



WINTER & SPRING ESCAPES

a breath of fresh air



SAVE
UP TO **£150**

£0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
PLACES AVAILABLE

**STILL TIME
TO BOOK!**



Winter & Spring Escapes

After the festive frivolities fizzle out and the winter solstice passes its always nice to have something to look forward to going into a new year. That is why we have put together this collection of tried and tested favourites and new adventures departing in early 2025. Experience the wonder of the Up Helly Aa festival in Shetland, as squads of 'guizers' form a rowdy procession that snakes its way through Lerwick. Go galivanting in search of Galanthus in the Cotswolds or perhaps cruising the shimmering waves, exploring the glorious gardens of the Canary Islands if this is more your style.

Further afield experience Japan, the 'Land of the Rising Sun', as the spring heralds the arrival of the candy floss-coloured cherry blossom, or head westwards to the sun-soaked shores of the Caribbean to explore tropical gardens and colonial history.

We are sure to have something within our long-established programme of worldwide special interest holidays to inspire even the most discerning traveller, so why not take a look and start planning where in the world you will go next.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson
Managing Director

Latest Offers

SAVE UP TO £150 PER PERSON*

If you book selected holidays in this brochure, you can save up to £150 per person.

**PLUS - PAY IN FULL
AND SAVE 10%***

*T&Cs: Save up to £150pp on all new holiday bookings departing in 2025 featured in this brochure.. Bookings must be made before 30th Aug 2024. Save an additional 10% (on the discounted price on holidays departing in 2025 if you pay if full at the time of booking. Bookings must be made before 30th Aug 2024. Offers are not combinable with any other offer.

Not applicable to one night breaks, private groups or travel agent bookings. Offer may be withdrawn at any time.

Prices shown on the following tour pages include the monetary saving only not the pay in full discount.

Get in touch with one of our experts

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call,
Monday to Friday between 9am and 6pm, on:
01334 804 703

Alternatively, send us an email to:
info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:
www.brightwaterholidays.com

Travel with the experts

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

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



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.



AWARD-WINNING

- Multi award-winning including the prestigious British Travel Awards



PEACE OF MIND

- 24/7 access to UK-based assistance team
- Full financial protection



VALUE FOR MONEY

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



HOLIDAY EXPERTS

- Over 30 years of experience and knowledge
- Unique and innovative holidays that are well planned and perfectly paced
- Friendly and authoritative tour managers



TOUR FLEXIBILITY

- 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 in 2025

The Art & Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh

Explore Scotland's two largest cities and the contrast in their architecture from Georgian Edinburgh to Victorian Glasgow. p33

The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale

Step back in time and explore the great Tudor age from the lavish Hampton Court Palace to Henry VIII's favourite warship. p34

The Art & Architecture of Antwerp

Discover the city of Antwerp, famed for its medieval streets and Renaissance monuments as well the works of the Old Masters at some of the worlds most famous museums. p13

Portugal - Route of the Almond Blossom

Explore the city of Porto before travelling through the stunning Douro Valley as it is transformed by pastel pink almond blossom. p12

The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus

Delve into the rich Prehistoric, Classical and Medieval history of this Mediterranean island dating back over 10,000 years including visits to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. p13

Gardens of Saint Lucia

Enjoy a tropical treat and some much needed winter sun discovering the secret gardens, hidden waterfalls and vast plantations of Saint Lucia. p20





What our customers say

We enjoyed our holiday very much, visiting the different parts of Shetland and the Up Helly Aa experience was tops. Our hotel was good and comfortable, the staff very accommodating and the food copious and delicious.

Guest on Up Helly Aa, Jan 2024

Overall, our holiday experience was fantastic the journey was beautiful from start to finish.

Guest on Spring Gardens of Cornwall, Mar 2024



There was a tremendous variety of interesting and varied visits with an outstanding tour guide. The trip was interesting, educational, very friendly, and relaxing. I could not have expected better.

Guest on Gardens & Villas of Sicily, Mar 2024

Overall a good holiday with an interesting programme of visits led by the excellent Trevor Edwards.

Guest on Gardens of the French Riviera and Menton Lemon Festival, Feb 2024



Overall a well-planned trip. Tour leader was knowledgeable. Excellent accommodations and food. Enjoyed visiting gardens and natural areas in Barbados.

Guest of Gardens of Barbados, Feb 2024

An enjoyable holiday and learning experience.

Guest of Scotland's Extreme North West, Mar 2024

Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands

8 DAYS FROM

£4,145

SAVING PER PERSON

£150



Jardín de Cactus, Lanzarote

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



MV La Belle Des Océans

Tour Highlights

- Visit to Mt Teide National Park, Sitio Litre and Jardin Botanico, Tenerife
- The National Park of La Caldera de Taburiente and Botanical Gardens La Palma
- Visit to the Cactus Garden and the Green Heart of Haria, Lanzarote

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

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

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

Day 4 We dock at the island of **La Gomera**, filled with craggy mountains and sprinkled with verdant forests of ferns and moss-covered trees. Enjoy the day at leisure here or join an optional excursion to **Garajonay National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a traditional lunch enjoy a demonstration of the island's unique whistled language **Silbo Gomero**. (B, L, D)

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

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

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

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

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



Mount Teide National Park

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

1 - 8 Feb			
Deck 3	£4,295	£4,145	Optional Excursion:
Deck 4	£4,725	£4,575	La Gomera
Deck 5	£5,155	£5,005	Las Palmas/Bandama
Panorama	£5,585	£5,435	Teror/Garden
Riviera	£6,075	£5,925	Fuerteventura
Ocean	£6,395	£6,245	Single Supplement
			from £1,495

Tour code: **BGCI**

Iceland

Northern Lights

5 DAYS FROM

£2,220

SAVING PER PERSON

£75

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. (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, including its iconic **Hallgrímskirkja church**, we 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**. 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 **Gunnhverf 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 Strætó 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

2025		
9 - 13 Feb	£2,295	£2,220
Single Supplement		£395

**The Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon and therefore unpredictable. The order of the itinerary may be changed to accommodate the best viewing conditions but no guarantees of seeing the lights can be given.*

Tour code: BICE

Villas and Gardens of Sicily

8 DAYS FROM

£2,420

SAVING PER PERSON

£75

Sicily has become one of Europe’s best-loved destinations in recent years and it is truly an island of the senses. As soon as you step on to its warm and fertile shores you’ll understand why. Our eight-day tour takes in the best that the island has to offer, with a strong emphasis on gardens, which is what sets this holiday apart from other Sicilian offerings.

