

GARDENS IN BLOOM

APRIL - JUNE 2025

DISCOVER THE BEST
GARDENS WORLDWIDE



BEST TRAVEL COMPANY
FOR
COACH HOLIDAYS

Discover stunning *gardens* at the peak of their beauty

A time of transformation and renewal, there's nothing like the much-needed arrival of spring and early summer after the winter. Landscapes begin to awaken again and the days become welcomingly longer, bluebells carpet ancient woodland, the countryside basks in golden evening light and birdsong returns once more. This time of year does wonders for the soul and, thanks to the warmer weather and fewer crowds, provides the perfect opportunity to get out and explore nature.

With that in mind, we have put together a delightful collection of tours to make the most of April, May and June this year. Spanning destinations across the British Isles, Europe and beyond, these holidays feature some of the most spectacular gardens in the world at the peak of their beauty.

Join Mike Nelhams to admire the great gardens of Cornwall, explore The King's peaceful haven at Highgrove, discover the horticultural wonders of the Neapolitan Riviera or partake in hanami (flower viewing) in Japan to celebrate the transient nature of beautiful blooms. There is certainly plenty to choose from, with wonderful events such as the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Scone Palace Garden Fair and the International Rose Festival in the South of France on offer too.

With over 30 years of experience, exclusive access to private gardens and expert tour managers, you're guaranteed a unique holiday to savour wherever you decide on.

We look forward to sharing the delights of spring and early summer with you.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson

Managing Director

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



Look forward to spring and early summer across the *British Isles, Europe and beyond*

Discover stunning rhododendrons in Scotland

While native to eastern Asia and the Himalayas, rhododendrons seem to thrive in the mild climate and naturally acidic soil of south-western Scotland. To see the best of them, come and visit the gardens of Dumfries and Galloway in May, brightened with glorious shades of red, pink and purple.

See page 5 for full tour



Stop and smell the roses at the International Rose Festival

The International Rose Festival is of course hosted by Grasse, the centre of the French perfume industry since the 16th century. This magical event is filled with beautiful roses of every style, colour and variety imaginable – the whole town becomes a garden with delightful fragrances at every turn.

See page 19 for full tour



Enjoy the iconic RHS Chelsea Flower Show

The Great British gardening event of the year is not to be missed! One of the highlights of the show is the collection of over 20 full-sized show gardens, bursting with stunning flowers. The Great Pavilion is a great source of inspiration too, with plant experts all keen to share their horticultural knowledge and advice.

See page 15 for full tour

Explore the sun-soaked gardens of Croatia

Enjoy some warm weather and go in search of hidden gems in the Croatian regions of Kvarner and Istria, where the purple and blue Istrian bellflower carpets landscapes and Old Towns. A real delight for the senses, expect a diverse array of protected plant species, idyllic gardens and flower farms that produce lovely essential oils.

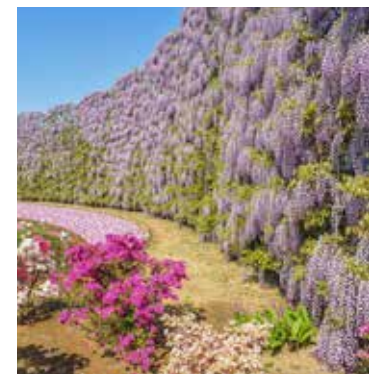
See page 17 for full tour



Tick springtime in Japan off your bucket list

A real sense of excitement fills the air in Japan during the spring, when verdant greenery and beautiful flowers such as azaleas, peonies and wisteria are at their peak. Our May departure even coincides with the start of the sakura season in Hokkaido, the northernmost island, where we hope to see the stunning cherry blossom!

See page 26 for full tour



A *unique* holiday experience

Expect quality & comfort

You can be assured of excellent quality and comfort on a Brightwater holiday, as we only select trusted hotels to provide the best possible stay, along with travel from easy-to-reach pick-up points.

So much included

Enjoy exceptional value, with your accommodation, travel and excursions to must-see highlights and hidden gems all included in the price of your holiday. Many holidays have a selection of meals included, just look out for the details against each individual holiday.

- ▶ Great value for money with coach travel, visits, accommodation and most evening meals included
- ▶ Over 30 years of experience and knowledge
- ▶ Unique and innovative holidays
- ▶ Exclusive access to private gardens and visits
- ▶ No hidden extras
- ▶ Well-planned and perfectly-paced itineraries
- ▶ Friendly and authoritative Tour Managers
- ▶ Professionally recognised partnerships
- ▶ Welcoming, friendly service from first contact
- ▶ Enjoy peace of mind with financial protection



Get in touch with an *expert*

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, on:

01334 230 048

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:

www.brightwaterholidays.com

UK & Ireland Gardens

The months of April, May and June are a lovely time to experience the breathtaking beauty and rich heritage of the British Isles, where stunning gardens and historic houses are just waiting to be explored. Our diverse range of UK and Ireland-based holidays promise unforgettable journeys through some of the most exquisite landscapes and cultural treasures these nations have to offer, including many private gardens, where vibrant flowers explode in a riot of colour to create a picturesque backdrop that changes with the seasons. These gardens are meticulously crafted, featuring rare plant species and stunning design elements that invite visitors to wander and reflect amidst nature's tranquillity. There is something for everyone too, whether you would like to admire stunning rhododendrons in Scotland, discover the pretty wildflowers of the Burren in Ireland, stroll through the quintessential RHS Garden Bridgewater or visit the horticultural gems of charming Jersey.



Attend one of the most popular events of the Scottish gardening calendar, the Scone Palace Garden Fair and be sure to join Viscount Stormont on a tour of the family's private garden

Discover Ireland's most famous gardens at Powerscourt and stroll amongst the charming walled garden, the striking terraces, fine statuary and varied trees

Visit the sub-tropical paradise of Tresco Abbey Gardens on the stunning Isles of Scilly with Mike Nelhams, curator of this horticultural gem for over 40 years

Explore the National Botanic Garden of Wales, where the Great Greenhouse separates the familiar Welsh hills from a panoramic sweep of warm, Mediterranean scenery

Enjoy a visit and lunch at The King's Highgrove Gardens and admire the honeysuckle, jasmine, holboellia, lillies, thyme and wildflower meadows that surround the house

NEW TOUR



Drummond Castle

Gardens of Perthshire and the Scone Palace Fair

4 DAYS from £945 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

TOUR MANAGER: Sue Pomeroy

Join us as we visit some of the most notable gardens in Perthshire from the formal gardens of Drummond Castle to the oriental inspired Japanese Garden at Cowden, near Dollar. Each garden brings a sense of tranquillity set in some of the most picturesque countryside in Scotland. The highlight of our tour is a day spent at the marvellous Scone Palace Garden Fair, where we can not only enjoy some informative talks from guest speakers including TV presenter and Scone Palace's very own Brian Cunningham we can enjoy a wander through the vast gardens and the magnificent palace itself.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Pitlochry Hydro Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Visits to Branklyn Garden, Scone Palace Garden Fair, Drummond Castle, Cluny House Gardens & The Japanese Garden at Cowden
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Sue Pomeroy as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

29 May - 1 Jun	£945
Single Supplement	£120



Castle Kennedy - Rhododendrons

The Best Rhododendron Gardens in the World?

