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RATED EXCELLENT WITH OVER 1,600 REVIEWS

A photograph of Osaka Castle in Japan, featuring its iconic white walls and green roofs with gold accents. The castle is situated on a hill, with a stone wall and vibrant autumn foliage in shades of yellow and red in the foreground. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

"Excellent. Colin Crosbie was the perfect tour guide; exceptionally knowledgeable, entertaining and attentive. Both local guides were also perfect."

Guest - November 2025



Marina bay area in Central Singapore

Why travel with Brightwater Holidays?

You can be assured of an inspiring, hassle-free experience when you travel with Brightwater Holidays. In the company of experts, look forward to discovering horticultural wonders as part of meticulously designed tours and itineraries showcasing the very best of your chosen destination. As we have been operating award-winning coach holidays for over 30 years now, we have formed great relationships with garden owners, which enables us to grant you exclusive access to many private gardens.

Everything taken care of

As part of a small group for a more personal experience, you'll be looked after from start to finish. Enjoy exceptional value, with your accommodation at trusted hotels, selected meals, excursions and comfortable coach travel from easy-to-reach pick-up points all included, so that you can simply sit back and relax from the moment you join. Many of our guests have been travelling with us for many years and it is our attention to detail, meticulous planning, the in-depth knowledge that our engaging Tour Managers provide and the feeling that a Brightwater holiday gives which keeps them coming back year after year.

- ✓ 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

Meet our expert Tour Managers

Our Tour Managers ensure that your holiday runs smoothly from start to finish. They are often also experts in the destinations you visit and experienced horticulturalists with a wealth of knowledge. 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. These Tour Managers make the Brightwater experience truly memorable, and many guests choose to join future holidays led by the same experts. Allow us to introduce some of them to you.

Mike *Nelham*

Mike Nelham is the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens and is one of Brightwater Holidays' most popular and well-travelled garden experts.



Sue *Pomeroy*

Sue has studied horticulture in places ranging from New Zealand to Chile, and her personal garden has featured in *Country Life* and *Gardeners' World*.



Trevor *Edwards*

Trevor has been a horticulturist for almost 50 years, having operated a small Garden Centre in Carrickfergus and worked as a Garden Designer and Consultant.





A Grand Tour of the Gardens of Scotland

Dunrobin Castle

Our Grand Tour of Scotland's finest gardens takes us from the open spaces of the far north to the wilds of the west; from the splendours of the south to the elegance of the east. The range of gardens is equally diverse, from the peace and calm of Malleny Garden in Edinburgh to the windy hilltop and lavish planting of Glenwhan, from the sub-tropical exoticism of Logan Botanic Gardens to the homely and traditional Castle of former home of Her Majesty the late Queen Mother.






We begin at Branklyn and Cluny gardens in Perthshire before driving along the 'backbone' of Scotland to Inverness. From here we strike out north to castles Dunrobin and Mey and west to Dundonnell and Inverewe, undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour. Travelling through the Great Glen we savour the peace and quiet of the West Highlands, where the mild, damp climate, influenced by the Gulf Stream, promotes luxuriant growth in tranquil gardens such as Ardchattan, Arduaine and An Cala.

Moving south and west into Dumfries and Galloway we see more lush planting, with exotic plants from around the world flourishing in this mild climate. Then we move on into the softer, more rounded landscapes of the Border country to see two marvellous gardens before we come full circle back to Edinburgh and conclude in the distinguished surroundings of the Royal Botanic Gardens. From spectacular, show-stopping sites to the hidden gems found within private grounds, this unmissable tour showcases the variety of Scotland's best gardens.



Arduaine

Key Highlights

-  Exotic planting at Inverewe, Arduaine and Logan Botanic Gardens
-  The late Queen Mother's homely and much-loved rose garden at the Castle of Mey
-  Peaceful, loch-side gardens in Argyll
-  The great woodland gardens of Ardkinglas and Glenarn
-  The stately surroundings of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

11 DAYS from ~~£2,995~~ **£2,945**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £895

 **DEPARTURES:** 2 - 12 Jun

- ▶ Ten nights dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in the Inverness area; two nights in the Oban area; one night near Glasgow; two nights near Stranraer; one night in Dumfries; one night in the Edinburgh area
- ▶ Visits include: Branklyn Gardens, Cluny House Gardens, Dunrobin Castle, Inverewe Gardens, Abriachan Gardens, Glenarn, Dumfries House, Logan Botanic Gardens & Threave Estate
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

NEW
TOUR

SPECIAL INTEREST

Charles Rennie Mackintosh & Gardens of the Clyde

Geilston

Charles Rennie Mackintosh is arguably Scotland's most famous architect and designer of the 20th century, and his works were influential in European design movements such as Art Nouveau and Secessionism. Living most of his life in Glasgow, there are many buildings around the city that are to Mackintosh's architectural design, including the Glasgow School of Art, Queens Cross Church and the Daily Record Building. Later in life, Mackintosh focussed more on his work as a watercolour artist painting a wide collection of landscapes and flower studies.

