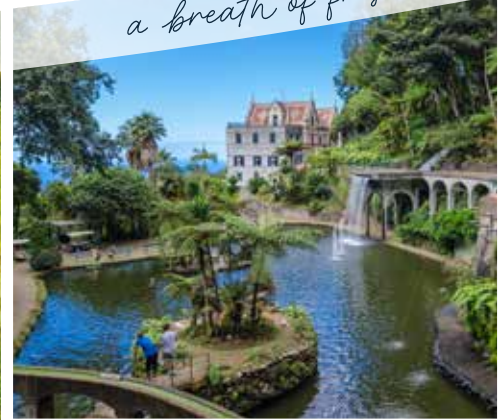


AUTUMN GETAWAYS

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**STILL TIME
TO BOOK!**



Autumn delights

Hello again!

While we enjoy the summer weather, we also have the seasonal delights of autumn to look forward to. This is a favourite time of the year for many, as King Midas (remember him!?) brings his magic touch to the country's trees - have a look at our Autumn Tints of Arran and our brand new autumn edition of Highgrove and the Cotswolds, which features an unforgettable lunch at Highgrove itself. We also have two sailings on the MV Lord of the Glens in October, a marvellous time to explore the coastal lochs and inland waterways of the Scottish Highlands.

For those of you who would welcome the opportunity to feel the warm continental sun on your back just one more time this year, why not consider a holiday to Mallorca, the Italian Lakes or Corfu with the delightful Lee Durrell?

For archaeology buffs, autumn is the perfect time of year to explore the ancient wonders of Crete, Portugal and Albania, with cooler temperatures and fewer people. Finally, should you want to treat yourself, do consider our worldwide options such as Japan, with exquisite seasonal foliage, or sun-kissed Barbados and Mauritius. You can even escape the winter altogether and find yourself enjoying a second spring of the year in Chile and the Falkland Islands!

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson

Managing Director

Latest Offers

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*T&Cs: Save 10% on all new holiday bookings departing until 31st Dec 2024. Bookings must be made before 19th Jul 2024. Save an additional 5% on holidays departing between 1st Nov & 31st Dec 2024 if you pay in full at the time of booking. Bookings must be made before 19th Jul 2024. Offers are not combinable with any other offer apart from each other. Not applicable to one night breaks, private groups or travel agent bookings. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

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We were delighted to win Gold for Best Travel Company for Coach Holidays at the 2023 British Travel Awards, and we were also voted Garden Tour Operator of the Year at the International Garden Tourism Awards in Canada.



Financial Protection

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Travel with Brightwater Holidays for a holiday experience like no other

Our team of dedicated and passionate travel professionals works tirelessly to provide our guests with the best possible holiday experience.



Whether you're green-fingered or you simply enjoy the peace and serenity that walking around a beautiful garden can bring, there is bound to be a garden holiday for you. Our range is incredibly broad, taking in both public and private gardens at home and abroad, and not forgetting those all-important horticultural events such as flower shows and festivals.



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- Coach travel, visits, accommodation and most evening meals included
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- No & Low Single supplements



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- Over 30 years of experience and knowledge
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- Personalise your holidays with Pre- & post-tour extensions
- Exclusive access to private gardens and visits



We've been bringing groups of guests to our home country of Scotland for over three decades now. With this kind of longevity comes a lot of experience, and our time in the travel industry has allowed us to become the No.1 tour operator for holidays to Scotland. Choose us for your next Scottish holiday and see why we're the top choice for this, our most beloved destination.

New tours for 2024

HIGHGROVE AND AUTUMN TINTS OF THE COTSWOLDS

Due to popular demand for visits to the home of His Majesty the King this year, we are delighted to announce we have secured additional exclusive tickets for a visit to Highgrove this autumn. This is a unique chance to discover the wonderful gardens as they transform from the lushness that comes during the summer months to the golden hues the autumn brings. Additionally as part of our visit we are treated to a delightful lunch which makes a visit to Highgrove a truly once in a lifetime experience.

We also explore the exquisite gardens of the Cotswolds this Autumn at both Westonbirt and Batsford arboreta. Other visits include the evocative and unusual gardens at Sezincote, Snowhill Manor and Painswick Rococo Garden.

See **p9** for full details.





MONTY DON LIVE!

After a thrilling sellout tour in 2022, gardening guru **Monty Don** is heading back out on tour where he will share tales from his career in gardening, detail his favourite gardens – both ancient and modern, and reveal how he fell in love with the natural world. Discover how he created his beautiful garden at Longmeadow, the gardening practices he considers to be the most useful and important, and the magical impact of the changing of the seasons on each part of the garden.

We are offering two opportunities to see the show, each as part of a two-day break. The performance at the Swansea Arena is combined with visits to the National Botanic Garden of Wales, home to the largest single span greenhouse in the world, and the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea, which tells the story of industry and innovation in Wales. Our trip to Birmingham for the performance at the Symphony Hall also features visits to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, which boast extensive glasshouses, and the Black Country Living Museum, a chance to experience the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the Black Country.

See **p13** for full details.