4 DAYS from £945 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

TOUR MANAGER: Richard Baines

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed, and breakfast at the 3-star Fernhill Hotel, Portpatrick
- ▶ Visits to the Gardens of Millhall, Glenwhan, Castle Kennedy, Logan Botanic, Logan House, Threave Estate & Corsock House
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Service of horticulturalist Richard Baines as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 10 May	£945
Single Supplement	£90

NEW TOUR



Attadale Gardens

Gardens of Wester Ross

5 DAYS from £1,145

PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

Join us on our tour which strings together some of the best gardens in one of the most beautiful and scenic parts of the country. An undoubted highlight of our tour is Attadale Gardens, a true gem of a garden which was voted RHS Partner Garden of the Year for Scotland in 2023. Here we enjoy an exclusive private visit and a light lunch in the dining room of the main house, which is not normally open to the public. Other visits include a three-acre private garden on the outskirts of Inverness, a trip to Skye to admire the award-winning formal garden of Dunvegan Castle and Inverewe, one of the most outstanding gardens in the country.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and full breakfast at the Highland Lodge, Gairloch
- ▶ Light lunch at Attadale Gardens
- ▶ Visits to Oldtown of Leys, Corrieshalloch Gorge, Dundonnell House Garden, Inverewe gardens, Isle of Skye, Dunvegan Castle Garden, Raasay Walled Garden, Attadale Gardens, Gairloch Museum & Kinlochlaich Garden and Plant Centre
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 9 Jun	£1,195
2 - 8 Aug	£1,145
Single Supplement	£295



Logan Botanic Garden

Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway

4 DAYS from £895

PICK-UP POINTS: Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

The south-western corner of Scotland is home to some of the country's most attractive gardens. The artistic highlight of our tour is undoubtedly Dumfries House, actually in Ayrshire and which King Charles helped to save. One of the Adam Brothers' finest achievements, the stunning interiors showcase a unique collection of Chippendale furniture, while the walled garden is one of the most exciting new garden developments in all of Scotland. We see something rather different at Broughton House, an artist's Japan-influenced garden at the restored former home of 'Glasgow Boy' E. A. Hornel.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Cairndale Hotel
- ▶ Visits to Dumfries House, Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, Glenwhan Garden, Logan Botanic Gardens, Broughton House Garden, Ellenbank nursery, Threave Estate Gardens, Drumlanrig Castle & Crawick Multiverse
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 4 Jun	£895
Single Supplement	£195

NEW TOUR



Tresco Abbey Gardens

The Isles of Scilly

6 DAYS from £2,445 | TOUR MANAGER: Mike Nelhams

DEPARTURE POINT: Land's End Airport

The Isles of Scilly, a true sub-tropical paradise, has remained unpolluted, unspoiled, and unchanged for decades. These charming islands have been described as 'the most fortunate of all the islands around Britain's coasts,' boasting clean seas and beaches, breathtaking scenery and a temperate climate, where spring arrives early, autumn lingers and winter is nearly absent. The stunning Tresco Abbey Gardens are home to more than 3,000 species of plants, showcasing vibrant colours and delightful scents, while other highlights include a pelagic boat excursion to the Western Rocks and a guided tour of a local flower farm on the island of St. Martins.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed and full breakfast at the St Mary's Hall Hotel, St Mary's in a standard room – upgrades available on request at a supplement
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return Skybus flight from Land's End to St Mary's (Exeter or Newquay flights available at a supplement)
- ▶ Boat transfers between islands
- ▶ Visits to the Abbey Gardens on Tresco, a Pelagic boat excursion to the Western Rocks and Bishop Rock Light House, Scilly Flower Farm on St Martin and Hillside Farm on Bryher
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager
- ▶ Presentation and Q&A session with Mike Nelhams on Abbey Gardens

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 12 May	£2,445
Single Supplement	£120



Mont Orgueil

Gardens of Jersey

5 DAYS from £1,695

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Situated within touching distance of France, the island of Jersey is blessed with wonderfully mild and sunny weather and is home to some splendid gardens which make the most of this favourable climate to produce stunning displays, not to mention the profusion of wildflowers that thrive in the lush green meadows. Creux Baillot Cottage Garden is set in a tranquil valley and is packed full of unusual plants and elegant features. At the Domain des Vaux, fine trees and shrubs are set around a traditional Jersey farmhouse and at Les Aix we find nut and camellia trees, and borders with old English roses. We also visit the excellent Samarès Botanical Gardens and the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Pomme d'Or Hotel, St Helier
- ▶ Return flights from London to Jersey
- ▶ Visits to the gardens of Domain des Vaux, Les Aix, Creux Baillot, Samarès Botanic Gardens, Eric Young Orchid Foundation & Ransoms Garden Centre
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

14 - 18 May	£1,695
Single Supplement	£295
Optional Guernsey extension	£199



Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams

5 DAYS from £2,145

 DEPARTURE POINT: London Paddington

With the help of Mike Nelhams, Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens and a long-standing friend of Brightwater Holidays, we have put together this very special tour of Cornwall, where we hope to meet the personalities behind them. These include Sir Tim Smit, the driving force behind both the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project, Charles Williams of Caerhays Castle and Lord Falmouth of Tregothnan Estate. At our base in the comfortable Alverton Hotel, Truro, our tour begins with a presentation from Mike Nelhams on the great Gardens of Cornwall, then over the following three days we see the gardens for ourselves.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Visits to Lost Gardens of Heligan, Caerhays Castle including a guided tour of the gardens, Abbey Gardens on Tresco, the gardens at Lamorran House, Tregothnan Estate & Tea Plantation & Truro
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 5 Apr	£2,145
Single Supplement	£295



Summer Gardens of Cornwall

7 DAYS from £2,295

 PICK-UP POINTS: London, Reading, Swindon, Bristol

A visit to Cornwall in early summer is a rewarding experience and there is an abundance of gardens to choose from – thanks to the benign climate a wide range of plants can be grown here, from the great Asiatic shrubs to the tender exotics. Among the outstanding visits is a specially arranged guided tour of the garden at Tregrehan with owner Tom Hudson, who gives us his personal insight into the pleasures and pitfalls of gardening here in the Duchy of Cornwall. Other highlights include the garden at Marsh Villa, the result of years of hard labour by the enthusiastic owner, and the Tremenheere Sculpture Garden near Penzance, which has established itself as a major attraction over the last decade.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Vara, Truro
- ▶ Visits to the gardens of Hestercombe, Tregrehan, Marsh Villa, Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens, Trengwainton, Lost Gardens of Heligan, Pinetum Park and Pine Lodge Gardens, Trelissick, Lamorran House & RHS Garden Rosemoor
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

23 - 29 Jun	£2,295
Single Supplement	£395
Optional Excursion - Tresco	£335



Gardens and Wildflowers of the Burren

5 DAYS from £1,595 | TOUR MANAGER: Trevor Edwards

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

The Burren, from the Irish bhoireann - a stony place - lies in the northwestern corner of Co. Clare. Over 300 square kilometres in extent, it is the largest area of karstic limestone in western Europe. Yet closer examination reveals the beautiful diversity of flora for which the whole region has become justly famous. The colourful exuberance and profusion of the wildflowers is simply captivating and, subject to the prevailing conditions, we can expect to see many interesting different species. Just one highlight is a visit to a local private garden at Knockpatrick, containing many variations of magnolias, azaleas and rhododendrons.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed breakfast at the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis
- ▶ Return flights from London to Shannon
- ▶ Visits to Doolin, Inis O'irr, Cliffs of Moher, Caher Bridge Garden, Doreen Drennan's Garden, Poulabrone Dolmen & the Burren
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 7 Jun	£1,595
Single Supplement	£160