Tour Highlights

- Driving up the slopes of Mount Etna
- Tour with a member of the gardening team at Giardini San Giuliano, Villasmundo
- Lunch at a former Benedictine Monastery
- An eclectic mix of cultures at Palermo

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

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

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

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

Day 5 We discover an extensive collection of herbs and spices with a multisensory tour of **Gli Aromi Sicily**. Lunch here is today’s biggest highlight: a home-made feast prepared with an abundance of fresh herbs and devotion. Free time in **Ragusa** follows. (B, L, D)

Day 6 After lunch at a former **Benedictine monastery**, we transfer to the village of Monreale and visit the **Cathedral and Abbey**, with its 70,000 square feet of mosaics, amazing gold leaf and glass interiors. This astounding display echoes the opulence of the



Palermo Botanical Gardens

Alhambra, and is a sight not to be missed. Later, we continue to **Palermo**. (B, L, D)

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

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

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

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights’ dinner including wine, bed & breakfast: three nights in Giardini Naxos; two nights in Ragusa; two nights in Palermo
- ▶ Three lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Sicily

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

18 - 25 Mar

£2,495

£2,420

Single Supplement

£395

Tour code: BSIC

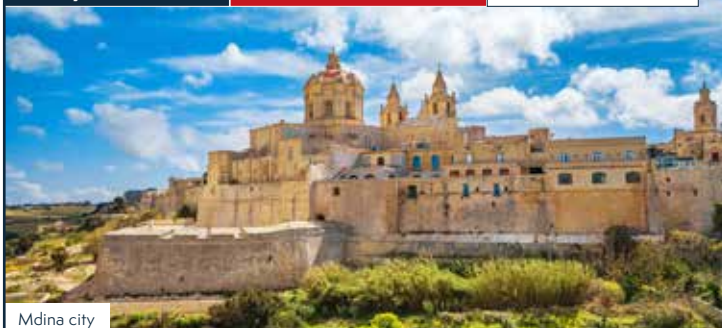
Cultural Malta

2025 Departures:
4 MAR

5 DAYS FROM
£1,120

SAVING PER PERSON
£75

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



Mdina city

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.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

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 opulent surroundings of the Palazzo Parisio

Tour code: **BMAC**

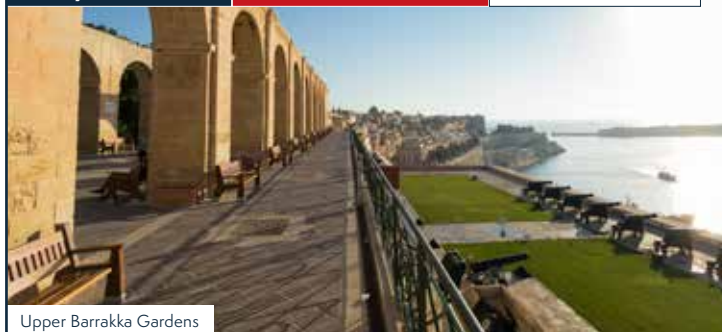
Malta's Archaeological Heritage

2025 Departures:
4 MAR

7 DAYS FROM
£1,720

SAVING PER PERSON
£75

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



Upper Barrakka Gardens

Malta's diminutive archipelago is by no means any indication of the riches it holds — from the Neolithic to now, they are many and varied. During this tour, we venture inside the citadel of Mdina, explore the warren of narrow passages of St Paul's Catacombs, and take a boat trip around the spectacular cliffs and caverns of the Blue Grotto. We also explore the mysterious sites left by civilisations with whom we are just starting to get acquainted: the millennia-old Mnajdra Temples and the megaliths of Hagar Qim.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour Highlights

- Priceless art treasures at St John's Cathedral
- The walled citadel of Mdina
- The ancient Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The extraordinary labyrinth of St. Paul's Catacombs
- 5000 year old temples of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples

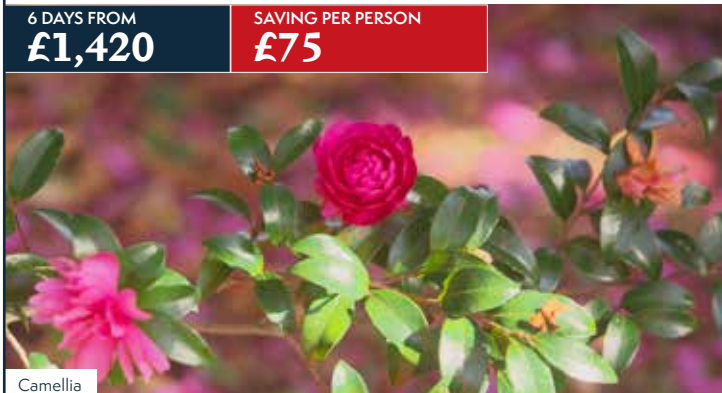
Tour code: **BMAL**

Galicia's Camellia Route

2025 Departures:
12 MAR

6 DAYS FROM
£1,420

SAVING PER PERSON
£75



Camellia

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

Single Supplement

£195

Tour Highlights

- Visit the famous pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela
- Enjoy the sight of camellias at a selection of country mansions (pazos)
- The impressive hill-top site of Castillo de Soutomaioir

Tour code: **BCGG**

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

2025 Departures:
18 MAR

6 DAYS FROM
£1,575

SAVING PER PERSON
£75



Cathedral La Seu

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 Alfabia, 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.