No Mackintosh tour would be complete without a visit to the Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow, where we enjoy a traditional afternoon tea, and also visit his finest domestic creation at Hill House, which sits high above the River Clyde with commanding views of the Firth, its air of restrained elegance still appealing to modern tastes.

Other highlights include the Burrell Collection, which includes medieval art, tapestries, alabasters, stained glass and European paintings, the Walled Garden at Geilston with its impressive herbaceous borders and Glenarn with its superb collection of Asiatic shrubs. We also sail across the Firth of Clyde for a visit to Mount Stuart, one of the largest High Gothic houses in Britain, which offers the perfect combination of architectural grandeur and captivating gardens, along with the unique Ascog Fernery, a tiny piece of sub-tropical jungle on the Isle of Bute.

Key Highlights

-  A visit to Hill House, Charles Rennie Mackintosh's finest domestic creation
-  The spectacular house and gardens of Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute
-  The impressive herbaceous border at the Walled Garden at Geilston
-  Afternoon Tea at the Willow Tea Room, a Charles Rennie Mackintosh masterpiece

4 DAYS from ~~£895~~ **£845**

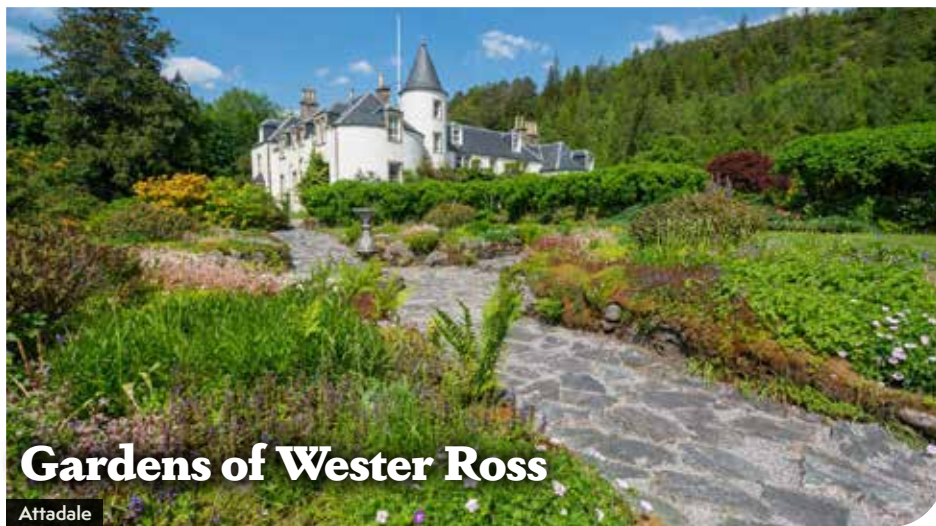
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £150

 **DEPARTURES:** 26 - 29 Jun

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed and full breakfast at a comfortable hotel in the Glasgow area
- ▶ Afternoon tea at the Willow Tea Rooms
- ▶ Visits include: The Burrell Collection, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Hill House, Glenarn Garden, The Walled Garden at Geilston and Mount Stuart
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager



Hill House



Gardens of Wester Ross

Attadale

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



Inverewe gardens

Key Highlights

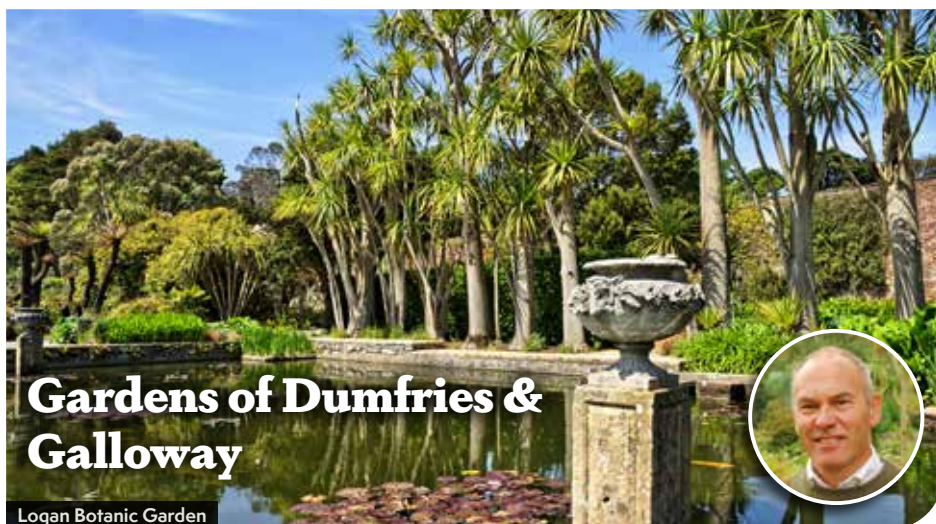
- The desolate beauty of the Highland landscape
- Inverewe, widely regarded as one of Scotland's greatest gardens
- Exclusive private visit to Attadale Gardens, RHS Partner Garden of the Year in Scotland 2023, including lunch in the main house, not normally open to the public