The Irish Rover

8 DAYS from £2,495 | TOUR MANAGER: Trevor Edwards

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast: two nights at the 4-star Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim; three nights at a 3-star hotel in Dublin; and two nights at the 3-star Maritime Hotel, Bantry (hotels subject to change)
- ▶ Five dinners
- ▶ Flights from London to Belfast, returning from Cork
- ▶ Visits to Mount Stewart, Rowallane Garden, Castle Ward, Malahide Castle, Hunting Brook, June Blake's Nursery, Russborough, Kilruddery, Powerscourt, Mount Usher, Mount Congreve, Innacullin & Blarney Castle and Gardens
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

12 - 19 Jun	£2,495
Single Supplement	£595

NEW TOUR



Harewood House

Gardens of Yorkshire

4 DAYS from £995 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

 PICK-UP POINTS: London, Luton, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham

Explore the wonders of Yorkshire and visit some of the best houses and gardens in England's largest county. We begin at Harewood House, a Grade I listed building which is home to an art collection that is one of the finest in Britain. We enjoy a tour of the classic walled garden of Littlethorpe Manor, which features the impressive apothecary garden and Newby Hall with its impressive double herbaceous borders. Other visits include York Gate, a magical one-acre garden tucked behind the ancient church at Adel and Harlow Carr, the RHS's northern flagship. During our visit, we enjoy a guided tour, giving us a personal insight into the continued development of this landmark garden.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed breakfast at the 4-star Bridge Hotel & Spa, Wetherby
- ▶ Visits to Harewood House, Littlethorpe Manor, Newby Hall Gardens, Harrogate, RHS Harlow Carr & York Gate
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

30 Jun - 3 Jul £995

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

NEW TOUR



Alnwick Garden

Highlights of Northumberland

5 DAYS from £1,195 | TOUR MANAGER: Alan Appleton

 DEPARTURE POINT: London Kings Cross

A visit to the low-lying coast and wide-open spaces of Northumberland is always a treat but especially when paired with visits to historic houses, castles and Roman ruins.

Highlights include Bamburgh Castle, a trip to the holy island of Lindisfarne including visits to both the castle and priory, Belsay Hall and Wallington House, which dates back to 1688 and also boasts a fine garden. Then there is Alnwick Castle, which has been described as the 'Windsor of the North' and is the second largest inhabited castle in England. Not to be missed is one of Britain's most significant Roman sites - Hadrian's Wall - as well as one of the best-preserved Roman cavalry forts - Chester's Fort.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed breakfast at the 4-star Maldron Hotel, Newcastle
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Newcastle (regional rail connections can be arranged and upgrades are also available at a supplement; £100pp discount for no rail travel)
- ▶ Visits to Belsay Hall Castle & Garden, Bamburgh Castle, Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle and Gardens, Hadrian's Wall, Chester's Fort & Wallington House
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of local expert Alan Appleton as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 11 Jun £1,195

Single Supplement £195

Please note: The order of the itinerary may change due to Lindisfarne tides.



Dyffryn Fernant Garden

Gardens of South and West Wales

5 DAYS from £1,295 | TOUR MANAGER: Tony Russell

 PICK-UP POINTS: London, Reading, Swindon, Bristol

Tucked away in the rolling countryside of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire are some fine parks and gardens, both large and small; ancient and modern. The centrepiece of our tour is the National Botanic Garden of Wales, the first garden of its type to be created in the United Kingdom for 200 years. This spectacular re-interpretation of the historical garden blends the careful restoration of the historic, double-walled garden with Norman Foster's Great Greenhouse. By contrast Aberglasney is a superb 16th/17th century restored garden, Llwyngarreg makes the most of the local climate and soil and Upton Castle features superb woodland gardens.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Beggars Reach Hotel, Burton
- ▶ Visits to Dyffryn Botanic Gardens, National Botanic Garden of Wales, Aberglasney, Dyffryn Fernant Garden, Picton Castle, Upton Castle, Laugharne, the private garden of Llwyngarreg & Tredegar House Garden
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

11 - 15 Apr £1,295

Single Supplement £295



The grapevine arch in Loseley Park

In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll

6 DAYS from £2,095 | TOUR MANAGER: Linda Robinson

 PICK-UP POINTS: London, Basingstoke

Visit gardens including Knightshayes and East Lambrook Manor, known as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening', Loseley Park, Gravetye Manor, and Vann, all of which have connections with Gertrude Jekyll. In her lifetime Jekyll was a prolific garden designer creating over 400 gardens; she was a plantswoman extraordinaire, painter and writer. The highlight of this tour is an exclusive dining experience at Gravetye Manor.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Five nights' bed and breakfast: two nights at the boutique Lanes Hotel, Yeovil and three nights at the 4-star Frensham Pond Hotel, Farnham (or similar)
- ▶ Four dinners at the hotels and one at Gravetye Manor
- ▶ Visits to the gardens of Barrington Court, Hestercombe, Knightshayes Court, East Lambrook, Upton Grey Manor House, the Phillips Memorial and Cloister, Hatchlands, Gravetye Manor, Vann Garden & Loseley Park
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Linda Robinson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 8 Jun £2,095

Single Supplement £495



Elizabethan Mansion at Wakehurst, © Jim Holden

The Gardens of Kent and Sussex

4 DAYS from £995 | TOUR MANAGER: Linda Robinson

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Gatwick

If there's one tour that epitomises the joy of strolling around a perfect English country garden, it is this one – with one shining example after another to be savoured and enjoyed. Even if you have visited some of these properties before, such is their allure that you can return again, just as you would re-read your favourite novel. Highlights include Great Comp filled with rare and beautiful shrubs, Lullingstone Castle, Nymans Garden offering outstanding plants in a theatrical setting, the Sussex Prairie Garden and Sissinghurst, surely the most-copied flower garden in the world.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Donnington Manor Hotel, Sevenoaks
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Visits to Great Comp Garden, Lullingstone Castle Garden, Sussex Prairie Garden, Nymans Garden, an 'early bird' visit at Sissinghurst, Great Dixter Garden, Scotney Castle & RHS Garden Wisley
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Linda Robinson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 23 Jun	£995
Single Supplement	£195



Sandringham

Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk

5 DAYS from £1,495 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Colchester

Our historical tour of Norfolk takes us through verdant rolling countryside to many fine stately homes, including Sandringham, the much-loved retreat of the Royal Family, where we enjoy an afternoon tea followed by a private guided tour. Other highlights include the 500-year-old Oxburgh Hall; Blickling Estate, a stunning Jacobean mansion; a trip on the North Norfolk Heritage Railway; Wolterton Hall with its sculptured parkland, and the charming, moated manor of Mannington Hall, where we enjoy a tour with Lady Walpole.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star Knights Hill Hotel, King's Lynn
- ▶ One lunch at Mannington Hall and one afternoon tea at Sandringham
- ▶ Visits to Oxburgh Hall, Blickling Estate, North Norfolk Railway, Sandringham, Holkham Hall, Hoveton Hall, Wolterton Hall & Mannington Hall
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 5 Jun	£1,495
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	



Stroll Trentham's Italian Gardens

Italian Gardens, Trentham Estate

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West

4 DAYS from £745 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Luton, Northampton, Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent

Currently the largest gardening project in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater opened to the public in 2021 and we are delighted to be able to visit it as it develops and matures. This once-in-a-generation project saw the Royal Horticultural Society take inspiration from the heritage of the site and transform it into a world-class garden, while also delivering a programme of community outreach and education activities, volunteering and training.

