

SCOTLAND, GARDENS AND SPECIAL INTEREST HOLIDAY COLLECTION UK AND WORLDWIDE

2026 PREVIEW

**BOOK EARLY
AND SAVE!**

Many 2026 tours at 2025 prices!
See page 2 for details

13 New Tours | Travel with Experts | No Single Supplement Places Available

Where Gardens Flourish and Culture Thrives – Explore more with *Brightwater* Holidays

A very warm welcome to our preview brochure for 2026. We're delighted to present a handpicked collection of inspiring tours across the UK, Europe and beyond.

As specialists in garden tours, we take pride in offering journeys that celebrate the beauty of nature, the richness of history and the joy of exploration. It's this passion that earned us Gold for Best Small Travel Company for Coach Holidays at the 2024 British Travel Awards.

For those who love the charm of UK gardens, we have exciting new tours that highlight the changing seasons. In Devon, immerse yourself in a floral paradise of tulips, daffodils and cherry blossoms, while in East Yorkshire, witness breathtaking carpets of snowdrops that herald spring's arrival.

Further afield, our 2026 preview introduces stunning new European tours. Explore the lush landscapes of the Italian Riviera on our Gardens and Villas of Liguria tour or discover the vibrant floral displays and cultural richness of Portugal in spring.

Our worldwide collection continues to grow, offering even more once-in-a-lifetime experiences. A highlight for 2026 is our 12-day Gardens of Southern India tour, with vivid colours, majestic palaces and the iconic Nilgiri Toy Train winding through misty hills. We're also thrilled to introduce our Art Masters in Holland tour—an expert-led journey through the Dutch Golden Age, including visits to world-renowned museums in Amsterdam to admire works like Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring and Van Gogh's Sunflowers.

Joining a tour is easier than ever, with new flight options from regional airports offering added flexibility. Whether you're drawn to tranquil gardens, historic landmarks or cultural discovery, our carefully curated itineraries promise something truly special.

We invite you to browse our latest collection and look forward to welcoming you on a memorable journey.

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!

**BOOK EARLY
FOR INCREDIBLE
SAVINGS**
2026 tours at 2025 prices!

**Book before 19th June 2025 to guarantee 2025
prices on many of our featured 2026 holidays**

with Brightwater Holidays' trusted expertise and award-winning service you can secure your place early for the best availability and the best price ensuring your next journey is one to remember.



Your journey, our *expertise*

When you travel with Brightwater Holidays you are travelling with the experts. We have been creating holidays for over 30 years and take great pride and care in getting it right for you. Many of our guests have been travelling with us for many years and it is our attention to detail, meticulous planning and the feeling that a Brightwater Holiday gives which keeps them coming back year after year.

Your votes meant that we were delighted to win Gold for Best Small Travel Company for Coach Holidays at the 2024 British Travel Awards. We were also awarded the Feefo 2025 Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service throughout 2024 and were honoured to be voted Garden Tour Operator of the Year 2023 at the International Garden Tourism Awards in Canada.



Get in touch with an *expert*

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

01334 800 372

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:

www.brightwaterholidays.com

Need help applying for a visa?

To help make this process as smooth as possible, we have partnered up with **The Travel Visa Company** who are a leading provider of travel visa services in the UK, with over 25 years of experience in helping travellers navigate the complexities of international travel. They offer a comprehensive range of visa services for destinations globally and will be including the new ETIAS process for UK travellers when it goes live in 2025. You can call them directly on 01270 904 901 or find out more via our website: www.brightwaterholidays.com/visas.



Contents

- 4 Explore more with Brightwater Holidays
- 6 Bringing your holiday to life!
- 8 A unique holiday experience
- 10 Your holiday starts here
- 11 Your holiday, your way
- 12 Fly from your local airport
- 13 Private group travel
- 14 Upgrade and enjoy more
- 16 New adventures in 2026
- 18 UK & Ireland holidays
- 34 European holidays
- 64 Worldwide holidays
- 92 2026 calendar
- 96 Booking conditions

"The gardens were lovely and enhanced considerably by the guidance of Mike Nelhams, who was a caring and very knowledgeable tour leader."

Guest - March 2025

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.



Explore more with *Brightwater* Holidays

Our experience and excellent relationships mean that a tour with Brightwater Holidays is often unlike what you will get with other travel companies. Many of our tours include private access behind the scenes, tours by the estate or garden owners themselves and of course the in-depth knowledge that comes from our expert Tour Managers.

Award-winning Garden Tours

Our award-winning garden holidays offer memorable holidays to glorious gardens in the UK and around the world. The UK is home to some of the best gardens including King Charles' delightful garden at Highgrove House and the iconic Tresco Abbey Garden both of which you can visit with Brightwater Holidays.

Passionate about Scotland

As a Scottish holiday brand with over 30 years' experience of organising holidays to Scotland, we know that we can offer you something that others cannot. From the country's awe-inspiring mountain ranges and rugged coastlines dotted with historic castles and weathered villages to bustling cities such as Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland's appeal is endless. Our expertise and knowledge of Scotland can be found in our diverse holiday collection which includes island hopping in the Outer Hebrides, fascinating insights into ancient wonders plus art and architecture in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Unique Worldwide Experiences

Enjoy expert-led tours featuring exclusive access to some of the most fascinating properties and beautiful gardens in the UK, Europe and Worldwide. From the Gardens of Marrakech to Malta's Archaeological Heritage, Brightwater Holidays offers the opportunity to create a holiday tailored to your travel needs.

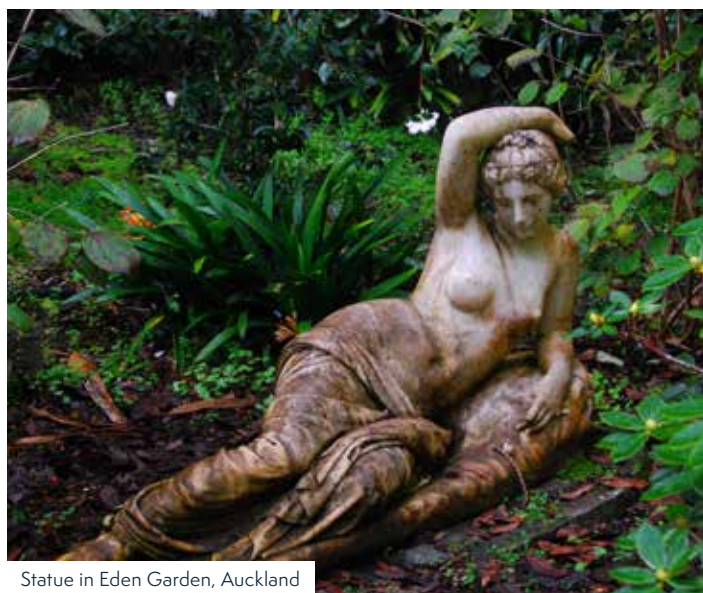
All our holidays, whether they are in the UK or in Costa Rica, are led by expert Tour Managers, every step of the way and on every excursion, giving you peace of mind and the assuredness that everything is taken care of.



Les Hortillonnages



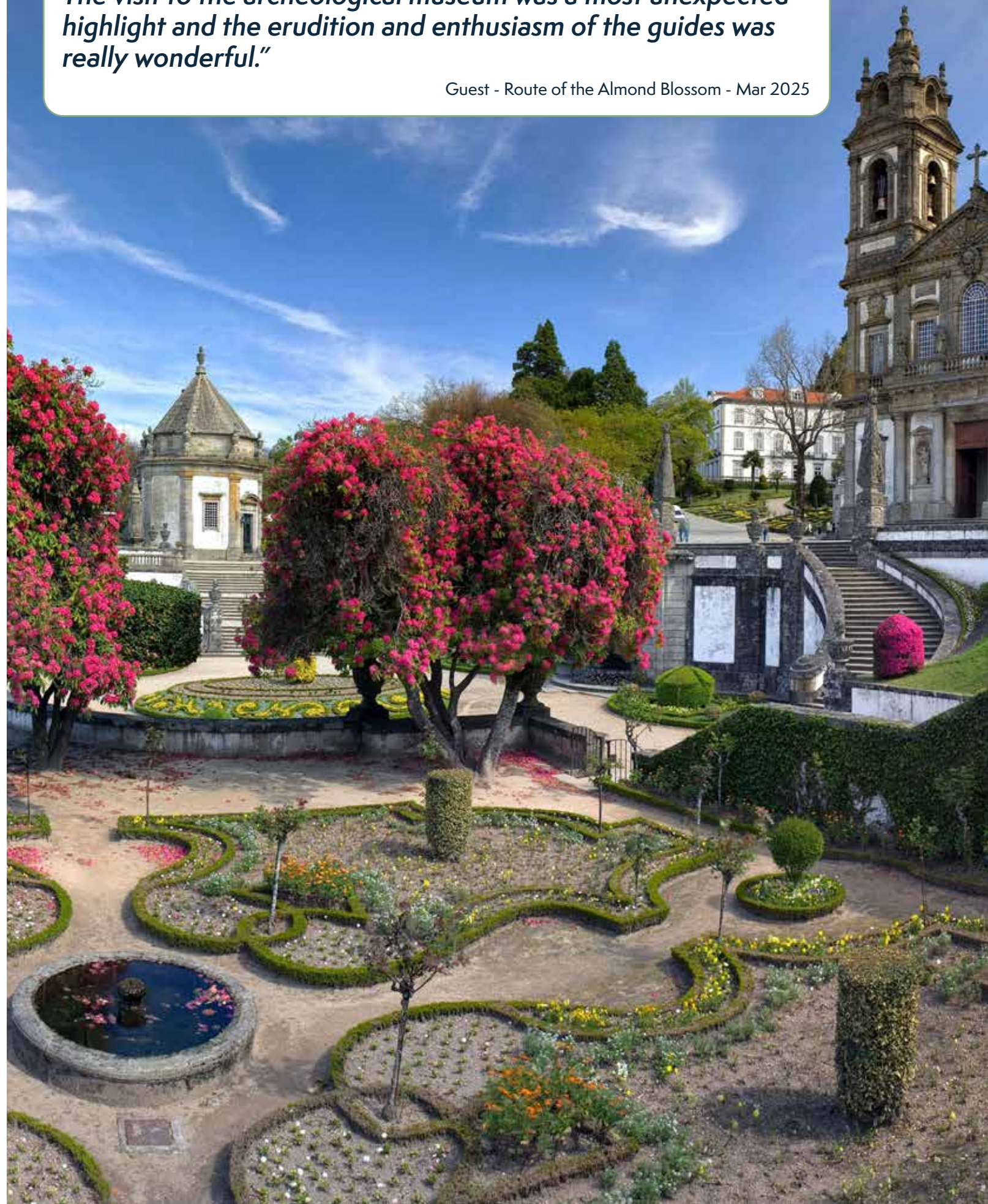
Glenfinnan Viaduct in Scotland



Statue in Eden Garden, Auckland

"Very interesting indeed. I learnt so much about a country which I had only visited once briefly. The history of the buildings and the gardens were a revelation. The visit to the archeological museum was a most unexpected highlight and the erudition and enthusiasm of the guides was really wonderful."

Guest - Route of the Almond Blossom - Mar 2025



Bringing your
holiday
to life!

Knowledgeable Tour Managers

A tour with Brightwater Holidays means that everything is taken care of and our Tour Managers ensure that your holiday runs smoothly from start to finish. They are often also experts in the destinations you visit so you get to see more and learn more. Your Tour Manager will often become a friend and we find that many customers will choose to travel with the same Tour Manager on future holidays.

Horticultural *expertise*

Take a garden holiday and in many cases you will be accompanied by an experienced horticulturalist with a wealth of experience and knowledge as well as the practical skills needed to ensure the smooth running of your tour. From award-winning garden designers to the former Head Gardener to the late Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and the Curator of one of Britain's most prestigious gardens, you are sure to be in good hands.

Enjoying a holiday with Brightwater Holidays means that everything is taken care of – something that starts with our experienced Tour Managers, whose job it is to make sure everything runs smoothly from start to finish. Our Tour Managers make the Brightwater experience truly memorable, and many guests go on to choose future holidays led by the same people. Allow us to introduce some of them to you.

David *Hurriion*

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



Mike *Nelham*

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



Sue *Pomeroy*

Having studied horticulture in places ranging from New Zealand to Chile, Sue now lives in the north-west Highlands. Her personal garden is open to the public and it has featured in Country Life and Gardeners' World.



Trevor *Edwards*

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



Clive *Warsop*

Clive Warsop is an environmental archaeologist. He lectured and tutored at the University of Edinburgh for 10 years on the archaeology of Scotland and aspects of European archaeology and has supervised and directed excavations in Scotland and France.



Tony *Russell*

A former Head Forester at Westonbirt Arboretum, Tony Russell is widely regarded as one of Britain's leading authorities on trees and shrubs. A popular tour manager with a loyal following of guests who travel with him all over the world.





Quinta da Regaleira

A *unique* holiday experience

Choose to travel with Brightwater Holidays and you can expect a unique holiday experience. From expertly designed tours and itineraries, comfortable hand-selected accommodation, exclusive access and visits to private gardens and comfortable travel, we make sure **that all your needs are taken care of so you can sit back and enjoy your holiday from the moment you join.**



Unique destinations and innovative itineraries

Choose from a range of award-winning holidays to fascinating countries worldwide - a curated collection of the very best spots to delve into, with all tours expertly planned, allowing you to enjoy every step.

Exclusive access to private gardens

Explore botanical sanctuaries, many private and exclusive to our tours, and discover more about rare, tropical and stunning gardens. Delve into the latest discoveries and learn what goes on behind the scenes, alongside our expert tour managers, with their extensive knowledge.

Solo travellers welcome

Many of our guests are single travellers and we have a large number of holidays where there is no single supplement to pay. Just look for the 'NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT' message on the tour page.

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 tour experience and knowledge
- ✓ Unique and innovative itineraries
- ✓ Behind the scenes access to private gardens
- ✓ No hidden extras
- ✓ Knowledgeable and welcoming Tour Managers
- ✓ Professionally recognised partnerships
- ✓ Welcoming, friendly service from first contact
- ✓ Enjoy peace of mind with financial protection

***"It was a wonderful holiday!
Our tour leader Clive Warsop
looked after us really well, and
it was a lovely group too. We
saw so much in a short time!"***

Guest - March 2025



Château de Villandry



Keukenhof

Your *holiday* starts here

Joining a Brightwater Holidays tour is simple and hassle-free, no matter where you're coming from. With regional coach pickups, rail connections, and airport departures, we make it easy for you to begin your adventure. We ensure that every aspect of your journey is seamless, starting with comfortable and modern coach transportation. Our friendly drivers are dedicated to making your experience smooth and enjoyable, so you can relax and focus on the sights and experiences ahead. From the moment you leave your doorstep, your holiday begins with ease and comfort.



Regional coach pick-ups

Our coach tours have local pick-up points available. Please see each tour page for further details of where you can join.



Rail departures

We offer a number of departures by rail. Regional connecting trains are available on request. Please contact us for further information.



Airport departures

Although the majority of our flight inclusive tours depart from London, regional departures and domestic connections may be available on request.



Vienna

Your *holiday*, your way

UK tours

Your holiday in the UK starts from the moment you join your fellow travellers at your easy-to-reach coach pick-up point (as detailed on every tour page). Then simply sit back, relax and let us take care of the driving for you. Full details will be provided of where and when we will pick you up with your holiday confirmation.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to travel at your own pace, you can make your own way and join the tour at the first visit or at the hotel, allowing for greater flexibility and choice. A seat will still be reserved for you on the coach for excursions, so you can really make the most of exploring the local area. Please note that if you choose to join your holiday at the hotel then you may miss any en-route visits or tours.

We can help with travel in the UK to join your holiday.

Overseas tours

All our holidays include travel to your destination from the UK by plane or train and include all overseas transfers. Each holiday page details your travel arrangements which we include. If you would like something different please let us know and we will do our best to arrange it for you. For regional flight options or connecting flights within the UK please call our friendly team on 01334 800 372.



Pena Palace

NEW
for 2026



Fly from your *local* airport


You can now fly from a selection of UK airports to join many of our tours! With a wider choice of airports, this now offers you the flexibility to join your holiday at a time that fits your schedule...

We offer direct flights to a number of European destinations and a handful of long-haul ones too, as well as connecting flights from regional UK airports to both London and Scotland, depending on your tour's starting point. If flight options aren't listed on the page, please contact us – we may still be able to assist with suitable flight arrangements.

Fly from:

- Glasgow
- Edinburgh
- Newcastle
- Manchester
- Birmingham
- Bristol

Or you can still join your tour from London Airports.
Visit our website or call for more details on pricing and availability.

 Keep a look out for our flight symbol which will show which departure airports are available. Featured airports are subject to availability and include transfers to join your holiday.



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

- ✓ Bespoke packages exclusively for your group
- ✓ Local pick-up points or airports
- ✓ Hotel accommodation - 3-star to 5-star luxury
- ✓ Admission to all visits, exclusive access and private guided tours
- ✓ Services of a specialist Tour Manager, if required
- ✓ Free marketing materials and all booking and admin
- ✓ Dedicated group travel department



Get in touch and get the ball rolling



Jenni Duncan is our Private Groups Manager and she would love to help plan your next group holiday.
Please get in touch by calling her on 01334 658 008 or emailing groups@brightwaterholidays.com to get things started. You can also visit our website for some inspiration: www.brightwaterholidays.com
No matter what stage of planning you're at, our team will be able to work with you every step of the way.



Eilean Donan Castle

Upgrade and enjoy more

All our accommodation is comfortable and well-appointed, but you may want to treat yourself to a flight upgrade, a cabin or room upgrade or perhaps enjoy an airport lounge. We are experts at helping you enjoy your holiday your way and are pleased to help.



Extend pre- or post-tour

If you want to explore more of what your chosen destination has to offer, why not extend your trip by adding extra nights before or after your tour?



Room and cabin upgrades

Whether you want to treat yourself to a room with a sea view, sprawl out in a junior suite or gaze across the water from an upper deck cabin, let us know and we'll do what we can to make it happen.



Extra nights either side

If you have to travel to reach your departure point, you may want to take it easy with a night at a hotel on either side of your holiday in a relevant city or at an airport. We can help you to book this for a reasonable supplement.



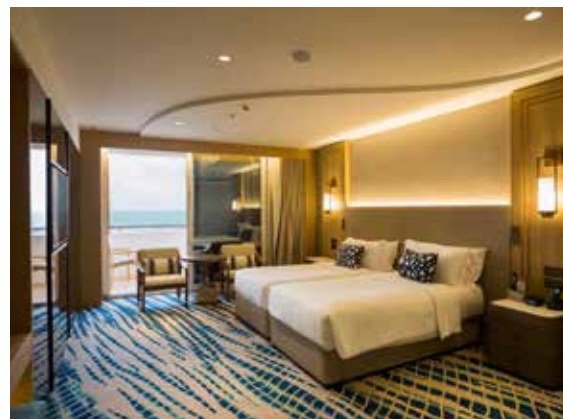
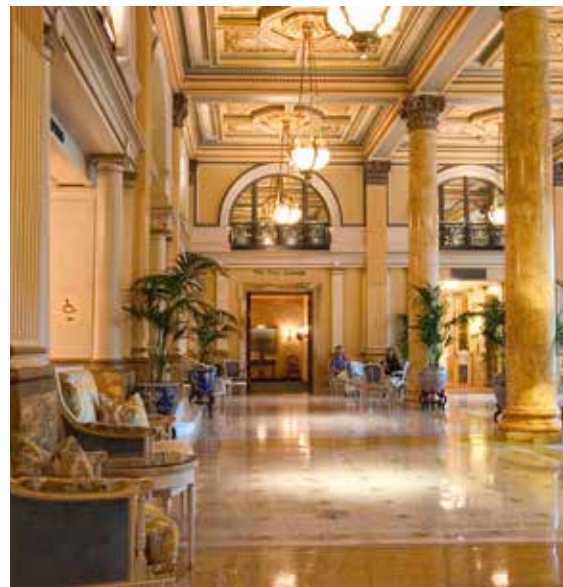
Car parking

Let us help with your airport or port parking.



For that little something extra

Beat the crowds and relax with an airport lounge and Fast Track security where available.



Get in touch with an *expert*

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

01334 800 372

Alternatively, send us an email to:

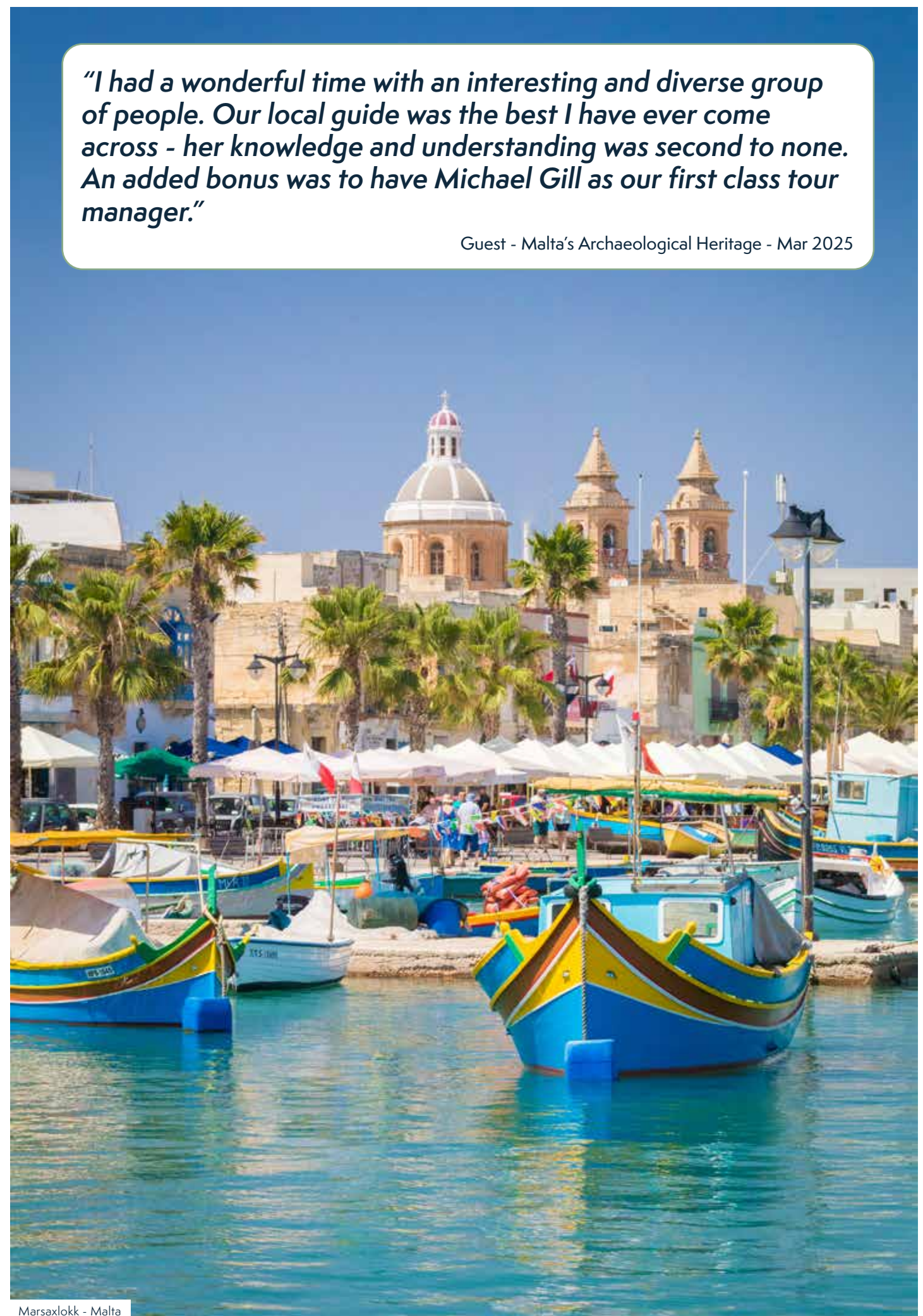
info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:

www.brightwaterholidays.com

"I had a wonderful time with an interesting and diverse group of people. Our local guide was the best I have ever come across - her knowledge and understanding was second to none. An added bonus was to have Michael Gill as our first class tour manager."

Guest - Malta's Archaeological Heritage - Mar 2025



Marsaxlokk - Malta

New adventures in 2026

Admire beautiful gardens, magnificent palaces and iconic masterpieces– there’s so much to discover and enjoy in 2026.

From snowdrop-filled walks in East Yorkshire and Daffodils in Devon to the elegant châteaux and serene gardens of the Loire Valley and Picardy, each of our new 2026 tours offers timeless beauty and insight. Discover Renaissance masterpieces in Tuscany, Liguria’s coastal villas and Austria’s palaces and apricot blossoms. Further afield, immerse yourself in the vibrant gardens and spiritual heritage of Southern India, the botanical wonders of New Zealand and the rock art treasures of Namibia. With highlights ranging from royal palaces and wine tastings to world-class museums and ancient sites, these tours offer enriching experiences across the seasons and the globe...



Snowdrops of East Yorkshire

Celebrate early spring in scenic East Yorkshire with snowdrop-filled gardens, countryside walks and the treasures of historic York on this uplifting seasonal tour. **See pg. 31**



Spring Gardens of Devon

Enjoy Devon’s vibrant spring gardens on a five-day tour featuring tulips, daffodils, cherry blossoms and peaceful countryside settings. **See pg. 32**



Gardens of the Loire

Known as ‘The Garden of France’, the Loire Valley’s rich soil and mild climate have nurtured magnificent châteaux set in tranquil landscapes. These castles, with their romantic façades and elegant gardens, belie the region’s turbulent past, including its role in the French Revolution. Nowhere is the serenity more striking than at Château de Villandry, with its exquisite 20th-century recreation of a Renaissance Garden. From our hotel in Tours, we visit Château Chaumont-sur-Loire, Clos Lucé – home of Leonardo da Vinci – and Château de Valmer, where we admire the gardens and sample local wines in a traditional wine cave. **See pg. 38**



Gardens of Picardy

Witness the tranquillity of the River Somme on eco-barge cruises, scenic towpath walks and visits to Amiens and Picardy’s finest gardens. **See pg. 39**



Arts and Gardens of Florence & Tuscany

Discover Renaissance masterpieces, stunning gardens and Tuscan charm on this cultural tour of Florence. **See pg. 44**



Gardens and Villas of Liguria

Explore Liguria’s elegant villas, lush gardens and coastal charm on a serene journey through Genoa and the region’s Renaissance treasures. **See pg. 49**



Art Masters in Holland

Admire Dutch Golden Age masterpieces on this six-day Amsterdam tour, exploring world-class museums, iconic paintings and hidden gems. **See pg. 50**



Springtime Flowers in Sintra and Lisbon

Enjoy Portugal’s historic gardens, from Lisbon’s grandeur to Sintra’s romantic landscapes. **See pg. 56**



Austrian Palaces, Gardens and Apricot Blossom

Embrace Austria’s rich culture on this spring tour through Vienna, the Wachau Valley and Salzburg. **See pg. 63**



Gardens of Southern India

Discover the wonders of Southern India on a journey through vibrant cities, majestic palaces, and lush landscapes. Highlights include the stunning Maharaja’s Palace. **See pg. 66**



Gardens of New Zealand

Experience New Zealand’s breathtaking landscapes, spring flora, Māori culture and world-class wine on this unforgettable North and South Island garden tour. **See pg. 72**



Rock Art of Namibia

Explore Namibia’s ancient cultural heritage on this tour of remarkable rock art sites, including Spitzkoppe, Twyfelfontein and Brandberg Mountain. **See pg. 86**



An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia

Discover the ancient wonder of Carthage and a collection of UNESCO World Heritage sites in the company of an archaeological expert. **See pg. 88**

“It was a well organised trip by a very well informed tour leader, who went above and beyond to contact the head gardeners of the various gardens we visited. This ensured we were greeted and informed of where to look and more importantly to recognise the head gardener so that we could ask any questions. Overall, the hundreds of snowdrops were at their best and I have now come to recognise various varieties.”

