Departures:
12 NOV

12 DAYS FROM
£3,595

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



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. 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.

Tour code: **BMAU**

Seasonal Gardens of Japan

2024 Departures:
6 NOV

13 DAYS FROM
£6,195

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



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.

Tour code: **BJPG**

Chile and the Falkland Islands

2024 Departures:
30 NOV

17 DAYS FROM
£12,495

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



In one of the most exciting holiday packages that Brightwater Holidays has ever offered, we combine Chile, that amazing 'land of contrasts', with the unique thrill of travelling to the remote Falkland Islands. We begin in Chile where we tour the National Park of La Campana (in the footsteps of Charles Darwin) before flying south to Punta Arenas and the Torres del Paine National Park. Two full days are set aside to do justice to the extraordinary range of plants, birds and animals to be found here in the magnificent desolation of Patagonia. We then fly from Punta Arenas to the Falkland Islands where we find an abundance of wildlife. Truly the trip of a lifetime!

Tour code: **BCFK**

Singapore Garden Festival

2024 Departures:
4 AUG

9 DAYS FROM
£4,395

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



The Singapore Garden Festival takes place every two years and is among the top flower and garden shows on the international calendar. It was the first event to bring together top international award-winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturalists from around the world, who are invited to the Festival to work alongside Singapore's own talented horticulturalists. Singapore's geographic location makes the Festival an ideal platform to showcase horticultural and gardening products from the northern and southern hemispheres, including Asia and New World nations. A colourful and stimulating experience with a truly international flavour!

Tour code: **BSIN**

Flora and Fauna of Madagascar

2024 Departures:
3 NOV

15 DAYS FROM
£6,495

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



Madagascar, the world's fourth-largest island, is like a gigantic ark sailing ever so slowly across the Indian Ocean, having broken free from the African continent some 160 million years ago. The national parks and private reserves that feature on this tour are among the finest in the world. On the botanical side, we can expect to see a huge range of fascinating trees and plants, none more curious than the baobab. Among the other highlights are spiny bush plants including the unique cactus-like didiereaceae, tree ferns, aloes and euphorbias. Think of Madagascar and you think of lemurs and, for many, these endearing primates will top a star-studded cast list of wildlife.

Tour code: **BMAD**

**BOOK NOW TO
GETAWAY IN 2024!**

Gardens and Flora of Tasmania & Victoria with Colin Crosbie

2024 Departures:
28 OCT

20 DAYS FROM
£8,895

FREE AIRPORT LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



In late 2022, Colin Crosbie, former head gardener to HM The Queen Mother and later Head Curator of RHS Garden Wisley, went on a working holiday to Australia, in particular the states of Victoria and Tasmania, where he visited a large number of gardens, from small privately owned properties to distinguished botanical establishments. On his return he gave us his ideas for a tour which, if followed in its entirety, would have lasted about six weeks, such is the abundance of wonderful gardens to be found there! We have condensed this to a mere 20 days, and a truly unforgettable holiday.

Tour code: **BCFK**

South Africa's Garden Route

2024 Departures:
24 SEP

16 DAYS FROM
£4,495

FREE AIRPORT LOUNGE

SAVE PER PERSON
£400



South Africa's stunning Garden Route winds its way for some 200km between richly forested mountains and a crinkle-cut coastline dotted with beautiful beaches and empty bays. Vividly coloured wildflowers delight the eye at every turn and progress tends to be leisurely, as one stunning photo opportunity after another presents itself. Visits include the Wilderness National Park, the sea cliffs at Knysna and the famous suspension bridge at Tsitsikamma. Also returning from the wilderness to grace our tour are the Drakensberg Mountains, where we do some gentle botanising and can visit neighbouring Lesotho.

Tour code: **BSAG**

NEW 2024 CHRISTMAS DEPARTURES

PRICES SHOWN INCLUDE £50pp OFF CHRISTMAS TOURS AND £100pp OFF CHRISTMAS CRUISE IF BOOKED BY 31 MAY 2024

Christmas Delights in Yorkshire



1 Dec from £745

Highlights include:

Leeds, Harrogate & York Christmas Markets, York Minster & Castle Howard.

Belfast Festive Break



16 Dec from £945

Highlights include:

Belfast Christmas Market, the Titanic Experience & a tour and tasting at Titanic Distillers.

Christmas Markets on the Rhine



3 Dec from £1,295

Highlights include:

The antique carousel in Heidelberg & the Mechanical Music Cabinet in Rudesheim.

Christmas in Edinburgh



24 Dec from £745

Highlights include:

Edinburgh Christmas Market & a scenic tour of the Scottish Borders.

Festive Foray to Oxfordshire



8 Dec from £745

Highlights include:

Blenheim Palace, Oxford Christmas Market & Waddesdon Manor.

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



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