Scenic Scottish Railways

4 DAYS FROM	SAVING PER PERSON	LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
£760.50	£84.50	

The north of Scotland is blessed with some wonderfully scenic railway lines. The challenge of building railways through difficult terrain was taken up by the great engineers of the Victorian age. Their legacy is in the sweeping curves and majestic viaducts of the single track lines which cross wild moors and lonely glens. Highlights on this short break include a visit to the much-photographed Eilean Donan Castle, a ride aboard the Jacobite steam train that takes us over the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct and a rail journey on the Highland Line that provides some magnificent views and takes us over the Drumochter Pass, 1,480 feet above sea level.

Tour Highlights
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iconic views over Loch Shiel from the Glenfinnan Viaduct• Breathtaking views of the Cuillin mountain range on Skye• The palm trees of Plockton• Scenic banks of the Beaulieu River

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth) and travel by coach to to **Pitlochry** where, after some free time, we board the train to **Aviemore**. The railway line was built in 1863 and affords sweeping views of towering mountains and tumbling burns as we climb towards the summit at Drumochter, 1,480 feet above sea level. Upon arrival in Aviemore, we alight from the train and continue our journey by coach to our accommodation. (D)

Day 2 We transfer to **Inverness** and board the morning diesel train service to **Wick**. The line follows the spectacular coastline as far as **Helmsdale**, where it turns inland, pausing at remote stations such as Forsinard and Altnabreac, before reaching **Georgemas Junction**, the most northerly railway junction in Britain, and on to the terminus at Wick. On arrival here we will re-join our coach and return to our hotel by the more direct but equally scenic coastal route. (B, D)

Day 3 We depart once again by diesel train from Inverness, this time diverging at Dingwall and heading for **Kyle of Lochalsh**, travelling over what is often considered to be the most



Eilean Donan Castle

scenic of all Scotland's railway lines. In the afternoon we explore the iconic 13th century castle of **Eilean Donan**. (B, D)

Day 4 After an early breakfast we check out of the hotel and travel via Loch Laggan to Fort William, where we join **'The Jacobite'** steam train and experience one of the most memorable and spectacular railway journeys in the world – to **Mallaig** on the famous 'Road to the Isles', featuring the massive **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. After some free time in Mallaig we rejoin the train and return to Fort William and return to our original departure points where we expect to arrive late evening. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED			
▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Craiglynne Hotel, Speyside <i>(or similar)</i>		▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel throughout		▶ Services of a professional tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON			
2024			
4 - 7 Oct	£845	£760.50	
Single Supplement		£90	
Tour code: BSSR			

A Classic Scottish Steam Break

4 DAYS FROM	SAVING PER PERSON	NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
£697.50	£77.50	

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 aboard the newly restored SS Sir Walter Scott on Loch Katrine. Our other excursions include a boat trip on the Falkirk Wheel, a on cruise Loch Lomond and a visit to historic Inveraray Castle.

Tour Highlights

- Taking a spin on the Falkirk Wheel boat lift
- Stunning views on the Jacobite steam train
- Scenic cruise on Loch Lomond and a visit to Inveraray Castle
- A captivating sailing on Loch Katrine on the steamship Sir Walter Scott

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**, featuring the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today following breakfast we head for Tarbet on the banks of **Loch Lomond**, Britain's largest inland body of water, and depart on a 60-minute 'Northern Highlights Cruise' with full commentary. This afternoon we visit **Inveraray Castle**, which has been the seat of the Duke of Argyll, chief of the Clan Campbell, since the 17th century. *(B, D)*

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

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



Loch Lomond

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
10 - 13 Oct	£775	£697.50
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		

Tour code: **BSTB**

The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale

2024 Departures:
11 OCTOBER

4 DAYS FROM
£805.50

SAVING PER PERSON
£89.50

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



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.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour Highlights

- Private talk and guided tour of the Mary Rose
- The magnificent Hampton Court Palace
- Multiple Tudor connections on the south coast
- The stately surroundings of The Vyne

Tour code: **BMRT**

Autumn Tints of Arran

2024 Departures:
16 OCTOBER

4 DAYS FROM
£805.50

SAVING PER PERSON
£89.50



Lochranza

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.

Single Supplement

£135

Tour Highlights

- Sailing across the Firth of Clyde and watching the mountains of Arran draw ever nearer
- Highly scenic circular tour of the island
- Brodick Castle, with its incomparable setting and autumn colours in the garden
- The comfortable Kinloch Hotel, located on the 'sunset side' of the island

Tour code: **BATA**

Highgrove and Autumn Tints of the Cotswolds

NEW

4 DAYS FROM
£760.50

SAVING PER PERSON
£84.50

What finer place could there be to visit in the season of “mists and mellow fruitfulness” than the timeless English landscape of the Cotswolds. The highlight of this short break is a guided tour of the gardens of 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. After our visit we will enjoy a delightful lunch, making this a truly memorable, once in a lifetime visit. We also visit other notable gardens including **Westonbirt**, the National Arboretum, where we see the first tints of autumn colour as the leaves on over 15,000 trees from around the world begin to turn.