Guest - Snowdrops in the Cotswolds - Feb 2025

Heritage & Horticulture in the UK

Uncover the breathtaking landscapes, rich heritage and extraordinary gardens of the UK. From hidden gems bursting with seasonal colour to grand historic houses, each journey reveals a new layer of beauty and history.

New for 2026, Snowdrops in East Yorkshire offers an early glimpse of spring’s arrival, with delicate white carpets covering the countryside and visits to renowned gardens such as Burnby Hall and Sledmere House. Meanwhile, Spring Gardens in Devon showcases a riot of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths, as well as stunning magnolias and camellias at Fast Rabbit Farm.

Embrace the natural beauty of Scotland’s extreme northwest, where the rugged landscapes of the Highlands meet the untamed beauty of the coast. Or experience the romance of steam and cruise travel through Scotland’s stunning landscapes. Ride the iconic Jacobite Steam Train, visit the Duke of Argyll’s Inveraray Castle, cruise Loch Katrine aboard the SS Sir Walter Scott and marvel at the Falkirk Wheel.



Gearrannan

Contents

20	A Classic Scottish Steam Break
21	The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh
22	A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides
24	Scotland’s Extreme North West
25	Glasgow’s Art Treasures featuring the Burrell
26	Spring Gardens of Cornwall
27	Gardens of South and West Wales
28	The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale
29	Highgrove and the Cotswolds
30	Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams
31	NEW Snowdrops in East Yorkshire
32	NEW Spring Gardens in Devon
33	Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds

“Flawless. Very knowledgeable, personable guide. Great itinerary. Great accommodation and food. Interesting fellow travellers.”

Guest - April 2025



Highgrove ©Robert Smith



The Jacobite Steam Train

A Classic Scottish Steam Break

4 DAYS from £795

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

Steam locomotion has an enduring fascination for many of us and combined with the wonderful scenery of Scotland it becomes utterly irresistible. The Jacobite steam train, from Fort William to Mallaig, is one of the longest steam-hauled rail journeys available in Britain today, an 84-mile round trip through some spectacular scenery that also includes the 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct. We also enjoy a taste of steam as we cruise aboard the newly restored SS Sir Walter Scott on the calm waters of Loch Katrine amid the spectacular scenery of the Trossachs. There are two more boat trips to enjoy as we cruise on Loch Lomond, with tales of Rob Roy MacGregor and other local legends, and take a ride on the Falkirk Wheel, the world’s first rotating boat lift and a modern engineering marvel. Back on dry land we visit historic Inveraray Castle, home to the Dukes of Argyll, set in beautiful grounds on the shore of Loch Fyne.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel to the **Falkirk Wheel**, the world’s first rotating boat lift. Once the wheel has made its ascent to join the **Union Canal** 35m above, we sail under the Antonine Wall, the Romans’ most northern frontier. We continue to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 Today is long but rewarding as we journey back in time aboard the **Jacobite Steam Train** and experience one of the most spectacular railway journeys in the world, the **Fort William to Mallaig line**. From the slopes of Ben Nevis, the line runs through rugged mountains, past sea and inland lochs and on to the coast at Mallaig. *(B, D)*

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

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Falkirk Wheel

WHAT'S INCLUDED	
► Three nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the Arrochar Hotel	
► Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel on the Jacobite steam train	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
23 - 26 Apr	£795
7 - 10 May	£845
 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
Single Supplement	£90
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APRIL	



Glasgow

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh

4 DAYS from £895

 PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh

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

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

Day 2 We return to Edinburgh for a tour of the **Scottish Parliament** building, which was built to a bold design by the Spanish architect Enric Miralles. We then walk a short distance to the official royal residence of The King when in Edinburgh, the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, where we explore the 14 historic and state apartments and the manicured gardens. Later, our attention turns to the **New Town**, actually over 250 years old. After a panoramic tour taking in the principal buildings and elegant terraces we visit **The Georgian House**, restored to reflect the lives of those who lived and worked here in the late 18th and early 19th century. We continue to the **Royal Scottish Academy** and the **National Gallery of Scotland**, whose neo-classical design helped to transform Edinburgh into the so-called ‘Athens of the North’. *(B, D)*

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

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

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




Edinburgh

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

27 Feb - 2 Mar £895

 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.


NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Luskentyre

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

5 DAYS from £1,295

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

Our best-selling grand tour takes in all the beauty and diversity of the Outer Hebrides. Numerous islands and travel by local ferry offers great variety and the sense of a true journey of discovery which will live long in the memory.

Our odyssey begins as we travel north via the Highlands to Ullapool and take the ferry to Stornoway. A captivating journey follows as we travel through the magnificent mountain scenery of Harris, the rolling moorland of Lewis, visiting the Standing Stones of Callanish (*the main Callanish site will be closed until early 2026 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead if Calanais I has not reopened), the tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gearrannan.

From here we take the ferry to North Uist and cross the causeway to the Isle of Benbecula the ‘stepping stone’ between the Uists, before visiting the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra.



Kisimul Castle



St Clement’s Church

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head north, stopping en-route for refreshments. We continue to Ullapool in time to catch the early evening Caledonian MacBrayne ferry to Stornoway. On arrival in Lewis we will transfer the short distance to our comfortable accommodation in Stornoway. (D)

Day 2 This morning after breakfast we travel to the west coast of Lewis for a visit to **Calanais II**, an impressive site comprising of five standing stones and two fallen stones, forming an oval. A further, shorter stone lies pointing towards the centre. There may originally have been more stones in the ‘circle’. Its diameter of nearly 20 metres makes it almost twice as big as the circle at Calanais I (which is around 11–12m across). Inside the ‘circle’ is a low round cairn that was probably a later addition; it will have contained a burial chamber, but it has been badly damaged. When peat was first cleared away



Benbecula

from this monument, shortly after 1857, people found traces of pebbles that had probably supported upright wooden posts inside the ‘circle’.

Please note that primary Callanish Standing Stones site (*Calanais I*) is currently completely closed due to a major redevelopment of the visitor centre taking place until Spring 2026. The entire site is closed for construction during this time. Should the site be reopened, we will visit Calanais I instead.

From here we move on to the **Black Houses** at **Gearannan**, typical of the crofting settlements which until relatively recently were found throughout the Western Isles. Lunch will be available here (*not included*). The final visit on our circular tour is the **Norse Mill** at **Shawbost**, a reconstruction of the type of grain mill used originally by Viking settlers and by islanders up until the 1930s. A short walk past a small lochan leads to two beautifully restored little thatched buildings with a fine view to the ocean beyond. We then return to our hotel where dinner will be served in the evening. (B,D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and travel south to **Harris**, which in contrast to the rolling moorland of Lewis is more mountainous – this is apparent within minutes of crossing the ‘border’ into Harris with a magnificent mountain vista to the right as the road climbs over the hill. There are further outstanding views as we travel along the coast, including the island of Taransay of ‘Castaway’ fame and the wonderful beaches at Horgabost, Borve and Scarasta. Continuing to the southern end of Harris we visit **St Clement’s Church** at Rodel, built on top of an earlier structure in the 16th century by Alasdair Crotach, 8th chief of the Macleods of Harris and

Dun Bheagan. The church tombs are among the most spectacular in Scotland. We then take the ferry from Leverburgh to Berneray on North Uist, and continue over a series of causeways (*keeping a careful eye out for otters*) to Benbecula, the ‘stepping stone’ between the Uists. Here we check in to our comfortable accommodation, where dinner will be served in the evening. (B,D)

Day 4 This morning following breakfast we depart for **Barra**, travelling via the little island of **Eriskay**, just three miles long and two miles wide, with a great sandy beach known as Prince Charlie’s Bay — Bonnie Prince Charlie having landed here in July 1745. From Eriskay we take the mid morning ferry to Barra and have a tour of the island. Please note that Kisimul Castle is currently closed for conservation work but we are able to view it from the shore.

We visit **Cockleshell Beach**, the unique runway whose use is governed by the tides. When approaching the airport keep an eye out to the left for the much-loved former home of Sir Compton Mackenzie, the author of ‘Whisky Galore’, which is forever associated with the island. A little further on from the airport we will see St Barr’s Chapel and visit Sir Compton Mackenzie’s grave. In fact, it was on the neighbouring island of **Vatersay**, which we visit by means of the causeway linking the two islands, that the classic film adaptation was made. On the way to Vatersay, we will see a war memorial to the crew of a Catalina aircraft that crashed in 1944 while on the island itself, and at a beautiful location overlooking a wide sandy beach, we see a monument to the emigrant ship Annie Jane which was wrecked here in 1853 on a voyage to Quebec. During our tour today we also hope to see some of

the hundreds of species of wildflowers that grow on the island, particularly on the machair, the fertile, grassy pastures that lie between the moorland and the sea. (B,D)

Day 5 This morning we check out of the hotel and take the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry from Lochmaddy to Uig in Skye. Breakfast is served on board. We then continue our homeward journey, arriving back at our original pick-up points during the evening. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Our 16th September departure operates in reverse starting in Benbecula and finishing in Stornoway.


YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Four nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula and two nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway (breakfast served on board the ferry on day 5)	
► Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA	
24 - 28 Apr	£1,295
BENBECULA TO STORNOWAY	
16 - 20 Sep	£1,395
 Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
Single Supplement	£200



Achmelvich Beach

Scotland’s Extreme North West

4 DAYS from £695

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

The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the early spring and autumn months as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty. The coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking, particularly along the iconic North Coast 500 and the warmth of our highland hotel is very welcoming at these times of year.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points 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 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 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 visit the beautiful old church graveyard of Balnakeil. We also visit the wonderful chocolatier at **Cocoa Mountain** where we have the opportunity to buy the finest hot chocolate drink anywhere in the world (official!). We also visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** and travel by Loch Eribol and the old Norse settlement of **Tongue**. (B, D)

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Smoo Cave


YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Three nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel	
► Comfortable coach travel throughout	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
12 - 15 Mar	£695
7 - 10 Apr	£745
6 - 9 Oct	£695
 Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
Single Supplement	£150



Kelvingrove

Glasgow’s Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

4 DAYS from £795

 PICK-UP POINTS: Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh, Glasgow

Re-opened in March 2022 after an ambitious refurbishment, Glasgow’s Burrell Collection allows visitors for the first time to explore all three floors in the building, set out as galleries, visible stores and special exhibition spaces. This incredible collection holds treasures from all over the world, including 5,000-year-old porcelain from China, paintings by renowned French artists including Manet, Cézanne and Degas, and medieval artefacts such as stained glass, armour and tapestries. Our tour includes visits to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where notable works of art from across Britain and Europe are featured alongside a diverse collection of exhibits; the Hunterian, Scotland’s oldest public museum, the Gallery of Modern Art located in the centre of Glasgow, Holmwood House and the House for an Art Lover, built in the 1990s to a design by Charles Rennie Mackintosh from 1901.

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

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

Day 3 We start our day at the **Burrell Collection** which, following an ambitious and far-reaching refurbishment programme, in 2024 received the Andrew Doolan **Best Building in Scotland Award**. This afternoon we head to **Holmwood House**, the finest and most elaborate residential villa designed by Alexander ‘Greek’ Thomson. (B, D)

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Gallery of Modern Art

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Three nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the Best Western Garfield House Hotel, Glasgow	
► Comfortable coach travel throughout	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
13 - 16 Mar	£795
 Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	



Lost Gardens of Heligan

Spring Gardens of Cornwall

4 DAYS from £745

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

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 which celebrates its 25th anniversary of opening in 2026, things have come a long way since that disused chalk pit was transformed into a futuristic microcosm of botanical diversity. Our tour is bookended with visits to two top-class National Trust properties at Knightshayes Court and Killerton.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points 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 After breakfast, we travel to St Austell for a visit to the **Eden Project**, which celebrates its 25th anniversary of its full opening back in 2001; since then, it has become one of Cornwall's star attractions. Our next visit is to the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, the scene of the largest garden restoration project in Europe. This time of year sees the reawakening of Heligan's fabulous collection of historic shrubs, including their notable camellias and rhododendrons. (B, D)

Day 3 Following breakfast, we depart for a visit to **Trebah**, a wild and colourful Cornish garden with something for everyone. We then continue to **Glendurgan**, a place of great beauty and tranquillity. At this time of year we can expect outstanding spring displays of magnolias and camellias. Look out too for the hedge maze, originally built by the owners in the 1830s to entertain their 12 children. (B, D)

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Knightshayes Court

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the comfortable Pentire Hotel, Newquay	
► Comfortable coach travel throughout	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
26 - 29 Mar	£745
 Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
Single Supplement	£150



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, the largest single span glasshouse in the world, where mere panes of glass separate the familiar green hills of Wales from a panoramic sweep of warm, Mediterranean scenery. By contrast Aberglasney is a superb 16th/17th century garden, which was discovered after 50 years of neglect and has been restored to produce a garden with immense appeal. We visit superb woodland gardens at Upton and Picton Castles along with some interesting private gardens, including Dyffryn Fernant, built from scratch.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and travel to the magnificent **Dyffryn Botanic Gardens**, a Grade 1 listed Edwardian garden designed by landscape architect Thomas Mawson, displaying a series of garden 'rooms' enclosed within clipped Yew hedges. Our tour manager, **Tony Russell**, joins us to conduct a **guided tour** of the garden. We continue our journey to Pembrokeshire and our accommodation at the **Beggars Reach Hotel**, Burton. Prior to dinner, Tony gives us an introductory talk on the gardens of the region. (D)

Day 2 Following breakfast, we travel to the exquisite location of a 568 acre estate in the heart of Carmarthenshire. Among the innovative and informative features here are the Great Greenhouses, the oval walled garden and the herbaceous boardwalk. We continue to **Aberglasney**, set in the beautiful Towy valley. This is a superb 16th/17th century garden, which was rediscovered after 50 years of neglect and has been meticulously restored. Set within nine acres are six different spaces with a rich and diverse collection of plants, including three walled gardens and the unique Elizabethan/Jacobean cloister. (B, D)

Day 3 We depart for **Dyffryn Fernant Garden**, a plantsman's garden, created from scratch by the owners, with a number of 'rooms' including an azalea bank, a bog garden and a fernery and camellia walk. This afternoon we visit **Picton Castle**, home to some of the most beautiful woodland gardens in West Wales. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning, we visit the gardens of **Upton Castle**, 35 acres of listed historic gardens, surrounded by ancient woodlands. We then transfer to the village of **Laugharne** where the poet **Dylan Thomas** lived and worked in his later years. Our final visit today is to the private garden of **Llwyngarreg**, which makes the most of the local climate. (B, D)

Day 5 We travel to **Tredegar House** and explore the gardens, which comprise a wild and colourful orchard garden, a formal garden framed by herbaceous borders and an intricate parterre filled with colourful minerals, reflecting how this garden might have looked over 200 years ago. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Aberglasney



Protea

YOUR TOUR MANAGER
TONY RUSSELL
As 'Our Man in Wales' Tony designed this itinerary which features some of the best gardens in the south and west of the Principality.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Beggars Reach Hotel, Burton	
► Comfortable coach travel throughout	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
10 - 14 Apr	£1,295
 Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
Single Supplement	£320



Mary Rose ©

The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale

4 DAYS from £945

PICK-UP POINT: London

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.

Day 1 We depart by coach from our central London pick-up point and head for a visit to **Hampton Court Palace**. The building of the palace began in 1514 for Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the chief minister of Henry VIII. In 1529, as Wolsey fell from favour, the cardinal gave the palace to the king to check his disgrace. The palace went on to become one of Henry’s most favoured residences; soon after acquiring the property, he arranged for it to be enlarged so it could accommodate his sizeable retinue of courtiers. In later years, it was much extended, in various architectural styles, but at its heart, it remains Tudor, and symbolic of the enormous power that dynasty wielded. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we head for Portsmouth to visit 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. 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. We then enjoy a **live tour** of the museum by a knowledgeable member of the Mary Rose team. There will then be free time for lunch (not included) and should you wish, there will

be an opportunity to view the adjacent HMS Victory, the Royal Navy’s most famous warship (admission not included). (B, D)

Day 3 This morning, we head along the south coast to the Sussex town of Lewes where we find **Anne of Cleves House**. This stunning timber framed medieval house was given to Anne, the fourth wife of Henry VIII, at the end of her short-lived marriage, although she never lived there. Nevertheless, it provides great insight into the Tudor period with well-preserved interiors including a Tudor kitchen, a light and airy parlour and a beautiful bedroom complete with four poster bed.

Next, we visit **Arundel Castle**, home to the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors since its founding in the 11th century. In the Tudor period these included Lord Howard of Effingham, the Earl of Surrey and the 3rd Duke of Norfolk, uncle of Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard. (B, D)

Day 4 Following breakfast, we depart for **Hever Castle and Gardens** which was once the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. We have plenty of time to explore the castle with over 600 years of history. It formed the unlikely backdrop to a sequence of tumultuous events that changed the course of Britain’s history, monarchy and religion. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Hampton Court Palace



Arundel Castle

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

31 Mar - 3 Apr £945

Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Highgrove ©Robert Smith

Highgrove and the Cotswolds

4 DAYS from £995

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 Rodmorton 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 **Rodmorton 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 Rodmorton 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. There are 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
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

29 May - 1 Jun £995

26 - 29 Jun £995

Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

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 early 2026.



Tresco

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams

5 DAYS from £2,195

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 created this very special tour of Cornwall, featuring not only the gardens but the personalities behind them. These include Sir Tim Smit, the driving force behind both the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project, and Charles Williams of Caerhays Castle. At our base in the comfortable Alverton Hotel, Truro, our tour begins with a presentation from Mike Nelhams on the great Gardens of Cornwall.

Over the following three days we will see the gardens for ourselves, beginning with a tour of the Lost Gardens of Heligan where we also hope to meet Head of Gardens Alasdair Moore and have a personal introduction from Sir Tim Smit. We also enjoy a visit to the wonderful gardens of Caerhays Castle, which includes lunch and we hope to be welcomed by the owner Charles Williams. After an exciting day on Tresco and a tour of the outstanding Abbey Gardens led by Mike himself, our tour concludes with a visit to the private garden of Lamorran House and a tour of the unique Tregothnan Tea Plantation.

Day 1 We depart by train from London Paddington for Truro and continue by coach to our hotel. Before dinner, our guide **Mike Nelhams** gives us 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 hope to be joined by Alasdair Moore, Head of Gardens and a former assistant to Mike Nelhams on Tresco, for a tour of the gardens. Later 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 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 takes us on a personal guided tour of the **Abbey Garden**, without doubt one of the most stunning gardens in the British Isles. Caressed by the Gulf Stream, the exceptionally mild climate allows a wide range of exotic, sub-tropical plants to thrive here. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we depart for a visit to the privately-owned garden of **Lamorran House**, which has been designed by the owner in an Italianate style, although there are also Japanese influences here. Many features are included to divide the garden into intimate compartments which the visitor can explore. We continue to **Tregothnan Estate**. After **lunch**, we hope to be joined by Managing Director Jonathon Jones for a tour of the unique **Tregothnan Tea Plantation**, which has expanded greatly since the first bushes were planted in 1999. Blessed with the optimum microclimate for growing tea, Tregothnan produces some of the world’s rarest and highest rated teas and new varieties are tested all the time. There will of course be an opportunity to taste and buy some of the teas produced here. *(B, L, D)*

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

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



Tregothnan

YOUR TOUR MANAGER
MIKE NELHAMS

Mike Nelhams is the Curator of Tresco’s Abbey Gardens and one of Brightwater Holidays’ longest-serving, most popular and well-travelled garden experts.

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 <i>(regional rail connections and upgrades can also be arranged at a supplement; £100pp discount for no rail travel)</i>	
► Return helicopter flight to the Scilly Isles	
► Comfortable coach travel throughout	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
31 Mar - 4 Apr	£2,195
14 - 18 Apr	£2,295
Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
Single Supplement	£295



Woodland Snowdrops

Snowdrops in East Yorkshire

4 DAYS from £795

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

Symbolising new beginnings, hope and the arrival of spring, charming snowdrops are a truly welcome sight after the long winter months. While the rest of nature remains asleep, these delicate flowers are among the first blooms to emerge from the cold winter soil, creating lovely backdrops to revitalising strolls across the country. On this uplifting tour, we focus on scenic East Yorkshire, visiting a number of award-winning gardens as well as the spectacular city of York itself with its fascinating relics of the past. Highlights include Burnby Hall Gardens, winner of Yorkshire in Bloom Gold Award on seven consecutive occasions, Sledmere House, where the delightful Galanthus trail frames one of the region’s finest country houses beautifully, as well as a memorable walk along the Hutton Cranswick Circular, where blankets of snowdrops cover the beautiful countryside.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel to **Burnby Hall Gardens**. Known as the jewel in East Yorkshire’s crown, there is a contemporary-themed Walled Garden, an Edwardian Rock Garden, Aviary Garden with a restored Edwardian summer house, a Birch Walk and a charming Stumpery, influenced by Highgrove Gardens. The snowdrop display showcases a wide variety and focuses on the beauty of the individual plants. *(D)*

Day 2 **Sledmere House** awaits, built in 1751 and set in parkland designed by Capability Brown with a Walled Garden that changes beautifully with the seasons. The designated trail through the snowdrops and other winter-flowering bulbs is one of the county’s highlights in winter.

In the afternoon, we have the opportunity to walk a section of the **Hutton Cranswick Circular**. A leisurely walking trail that passes through some of East Yorkshire’s prettiest villages, it’s a wonderful area to spot some more uplifting little blooms. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning, we visit **Sewerby Hall Gardens**, home to over 50 acres of

award-winning gardens and woodland. Scattered with wood carvings, the Pleasure Garden is the perfect place for a stroll and the Walled Garden is a delight all year round, while the woodland is a sight to behold with thousands of snowdrops in bloom.

Next, we head to **Burton Agnes Hall**, dating back to the 1500s and yet it has remarkably never changed hands. Expect thousands of plant species, herbaceous borders, a jungle garden, a yew maze, a serene arboretum walk and the star of the show, the hardy snowdrops that create a magnificent white carpet over the woodland floor. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and make our way to **York Minster**, the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe and often described as ‘the Sistine Chapel of England’ thanks to its stunning medieval stained glass windows.

There is then some free time to explore the city at leisure, where other highlights include the Roman city walls and the medieval Shambles. Later, we continue to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



York Minster



Burnby Hall Gardens

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Three nights’ bed and full breakfast at the 4-star Mercure Grange, Hull	
► Comfortable coach travel throughout	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
13 - 16 Feb	£795
Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	

NEW
TOUR

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



Dartington Hall

Spring Gardens in Devon

5 DAYS from £895

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

In spring, gardens are a feast for the senses. The warming weather, blossoming flowers and buzzing bees make for a welcoming time of year. Devon in spring is a true paradise for garden enthusiasts where the county is renowned for its stunning landscapes and diverse plant life. Tulips, daffodils and hyacinths create a vibrant tapestry of colours, while the delicate blossoms of cherry trees add a touch of elegance.

On this delightful five-day tour, we explore Devon’s hidden gems; from the majestic magnolias and camellias at Fast Rabbit Farm to the enchanting displays of daffodils, tulips and bluebells at Forde Abbey, each garden offers a unique and unforgettable experience. The serene settings of these gardens, combined with the beauty of the English countryside, make Devon an ideal destination for this springtime garden tour.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points by coach and travel to **Forde Abbey** in the heart of Dorset, a former Cistercian monastery dating back to the 12th century. In spring, the gardens of Forde Abbey come alive with vibrant colours of daffodils, tulips and bluebells - a truly enchanting sight! The Abbey’s famous bog garden is not to be missed, featuring an array of moisture-loving plants. The walled garden and rockery also offer a delightful spectacle of seasonal blooms to enjoy. We continue to our comfortable accommodation at the Headland Hotel, which boasts stunning views of the English Riviera. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we visit **Fast Rabbit Farm**, a picturesque nature reserve in **Strawberry Valley**. In spring, it bursts into colour with dazzling daffodils, vibrant magnolias, camellias, and rhododendrons – a stunning sight after winter’s grey days. In the afternoon, we explore **Dartington Hall**, an **RHS partner garden** with Grade II-listed landscapes. Its sunny borders bloom with tulips, primroses, and seasonal flowers, while the serene Tiltyard, with manicured lawns and water features, offers a peaceful retreat to relax and enjoy the beauty of spring. *(B, D)*

Day 3 The search for Devon’s finest daffodil takes us to **RHS Rosemoor**, where formal gardens meet naturalistic plantings. In spring, golden daffodils, vibrant crocuses and fragrant hyacinths fill the air with colour and scent. Tulips in rich reds and soft pinks unfurl, while fritillaries and irises hint at the season ahead. A paradise of spring blooms, Rosemoor is the perfect place to soak in nature’s beauty. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we take a scenic drive to **Greenway House**, Agatha Christie’s beloved retreat. In spring, its gardens bloom with camellias, magnolias, and rhododendrons, while the Boathouse offers stunning river views. In the afternoon, we enjoy free time in **Torquay**, exploring the seaside, local shops, or charming cafés. *(B, D)*

Day 5 This morning, we visit **Burrow Farm Garden**, a stunning mix of woodland, meadows, and formal plantings. In spring, the Azalea Glade bursts with colour, while the Millennium Garden contrasts with its bold design. After exploring, we re-board the coach for our journey home. *(B)*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



RHS Rosemoor



Forde Abbey

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Headland Hotel in Torquay
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

6 - 10 Apr **£895**

Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Snowdrops

Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds

4 DAYS from £745

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

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 Rodmorton Manor, where we find a staggering 150 different varieties of snowdrop.