Based on an overall design by leading landscape architect and Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith, highlights include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials. We also take the opportunity to visit some of the best gardens in the North West, beginning at Trentham Estate in Staffordshire, where the contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was also led by Tom Stuart-Smith. At Dunham Massey we discover a great plantsman's garden full of native favourites and exotic treasures. Tatton Park's gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character whilst Arley Hall showcases a pair of herbaceous borders that is one of the greatest garden sights of England.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head to the gardens of **Trentham Estate** in Staffordshire, where the contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was led by renowned designer and serial Chelsea gold-medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith. We continue to our hotel in Cheshire. (D)

Day 2 This morning we travel to the **RHS Garden Bridgewater**. Based on an overall design by leading landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith, highlights include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials. In the afternoon we visit a nearby **private garden** which in contrast to Bridgewater is much smaller but no less intriguing. (B, D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Dunham Massey**, a great plantsman's garden full of native favourites and exotic treasures set around an elegant Georgian mansion. After being pressed into service to help the war effort in both world

wars, Dunham Massey was taken over by the National Trust in 1976 and work began to transform the garden to its former glory. It was decided that the garden would have an Edwardian pleasure ground feel with the freedom to choose from a range of planting options, with native favourites alongside exotic treasures. The garden continues to evolve today - modern additions include the Rose Garden and the Winter Garden. Next, we explore **Tatton Park**, whose gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character. (B, D)

Day 4 Today we visit **Arley Hall**, which preserves the atmosphere of a garden kept for its own delight. A pair of herbaceous borders was laid out here in 1846 and they survive to this day, beautifully maintained - one of the great garden sights of England. Following this, we return to our original departure points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



The Paradise Garden, RHS Bridgewater © RHS Neil Hepworth

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star BW Pinewood Hotel in Wilmslow
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

24 - 27 May	£745
Single Supplement	£120



Highgrove ©Robert Smith

Explore The King's enchanting gardens



RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Attend the gardening event of the year

Highgrove and the Cotswolds

4 DAYS from £945

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Reading, Swindon, Bristol

Our tour of the Cotswolds features an exclusive visit to Highgrove House, the country home of His Majesty The King. This will be a rare opportunity to see these fascinating gardens, which, of course, are cultivated using wholly organic methods.

Some of the finest gardens in England are to be found nestled among the green and rolling hills of Gloucestershire. Our tour begins at the Arts and Crafts house of Rodmarton Manor, whose fine garden comprises a series of 'outdoor rooms'. Hidcote Manor's contrasting garden rooms are one of the most impressive sights in England and Kiftsgate's splendid views are justly famous. We also visit Painswick Rococo Garden, a recreation of a pleasure ground from the early 18th century and finally Westonbirt, the National Arboretum.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for **Rodmarton Manor**, an 'Arts and Crafts' house with a fine eight-acre garden comprising a series of 'outdoor rooms', each with its own distinctive character. The architect Ernest Barnsley started Rodmarton in 1909 and it became a shrine to the Cotswolds crafts movement. The grey gabled house has an intricate garden of lively atmosphere, formal in spirit but with a cottage garden feel to it. There are superb vistas throughout and plenty of places to sit and admire the surroundings. (D)

Day 2 More garden rooms feature today as we visit **Hidcote Manor**, an outstanding garden of dramatic contrasts and carefully framed vistas. It was started before World War I by an American, Major Lawrence Johnston, who devised a type of garden that many think of as quintessentially English. Although among the best-known gardens in Britain, Hidcote Manor still has the power to startle. We continue to **Kiftsgate Court**, which offers an admirable selection of plants and flowers, not least of which is the well-known rambling rose *R. filipes* 'Kiftsgate'. The house is surrounded by a series of enclosed gardens, whose formality is blurred by generous planting. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning we explore **Highgrove**, the country home of His Majesty The King. This will be a rare opportunity to see these fascinating gardens which of course are cultivated using wholly organic methods. Following our tour we enjoy **lunch in The Orchard Room**, an elegant dining room overlooking the Orchard Terrace. In the afternoon we visit **Painswick Rococo Garden**, a pleasure ground created in the decadent and fun loving early 18th century, where follies nestle in a hidden valley surrounded by magnificent Cotswolds views. Using a painting, by Thomas Robins in 1748, the garden is being fully restored to its eighteenth century character. Its main features are rococo buildings, woodland walks and well-planned vistas. (B, L, D)

Day 4 We conclude among the sylvan delights of **Westonbirt**, the **National Arboretum**, which is perhaps the most important and widely known arboretum in the United Kingdom. It comprises some 18,000 trees and shrubs, over an area of approximately 600 acres. We will see numerous 'champion' trees including rare magnolias, tree rhododendrons and maples as well as a wide variety of smaller trees and shrubs. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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



Hidcote Manor

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at a comfortable hotel in the Cotswolds
- ▶ Lunch at Highgrove
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

30 May - 2 Jun	£945
27 - 30 Jun	£995
Single Supplement	£195

Please note, by the very nature of this holiday we are dependent on a successful application for admittance to Highgrove. Departures are expected to be confirmed in February 2025.

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Classic English Gardens

7 DAYS from £1,945

PICK-UP POINT: Bristol, Reading, Swindon, Heathrow, London

This tour combines the colour, prestige and excitement of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with some of the south of England's finest gardens, affording the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of horticultural excellence. Our two centre holiday includes visits to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and the unmissable gardens of RHS Garden Wisley, exclusive early bird entrance to Sissinghurst in Kent and Great Dixter. We then head west, breaking our journey at the beautiful gardens of Wilton House near Salisbury and 'Capability' Brown's famous landscape garden of Stourhead. From our hotel in the West Country we visit the ancient Bishop's Palace in Wells, the Cannington Walled garden and Hestercombe, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. We also have some time in the town of Bath, famous for its Roman baths and elegant Georgian terraces. We also explore The Courts Garden, a delightful English country garden.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and travel to our first visit **RHS Garden Wisley**, which is where the Royal Horticultural Society shows the gardening public how it should be done. Here the highest standards of practical horticulture are deployed in the setting of a splendid old site, rich in fine trees against a backdrop of other plants, all impeccably labelled. (D)

Day 2 We enjoy a full-day visit to the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, which holds a rare position as a great British tradition and an exciting source of inspiration and advice. One of the highlights of the show is the collection of over 20 full-sized show gardens. (B, D)

Day 3 Today we have an **early bird** visit to the manicured gardens of **Sissinghurst**. This famous garden was created by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson from 1930 onwards and became the most admired English Garden of its time. In the afternoon we head for **Great Dixter**, where we are treated to an **exclusive guided tour**. (B, D)

Day 4 We make our way to the gardens of **Wilton House**, an impressive Palladian mansion near Salisbury. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning we head to **The Courts**, a charming garden showing English style. Peaceful water gardens and herbaceous borders with topiary exhibit creative use of colour and planting. In the afternoon we transfer to the historic city of **Bath** for some free time. (B, D)