Tour Highlights

- Autumn leaf colour at Westonbirt and Batsford arboreta
- In the footsteps of the King and Queen at Highgrove
- Evocative and unusual gardens at Sezincote
- Rococo style at Painswick

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points (*London, Reading, Swindon and Bristol*) and head for a visit to the unique **Snowhill Manor**. The Manor is surrounded by an intriguing terraced hillside garden designed in the Arts & Crafts style and, like so many of the gardens here, split into a number of different ‘rooms’. The garden and the valley running alongside typically put on a lovely display of autumn colour. We continue to our comfortable hotel in the Cotswolds. Dinner is served in the evening. (*D*)

Day 2 After breakfast this morning we will transfer to **Highgrove**, the country home of His Majesty The King. Every year the King takes on a new project to take his garden in new directions, such as his walled kitchen garden or the arboretum. After our visit we will enjoy a delightful **lunch** at Highgrove making this a truly memorable, once in a lifetime visit. In the afternoon we travel to **Painswick Rococo Garden**, the last of its kind in the country, 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. We return to our hotel where dinner is served in the evening. (*L, D*)



Day 3 This morning, following breakfast, we visit **Sezincote**, an Indian-style house with an eastern ‘Hindu’ garden. In the afternoon, following a break for lunch (*not included*), we will enjoy a visit to **Batsford Arboretum**, which contains over 1500 trees with species from all over the world, particularly from the Far East, all of which can be expected to put on a fine display of autumn hues. Dinner is served at our hotel in the evening. (*B, D*)

Day 4 This morning after breakfast we check out of the hotel. Our final visit is to **Westonbirt**, the National Arboretum which is perhaps the most important and widely known arboretum in the United Kingdom. It comprises some 15,000 trees and shrubs, over an area of approximately 600 acres. Following our visit we will return to our original pick-up points with arrival due in the late afternoon/early evening. (*B*)

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights’ dinner, bed and full breakfast at the 4-star Holiday Inn Gloucester/Cheltenham
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary, including guided tour and lunch at Highgrove
- ▶ Services of a Brightwater Holidays tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
16 - 19 Oct	£845	£760.50
Single Supplement		£195

Tour code: **BHGA**

Lord of the Glens

Voyage Through the Heart of Scotland

7 DAYS FROM

£1,975.50

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£319.50



Loch Linnhe



Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness

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 six-night cruise combines both fresh and saltwater cruising, as the Lord of the Glens sails from Oban to the Isle of Mull, featuring some of the remote and breathtakingly beautiful scenery of Scotland's west coast, and then through the Caledonian Canal to Inverness. Highlights include Loch Ness, Loch Oich and Loch Lochy and Thomas Telford's engineering masterpiece Neptune's Staircase, a series of eight interconnected locks that raises vessels from sea-level to the canal. In between our cruising, there is also a full programme of shore excursions including visits to the tranquil little island of Iona, colourful Tobermory on the Isle of Mull and the Glenfinnan Viaduct.

Tour Highlights

- Welcome and Farewell Receptions
- Enjoying the views from the 'Sir Walter Scott' bar and lounge
- The peaceful Isle of Iona
- Negotiating Neptune's Staircase and the rest of the Caledonian Canal
- Cruising Loch Ness, keeping an eye out just in case...

Day 1 Travel under our own arrangement to **Inverness** then transfer by coach to **Oban**, where we embark the **MV Lord of the Glens**. Alternatively, make your own way to Oban. Later, we join the crew for a welcome drinks reception. *(D)*

Day 2 Enjoy a walk up to **McCaigs Tower** for sweeping views over **Oban Bay**. In the afternoon we sail to **Craignure** on the **Isle of Mull** and visit **Duart Castle**, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean. We berth in Craignure tonight. *(FB)*

Day 3 We depart for a visit to the Isle of **Iona**, the last resting place of some 50 Scottish Kings and the place where St Columba introduced Christianity to Britain. The tiny island has a unique sense of peace and tranquillity. The afternoon is free to explore Mull's 'capital', **Tobermory**, famous for the row of brightly painted houses that lines the waterfront. *(FB)*

Day 4 We sail the sheltered waters of the fjord-like **Loch Linnhe** with spectacular views all around. On arrival at the village of Corpach at the entrance to the Caledonian Canal, we depart by train along part of the **West Highland Railway**, travelling over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, which found world-wide fame after it appeared in the Harry Potter films. Overnight in Corpach. *(FB)*

Day 5 After breakfast we ascend **Neptune's Staircase**, a set of eight interconnected locks that lifts vessels from sea level to the Caledonian Canal at Banavie. Later we sail into Loch Lochy, through the tree-lined section known as Laggan Avenue and into Loch Oich, where we moor overnight at the top of the series of locks at Fort Augustus. *(FB)*

Day 6 This morning we descend the impressive flight of locks that runs through the heart of **Fort Augustus** and cruise **Loch Ness**. On the way, we pass by the ruins of **Castle Urquhart**, which provides the perfect photo opportunity. On arrival in Inverness we depart by coach on an excursion to the Visitor Centre at **Culloden**, the scene of the last battle fought on British soil in 1746, and the **Clava Cairns**. *(FB)*