5 DAYS from ~~£1,145~~ £1,031

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £195

DEPARTURES: 19 - 23 May

- Four nights dinner, bed and full breakfast at the Gairloch Hotel
- An exclusive visit to Attadale including a light lunch
- Visits include: Oldtown of Leys, Dunvegan Castle, Raasay Walled Garden, Gairloch Museum, Dundonnell House Garden, Inverewe Gardens and Old Allangrange
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager



Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway

Logan Botanic Garden

Some of Scotland's most attractive gardens and artistic treasures await. Dumfries House in Ayrshire, saved with the support of King Charles, shines with superb Adam interiors, a unique Chippendale collection and an outstanding walled garden. At Broughton House, we enjoy EA Hornel's Japanese-influenced artist's garden, while Drumlanrig Castle impresses with its extensive grounds, fine art and Renaissance grandeur.



Drumlanrig castle

Key Highlights

- Stunning interiors and a wonderful walled garden at Dumfries House
- Plants from around the world in the lush surroundings of Logan Botanic Gardens
- The tranquil pond at the heart of Glenwhan Gardens
- The treasure trove of fine art that is Drumlanrig Castle

4 DAYS from ~~£845~~ £761

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £195

DEPARTURE: 31 May - 3 Jun

- Three nights at the three-star Holiday Inn Dumfries with dinner & breakfast or similar
- Visits include: Drumlanrig Castle, Glenwhan Gardens, Logan Botanic Gardens, Broughton House, Threave Estate and Dumfries House
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of horticulturalist Richard Baines as tour manager

NEW
TOURNO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

GARDENS



Spring Gardens in Devon

Forde Abbey

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.

Key Highlights

-  Explore the magical gardens of Forde Abbey
-  Enjoy a visit to RHS partner garden Dartington Hall & RHS Rosemoor
-  Visit Greenway House, the beloved holiday home of Agatha Christie
-  Discover Burrow Farm Garden, East Devon's best-kept secret

5 DAYS from ~~£895~~ **£806**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

 **DEPARTURES:** 6 - 10 Apr & 23-27 Apr

- ▶ Four nights accommodation, dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Headland Hotel in Torquay
- ▶ Visits include: Forde Abbey, Fast Rabbit Farm, Dartington Hall, RHS Rosemoor, Greenway House and Burrow Farm Garden
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager



RHS Rosemoor



Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams

Tresco

With the help of Mike Nelhams, Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens and a long-standing friend of Brightwater Holidays, we have put together this very special tour of Cornwall, 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, Charles Williams of Caerhays Castle and Lord Falmouth of Tregothnan Estate. At our base in the comfortable Alverton Hotel, Truro, our tour begins with a presentation from Mike Nelhams on the great Gardens of Cornwall.





Over the following three days, we see the gardens for ourselves, beginning with a tour of the Lost Gardens of Heligan with one of the gardening team and 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.

Please note that special guests mentioned are not guaranteed and are dependent upon personal schedules.



Tregothnan

Key Highlights

-  Tour of Heligan with a member of the gardening team
-  Lunch and tour at Caerhays Castle
-  Private visit to the Tregothnan Estate and Tea Plantation
-  Day trip to Abbey Gardens and personally conducted tour with Curator Mike Nelhams

5 DAYS from ~~£2,295~~ **£2,066**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £295

 **DEPARTURES:** 14 - 18 Apr

- ▶ Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Alverton Hotel, Truro
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Truro (*regional rail connections and upgrades can also be arranged at a supplement; £100pp discount for no rail travel*)
- ▶ Return helicopter flight to the Scilly Isles
- ▶ Visits include: The Lost Gardens of Heligan, Caerhays Castle, the Abbey Garden on Tresco, and Lamorran House
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager

NEW
TOUR




GARDENS

Gardens of Southern England & The RHS Chelsea Flower Show

RHS Rosemoor

This crème de la crème of springtime tours combines the colour and excitement of the iconic RHS Chelsea Flower Show with some of Southern England's finest gardens, providing the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of horticultural excellence. Our journey takes us through Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Hampshire, Surrey and Kent, exploring several hidden gems alongside world-famous gardens. Just a few highlights include an early-bird discovery of Sissinghurst, as close to gardening perfection as you can get, a guided tour of Hestercombe Gardens, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces, and an extended visit to RHS Garden Wisley with its vast display of expertly curated delights. Around every corner lies another surprise on this delightful tour: expect contemporary sculptures, medieval layouts contrasted with innovative designs, Japanese-style features, sub-tropical plants, stunning terraces, peaceful lakes and beautiful seasonal blooms such as azaleas, peonies, wisteria and rhododendrons.