Day 6 Today after breakfast we depart for the village of Cannington where we will visit the **Cannington Walled Gardens** which lie in the grounds of a medieval priory, much of which remains today. Later, we visit the **Bishop's Palace** in Wells, a stunning medieval palace which has been home to the Bishops of Bath and Wells for 800 years. (B, D)

Day 7 After breakfast, we visit **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. Later we visit the garden at **Stourhead**. Temples, urns, a grotto and a wealth of trees all contribute to the special atmosphere of this celebrated landscape garden. We later return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



RHS Garden Wisley



Sissinghurst

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn, Guildford and three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Walnut Tree, North Petherton (or similar)
- ▶ Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 28 May	£1,945
Single Supplement	£395

Europe & Worldwide

There is so much to choose from in Europe and beyond, when the landscapes burst into life at this delightful time of year. Why not start your adventure in the elegant gardens of southern France, where you can stroll beneath the fragrant blooms and admire the meticulous landscape design that reflects centuries of artistry? Feel the warmth of the spring sun on your skin as you explore the sun-soaked islands of Sicily, Mallorca and Malta, or discover the awe-inspiring gardens of Ninfa, often referred to as the 'Pompeii of the garden world.' If you would like to travel further afield, imagine immersing yourself in the springtime gardens of Japan, or looking out for wildlife and unique birds in spectacular Tanzania. Whichever adventure you choose, you're guaranteed to create lasting memories.

Visit the world-famous gardens of Monet and see his paintings brought to life – wisteria festoons arched bridges, weeping willow frames water lilies and peonies burst with colour

Explore the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society above the shores of Lake Maggiore, home to a remarkable collection of over 500 plants and beautiful blooms

Head to the International Rose Festival to see the pretty town of Grasse transformed into a delight for the senses with beautiful roses of every style, colour and variety imaginable

Embark on a game drive through the famous Serengeti National Park, looking out for over 500 species of birds, lions, leopards, cheetahs and more among the rolling landscapes

Look out for cherry blossoms in Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido, where our May departure coincides with the iconic sakura season



Krk Island

Visit Croatia's fragrant flower farms

Croatia's Best-Kept Secret – Gardens and Parks of Kvarner and Istria

8 DAYS from £2,795 | TOUR MANAGER: Julia Berg

✈️ DEPARTURE POINT: London

Join us next June as we explore some of the hidden garden gems of Croatia in the company of Julia Berg, an experienced tour manager and the UK's expert on Croatia. This two-centre holiday explores the regions of Kvarner and Istria, visiting beautiful gardens, areas of outstanding natural beauty, flower farms dedicated to the production of natural cosmetics and essential oils together with places of historical importance. Highlights include the terraced American Gardens in Opatija, the island of Košljun home to a Franciscan Monastery, the historically significant city of Pula with its magnificent Roman monuments as well as a diverse array of plant species, including many which are rare and protected.

Day 1 We depart from London to **Pula**, Croatia. On arrival, transfer to our hotel in Opatija in the Kvarner Region. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax or explore. Dinner will be in the hotel this evening. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we begin our day at **Angiolina Park**. Here we can see bamboo and various species of palms, which thrive in Opatija's mild climate, as well as the Japanese Camellia (*Camellia Japonica*) which has become a symbol of Opatija. We have some time to stroll the well-maintained pathways, taking in the beauty of the colourful flower beds, ornate statues, and charming fountains.

Later, we head towards the **American Gardens**, a lesser-known yet equally enchanting Opatija green space, with breathtaking viewpoints of the sea and town below. (B, D)

Day 3 We start our day in **Krk Town**, where we have some time here to explore before heading to the harbour of Punat, from where we take a short boat ride to the tiny **Island of Košljun**, a pretty islet located in the middle of Puntarska Draga Bay.

Later, we visit the **Immortelle Farm** on Krk. Known as the 'everlasting flower', immortelle is a key element in natural cosmetics and essential oils. (B, D)

Day 4 We leave the Kvarner region and move to the neighbouring region of Istria where we visit **Veliki Brijun**, a pristine natural haven that combines breathtaking landscapes, rich biodiversity, and a wealth of historical and cultural treasures. To reach the island there is a short boat trip from the pretty port of **Fažana**. We travel on a small electric train and by foot in places for short periods as cars are not permitted. After our visit, we continue to our hotel in Pula. (B, D)

Day 5 Today we explore the stunning city of **Pula**, known for its impressive Roman architecture such as the Forum Pula Forum, Temple of Augustus, Pula amphitheatre and more. This afternoon there is an optional excursion to Vodnjan for Olive Oil tasting. (B, D)

Day 6 We explore **Rovinj**, once an island and one of the most picturesque towns on the Istrian Peninsula, before continuing to **Histria Aromatica**, where we have a guided tour. They grow a wide range of aromatic herbs and plants such as fennel, sage, pine, rosemary, lavender blended for use in natural oils and balms. We conclude our visit with a tasting session, where you can sample local products such as herbal liqueurs, olive oils, and honey, all infused with the aromatic plants grown at the estate. (B, D)



Villa Angiolina

Day 7 Today is free to spend at leisure or join our optional excursion exploring the beautiful Istrian countryside, with a focus on the region's famous frescoes, such as those in the small village of **Beram**. We also visit the charming village of **Roc**, where there's the chance to participate in a short, guided fresco painting class led by a local artist where we learn the basics of fresco technique and how to create a small fresco as a keepsake. (B, D)

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: three nights' at the 4-star Hotel Admiral, Opatija (Superior Sea View Room) and four nights at the 4-star Park Plaza Histria, Pula (Standard Park View Room)
- Return flights from London to Pula
- Comfortable coach travel in Croatia
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Julia Berg as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

31 May - 7 Jun	£2,795
Single Supplement	£295
Optional:	
Olive Oil tasting near Vodnjan	£35
The Frescoes of Istria	£140



Flower Festival

Gardens of Madeira

8 DAYS from £2,495

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Set in a bright blue sea some 400 miles off the coast of Africa lies the lush, volcanic island of Madeira, famous for its outstanding natural beauty. Much of the island is assigned as a conservation area where rare flowers cover the island like a green mantle, with orchids, bougainvillea, lilies, hydrangeas, magnolias, jacarandas and azaleas blooming effortlessly throughout the year. In May the island truly comes alive as the Madeira flower festival take centre stage. Fragrant colourful blooms fill the streets and spectacular parades with flamboyant flower floats form a procession through the streets of Funchal.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Seven nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star Golden Residence Hotel, Funchal *(or similar)*
- ▶ Welcome and farewell dinners at the hotel and afternoon tea at Reid's Palace
- ▶ Return flights from London to Funchal
- ▶ Visits to Mercado dos Lavradores, Quinta Vigia, Santa Catarina Park, Children's Flower Parade, Madeira Botanical Garden, Quinta da Boa Vista Gardens, Quinta do Palheiro, Flower Festival Parade & Monte Palace Gardens
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 8 May	£2,495
Single Supplement	£395
Optional Excursion: Island tour	£95



Jardin Exotique

Gardens of the French Riviera - International Rose Festival

6 DAYS from £2,395

DEPARTURE POINT: London

With elegant gardens, dazzling azure skies and a stunning coastline which inspired a generation of artists, the French Riviera has retained its glamorous allure for over a century. We visit some of the finest gardens that were created here in this sun-kissed playground of the rich, including those of Thomas Hanbury and the Rothschilds. We also head to the International Rose Festival in pretty Grasse, the centre of the French perfume industry since the 16th century, where you can expect the whole town to transform into a garden with beautiful roses of every style, colour and variety imaginable at every turn.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Visits to Serre de la Madone, Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, Jardin Exotique d'Èze, Clos du Peyronnet, La Mortola, the International Rose Festival, Villa Thuret, La Mouissone, St Paul de Vence & Monte Carlo
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 13 May 2025	£2,395
Single Supplement	£585