Single Supplement

£395

Tour Highlights

- Enjoy Moorish gardens in Raixa and Alfabia
- Visit the largest prehistoric cemetery in the Balearics
- Visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa

Tour code: **BMCA**

Portugal - Route of the Almond Blossom

8 DAYS FROM

£2,495

SAVING PER PERSON

£100

NEW DATE ADDED

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

Tour Highlights

- Visit the Crystal Palace Gardens, Porto
- Almond blossom in Vila Nova de Foz Côa
- Camellias Flavius nursery, home to more than 2300 varieties and strains of camellia

- Day 1** Upon arrival in **Porto** we enjoy a **city tour** and visit to the **Crystal Palace Gardens** which are one of the main attractions in the city. *[D]*
- Day 2** Today, we visit **Quinta da Arcadia**, where the gardens have several interesting features such as, the woodland area, the greenhouse, the Swan Garden and several specimens of camellias. This afternoon perhaps join our optional tile painting experience. *[B]*
- Day 3** Today we depart Porto by rail to **Vila Nova de Foz Côa**, known at this time of year for its almond trees with their masses of delicate white and pink flowers. After lunch in a local restaurant, we visit **Barca d'Alva** to view the blossom here. *[B, L]*
- Day 4** We visit **Casa de Mateus**, a time machine that allows us to travel through the last five hundred years of the history of Portugal. After lunch we visit **Casa do Campo**, reputedly home to Portugal's oldest camellia tree, around 250 years old. *[B, L]*
- Day 5** Today, we visit **Bom Jesus do Monte Sanctuary** a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its stunning architecture and beautiful gardens. Later, we visit **Biscainhos House Museum**, which in 2020 was awarded the Historic Garden Quality Seal. *[B]*



- Day 6** Today, we discover the **Quinta da Aveleda**, before contining to **Guimarães**. Our final visit to **Flavius camellia nursery** home to more than 2300 varieties of Camellias. *[B]*
- Day 7** We start our day visiting the **Santa Bárbara Garden** in Braga, one of the oldest botnaical gardens in the city before returning to Porto for our farewell dinner. *[B, D]*
- Day 8** After breakfast, we transfer to Porto airport for our flight to London. *[B]*
- Inc. meals:** *B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Hotel Vila Gale Porto, one night at the Quinta de Terrincha, three nights at the 4-star Vila Gale Collection Hotel Braga
- ▶ Return flights from London to Porto
- ▶ Welcome and farewell dinner

- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

12 - 19 Mar	£2,595	£2,495
19 - 26 Mar	£2,595	£2,495
Single Supplement	£395	

Optional Excursion:

Tile Painting

£45

Tour code: BALM

The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus

2025 Departures:
25 MAR

8 DAYS FROM
£2,020

SAVING PER PERSON
£75



Kourion

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

Single Supplement

£325

Tour Highlights

- This exceptionally well-preserved Neolithic walled village of Khirokitia
- A visit to Amathous Archaeological Site
- A full day discovering the Cypriot capital - Nicosia

Tour code: **BCYP**

The Art & Architecture of Antwerp

2025 Departures:
27 MAR

5 DAYS FROM
£1,395

SAVING PER PERSON
£75



Centraal Station

Famed for its medieval streets and renaissance monuments, Antwerp is home to thousands of paintings by the Old Masters, housed in some of the most famous museums in the world. Our tour explores some of the wonderful architecture to be found in the city, including the Cathedral of Our Lady and the impressive Centraal Station. We are joined by expert local guides as they take us through the art collections of some of the cities museums, including the KMSKA – Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Snijders & Rockox Huis and the Plantin-Moretus Museum.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour Highlights

- Guided tour of the KMSKA - Royal Museum of Fine Arts
- Guided tour of Snijders & Rockox Huis
- A visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Plantin-Moretus Museum

Tour code: **BANT**

Gardens of the French Riviera

- Menton Lemon Festival

6 DAYS FROM

£1,920

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£75

Menton’s zesty Lemon Festival brings a vibrant burst of colour to our tour of the French Riviera. Exotic gardens, cacti collections and azure seas complete our sparkling itinerary. At the Clos du Peyronnet we have an exclusive tour, where a passion for exotic plants is reflected in the colour and variety of this fascinating garden. At St. Jean Cap Ferrat, we visit the exquisite gardens of the Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, while a short hop over the border to Italy finds us at the incomparable Hanbury Gardens.

Tour Highlights

- Sit back and enjoy all the colour and spectacle of the Menton Lemon Festival
- Cacti of every shape and size in Èze
- The richness of the plant collection at the Hanbury Garden
- Marvellous sea views and opulent surroundings in St Jean Cap Ferrat

Day 1 On arrival in **Nice**, we visit the garden of **Serre de la Madone**, created by American Lawrence Johnston, a place of luxuriant and exotic beauty, a tropical forest planted on the shores of the Mediterranean. (L, D)

Day 2 We visit the **Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild** at St Jean Cap Ferrat, a garden designed as a series of compartments, each reflecting a different architectural style. We continue to the **Jardin Exotique d’Èze**, on the site of a medieval fortress. In the midst of several hundred species of exotic plants (cacti, aloes, agaves) the visit is an invitation to discover not only plants but art. (B, L)

Day 3 We begin at the private garden of **Clos du Peyronnet** for a guided tour. Next, head into Italy and tour the stunning gardens of **La Mortola**, perhaps the greatest of the Riviera Gardens. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Our day is spent at the **Lemon Festival in Menton** and our ticket includes a grandstand seat for the parade. (B)

Day 5 We drive to **Cap d’Antibes** for a visit to **Villa Thuret**. A botanist and expert on seaweeds, Gustav Thuret lived here and over a period of twenty years he amassed a



Menton Lemon Festival parade

collection of rare plants – among them the first eucalyptus to be planted on the Côte d’Azur. We continue to **La Mouissone**, whose gardens reflect the attributes and restrictions presented by the terrain and the Mediterranean climate. We conclude at the village of **St Paul de Vence**, which serves as a creative haven even today. (B, L, D)

Day 6 We conclude in the glamorous surroundings of **Monte Carlo**, playground of the rich and famous. Here we will enjoy a walk through some of the charming public parks and gardens that bring splashes of colour and open space to the tightly packed urban landscape. Later, we transfer to Nice airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- Five nights’ bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Le Grimaldi, Nice (or similar)
- Three dinners and four lunches
- Return flights from London to Nice

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

13 - 18 Feb

£1,995

£1,920

Single Supplement

£325

Tour code: BLEM

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt

12 DAYS FROM

£4,445

SAVING PER PERSON

£150

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 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. Other highlights include the Step Pyramid, built nearly 5,000 years ago; the Temple of Luxor and Karnak Temple; the Valley of the Kings and the Edfu Temple, one of the best-preserved shrines in Egypt.