Key Highlights

-  Spend the day at the Great British gardening event of the year, The RHS Chelsea Flower Show
-  Enjoy lunch and an extended visit to the ornamental and experimental gardens of RHS Wisley
-  Experience an 'early-bird' visit to the world-renowned courtyard gardens of Sissinghurst Castle

12 DAYS from ~~£2,995~~ **£2,696**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **£595**

 **DEPARTURES:** 13 - 24 May

- ▶ 11 nights dinner, bed & breakfast: 3 nights at the Penmorvah Manor Hotel, near Falmouth, 2 nights at the Headland Hotel, Torquay, 3 nights at the Walnut Tree, South Petherton & 3 nights at the Holiday Inn, Farnborough *(or similar)*
- ▶ Lunch at RHS Wisley
- ▶ Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- ▶ Visits include: Heale House Gardens, Tremenhoe Sculpture Garden, Wildside Garden and RHS Rosemoor
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Sue Pomeroy as tour manager



West Green House Garden

Castles & Gardens of Kent & the RHS Chelsea Flower Show



Hever Castle

Discover the rich history, horticultural splendour and timeless elegance of Kent and beyond on this inspiring garden tour. From the romantic towers of Leeds Castle to the exquisite planting schemes of Doddington Place and Mount Ephraim, each day brings a new showcase of design and heritage. We enjoy exclusive experiences, including a private garden tour and wine tasting at Yotes Court and a guided visit with the Head Gardener at historic Hever Castle. A full day at the world-famous RHS Chelsea Flower Show adds a burst of colour and creativity, while the wild beauty of Wakehurst provides the perfect finale.



Leeds Castle - Pavilion Lawn

Key Highlights

-  Admire the floral artistry of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
-  Explore the historic beauty of Hever Castle & Gardens and enjoy a guided tour with the Head Gardener
-  Enjoy a wine tasting at Yotes Court Vineyard
-  Discover the romantic setting of Leeds Castle
-  A cream tea at Whitstable Castle

7 DAYS from ~~£1,895~~ **£1,706**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £350

 **DEPARTURES:** 16 - 22 May

- ▶ Six nights dinner bed and breakfast; 3 nights at a comfortable hotel in Kent; 3 nights at the Crowne Plaza Felbridge Hotel
- ▶ One light lunch and one cream tea
- ▶ Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- ▶ Visits include: Hall Place and Gardens, Leeds Castle, Doddington Place Gardens, Whitstable Castle, Mount Ephraim Gardens, Yotes Court, Hever Castle and Wakehurst
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

NEW
TOUR

Hidden Gardens of the Cotswolds & The RHS Chelsea Flower Show

Highnam Court

Journey through the gardens of the Cotswolds and experience the grandeur of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. This tour offers an exquisite blend of historical estates, innovative garden designs, and the pinnacle of horticultural displays. Discover the lush landscapes, intricate garden layouts and serene beauty that define the Cotswolds, while gaining exclusive insights into the world-renowned RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Perfect for garden enthusiasts and nature lovers alike, this tour promises an unforgettable exploration of Britain's finest gardens.



Knebworth House and Gardens

Key Highlights

-  A full-day visit to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
-  Rousham House Gardens, one of the most exquisite examples of 18th-century landscape design in England
-  Wander through the gardens, park and woodlands of Hatfield House
-  An exclusive visit to Highnam Court Garden, a stunning example of Victorian landscape architecture

7 DAYS from ~~£1,895~~ £1,705

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £295

 DEPARTURES: 20 - 26 May

- ▶ Six nights dinner, bed and breakfast: 3 nights in a hotel in Hertfordshire and 3 nights at a hotel in the Cotswolds
- ▶ Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- ▶ Visits include: Tom Stuart Smith's The Barn, Knebworth House and Gardens, Hatfield House, Rousham House Gardens, Upton Wold Garden, Sudeley Castle, Highnam Court Garden, Cerney House Garden, Miserden Garden and Hidcote Manor
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

GARDENS

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

RHS Garden Bridgewater & Gardens of the North West





The Paradise Garden © RHS Neil Hepworth

One of the largest gardening projects in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater has established itself as one of the most popular gardens in the north-west of England. This once-in-a-generation project saw the Royal Horticultural Society take inspiration from the heritage of the site and transform it into a world-class gem, featuring a large walled garden. Come along and discover its wonders alongside other horticultural gems on this delightful exploration. Highlights include Trentham Estate with its Italian Gardens, the great plantsman's garden of Dunham Massey and Tatton Park, whose gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character.