La Majorelle Garden

Gardens of Marrakech

5 DAYS from £1,795

DEPARTURE POINT: London

The timeless city of Marrakech has an enduring appeal, with its low-rise pink and red buildings set against the magnificent backdrop of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. Highlights of our tour include El Bahia Palace, with sunlit courtyards, planted with cypress, orange trees and jasmine, Menara gardens, where the surrounding mountains are mirrored in sheets of water, and the fabulous, brightly coloured botanical and artist's gardens of Majorelle.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 5-star El Saadi Hotel, Marrakech
- ▶ Three dinners and one lunch
- ▶ Return flights London to Marrakech
- ▶ Visits to El Bahia Palace, El Badi Palace, La Majorelle, Yves Saint Laurent Art and Design, gardens of M. Ben Chaabane, Menara Garden, Arset Moulay Abdessalam, Jnane Harti, Dar el Basha, Le Jardin Secret, Saffron Plantation Tour, Nectarome Aromatic Garden & the Gardens of Anima
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2 - 6 Apr	£1,795
Single Supplement	£400



Claude Monet House

The Genius of Monet

5 DAYS from £1,395

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Just as the gardens at Giverny inspired Monet, who spent half his life nurturing and enjoying them, they continue to enthral countless visitors more than 90 years after his death. The lovingly restored gardens give a vivid impression of Monet's favourite subjects, filled with poppies, lupins, delphiniums and peonies. Arched bridges, painted an acid apple green, are festooned with wisteria and the draped fronds of weeping willow frame the water lilies - Monet's paintings brought to life. The perfect complement to Giverny is the Orangerie Museum in Paris. The centrepiece of this outstanding collection is Monet's breathtaking series of murals, Les Nymphéas. Besides Giverny, we visit the Château de Chantilly, with its extensive collection of fine art and its gardens designed by Le Nôtre, and the pleasant market town of Senlis.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' dinner *(with wine)*, bed & breakfast at the Château de Montvillargenne, Chantilly
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Paris with Eurostar
- ▶ Visits to Chantilly, Château de Chantilly, Senlis, Claude Monet Gardens, Giverny & Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

9 - 12 May	£1,395
Single Supplement	£295



Valletta Harbour

Malta's Archaeological Heritage

7 DAYS from £1,995 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Malta's diminutive archipelago is by no means any indication of the vast riches it holds — from the Neolithic to now, they are many and varied, and all waiting to be discovered on this special tour. Venture inside the walled citadel of Mdina, explore the warren of narrow passages of St Paul's Catacombs, and take to the waters for a boat trip around the spectacular cliffs and caverns of the 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.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Six nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star Doubletree by Hilton, St Paul's Bay
- ▶ Return flights from London to Malta
- ▶ Visits to Valletta, Upper Barrakka Gardens, Grand Master's Palace, the Archaeological Museum, Mosta Church, Mdina, the Skorba Temples, the Museum of Roman Antiquities, St. Paul's Catacombs, Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra Temples, Blue Grotto boat trip, Marsaxlokk, the Tarxien Temples & Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

6 - 12 May £1,995

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Seaview Room Supplement £75
Optional Excursion: Gozo £145



Grote Markt of Antwerp

The Art & Architecture of Antwerp

5 DAYS from £1,545 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star Mercure Antwerp (or similar)
- ▶ Two dinners
- ▶ Return Eurostar from London to Brussels and onwards rail to Antwerp (first class upgrades and regional connections available at a supplement)
- ▶ Visits to Antwerpen-Centraal Station, Saint James Church, the Steen, town hall, guild houses, Cathedral of Our Lady, Diamond Quarter, KMSKA – Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Snijders & Rockox Huis, Rubens Experience Centre and Gardens & Plantin-Moretus Museum
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager plus local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

18 - 22 Jun £1,545

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Villa Carlotta at Tremezzo

Take a private tour with Villa Cicogna Mozzoni's owner

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes

8 DAYS from £2,895 | TOUR MANAGER: Kate Williamson

DEPARTURE POINT: London

From our bases on the Gulf of Borromeo on Lake Maggiore and at the foot of Lake Como we will explore a succession of villas and their gardens, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of snow-capped mountains and glittering water. Visit the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society, home to a remarkable collection of over 500 plants and the three Borromeo islands, Bella, Madre and Pescatori, which feature shaded woodland walks and flowered terraces. Explore Villa Taranto, filled with rare botanical specimens, and visit the ancient church on the little island of San Giulio on picturesque Lake Orta. We are treated to a private tour with the owner of Villa Cicogna Mozzoni and can enjoy Azaleas and rhododendrons on display at Villa Carlotta. Our tours will be led by popular tour manager and local resident Kate Williamson.



Isola Madre

Day 1 We depart from London to Milan. On arrival we continue by coach to our base for the next four nights, the 4-star Hotel **Milan Speranza au Lac**, located in the centre of Stresa on the shores of Lake Maggiore, overlooking the Borromeo gulf with its enchanting colours. (L, D)

Day 2 We visit the gardens of **Villa Taranto**. Flourishing with rare botanical examples, the early 20th-century idea of a garden as an aesthetic experience and a scientific adventure reaches its height of perfection here. In the afternoon we drive to charming little **Lake Orta** with free time for lunch (not included) in the picturesque old town of **Orta San Giulio**. Later, we take a private boat trip to **San Giulio** and visit the ancient church. (B, D)

Day 3 Today, we explore the famous Borromeo islands. We cruise from Stresa to **Isola Bella** to see the baroque palace built from the island's rock and surrounded by terraced gardens inspired by the 'Hanging Gardens of Babylon'. We continue to **Isola Pescatori**, the 'island of fishermen', with its pretty harbour. Our final visit is to **Isola Madre**, where tropical and Mediterranean plants, citrus fruits, crape myrtle and agaves flourish. (B, D)

Day 4 We start by visiting the **private garden** of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**. Since the 1950s, due to the combination of acid ground, a mild climate and frequent rainfall,

the garden has housed camellias, developed with great passion by Antonio Sevesi, founder of the Italian Society of Camellias and the current President. The camellia collection includes 500 plants and 318 cultivars. Enjoy a relaxed **lunch** here and an afternoon in **Stresa**. (B, L, D)

Day 5 We head for **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni**, situated in the foothills between Varese and Lake Lugano, where we enjoy a private guided tour with the owner. We continue to the town of **Como** where we will check into our lakeside hotel, the **Barchetta Excelsior** for the next three nights. (B, D)

Day 6 Today we are free to sightsee at leisure. Hop on board one of the many ferries or hydrofoils to Bellagio and visit the **Villa Melzi d'Eril** (admission not included). Our guide will be on hand to assist. (B, D)

Day 7 We enjoy an enchanting day on **Lake Como**. In **Tremezzo**, we discover the elegant 18th-century **Villa Carlotta**, where azaleas and rhododendrons present a dazzling display. Imaginative planting includes twining climbers and roses while the more natural garden of Japanese maples and cacti reveals the microclimatic conditions, with banana and flowering orchids creating a semi-tropical jungle effect. Later, we catch the ferry to visit the **Villa Balbianello**. (B, D)