Tour Highlights

- The Great Pyramids and the Sphinx of Giza
- The stunning Al-Orman Garden
- The unique Valley of the Kings

- Day 1** Enjoy Executive lounge access before we fly from London to **Cairo**. (IF, D)
- Day 2** We visit **Pharaonic Cairo, Saqqara, The Step Pyramid, The Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza** today. (B, L, D)
- Day 3** Today we visit the **Old Egyptian Museum** and the **Al-Orman Garden**. (B, L, D)
- Day 4** We fly to **Luxor** enjoy lunch at the luxurious **Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor**. (B, L, D)
- Day 5** This morning we visit the **Temple of Luxor** and the **Karnak Temple** before transferring to our **5-star Nile river vessel**. (B, L, D)
- Day 6** A full day visiting the **West Bank**, including visits to **The Valley of the Kings, Antef, the Temple of Seti I** and the **Valley of Asasif**. (B, L, D)
- Day 7** Today we visit **Edfu Temple**, before we visit the **Kom-Ombo Temple**. (B, L, D)
- Day 8** Cruise to **Aswan** where we tour the **High Dam, the Unfinished Obelisk, Philae Temple** and the **Botanical Gardens**. (B, L, D)
- Day 9** Today there is an optional excursion to **Abu Simbel** before enjoying **afternoon tea**



Tomb of Rameses V & VI, Valley of the Kings

at the Old Cataract Hotel where Agatha Christie wrote *Death on the Nile*. (B, AT, D)

Day 10 We transfer to Aswan airport and fly to Cairo. (B, D)

Day 11 Visit **Alexandria** for full day tour including the **Montazah Palace Gardens**. (B, L, D)

Day 12 We take our return flight to London. (B)

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: five nights at the 5-star Ramses Hilton in Cairo, one night at 5-star Jolie Ville Luxor, one night at 5-star Mövenpick Aswan (or similar)
 - ▶ Four nights on a full board basis aboard a 5-star Nile Cruise
 - ▶ Four lunches and one Afternoon Tea
 - ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Return flights from London to Cairo
 - ▶ Flights Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo
 - ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all visits
 - ▶ On arrival Tourist Visa Entry Fee
 - ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

6 - 17 Feb	£4,595	£4,445	Optional Excursion: Abu Simbel
Single Supplement		£1,175	

£475

Tour code: **BEGY**

Gardens of Costa Rica

13 DAYS FROM

£4,845

SAVING PER PERSON

£150

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE ACCESS



Monteverde

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 Highlights

- The imposing volcano of Arenal
- CATIE Botanical Gardens
- Explore the cloud forest at Monteverde
- Spotting subtropical wildlife in the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge



Orchid



White-face monkey

Day 1 Enjoy Executive lounge access before we depart from London to **San José**. (IF, D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the **Else Kientzler Botanical Garden**, home to a vast array of tropical plant species. Later, we visit **Ark Herb Gardens** where there are more than 1,600 species of ornamental plants and fruits. (B, L, D)

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

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

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

Day 6 A full day awaits at the **Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge**, where we can expect to see a diverse range of flora. Later we enjoy **Arenal's hot springs**. (B, L, D)

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

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

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

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

Day 11 Explore the **Manuel Antonio National Park**, one of the most bio-diverse areas in the world before returning to San José. (B, L, D)

Day 12 We transfer to San José airport for our return overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

Day 13 Arrive in London.

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 11 nights' accommodation on bed & breakfast: three nights in San José; two nights in Sarapiquí, two nights in the Arenal area, two nights in Monteverde, two nights in Manuel Antonio.
- ▶ Eight dinners and ten lunches
- ▶ Pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Return flights from London to San José
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025		
26 Jan - 7 Feb	£4,995	£4,845
Single Supplement	£995	

Tour code: **BCOS**

Gardens of Barbados

9 DAYS FROM
£3,495

SAVING PER PERSON
£100

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE ACCESS



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
- Explore the island's Capital Bridgetown
- Visit the Andromeda Botanical Gardens
- Visit George Washington House
- Discover Harrison's Cave and the Flower Forest

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London to **Bridgetown**. (IF, D)

Day 2 Today begins at the **George Washington House**, where the young George and his brother Lawrence resided for two months in 1751. Our next visit provides a most colourful and fragrant experience as we explore the **Tropical Gardens**, home to more than 20,000 orchids. (B, L)

Day 3 Today we visit the **Andromeda Botanical Gardens**, which play an important part in horticultural research and education. We then discover **Hunte's Garden**, located in a gully in the centre of Barbados' rainforest. Due to this location, the garden offers a multi dimensional experience, with vigorous plants growing on many levels, from sunny and open spaces, down to a mysterious, dark heart of real Caribbean jungle. (B, L)

Day 4 We explore **Harrison's Cave** this morning, a crystalline limestone cavern which lies in the centre of the island. We continue with a visit to the **Flower Forest**, located in one of the most beautiful areas of Barbados and built on a former sugar plantation. (B, L)

Day 5 We explore the **St. Nicholas Abbey Plantation**, 400 acres of undulating sugar cane fields, lush tropical gullies, mahogany forests and formal gardens. We will also enjoy a scenic ride on the **heritage railway** that winds through the plantation. Later, we visit historic **Speightstown**, which dates back to 1630 home to blend of both colonial and modern architecture. (B, L)

Day 6 Today is at leisure. Alternatively, join our **optional excursion**, a cruise aboard a **Catamaran yacht** around the coastline of Barbados. Drop anchor for a swim followed by a sumptuous Barbadian lunch. (B)

Day 7 We explore the island's capital **Bridgetown** today, which was founded by English settlers in 1628. Historic Old Bridgetown and its Garrison is now inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B, D)

Day 8 Enjoy some last minute shopping before we transfer to the airport for our return overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

Day 9 We arrive in London.