Italian Gardens, Trentham Estate

Key Highlights

-  Special visit to RHS Garden Bridgewater, the newest addition to the RHS stable
-  Italian style at Trentham Estate
-  Special access to a privately-owned garden
-  Dunham Massey and Tatton Park, two of the foremost gardens in Cheshire

4 DAYS from ~~£745~~ £671

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £120

 DEPARTURE: 23 - 26 May

- ▶ Three nights at the Pinewood Hotel, Wilmslow with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Visits include: Trentham Estate, RHS Garden Bridgewater, Dunham Massey, Tatton Park and Arley Hall
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager



Gardens of Kent & Sussex





Scotney Castle

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



Sissinghurst Castle Garden

Key Highlights

-  Lullingstone Castle's innovative World Garden of Plants
-  Outstanding plant collections at Nymans
-  An exclusive early bird visit to the manicured gardens of Sissinghurst
-  Lunch and guided tour of RHS Wisley

4 DAYS from ~~£945~~ **£895**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £150

 **DEPARTURES:** 1 - 4 Jun

- ▶ Three nights at the four-star Mercure Tunbridge Wells with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Visits include: Great Comp Garden, Lullingstone Castle, Borde Hill Garden, Nymans Garden, Sissinghurst, Great Dixter, Scotney Castle and RHS Garden Wisley
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalists Julia Corden as tour manager

*Popular
Favourite*



Highgrove & the Cotswolds

Highgrove ©Robert Smith

Our tour of the Cotswolds features an exclusive visit to Highgrove House, the country home of His Majesty The King. A rare opportunity to see these fascinating gardens, which are cultivated using wholly organic methods. Some of the finest gardens in England are to be found nestled among the green and rolling hills of Gloucestershire. Our tour begins at the 'Arts and Crafts' house of Rodmarton Manor, whose fine garden comprises a series of 'outdoor rooms', each with its own distinctive character. Hidcote Manor's contrasting garden rooms 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 our final visit is to Westonbirt, the National Arboretum.



Kiftsgate Court

Key Highlights

-  Weaving through the magical meadows of Highgrove and lunch in the Orchard room overlooking the Orchard Terrace
-  Discovering the secret gardens at Hidcote
-  The woodland walks and well-planned vistas at Painswick Rococo Garden
-  World renowned gardens of Kiftsgate Court