Day 7 After breakfast we disembark and transfer by coach to Inverness. *(B)*

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



Lord of the Glens

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024 - Oban to Inverness

6 - 12 Oct			18 - 24 Oct		
Lower Deck	£2,195	£1,975.50	Lower Deck	£2,195	£1,975.50
Middle Deck	£2,795	£2,515.50	Middle Deck	£2,795	£2,515.50
Middle Deck Superior	£3,195	£2,875.50	Middle Deck Superior	£3,195	£2,875.50
Upper Deck	£3,195	£2,875.50	Upper Deck	£3,195	£2,875.50

Single Supplement from £1,600

Tour code: **BLGG**

Scotland's Extreme North West

4 DAYS FROM

£607.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£67.50

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. The coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking and the warmth of our highland hotel is very welcoming at this time of year.

Tour Highlights

- Visit the magical Smoo Cave
- The spectacle of Suilven mountain
- Officially the best hot chocolate in the world at Cocoa Mountain
- White sands of Oldshoremore

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness*) and head north to 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** (*2,389ft*), which presents a fearsome sight with its seemingly unconquerable summit. *(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 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



Smoo Cave

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*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout

- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

22 - 25 Oct

£675

£607.50

Single Supplement

£120

Tour code: **BXNW**

An Audience with Monty Don

NEW



Monty Don ©

After a thrilling sellout tour in 2022, gardening guru Monty Don is heading back out on tour where he will share tales from his career in gardening, detail his favourite gardens - both ancient and modern - and reveal how he fell in love with the natural world. Discover how he created his beautiful garden at Longmeadow, the gardening practices he considers to be the most useful and important, and the magical impact of the changing of the seasons on each part of the garden.

Our short break in Swansea also includes a visit to the National Botanic Garden of Wales, home to the largest single span glasshouse in the world, and the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea, which tells the story of industry and innovation in Wales. The Birmingham version includes a visit to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, which boast extensive glasshouses, and the Black Country Living Museum, a chance to experience the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the Black Country.

Swansea

15-16 November

2 DAYS FROM

£295

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*London, Reading, Swindon and Bristol*) and visit the **National Botanic Garden of Wales**. Among the innovative and informative features here is the Great Greenhouse, which means the gardens can be enjoyed whatever the weather. We continue to our hotel, where an early dinner is served. We then transfer to the Swansea Arena for **An Audience with Monty Don**. (D)

Day 2 We depart for the **National Waterfront Museum** in Swansea, where we can soak up history with a breathtaking mix of old and new in the maritime quarter. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Single Supplement

£35

Tour Highlights

- Front Stall seats for An Audience with Monty Don at the Swansea Arena
- Visits to the National Botanic Garden of Wales and the National Waterfront Museum

Tour code: **BMD5**

Birmingham

18-19 November

2 DAYS FROM

£345

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*London, Luton and Northampton*) and visit the **Birmingham Botanical Gardens**. The gardens boast extensive glasshouses which means they can be enjoyed whatever the weather. We continue to our hotel, where an early dinner is served. We then transfer to the Symphony Hall for **An Audience with Monty Don**. (D)

Day 2 We depart for the **Black Country Living Museum**, where we explore shops, houses and industrial workshops rebuilt in a canalside village. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Single Supplement

£40

Tour Highlights

- Rear Stall seats for An Audience with Monty Don at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham
- Visits to Birmingham Botanical Gardens and the Black Country Living Museum

Tour code: **BMDB**

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

6 DAYS FROM

£1,525.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£169.50

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 autumn 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.

Tour Highlights

- Enjoy Moorish gardens in Raixa and Alfaiba
- Visit the largest prehistoric cemetery in the Balearics
- Visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa
- 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**, 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. Later, we take a ride on the vintage narrow gauge train, the **Orange Blossom Express**, that runs along a highly scenic route from Soller to Palma. (B, D)

Day 3 We visit the **Jardines de Alfaiba**, which date back to the 14th and 15th centuries. Young chusan plams (*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)



Alfaiba

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 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

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

2024

1 - 6 Oct

£1,695

£1,525.50

Single Supplement

£325

Tour code: BMCA

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes

8 DAYS FROM

£2,515.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£279.50

Our tour begins with a visit to 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, where animals from the villa's own zoo roam the grounds, and a private guided tour at Villa Cicogna Mozzoni.

Tour Highlights

- Visit the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society
- A private tour with the owner of Villa Cicogna Mozzoni
- The extravagance of the Borromean Islands
- Stunning views of lakes and mountains at every turn

Day 1 We depart from London to Milan and transfer to our hotel at Lake Maggiore for lunch. (L, D)

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

Day 3 Today we tour the Borromean islands. We cruise from Stresa to **Isola Bella** and continue to **Isola Pescatori** and **Isola Madre**. (B, D)

Day 4 Tour the private garden of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**, home to 500 plants and 318 cultivars. After lunch, we have free time in Stresa before we pay a visit to **Villa Pallavicino**. (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. (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)



Isola Bella

Day 7 We spend the day on **Lake Como**. On arrival in **Tremezzo** we will have time to enjoy the elegant 18th century **Villa Carlotta**, where tree ferns, palms, eucalyptus, Japanese maples and cactus revel in the microclimatic conditions. Next, we continue to **Villa Balbianello**, which offers unparalleled views down the three branches of the lake. (B, D)

Day 8 Today we transfer to Milan airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Grand Majestic Hotel, Lake Maggiore and three nights 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

2024

6 - 13 Oct **£2,795** **£2,515.50**

Single Supplement **£595**

Tour code: **BSLG**

Discover The Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell

5 DAYS FROM

£1525.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£169.50

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.