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



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

2025			Ocean View Suite	from £210
6 - 14 Feb	£3,595	£3,495	Deluxe Ocean View Suite	from £840
Single Supplement		£795	Optional Excursion: Catamaran Cruise	£120

Tour code: **BGOB**

Gardens of Saint Lucia

9 DAYS FROM

£4,445

SAVING PER PERSON

£150

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE ACCESS



Pitons

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

Tour Highlights

- A visit to the Eclectic Garden nestled at a private home
- The award-winning Diamond Botanical Gardens
- Experience a chocolate-making adventure at the Rabot Estate
- Mamiku Gardens, nestled on Saint Lucia's picturesque east coast with a panoramic view of Praslin Bay
- Farwell dinner overlooking the beautiful Rodney Bay Marina

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

Day 2 Today, we visit the **Eclectic Garden** a private garden oasis in the midst of a bustling neighbourhood. We explore the enchanting garden which is carefully tended to by the owners. As the name suggests, the Eclectic Garden provides a mishmash of plants against the backdrop of twittering tropical birds and fluttering butterflies. We complete our visit with a stop at the renowned **Castries market**. (B)

Day 3 Today we enjoy panoramic views of the island as we travel to the enchanting town of **Soufrière**, which is dominated by the majestic Pitons rising from the sea. We embark on an a journey through the award-winning **Diamond Botanical Gardens**, where a stunning display of flora and fauna awaits, and the senses are captivated by a cascading waterfall. Later, we visit the **Emerald Estate**, for a delightful exploration of organic farming featuring the cultivation of mangoes, guavas, and cocoa and a wide variety of tropical plants. After lunch, we visit the **Marantha Gardens** a small but exquisitely designed garden which serves as a sanctuary for prayer and reflection. (B, L)

Day 4 Today is at leisure. Alternatively, you may wish to join our optional excursion onboard a Rainforest Aerial Tram, gliding through the tropical canopy on an open-air gondola. (B)

Day 5 This morning, we depart for **Mamiku Gardens**, nestled on Saint Lucia's picturesque east coast with a panoramic view of Praslin Bay. We will delve into the world of medicinal herbs, uncovering their various uses, and gain insights into the conservation of endangered trees and plants along the forest trails. (B)

Day 6 Today we depart by boat to visit **Project Chocolat**. We sail along the west coast of the island to Soufrière, often at times called the "Garden of Saint Lucia". We indulge in a unique chocolate-making adventure at "Hotel Chocolat" on the historic **Rabot Estate**. Guided by a skilled Cocoa Grower and chocolatier, we will stroll through a cocoa grove, see coca pods, before creating our very own chocolate bar. A delightful lunch at Rabot Market is included. Unforgettable chocolate moments await! (B, L)

Day 7 After breakfast we visit **Greenwood Terrace** – a Heritage and Cultural Site which is home to over 350 flowering plants, tropical foliage, fruit trees and a Heritage Museum which showcases aspects of life on Saint Lucia in days gone by. Learn how the islanders' forebears used traditional herbs, bushes, and blooms in their daily lives to cure their ailments. We can view numerous artefacts around the grounds and in the museum that offer an overview of the rich historical and cultural journey of the island. Later this evening we head to the beautiful Rodney Bay Marina and **Sea Salt Restaurant**. Here we enjoy a farewell dinner while enjoying views of the marina. (B, L, D)

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

Day 9 We arrive in London.

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



Praslin Bay

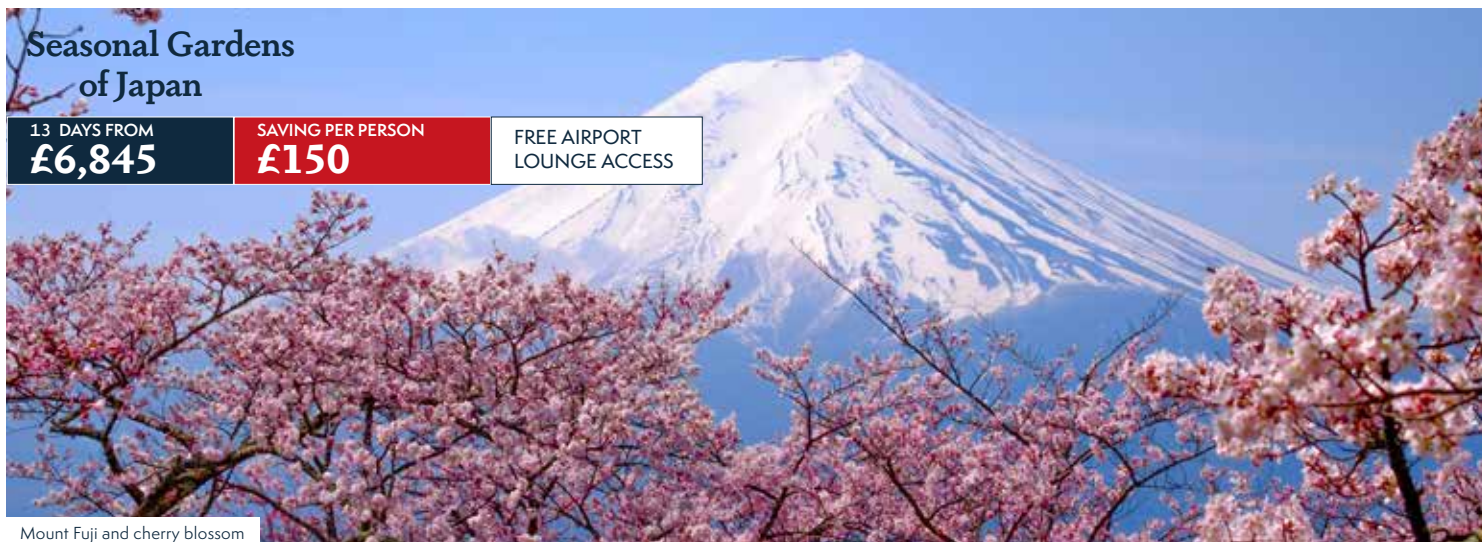
WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025			Pool View Supplement	from £87.50
27 Feb - 4 Mar	£4,595	£4,445	Optional Excursion:	
Single Supplement		£1,195	Rainforest Aerial Tram	£110

Tour code: **BSLU**



Seasonal Gardens of Japan

13 DAYS FROM
£6,845

SAVING PER PERSON
£150

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE ACCESS

Mount Fuji and cherry blossom

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

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

Day 2 Upon arrival in Osaka, we head to the gardens of the **Imperial Palace** which feature broad gravel paths, lawns and groves of trees, including attractive weeping cherry trees, which should be in blossom for our spring tour. *(D)*

Day 3 We enjoy a full day in **Kyoto** visiting some outstanding gardens. These include **Daisen-in temple, Ryogen-in, Zuiho-in, Kinkakuji temple** and **Ryoan-ji temple**. *(B)*

Day 4 We journey to the **Prefecture of Shiga**. Beginning in **Otsu**, we visit the ancient temple of **Ishiyamadera**, which was established around the middle of the 8th century by Roben Osho. From here we continue along the shores of **Lake Biwa-ko** to the town of **Omihachiman** and the **Hachimanbori Canal**. Before returning to Kyoto, we'll also visit the **Nishikawake House**, the former residence of a wealthy merchant family. *(B)*