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

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

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

Day 4 We travel to the ‘Arts and Crafts’ house of **Rodmorton 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



Snowdrops

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- 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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

6 - 9 Feb **£745**

Flights from your local airport to join this tour may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The Culture & Gardens of Europe

Just a short journey away, Europe beckons with enchanting gardens and ancient sites waiting to be explored. From the meticulously designed Renaissance gardens of France to the sun-drenched villas of coastal Italy, our European tours promise a captivating journey through some of the continent’s most stunning and historic landscapes.

Each destination offers its unique charm, blending breathtaking natural beauty with centuries of rich history, inviting you to immerse yourself in a world where art, culture and horticulture come together in perfect harmony.

In the Loire Valley, explore elegant châteaux surrounded by intricate parterres and sweeping lawns, including the magnificent gardens of Villandry and the former home of Leonardo da Vinci at Clos Lucé. Further north, the tranquil gardens of Picardy reveal their charms along peaceful waterways and the historic town of Amiens.

In Austria, enjoy the splendour of imperial palaces and springtime apricot blossoms in the Wachau Valley, while Portugal enchants with the lush parks and romantic palace of Sintra, paired with vibrant gardens in Lisbon. Journey to the Italian Riviera to discover the elegant villas and gardens of Liguria, where Renaissance artistry meets Mediterranean charm, or head to the Tuscan city of Florence to walk amongst some of the world’s greatest art treasures.

Art lovers will relish our new Holland tour, which pairs the great masters of the Dutch Golden Age with time to explore Amsterdam. Each itinerary combines cultural depth with natural beauty, creating enriching experiences at every stop.



Château de Villandry

Contents

36	Seine River Cruise featuring Monet’s Garden and the Gardens of Normandy
38	NEW Gardens of the Loire
39	NEW Gardens of Picardy
40	Tulips of Keukenhof & Dutch Gardens
41	Gardens of the French Riviera - Menton Lemon Festival and International Rose Festival
42	Malta’s Archaeological Heritage
43	Cultural Malta
44	NEW Arts and Gardens of Florence & Tuscany
46	Gardens and Villas of Sicily
47	Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo
48	Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
49	NEW Gardens and Villas of Liguria
50	NEW Art Masters of Holland
51	Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands
52	Gardens and Architecture of Andalucía
52	Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
53	Galicia’s Camellia Route
54	Portugal - Route of the Almond Blossom
56	NEW Springtime Flowers in Sintra and Lisbon
58	The Art & Architecture of Antwerp
59	Discover The Durrells’ Corfu with Lee Durrell
60	Croatia’s Best-Kept Secret – Gardens and Parks of Kvarner and Istria
62	The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus
63	NEW Austrian Palaces, Gardens and Apricot Blossom



Château de Canon

Seine River Cruise featuring Monet’s Garden and the Gardens of Normandy

8 DAYS from £2,895

DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

Join us on a relaxing cruise on the sinuous River Seine, into which we have woven a series of visits to the outstanding gardens of Normandy, including Monet’s garden at Giverny, which continues to enthrall countless visitors almost a hundred years after his death.

Other garden highlights include the Château de Mirosmesnil, which represents four centuries of harmonious architectural styles, and Le Vasterival, one of the finest gardens of its type and a lasting legacy of its creator, the Princess Sturdza. At the Jardin de Plume we will discover a natural yet structured contemporary garden in a typical Normandy orchard. We also enjoy a visit to France’s most iconic palace, the Château de Versailles.

Waking up to a new view every day (without having to pack and unpack) is always a lovely experience and combined with these wonderful gardens this promises to be an unforgettable cruise holiday.

Day 1 We depart from London St Pancras International by Eurostar to Paris Gare du Nord. *(First Class upgrades and regional connections also available on request).* On arrival, we are met by our local coach and and transfer to **Musée de l’Orangerie des Tuileries**, before continuing to our ship on the banks of the River Seine. *(D)*

Day 2 As we sit down to breakfast this morning, the ship will sail towards **Rouen**. After lunch on board, we depart for a visit to the **Jardin de Plume**. Since 1997, Sylvie and Patrick Quibel have been creating this natural yet structured contemporary garden in a typical Normandy

orchard. Making generous use of grasses and perennials, the four-acre garden includes seasonal plantings, a central square mirror pool and a kitchen garden. We return to the ship in time for dinner and moor in Rouen overnight. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we depart for the first of two garden visits today, **Château de Mirosmesnil**, which represents four centuries of harmonious architectural styles including a rare example of Louis XIII monumental style. Of particular interest will be the kitchen garden which was restored forty years ago by the Comtesse de Vogüé, grandmother of the present owners.



Rouen

Separated by alleys made of grass, the squares are ordered with vegetables and flowers that contrast with the profusion of annual flowers on the sides. The surrounding park is dominated by a cedar of Lebanon, several centuries old, and there are also fruit trees and a huge collection of clematis. We continue to the nearby garden of **Le Vasterival**. In 1957 Princess Sturdza, a talented plantswoman, started to create this magnificent garden in a natural style covering 7 hectares of acid soil. Princess Sturdza died in 2009 but the garden continues to thrive, with a huge range of plants which grow to perfection in its composted earth. Its informal design with paths, woodlands, glades and immaculate grass walks leading temptingly in all directions, contains a richness of flora in a variety of settings all year round. Later, we rejoin the ship at Rouen before sailing to Caudebec-en-Caux. *(B, PL, D)*



Château de Versailles

Day 4 After breakfast, we depart for a visit to the **Pegasus Bridge Memorial Museum**, which pays tribute to the Anglo-Canadian 6th Airborne Division who captured and liberated the bridge here during the D-Day Landings of June 1944. We then continue to the garden at **Château de Canon** at Mezidon-Canon, which was redesigned by a barrister who knew Horace Walpole. The layout is best understood as a French interpretation of the Augustan Style. Like Chiswick Park, it has an axis leading from the house across a grass parterre and an axial woodland ornamented with small temples, including The Temple de la Pleureuse and a Chinese pavilion. We conclude today at the famous Calvados house of **Père Magloire**. Welcomed by the hostesses who will accompany us to the Museum of Calvados and Old Trades, we will be guided by the Cellar Master with the aid of the audio-visual presentation, and have a visit to the cellars followed by a tasting in the shop. Dinner is served on board is the evening as the ship sails for **Les Andelys**. *(B, PL, D)*



A-ROSA VIVA

Day 5 This morning is at your leisure as the ship is docked in the town of Les Andelys. During the early afternoon the ship sails to **Vernon**. On arrival, we depart for nearby Giverny and the world-famous **house and gardens of Claude Monet**. Both the house and gardens have been lovingly and accurately restored - one would believe that the family have just gone out to walk in the garden. You will have time to explore this marvellous garden at your leisure. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 Today is spent cruising the Seine enjoying the panoramic scenery and the on-board facilities of our ship. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we depart for one of France’s most iconic palaces, the **Château de Versailles**. We have a full day to explore the Royal Apartments, the Hall of Mirrors with 357 mirrors, where courtiers and illustrious guests were received at the time of Louis XIV; the Chapel, the Royal Opera and the Museum of the History of France. Outside, the world-famous gardens, which

were designed by André le Nôtre, are also the largest museum of outdoor sculptures in the world, with a total of 221 pieces. The waterbed comprises two large pools which reflect light and illuminate the façade of the Hall of Mirrors. The Northern Parterre is divided into two, each side centred around a circular pool. *(B, PL, D)*

Day 8 After breakfast on board, we disembark and transfer to the Gare du Nord for our Eurostar train back to London where we expect to arrive in the evening. *(B)*

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

THREE-DAY PARIS EXTENSION
FROM £495pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Seven nights in a lower deck cabin on the A-Rosa Viva on a full board basis
- ▶ Drinks on board with meals and at the bar *(excluding premium drinks and spirits)*
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel from London St Pancras International to Paris *(first class upgrades and regional connections also available on request)*
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel in France
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 14 May

Main deck	£2,895
Single Supplement	£695
Middle Deck Juliette Balcony supplement	£275
Upper Deck Juliette Balcony supplement	£365
Single Cabin upgrade supplements on request	



Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Gardens of the Loire

7 DAYS from £1,595

DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

Blessed with rich soil and a mild climate, it is no wonder that the Loire Valley is known as ‘The Garden of France’. As we travel through this tranquil and timeless landscape, one magnificent château after another appears before us, each one apparently striving to outdo the other with their romantic atmosphere, dramatic locations and beautiful grounds. Yet the serene and stately gardens that surround the pale sandstone walls of these castles belie the turbulent history of the area, which played an important role in the French Revolution. Nowhere is this serenity more evident than among the immaculately maintained terraces of the Château de Villandry. Although the present gardens date from the early 20th century, this is a faithful recreation of a 16th-century Renaissance Garden and is quite breathtaking in its complexity.

From our comfortable hotel in Tours, we also visit the Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire, during the International Garden Festival, and the Château du Clos Lucé, which celebrates the life and works of the genius botanist, engineer and artist Leonardo da Vinci. At the Château de Valmer, we enjoy the marvellous Italian Renaissance-style gardens, and also have the chance to sample some of the region’s wines in one of the local wine caves.

Day 1 We travel from London St Pancras International to Paris Gare du Nord *(First Class upgrades and regional connections also available on request)* and continue to charming **Tours**. Later this evening, we reconvene for a **welcome dinner**. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning, we visit **Château de Villandry**, a grand country house where each room tells stories of bygone eras. We enjoy a **guided tour** of the three-tiered terraced gardens, a real delight to explore.

In the early afternoon we return to **Tours** for a **guided walking tour of the Old Town**. *(B)*

Day 3 We spend the morning at **Château Clos Du Lucé**, the former home of Leonardo De Vinci. Stroll around the pond surrounded by majestic pines, Italian cypresses and yews, along with collections of Madonna lilies, yellow irises, horned violets and of course, the famous Mona Lisa rose.

Next is **Château de Valmer**, a marvel of the Italian Renaissance where Vouvray wines and eight levels of exceptional garden terraces are happily combined. *(B)*

Day 4 Today we head to the well-known **Château de Chenonceau** and spend the morning exploring the gardens, featuring the Garden of Catherine de Medici, Green Garden and Flower Garden amongst other horticultural gems.

In the late afternoon, we tour the historic **Les Caves du Père Auguste** and sample some of the estate’s wines. *(B)*

Day 5 We depart for **Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire** and the **International Garden Festival**, which welcomes gardeners from around the world. We look forward to exploring the old roses, arches of star jasmine and the collections of clematis, dahlias, peonies and asters here. *(B)*

Day 6 The morning is spent at leisure exploring the markets of **Loches**, selling everything from cheeses to flamboyant pottery.



Château de Chenonceau



Château de Villandry

In the afternoon we are joined by a local guide in quaint **Chédigny**. In 1998 the mayor decided to plant roses all over the village and today, it’s a sight to behold! We also visit the **Priest’s Garden** before a farewell dinner later this evening. *(B, D)*

Day 7 Following breakfast we depart for the Gare du Nord, Paris for our Eurostar train back to London. *(B)*

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Six nights’ bed and full breakfast at a comfortable 3-star hotel in Tours	
► Welcome and farewell dinners	
► Return Eurostar travel from London St Pancras	
► Comfortable coach travel and all visits	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
5 - 11 Jun	£1,595
Single Supplement	£395



Les Hortillonnages

Gardens of Picardy

7 DAYS from £1,895

DEPARTURE POINT: London, Dover

The canalised River Somme, which meanders gently through the countryside of Picardy in north-east France, takes its name from a Celtic word meaning ‘tranquillity’. We will discover why this is so apt as we cruise silently along some 50km of the river aboard our eco-friendly, electrically powered barge. Amidst the convivial conversation, the only sounds to be heard will be the gently lapping water and the birdsong. For the full length of the waterway, there is a well-maintained towpath offering the chance of a walk where the locks are more closely spaced. There will be three half-day cruises in the course of our tour, with the rest of the time spent exploring our host city of Amiens and visiting some of the outstanding gardens of the region.

Day 1 We travel to Dover for a late-morning ferry to Calais, then drive south along the Opal Coast and Bay of the Somme before arriving in **Amiens** to check into our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 The day begins at **Jardin Moulin Ventin**, followed by free time in **Beauvais** to explore the Cathedral and National Tapestry Gallery. In the afternoon, a visit to the garden of painter **André Van Beek** awaits. *(B)*

Day 3 Today we cruise through Amiens’ **Les Hortillonnages**, a maze of island gardens, aboard a 12-person electric boat. By lunchtime, we reach Picquigny and board our barge for a scenic 16km cruise to Long. After mooring, we visit **Château de Long**. *(B, L)*

Day 4 This morning, we return to **Long** and rejoin our vessel for a 17km cruise to **Abbeville**. After **Pont-Remy** and our final lock, we enjoy lunch as we approach Abbeville, mooring near the railway station. In the afternoon, we visit **Gerberoy** and explore the terraced **gardens of Henri le Sidaner**. *(B, L)*

Day 5 We begin our day at the **Floral Gardens of Digeon**, a Jardin Remarquable, set beside a historic château and farm, these gardens are lovingly maintained by their owners. Afterwards, we return to **Picquigny** and reboard our cruiser for the final 17km leg back to **Amiens** including lunch. As Amiens Cathedral rises on the horizon, we pass through two final locks, cruising through St-Leu before mooring at Seine Amont. *(B, L)*

Day 6 This morning, we visit the **Gardens of Maizicourt**, voted Picardy’s best garden. Once abandoned, it has been beautifully restored with structured hedges and vibrant plant combinations. Back in Amiens, we enjoy leisure time before our farewell dinner at the hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we drive back to Calais and take the ferry to Dover, before continuing to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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



Gerberoy



Saint Peter’s Cathedral, Beauvais

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Six nights’ bed and breakfast at a comfortable 3-star hotel in Amiens	
► Three half-day cruises on the Somme Waterways with lunch and wine included	
► Two dinners	
► Return ferry crossings from Dover to Calais	
► Comfortable coach travel throughout	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
7 - 13 Jun	£1,895
Single Supplement	£295



Keukenhof Gardens

Tulips of Keukenhof & Dutch Gardens

5 DAYS from £1,595

 DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

Enjoy a riot of colour among the beautiful bulbfields of Holland. For vibrancy, colour and serious charm, nothing quite compares to the sight of not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of flowering bulbs, carpeting the fields in a radiant vision of patterns and patchwork. Here, gardening is not merely a pastime – it’s an art, a spectacular series of natural masterpieces.

We begin in the Dutch city of Amsterdam home to a series of canals and bridges which criss-cross the city in circular patterns. We enjoy a visit to one of the most famous gardens in the world – Keukenhof, a magnificent display of different tulip, daffodil and hyacinth varieties. We also visit Vliedhof which was designed by the acclaimed designer Piet Oudolf and the Trompenburg Gardens which were founded over 200 years ago. Arriving in the Belgian city of Antwerp we enjoy a visit to the newly refurbished reception centre, library and Baroque gardens at Rubens House as well as a visit to the Botanic Gardens.

Day 1 We depart by Eurostar train from London to **Amsterdam**. On arrival transfer to our ship and enjoy a welcome cocktail reception before dinner. (D)

Day 2 This morning, we will depart for a visit to one of the most famous gardens in the world – **Keukenhof**. Over seven million bulbs are planted annually and around one million visitors pass through it from mid-March to mid-May – it is truly breathtaking. In the early afternoon we return to Amsterdam where there will be some free time to explore this cosmopolitan city at your leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Today we depart for **Vliedhof garden** on the west side of Utrecht. The garden was designed by Piet Oudolf and is one of 6 sections in over 5000m² of parkland in what is now known as Netherlands Maxima Park. The planting of Vliedhof has the characteristic naturalistic style of Oudolf with informal groups of perennial plants, combined with ornamental grasses. Later we visit **Trompenburg Arboretum** in Rotterdam. This beautifully designed garden is spread across 20 acres and includes a large collection of trees,

shrubs, perennials, bulbs and tubers. The Trompenburg Gardens and Arboretum was founded in 1820 with the oldest part of the gardens laid out in an English landscape style. We then rejoin the ship in Rotterdam. (B, L, D)

Day 4 We spend the morning cruising toward **Antwerp**. Enjoy some time on the sun deck where you can enjoy comfortable sun loungers, as well as a large, shaded area. Later, we arrive at Antwerp, where there will be some time to explore the city at your leisure. Antwerp is home to some stunning Art Nouveau architecture and world class museums. (B, L, D)

Day 5 We disembark the ship after breakfast this morning and visit the 200-year-old **Botanic Garden**, which boasts a substantial number of exceptional trees and shrubs. We then continue to the **Rubens House** and its newly revamped reception centre, library and Baroque Garden, filled with over 17,000 plants. In the late afternoon, we catch the train from Antwerp Centraal railway station to Brussels, where we board the Eurostar service to London St Pancras. (B)

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



Vliedhof

THREE-DAY AMSTERDAM EXTENSION FROM £495pp

Why not extend your holiday with a two-night stay at a 4-star centrally located hotel including breakfasts, station transfers and a three-day Amsterdam Travel Card, giving you the freedom to explore the city at your own pace.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights’ full board accommodation on board the MS l’Europe in a main deck cabin
- Drinks on board with meals and at the bar (excluding premium drinks and spirits)
- Standard class rail travel from London to Amsterdam, returning from Antwerp
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

4 - 8 Apr	£1,595
Single Supplement	£395
Middle Deck Supplement	£100
Upper Deck Supplement	£125
Single Cabin upgrade supplements on request	



Menton Lemon Festival parade

Gardens of the French Riviera - Menton Lemon Festival and International Rose Festival

6 DAYS from £1,995

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Menton’s zesty Lemon Festival brings a vibrant burst of colour to our tour of the French Riviera. Exotic gardens, cacti collections and azure seas complete our sparkling itinerary.

At the Clos du Peyronnet we have an exclusive tour, where a passion for exotic plants is reflected in the colour and variety of this fascinating garden. At St. Jean Cap Ferrat, we visit the exquisite gardens of the Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, while a short hop over the border to Italy finds us at the incomparable Hanbury Gardens.

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

Day 1 We depart from London on a flight to **Nice**, where we visit the garden of **Serre de la Madone**, created by American Lawrence Johnston, who travelled the world over a 30-year period seeking plants to acclimatise here among the ancient olives. This is a place of luxuriant and exotic beauty, a tropical forest planted on the shores of the Mediterranean. (L, D)

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

Day 3 We begin at the private garden of **Clos du Peyronnet** for a **guided tour**. To one side of the house is a splendid water garden, where a long canal-like pool runs at right angles to the slope. Exotic flowers and foliage press in from all sides, giving the impression of a jungle only just kept at bay. Next, we go from France to Italy and tour the stunning gardens of La Mortola. **La Mortola** is perhaps the greatest of the Riviera

Gardens, in the richness of its collections, the power of its presence and not least in the impact it has had all over the French Riviera. (B, L, D)

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

Day 5 We drive to **Cap d’Antibes** for a visit to **Villa Thuret**. A botanist and expert on seaweeds, Gustav Thuret lived here and over a period of twenty years he amassed a collection of rare plants – among them the first eucalyptus to be planted on the Côte d’Azur. We continue to **La Mouissone**, whose gardens reflect the attributes and restrictions presented by the terrain and the Mediterranean climate. In the afternoon, we visit the village of **St Paul de Vence**, which serves as a creative haven even today. (B, L, D)

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

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



Monte Carlo




Jardin Exotique d’Èze

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Menton Lemon Festival	
12 - 17 Feb	£1,995
Single Supplement	£325
International Rose Festival	
7 - 12 May	£2,395
 Return flights available from Edinburgh. See page 12 for further details.	
Single Supplement	£585



Mnajdra Neolithic Temple

Malta’s Archaeological Heritage

7 DAYS from £1,895

✈️ 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 out there to be discovered on this very special tour.

Arriving in Malta, with its golden limestone-cliff coasts, lucid seas, beautiful laid-back towns and heart-stirring views, you could be forgiven for thinking that you’ve already seen all there is to see. But take a peek beneath the surface, and no doubt you’ll be astounded by the wealth of wonders to be found there.

Venture inside the walled citadel of Mdina, explore the warren of narrow tomb-lined passages of St Paul’s Catacombs, and take to the waves for a boat trip around the spectacular cliffs and caverns of the famed Blue Grotto. But most startling of all, perhaps, are the mysterious sites left by civilisations with whom we are just starting to get acquainted — the millennia-old Mnejdra Temples, the megaliths of Haġar Qim: these make for a truly unforgettable archaeological expedition.

- Day 1

We depart from London to **Malta** and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*
- Day 2

We explore **Valletta**, Malta’s capital city, including the **Upper Barrakka Gardens**, the **Grand Master’s Palace** and the **Archaeological Museum**. *(B, D)*
- Day 3

Today we explore **Mosta Church** and the walled citadel of **Mdina**. Later we visit the **Skorba Temples**, the **Museum of Roman Antiquities** and **St. Paul’s Catacombs**. *(B, D)*
- Day 4

Visit **Haġar Qim** and the **Mnejdra Temples**. We then take a **boat trip** to the stunning **Blue Grotto** and the **Dingli Cliffs**. *(B, D)*

- Day 5

Today is free to spend at leisure or there is an optional excursion to the neighbouring island of **Gozo**, which has archaeological wonders of its own. *(B, D)*
- Day 6

Take a tour of the fishing village of **Marsaxlokk**, visit the **Tarxien Temples** and explore the world-renowned **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum**. This historic wonder is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. *(B, D)*
- Day 7

After breakfast, we transfer to Malta airport for our return flight to London. *(B)*
- Inc. meals:

B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Marsaxlokk

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

► Six nights’ dinner *(with wine)*, bed & breakfast at a comfortable 4-star hotel

► Return flights from London to Malta

► Comfortable coach travel throughout

► All visits as outlined in the itinerary

► Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 9 Mar

£1,895

3 - 9 Nov

£1,995

✈️ Return flights available from Manchester. See page 12 for further details.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Seaview Room Supplement

£90

Optional Excursion: Gozo

£125



Valletta - capital of Malta

Cultural Malta

5 DAYS from £1,295

✈️ DEPARTURE POINT: London

Nowhere on earth concentrates as much turbulent past into such a small land mass as Malta, so if you want to learn as much as possible about the complex history and rich cultural heritage of the Mediterranean region in just five days, at a time of year when the weather offers a pleasant winter escape, this is the tour for you! The island has been inhabited since 5900 BC. and ruled by a succession of powers, so it is little wonder it presents such a captivating tapestry.

- Day 1

We depart from London to **Malta** and upon arrival, we transfer to our comfortable 4-star hotel in St Paul’s Bay, overlooking the sea. *(D)*
- Day 2

We spend a full day in **Valletta**, Malta’s bustling capital city with its unique combination of architectural styles. We will enjoy views over the Grand Harbour from the **Barrakka Gardens**, admire the art works in **St John’s Co-Cathedral**, one of the most spectacular in Europe, and visit the **Casa Rocca Piccola**, which gives an insight to the customs and traditions of the Maltese nobility over the last 400 years. We conclude at the **Malta Experience**, where a state-of-the-art presentation brings 7,000 years of history to life. *(B, D)*
- Day 3

Today is free to explore the island at your leisure, or join one of two optional excursions - a full day on the peaceful

- neighbouring island of **Gozo**, including visits to the prehistoric **Ggantija Temples**, the capital city of **Victoria** and the picturesque **Bay of Xlendi**, or a half-day touring the southern half of Malta, with visits to **Vittoriosa**, including a boat trip around the harbour, and the village of **Marsaxlokk**. *(B, D)*
- Day 4

A full day tour takes us to the **Palazzo Parisio**, where we will have an **exclusive afternoon tea** in the most opulent surroundings. We also visit **Mdina**, Malta’s former capital city; **Haġar Qim**, Malta’s main historic site; and the **Blue Grotto**, where we enjoy a boat trip. *(B, AT, D)*
- Day 5

After breakfast, we transfer to Malta airport for our return flight to London. *(B)*
- Inc. meals:

B: Breakfast, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner



Upper Barrakka Gardens

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

► Four nights’ dinner *(with wine)*, bed & breakfast at a comfortable 4-star hotel

► Return flights from London to Malta

► Afternoon tea at Palazzo Parisio

► Comfortable coach travel throughout

► All visits as outlined in the itinerary

► Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 7 Mar

£1,295

3 - 7 Nov

£1,395

✈️ Return flights available from Manchester or Birmingham. See page 12 for further details.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Sea View Supplement

£60

Optional Excursions:

Gozo

£125

Southern Malta

£85

NEW
TOUR



Bardini Gardens

Arts and Gardens of Florence & Tuscany

7 DAYS from £2,795

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Follow in the footsteps of renowned painters, sculptors and horticulturalists in sun-soaked Florence, an enchanting walking museum with some of the world’s greatest treasures on display. Boasting beacons of architectural excellence, mouth-watering cuisine and masterpieces of art, there is no better place to see icons of the Renaissance. Michelangelo’s David, Botticelli’s Birth of Venus and Brunelleschi’s terracotta-tiled dome await, along with the statue-scattered Torrigiani Gardens, Boboli’s vibrant blooms and the breathtaking panoramas from the fragrant Bardini Gardens. Other highlights on this tour include the storybook city of Siena and the Castello di Verrazzano vineyard, where a tasting of the estate’s best wines is the perfect way to round off this Tuscan discovery.