Day 8 After breakfast today we must check out of the hotel. We return to the airport in time for our return flight to London, where the group will disperse or make onward connections. (B)

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

Please note: A good degree of mobility is required to get the most out of this holiday as there are a large number of steps at many of the gardens.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Hotel Milan Speranza au Lac on Lake Maggiore; three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior on Lake Como
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Milan
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 14 May £2,895

25 Jun - 2 Jul £2,895

Single Supplement £495
Lake View Supplement On request



Villa Giulia

Gardens and Villas of Sicily

8 DAYS from £2,695 | TOUR MANAGER: Trevor Edwards

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

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. This tour takes in the best that the island has to offer, from the popular beach-side city of Taormina to the rugged landscapes of the Madonie Mountains. We begin on the slopes of Mount Etna, visiting an elegant garden which thrives on the fertile soil here before heading south as we gain an exclusive insight into Sicilian gardening with a member of the gardening team at Villasmundo. We also visit the private garden of a Sicilian aristocrat and have a treat for the senses at Gli Aroma Sicily as we discover an extensive selection of herbs and spices, and we also enjoy lunch at a monastery high in the mountains.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Visits to Villa Trinità, Mount Etna, Taormina, Casa Cuseni, Gardens of Princess Maria Carla Borghese, San Giuliano, Gli Aromi Sicily, Palermo Botanical Gardens, Villa Giulia & Norman Palace
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 20 May	£2,695
Single Supplement	£395



Botanical garden in Padua

Palladian Villas of Veneto

5 DAYS from £2,145

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Veneto is one of Italy's wealthiest regions, reflected in the extravagance of the grand villas and their stunning gardens. Many of the grand villas we visit were designed by Andrea Palladio, one of the most influential individuals in the history of Western architecture.

Join us as we discover no fewer than six glorious villas on tour, including the Villa Rotonda, Villa Valmarana and Villa Barbarigo.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' bed and breakfast in the 4-star Sweet Hotel in Schiavon (or similar)
- ▶ Four dinners
- ▶ Return flights London to Venice
- ▶ Visits to Villa Pisani, Teatro Olimpico, Villa Rotonda, Villa Valmarana, Villa Barbarigo, Villa Vescovi, Le Paradis des Papillons, Villa Barbaro, Villa Godi Malinverni, Orto Botanico & Scrovegni Chapel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 24 May	£2,195
Single Supplement	£195



Villa San Michele

Gardens of the Neapolitan Riviera

7 DAYS from £2,495 | TOUR MANAGER: Sue Pomeroy

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Southern Italy has a beautifully warm climate which, combined with a rich and fertile soil, is ideally suited not only to olives, oranges and lemons but to a wide range of tender exotics. This has led to the creation of some fantastic villas, gardens, vineyards and lemon groves all doused in the ancient culture that surrounds the vibrant city of Naples itself. On the largest island of the Bay of Naples, Ischia, we visit the dazzling garden of La Mortella, where umbrella pines, groves of ilex and arbutus, Italian cypresses and myrtles thrive here in glorious companionship. We also visit Villa Rufolo on the Amalfi Coast plus the stunning Villa Cimbrone and the archaeological site at Pompeii.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Six nights' dinner with wine, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Scapolatiello
- ▶ Return flights from London to Naples
- ▶ Visits to Caserta Palace Gardens, Villa San Michele and Giardini di Augusto on Capri, Ischia, La Mortella on Ischia, Villa Rufolo, Villa Cimbrone & the archaeological wonders of Pompeii
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Sue Pomeroy as tour manager & local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

11 - 17 Apr	£2,495
Single Supplement	£195
Optional Excursion: Sorrento Lemon, Olive Oil and Wine tasting tour	On request



Papal Garden in Castel Gandolfo

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo

4 DAYS from £1,695

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the ancient romantic flower-covered ruins at Ninfa. Scented roses, hydrangeas and jasmines curtain what remains of the walls of medieval buildings and paths meander beside a crystal-clear river. Castel Gandolfo is the papal residence to the south of Rome, where the balcony overlooking the Giardino del Belvedere, with its strict geometric parterres edged by towering cypresses and umbrella pines. Other highlights include Villa Lante a study in geometry and symmetry dating back to the 16th century, with many water features including a huge, balustraded water fountain and gardens at Villa D'Este, romantically overgrown with tall pines, evergreen oaks and cedars.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights' bed & breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Rome
- ▶ Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- ▶ Return flights from London to Rome
- ▶ Visits to Viterbo, Villa Lante, Castel Gandolfo, Ninfa & Villa d'Este & a city tour of Rome
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 16 May	£1,795
Single Supplement	£420



Palace of Knossos

Discover the famous Palace of Knossos

Crete Archaeology

8 DAYS from £2,095

✈️ DEPARTURE POINT: London

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. Crete was home to one of the earliest European civilizations, the Minoans, who roamed these hills some 4000 years ago. Their legacy can be seen all over the island, in particular at the legendary Palace of Knossos.

From this distant starting point we journey through time, from the Hellenic-Roman era to the periods of Turkish and Venetian domination, as illustrated by archaeological remains and buildings which remain in use to this day. We also explore the countryside, which in the spring is carpeted with flowers, driving high into the mountains to visit labyrinthine caves and along the coast where we will see sparkling seascapes and picturesque fishing villages.

Day 1 We depart from London to **Crete**. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Today we visit the **Archaeological Museum** and the mighty **Palace of Knossos**, the centre of the Bronze Age Minoan civilization, which leaves the visitor breathless with wonder. (B)

Day 3 Free day, or join our optional excursion to the island of **Spinalonga**, a former leper colony. Later, we enjoy some free time in charming **Agios Nikolaos**. (B)

Day 4 The first stop is at **Gortyn**, an old Greek Roman town with its famous law stones, Roman amphitheatre and the ruins of **Saint Titus**, before we visit **Phaistos**, one of the most important centres of Minoan civilisation, and the most wealthy and powerful city in southern Crete. We continue to **Zaros**, on the south slope of Ida Mountain. (B)

Day 5 Enjoy a walking tour of **Rethymnon**, which is a mixture of Venetian and Turkish influences. Later, we travel to **Chania** to explore its historic centre and Venetian harbour. (B)

Day 6 We have free time to explore the local area, or alternatively join our optional excursion to the **Arkadi Monastery** and **Eleutherna Museum** including lunch. (B)

Day 7 We visit the Minoan cemetery of **Armeni** and Byzantine monuments in the picturesque **Amari valley**. We enjoy a farewell dinner with wine in a local taverna this evening. (B, D)

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Gortyn

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 29 Apr	£2,095
Single Supplement	£450
Optional Excursions:	
Arkadi Monastery	£120
Spinalonga	£115



Villa San Michele

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

6 DAYS from £1,995

✈️ DEPARTURE POINT: London

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. 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. Elsewhere, we visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, with its peerless location high in the mountains, tour the city of Palma, observe the flora and fauna of the Albufera Nature Reserve and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Soller.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Visits to the gardens of Raixa, Son Marroig, Jardines de Alfabia, monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, Palma, necropolis of Son Real, Alcludia & Museo Sa Bassa Blanca
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 27 Apr	£1,995
Single Supplement	£395