Day 5 Today we explore **Ginkaku-ji** or 'Silver Pavilion', a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the private garden of **Hakusasonso** and **Kyoto Botanical Garden**, which displays over 120,000 plants. We'll also visit the **Bamboo Forest Path** in Sagano, a strange, otherworldly forest of dense bamboo. *(B)*

Day 6 Enjoy Kyoto at leisure or join an optional excursion by train to **Hiroshima**. (B)

Day 7 This morning we transfer to **Nara** and explore the **Todai-ji Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will also enjoy **Nara Park**, visit the **Kasuga Grand Shrine**, one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines and **Kodai-ji Temple**. This evening we transfer to the geisha district of Gion to have **dinner with a maiko**. (B, L, D)

Day 8 After breakfast we visit the **Heian-jingu Shrine**, a rare example of an extensive pond garden in the grounds of a Shinto shrine. Next, we explore the **Nanzen-ji Temple complex**, a quintessential Zen temple. This afternoon we take the famous 'Shinkansen' or **Bullet Train** to Tokyo. (B)

Day 9 Today in the seaside town of **Kamakura** we visit the **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine**, located between two lotus ponds. Next, we admire the **Great Buddha**, which has survived tidal waves, earthquakes, fires before visiting the **Hase Kannon Temple**. (B, L)

Day 10 Enjoy a full day excursion to **Hakone** and **Mount Fuji**, which begins with a visit to **Onshi Hakone Park**, an area of forested mountains and deep ravines. We will enjoy a cruise on **Lake Ashi**, 723m above sea level. After lunch, we drive along the foot of **Mount Fuji** for a further photo stop at **Lake Kawaguchi**. (B, L)

Day 11 Today begins at the garden of **Kyu Furukawa**, a masterpiece of modern design, combining Japanese style with an Italian terraced-style garden full of roses. Next, it's on to **Mukojima Hyakkaen Garden**, the only surviving flower garden of the Edo period. (B)



Kyoto

Day 12 Following breakfast we have a full day sightseeing in **Tokyo** today. Beginning with a visit the **Senso-ji Temple**, Tokyo's most sacred temple. Directly in front of the Senso-ji Temple lies the **Nakamise-dori**, the temple's shopping precinct. We continue to **Rikugien Garden**, often considered Tokyo's most beautiful Japanese landscape garden. Our next visit is the **Imperial Palace East Garden**, which has a fine collection of bamboo and Japanese spring blossom. Later, we explore **Hamarikyu Garden** and take a cruise along the **Sumida River**. (B, D)

Day 13 Today we transfer by coach to Tokyo Airport, for our return flight to London. (B, IF)

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



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

2025			Optional Excursion: Hiroshima	On request
24 Mar - 5 Apr	£6,995	£6,845		
Single Supplement		£1,250		

Tour code: **BJPG**

Gardens of Mauritius

12 DAYS FROM

£4,095

SAVING PER PERSON

£100

FREE AIRPORT
LOUNGE ACCESS



Pamplemousse

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 Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolan Botanical Gardens
- Rare trees and exotic birds in the Black River Gorges
- The Seven Coloured Earths, a rare geological oddity created by volcanic activity
- Le Domaine de Bois Cheri, the largest and oldest tea plantation in Mauritius

Day 1 Enjoy Executive lounge access before we fly from London to **Mauritius**. (IF)

Day 2 Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel and have the rest of the day at leisure. (D)

Day 3 Today we visit **La Vanille Tropical Garden**, where we have a guided tour of the flora and fauna in this unique zoo, which is beautifully landscaped with tropical plants. Later we visit the **Domaine de Saint Aubin**, a colonial house from 1819. You can also explore the Botanical Garden and a Spice Garden. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we head to the north coast where we visit **large greenhouses** filled with plants and flowers. Later, we travel to **Port Louis**, where we visit the colourful **market** and the **Blue Penny Museum**. The museum collection includes the 1847 Blue and Red Penny stamps, which are amongst the rarest and most sought after stamps in the world. (B, D)

Day 5 Today we head to the **Black River Gorges National Park**. This beautiful highland area is like no other part of the island and looks more like North America than an island in the Indian Ocean. Look out for the rare tambalacoque or dodo tree, black ebony trees and the exotic birds that perch in them. We also visit the **Plaine Champagne** and the **Grand Bassin** and our day concludes at the **Seven Coloured Earths**, a rare geological oddity created by volcanic activity. (B, D)

Day 6 We take a boat trip to the nature reserve of **Île aux Aigrettes**, where we see plants and animals which were on the verge of extinction and now thrive here, such as rare orchids and pink pigeons. We continue to the well-stocked **Vaneron Garden Centre and Nursery at Trianon** where we enjoy **afternoon tea** with pastries. (B, AT, D)

Day 7 Free day at your leisure. (B, D)

Day 8 Enjoy a guided visit to **Curepipe Botanical Garden** and **Le Petrin Nature Reserve**. The little botanic garden is notable for its palm *Hyphorbe amaricaulis*, a doomed species as it is the last of its kind in the world and has proved impossible to propagate. In the afternoon we visit **Le Domaine de Bois Cheri**, the largest and oldest tea plantation in Mauritius. (B, D)

Day 9 Today we travel to the capital **Port Louis** for some free time before we visit the **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolan Botanic Garden** at Pamplemousses, famous for its canal full of giant waterlilies. Later we visit the **Domaine de Labourdonnaï**, where we discover the Château and the Nursery. (B, D)

Day 10 Today we visit the **plantations** in Moka situated on the central plateau of the island, here we see fields and greenhouses filled with all manner of plants. Later we visit a **pineapple plantation** before we explore **Eureka House**, a colonial mansion with a dramatic woodland ravine as well as a garden, with lunch included. (B, L, D)

Day 11 For our final day we relax in the hotel and then transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to London. (B, IF)

Day 12 We arrive in London.