Tour Highlights

- Private talk and Q&A session with Lee Durrell
- See the White House, the former home of Gerald Durrell's brother Lawrence
- Lunch in the oldest village on the island
- Visit to Mouse Island, one of the Durrells' favourite places

Day 1 We depart from London to Corfu. In the afternoon, we ease into our holiday with an optional guided walking tour through picturesque **Corfu Town**. (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. 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. 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, including the **White House** in Kalami and the **Lake of the Lillies**, which features in *My Family and Other Animals*. We conclude today at the picturesque village of **Perithia**, where we enjoy **lunch** featuring local specialities and meet a bee keeper with a chance 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. 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

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

2024

7 - 11 Oct

£1,695

£1,525.50

Single Supplement

£225

Tour code: BCFU

Crete

Archaeology

8 DAYS FROM

£1,795.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£199.50

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.

Tour Highlights

- The Palace of Knossos – simply one of the most outstanding archaeological sites in Europe
- The friendly old town of Rethymnon, rich with Venetian and Turkish architecture
- Phaistos, one of the most important centres of Minoan civilization
- Byzantine monuments in the Amari Valley
- Sleepy fishing villages and the atmospheric island of Spinalonga

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)



Palace of Knossos

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

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

2024			Optional Excursions:	
8 - 15 Oct	£1,995	£1,795.50	Arkadi Monastery	£110
Single Supplement	£295		Spinalonga	£95

Tour code: **BCRE**

Albanian Archaeology

8 DAYS FROM

£1,795.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£199.50

In archaeological terms, Albania 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 high mountains and rugged coastline adds to the experience as we tour the country and visit the best of the sites. These include Durrës on the Adriatic coast, one of the largest amphitheatres in the Balkans; Apollonia, the second largest Greek colony in Albania; the UNESCO World Heritage site at Butrint, which dates from the 7th century BC, and the remote mountain city of Byllis.

Tour Highlights

- The Roman amphitheatre in Durrës, one of the largest in the Balkans
- Apollonia, the second oldest Greek colony in Albania, dating back 2700 years
- The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint
- Dramatic views from the remote site of Byllis
- The medieval town of Berat, another UNESCO World Heritage site

- Day 1** We fly from London to Tirana and transfer to our hotel. (D)
- Day 2** We take a walking tour of **Tirana** including visits to the **Skanderbeg Square**, the **Mosque of Et'hem Bej** and the **National Historical Museum**. From here, we head to **Kruje** to visit the **bazaar**, and finally **Skanderbeg Castle**. (B, D)
- Day 3** We drive along the coast to the **Bay of Vlorë** and alongside the orange plantations of **Radhima**. Next, we head to **Llogara National Park**, through the seven villages of the Himara region, and see the **springs of Borshi**. (B, D)
- Day 4** Enjoy a full day at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Butrint**. This evening we visit **Lekuresi Castle**. (B, D)
- Day 5** Today we travel to **Gjirokastra**. Here, we visit the 8th century castle museum, the ethnographic museum, the 18th century bazaar and the **Antigonea Archaeological Park**. (B, D)



Amphitheatre at Butrint

- Day 6** We continue north to visit the remote site of **Byllis**, which is dramatically situated on a mountain top overlooking the Vjose River valley. We also visit **Cobo Winery**. (B, D)
- Day 7** We discover the medieval town of **Berat**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B, D)
- Day 8** We spend our final morning at **Apollonia** before heading to **Durrës** to wander the galleries and amphitheatre. We then return to Tirana airport for our return flight to London. (B, D)
- Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights Tirana, two nights Saranda, one night Gjirokastra, two nights Berat
- ▶ Return flights from London to Tirana

- ▶ Comfortable coach travel & all visits
- ▶ Archaeological expert Peter Yeoman as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

8 - 15 Oct

£1,995

£1,795.50

Single Supplement

£275

Tour code: **BALB**

Portuguese Archaeology

9 DAYS FROM

£2,335.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£259.50

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.