Uffizi Gallery

Day 1 We depart on our flight from London to Pisa. After free time for lunch, a very special private visit of the **Torrigiani Gardens** awaits, the most famous monumental gardens in Florence and owned by the Marquise Torrigiani. This botanical garden is well respected for the extraordinary wealth of tree and plant species from all across the globe and it also houses incredible works of art set amidst the vegetation. Various sculptures are still present in the garden, including a statue of Osiris standing sentinel at the entrance and the Baroque work of Baratta depicting Actaeon fleeing after seeing Diana, along with the marble group of Greek chisel depicting a bull shot down by a lion. There are also the statues of Janus and Esculapius, the classical group of Pio Fedi, representing the young Pietro Torrigiani with Seneca, plus the marble column dedicated to the great botanist and mycologist **Pier Antonio Micheli**, who worked assiduously in this garden, and with other talented naturalists, founded the Italian Botanical Society in 1716. *[D]*

Day 2 Following breakfast, we visit **Boboli Gardens**, renowned for their history, formal layout, fountains, grottoes and collection of Roman, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures. Established in 1549, the original design was by Tribolo and included terraces and many fine deciduous trees such as planes, limes, chestnuts, field maples, elms



Boboli Gardens

and oaks. The garden was enlarged in 1612, and an island was created as a flower and lemon garden. In spite of its long history, the gardens have preserved most of its original Renaissance and Baroque layout and the fine collection of statues still remains. We later visit the nearby **Bardini Gardens and Villa**, something of an unknown treasure with a history dating back to the 14th century. Five years of hard work and 12 million euros went into their restoration – and the result is simply exquisite. The flower beds blossom with fragrant roses, crocuses and mimosa, while the luxuriant oak and cypress trees play host to blackbirds, robins and more. *[B]*

Day 3 This morning, following breakfast, we begin our day at one of Florence’s most iconic sites, the unmissable **Uffizi Gallery**. The marvellous collection here spans over 600 years and includes works by Lippi, Cimbuë, Duccio, Giotto, Leonardo and several works by Botticelli, including his Birth of Venus, Primavera and Madonna. Later, we visit **Galleria dell’Accademia**, home to Michelangelo’s David. Founded in 1563 by Bartolomeo Ammanati, Agnolo Bronzino and Giorgio Vasari, it was the first art academy in Europe. *[B]*

Day 4 Today begins with a visit to the gardens of **Villa Gamberaia**, which lie just to the east of Florence in unspoilt countryside. The intimate scale and irresistible charm of Gamberaia make this one of the most celebrated Italian villas and since its restoration in Edwardian times, the garden has been considered a masterpiece, with its box hedges, topiary, yew pillars and stunning flower beds. The

most famous feature is a water parterre to the south of the villa where, instead of flowerbeds, the box parterres contain pools of water. They are a 20th-century invention, but they are the crowning glory of a perfect Baroque garden. In the afternoon, we move on to the **Villa La Pietra**. For centuries, the villa was home to a series of prominent Florentine families, until it was taken over by Chicago natives Hortense Mitchell Acton and Arthur Acton in 1903. The Actons were just two of a set of culturally passionate expats living in the area at the time, and their collections of art, furniture, tapestries, books, and sculpture are exquisite. *[B]*

Day 5 Today is free to explore the wonders of Florence. You may choose to visit one of the city’s many attractions including Palazzo Vecchio, Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral or the Basilica di Santa Croce. Alternatively you may choose to join our optional excursion to the Medici Villa in Poggio a Caiano, also known as **Villa Ambra**, one of the most splendid Medici residences in Tuscany and declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013. Built between 1445 and 1520 by Giuliano da Sangallo, it was commissioned by Lorenzo de’ Medici to be the family’s summer residence. Here we see Renaissance architecture with characteristic elements of noble, rural Tuscan architecture while the surrounding gardens are dotted with rare plants and terracotta statues. *[B]*

Day 6 After breakfast we continue to **Siena**, where we enjoy a tour with a local guide including

the **Piazza del Campo** — the city’s central square and its **Civic Museum**. We also have some time to explore the Cathedral, Baptistery, Opera Museum, and Piccolomini Library. In the late afternoon we head to **Castello di Verrazzano** vineyard for a **guided tour** of the Renaissance gardens and the historic ageing cellars created directly in the hill below it, followed by the tasting of a selection of the estate’s best wines. We later enjoy a farewell dinner together before returning to Florence. *[B, D]*

Day 7 Following breakfast, we return to the airport for our return flight to London. *[B]*


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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights’ bed and breakfast at a comfortable hotel in Florence
- Two dinners
- Return flights from London to Pisa
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

31 May - 6 Jun £2,795

 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement £395



Palermo Botanical Gardens

Gardens and Villas of Sicily

8 DAYS from £2,695

DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

We begin on the slopes of Mount Etna, Europe’s highest active volcano, as we visit an elegant garden which thrives on the fertile soil here and then ascend the mountain itself, observing the change from lush groves to stark, desert landscapes. In Taormina we visit a private garden which boasts spectacular views across the bay before exploring the Greco-Roman remains of the city itself. Heading south we gain an exclusive insight into Sicilian gardening with a member of the team at Giardino di San Giuliano and visit the private garden of a Sicilian aristocrat. A treat for the senses awaits at Gli Aroma Sicily as we discover an extensive selection of herbs and spices and we also enjoy lunch at a monastery high in the mountains. We conclude in Palermo, a melting-pot of architectural styles with both Norman and Arabic influences.

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

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

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

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

Day 5 We discover an extensive collection of herbs and spices with a multisensory tour of **Gli Aromi Sicily**. Lunch here makes for today’s biggest highlight: a home-made feast prepared

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

Day 6 After lunch at a former **Benedictine monastery**, we transfer to the village of Monreale and visit the **Cathedral and Abbey**, with its 70,000 square feet of mosaics, amazing gold leaf and glass interiors. This astounding display echoes the opulence of the Alhambra, and is a sight not to be missed. *(B, L, D)*

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

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

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



Etna volcano and Taormina town



Villa Giulia

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 27 Mar	£2,695
13 - 20 May	£2,895

Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement	£395
-------------------	------



Ninfa

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo

4 DAYS from £1,795

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the ancient and beautiful gardens of Ninfa. Equally rare is the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Popes as we visit the gardens of Castel Gandolfo.

The romantic flower-covered ruins at Ninfa, just to the south of Rome, are as close to gardening perfection as you can get. Scented roses, hydrangeas and jasmines curtain what remains of the walls of medieval buildings and paths meander beside a crystal-clear river. Castel Gandolfo is the papal residence to the south of Rome, whose gardens the late Pope Francis only recently ordered should be opened to the public. The view from the balcony overlooking the Giardino del Belvedere, with its strict geometric parterres, edged by towering cypresses and umbrella pines, is a sight that will stay long in the memory.

The Villa Lante is a study in geometry and symmetry dating back to the 16th century, with many water features including a huge, balustraded water fountain which is a superb example of late Renaissance style. The 16th century gardens at Villa D’Este, romantically overgrown with tall pines, evergreen oaks and cedars, are renowned for their use of water and the garden seems to be full of sparkling spray.

We shall also visit Viterbo, a medieval walled town which in its heyday rivalled Rome itself.

Day 1 We depart from London to **Rome**, where upon arrival we have a short city tour, including sights such as the **Colosseum**, **St. Peter’s Square and Basilica** and the **Spanish Steps**. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast we depart for **Viterbo**, where we have a guided tour. We’ll see a number of grand palaces and a host of old churches which are enclosed by an intact set of medieval walls. Nearby, we find the gardens of **Villa Lante**, described as “one of Italy’s greatest Renaissance gardens.” *(B)*

Day 3 The gardens at the traditional papal residence of **Castel Gandolfo** await this morning and in the afternoon we visit **Ninfa**, which after being abandoned for hundreds of years because of malaria is now deemed by many to be the most beautiful garden in Europe. *(B)*

Day 4 This morning we visit **Villa d’Este** in Tivoli, the 16th century gardens known for their use of water. Later, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. *(B)*

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



Papal Garden in Castel Gandolfo

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights’ bed & breakfast at the Hotel Albergo Santa Chiara *(or similar)*
- Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- Return flights from London to Rome
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 11 May	£1,795
------------	--------

Return flights available from Newcastle or Bristol. See page 12 for further details.

Single Supplement	£195
-------------------	------



Villa Carlotta at Tremezzo

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes

8 DAYS from £2,895

DEPARTURE POINT: London

The fabulous scenery and warming climate of the Northern Italian Lakes have attracted eager aristocrats and the wealthy for years. The beguiling beauty of this unique corner of Europe shows no signs of waning with lush gardens and colourful blooms to be seen throughout the year. Elegant villas and lush gardens complement the natural landscape of the Northern Italian Lakes. We have a real treat when we visit the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society, home to a collection of over 500 plants, where we also enjoy a delightful lunch. Nowhere captures the extravagant spirit of the Lakeland gardens better than the three Borromean islands, Bella, Madre and Pescatori, which feature sumptuous terraced gardens, shaded woodland walks, flowered terraces and elegant statuary. Other highlights during our stay include Villa Taranto, with its rare botanical species, and a little-known private garden set on the hillside above Lake Orta. Monumental trees and seasonal blooms put on a dazzling display at Villa Carlotta and the impeccably maintained and manicured garden of Villa Balbianello completes our memorable tour.

Day 1 We depart from London to **Milan** and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel at **Lake Maggiore**. (D)

Day 2 Visit the gardens of **Villa Taranto**, flourishing with rare botanical examples and a wide range of plants. Later, we visit **Lake Orta** and take a boat trip to the tiny island of **San Giulio**, followed by a visit to a little-known **private garden**. (B, D)

Day 3 Spend a full day exploring the famous Borromean islands. We start with a cruise from Stresa to **Isola Bella** to see the vast baroque palace built from the island's rock and surrounded by terraced gardens. We then continue to **Isola Pescatori**, with its narrow cobbled streets and pretty harbour, and **Isola Madre**, which in contrast to Isola Bella has a simple, unspoilt aspect. (B, D)

Day 4 Tour the private garden of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**, home to a remarkable collection of camellias, with over 500 plants and 318 cultivars. The garden is, of course, in full bloom in spring and provides the perfect setting for a delightful and relaxed lunch. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Explore the perfect example of a formal Italian garden at **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni** situated in what were ancient hunting grounds for the nobility, in the foothills between Varese and Lake Lugano. Here we will be privileged to enjoy a **private guided tour** with the owner. Later we transfer to our hotel in Como, where wine is included each night with dinner. (B, D)

Day 6 Today we have a free day for you to shop and sightsee at leisure. Our guide will be on hand to assist with suggestions in Como or around the lake. (B, D)

Day 7 Spend the day on **Lake Como**, so similar and yet so different from its larger neighbour, Maggiore. On arrival in **Tremezzo** we will have time to enjoy the elegant 18th century **Villa Carlotta**, where the flowering changes throughout the year. The house itself has its own story to tell, full of neo-classical art treasures including paintings by Hayez and sculptures by Canova. (B, D)

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

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



Isola Madre

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights' dinner (with wine), bed and breakfast at the four-star Hotel Milan Speranza au Lac on Lake Maggiore; three nights' dinner (with wine), bed and breakfast at the four-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior on Lake Como
- One lunch
- Return flights from London to Milan
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 29 Apr	£2,895
17 - 24 Jun	£2,895

Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement	£595
Lake View Supplement	On request



Villa Durazzo Garden

Gardens and Villas of Liguria

7 DAYS from £2,195

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Experience *la dolce vita* in Liguria, one of the most stunning regions of Italy with its sparkling coastline, colourful towns and historic treasures. After discovering the winding streets and world-famous sites of Genoa, we go in search of peaceful retreats such as Palazzo del Principe, one of the most significant residences in the city, and Palazzo Lomellino, an exquisite example of Genoese Mannerist architecture with an enchanting Secret Garden. We also visit some of the most spectacular villas nestled along the coast with delightful sea views, such as the salmon pink-hued Villa Durrazzo. Each has been carefully restored to reflect its original splendour, and as such you can expect intricate stucco decorations, magnificent frescoes, period furnishings and remarkable collections of art along with beautiful gardens. The result is a serene journey back through the centuries and a fascinating glimpse into the luxurious lifestyles of the Italian elite during the elegant Renaissance era.

Day 1 We depart from London to **Pisa** and upon arrival, transfer to our hotel in Genoa. Later, take a **guided walking tour** of the city centre before gathering for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2 This morning, we visit **Palazzo Lomellino**, known for its rich architecture, opulent interior, impressive artworks and the adjoining **Secret Garden**, a rare example of an Italian Renaissance garden in Genoa.

We continue to the 16th-century **Villa del Principe**, boasting impressive frescoes by Perin del Vaga, a pupil of Raphael, and Italian Renaissance-style gardens with a wealth of exotic plants and ornamental fountains. (B)

Day 3 Today we head to the village of **Alassio** for a **guided tour** of **Villa la Pergola**, a beautiful example of the English-Italian architectural style and surrounded by lush gardens.

Spend the afternoon at leisure or join our optional excursions to either the **Aquarium and the Biosphere** or the **Galata Museum**. (B)

Day 4 We depart for **La Spezia**, stopping en route at the 17th-century **Villa Durazzo** for a **guided tour**, originally built by the noble Durazzo

family and set against the stunning Gulf of Tigullio.

Next is **La Cervara Abbey**. Founded in the 14th century by the Camaldolese monks, expect stunning architecture, impressive artefacts and a beautiful mix of ancient olive trees, fragrant herbs and vibrant flowers. (B)

Day 5 This morning, we enjoy a **guided tour** of **Villa Marigola**, overlooking the Ligurian Sea. The villa itself is an exquisite example of Italian architecture, with grand halls, intricate decorations and period furnishings while the well-maintained park features beautiful Mediterranean flora.

We continue to **Villa Rezzola**, a blend of classic and modern styles and meticulously landscaped gardens, featuring terraced areas, colourful flower beds, calming water features and scenic walkways. (B)

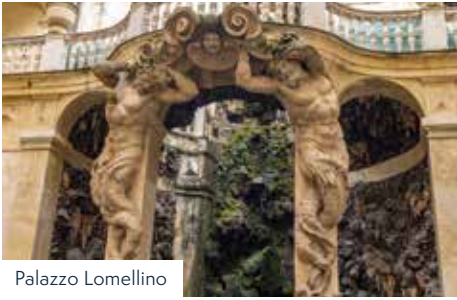
Day 6 Today begins with a **guided tour** of the **Caneva Botanical Garden** with its rich collection of worldwide plants. We return to La Spezia for time at leisure before a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 7 After breakfast we transfer to Pisa Airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Villa Durazzo



Palazzo Lomellino

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights' bed and breakfast at 3-star hotels: three nights at the Best Western Hotel Porto Antico, Genoa and three nights at the Hotel Corallo, La Spezia (or similar)
- Welcome and farewell dinners at local restaurants
- Return flights from London to Pisa
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 7 May	£2,295
2 - 8 Oct	£2,195

Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement	£395
Aquarium and the Biosphere	£45
Galata Museum	£25



Teylers Museum

Art Masters of Holland

6 DAYS from £1,595 | TOUR MANAGER: Mariska Beekenkamp-Wladimiroff

DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

Join us as we explore a collection of museums which showcase some of the most well-known Art Masters and celebrated painters in the world. This insightful and fascinating journey into the beauty and mastery of Dutch art celebrates the Golden Age of painting.

Amsterdam, is home to some remarkable art museums that showcase its rich history and cultural significance. On this comprehensive six-day tour, we discover some of the very best artists and art galleries in Holland. From Vermeer’s Girl with a Pearl Earring to Vincent van Gogh’s Sunflowers, each masterpiece offers insight into the artistic development and personal struggles of the artist as well as the culture of the time.

Led by an experienced Art Historian throughout, we also see historical sites such as Our Lord in the Attic, a museum that provides a fascinating glimpse into the religious history of Amsterdam, showcasing the clandestine nature of Catholic worship during the Dutch Golden Age.

Day 1 We depart by rail from London St Pancras International to **Amsterdam**. Upon arrival, we will transfer to our hotel in Leiden and later this evening, we reconvene for dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning, we visit the **Frans Hals Museum** in Haarlem, home to the artist’s lively and spontaneous portraits, including the iconic *The Laughing Cavalier*. Known for his use of visible brushstrokes, Hals’ work is a highlight of the Dutch Golden Age. The museum also features works by other notable 17th-century Dutch artists, providing a rich overview of the period’s art. In the afternoon, we visit the **Teylers Museum**, the Netherlands’ oldest museum, showcasing art, science and natural history. Highlights include works from the Dutch Romantic period and masterpieces by Michelangelo and Raphael. *(B)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit the **Mauritshuis Museum**, home to Dutch Golden Age masterpieces by Vermeer, Rembrandt, and Holbein, including **Vermeer’s** *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and **Rembrandt’s** *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp*. Next, we head to **Panorama Mesdag**, where a massive cylindrical painting by **Hendrik Willem Mesdag** offers a 360-degree view of 19th-century Scheveningen, immersing visitors in the scene of sea, dunes and village life. *(B)*

Day 4 Today we visit one of the most famous art galleries in the world, the **Van Gogh Museum**, which houses the largest collection of Van Gogh’s paintings and drawings. We explore the artist’s life and work through a comprehensive display of his masterpieces, including the iconic *Sunflowers*, *The Bedroom* and *Irises*. The museum also features works by Van Gogh’s contemporaries, offering a broader context of the art scene during his time. This afternoon, we enjoy free time in Amsterdam. *(B)*

Day 5 We begin the day at **Our Lord in the Attic**, a hidden church in a 17th-century canal house, once used by Catholics during a time of forbidden worship. After exploring the preserved church and restored living quarters, we visit the **Rijksmuseum** in the afternoon, home to masterpieces like **Rembrandt’s** *The Night Watch* and **Vermeer’s** *The Milkmaid*. The museum offers a rich insight into Dutch art and history. In the evening, we enjoy a farewell dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast, we return to Amsterdam to catch the Eurostar back to London. *(B)*

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



Rijksmuseum

YOUR TOUR MANAGER
MARISKA BEEKENKAMP-WLADIMIROFF
Mariska, an expert in Dutch Baroque, connects with people globally through her art courses and museum visits, sharing her passion for this iconic period of art.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Five nights’ bed & breakfast at the 4-star Golden Tulip Hotel, Leiden	
► Two dinners	
► Return standard class rail travel between London and Amsterdam with Eurostar	
► Comfortable coach travel throughout	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Service of Art Historian Mariska Beekenkamp-Wladimiroff as tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
20 - 25 Mar	£1,595
Single Supplement	£375



Jardín de Cactus, Lanzarote

Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands

8 DAYS from £4,295

DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

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

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

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

Day 4 We dock at the island of **La Gomera**, filled with craggy mountains and sprinkled with verdant forests of ferns and moss-covered trees. Enjoy the day at leisure here or join an optional excursion to **Garajonay National Park**, a

UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a traditional lunch we enjoy a demonstration of the island’s unique whistled language **Silbo Gomero**. *(B, L, D)*

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

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

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

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

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



MV La Belle Des Océans

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► 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 <i>(excluding premium drinks and spirits)</i>	
► Flight from London to Tenerife, returning from Lanzarote	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
14 - 21 Mar	
Deck 3	£4,295
Deck 4	£4,675
Deck 5	£5,295
Deck 6 Panorama	£5,745
Deck 6 Riviera	£5,745
Deck 6 Ocean	£6,045
Return flights available from Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh or Newcastle. See page 12 for further details.	
Single Supplement	from £1,195
Optional Excursions:	
La Gomera	£55
Las Palmas/Bandama	£45
Teror/Garden	£45
Fuerteventura	£40

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucía

8 DAYS from £2,095

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Andalucía 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 gardened sites in the world, and continue to the vibrant city of Seville and the dramatically perched Ronda.

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

Day 2 Visit the **Alhambra Palace** and **Generalife Gardens**, Granada’s outstanding attraction. Later we wander through the medieval streets of the **Albaicín**, catching glimpses of patio gardens. *(B)*

Day 3 We are joined by a local guide as we head to the **Alpujarra** and **Sierra Nevada** region, paying visits to small villages and enjoying beautiful scenery along the way. *(B)*

Day 4 En route to Seville, we visit **Córdoba**. Here we discover the **Great Mosque** with its Orange Grove, which was first laid out in the late 8th century. The gardens of **The Royal Palaces of**

the Alcázar are Moorish in style, laid out in rows around long pools with numerous fountains. *(B, D)*

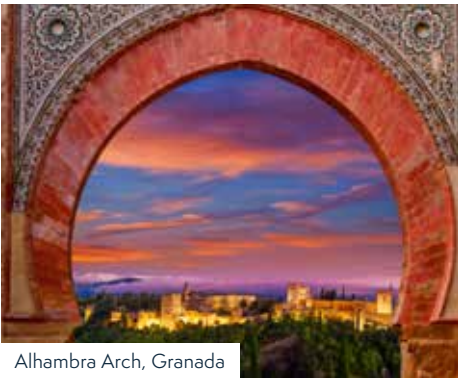
Day 5 Enjoy a guided tour of **Seville** including the **Plaza de España**, **Gardens of Murillo**, the **Cathedral**, **Seville’s Orange Tree Courtyard** and the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar**. *(B)*

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

Day 7 We visit **Ronda**, a spectacular town rising above the gorges of the River Tajo. *(B, D)*

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

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




Alhambra Arch, Granada

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights’ bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Senator Granada Spa Hotel; three nights at the 3-star Hotel Macarena in Seville; one night at the 3-star Hotel R. Polo in Ronda *(or similar)*
- Three dinners
- Return flights from London to Málaga
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager & local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

26 Apr - 3 May	£2,095
7 - 14 Sep	£2,095

 Return flights available from Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Bristol or Newcastle. See page 12 for further details.

Single Supplement	£395
-------------------	------



Santiago de Compostela

Galicia’s Camellia Route

6 DAYS from £1,495

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

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 Soutomaio, while enjoying some spring sunshine and the uplifting sight of one of the garden world’s favourite flowering plants in full bloom.

Day 1 We depart from London to **La Coruña**. On arrival we will be met by our local coach and transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning we have a **tour of the city** to see its modern parks and the historic city centre. We then visit the garden of **Pazo de Mariñan** overlooking the quiet waters of a river estuary. Amongst the botanical varieties to be found here are many old camellia plants with multiple trunks, along with others which have been planted over the years to add fragrance and colour to the garden in the winter and spring. *(B)*

Day 3 We leave La Coruña and head for **Santiago de Compostela** where we will visit the **Monasterio de San Lorenzo de Trasouto**. Its garden is occupied by an extraordinary masterpiece of box topiary; a wriggling rounded hedge with only the smallest of spaces separating its parts creating a sculpture of the Virgin clothed in ivy. We then visit the great Romanesque **Cathedral** with its Baroque façade and its Cloisters, which is reputed to hold the remains of **St James**. This has made Santiago a centre for pilgrimage and thousands walk the pilgrim’s way of El Camino de Santiago each year. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We depart for the **Pazo de Oca** at La Estrada, where the practical and the beautiful are united in a network of canals and ponds in a mainly 18th century garden. Our next visit is to the **Pazo de Santa Cruz de Rivadulla** at Vedra-Ortigueira. Once the home of the canon of Santiago Cathedral, this charming manor house now boasts one of the region’s best plant collections, including hundreds of varieties of Camellia. *(B)*

Day 5 We visit the **Pazo de Rubianes** at Arousa, where the well-proportioned garden features fountains, pools and camellia walks, which perfectly complement the handsome villa. We then visit the impressive hill top **Castillo de Soutomaio**, which has an important and historic camellia collection and commands views over the wild yet attractive countryside of Galicia. We continue to our hotel in Vigo. *(B, D)*

Day 6 We visit the **Pazo de Quiñones de León**, a Baroque mansion, which became a city museum in 1937 and is situated at the top of Castrelos Park, through which the Lagares River flows. We later transfer to La Coruña airport for our return flight to London. *(B)*

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




Camellia

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

11 - 16 Mar	£1,495
-------------	--------

 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement	£195
-------------------	------

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

6 DAYS from £1,695

 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, providing a rich range of horticultural delights to be enjoyed in the warm sunshine. These include the gardens at Raixa and Alfabia, both with Moorish origins and later Christian influences.

Elsewhere we visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, with its peerless location high in the mountains; tour the island’s principal city of Palma with its Gothic cathedral and Arab baths and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Soller, a heritage train that runs through spectacular mountain scenery.

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

Day 2 We visit the **Jardines de Alfabia**, where young chusan palms contrast with more substantial mature date palms alongside bougainvillea covered pergolas. Later, we drive to the **Botanical Gardens of Sóller** which are organised into different terraces that group plants into two main collections: wild plants mainly native to the Balearic and Canary Islands as well as more common Mediterranean flora. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Our day starts at the gardens of **Raixa**, once part of a Moorish estate before we visit the monastery of **Real Cartuja de Valldemosa**

with its green bell tower. Later, we take a **ride on the heritage train** that runs along a highly scenic route from Soller to Palma. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast we visit **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca** which showcases a collection of modern art exhibitions with surrounding beautiful gardens. We then head to the former capital of the island, **Alcúdia** to explore the Old Town *(B, D)*

Day 5 Today we tour the city of **Palma**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast, we transfer to Palma airport for our return flight to London. *(B)*

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




Cathedral La Seu

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

17 - 22 Mar	£1,695
21 - 26 Apr	£1,895
14 - 19 Oct	£1,795

 Return flights available from Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh or Newcastle. See page 12 for further details.

Single Supplement	£395
-------------------	------



Almond trees, Douro Valley

Portugal - Route of the Almond Blossom

8 DAYS from £2,695

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

Day 1 We depart from London and, upon arrival in **Porto**, enjoy a city tour (including coach and walking segments) exploring the capital of northern Portugal. The Ribeira area, Porto's historic centre and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers charming narrow streets, old churches and panoramic views over the Douro River. Known for its architecture, vibrant culture and Port wine, Porto is Portugal's second-largest city. Highlights include Porto Cathedral, the Clérigos Tower and the Lello Bookshop. We conclude with a visit to the **Crystal Palace Gardens** in Palácio de Cristal Park, famed for their lush flower beds, lakes and romantic design. With centuries-old trees, sculptures and a music pavilion hosting concerts and exhibitions, the gardens offer stunning views of the Douro River, Dom Luís Bridge and the city skyline. (D)

Day 2 Today we visit the old **Quinta da Arcadia**, bought in 1839 by João Allen, the British consul in Porto and an art collector. He built his

country house and garden in the Gardenesque style. After his death, the property passed to his son Alfredo Allen, who expanded it by acquiring Quinta da Vesada and Quinta de Vila Verde. Alfredo, an oenologist and gardener, was a key figure in the Palácio de Cristal Portuguese Society and introduced many exotic plants to Portugal. The gardens at **Quinta de Vilar d'Allen** feature a lake, woodland, greenhouse, Swan Garden, a formal garden and around 180 varieties of camellias. We also enjoy a port tasting during our visit. This afternoon is at leisure to explore **Porto** further or join the optional tile painting workshop. (B)

Day 3 We leave Porto behind, heading in the direction of **Vila Nova de Foz Côa**, a small town located in the north of Portugal, known for its stunning landscapes and historical significance. One of the best times to visit this charming town is during the almond blossom season, which usually takes place in late winter or early spring. Vila Nova



Ribeira district

de Foz Côa's almond trees bloom with delicate white and pink flowers, creating a breathtaking spectacle. The town and surrounding countryside are transformed into a sea of flowers, providing a picturesque backdrop. During the almond blossom season, the streets of Vila Nova de Foz Côa are filled with festivities and events to celebrate this natural wonder. After lunch in a local restaurant, we visit **Barca d'Alva** to view the almond blossom before heading to our hotel. (B, L)

Day 4 We visit **Casa de Mateus**, completed in 1744 and symbolic of a much older history. It serves as a time capsule spanning five centuries of Portuguese and global heritage, where people, ideas, documents, and art from across the world converge to form a unique collection. Tradition holds that the original garden was designed by the Archdeacon of Labruje, Diogo Álvares Botelho Mourão, brother of António José, builder of the House. Remnants of this early design can be seen in



Casa de Mateus

the staircase linking the parterres and the trellis leading to the production area.