Alcazar de los Reyes Cristianos

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucía

6 DAYS from £1,795

✈️ DEPARTURE POINT: London

Andalucia is unrivalled in Europe for its wealth of history, culture, Moorish architecture and gardens – all set against the backdrop of snow-capped mountains. We visit the gardens which complement the adjoining palaces and discover the wild mountain landscapes. A highlight for many will be the wonderful Generalife Gardens in Granada, where patios and terraces are filled with colour, and captivating views of the city are framed by archways. Moving on to Córdoba we visit the Great Mosque, one of the most ancient garden sites in the world, and continue to the vibrant city of Seville and the dramatically perched Ronda.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Hotel Santos Saray in Granada; three nights at the 3-star Hotel Macarena in Seville; one night at the 3-star Hotel R. Polo in Ronda (or similar)
- ▶ Three dinners
- ▶ Return flights from London to Málaga
- ▶ Visits to the Alhambra Palace, Generalife Gardens, Albaicín, Alpujarra, Sierra Nevada, Córdoba, Great Mosque, The Royal Palaces of the Alcázar, Plaza de España, Gardens of Murillo, the Cathedral, Seville's Orange Tree Courtyard & Ronda
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager & local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

12 - 19 May	£2,095
Single Supplement	£395

Look for cherry blossom in Hokkaido



Ashikaga

Gardens of Honshu and Hokkaido

14 DAYS from £7,495 | TOUR MANAGER: Colin Crosbie

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

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



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

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

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

Day 4 This morning we enjoy one of the unique experiences of a trip to Japan as we take the Bullet Train to Kanazawa, where we visit Kenrokuen, another of the top three landscape gardens. The name "having six factors", represents the attributes which bring out the garden's stunning beauty: spaciousness, tranquillity, artifice, antiquity, water sources and magnificent views. Following our



Kenrokuen

visit we take a stroll around Higashi Chaya, the Geisha District of Kanazawa, with restored teahouses and taverns reminiscent of bygone Japan. We continue to our hotel for an overnight stay. (B)

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

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

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

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



Sapporo

we will continue to our comfortable hotel by Lake Kussharo. (B, D)

Day 9 We depart today on a full day excursion to the Notsuke Peninsula, whose shape is said to resemble a shrimp's bent back and has been formed by sea currents moving the sand and earth that has been flushed out of the Shibetsu-gawa River. It is accessed by the Flower Road, named for the profusion of wild flowers that grow here in the summer months. We will also see the woods of withered trees known as Todowara (fir straw) Woods, the result of fir trees which were washed by seawater until they withered. We later visit the Notsuke Peninsula Nature Centre, long established as a rest house, which provides background information. (B, D)

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

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

Day 12 We will spend today touring Sapporo, including Odori Park, a flower-filled oasis which extends for 1500m through the city centre; the Hokkaido University Botanic Garden, which retains sections of virgin forest and contains some 4,000 varieties of plants collected from all over Hokkaido; and Yurigahara Park. We continue to Otaru, the Venice of Japan, to see the Otaru Canal, constructed in 1923 and now a popular photo-stop

with its stone-built warehouses lining the canal side. On our return to the hotel we will have some time in the Sakaimachi Shopping Street, an opportunity perhaps for some final souvenir shopping. (B)

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

Day 14 We arrive in London.

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin is the former curator at RHS Wisley and also former Head Gardener to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother at Royal Lodge Windsor.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

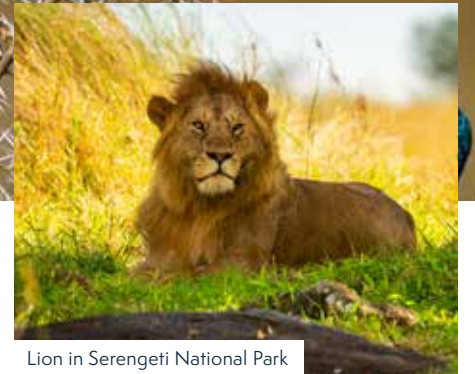
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

4 - 17 May	£7,495
Single Supplement	£995

Birdwatching and Wildlife Safaris in Tanzania

11 DAYS from £4,995 | TOUR MANAGER: Sue Pomeroy |  DEPARTURE POINT: London

Enjoy a Serengeti National Park game drive



Lion in Serengeti National Park

Join us in the wilderness of Tanzania, where in the shadow of Africa's highest mountain we embark on a truly unique wildlife experience. This tour offers not only the chance of wonderful birdwatching but also other exceptional wildlife experiences. We have the chance to glimpse a vast array of endemic and migratory avian species and also witness some of Africa's finest game viewing. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park are home to over two million large mammals and some 500 species of birds including ostriches, secretary birds, black eagles, lark and kori bustards to name but a few. The Rift Valley Soda Lake Manyara is a haven for wildlife and a key habitat for over 300 bird species, and the Tarangire National Park is home to the highest number of bird species of all of Tanzania's national parks.

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania on our overnight flight. (IF)

Day 2 Upon arrival, we transfer to **Arusha** and have lunch at our lodge. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. (L, D)

Day 3 Following breakfast, we drive to **Tarangire National Park**, the sixth largest national park in Tanzania spanning 2,600 square kms and home to a staggering 550 different species of birds. We may also see some of the park's other residents, including buffalo, lion, antelope and a large herd of elephants. (B, L, D)

Day 4 We have another full day exploring the **Tarangire National Park** and the abundance of wildlife it has to offer. (B, L, D)

Day 5 This morning we travel to **Lake Manyara National Park**. The shores are fringed with vast flocks of pink flamingos who head to the shallow shorelines of the lake for feeding, along with numerous other species. (B, L, D)

Day 6 A long but rewarding day as we make our way from Lake Manyara to the **Serengeti National Park**. Spanning over 30,000 square kilometres the park is home to an impressive number of animals. Bird species include the

wonderful Lilac-breasted Roller and three endangered Tanzanian species: Grey-rumped Spurfowl, Fischer's Lovebird and the Rufous-tailed Weaver. (B, L, D)

Day 7 We have a full day's game drive in the **Serengeti National Park** today where we may have the chance to see some other interesting birdlife such as ostrich, secretary bird, black eagle and kori bustard to name but a few. There are also frequent sightings of lion, cheetah and leopard in the area. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Journey to the **Ngorongoro Conservation Area** and spend the afternoon at leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Descend into the **Ngorongoro Crater**, the world's largest caldera. The crater is a paradise for birdwatchers with annual migratory birds from Europe and Asia, grassland birds, ground-nesting birds, tree nesting birds, water birds and birds of prey. (B, L, D)

Day 10 After breakfast we drive back towards **Arusha**. (B, D)

Day 11 Today we head to the airport for our flight to London. (B, IF)

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER SUE POMEROY

Sue studied horticulture in places ranging from New Zealand to Chile and has also previously worked at Inverewe Gardens.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Eight nights' accommodation on a full board basis: one night at Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge, two nights at the Tarangire Safari Lodge, one night at the Lake Manyara Serena, two nights at the Serengeti Serena and two nights at the Ngorongoro Serena (hotels subject to change)
- ▶ One night room only in Arusha at a four-star hotel
- ▶ Return flights from London to Kilimanjaro
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Transport in 4x4 safari land cruiser with the services of an English-speaking guide
- ▶ Entry fees to all parks and reserves included in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of Sue Pomeroy as tour manager
- ▶ Field Guide to Birds of East Africa

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

6 - 16 May	£4,995
Single Supplement	On Request