Tour Highlights

- The brightly coloured palaces of Sintra
- Important archaeological sites including Conimbriga and Citania de Briteiros
- The historic forest of Buçaco
- Wine tasting in one of Porto's famous Port lodges
- Optional river cruise on the Douro

Day 1 We depart from London to **Lisbon** and upon arrival we enjoy a tour of the city. (D)

Day 2 We travel to **Évora** to visit the **Almendres Stone Circle Menhir** and the **Anta Grande do Zambujeiro**. (B)

Day 3 Visit the **Museu Caloste Gulbenkian**, which houses a world-class collection of art, and the **Mosteiro dos Jerónimos**, a Manueline monastery. (B)

Day 4 We visit the **Palácio Nacional de Sintra**, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and the best preserved medieval royal palace in Portugal, and the **Castelo de Pena**. (B)

Day 5 We tour the **Mosteiro de Batalha**, erected in commemoration of the 1385 Battle of Aljubarrota, and which would serve as the burial church of Portuguese royals. We also visit the Roman city of **Conimbriga**. (B, D)

Day 6 Enjoy the **Buçaco Forest** and be treated to a **wine-tasting** in Porto. (B, D)

Day 7 A free day to explore **Porto**, or join our optional excursion – a boat trip on the **River Douro**, including lunch and free time to explore Regua. (B)



Bom Jesus do Monte

Day 8 Visit the religious sanctuary of **Bom Jesus Do Monte**, the Iron Age archaeological site of **Citania de Briteiros** and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Guimarães** which is associated with the emergence of the Portuguese national identity in the 12th century. (B)

Day 9 After breakfast, we transfer to Lisbon airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Eight nights' bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Marriott Hotel, Lisbon; one night at the 4-star Melia Hotel, Coimbra and three nights at the 4-star Vila Gale, Porto (or similar)
- ▶ Three dinners
- ▶ Flights from London to Lisbon and Porto to London
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

15 - 23 Oct ~~£2,595~~ £2,335.50

Single Supplement

£595

Optional Excursions:
Douro River boat trip

£125

Tour code: **BPOA**

Malta's Archaeological Heritage

7 DAYS FROM

£1,440.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£169.50

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.

Tour Highlights

- Priceless art treasures at St John's Cathedral
- The walled citadel of Mdina
- The ancient & mysterious Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The extraordinary labyrinth of St. Paul's Catacombs
- 5000 year old temples of Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples
- The 'Cave of Darkness', one of the earliest sites used by Neolithic man
- A visit to the picturesque fishing village of 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)



Upper Barrakka Gardens

- Day 5** Today is free to spend at leisure or there is an optional excursion to the neighbouring island of **Gozo**, which has archaeological wonders of its own. (B, D)
- Day 6** Take a tour of the fishing village of **Marsaxlokk**, visit the **Tarxien Temples** and explore the world-renowned **Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum**. This historic wonder is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B, D)
- Day 7** After breakfast, we transfer to Malta airport for our return flight to London. (B)
- Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

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

2024		
5 - 11 Nov	£1,695	£1,440.75
Single Supplement		£195

Seaview Room Supplement £60
Optional Excursion: Gozo £145

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: BMAL

Cultural Malta

5 DAYS FROM

£1,015.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£179.25

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

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.

Tour Highlights

- Priceless art treasures at St John's Cathedral
- The walled citadel of Mdina
- 5000 year old temple of Hagar Qim
- Boat trip to the Blue Grotto
- A splendid afternoon tea in the most opulent surroundings

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)



Casa Rocca Piccola

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; **Hagar 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

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

2024			Sea View Supplement	£50
5 - 9 Nov	£1,195	£1,015.75	Optional Excursions:	
			Gozo	£145
			Southern Malta	£85

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: BMAC

Iceland

Northern Lights

5 DAYS FROM

£1,950.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£344.25

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!

Tour Highlights

- Explore the inner workings of a volcanic eruption
- Discover Iceland's ancient culture
- Stand on the geological border between Europe and North America
- Marvel at the biggest geothermic mud pool in Iceland
- View the Northern Lights (naturally)

Day 1 We depart from London to **Reykjavík**. 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**. We also have a wonderfully unique experience where we walk behind **Seljalandsfoss waterfall** and enjoy some stunning views of glaciers. *(B, D)*

Day 3 The remote **Skálholt church** and **Þingvellir National Park** await, where the tectonic plates of Europe and North America meet. We also admire 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 Reykjavík then 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 Reykjavík centre**.



Aurora borealis, Reykjavík

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, past **Reykjanes Lighthouse** towards the **Gunnhver Hot Springs**, a highly active geothermal area. En route to Reykjavík airport for our return flight to London, we visit **Kleifarvatn Lake**. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Strætta Hotel, Hella and two nights at the Grand Hotel Reykjavík
- ▶ 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

2024		
17 - 21 Nov	£2,295	£1,950.75
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.*

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: BICE

Gardens of Madeira

8 DAYS FROM

£1,610.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

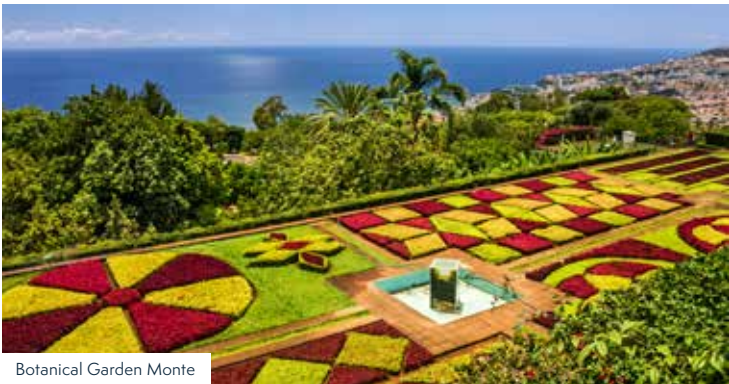
£284.25

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 and azaleas bloom effortlessly throughout the year, and delight the eye at every turn. Included is a gentle half-day levada walk and visits to the best of the island's gardens.