In the afternoon, we visit **Casa do Campo**. Experts believe its gardens house Portugal's oldest camellia tree, around 250 years old, and one of the few places where camellias form arches and alleys. Built in the 18th century in the Baroque style, the garden's elevated and secluded position is distinctive, accessible via the first floor of the house. Winding paths of boxwood and trimmed camellias lead to stone tables, fountains, and a pond surrounded by parasols and domes. This rare combination makes it one of the most artistic gardens in northern Portugal. (B, L)

Day 5 Today we head to the **Bom Jesus do Monte Sanctuary**, known for its stunning architecture, gardens and religious significance. Situated atop a hill with panoramic views, it's reached by climbing a monumental staircase of 577 steps, adorned with chapels and sculptures depicting the Passion of Christ. At the top, we enter the neo-classical church, an architectural masterpiece with intricate details and stained-glass windows. The sanctuary also features a landscaped



Camellia Japonica

garden with fountains, statues and peaceful footpaths. Its history dates back to the 14th century, evolving into the impressive structure we see today. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it attracts both pilgrims and tourists with its beauty and serene atmosphere.

In the afternoon, we visit the **Biscainhos House Museum**. In 1755, the garden of the Biscainhos Palace - originally built in the 16th/17th century - was depicted with the same design and spatial organisation seen today. It stands as a leading example of a Baroque garden with Rococo elements preserved in Portugal. Our local guide will once again enrich the visit. (B)

Day 6 After breakfast, we discover the magical **Quinta da Aveleda**. As we enter, we travel through the history of a visionary family, where nature is sculpted with passion. Rare century-old trees - like Japanese cedar, marsh cypress and American sequoia - stand among lush camellias in shades of pink and red. Guimarães lies 50 kilometres northeast of Porto and is famed for its rich history and cultural heritage as the birthplace of Portugal's first king, Afonso Henriques. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, its historic centre features narrow medieval streets, charming squares, and buildings such as the Castle of Guimarães and the Ducal Palace. We also visit churches like **São Miguel do Castelo** and **Nossa Senhora da Oliveira**. Our final stop is **Camelias Flavius nursery**, home to more than 2,300 camellia varieties. (B)

Day 7 We start our day visiting the **Santa Bárbara Garden** in Braga, one of the oldest gardens in the city, with a history dating back to the 18th century. The garden has a wooded area with species such as oaks, plane trees and magnolias, as well as beautiful beds of colourful flowers. The garden's highlight is a central fountain in Baroque style, which

is one of the most photographed sights in the city. We then visit **Quinta dos Curvos** which looks like something out of a fairy tale. From the cave surrounded by a large lake to its gardens and vineyards, it is a place that invites you to visit and explore its many corners.

In the afternoon we visit **Park de São Roque** a 19th-century garden which is characterised by small, irregularly shaped flowerbeds, which hold a collection of herbaceous plants and small flowering shrubs. We later return to Porto for a farewell dinner. (B, D)

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

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES		
► 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 Galé Collection Douro		
► 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 an expert tour manager		
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON		
26 Feb - 5 Mar		£2,695
 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.		
Single Supplement		£495
Optional Excursion: Tile Painting		£45



Quinta da Regaleira

Springtime Flowers in Sintra and Lisbon

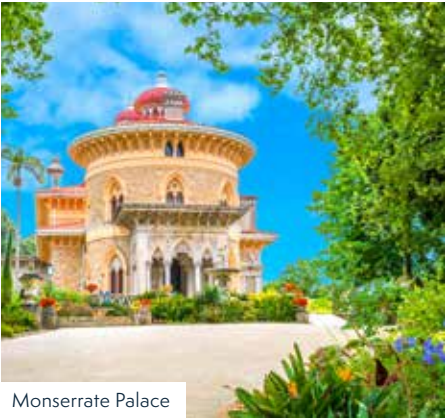
7 DAYS from £2,495 | TOUR MANAGER: David Hurrien

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Embark on a journey through the stunning and historic gardens of Portugal, where springtime brings a burst of vibrant colours and fragrances. From the majestic gardens of Lisbon to the enchanting landscapes of Sintra, this tour offers a unique opportunity to explore this country’s rich botanical heritage. We visit the Palacio de Fronteira and its beautiful gardens, a perfect introduction to the grandeur and elegance of Portuguese horticulture. We will also explore the Estufa Fria, a lush indoor botanical garden, and the Lisbon Botanical Garden, an oasis of tranquility in the city. Discover the Marquês de Pombal Garden and the Queluz Palace, showcasing the opulence and sophistication of 18th-century garden design and marvel at the romantic and eclectic Monserrate Palace gardens and the mystical Quinta da Regaleira, where every corner reveals a new surprise.

Day 1 We depart from London to **Lisbon** where we visit **The Foundation of the Houses of Fronteira and Alorna**, dedicated to preserving the heritage of these noble families. Founded in 1987 by Dom Fernando Mascarenhas (1945–2014), a descendant of the Fronteira, Alorna and Távora houses, the foundation’s key asset is the 17th century Fronteira Palace. Located on a former pleasure farm, the palace features formal and informal gardens and woodland, offering a unique immersion into Portuguese history and culture. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we discover Lisbon’s **Estufa Fria**, one of the city’s most enchanting spaces. Located in Eduardo VII Park, this large indoor botanical garden features a controlled microclimate. Originally built in the 20th century, its main purpose was to acclimatise and conserve exotic and tropical plants. This afternoon, we visit the **Lisbon Botanical Garden**, part of the University of Lisbon in the charming Príncipe Real neighbourhood. An oasis of tranquility in the bustling city, the garden spans 10 acres and houses over 10,000 plants. A highlight is the Australian Cycad, with its unusually twisted trunks. (B)



Monserrate Palace

Day 3 Today we discover the charms of the **Queluz Palace** and the **Marquês de Pombal Garden**, two beautiful landmarks located near Lisbon, both rich in history and offering visitors a glimpse into Portugal’s royal past. We start our day visiting Marquês de Pombal Garden, located near a statue of the Marquês de Pombal, a towering monument commemorating his role in transforming Lisbon after the devastating 1755 earthquake. The statue is a central feature of the area and is a significant symbol of Lisbon’s resilience and progress during the 18th century. The gardens of Queluz Palace are a highlight, with carefully



Queluz Palace

designed formal gardens, fountains and pavilions that reflect the elegance of the 18th-century aristocracy. (B)

Day 4 We visit **Monserrate Palace** and **Quinta da Regaleira**, two stunning Sintra landmarks, each offering a unique blend of history, architecture and nature. Part of Sintra’s UNESCO World Heritage Site, both are beloved for their distinctive features and beautiful surroundings. We begin at Monserrate Palace, a Romantic architectural gem combining Gothic, Moorish and Indian styles. Built in the mid-19th century by Sir Francis Cook, a wealthy English merchant inspired by Eastern landscapes, the palace is surrounded by exuberant gardens filled with exotic species, greenhouses, bridges, waterfalls and fountains. Quinta da Regaleira, one of Sintra’s most astonishing and enigmatic monuments, was purchased in 1893 by philanthropist António Augusto Carvalho Monteiro as a summer retreat. Designed by Italian architect Luigi Manini, its gardens feature grottoes, lakes, towers and mysterious underground tunnels. (B)

Day 5 Today, we enjoy a guided tour of **Sintra**. We begin at **Pena Palace**, originally built

on the site of the 16th-century Hieronymite Monastery of Nossa Senhora da Pena. In the 19th century, King Ferdinand II transformed it into a royal residence for Queen Maria II. Passionate about architecture and the arts, he commissioned a redesign blending Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Moorish elements. The surrounding 200-hectare park, though appearing as dense woodland, was purposely designed to harmonise with the landscape. Within are secluded paths, stunning viewpoints and a rich array of exotic plants imported from around the world.

This afternoon, we visit **Jardim do Cerco**, a beautifully maintained, Versailles-inspired garden. Highlights include water mirrors, wide paths, leafy trees and a century-old working Noria. (B)

Day 6 We visit **Parque D. Carlos I** in Caldas da Rainha, named after the Portuguese monarch. This romantic garden surrounds the former thermal hospital, built during King João V’s reign, where patients once strolled for recovery and tranquillity. In the late 19th century, architect Berquó transformed the park into a leisure space with a central artificial lake, boulevard and a bandstand, attracting visitors from across the country. Among



D Carlos I in Caldas da Rainha

Buddhas, pagodas and terracotta statues, over 6,000 tonnes of marble and granite shaped this monumental space. Golden Buddhas welcome visitors from the central staircase, while sculpted dragons and koi swim in the main pond. The **Modern and Contemporary Sculpture Garden** offers peaceful encounters with modern art. At the same time, the African Sculpture Garden showcases the work of Zimbabwe’s Shona people, whose hand-carved stone art reflects a deep connection between the physical and spiritual worlds. (B, D)

Day 7 After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

YOUR TOUR MANAGER
DAVID HURRIEN
Join horticulturalist and former Associate Editor for Gardeners’ World Magazine David as he discovers central Portugal’s iconic gardens.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights’ bed and breakfast at the 4-star HF Fenix Lisboa *(or similar)*
- Return flights from London to Lisbon
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits are as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist David Hurrien as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
5 - 11 Apr **£2,495**

Return flights available from Bristol. See page 12 for further details.

Single Supplement **£495**



Grote Markt of Antwerp

The Art & Architecture of Antwerp

5 DAYS from £1,395

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 still unfinished although construction began in 1351, and the impressive Centraal Station which has been voted the most beautiful in the world on several occasions. We are joined by local guides as we explore the art collections of Antwerp’s best museums, including the KMSKA – Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Snijders & Rockox Huis and the Plantin-Moretus Museum. We also have a visit to the newly re-opened Rubens House Experience and Gardens.

Day 1 We depart London St Pancras International and head for Brussels with onward connection to **Antwerp**. On arrival we transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we head into the historic heart of **Antwerp** on an introductory **walking tour** with our local guide. Highlights include **Antwerpen-Centraal Station**, **Saint James Church**, the **Steen**, the beautiful **town hall** and **guild houses**. Finally, we head along the charming **Vlaaikengang**, before visiting the **Cathedral of Our Lady** where an experienced guide will take us on a tour of the Cathedral. We conclude this afternoon with a visit to the **Diamond Quarter**. (B)

Day 3 Today we visit the **KMSKA – Royal Museum of Fine Arts** for a **guided tour** through the collections. We have time to discover works by numerous Flemish masters. This afternoon

we have a **guided tour** at **Snijders & Rockox Huis** which showcase a collection of 16th and 17th century art, including works by Rubens, Jordaens and Van Dyck. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning we depart for the **Rubens Experience Centre and Gardens** which delves into Rubens’ life and work. This afternoon we visit the **Plantin-Moretus Museum** the original residence and workplace of the Plantin and Moretus publishing house. (B, D)

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Antwerp Central

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)
- Comfortable coach travel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager plus local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

26 - 30 Mar	£1,395
-------------	--------

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Mouse Island

Discover ‘The Durrells’ Corfu with Lee Durrell

5 DAYS from £1,795

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Explore the Greek island that inspired Gerald Durrell’s hilarious accounts of a sun-kissed childhood with his eccentric family (and other animals), as well as ITV’s *The Durrells*. During this tour, we meet naturalist and writer Lee Durrell, who will give a talk on her late husband Gerald’s pioneering role in wildlife conservation and will accompany us over two days as we visit some of her family’s favourite places in Corfu. We also enjoy a walking tour of historic Corfu town and a visit to the Achilleion Museum, which is filled with statues and other mementoes of its former royal owners.

Day 1 We depart from London to **Corfu**. On arrival we will transfer to our luxurious home for the next four nights: the 5-star **Corfu Holiday Palace**, which has superb facilities including two swimming pools and a private beach. In the afternoon, we ease into our holiday with an optional guided walking tour through picturesque **Corfu Town**, taking in the Spianada Square and the 16th-century St Spyridon Church, one of the island’s iconic sights. (D)

Day 2 We start today with a visit to one of Corfu’s must-see destinations, the **Achilleion Museum**, which is filled with statues and other mementoes of its former royal owners: Empress Elisabeth of Austria and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. Along with our local guide, **Lee Durrell** will join us today and accompany us as we follow in the footsteps of the Durrells, first by taking a trip to **Pontikonisi**, or Mouse Island, a place that Gerald and his sister Margo both loved to visit, and where Gerald Durrell’s ashes are scattered. This evening Lee will give a fascinating talk about the Durrell family’s love affair with Corfu and its wildlife and tell the story of her and Gerald’s pioneering work for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. (B, D)

Day 3 We are joined once again by Lee as we visit some of the unforgettable locations from Gerald Durrell’s childhood, his books and the TV series, beginning at the **White House** in Kalami, the beautiful building on the north-east coast of Corfu that was once the home of Lawrence Durrell,

Gerald’s novelist brother. In the afternoon we continue to the **Lake of the Lillies**, where Lee will give a poignant reading from the chapter in which it features in *My Family and Other Animals*. We conclude today at the picturesque village of **Perithia**, the oldest on the island, dating back to the 14th century. We will enjoy **lunch** featuring local specialities in one of the tavernas and later meet a local bee keeper with an opportunity to buy some delicious wild honey. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Today is free to discover more of Corfu at your leisure, or to relax and make use of the swimming pool, spa and private beach at our hotel. A regular bus service into Corfu Town picks up just outside the hotel. Local excursions and boat trips to other islands or over to Albania can also be arranged. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we transfer to Corfu airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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



Corfu



Lee Durrell

HOLIDAY EXTENSION

Don’t want to go home? For those who’d like to stay in Corfu a little longer, we have arranged an optional, great value two-night extension for an additional £295 per person (single supplement £115 per person), including airport transfers and breakfast.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast at the 5-star Corfu Holiday Palace
- One lunch
- Return flights from London to Corfu
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Special Appearance by Lee Durrell, including a tour of locations and exclusive evening talk and Q&A session
- Services of an expert tour manager and local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 9 May	£1,795
6 - 10 Oct	£1,795

Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement	£225
-------------------	------



Pula

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

8 DAYS from £2,695 | 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 of 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, the most famous park in Opatija. The park is home to a diverse collection of plants and trees from around the world, including bamboo, palms and the Japanese Camellia (*Camellia japonica*), a symbol of Opatija. The park’s serene atmosphere is perfect for a leisurely walk along the ‘lungomare’ seaside promenade, where you can enjoy nature and stunning Adriatic views. Later, we head to the American Gardens, a lesser-known yet enchanting Opatija green space.

As we wander through the terraced gardens, we’re surrounded by Mediterranean and exotic plants. The design includes winding paths, stone stairways and pergolas, leading to breathtaking sea views. (B, D)

Day 3 We start our day in Krk Town, the island’s historic and cultural heart. As we arrive, we’re greeted by its impressive medieval walls and fortifications. The main attraction is the 12th-century Frankopan Castle, built by the powerful Frankopan family. We have time to explore before heading to the harbour of Punat for a short boat ride to the tiny Island of Košljun, set in Puntarska Draga Bay. We enjoy a peaceful walk through the island’s gardens, meticulously maintained by monks, including Mediterranean herbs used in



Villa Angiolina

herbal medicine. The island is home to over 400 plant species, many rare and protected. Along the paths, we encounter statues and chapels that enhance the atmosphere. Later, we visit the Immortelle Farm on Krk. Known as the ‘everlasting flower,’ Immortelle is prized in natural cosmetics for its anti-aging properties. We learn about its cultivation, distillation, and the unique environment in which it thrives. (B, D)

Day 4 We leave the Kvarner region and move to Istria where we visit Veliki Brijun, the main island of the Brijuni National Park. Known for its crystal-clear waters, lush vegetation and historical sites, Brijuni is one of Croatia’s most unique destinations and is home to a rich and varied history, with evidence of human habitation dating



Krk Island

back to the Neolithic period. To reach the island, there is a short boat trip from the pretty port of Fažana. We travel on a small electric train and on foot in places for short periods as cars are not permitted. The island is also home to the oldest Olive Oil tree in Croatia, at over 1,000 years old and still producing oil yearly. Plant species include myrtle, marine poppy and flowering ash. After our visit, we continue to our hotel in Pula. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning we explore the city of Pula. We begin at the Pula Forum, the city’s central square, which has been the heart of Pula since Roman times. Today, the Forum is still a bustling hub, lined with cafes, restaurants, and historic buildings. We walk along Sergijevaca Street leading to the Arch of the Sergii, a triumphal arch erected in the 1st century BC, before arriving at the Twin Gates and the City Walls. Later, we head to the famous Pula amphitheatre, locally called ‘arena’, the sixth largest Roman amphitheatre in the world. The arena dates back to the 1st century AD and could accommodate over 20,000 spectators. This afternoon, you may wish to return to your hotel for time at leisure or you may wish to join our optional excursion, which visits the village of Vodnjan. Following this, there is also a chance to visit an award-winning, local olive oil mill and enjoy a tutored tasting of various olive oils. (B, D)

Day 6 We explore Rovinj, north of Pula, one of the most picturesque towns on the Istrian Peninsula. We then continue to Histria Aromatica, a beautiful botanical garden and estate near the town of Bale, which grows a wide range of aromatic herbs and plants such as fennel, sage, pine, rosemary, lavender blended for use in natural oils

and balms. We begin our visit with a guided tour of the botanical gardens, where we learn about the various aromatic and medicinal plants that are cultivated here. Explore the distillery, where the estate produces essential oils and other natural products. 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)

Day 7 Today is free to spend at leisure or join our optional excursion exploring the Istrian countryside, focusing on the region’s famous frescoes. We begin in Beram, a hidden gem rich in history and culture. Its highlight is the Church of St. Mary of the Rocks (*Sveta Marija na Škriljinah*), located just outside the village in a serene wooded area. We continue to Draguč, called the ‘Village of Frescoes,’ renowned for churches with beautifully preserved frescoes. Next, a short drive takes us to Roc, a charming village with well-preserved medieval architecture. We visit the Church of St. Anthony, dating to the 12th century. Inside are 14th-century frescoes, modest but significant for



Rovinj

their age. To finish, take part in a fresco painting class led by a local artist and create your own fresco to take home. (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 MANAGER
JULIA BERG
Julia Berg, an experienced tour manager and the UK’s expert on Croatia.



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	
30 May - 6 Jun	£2,695
 Return flights available from Manchester, Birmingham or Bristol. See page 12 for further details.	
Single Supplement	£295
Olive oil tasting near Vodnjan	£40
The Frescoes of Istria	£150



Kato Pafos Archaeological Park

The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus

8 DAYS from £2,095

DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

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

Day 1 We depart from London to Cyprus. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we depart for **Khirokitia**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This well-preserved Neolithic walled village is home to over 60 stone round houses. Following this, we visit the village of **Kalavassos**, where the settlement of **Tenta** is of special interest, an aceramic Neolithic settlement that dates back to 7000 BC. Our last visit is **Amathous Archaeological Site**, which has yielded some interesting finds such as the Agora, public baths and the Temple of Aphrodite. (B)

Day 3 Today we have a full day discovering the Cypriot capital of **Nicosia**. A settlement since the Bronze Age, the city has been continuously inhabited for almost 5,000 years. We have a visit to the **Cyprus Archaeological Museum** which is home to the world's most extensive collection of Cypriot archaeology. We have **lunch** in a local taverna with wine included, followed by some free time to explore. (B, L)

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

Day 5 After breakfast we check out of our hotel and head to **Kourion Archaeological site** which is one of Cyprus's most important city-

kingdoms from antiquity. The centrepiece of the site is the impressive Greco-Roman theatre that was built in the 2nd century BC. Other remains include the private villa **'House of Eustolios'** where we can see the remains of 5th century mosaic floors and a bathing complex. Our next visit is to the **Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates** and our final stop is **Aphrodite's Rock**, the goddess's mythical birthplace. We later head to our hotel in Paphos. (B)

Day 6 Today we have a long but rewarding day. Our first visit is the **Archaeological Park** at Kato Pafos, which has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1980. Here we discover sites and monuments from the 4th century through to the Middle Ages. We then head to **Paphos Archaeological Museum**. In the afternoon, we depart for the **Tomb of the Kings**, an elaborate rock-cut necropolis which dates from the 3rd century BC followed by a visit to **Lemba Archaeological Project**, home to prehistoric projects in western Cyprus for over 30 years. (B, L)

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

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

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



Limassol

FOUR-DAY PAPHOS EXTENSION FROM £175pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

18 - 25 Mar £2,095

Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement £395

NEW TOUR



Belvedere Palace and Park

Austrian Palaces, Gardens and Apricot Blossom

8 DAYS from £2,995

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Austria is the cultural heart of the continent, known for its memorable musicians and stunning palaces that have defined the country for centuries, especially during the era of the Holy Roman Empire when it was the centre of political power in Europe. Our tour begins in the magnificent capital city, Vienna, where we explore its wonderful palaces and gardens before taking a more leisurely turn as we journey through the Wachau Valley following the winding Danube River.

Here the apricot trees bloom in the early spring and the valley is peppered with flurries of white flowers. From here we head west to the home of Mozart, Salzburg, home to a cliff-top fortress backed by snow-dusted mountains. We find a collection of castles including Leopoldskron Castle which was featured in the beloved film, *The Sound of Music*.

Day 1 We depart from London to **Vienna** airport, where on arrival we enjoy a **panoramic city tour**. Later, we meet our local guide for a walking tour of Vienna's 1st district, including a visit to **Stephansdom** (St Stephen's Cathedral). (D)

Day 2 Today we visit **Schönbrunn Palace**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, to explore its elegant rooms and beautiful park. In the afternoon, we tour Vienna's prestigious parks, including **Burggarten** with its Mozart statue, **Stadtpark** (home to statues of Johann Strauss II and Franz Schubert), and **Rathauspark**. We also visit the House of Butterflies in the Palm House. (B)

Day 3 We head to **Schloss Hof Castle**, a masterpiece of baroque garden art and enjoy a **tour** of the representative rooms of the castle as well as the fascinating architecture of the garden by a local expert. Afterwards, there is time to explore the garden at our own pace before we return to Vienna. (B)

Day 4 Enjoy a day at leisure, or join the optional excursion to **Belvedere Palace**, home to **Klimt's The Kiss**. Later, we dine at a Viennese wine tavern and stop at **Setagayapark**, a peaceful Japanese garden. (B, D)

Day 5 We travel to the **Wachau** region, stopping at the **Tulln garden exhibition** for a **guided tour** of the vineyards, castles and apricot trees in bloom. Next, we are treated to a tour and tasting at **Krems** and a stroll through **Dürnstein**. (B)

Day 6 We visit **Melk Abbey with a local guide**, Europe's largest Benedictine Abbey, on the banks of the Danube. Afterwards, we continue to our hotel in **Salzburg**. (B)

Day 7 Today we take a **walking tour of Salzburg**, visiting Mirabell Garden, Mozart's birthplace, the Cathedral, Leopoldskron Castle and Hellbrunn Castle. In the afternoon, we explore the **Salzkammergut** area and take a scenic **boat trip on Wolfgangsee**. We return to our hotel in the late afternoon. (B, D)

Day 8 This morning, we travel to Munich, stopping at **Lake Chiemsee** to visit **Herrenchiemsee Castle**. We take a ferry to the island for a **guided tour** of the castle and gardens. Afterwards, we continue to Munich airport for our flight back to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Melk Abbey

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights' bed and breakfast in four-star hotels: four nights at the Strudlhof Vienna, one night at the Hotel Donauhof, Emmersdorf and two nights at the Hotel Untersberg in St Leonhard (or similar)
- Three dinners
- Flights from London to Vienna returning from Munich to London
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

10 - 17 Apr £2,995

Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement £295

Wonders of the World

Our collection of worldwide tours invites you to experience the awe-inspiring landscapes, ancient wonders and vibrant cultures that make our world so remarkable. Whether you’re wandering through the timeless gardens of Southern India, uncovering the secrets of Tunisia’s Roman ruins, or marvelling at New Zealand’s dramatic scenery, each itinerary is crafted to ignite your curiosity and passion for discovery. From the rhythm of traditional dances to the serenity of sacred gardens, these immersive experiences offer a deep connection to the natural beauty and rich histories of distant lands.

New Zealand offers an extraordinary blend of dramatic scenery and vibrant spring flora, where visits to North and South Island gardens are complemented by insights into Māori culture and tastings of world-class wines.

In Tunisia, uncover layers of ancient civilisations on a fascinating archaeological journey to Roman cities, mosaics and desert landscapes. For something truly unique, our Namibia tour explores extraordinary prehistoric rock art at sites like Twyfelfontein and Brandberg Mountain, set within the country’s striking desert terrain.

Whether you’re admiring cherry blossoms in Asia or exploring sacred art etched in stone in Africa, our worldwide tours are immersive, meaningful experiences that connect you to the landscapes, stories and cultures that have shaped these regions across centuries.



Queenstown

Contents

66	NEW Gardens of Southern India
68	Seasonal Gardens of Japan
70	Gardens of Honshu and Hokkaido
72	NEW Gardens of New Zealand
74	California – In the footsteps of John Muir
76	Brazil’s Gardens and Natural Wonders
78	Chile and the Falkland Islands
80	Gardens of Mauritius
82	Spring Flowers of Namaqualand
84	Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt
86	NEW Rock Art of Namibia
88	NEW An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia
90	Gardens of Costa Rica
91	Gardens of Barbados



Sousse

NEW
TOUR



Mysore Palace

Gardens of Southern India

12 DAYS from £3,495

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Discover the wonders of Southern India on an unforgettable journey through vibrant cities, majestic palaces and breathtaking landscapes. In Bengaluru, explore lush gardens where nature’s beauty meets architectural brilliance. Marvel at the stunning Maharaja’s Palace and the sacred Chamundeshwari Temple. Enjoy a scenic ride on the UNESCO-listed Nilgiri Toy Train and immerse yourself in Southern India’s rich cultural heritage with a captivating Kathakali dance performance in Kochi. From royal palaces and sacred temples to tranquil gardens and scenic trains, each moment of this exclusive journey promises to leave you with memories that will last a lifetime.

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

Day 2 On arrival, we are met at the airport and transferred to our accommodation. *(D)*

Day 3 Today, we enjoy a full-day visit to two of Bengaluru’s most beautiful gardens. We start at **Cubbbon Park**, a lush, sprawling green space which was established in 1870 by John Meade, the then acting Commissioner of Mysore. Rich in plant wealth, with approximately 96 different species totalling around 6000 plants, the park is home to a variety of flora, statues and historic buildings, making it a perfect spot for nature lovers and history enthusiasts alike.

We continue to **Lalbagh Botanical Gardens**. These Mughal Gardens follow the Persian style of architecture and are home to a diverse collection of

flora, including rare and exotic plants. Spanning 240 acres, the garden is renowned for its iconic glasshouse, modelled after London’s Crystal Palace, where we find a stunning display of vivid orchids and tulips. Be sure to visit the floral clock in the rose garden and explore the Lalbagh tree fossil, which dates back over 20 million years. The Lalbagh Rock is believed to be one of the oldest rock formations on Earth, estimated to be around 3 billion years old.