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



Île aux Aigrettes

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

2025			Superior Ocean View Supplement from £135
26 Mar - 6 Mar	£4,195	£4,095	
Single Supplement		£795	

Tour code: **BMAU**

Up Helly Aa - Shetland's Festival of Fire

7 DAYS FROM
£1,520

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO
£75



Up Helly Aa festival

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

Tour Highlights

- The fiery festival of Up Helly Aa
- 3000 years of archaeological history at Jarlshof
- Comfortable overnight sailings with Northlink Ferries
- The dramatic, rugged scenery of Yell & Unst
- The picturesque village of Scalloway

Day 1 We depart from our designated departure points and travel to **Aberdeen** where we will join the Serco Northlink ferry (*Hrossey or Hjaltland*) for the overnight sailing to Lerwick. Accommodation is provided in comfortable two-berth cabins with en-suite facilities. (D)

Day 2 We arrive early in the morning. After breakfast on board we depart on a full day tour beginning in **Scalloway**, the original capital of Shetland. The castle built by Earl Patrick Stewart still dominates the skyline. More recently Scalloway was the secret base for the heroes of the Norwegian Resistance and the wartime exploits of the 'Shetland Bus' form a courageous memoir. Later, we visit the **Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof**, spanning 3000 years since the days of the Stone Age, including oval shaped bronze age houses, iron age broch and wheel houses, Viking long houses and medieval farmhouses. We continue to **Sumburgh Head**, an RSPB reserve and site of a lighthouse that is still functioning remotely, but incorporates museum aspects of its earlier operation as a manned station. (B, D)

Day 3 After breakfast we have a full day tour which, weather permitting, will take us to the northern isles of **Yell** and **Unst**. Travelling north through **Tingwall** and **Girlsta**, we arrive at

Toft, where the ferry departs for the island of Yell. After a 15-minute crossing we head to **Gutcher** at the north end of the island. After a refreshment stop we make another short ferry crossing to the island of Unst. Here we drive north to **Baltasound**. In the afternoon, we continue northwards again, *(about as far north as it is possible to travel by coach in the British Isles)* and enjoy the views from **Saxavord Hill**. Our return route takes us via East Yell and **Burravoe**. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast today we enjoy another scenic excursion to the west mainland of Shetland, which will take us to Walls, terminus for the ferry service to the **island of Foula**, and the headland at **Sandness**, overlooking the island of Papa Stour. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Today we depart for **Lerwick**, where you are free to explore and view the various activities associated with the **Up Helly Aa festival**. Keep an eye out for the various ‘squads’ of ‘guizers’ – groups of about 20 men who choose a theme and dress up as whatever takes their fancy each year. Only one squad, a different one every year, is allowed to dress up as Vikings and are known as ‘jarls’, the Viking term for Earl. As darkness falls *(mid-afternoon at this time of year)* the squads begin to assemble for the torchlight parade and eventually a procession of 1,000 men snakes its way through the streets carrying aloft flaming brands of paraffin-soaked hessian and carrying the superbly crafted galley which will then be ceremoniously burned in the spectacular finale to the day’s events. Dinner this evening will be served in a local restaurant. *(B, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast we depart on a scenic excursion to the north mainland of Shetland. Our route will take us over the **Mavis Grind**, an isthmus just 100 yards wide, and through a stark landscape of hills, moors and lochans. We will stop for a walk *(weather permitting)* along the spectacular sea cliffs at **Eshaness**, which offer spectacular views over the many skerries, islets and offshore rocks. Look out for the lighthouse which was built by David Alan Stevenson, one of the famous ‘lighthouse’ Stevensons, between 1925 and 1929. In the early evening we re-join our ship, which sails for Aberdeen. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast on board we will disembark in Aberdeen and we will return to our original pick up points. *(B)*

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



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Six nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast: four nights at the Scalloway Hotel and two nights on the overnight ferry from Aberdeen to Shetland in a twin-berth inside cabin *(one dinner in a local restaurant)*
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025		
25 - 31 Jan	£1,595	£1,520
Single Supplement		£445

Tour code: **BUPV**

Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds

4 DAYS FROM	SAVING PER PERSON	NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
£695	£50	

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

Tour Highlights

- Colesbourne House, considered to be England’s greatest snowdrop garden
- Stunning Victorian walled garden at Cerney House
- Arts and Crafts style at Rodmarton Manor

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

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

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



Snowdrops

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

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

WHAT’S INCLUDED

▶ Three nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Holiday Inn Gloucester-Cheltenham

▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout

▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary

▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

7 - 10 Feb

£745

£695

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BSNC**

Spring Gardens of Cornwall

4 DAYS FROM

£695

SAVING PER PERSON

£50

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

Tour Highlights

- Gothic Revival style at Knightshayes Court
- The continually evolving marvel that is the Eden Project
- Masses of rhododendrons in full flower
- Negotiating the hedge maze at Glendurgan
- Seaside hotel in Newquay

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

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

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



Lost Gardens of Heligan

magnolias and camellias. Look out too for the hedge maze, originally built by the owners in the 1830s to entertain their 12 children. (*B, D*)

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

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

17 - 20 Mar **£745** **£695**

Single Supplement **£150**

Tour code: **BSGC**

Scotland's Extreme North West

4 DAYS FROM £645	SAVING PER PERSON £50	LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
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The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the early spring months as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty. Enormous waves roll in from the Atlantic and hurl themselves against the short in an awesome display of raw natural power. The coastal views and landscapes are even more breathtaking and the warmth of our highland hotel is very welcoming at this times of year.

Tour Highlights

- The magical Smoo Cave
- The spectacle of the Suilven Mountain
- Officially the best hot chocolate in the world at Cocoa Mountain
- Salmon Leap at Loch Shin
- White sands of Oldshoremore

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

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

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



Smoo Cave

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

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout

▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary

▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025		
18 - 21 Mar	£695	£645
Single Supplement		£120

Tour code: **BXNW**

Glasgow's Art Treasures

featuring the Burrell Collection

4 DAYS FROM

£645

SAVING PER PERSON

£50

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. This incredible collection holds treasures from all over the world, including 5,000-year-old porcelain from China, paintings by renowned French artists including Manet, Cézanne and Degas, and medieval artefacts such as stained glass, armour and tapestries. Our tour also includes visits to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where notable works of art from across Britain and Europe are featured alongside a diverse collection of exhibits; the Hunterian, Scotland's oldest public museum, the Gallery of Modern Art located in the centre of Glasgow, Holmwood House and the House for an Art Lover, built in the 1990s to a design by Charles Rennie Mackintosh from 1901.