Tour Highlights

- Tour of the Botanical Gardens, an introduction to the flora of Madeira
- A gentle walk on the 'levadas'
- Cable-car ride to Monte
- Optional full-day tour of the island
- Afternoon tea at Reid's Palace Hotel

- 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 gardens at **Quinta do Palheiro**. In the afternoon we enjoy a gentle half-day walk on the footpaths alongside the "levadas" which wind around the island. (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. (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 included. (B)
- Day 6** We visit the wonderful **Monte Palace Gardens** which surround the chateau-like



Botanical Garden Monte

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

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 Hotel

- ▶ 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

2024

25 Nov - 2 Dec

£1,895

£1,610.75

Single Supplement

£395

Optional Excursion:

Island tour

*Includes Madeira Flower Festival

£95

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: BGMD

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Gardens of Marrakech

5 DAYS FROM

£1,525.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£169.50

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.

Tour Highlights

- The bustling square of Jemaa El Fna at the heart of the city
- Faded glory at El Badi Palace
- Contemporary style at Le Jardin Secret
- Bright colours and international glamour at the Majorelle
- Delightful flavours and aromas in the Ourika Valley

Day 1 We depart from London to **Marrakech** and upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel, where there will be a **guided tour** of the resort grounds. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin our tour of Marrakech at **El Bahia Palace**. The garden here spans over two-acres with rooms opening onto sunlit courtyards, planted with cypress, orange trees and jasmine. From here we will walk to **El Badi Palace** before continuing on to famous garden of **La Majorelle**, which was made in the 1920s by the French painter Jacques Majorelle, with marble pools, raised pathways, banana trees, groves of bamboo, coconut palms and bougainvilleas. Later, we explore **Yves Saint Laurent Art and Design** for a brief visit before we drive to the expansive gardens of **M. Ben Chaabane**, 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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 5-star El Saadi Hotel, Marrakech
- Three dinners and one lunch
- Return flights London to Marrakech

- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

2 - 6 Oct

£1,695

£1,525.50

Single Supplement

£400

Tour code: **BMRK**

South Africa's Garden Route

16 DAYS FROM

£4,405.50

SAVE PER PERSON

£489.50

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

Tour Highlights

- Table Mountain and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- Masses of wildflowers along the Garden Route
- Botanising in the Drakensberg Mountains



Garden Route



Babylonstoren

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 13 nights' accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis: three nights at the Signature Lux by ONOMO, Cape Town; two nights at the Windsor Hotel, Hermanus; two nights at the Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness; one night at the Kelway Hotel, Port Elizabeth; three nights at the Drakensberg Gardens Hotel and two nights at the Garden Court Marine Parade, Durban *(all hotels subject to change)*
- ▶ Four dinners and one lunch
 - ▶ Flights from London to Cape Town; Port Elizabeth to Durban and Durban to London
 - ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
 - ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
 - ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
 - ▶ Services of Colin Crosbie as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 Sep - 9 Oct	£4,895	£4,405.50
Single Supplement	£595	

Optional Excursion:	
Whale watching	£85
Lesotho	£100

Tour code: **BSAG**

Nova Scotia in the Fall

9 DAYS FROM

£5,215.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£579.50

Nova Scotia is the crown jewel of Canada’s east coast. Comprising a peninsula and its surrounding islands, it offers the chance to indulge yourself in the Canadian outdoors at its best, while offering excellent accommodation and dining. October is a spellbinding time of year here, as hardwood trees such as maple, beech, poplar and birch blaze in the most brilliant colours. The variety of colour is enormous, ranging from dark wine red to scarlet, orange and yellow. Inland, it is still wild and densely forested, with quiet rivers and lakes reflecting the blue sky. You are never more than 56km from the sea in Nova Scotia and the coastline is infinitely varied, from rocky peninsulas to seemingly endless empty beaches.

Tour Highlights

- See relics from The Titanic at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
- Photo opportunities galore at Peggy’s Cove Lighthouse
- The incredible Cabot Trail, one of the most spectacular drives in all of Canada



Cabot Trail



Mahone Bay

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights’ in 3-star hotels on a bed & breakfast basis: four nights in Halifax, one night in New Glasgow, two nights in Baddeck
 - ▶ Five dinners and one lunch
 - ▶ Return flights from London to Halifax
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
 - ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
 - ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
 - ▶ Services of a local tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 16 Oct	£5,795	£5,251.50
Single Supplement	£875	

Tour code: **BNOV**

Gardens and Palaces of India

14 DAYS FROM

£3,145.50

SAVING PER PERSON

£349.50

Prepare for an assault on the senses as we plunge into vibrant and chaotic India. In Delhi, we see contrasts of old and new, with visits to Humayun’s Tomb and the museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a stimulating day that features the Garden of the Five Senses. Continuing by train to Agra we visit the Red Fort and, of course, the Taj Mahal - enjoying stunning views at both sunset and sunrise. We discover the Abhaneri stepwell before continuing to Jaipur, where we tour the impressive Amber Fort and visit the elegant gardens of the Rambagh and Sisodia Palaces. Moving on to Jodhpur we enjoy walks through the bustling bazaars and markets and explore the Mandore Gardens with a variety of flora. We conclude in Udaipur, where we see an incredible Hindu temple and the treasures of the Jagmandir Island Palace. You can also choose to extend your stay in either Shimla or Amritsar.