Our final visit today will be to the **private collection of Bonsai Master**, Ms. Anupama Vedachala where she will also provide a demonstration of Bonsai cultivation. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we take a scenic drive to **Mysore** for an afternoon of sightseeing. We begin with a drive up Chamundi Hill to visit the **Chamundeshwari Temple**. This temple, dedicated to the Goddess Chamundeshwari is an architectural



Zinnia at Lalbagh Botanical Garden

marvel. The temple boasts intricate carvings and a towering gopuram *(gateway tower)* that stands as a testament to the Dravidian style of architecture. Inside, the sanctum houses the idol of Chamundeshwari, adorned with jewels and flowers.

After our Temple visit, we continue to **Mysore Palace**. We stop on the way to admire the Nandi Bull, one of the largest in India. The Nandi Bull, also known as the monolithic bull, is a grand statue carved out of a single piece of granite. It is a significant symbol in Hindu mythology, representing Lord Shiva’s mount. The statue is intricately carved and stands majestically at the base of Chamundi Hill.

The **Maharaja’s Palace** is one of the important sights in Mysore. Built in Indo-Saracenic style with domes, turrets, arches and colonnades, the palace is a treasure trove of exquisite carvings and works of art from all over the world. The interiors of the



Brindavan Gardens

palace are equally impressive, with ornate ceilings, intricately carved doors, vibrant stained glass windows, stunning chandeliers, royal paintings and elegant furniture, reflecting the opulence and grandeur of the Wodeyar dynasty.

In the evening, we visit the unique and colourful **Brindavan Gardens** for a spectacular evening extravaganza where the gardens come to life with a vibrant display of water, light and music. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We start the day with an early morning visit to the bustling **Devaraja Market**, a lively hub that showcases the rich flavours and colours of Mysore. Known for its vibrant flower section, the market is filled with an abundance of marigolds, roses and jasmine. In addition to flowers, the market is a sensory delight with stalls offering fresh produce, spices, traditional sweets and local crafts. The lively atmosphere, combined with the colourful displays, makes this a truly authentic and immersive cultural experience.

This afternoon we return to the **Brindavan Gardens** for a more in depth visit. Spread across an area of more than 60 acres, this garden is laid out in three terraces and ends in a horseshoe shape. Highlights include the main gate area inspired by the India Gate of New Delhi, South Brindavan, which has magnificent huge water fountains and a spectacular glass house. *(B, D)*

Day 6 Today we leave Mysore and head to **Coonoor**, enjoying a scenic drive along the way. The journey takes us through picturesque landscapes, dotted with rolling hills, lush forests and quaint villages. Here, we explore the beautiful **Coonoor Botanical Gardens**. Highlights include the centuries-old camphor tree, the vibrant rose garden and the exquisite rock garden. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After a leisurely breakfast, we transfer to Coonoor railway station to board the narrow gauge **Nilgiri Toy Train** for a scenic journey to **Ooty**. This iconic train has been designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, and our journey offers stunning views of the Nilgiri Mountains and the lush tea plantations that dot the landscape. The idea for this mountain railway was conceived in 1854 and the line was completed and opened to traffic in June 1899. Spanning 45.88 kilometres, the route stretches from Mettupayalam to Ooty. Originally powered by steam engines, the train now runs on bio-diesel due to environmental concerns, preserving its heritage while being eco-friendly.

Upon arrival in Ooty, we visit two of the town’s most stunning gardens, the **Government Botanical Gardens** and the **Rose Garden**. The **Government Botanical Gardens**, established in 1847, cover 55 acres and showcase Ooty’s natural beauty. The garden features a variety of plants, including orchids, rare species and the 20-million-year-old **Fossil Tree**.

Next, we visit the **Rose Garden** on Elk Hill, home to over 2,000 varieties of roses, including hybrid, miniature and climbing types. Laid out in 1995, the garden also offers seasonal flowers and stunning views of the surrounding hills. After our garden visits, we return to our hotel in Coonoor. *(B, D)*

Day 8 After a leisurely breakfast, we have the whole day to explore Coonoor, beginning with a visit to a **local tea plantation and factory**. As we stroll through the plantation, we learn about the various types of tea grown in the region and the intricate processes of plucking, drying and processing the leaves. At the tea factory, we observe the intriguing journey from raw leaves to finished tea, including the machinery used for rolling, fermenting and sorting. We also have the opportunity to taste some of the finest Nilgiri teas, savouring their unique flavours while enjoying the panoramic views of the surrounding hills. *(B, D)*

Day 9 Today, we travel to **Kochi**, passing through Coimbatore before boarding a train to our destination. Upon arrival, we are greeted by the vibrant cityscape of Kochi, a lively fusion of history and modernity, known for its picturesque waterfront and colonial architecture. The city’s unique blend of influences from Portuguese, Dutch and British colonial periods, combined with its thriving arts scene, makes it an unforgettable experience.

This evening, we are treated to a spectacular **Kathakali dance performance**, a mesmerising form of classical Indian dance-drama that narrates stories from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. Known for its elaborate costumes, intricate makeup and expressive hand gestures, Kathakali is a powerful visual and emotional experience. The dancers, adorned in vibrant costumes and ornate masks, perform with precise movements that convey complex emotions and dramatic narratives. *(B, D)*

Day 10 This morning, we embark on a **Heritage Walk** through Fort Kochi, immersing ourselves in the history of this bustling town, once a haven for seafaring traders. The city’s history began in AD 1341 when a major flood opened Kochi’s estuary, turning it into a prime natural harbour. It became a trading hub for global merchants and the first European township in India when the Portuguese arrived in the 15th century. The walk takes us past the iconic **Chinese fishing nets**, **St. Francis Church** and **Santa Cruz Basilica**, offering plenty of opportunities to interact with the locals.

We also visit the **Jewish Synagogue** and **Dutch Palace**. Built in 1568, the Jewish Synagogue is one of the oldest in the world, while the Dutch Palace, constructed in the traditional Kerala naalukettu style, houses temples dedicated to the royal deity Pazhayannur Bhagavathi, Lord Krishna and Lord Shiva. This afternoon, we enjoy time at leisure. *(B, IF)*

Day 11 We transfer to the airport in time for our return overnight flight to London. *(B, IF)*

Day 12 Arrive in London.


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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- 9 nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast: two nights at the 5-star Taj MG Road Bengaluru; two nights at the 4-star Radisson Blu Plaza Mysore; three nights at the 4-star Gateway Hotel Coonoor and two nights at the 5-star Fragrant Nature Hotel Kochi *(or similar)*
- Flights from London to Bengaluru and from Kochi to London
- London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Nilgiri Toy train between Coonoor to Ooty & train ride between Coimbatore to Kochi in air-conditioned Chair class
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 31 Jan **£3,495**

 Return flights available from Manchester. See page 12 for further details.

Single Supplement **£595**



Mount Fuji

Seasonal Gardens of Japan

14 DAYS from £6,895

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Surround yourself with the splendours of the Far East with an itinerary of rare gardens, bamboo forests, ancient temples, golden Buddhas, and, of course, the majestic Mount Fuji. Experience the otherworldliness of this mystical country on a garden tour unlike any other. Travel aboard the iconic bullet train, visit the historic town of Omihachiman, take a cruise beneath Mount Fuji’s snow-capped peaks on Lake Ashi, and embark upon an optional excursion to Hiroshima and its Peace Memorial Park. We have included a variety of different natural styles in order to bring this tour to life, from landscape gardens and stroll gardens to pond-and-island spaces. A popular addition to this tour is dinner with a maiko – an apprentice geisha – in traditional costume. Tradition, stories and natural beauty await. Travel in March for stunning cherry blossom or in November for vibrant autumn colours.



Tatsumi bashi bridge, Kyoto



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

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

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

Day 4 We journey to the **Prefecture of Shiga**. Beginning in **Otsu**, we visit the ancient temple of **Ishiyamadera**, which was established around the middle of the 8th century by Roben Osho. From here we continue along the shores of **Lake Biwa-ko** to the historic town of **Omihachiman** and the **Hachimanbori Canal**. Before returning to



Ginkaku-ji Temple

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, whose soaring trunks shade the path, their leaves rustling musically in the breeze. *(B)*

Day 6 Enjoy Kyoto at leisure or join an optional excursion by train to **Hiroshima** and view the **Peace Memorial Park**. *(B)*

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

Day 8 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and visit the **Heian-jingu Shrine**, a rare example of an extensive pond garden in the grounds of a Shinto shrine. Next, we explore the **Nanzen-ji Temple complex**, a quintessential Zen temple that exudes an air of serenity. This afternoon we leave Kyoto, taking the famous ‘Shinkansen’ or **Bullet Train** to Tokyo. *(B)*

Day 9 We journey to the historic seaside town of **Kamakura** to visit the **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine**, located between two lotus ponds. Next, we admire the **Great Buddha**, which has survived tidal waves, earthquakes, fires and

typhoons. We continue to the **Hase Kannon Temple**. Simple and elegant, the temple is home to a superb 11-faced Kannon, Goddess of Mercy, which is said to date from the 8th century. *(B, L)*

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

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

Day 12 Following breakfast, we have a full day sightseeing in **Tokyo** today. We begin with a visit to the **Senso-ji Temple**, Tokyo’s most sacred temple. Directly in front of the Senso-ji Temple lies the **Nakamise-dori**, the temple’s shopping precinct, where you will have free time to browse the stalls which sell everything from haircombs, fans and kimonos to wigs and genuine Edo crafts. We continue to **Rikugien Garden**, often considered Tokyo’s most beautiful Japanese landscape garden. Our next visit is to the **Imperial Palace East Garden**, which has a fine collection of bamboo and Japanese spring blossom. In the afternoon, we explore **Hamarikyu Garden** and take a cruise along the **Sumida River**. We conclude with a farewell dinner this evening. *(B, D)*

Day 13 We check out of our hotel and transfer by coach to Tokyo Airport, for our return flight to London. *(B, IF)*

Day 14 We arrive in London. *(IF)*

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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 an expert tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 Mar - 4 Apr*	£6,995
3 - 16 Nov	£6,895

Return flights available from Manchester or Birmingham. See page 12 for further details.

Single Supplement	£995
Optional Excursion: Hiroshima	On request
*Cherry blossom departure	



Ashikaga Flower Park

Gardens of Honshu and Hokkaido

14 DAYS from £6,995

 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 stunning wisteria gardens at Ashikaga is included en route to Tokyo from where we fly north to Hokkaido. On the eastern side of the island our exploration includes the Shiretoko Peninsula, a pristine wilderness typified by lush virgin forest, waterfalls and thermal springs; the strange, withered trees of Todowara Woods and the Notsuke Peninsula, home to a diverse range of birdlife. We then transfer to western Hokkaido and our base in Sapporo, from where we explore further gardens and the natural wonders of the Shikotsu Toya National Park.



- Day 1

Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart on an overnight flight from London to Tokyo. *(I/F)*
- 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 Tentozan, which affords panoramic views over Abashiri and the Okhotsk Sea beyond. *(B, D)*

Day 7

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

Day 8

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

Day 9

Today, we enjoy a full day excursion to the Notsuke Peninsula, a narrow sandspit shaped by sea currents and silt from the Shibetsu-gawa River. Said to resemble a shrimp's curved back, it is accessed via the scenic Flower Road, named for the wildflowers that bloom here in summer. We'll also explore Todowara, an eerie landscape of withered fir trees, bleached and sculpted by seawater. Later, we visit the Notsuke Peninsula Nature Centre, a long-standing rest stop offering insight into the area's unique environment. *(B, D)*

Day 10

After breakfast, we transfer to Kushiro Airport, stopping en route to admire the scenic beauty of Lake Mashu. In the early afternoon, we fly to Sapporo, where we'll enjoy an introductory city tour on arrival, including visits to the lively Nijo Market and the historic 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 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 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, I/F)*

Day 14


We arrive in London.

Inc. meals: *I/F: In flight, B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*

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 *(or similar)*
- 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 an expert tour manager and local English-speaking guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

4 - 17 May	£6,995
 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
Single Supplement	£895

NEW
TOUR



Queenstown

Gardens of New Zealand

19 DAYS from £6,995

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

A land of towering snow-capped mountain ranges, aquamarine lakes, incredible national parks, bubbling mud pools, gushing geysers, majestic fjords, huge tree ferns, rugged coastlines and glittering glaciers, New Zealand’s scenery is guaranteed to take your breath away. We see how there are parts of New Zealand that are hugely evocative of Scotland, thanks to the awe-inspiring scenery, familiar place names and various plants which were imported by the early settlers to make them feel more at home. Among the species we can expect to see are Raoulia (Vegetable sheep) and Celmisia, Ranunculus lyalli (Mount Cook Lily), Aciphyllas (Wild Spaniards), Bulbinellas, Chionohebes and Hebes; New Zealand Beech and Tree Ferns, as well as the many non-native plants which gardeners here like to grow alongside the native bush. A tour of a lifetime, look forward to uncovering stunning flowers, spotting unique wildlife, immersing yourself in Māori culture and sampling some of the best wine in the world.

Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we fly from London to **Auckland** on our overnight flight, arriving two days later. *(IF)*

Day 3 Upon arrival in **Auckland**, we are met by our coach and transfer to our first visit, **Totara Waters Subtropical Garden**. The garden displays many rare and collectable plants sourced from around the North Island, as well as garden art and unusual pots. *(D)*

Day 4 After breakfast we begin our journey south, stopping at **Beverley McConnell’s 12-acre country garden of Ayrilies**, one of the most celebrated gardens in New Zealand. From Auckland, we break our journey in Hamilton with a visit to the impressive **Hamilton Gardens**. Leaving Hamilton, we continue to the thermal wonderland of **Rotorua**, known for its bubbling mud pools, gushing

geysers, beautiful coloured hot springs and terrace formations. This evening we visit Te Pō for **Te Puia’s evening cultural experience**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 This morning we head south to the fertile Taranaki region, dominated by Mount Egmont or Taranaki. En route we call into the five-star rated **Lava Glass Museum and Garden** in Taupo. On arrival in New Plymouth, we visit **Tikorangi (The Jury Garden)**, a large landscaped garden that has one of the best plant collections in the country and has been rated as a **Garden of National Significance**. En route to the hotel, we stop off at the **Te Rewa Rewa Bridge** for a photo stop. *(B)*

Day 6 Today we take a **city tour of New Plymouth**, including **Te Kainga Marire**, the only private native garden sanctuary in New



Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Zealand to be rated as a **Garden of International Significance**. We also visit **Hollard Gardens**, which are informal and intimate, along with the restored garden of **Tupare**. Sculpted from a hillside overlooking the Waiwhakaiho River, we visit **Pukeiti Garden**, New Zealand’s premier rhododendron garden set in magnificent rainforest. *(B)*

Day 7 Leaving New Plymouth, we travel to **Wellington**, New Zealand’s capital city. On the way, we visit the outstanding **Paloma Gardens** at Wanganui, which has four distinct areas and boasts **national significance** status. *(B)*

Day 8 We start the morning with a **sightseeing tour of Wellington**, including Parliament Buildings, the lovely Botanical Gardens, and the views from Kelburn. Then we visit **Otari Native Botanic Garden and Wilton’s Bush Reserve**, New



Hamilton Gardens

Zealand’s only native botanic garden. This afternoon we visit **Zealandia** and the **Karori Sanctuary**, with over 225 hectares of regenerating native forest and 40 species of birds. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. *(B)*

Day 9 This morning we board the **Interislander Ferry** and cross **Cook Strait** to Picton in the South Island. In Picton, we board the coach and travel to **Blenheim**. The Marlborough district is now the top wine producing area in New Zealand with its wines winning awards around the world. On arrival at our hotel, the remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure. *(B)*

Day 10 Our first stop this morning is **Hortensia House**. We continue to **Woodend Gardens**, a formal garden which features many different zones with unique elements. **Paripuma** is a large 20-year-old garden developed from a barren, windswept beachfront based around a formal design and vista across Cloudy Bay. Our final stop today is **Welton House**. *(B)*

Day 11 Leaving Blenheim, we travel along a thin ledge of land pinned between the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean and the rugged ranges to Kaikoura. En route we stop at **Winterhome Garden**, a 1939 homestead with Pohutukawa planted around it. We continue across the North Canterbury Plains and the Waipara wine district, where the micro-climate of the area makes it an ideal place for growing grapes. **Pegasus Bay Winery** is a magnificent country garden nestled in the Waipara Valley wine region. *(B)*

Day 12 This morning we travel out to Governors Bay to visit **Ohinetahi**, as well known for its displays of art, architectural works and sculptures as it is for its magnificent grounds. This afternoon, we visit the **Christchurch Botanic Gardens**, which include a native New Zealand Garden, the garden of native alpine plants and the renowned central Rose Garden. *(B)*

Day 13 Today we travel through **Temuka**, known for its pottery, and down the eastern coastline to Timaru. One of the oldest Botanic Gardens, the **Timaru Botanic Gardens** surprises visitors with the depth and excellence of its collections. We continue on through **Oamaru** with its lovely white stone buildings and if time permits, we make a stop at **Moeraki Boulders** to see the unusual marble-like boulders on the beach before arriving into **Dunedin**, a city proud of its Scottish Heritage. *(B)*

Day 14 This morning, enjoy a **sightseeing tour of the city**. **Olveston House** is an authentic and original historic home depicting the life of a wealthy merchant family in the early part of the 20th century. We include a **guided tour of the house and gardens**, where we learn how the Olveston garden has been shaped by 200 years of gardening history. In the early afternoon we head to **Larnach Castle for a guided tour of the gardens** and a self-guided tour of the castle. We end our day back in the city for a **guided tour of the Dunedin Botanic Gardens**. *(B)*

Day 15 Leaving Dunedin, we travel southeast via Milton onto the Taieri Plain. Continuing through Lawrence, Roxburgh and Alexandra, we follow the river valley through quaint Clyde and onto Cromwell. We visit **Jo Wakelins’ property** near Cromwell, inspired by visiting Beth Chatto’s dry garden in England. Later on, we arrive in **Queenstown**, situated on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. *(B)*

Day 16 Today is at leisure to explore Queenstown independently. You may like to join an optional sightseeing tour to **Milford Sound**. On arrival, we join our boat for a cruise which takes us from the head of the fjord to the open sea and back again, with a **picnic lunch on board included**. At the conclusion of our cruise, reboard the coach and retrace your journey to Queenstown. *(B)*

Day 17 Later this morning we board our coach and head to **Arrowtown**. Enjoy time at leisure to wander through the shops before travelling the short distance to **Ayrburn for a wine tasting in the Barrel Room**. This evening we take a **cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw** to Walter Peak Station to **dine at the Colonel’s Homestead** – one of the absolute highlights of this tour. *(B, D)*

Day 18 Our tour of New Zealand comes to an end today as we transfer to Queenstown Airport for our return flight to London. *(B)*

Day 19 Arrive in London. *(IF)*


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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 15 nights’ bed and breakfast accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels; one night in Auckland; one night in Rotorua; two nights New Plymouth; two nights in Wellington; two night in Marlborough; two nights in Christchurch; two nights in Dunedin and three nights in Queenstown
- ▶ Three dinners
- ▶ Flights from London to Auckland and Queenstown to London
- ▶ London pre-flight executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

10 - 28 Nov £6,995

 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement £1,195



Yosemite National Park

California – In the footsteps of John Muir

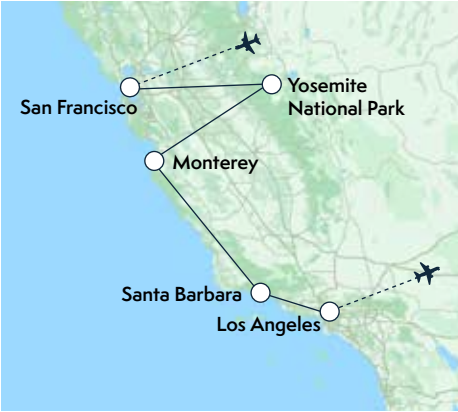
15 DAYS from £6,995

 DEPARTURE POINT: LONDON

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

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

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



Day 1 Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London to **San Francisco**. Upon arrival, we'll be greeted by our coach and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is free to explore or relax after our journey. *(IF)*

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



Ruth Bancroft Gardens

Day 3 Today, we cross the famous **Golden Gate Bridge** to visit **Muir Woods**, a 559-acre forest of towering coast redwood trees. In the afternoon we enter the **Golden Gate Park** for our visit to **Strybing Arboretum & botanical garden**. There is much to see here, including Mediterranean and Tropical Climate Gardens, Temperate Gardens and a host of Speciality Gardens. *(B)*

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

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

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

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

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

Day 9 We have a real treat in store today as we travel along the stunning **17 Mile Drive**. Passing through the **Del Monte Forest** there are approximately 20 stops along this well marked route, each with a landmark of interest. We then visit the **Mission San Carlos Borromeo** in Carmel, one of the most popular tourist sites in California and a place of pilgrimage for visitors from all over the world, including Pope John Paul II in 1987. *(B)*

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

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

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



Golden Gate

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

Day 14 We depart for **Fullerton Arboretum**, a former orange grove and now the largest botanical garden in Orange County. En route to the airport, our final visit is to **Huntington Botanical Gardens**, which consist of 15 specialised gardens arranged within a park-like landscape. Among the most remarkable is the Desert Garden with its mature cacti. We then transfer to Los Angeles International Airport for our return evening flight to London. *(B, IF)*

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

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 13 nights' accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis: five nights in San Francisco, two nights in Yosemite National Park, two nights in Monterey, three nights in Santa Barbara and one night in Anaheim
- ▶ Flights from London to San Francisco and from Los Angeles to London
- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 Sep - 6 Oct	£6,995
 Return flights available from Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh or Newcastle. See page 12 for further details.	
Single Supplement	£1,895
Optional Excursion: Alcatraz	£65



Iguaçu Falls

Brazil’s Gardens and Natural Wonders

17 DAYS from £8,995

 DEPARTURE POINT: LONDON

Our exciting tour to Brazil opens in Rio de Janeiro with a cruise round the calm waters of Guanabara Bay on a Brazilian schooner followed in the next few days by a cable car ride up Sugar Loaf Mountain and a train ride to the Christ the Redeemer statue.

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

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

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



- Day 1

Enjoy access to the airport Executive lounge before we depart from London for Brazil. *(IF)*
- Day 2

We arrive in **Rio de Janeiro** early this morning, to be met by our local coach and guide. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore Rio. *(IF)*
- Day 3

As an introduction to the flora of Brazil there could be no better place to start than the **Botanical Garden** in Rio de Janeiro, one of the largest in the world with approximately 8200 species of living plants. Later we drive along Copacabana beach and on to **Flamengo Park**, a large landfill area in the bay which was designed by Burle Marx. We continue to one of Rio’s most famous attractions, the **Sugar Loaf Mountain**, with a short stroll along the **Bem Te Vi** path, surrounded by lush vegetation, before we take the cable car to the top of the mountain and some stunning views. *(B)*
- Day 4

We begin this morning with a guided tour of a garden associated with **Roberto Burle Marx** *(1909-1994)*, known internationally as one of the most important landscape architects of the 20th



Pantanal



Hyacinth Macaws

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

- Day 5

We take the rack railway for a close-up look at the iconic statue of **Christ the Redeemer**. This afternoon we enjoy a cruise around the calm waters of **Guanabara Bay** aboard a refurbished Brazilian schooner, which will give us marvellous views of Rio. The evening is at leisure or alternatively enjoy an **optional barbecue dinner at Barra Brasa**. *(B)*
- Day 6

Today we visit one of the most famous of Roberto Burle Marx’s gardens, **Fazenda Marambaia** *(known formerly as the Monteiro Garden)*, which includes a guided tour. We return to Rio later in the afternoon, with the evening at leisure. *(B)*
- Day 7

We leave Rio and travel along the coast to **Paraty**, once the main port for shipping gold to Portugal and now a charming and well-preserved colonial town. *(B)*
- Day 8

This morning we enjoy a **cruise** on a **Brazilian ‘Saveiros’** along the calm waters

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

- Day 9

We visit a **bromeliad and orchid plantation**, before enjoying lunch at **Villa Verde**, a beautiful, small restaurant owned and run by a Swiss chef, who has found his own piece of tropical paradise. *(B, L)*
- Day 10

This morning we return to Rio in time for our flight to **Foz do Iguaçu**. On arrival we transfer to our luxurious hotel. Uniquely located in the Brazilian National Park, next to the Falls. *(B)*
- Day 11

In the morning we have a guided tour of the Brazilian side of the **Iguaçu Falls**. After an opportunity for lunch *(not included)* we transfer by coach to the ‘Birds Park’, a large reserve located next to the Falls boasting a variety of species including the familiar toucan. *(B)*
- Day 12

The morning is free to relax and in the afternoon we travel via Paraguay into Argentina for further thrilling views of the falls, and a train through the park to the various viewpoints. This evening there is an **optional Dinner Show**, including an excellent meal and folkloric dances from this region which covers the three countries of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. *(B)*
- Day 13

We return to the airport for our flight to **Campo Grande** situated in the **Pantanal**, the world’s largest continuous wetland area. On arrival we shall travel to our **Eco Lodge** where we enjoy a drinks reception and presentation. *(B, D)*
- Day 14

We have a full and rewarding day dedicated to observing the Pantanal’s flora and fauna at the private reserve. The bird-life alone features an extraordinary range of species, including bare-faced curassow, buff-necked ibis and the horned

screamer. Both lunch and dinner are served at the Lodge. *(B, L, D)*

- Day 15

Today we enjoy another fascinating day in the pantanal. You may wish to enjoy more activities or learn about the customs and culture of the local cowboys, known as “Pantaneiros”. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 16

Sadly it is time to say ‘adeus’ to Brazil as we return to the airport at Campo Grande for our return flight back to London. *(B, IF)*
- Day 17

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

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES		
► 14 nights’ accommodation: five nights’ bed and breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Rio de Janeiro; three nights’ bed and breakfast at the Pousada do Sandi in Paraty; three nights’ bed and breakfast at the 5-star Hotel Wish Iguacu in Iguazú; three nights’ full board at the Poudsada Refugion da Ila in the Pantanal <i>(or similar)</i>		
► Return flights between London and Brazil		
► All transfers and flights within Brazil		
► Comfortable coach travel throughout		
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary		
► Services of an expert tour manager plus local guides		
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON		
17 Oct - 2 Nov		£8,995
 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.		
Single Supplement		£2,795
Optional BBQ dinner at Barra Brasa	On request	
Optional Dinner Show	On request	



Torres del Paine

Chile and the Falkland Islands

17 DAYS from £12,995

DEPARTURE POINT: London

In one of the most exciting holiday packages that Brightwater Holidays has ever offered, we combine Chile, that amazing ‘land of contrasts’ with snow-capped volcanoes, towering glaciers and spectacular flora and fauna, with the unique thrill of travelling to the remote Falkland Islands.