4 DAYS from £995 £896

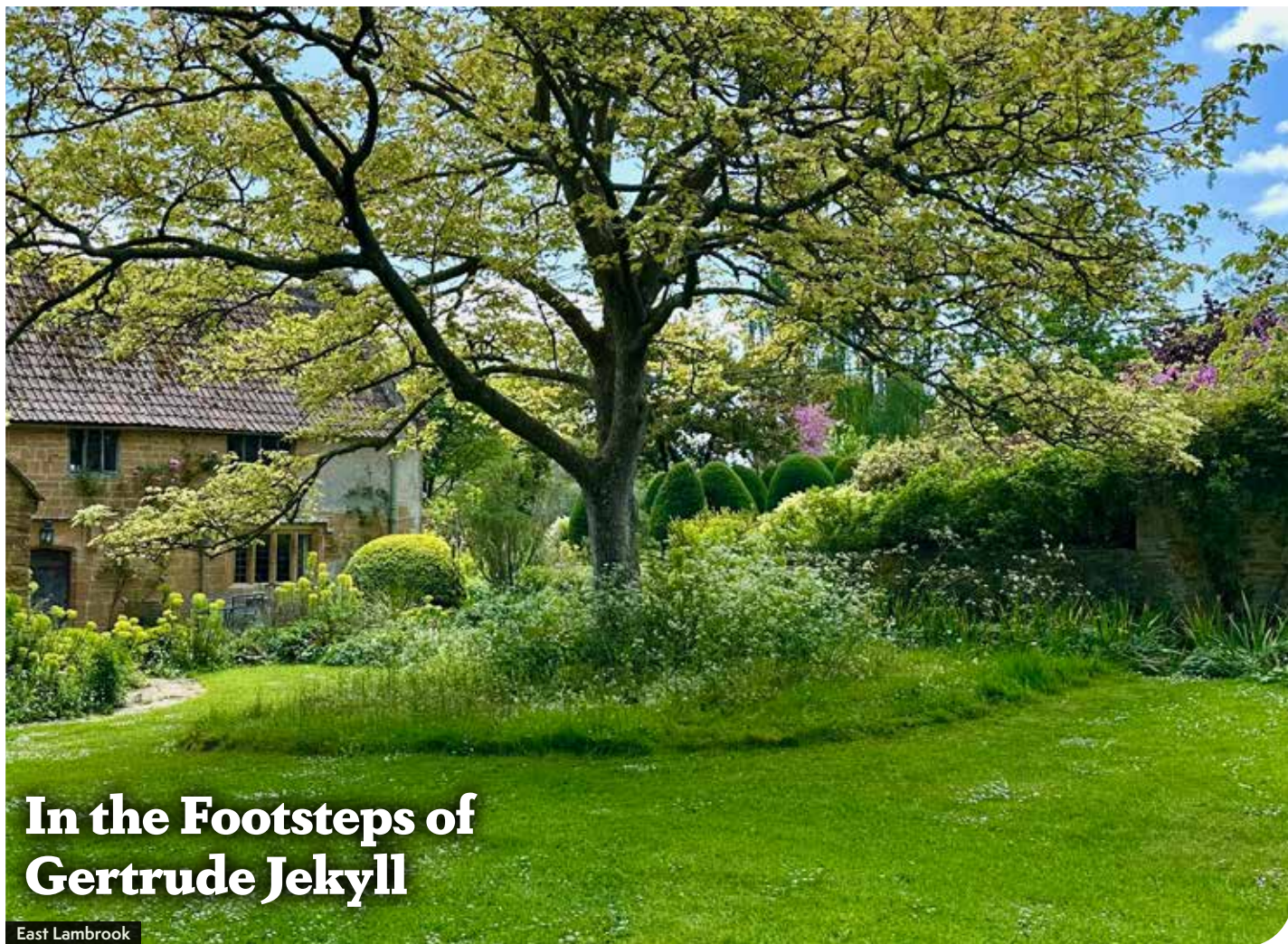
 **DEPARTURES:** 29 May - 1 Jun

4 DAYS from £995 £945

 **DEPARTURES:** 26 - 29 Jun

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £195

- ▶ Three nights at a comfortable hotel in the Cotswolds with breakfast & dinner
- ▶ An exclusive visit to Highgrove including lunch
- ▶ Visits include: Rodmarton Manor, Hidcote Manor, Kiftsgate Court and Westonbirt
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager



In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll

East Lambrook

Few would doubt the great influence Gertrude Jekyll had on garden design. On this tour across the south of England, we visit gardens associated with the plantswoman extraordinaire, painter and writer. We start at the gardens of Barrington Court, which were designed by Gertrude Jekyll, and continue with Knightshayes and Hestercombe, perhaps Jekyll and Lutyens' most famous collaboration. Our last visit in the southwest is East Lambrook Manor, recognised throughout the world as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening'. We also discover the nearby garden of Vann with its woodland and water gardens and at the privately owned Manor House near Upton Grey, we see a Jekyll Garden originally laid out in 1908 and now authentically restored to its former glory. A real highlight is our private dining experience at Gravetye Manor, the home of William Robinson, with whom Gertrude Jekyll collaborated on plants and writings and today is considered one of England's most historically significant gardens.

Key Highlights

-  Hestercombe, one of Jekyll and Lutyens' greatest masterpieces
-  Garden tour and private dining experience at Gravetye Manor
-  The lovingly restored gardens at Upton Grey Manor House
-  Visits to Heale House, East Lambrook Gardens, Vann Gardens and Loseley Park

6 DAYS from ~~£2,095~~ **£2,045**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **£495**

 **DEPARTURES:** 17 - 22 Jun

- Five nights bed and breakfast: two nights at the Lanes Hotel, Yeovil and three nights at the Frensham Pond Hotel, Farnham
- Five dinners: two at the Lanes Hotel, two at the Frensham Pond Hotel and one at Gravetye Manor
- Visits include: Barrington Court, Hestercombe, Knightshayes, East Lambrook Manor, Heale House gardens, Upton Grey Manor House, Hatchlands, Gravetye Manor, Vann and Loseley Park
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager



Gravetye Manor Garden



The Lake District boasts some of the most breathtaking scenery in England. It is packed with natural wonders, from iridescent lakes to craggy fells, which rise above sweeping valleys. Our tour includes a visit to some of the area's most celebrated gardens including Holker Hall, home to the Cavendish family, Holehird, a garden run by the Lakeland Horticultural Society, Gresgarth Hall, home of esteemed garden designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd, as well as the topiary gardens of Levens Hall, which are world-famous and were created in the 17th-century by Monsieur Guillaume Beaumont. We also enjoy a cruise on the waters of Lake Windermere.



Key Highlights

- Gresgarth Hall, home of esteemed garden designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd
- Rydal Hall Gardens, designed and built by renowned landscape architect, Thomas Mawson
- A scenic cruise on Lake Windermere

4 DAYS from ~~£995~~ **£945**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £90

DEPARTURES: 29 Jun - 2 Jul

- Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Lakeland Hotel, Kendal
- Return standard class rail travel from London to Lancaster (*regional connections can be arranged and upgrades are also available at a supplement; £100pp reduction for no rail travel*)
- Visits include: Gresgarth Hall, Rydal Hall Gardens, Holehird, Holker Hall and Levens Hall
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager



Explore the wonders of Yorkshire and visit some of the best houses and gardens in England's largest county. We enjoy a visit to the vast Himalayan Garden and Sculpture Park and Newby Hall with its impressive double herbaceous borders. Other visits include York Gate, a magical one-acre garden tucked behind the ancient church at Adel and Harlow Carr, the RHS's northern flagship. During our visit, we enjoy a guided tour, giving us a personal insight into the continued development of this landmark garden.