Tour Highlights

- Explore the newly refurbished Burrell Collection
- Visit Scotland's oldest public museum
- Discover one delight after another at Kelvingrove
- See world class art (and a Glasgow icon) at the Gallery of Modern Art
- Charles Rennie Mackintosh's design brought to life at the House for an Art Lover

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

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

Day 3 We start our day at the **Burrell Collection** which, following an ambitious and



Kelvingrove Museum

far-reaching refurbishment programme, was voted **Art Fund Museum of the Year** in 2023. This afternoon we head to **Holmwood House**, the finest and most elaborate residential villa designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson. (*B, D*)

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

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

21 - 24 Mar

£695

£645

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BGAT**

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams

5 DAYS FROM

£2,020

SAVING PER PERSON

£75

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

Tour Highlights

- Tour of Heligan with Alasdair Moore
- Lunch and welcome from the owner at Caerhays Castle
- Private visit to the Tregothnan Estate & Tea Plantation
- Day trip to Abbey Gardens and personal tour with Curator Mike Nelhams

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

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

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

Day 4 Today we visit the privately-owned garden of **Lamorrان House**, which has been



designed by the owner in an Italianate style, although there are also Japanese influences here. We continue to **Tregothnan Estate** where after **lunch** we have a tour of the unique **Tregothnan Tea Plantation**. (B, L, D)

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

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

WHAT’S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Alverton Hotel, Truro
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Truro (regional rail connections and upgrades can also be arranged at a supplement; £100pp discount for no rail travel)

- ▶ Return helicopter flight to the Scilly Isles
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Mike Nelhams as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

24 -28 Mar

£2,095

£2,020

Single Supplement

£295

Tour code: BCMN

The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh

4 DAYS FROM
£845

SAVING PER PERSON
£50

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

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

Tour Highlights

- Visit Gladstone's Land with its hand-painted ceilings
- Guided tour of the Scottish Parliament building
- Contrast and compare Edinburgh's Georgian House with Glasgow's Tenement House
- Private tour of the marble staircases and rooms at Glasgow City Chambers
- Afternoon Tea at Mackintosh at the Willow

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Glasgow, Edinburgh*) and travel to central **Edinburgh**, where we begin with a tour of the **Old Town**. Included is a visit to **Gladstone's Land**, which has been a commercial and social hub for over 500 years. We will also visit **St Giles' Cathedral**, the scene of Her Majesty The Queen's lying-in-state and later the 'Scottish Coronation' of His Majesty The King. (D)

Day 2 Today begins at the **Scottish Parliament** building. We then walk a short distance to, the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, where we explore the 14 historic and state apartments and the manicured gardens. After a panoramic tour taking in the principal buildings of the **New Town** we visit **The Georgian House**, restored to reflect the lives of those who lived and worked here in the late 18th and early 19th century. We continue to the **Royal Scottish Academy** and the **National Gallery of Scotland**. (B, D)



Glasgow

Day 3 This morning we head for **Glasgow** where we begin with a walking tour of the **Merchant City**, which dates back to the 1750s. We then have a **private guided tour** of the **Glasgow City Chambers**. After a panoramic tour of the city, picking out some architectural highlights both old and new, we enjoy **afternoon tea** at **Mackintosh at the Willow**. We conclude today with a visit to **The Tenement House**. (B, AT, D)

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

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025

28 - 31 Mar **£895** **£845**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BAGE**

The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale

4 DAYS FROM

£845

SAVING PER PERSON

£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.

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 Wyne

Day 1 We depart by coach from our central London pick-up point and head for a visit to **Hampton Court Palace**. The palace was one of Henry VIII's most favoured residences and soon after acquiring the property, he arranged for it to be enlarged so it could accommodate his sizeable retinue of courtiers. In later years it was much extended, in various architectural styles, but at its heart it remains Tudor, and symbolic of the enormous power that dynasty wielded. (D)

Day 2 Today we head for Portsmouth for a visit to the **Historic Dockyard**, home to the **Mary Rose**. Built between 1510-1511 she was for many years Henry VIII's favourite warship, fast, well-armed and successful. She sank, not on her maiden voyage as Blue Peter presenter Sarah Greene mistakenly informed the nation, but on a fine summer day in 1545 as she sailed into action against the French fleet. The raising of the Mary Rose and her subsequent restoration was a remarkable achievement, while the collection of some 19,700 genuine Tudor artefacts is unparalleled and provides an invaluable insight into 16th century life. Our visit begins with an **exclusive one-hour talk** on the relationship between Henry VIII and the Mary Rose. One of the first things Henry did as King was order the ship and she sank two



years before his death in 1545. We will discover how the life of the Mary Rose and the tumultuous reign of King Henry VIII were intertwined. We then enjoy a **live tour** of the museum by a member of the Mary Rose team, who will provide us with a unique insight into the most interesting items in the collection. In the afternoon we visit the **Tudor House and Garden** a Grade 1 listed half-timbered building that dates to Norman times and was established as Southampton's first museum in 1912. The house is home to an eclectic range of artefacts covering 800 years of history. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning we head along the south coast to the town of Lewes where we find **Anne of Cleve's House**. This timber framed medieval house was given to Anne, the fourth wife of Henry VIII, at the end of her short-lived marriage, although she never lived there. Nevertheless, it provides great insight into the Tudor period with well-preserved interiors including a Tudor kitchen, a light and airy parlour and a beautiful bedroom. Next we visit **Arundel Castle**, home to the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors since the 11th century. In the Tudor period these included Lord Howard of Effingham, the Earl of Surrey and the 3rd Duke of Norfolk, uncle of Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. Later, we visit the **Weald & Downland Open Air Museum** which is set in 50 acres of beautiful Sussex countryside. Exhibits include a Tudor kitchen and Tudor Market Hall; a majestic timber framed farmhouse from Kent; a medieval shop and carpenters, plumbers and brickmakers workshops. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning we have time for one final visit, **The Wyne**, near Basingstoke. Originally built as a great Tudor 'power house', The Wyne was visited by Henry VIII on at least three occasions and was home to the Chute family for over 350 years. Dramatic improvements and changes have made The Wyne a fascinating microcosm of changing fads and fashions over five centuries. The attractive gardens and grounds feature an ornamental lake, one of the earliest summerhouses in England and woodland walks. Following our visit we head for our original pick-up point. (B)

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



Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025		
28 - 31 Mar	£895	£845
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		

Tour code: **BMRT**

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