We begin in the Chilean capital, Santiago, a huge city of shining skyscrapers and beautiful parks. We tour the National Park of La Campana (in the footsteps of Charles Darwin) before flying south to Punta Arenas and the Torres del Paine National Park. Two full days are set aside to do justice to the extraordinary range of plants, birds and animals to be found here in the magnificent desolation of Patagonia, and we have also included a boat trip on Lake Grey and the Grey Glacier. We then fly from Punta Arenas to the Falkland Islands, situated 400 miles off the coast of South America in the South Atlantic Ocean. The Falklands offer fresh



Lake Grey

air, big skies and an abundance of wildlife, much of which is very tame and approachable – we will discover that the penguins have no hesitation in coming up to investigate visitors! There are also elephant seals, sea lions and albatross amongst other birds and animals and in the course of our stay we will visit several different islands providing endless photo opportunities and an unforgettable experience of life on these unspoilt and proudly British islands. Truly a trip of a lifetime!



- Day 1

We depart from London on an overnight flight to Santiago, **Chile**. *(IF)*
- Day 2

On arrival at Santiago Airport, we transfer to our hotel. In the afternoon we depart on a **half day tour** of historical Santiago, Chile’s capital city. *(D)*
- Day 3

After breakfast this morning we depart for a full day excursion to **La Campana National Park**, which was created in 1967 to help preserve one of the most important ecosystems of the region and is now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. *(B)*
- Day 4

Transfer to Santiago airport for our flight to Punta Arenas. We are met on arrival and transferred to **Torres del Paine National Park**. As we drive through the vast Patagonian steppes, we take the opportunity to look for some of the great



Bleaker Island

array of plants endemic to this dry region of Patagonia as well as surrounding regions of southern Argentina and the Falkland Islands. *(B, D)*

- Day 5

A full day excursion to **Torres del Paine National Park**, where we can expect to find a very interesting array of plant species. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 6

Transfer to the Grey area and take a boat trip across **Lake Grey**, which is fed by the Grey Glacier. Smaller inflatable boats will take us up to the glacier itself. Later we continue our exploration of the **Torres del Paine National Park** and aim to discover representative species of the Patagonian steppes. The grandeur of the scenery should make for a truly memorable day in this magnificent Biosphere Reserve. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 7

Transfer to Punta Arenas where we stay overnight. *(B, L)*
- Day 8

Transfer to Punta Arenas Airport for our flight to Mount Pleasant International Airport on the **Falkland Islands**. On arrival a 30-minute internal flight will take us to **Bleaker Island**, which lies close to the south-east coast of East Falkland, at the entrance to Adventure Sound. *(B, D)*
- Day 9

We explore **Bleaker Island** today, beginning with an orientation tour. Flowers on Bleaker include the yellow and dog orchids, lady’s slipper, common violet and vanilla daisy. Queen of the Falklands butterflies breed in the Pebbly Bay area, feeding on native flowers. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 10

After breakfast we fly to the penguin paradise of **Pebble Island**, named after the unusual pebbles that were once abundant on its

beaches. Around 40 bird species have been recorded, including over 1,000 pairs of imperial cormorants that breed on Tamar Point. *(B, L, D)*

- Day 11

This morning after breakfast we spend the day exploring **Pebble Island**. The spectacular Elephant Beach is the longest beach in the Falklands at 4 miles long and is a lovely stretch of white sand. The eastern end of the island is heathland with low cliffs and ponds, which are home to waterfowl and wading-birds including Black-necked swans. There are occasional sightings of Red shoveler and Cinnamon teal. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 12

We have another full day excursion exploring **Pebble Island**, which is home to several large colonies of gentoo, Magellanic and southern rockhopper penguins. Eight of the Falkland endemic plants grow here, including vanilla daisy and lady’s slipper. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 13

After breakfast we depart on an internal flight to **Stanley**. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 14

Depart on a full day excursion to **Volunteer Point**, a stunning three-mile long beach which is home to the Falklands’ largest colony of breeding King penguins, here at the northerly limit of their breeding range. The birds are usually very tame and approachable and will not hesitate to come and greet visitors! *(B, L, D)*
- Day 15

We take a flight back to **Santiago**, Chile, where we stay overnight. *(B)*
- Day 16

Return to Santiago Airport for our overnight flight back to London, arriving the following day. *(B, IF)*

Day 17

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

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

► Seven nights’ accommodation in Chile: three nights’ bed and breakfast at the Hotel Marina Las Condes, Santiago; three nights’ half board at the Hotel Las Torres, Torres del Paine; one night’s bed and breakfast at the Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas *(or similar)*

► Welcome drink and dinner and three lunches

► Seven nights’ accommodation on a full board basis in the Falkland Islands: two nights at Cassard House/Cobb’s Cottage on Bleaker Island; three nights at the Pebble Island Lodge on Pebble Island; two nights at the Malвина House Hotel, Stanley

► Return flights from London to Santiago, and all connecting and internal flights in Chile and the Falkland Islands

► London pre-flight Executive lounge access

► Comfortable coach travel throughout

► All visits as outlined in the itinerary

► Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

14 - 30 Nov

£12,995

Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement

£3,995



Seven Coloured Earths

Gardens of Mauritius

12 DAYS from £4,195

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius is only the size of the county of Surrey, yet it is blessed with a rich and diverse flora and fauna, and is home to some of the rarest plants and creatures in the world. Caressed by a benign climate and light but regular rainfall, virgin forests and coastal lands provide ideal habitats for myriad species, many of them unique to the island – of the 1,000 or so plants indigenous to Mauritius, about 300 are totally unique. Our exploration will reveal trees that will be the last of their kind in existence, giant waterlilies, and colourful Cannas and Heliconias. We will witness outstanding conservation work with almost extinct plants and animals and there will also be plenty of time to enjoy the facilities of our resort hotel, the white sandy beaches and turquoise waters, and soak up the local culture, with its unique combination of European, Indian and African influences.



Caudan Waterfront

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

Day 2 Upon arrival in Mauritius, we transfer to our hotel and have the rest of the day to settle in and relax. (D)

Day 3 Our day starts at **La Vanille Tropical Garden**, where we will have a guided tour of the flora and fauna in this unique zoo, which is beautifully landscaped with tropical plants. In the afternoon we visit the **Domaine de Saint Aubin**, a colonial house from 1819, which offers a number of different visitor experiences. You can also explore the Botanical Garden which houses one of just two *Chorisia* (*silk floss trees*) in Mauritius and a Spice Garden. (B, D)



Île aux Aigrettes

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

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



Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden

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

Day 7 Free day to relax and enjoy the facilities of the hotel or explore the surrounding area at your leisure. (B, D)

Day 8 Enjoy a guided visit to **Curepipe Botanical Garden**. 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



Giant tortoise

afternoon we visit **Le Domaine de Bois Cheri**, the largest and oldest tea plantation in Mauritius, where we tour the museum and enjoy a tasting of the finished product. (B, D)

Day 9 This morning we travel to the capital **Port Louis** for some free time before we depart for a visit to the **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolan Botanic Garden** at Pamplemousses, famous for its canal full of giant waterlilies. Later we visit the **Domaine de Labourdonnais**, where we discover the Château and the Nursery, which has a wide range of plants, before enjoying a tasting of local rum or fruit juice. (B, D)

Day 10 We begin today with a visit to the **plantations** in Moka situated on the central plateau of the island, where we will see fields and greenhouses filled with all manner of plants. Later we visit a **pineapple plantation** followed by a tasting of the delicious fruit. In the afternoon we explore **Eureka House**, a colonial mansion with a dramatic woodland ravine as well as a garden, with lunch included. (B, L, D)

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

Day 12 We arrive in London.

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



Pink Pigeon (Nesoenas mayeri)

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► 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 an expert tour manager and local guides	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
18 - 29 Mar	£4,195
10 - 21 Nov	£4,295
✈ Return flights available from Manchester, Birmingham or Edinburgh. See page 12 for further details.	
Single Supplement	£795



Namaqualand

Spring Flowers of Namaqualand

15 DAYS from £5,295

DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

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

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

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

Day 3 After breakfast, we ascend to the top of **Table Mountain** by cable car and discover some of the many floral species to be found here.

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

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



Day 5 We depart for a visit to **!Khwa Ttu San Cultural Centre and Nature Reserve**.

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

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

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



Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens



Boulders Beach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 15 Arrive in London.

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- 12 nights’ bed and breakfast basis: three at the 4-star Commodore Hotel, Cape Town; one night at the 3-star Saldanha Bay Hotel, Saldanha; three nights at the 3-star Letsatsi Lodge, Vanrhynsdorp; one night at the 3-star Clanwilliam Hotel, Clanwilliam; two nights at the 4-star De Zalze Lodge, Stellenbosch, two nights at the 3-star Windsor Hotel, Hermanus *(or similar)*
- Ten lunches and five dinners
- Return flights from London to Cape Town
- London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager and local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

29 Aug - 12 Sep £5,295

Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

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



Giza Pyramids

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt

12 DAYS from £4,595

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

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. We will find ourselves face to face with one of the most recognisable and iconic monuments 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. A highlight in Cairo is a visit to the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum which displays never seen before artefacts and is now one of the largest museums in the world. We will also see the Step Pyramid, the Temple of Luxor and Karnak Temple, the Valley of the Kings, and Edfu Temple, one of the best-preserved shrines in Egypt. We also enjoy four nights aboard a Nile river cruise ship.

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

Day 2 After breakfast we begin our full day of discovery in the company of a local expert Egyptologist visiting Pharaonic Cairo, **Saqqara**, arguably the best-preserved ancient burial-ground in Egypt. This is also the site of **The Step Pyramid**, the first proper pyramid built for King Zoser in the 27th-century BC by the architect Imhotep. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Later we discover **The Great Pyramids & Sphinx of Giza**. Rising from the desert the three Pyramids erected by King Cheops and guarded by the mysterious Sphinx are considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World and one of the most important sites in Egypt. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 Today we visit the newly opened **Grand Egyptian Museum** which sits on the edge of the Giza plateau. The Museum boasts over 750,000 sqm in floor size, 12 exhibition halls and thousands upon thousands of artefacts and is now one of the largest museums in the world. **The Citadel of Salah Al-Din** was built between 1176-1182 AD and this Citadel fortress provides a panoramic view of Cairo from the Moqattam Hills. We then visit the **Al-Orman Garden** – a stunning botanical garden which dates from 1875 and the reign of Khedive Ismail Pasha. Today, the garden contains a herbarium building, a rock garden, a rose garden, cactus gardens, and probably the most notable feature, the lotus pond. Later we visit **Khan El-Khalili bazaar** where treasures include spices, perfumes, gold and silver, leatherwork, glass, ceramics and Egyptian cotton. *(B, L, D)*



Grand Egyptian Museum

Day 4 Today we transfer to Cairo airport and fly to **Luxor**. On arrival, we head to the **Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor** for a unique tour. The hotel has a history of hosting royalty and celebrities throughout the years. The interiors feature grand staircases, high ceilings and lounge areas that are appointed with antique furniture and beautiful flower arrangements. Relax and socialise as you enjoy French cuisine with the latest fusion dishes from around the world. We enjoy lunch at the hotel before transferring to our hotel for the evening. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 This morning we enjoy a private half-day tour in Luxor on the **East Bank**. One of the first stops must be the **Temple of Luxor** built by Amenophis III and which was originally connected to the **Karnak Temple** via a long stone processional street called a dromos. The well-preserved dromos was built by Nectanebo I and was originally lined on either side by sphinxes. We later transfer to our 5-star river vessel and enjoy lunch on board. The afternoon is free to relax. Dinner tonight is followed by entertainment. *(B, L, D)*



Luxor

Day 6 A full day visiting the **West Bank** today. Here we will discover a variety of tombs starting with **The Valley of the Kings** which has tombs from the 18th and 19th Dynasties. Some tombs can still be seen as we head towards the **Temple of Seti I**. The road winds westward until reaching the **Valley of Asasif**. These are 25th and 26th Dynasty tombs and at the foot of a cliff named **Deir el-Bahri** is a spectacular complex of temples. The **Temples of Mentuhotep I, Hatshepsut and Thutmose II** here must be seen. We return to our river vessel for lunch, before cruising overnight to Esna. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 We begin with a tour of **Edfu Temple** - one of the best-preserved shrines in Egypt. The temple was built in the Ptolemaic Kingdom between 237 and 57 BC. The inscriptions on its walls provide important information on language, myth and religion during the Hellenistic period in Egypt. After lunch onboard we visit **Kom-Ombo Temple**. This temple is dedicated to two gods, Sobek the crocodile god and Haroeris - the falcon god Horus. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 Today we cruise to **Aswan** where we begin with a private tour visiting the **High Dam**. It contains 43 million cubic metres of material and 11,000 cubic metres per second of water can pass through. Abandoned thousands of years ago in the quarries of Aswan, the **Unfinished Obelisk** is a granite would-be monument that was never finished. It is one of the most important archaeological finds in Egypt for the insight it has provided into ancient stonemasonry methods. We then proceed to visit **Philae Temple** on the tiny island of Philae, a mere 450 metres long and less than 150 metres wide. It was famed for its beauty

and was known as the ‘Pearl of Egypt’. Plants and palm trees grew from the fertile deposits that had collected in the crevices of the granite bedrock. We return to our river vessel and after lunch take a **Felucca** around the Aswan Islands, then visit the Botanical gardens.

Covering 6.8 hectares, the **Aswan Botanical Garden** is home to thousands of birds and many exotic plants imported from many parts of the world, offering a beautiful and unique escape from the city. Dinner on board tonight is followed by a Nubian Show. *(B, L, D)*

Day 9 This morning we have the opportunity of an optional excursion to **Abu Simbel** by air, a temple built by Ramesses II in ancient Nubia, where he wished to demonstrate his power and his divine nature. Four colossal *(20 metres high)* statues of him sit in pairs flanking the entrance.

We continue to our hotel in Aswan and later enjoy a late afternoon tea at the historic **Old Cataract Hotel** where Agatha Christie wrote *Death on the Nile*. Delight in an authentic **High Tea** experience and revel in the stunning views overlooking the Nile and Elephantine Island. We return to our hotel for dinner. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 10 Free time to relax before we transfer to Aswan airport for our flight to Cairo where we transfer to our hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 11 Today we head to **Alexandria** for a full but most enjoyable day exploring the **Catacombs of Kom El-Shouqafa** and the **Roman Amphitheatre**. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Afterwards we visit **Montazah Palace Gardens** which are located at the eastern edge of

Alexandria on the north coast of Egypt. The complex, which cover 360 acres in size, is a beautiful property that overlooks Al Montaza and encompasses palm-tree lined walkways, several greenhouses and semi-private beach. We return to Cairo for dinner at our hotel. *(B, L, D)*

Day 12 Today we transfer to Cairo airport for our return flight to London. *(B, IF)*

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► 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 <i>(or similar)</i>	
► 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 an expert tour manager	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
5 - 16 Feb	£4,595
5 - 16 Nov	£4,995
 Return flights available from Manchester. See page 12 for further details.	
Single Supplement	£1,195
Optional Excursion: Abu Simbel	£495



Spitzkoppe

Rock Art of Namibia

12 DAYS from £5,295 | TOUR MANAGER: Clive Warsop

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Rock art in Namibia is an essential aspect of the country’s cultural heritage, providing a window into the lives of the ancient people who once inhabited the region. These artworks, created thousands of years ago, give us valuable insights into social, spiritual, and environmental aspects of early human societies in Namibia. On this tour, we discover Spitzkoppe, often referred to as the “Matterhorn of Africa,” with its rock paintings of animals and human figures. We also visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Twyfelfontein, one of the most famous rock art locations in the country, featuring over 2,500 engravings and paintings and Brandberg Mountain, known for the “White Lady” paintings.



Windhoek



White Lady of Brandberg

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

Day 2 Upon arrival, we will transfer to our hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure. *(D)*

Day 3 Accompanied by our guide, we proceed to **Spitzkoppe** in the morning. Often referred to as the “Matterhorn of Namibia,” Spitzkoppe is a group of enormous orange granite peaks, rounded in shape through centuries of erosion. One of its most iconic features is the natural Rock Arch, a stone bridge offering spectacular landscape views. The numerous trails around the mountain allow us to explore the area on foot and this afternoon our guide will take us on a guided hike. We discover more about the region’s prehistoric culture, through the ancient rock paintings here. These illustrations, drawn with animal blood, are believed to have been created by the Khoisan people, who inhabited the region thousands of years ago. These paintings



Waterberg Plateau Park

provide a fascinating glimpse into their lives and beliefs, depicting scenes of hunting, dancing and various animals.*(B)*

Day 4 This morning there is the chance to climb the Spitzkoppe again to explore further and from here we proceed to **Ai Aiba Rock Painting Lodge**. Nestled in the Erongo Mountains of Namibia, Ai Aiba Rock Painting Lodge displays remarkable artwork and offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape, with ancient rock paintings nearby and excellent spots for hiking and birdwatching. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Today, we dedicate our time to exploring the **local rock art** by safari vehicle, followed by guided walks to various painting sites, each with its own story to tell. Some of the artwork features intricate depictions of animals and humans, while others hint at trance-like states and connections to the spirit world. *(B, D)*

Day 6 We start early this morning for our first stop at the foot of **Brandberg Mountain** and from here we make our way further north. Brandberg is known for its majestic beauty and significant cultural heritage, and is famous for its ancient rock paintings, with the most notable being the “White Lady” painting, which is believed to be over 2,000 years old. We enjoy a walk to the rock engravings, with our local guide, and learn more about the fascinating history of this area. We then visit **Twyfelfontein**, home to one of the largest and most important concentrations of rock art. This UNESCO World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2007, is a remarkable testament to the rich cultural and spiritual history of the region, with its intricate engravings depicting animals, humans and spiritual symbols that have endured for millennia. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After an early breakfast, we will visit the **Burnt Mountain** and **Organ Pipes** before we venture off the beaten track to **Huab Lodge**. Absorb the tranquillity and peaceful atmosphere of this special site, which is cocooned by stunning views. With a blend of luxury and wilderness, the lodge offers a unique experience in the heart of the African bush. Relax in the natural hot spring. *(B, D)*

Day 8 We spend some of today visiting examples of **San art** and **rock engravings**, which depict the San tribe’s spiritual beliefs, rituals and daily life. We enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. *(B)*

Day 9 Today we make our way to the **Waterberg** region. The plateau rises about 200 meters above the surrounding plains and extends over 50 kilometres from east to west. It is a significant ecological and geological landmark, known for its unique flora, fauna and historical and cultural importance. The park’s diverse habitats, including woodlands, savannas, and rocky outcrops, support a wide range of wildlife. These act as a sanctuary for endangered species, such as the black rhinoceros, buffalo, and sable antelope. There’s the opportunity to see these beautiful animals in their natural habitat on our optional rhino drive. *(B, D)*


Day 10 After breakfast we depart for Windhoek. We will visit a bushman community situated 20km before Windhoek where we will embark on a **bushman walk** and learn more about this fascinating tribe and how they used to survive in the harsh Kalahari and the challenges they face in the modern world. Tonight we will enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *(B, D)*

Day 11 After breakfast, we will transfer to the airport for our return overnight flight to London. *(B, IF)*

Day 12 Arrive in London

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER
CLIVE WARSOP
Our expert in Prehistory, Clive is looking forward to exploring the famous Rock Art sites of this corner of Southern Africa.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES	
► Nine nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast basis: Two nights Hilton Garden Inn; one night Spitzkoppe Tented Camp; two nights Ai Aiba Rock Painting Lodge; one night Twyfelfontein Country Lodge; two nights Huab Lodge; one night Waterberg Wilderness Lodge	
► Return flights from London to Windhoek	
► London pre-flight Executive lounge access	
► Comfortable travel in an overland safari vehicle	
► All visits as outlined in the itinerary	
► Services of Clive Warsop as tour manager and local guides	
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
3 - 14 Jun	£5,295
 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.	
Single Supplement	£595



Dougga

An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia

9 DAYS from £2,195 | TOUR MANAGER: Clive Warsop

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Join us on an extraordinary journey as we explore the archaeological wonders of Tunisia, a land steeped in ancient history. We stay at four carefully selected hotels near key archaeological sites, Roman ruins, bustling medinas and museums.

Our tour includes visits to magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as the historic medina of Kairouan, the ancient ruins of Carthage and the impressive hilltop remains of Dougga. We uncover ancient Roman treasures, including a well-preserved amphitheatre that stands spectacularly against the stunning backdrop of the Tunisian landscape. Throughout our tour, we also visit several notable museums that house collections of Punic, Roman and Islamic treasures.

This tour is perfect for history lovers and explorers alike and promises unforgettable cultural and archaeological experiences in the heart of Tunisia.



Carthage - Byrsa Hill



Bardo Museum

Day 1 We fly from London to Tunis. On arrival, we transfer by coach to the Regency Tunis Hotel, Gammarth, where we stay for the next two nights. (D)

Day 2 Following breakfast, we start our day at the **Bardo Museum**, a key cultural site in Tunisia known for its impressive collection of Roman mosaics, considered one of the finest in the world. Other highlights include the abundant collection of Punic jewels as well as a gallery of Roman Sarcophagi, Christian baptisteries and a Roman ship's cargo wrecked off the coast of Cape Africa and its Hellenistic Greek art master pieces: bronze pieces, marble sculptures, and furniture. In the afternoon, we explore the ruins of **Carthage**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our visit begins at **Byrsa Hill**, the ancient citadel and centre of Carthaginian power, where we see remnants of Punic and Roman architecture. We then travel to Salammbô, an ancient sacred area dedicated to the Phoenician deities Tanit and Baal that has provided insights into Carthaginian religious practices. We



El Djem

end our day at the Roman Antonine Baths. Notable for their unique design and proximity to the sea, they offer a glimpse into the grandeur of Roman engineering and the luxurious lifestyle of ancient Carthage. (B, D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we depart from our hotel and head to **Thuburbo Maius**. Here, we explore the remains of an ancient Roman city, which includes many well-preserved ruins, including the Capitole, Temple of Peace, Temple of Mercury, the House of Neptune, the Summer and Winter Baths and the forum with towering colonnades on three sides. The site offers a fascinating glimpse into the architectural and cultural achievements of the Romans, providing valuable insights into their daily life, religion and social structure. In the afternoon, we visit **Dougga**, an impressive hilltop site surrounded by olive groves. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is recognised as the best-preserved Roman small town in North Africa. Notable structures include the Capitol, the Temple of Juno-Caelestis, the Temple of Saturn and the 19 tiered theatre. Dougga's rich history and exceptional preservation attract historians, archaeologists and tourists alike. Later we check into our hotel in Dougga in time for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4 Today we visit the archaeological sites at **Bulla Regia**. Known for its unique underground villas, designed to protect residents from the region's extreme heat. These villas showcase intricate mosaics and well-preserved architectural features, providing a glimpse into the luxurious lifestyle of the Roman elite. Bulla Regia is home to impressive public buildings, the colossal Memmian Baths, a small but beautifully preserved theatre, the impressive House of the Hunt and Bulla Regia's star attraction, the House of Amphitrite, making it a significant archaeological site to explore. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we leave our hotel and travel to **Kairouan**, taking in the scenic drive through the Tunisian countryside along the way. Upon our arrival, we check into our hotel and the remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure. (B, D)

Day 6 Today, we explore **Kairouan**, the fourth holiest city in Islam after Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem. Founded in 670, Kairouan became the Aghlabid capital and a centre of learning. It has never lost its ancient esteem, and it is still a place of pilgrimage. We begin in the historic medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its narrow streets, vibrant souks and ancient architecture. Notable here is the Great Mosque of Kairouan, or Mosque of Uqba, one of the oldest and most important mosques in the Islamic world, dating back to the 7th century. (B, D)

Day 7 After breakfast, we leave our hotel in Kairouan to visit the archaeological sites of **El Djem** and **Sousse**. In El Djem, we explore the well-preserved Roman amphitheatre, which once hosted gladiatorial contests and could seat up to 35,000 spectators. In Sousse, we wander through the Medina, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we admire the traditional architecture and visit the impressive Ribat, a fortified monastery dating back to the 8th century. (B, D)

Day 8 Our first stop is **Kerkouane**, an ancient Punic city known for its well-preserved ruins and unique architecture dating back to the 6th century BC. It was discovered in 1952, and extensive excavations have revealed a semi-circular layout, enclosed by a low rampart. Amongst the ruins we are able to view houses with built-in baths, benches and water channels. A highlight is a traditional depiction of the goddess Tanit, inlaid into a red floor in small white stones. Next, we visit the **Nabeul Museum**, which features a rich collection of

artefacts from the Punic, Roman and Islamic periods. Highlights include pottery, mosaics and tools that showcase the region's historical significance, along with informative displays. (B, D)

Day 9 Following breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight back to London. (B)

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER
CLIVE WARSOP
Returning to Tunisia in 2026
Clive is delighted to share his passion for archaeology and ancient ruins.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Eight nights' dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation: two nights at the Regency Tunis Hotel, Gammarth, two nights at the Hotel Thugga, Dougga, two nights at the Hotel La Kasbahm, Kairouan and two nights at Le Royal Hotel, Hammamet
- Return flights from London to Tunis
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Clive Warsop as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

16 - 24 Apr	£2,195
25 Sep - 3 Oct	£2,195

 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Monteverde

Gardens of Costa Rica

13 DAYS from £4,995

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

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.

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

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

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, 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)*

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

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, D)*

Day 7 After a boat trip on Lake Arenal, we head south to Monteverde. In the afternoon we visit an orchid garden. *(B, 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. We also visit a butterfly garden, where we can expect to see myriad different species of these delicate, colourful creatures. *(B, L)*

Day 9 This morning we depart for Manuel Antonio and on arrival the afternoon is at leisure. *(B, L)*

Day 10 Explore the Manuel Antonio National Park, one of the most beautiful and bio-diverse areas in the world and visit Villa Vanilla, where we have a tour of the farm and can see a variety of spices such as vanilla, true Ceylon cinnamon and allspice. *(B, L)*

Day 11 This morning we have another visit to an orchid garden. We later drive to the central valley to visit the private garden of Doña Esther’s home in Ciudad Colón. *(B, D)*

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

Day 13 We arrive in London.

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



Hummingbirds

FOUR-DAY MANUEL ANTONIO BEACH EXTENSION FROM £745pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- 11 nights’ bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Bougainvillea Hotel, San José; two nights at the 3-star Villa Florencia, Turrialba; two nights at the 3-star Volcano Inn, Arenal; two nights at the 3-star Los Pinos, Monteverde; two nights at the 3-star La Foresta, Quepos *(or similar)*
- Five dinners and six lunches
- Return flights from London to San José
- London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
8 - 20 Feb	£4,995

 Flights from your local airport may be available. Call our Travel Experts for more information.