Key Highlights

- A visit to the award winning Breezy Knees Garden
- Guided tour at RHS Harlow Carr
- Free time in the picturesque spa town of Harrogate
- The innovatively designed York Gate
- A visit to the Himalayan Garden & Sculpture Park, inspired by the Himalayas, and Newby Hall

4 DAYS from ~~£995~~ **£945**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

DEPARTURE: 30 Jun - 3 Jul

- Three nights dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Bridge Hotel and Spa
- Visits include: Breezy Knees Gardens, the Himalayan Garden and Sculpture Park, Newby Hall, RHS Harlow Carr and York Gate
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager

NEW
TOUR

Gardens of the Island of Ireland

Bantry House Gardens

Embark on a captivating journey through Ireland, where botanical beauty, wild landscapes and fascinating history combine. Beginning in Belfast and meandering to Dublin, through the Wicklow Mountains and on to Bantry Bay, this tour offers the opportunity to explore some of the most breathtaking spots the Emerald Isle has to offer, from the 400-year-old Antrim Castle Gardens to the Italianate Inlacullin on spectacular Garnish Island. Along the way, we follow in the footsteps of royalty at Hillsborough Castle, wander through the extensive plant collections of Mount Congreve and visit the world's third finest gardens according to National Geographic: Powerscourt Gardens.



Powerscourt Gardens

Key Highlights

- Discover the huge collection of plants at Mount Congreve
- Explore the extensive and enchanting gardens of Mount Stewart
- Experience Rowallane's mysterious approach and mixed borders
- Visit the 400-year-old Antrim Castle Gardens

8 DAYS from ~~£2,495~~ £2,246

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £595

DEPARTURES: 23 - 30 May

- ▶ Seven nights bed and breakfast: two nights in the 4-star Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim, three nights at a 3-star hotel in Dublin and two nights at the 3-star Maritime Hotel, Bantry
- ▶ Four dinners
- ▶ Flight from London to Belfast, returning from Cork
- ▶ Visits include: Holly House, Antrim Castle Gardens, Mount Stewart, Rowallane Garden, Ardán Garden, Powerscourt Gardens, Mount Congreve and Inlacullin
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

Key Highlights

- Beautiful woodland gardens surrounding the castles of Upton and Picton
- An imaginative private garden at Llwyngarreg
- A day of striking contrasts at the innovative National Botanic Gardens of Wales and historic Aberglasney

5 DAYS from ~~£1,295~~ £1,166

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £320

DEPARTURE: 10 - 14 Apr

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

Gardens of South & West Wales

Aberglasney

Tucked away in the rolling countryside of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire are some fine parks and gardens; large and small, ancient and modern. The centrepiece is the National Botanic Garden of Wales, 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, restored to its former glory after decades of neglect and now including an Elizabethan/Jacobean cloister and parapet walk. We also visit superb woodland gardens at Upton Castle and Picton Castle along with some interesting private gardens, including Dyffryn Fernant and Llwyngarreg.



Nerine Bowdenii in border - Dyffryn Fernant Garden

NEW
TOURLOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

SPECIAL INTEREST

Secrets of County Durham & North Yorkshire with Nicholas Merchant

Ushaw Historic House



Delve into the some of the hidden treasures of County Durham in the company of Nicholas Merchant, an expert lecturer on Decorative and Fine Arts. Set in picturesque countryside, this quiet corner of northern England is home to a collection of lesser known, yet equally fascinating, country houses and historical buildings packed with fine furnishings and fascinating art collections.

Highlights of this tour include a guided tour at Ushaw College and an opportunity to meet the library Curator and see up close some of the delicate artefacts housed in the collections here, a guided tour of Hovingham Hall and a visit to the Bowes Museum, home to "The Curiosity Project," shortlisted for Permanent Exhibition of Year at the Museum & Heritage awards.

Key Highlights

-  A guided tour at Ushaw and an opportunity to meet the curator
-  A guided tour of Hovingham Hall
-  The fine art and furnishing collection of Rokeby Park
-  The extensive collection at the Bowes Museum
-  Led by Nicholas Merchant, a lecturer on Decorative and Fine Arts and accredited lecturer of the Arts Society

5 DAYS from ~~£1,295~~ **£1,166**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **£150**

 **DEPARTURES:** 24 - 28 May

- ▶ Four nights dinner *(with wine)*, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Mercure Darlington Kings Hotel
- ▶ Return standard rail travel from London to Darlington *(regional connections can be arranged and upgrades are also available at a supplement; £100pp reduction for no rail travel)*
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of expert lecturer Nicholas Merchant as tour manger



© Raby Castle, Park and Gardens



NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Stately Homes & Seaside Castles of Norfolk

Sandringham

Our exploration of Norfolk begins as we travel through verdant countryside to the 500-year-old Oxburgh Hall, a survivor from the War of the Roses, followed by a visit to one of Britain's best-preserved keeps, Castle Rising. We also discover Jacobean Blickling Estate and beloved Sandringham, where a memorable afternoon tea and private guided tour awaits. Other visits include the Palladian-style Holkham Hall, the moated manor of Hindringham Hall and Mannington Hall, where we join Lady Walpole at her ancestral family home and enjoy a guided tour and lunch. A trip on the North Norfolk Heritage Railway rounds off our tour.