Tour Highlights

- Private tour by the curator of Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur
- Private session with botanist in The Garden of Five Senses, Delhi
- Sunset views and sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal



The Garden of Five Senses



Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Twelve nights' dinner, bed, and breakfast: three nights at 4-star Oberoi Maidens in New Delhi, one night at 4-star Trident in Agra, one night at the 4-star Samode Bagh in Samode, two nights at heritage Alsisar Haveli in Jaipur, two nights at 4-star the Radisson in Jodhpur, two nights at 4-star the Trident in Udaipur, one night at 4-star Novotel Aerocity in Delhi *(or similar)*
 - ▶ Three lunches
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
 - ▶ Return flights from London to Delhi
 - ▶ Flight Udaipur to Delhi
 - ▶ Rail travel Delhi to Agra in Executive Chair
 - ▶ Gardens of India guidebook *(on arrival)*
 - ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
 - ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
 - ▶ Service of a professional tour manager and local guide throughout

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
15 - 28 Oct	£3,495	£3,145.50
Single Supplement		£795

Optional Excursion:
Shimla Extension **from £895**
Amritsar Extension **from £675**
Please note that tourist visas are not included

Tour code: **BIND**

Seasonal Gardens of Japan

13 DAYS FROM

£5,605.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£989.25

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.

Tour Highlights

- The temples and gardens of Kyoto, probably the finest in Japan
- Stepping back in time to old Japan at Omihachiman
- Watching the deer roam free in Nara Park



Kyoto



Osaka Castle

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

2024			Optional Excursion: Hiroshima	On request
6 - 18 Nov	£6,595	£5,605.75		
Single Supplement		£1,250		

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: B JPG

Gardens of Barbados

9 DAYS FROM

£2,970.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£524.25

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.

Tour Highlights

- Explore Hunte’s Garden
- Visit George Washington House
- Discover Harrison’s Cave and the Flower Forest



Harrison’s Cave © Trevor Edwards



Hunte’s Botanical Garden © Trevor Edwards

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 a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			Ocean View Suite	from £210
6 - 14 Nov	£3,495	£2,970.75	Deluxe Ocean View Suite	from £840
Single Supplement		£695	Optional Excursion: Catamaran Cruise	£120

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: BGOB

Gardens of Mauritius

12 DAYS FROM

£3,395.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£599.25

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 time to enjoy the facilities of our resort hotel.

Tour Highlights

- Giant tortoises at La Vanille
- Giant waterlilies at Pamplemousse
- Rare trees and exotic birds in the Black River Gorges



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
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
 - ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
 - ▶ Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			Superior Ocean View Supplement from £135
12 - 23 Nov	£3,995	£3,395.75	
Single Supplement		£795	
Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.			

Tour code: BMAU

Chile and the Falkland Islands

17 DAYS FROM

£10,960.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£1,934.25

From snow-capped volcanoes, towering glaciers and spectacular flora and fauna, with the unique thrill of travelling to the remote Falkland Islands.

We begin in Santiago, a city of shining skyscrapers and beautiful parks. We tour the National Park of La Campana 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 Patagonia, and we have also included a boat trip on Lake Grey and the Grey Glacier. We then fly to the Falkland Islands, which offer fresh air, big skies and an abundance of wildlife, much of which is very tame and approachable. This is truly a trip of a lifetime!

Tour Highlights

- Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin in La Campana National Park
- Stunning scenery and striking plant species in Torres del Paine National Park
- Discovering native wildflowers on Bleaker Island



Bleaker Island



Torres del Paine

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' accommodation in Chile: three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Marina Las Condes, Santiago; three nights' half board at the Hotel Las Torres, Torres del Paine; one night bed and breakfast at the Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas (or similar)
- ▶ Welcome drink and dinner and three lunches
- ▶ Seven nights' accommodation on a full board basis in the Falkland Islands: three nights at Cassard House/Cobb's Cottage on Bleaker Island; two nights at the Pebble Island Lodge on Pebble Island; two nights at the Malvinas House Hotel, Stanley
- ▶ Return flights from London to Santiago, and all connecting and internal flights in Chile and the Falkland Islands
- ▶ 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 local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

30 Nov - 16 Dec ~~£12,895~~ **£10,960.75**

Single Supplement **£3,995**

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: **BCFK**

Welcome to 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.

Get in touch with one of our experts

01334 804 700 | www.brightwaterholidays.com