Single Supplement	£995
-------------------	------



Hunte’s Botanical Garden © Trevor Edwards

Gardens of Barbados

9 DAYS from £3,695 | TOUR MANAGER: David Hurron

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

At 21 miles long and 14 miles wide, Barbados is a small and perfectly formed vision of pure Caribbean paradise. This is a place of upbeat welcomes, radiant seas, sandy beaches, golden palms, and thick gleaming rainforest – the quintessential island idyll. It’s also a place where private gardens blossom, lilies and heliconias burst vibrantly out of the undergrowth, and species of orchid thrive in their thousands. This laid-back tour really does have something for everyone. Picture gazing across the sweeping vistas of Cherry Tree Hill, watching the lively resident monkeys of the Andromeda Botanical Garden and exploring the George Washington House, an important remnant of the island’s plantation past. Join us as we escape the bustle of mainland life, and channel your inner castaway.

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

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

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

Day 4 We explore Harrison’s Cave this morning, a crystalline limestone cavern which lies in the centre of the island. We will also take a leisurely walk along the nature trail that has been created here. We continue with a visit to the Flower Forest, located in one of the most beautiful areas of Barbados and built on a former sugar plantation. *(B, L)*

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

Day 6 Today is free to stroll along the beach, take a swim or perhaps venture further afield. Alternatively, join our optional excursion, a cruise aboard a Catamaran yacht. Relax on board watch the beautiful coastline of Barbados slip by, then drop anchor for a swim followed by a sumptuous Barbadian lunch. *(B)*

Day 7 We explore the island’s capital Bridgetown today, which was founded by English settlers in 1628. Historic Old Bridgetown and its Garrison is now inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There will also be free time for shopping. *(B, D)*

Day 8 Enjoy some time at leisure before we transfer to the airport for our return overnight flight to London. *(B, IF)*

Day 9 We arrive in London.

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



YOUR TOUR MANAGER

DAVID HURRION

Join horticulturalist David as he explores the wonderful tropical gardens of Barbados.



FOUR-DAY BEACH EXTENSION FROM £495pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
5 - 13 Feb	£3,695
9 - 17 Nov	£3,695

 Return flights available from Manchester. See page 12 for further details.

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

Optional Excursion:

Catamaran Cruise	£120
------------------	------

Your
2026
Calendar



January

- Gardens of Southern India
20 - 31 Jan
- Up Helly Aa - 7 Day
24 - 30 Jan
- Up Helly Aa by Air- 4 Day
26 - 29 Jan

February

- Gardens and Temples of Egypt
5 - 16 Feb
- Gardens of Barbados
5 - 13 Feb
- Snowdrops Gardens of the Cotswolds
6 - 9 Feb
- Gardens of Costa Rica
8 - 20 Feb
- Gardens of the French Riviera - Lemon Festival
12 - 17 Feb
- Snowdrops in East Yorkshire
13 - 16 Feb
- Portugal - Route of the Almond Blossom
26 Feb - 5 Mar
- The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh
27 Feb - 2 Mar

March

- Cultural Malta
3 - 7 Mar
- Malta's Archaeological Heritage
3 - 9 Mar
- Galicia's Camellia Route
11 - 16 Mar
- Scotland's Extreme North West
12 - 15 Mar
- Glasgow's Art Treasures Featuring the Burrell Collection
13 - 16 Mar
- Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands
14 - 21 Mar
- Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
17 - 22 Mar
- The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus
18 - 25 Mar
- Gardens of Mauritius
18 - 29 Mar
- Art Masters of Holland
20 - 25 Mar
- Gardens and Villas of Sicily
20 - 27 Mar
- Seasonal Gardens of Japan
22 Mar - 4 Apr
- Spring Gardens of Cornwall
26 - 29 Mar
- Art and Architecture of Antwerp
26 - 30 Mar
- Great Gardens of Cornwall with Mike Nelhams
31 Mar - 4 Apr
- The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale
31 Mar - 3 Apr

April

- Tulips of Keukenhof & Dutch Gardens
4 - 8 Apr
- Springtime Flowers in Sintra and Lisbon
5 - 11 Apr
- Spring Gardens of Devon
6 - 10 Apr
- Scotland's Extreme North West
7 - 10 Apr
- Gardens of South and West Wales
10 - 14 Apr
- Austrian Palaces, Gardens and Apricot Blossom
10 - 17 Apr
- Great Gardens of Cornwall with Mike Nelhams
14 - 18 Apr
- An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia
16 - 24 Apr
- Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
21 - 26 Apr
- Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
22 - 29 Apr
- A Classic Scottish Steam Break
23 - 26 Apr
- Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides 5 Day (S-B)
24 - 28 Apr
- Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia
26 Apr - 3 May



May

- Gardens and Villas of Liguria
- 1 - 7 May
- Gardens of Honshu & Hokkaido
- 4 - 17 May
- Discover The Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell
- 5 - 9 May
- A Classic Scottish Steam Break
- 7 - 10 May
- Gardens of the French Riviera - International Rose Festival
- 7 - 12 May
- Seine River Cruise featuring Monet's Garden and the Gardens of Normandy
- 7 - 14 May
- Rome, Ninfa & Castel Gandolfo
- 8 - 11 May
- Gardens and Villas of Sicily
- 13 - 20 May
- Highgrove and the Cotswolds
- 29 May - 1 Jun
- Croatia's Best Kept Secrets Parks and Gardens of Kvarner and Istria
- 30 May - 6 Jun
- Arts and Gardens of Florence and Tuscany
- 31 May - 6 Jun

June

- Rock Art in Namibia
- 3 - 14 Jun
- Gardens of the Loire
- 5 - 11 Jun
- Gardens of Picardy
- 7 - 13 Jun
- Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
- 17 - 24 Jun
- Highgrove and the Cotswolds
- 26 - 29 Jun

August

- Spring Flowers of Namaqualand
- 29 Aug - 12 Sep



September

- Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia
- 7 - 14 Sep
- Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides 5 Day (B -S)
- 16 - 20 Sep
- California: In the Footsteps of John Muir
- 22 Sep - 6 Oct
- An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia
- 25 Sep - 3 Oct

October

- Gardens and Villas of Liguria
- 2 - 8 Oct
- Scotland's Extreme North West
- 6 - 9 Oct
- Discover The Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell
- 6 - 10 Oct
- Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
- 14 - 19 Oct
- Brazil and Its Natural Wonders
- 17 Oct - 2 Nov

November

- Cultural Malta
- 3 - 7 Nov
- Malta's Archaeological Heritage
- 3 - 9 Nov
- Seasonal Gardens of Japan
- 3 - 16 Nov
- Gardens and Temples of Egypt
- 5 - 16 Nov
- Gardens of Barbados
- 9 - 17 Nov
- Gardens of Mauritius
- 10 - 21 Nov
- Gardens of New Zealand
- 10 - 28 Nov
- Chile and the Falkland Islands
- 14 - 30 Nov

Get in touch
with an *expert*

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

01334 800 372

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:

www.brightwaterholidays.com



Booking terms & conditions

Your package holiday booking is with

Brightwater Holidays, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.

Telephone: 01334 800 372

These Booking Conditions, together with our Privacy Policy and where your holiday is booked via our website, our Website Terms of Use, together with any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking, form the basis of your contract with Brightwater Holidays Limited, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland, KY15 4HS & Company Number SC137295. ("we", "us", "our"). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. In these Booking Conditions references to "you" and "your" include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is added or transferred.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- he/she has read these Booking Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- he/she consents to our use of personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements);
- he/she is over 18 years of age and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

1. Booking & Paying For Your Arrangements

A booking is made with us when you pay us a deposit (or full payment) and we issue you with a booking confirmation. We reserve the right to return your deposit (see the tables below) and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. A binding contract will come into existence between you and us as soon as we have issued you with a booking confirmation that will confirm the details of your booking. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, and you are a resident of the UK, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or booking confirmation or any other document we send you are wrong, you must advise us immediately as changes can not be made later and it may harm your rights if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document.

Deposit Payments (per person):

UK guests - £175pp for holidays without flights, £350pp for UK/ Europe holidays with flights, 15% of the total price for long-haul holidays, Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price.

US guests - \$175 for holidays without flights, \$350 for UK/ Europe holidays with flights, 15% for long haul holidays, Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price.

The balance of the cost of your arrangements (including any applicable surcharge) is due not less than 14 weeks prior to scheduled departure (20 weeks for cruises). If we do not receive this balance in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you in which case we shall retain your deposit.

If you are booking bespoke flight arrangements for you or deviating from the group flights, we will charge you any difference in cost and payment will be taken in full when flights are booked.

Ways to pay - We accept payment by Visa, MasterCard, cheque (GBP ONLY), or bank transfer for which no levy is charged by us. Your bank or credit card provider may charge an additional financial processing charge and we cannot be responsible for any such charges. (Please note: If you are paying from an overseas bank account, you must accept all bank charges incurred by us. A surcharge of 2.5% will be applied for card payments made with cards registered in countries outside the EEA and the USA).

2. Accuracy

We endeavour to ensure that all the information and prices both on our website [and in our brochures] are accurate, however occasionally changes and errors occur and we reserve the right to correct prices and other details in such circumstances. You must check the current price and all other details relating to the arrangements that you wish to book before you make your booking.

3. Insurance

Adequate travel insurance is a condition of your contract with us, and is compulsory for travel outside of the UK. You must be satisfied that your insurance fully covers all your personal requirements including pre-existing medical conditions, cancellation charges, medical expenses and repatriation in the event of accident or illness. Details of a policy suitable to cover the arrangements you book are available by contacting Global Travel Insurance. If you choose to travel without adequate

insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses howsoever arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available.

4. Pricing

We reserve the right to amend the price of unsold holidays at any time and correct errors in the prices of confirmed holidays. We also reserve the right to increase the price of confirmed holidays solely to allow for increases which are a direct consequence of changes in:

- the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from the cost of fuel or other power sources;
- the level of taxes or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports; and
- the exchange rates relevant to the package.

Such variations could include but are not limited to airline cost changes which are part of our contracts with airlines (and their agents), cruise ship operators and any other transport providers.

You will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this condition. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £75. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place.

There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

Single, Double, Twin Bedded Rooms - Single supplements are payable for sole occupancy of a room. A single room does not guarantee the provision of a double or twin room, and in some instances may be smaller. A 'double' bed is often two single beds pushed together, sometimes with double bed base linen (although it is not unusual for single duvets to be provided in some hotels for doubles).

5. Jurisdiction & Applicable Law

These Booking Conditions and any agreement to which they apply are governed in all respects by English law. We both agree that any dispute, claim or other matter which arises between us out of or in connection with your contract or booking will be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales

only. You may however, choose the law and jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you live in those places and if you wish to do so.

6. Cutting Your Holiday Short

If you decide to cut short your holiday for your own reasons, or not stay at accommodation that has been booked for you, take any pre-booked meals, excursions, or other holiday components, then we are unable to offer you any refund or cover any costs. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for such curtailment, so we suggest that you check the conditions and requirements of your policy.

7. If You Change Your Booking & Transfers of Bookings

If you wish to change any part of your booking after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you must inform us in writing or by phone as soon as possible. This should be done by the first named person on the booking. Whilst we will do our best to assist, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet your requested change. Where we can meet a request, all changes will be subject to payment of an administration fee of £75 per person per change, as well as any costs and charges incurred by us and/or incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with condition 8.

Transfer of Booking:

If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £75 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation charges as set out in condition 8 will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements.

8. If You Cancel Your Booking Before Departure

If you or any other member of your party decides to cancel your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing or by phone. Your notice of cancellation will only take effect when it is received in writing by us at our offices and will be effective from the date on which we receive it.

Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

Since we incur costs in cancelling your arrangements, you will have to pay the cancellation charges as follows:

Cancellation Charges - if you cancel your holiday
Up to 98 days: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **97-84 days:** 15% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **83-64 days:** 35% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **63-46 days:** 55% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **45-31 days:** 75% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **From 30 days to departure:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs.

Lord of the Glens:

Up to 6 months: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **6 months-0 days:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs.

Please note that insurance premiums and amendments charges are not refundable in any circumstances.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended after they have been confirmed and any alteration or cancellation could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements in addition to the charge above.

If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

Where possible, we will deduct the cancellation charge(s) from any monies you have already paid to us.

Cancellation by You due to Unavoidable & Extraordinary Circumstances:

You may terminate the package travel contract applicable to your holiday at any time before the start of the package without paying a cancellation charge in the event of "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" occurring at the place of destination or its immediate vicinity which will significantly affect the performance of the package or carriage to your holiday destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. You must be able to show at the time you wish to cancel that there is no reasonable possibility of your holiday going ahead, in order to rely on this clause.

For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, other serious security problems such as terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination, or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which significantly affect travel to the travel destination as agreed in the package travel contract.

This condition 8 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013.

9. If We Change Or Cancel

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

Changes: If we make a minor change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure but we will have no liability to you. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements. Examples of what might be "significant changes" dependent upon the details of your booking include the following, when made before departure:

- A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
- A change of UK departure airport except between:
 - The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
 - The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
 - The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
 - The Midlands airports: Birmingham and East Midlands
 - The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
 - The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
 - The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen
- A significant change to your itinerary.

Cancellation: Unless we absolutely have to, we will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 30 days before your departure date, except for reasons of Events Beyond Our Control or failure by you to pay the final balance. We may cancel your holiday before this date if, e.g., the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible and if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of:

- (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or
- ii having a refund of all monies paid in respect to your package; or
- iii if available and where we offer one, accepting an offer of an alternative holiday (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of our offer. If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice. If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements.

Insurance If we cancel or make a significant change and you accept a refund, we will provide a full refund of your travel insurance premiums if you paid them to us and can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Compensation

In addition to a full refund of all monies paid by you, we will pay you compensation as detailed below, in the following circumstances:

- If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking;
- If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

Please get in touch with us directly to discuss compensation.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- where we make a minor change;
- where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 60 days before departure;
- where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Events Beyond Our Control (please see condition 10).

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

10. Events Beyond Our Control

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these Booking Conditions we will not be liable or pay you compensation if our contractual obligations to you are affected by "Events Beyond our Control". For the purposes of these Booking Conditions, Events Beyond Our Control means any event beyond our or our supplier's control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Examples include warfare and acts of terrorism (and threat thereof), civil strife, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, the act of any government or other national or local authority including port or river authorities, industrial dispute, labour strikes, lock closure, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, chemical or biological disaster, unavoidable technical problems with transport and all similar events outside our or the supplier(s) concerned's control.

Guides - In the case of events beyond our control, we reserve the right to substitute any named guide, guest lecturer or other escort with an alternative qualified person and this will not be deemed as any significant change to your arrangements.

Flights - if you have booked a flight upgrade and there is a change of airline prior to departure as a result of circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible to offer an equivalent upgrade, or an addition cost may apply.

11. Special Requests

Any special requests must be advised to us at the time of booking e.g. diet, room location, a particular facility at a hotel etc. You should then confirm your requests in writing. Whilst every effort will be made by us to try and arrange your reasonable special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be fulfilled. The fact that a special request has been noted on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation or that it has been passed on to the supplier is not confirmation that the request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part unless the request has been specifically confirmed by us. We do not accept bookings that are conditional upon any special request being met.

12. Disabilities & Medical Problems

We are not a specialist disabled holiday company, but we will do our utmost to cater for any special requirements you may have. If you or any member of your party has any medical problem or disability which may affect your booking, please provide us with full details before you make your booking so that we can try to advise you as to the suitability of your chosen arrangements. We may require you to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that you are fit to participate. Acting reasonably, if we are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details.

It is a condition of participation on our holidays that you agree to accept the authority and decisions of our employees, tour leaders and agents while on holiday with us. If in the opinion of such a person your health or conduct at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable, or happy progress of a holiday, you may be excluded from all or part of the holiday and/or we may terminate your holiday, and any additional costs incurred by you as a result of such exclusion will be your responsibility. In the case of ill health, we may make such arrangements as we see fit and recover any resulting costs from you.

Note: While there are no age limits or health requirements on our holidays, please note that for certain destinations require a degree of mobility and fitness to get the most out of the holiday and need to keep up with the group. Should you have any concerns or your mobility changes as your holiday gets closer, please contact us to discuss further.

13. Complaints

We make every effort to ensure that your holiday arrangements run smoothly but if you do have a problem during your holiday, please inform the tour manager or the relevant supplier immediately as they will endeavour to put things right. If this is not possible please contact the UK office or the emergency number on your final travel documentation.

If the problem cannot be resolved and you wish to complain further, you must send formal written notice of your complaint to us at our office, ideally within 28 days of the end of your stay, giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise and to the point. This will assist us to quickly identify your concerns and speed up our response to you. Failure to follow the procedure set out in this condition may affect ours and the applicable supplier's ability to investigate your complaint, and will affect your rights under this contract.

14. Your Behaviour

All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our opinion or in the opinion of any hotel manager or any other person in authority, your behaviour or that of any member of your party is causing or is likely to cause distress, danger or annoyance to any other customers or any third party, or damage to property, or to cause a delay or diversion to transportation, we reserve the right to terminate your booking with us immediately. In the event of such termination our liability to you and/or your party will cease and you and/or your party will be required to leave your accommodation or other arrangements immediately. We will have no further obligations to you and/or your party. No refunds for lost accommodation or any other arrangements will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of termination. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment,

you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.

We cannot be held responsible for the actions or behaviour of other guests or individuals who have no connection with your booking arrangements or with us.

15. Our Responsibilities

(1) We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an "organiser" under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of the travel services specifically included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking. Please note that we shall not be responsible for any additional services provided to you, whether provided by the travel service providers or otherwise, which are not set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking.

(2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any personal injury or death unless you are able to prove that it was caused by our negligence or the negligence of our suppliers.

(3) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:

- (a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
- (b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or

- (c) Events Beyond Our Control (as defined in condition 10).

(4) **We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:**

(a) **loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions and money:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.

(b) **Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.

(c) Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:

- i) The extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/ Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us. In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.

- ii) In any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of EC 261/2004 (denied boarding and flight disruption), any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.

iii) When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.

(5) Subject to these Booking Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services set out in the confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. **You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package.** The level of any such price reduction or compensation in respect of any claim for damages or compensation whatsoever will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Booking Conditions and the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us.

(6) It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this condition that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.

(7) Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.

(8) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:

- (a) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you;
- (b) relate to any business;
- (c) indirect or consequential loss of any kind.

(9) We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.

(10) Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your holiday, due to "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances", we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible, of a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per person. Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided we have been notified of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

16. Excursions

Excursions or other tours that you may choose to book or pay for whilst you are on holiday are not part of your contracted arrangements with us. For any excursion or other tour that you book, your contract will be with the operator of the excursion or tour and not with us. We are not responsible for the provision of the excursion or tour or for anything that happens during the course of its provision by the operator.

17. Insolvency Protection

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive (packages and ATOL protected flights) by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 4498, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk.

When you buy an ATOL protected product from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included

in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL Scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL Scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection for our non-flight inclusive tours under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Brightwater Holidays Limited, member number 5001, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

- Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Brightwater Holidays Limited.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made>

You can find out more about ABTOT here: <https://www.abtot.com/>

If you book arrangements other than package holidays from us, your monies will not be financially protected. Please ask us for further details.

18. Entry, Passport, Visa & Immigration Requirements, Safety & Health Formalities

We can only provide general information regarding entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements and safety and health formalities applicable to your package itinerary. It is your responsibility to check such requirements (in good time before departure), in order to make your decisions to fulfil such requirements regarding your destination and/or the country(ies) through which you may be transiting through.

Such information which you may need to check includes (but is not limited to) passport requirements including how valid your passport must be after return date, whether your passport must be machine readable or which visas/waivers may be required for entry such as ESTA for USA travel, ETIAS for EU travel and or the UK ETA if you are entering and exiting the United Kingdom.

You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant bodies as applicable. We have provided a few useful resources below, though it is your responsibility to check and see if such a body would be relevant to yourself.

- the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ("FCDO", <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>) (applicable to UK residents);
- UK Passport Office (0870 5210410 or <https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship>).
- Embassies, High Commission and/or Consulates;
- own doctor.

For UK residents booking European travel, you should obtain a UK Global Health Insurance Card (UK GHIC) prior to departure unless you are able to rely upon an existing European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For travel to Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, UK GHIC and EHIC can not be used for medical treatment. Passengers to these destinations should obtain comprehensive medical insurance prior to departure, including cover for emergency medical treatment and associated costs.

We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel, or incur any other loss because you have not complied with any entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. You agree to reimburse us in relation to any fines or other losses which we incur as a result of your failure to comply with any entry passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities.

EES – European Entry and Exit system

All non-EU nationals travelling to a European country will be subject to checks at the border. The EES system replaces passport stamping and automates border control procedures collecting and recording the data in your passport, your date and place of entry and exit from a European country and also your facial image and fingerprints. In most cases these checks will be carried out upon arrival in the EU when arriving by air, however, due to the dual French and UK border arrangements in Dover, these checks will take place in Dover for coach passengers, prior to boarding the ship for the cross channel sailing or at London St Pancras International and Paris Gare du Nord self-service pre-registration kiosk before going through the ticket gates if travelling via Eurostar.

European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS)

During 2025 the rules of travel to Europe will change and there will be an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals. Travellers will be required to make an online application for and obtain an ETIAS travel authorisation to enter most EU countries, a fee of €7 will be charged. Once confirmed this is linked to your passport and will be valid for 3 years or until your passport expires if that is sooner. If you get a new passport, you will need a new ETIAS travel authorisation. You must carry the email confirming your successful ETIAS submission and unique ETIAS application number along with your passport when travelling as both documents will be checked at the border. ETIAS is not required for Crown Dependencies – Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, or the common travel areas of Northern and Southern Ireland. Further details can be found at travel-europe.europa.eu and we will update this page as exact dates and further details are released.

19. Conditions of Suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions which will form part of your contract with us. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from us or the supplier concerned.

20. Prompt Assistance

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these Booking Conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

21. Delays, Missed Transport Arrangements & Other Travel Information

If you or any member of your party misses your flight or other transport arrangement, it is cancelled or you are subject to

a delay of over 3 hours for any reason, you must contact our head office and the airline or other transport supplier concerned immediately.

Under UK Law, you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from the airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at UK airports and will also be available from airlines. If the airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority at www.caa.co.uk/passengers. Reimbursement in such cases is the responsibility of the airline and will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday price from us. If, for any reason, you do not claim against the airline and make a claim for compensation from us, you must, at the time of payment of any compensation to you, make a complete assignment to us of the rights you have against the airline in relation to the claim that gives rise to that compensation payment. A delay or cancellation to your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in condition 10 of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on any flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

The carrier(s), flight timings and types of aircraft shown in this brochure or on our website and detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. We shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of it. The latest flight timings will be shown on your tickets which will be despatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You should check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. If flight times change after tickets have been dispatched we will contact you as soon as we can to let you know.

Please note the existence of a "UK Air Safety list" (available for inspection at <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/airlines/licensing/requirements-and-guidance/third-country-operator-certificates/>) detailing air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the UK.

This website/brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements.

We are unable to guarantee that all parties will be seated together. With some airlines it is possible to request, or in some cases, reserve certain preferred seats on the aircraft (most airlines will make an additional charge for this). We are happy to assist with this, but this is an additional service over and above your contractual arrangement for 'carriage by air' with the airline. Airlines reserve the right to make changes to any specific seat numbers for operational or safety reasons either before, or on the day of departure and you will be notified of any such change upon check-in. Where applicable, any additional charge made for pre-booking specific seats will be refunded.

Some of our tours involve transfers or transport between, for instance, mainland and an island. Where ferries, and similar, are disrupted you may need to engage your travel insurance dependent upon the situation.

22. Advance Passenger Information

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our privacy policy.

23. DATA PROTECTION

To process your booking and to ensure that your travel arrangements run smoothly and meet your requirements we need to use the information you provide. Depending on what's required, the personal data we collect may include names and contact details, credit/debit card or other payment information and special requirements such as those relating to any disability or medical condition which may affect holiday arrangements and any dietary restrictions which may disclose your religious beliefs.

The person who makes the booking is responsible for ensuring that other members of your party are aware of our booking conditions and this privacy policy and that

they consent to your acting on their behalf in your dealings with us.

Any such personal data that you provide will be held securely and for the purpose you have provided it, in accordance with both UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

We take appropriate technical and organisational measures which are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

We must pass the information on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements such as airlines, hotels, transport companies, etc. We will not however, pass any information on to any person not responsible for part of your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. In making a booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons only.


We may need to disclose personal data to a third party within countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of providing your holiday. Controls on data protection in your destination may not be as stringent as in the UK. In addition, your data may be disclosed to regulatory bodies or public authorities such as customs or immigration for the purposes of monitoring and/or enforcing compliance with any regulatory rules/codes.

We will only send you information about special offers, brochures, new holidays and competitions if you have 'opted in' to receive marketing emails from Brightwater Holidays Ltd. If at any time you do not wish to receive this information you can use the 'unsubscribe' function at the bottom of any marketing email or call us.

For full details of how we may use your personal information and your rights in relation to your personal information, please see our Privacy Policy on our website: <https://brightwaterholidays.com/privacy>. By booking online, or over the phone, you are stating that you have read and agreed to our Privacy Policy.

We are Brightwater Holiday Ltd, registered limited company no: SC137295.
Registered Office: Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.






"Excellent! Loads of interesting places visited and of course the experience of seeing Up Helly Aa. Very well organised thanks to Alastair when plans had to change due to the weather."

Guest - January 2024

Up Helly Aa - Shetland's Festival of Fire - 2026

 **7 DAYS** from £1,695PP

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

A wander through the streets of Lerwick is normally a quiet, peaceful experience, but take a walk there at the end of January and it's quite likely that you will bump into a squad of very large, bearded Vikings, in gleaming chain-mail and winged helmets. Later, the Vikings and their fancy-dressed followers fill the narrow streets, their flaming torches illuminating the winter skies, their boisterous songs filling the air. A 30-foot Viking longship is carried aloft before it is set alight with a thousand blazing brands. As the sky over Lerwick shimmers with heat and light, fireworks explode and the gloom of winter is lifted for another year.



Vikings march the streets of Lerwick



Vikings march the streets of Lerwick

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed and full breakfast at the Sumburgh Hotel, Sumburgh. (Busta House Hotel available £240pp supplement)
- ▶ Two nights' accommodation in two-berth cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries Hrossey or Hjaltland with dinner and full breakfast
- ▶ Visits include: Scalloway, the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof and Sumburgh Head, Yell and Unst, Foula, Sandness and a full day in Lerwick at the Up Helly Aa festival
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

24 - 30 Jan	£1,695
Single Supplement	£450
Outside cabin supplement	£60

4 DAY AIR PACKAGE OPTION (BRAE HOTEL)

26 - 29 Jan	£1,695
Single Supplement	£350