Blickling Estate

Key Highlights

- Afternoon Tea with sparkling wine and private guided tour of Sandringham
- House and Gardens tour at Wolterton with refreshments in the Saloon
- Tour with Lady Walpole at Mannington Hall with lunch
- Private afternoon access to the gardens & grounds at Hindringham Hall

5 DAYS from ~~£1,595~~ £1,545

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

DEPARTURES: 8 - 12 Jun

- Four nights bed and breakfast at the four-star Knights Hill Hotel, King's Lynn
- Three dinners with tea and coffee and a glass of wine at the hotel
- One light supper at the hotel
- Sparkling wine afternoon tea at Sandringham
- Lunch at Mannington Hall
- One-way journey aboard the North Norfolk Railway
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager



Highlights of Northumberland

Alnwick Gardens

Northumberland's low-lying coast, wide-open spaces, historic houses, castles and Roman ruins await on this tour. Perhaps the most impressive is Bamburgh Castle, which sprawls over a rocky plateau on the coast, close to the Farne Islands. Further highlights include a trip to the holy island of Lindisfarne and visits to Belsay Hall and Wallington House, which dates back to 1688 and boasts a fine garden. No Northumbrian discovery is complete without Alnwick Castle, described as the 'Windsor of the North', and one of Britain's most significant Roman sites, Hadrian's Wall, plus the well-preserved Roman cavalry forts of Chester's Fort.



Lindisfarne Castle

Key Highlights

- Unique experience at Belsay Hall – visit the house then the garden built in the quarry that provided the stone for the house
- Bamburgh Castle, one of the most impressive fortresses in the land
- In the footsteps of Harry Potter at Alnwick Castle

5 DAYS from ~~£1,245~~ £1,195

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £195

DEPARTURE: 27 Jun - 1 Jul

- Four nights dinner, bed and full breakfast at a comfortable 3-star hotel in the Newcastle area
- Standard class rail travel from London Kings Cross to Newcastle (first class upgrades and regional connections available on request – there is a discount of £100pp for those making their own way to/from Newcastle)
- Visits include: Belsay Hall, Bamburgh Castle, Lindisfarne Castle and Priory, Alnwick Castle, Hadrian's Wall, Chester's Fort and Wallington House
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of local expert Alan Appleton tour manager



Gardens & Architecture of Mallorca

Cathedral La Seu

Away from the busy beach resorts, the Balearic Island of Mallorca offers a timeless, verdant landscape of wooded hills and orange groves, sweeping bays and rocky mountains. Dotted around the island are 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 spring sunshine.





These include the gardens at Raixa and Alfabia, both with Moorish origins and later Christian influences and the Gardens of Sóller, a botanist's and enthusiast's paradise. The Botanical Garden is found in a country estate known as "Camp d'En Prohom", on the outskirts of Sóller. Its primary purpose is to preserve rare or endangered species of the Balearics

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.



Garden at Son Marroig

Key Highlights

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

6 DAYS from ~~£1,895~~ **£1,706**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £395

 **DEPARTURES:** 21 - 26 Apr

- ▶ Five nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel THB Maria Isabel, Playa de Palma
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Return flights from London to Palma
- ▶ Visits include: Jardines de Alfabia, Gardens of Sóller, the gardens of Raixa, Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, Museo Sa Bassa Blanca and Palma City
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager






Gardens & Architecture of Andalucía

Seville, Plaza de España



Andalucía boasts rich history and culture, Moorish architecture and colourful gardens, set against the Sierra Nevada's snow-capped mountains. Beyond its popular coastline, Andalucía's hinterland features exotic Moorish palaces and gardens, including the famous Alhambra and Generalife, which we discover on this sun-soaked tour. Perched on a tree-covered slope, they offer stunning views of the Albaicín and the Sierra Nevada. In Córdoba, we visit the Great Mosque, one of the oldest continuously gardened sites and the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos with its terraced pools, while in Seville, highlights include the Cathedral, Orange Tree Courtyard, Royal Palaces of the Alcázar, Patio de la Ysería, Santa Cruz Jewish Quarter, María-Luisa Park, Plaza de España and Gardens of Murillo. A free day here offers the perfect chance to enjoy tapas, a Flamenco show or a Guadalquivir river cruise. We end the tour in Ronda, visiting the Alameda del Tajo Gardens and Palacio de Mondragon, with its Moorish courtyards and gardens.

Key Highlights

-  Pinnacle of Moorish architecture, the Alhambra Palace
-  Dramatic views of the rugged Sierra Nevada mountain range
-  Mesmerising multi-arched columns of Córdoba's Great Mosque
- The historic Puente Nuevo bridge, which spans the El Tajo gorge in Ronda



The Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba

8 DAYS from ~~£2,095~~ **£1,886**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **£395**

 **DEPARTURES:** 26 Apr - 3 May

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Visits include: The Alhambra Palace, the Great Mosque and the Royal Palaces of the Alcázar in Córdoba, Gardens of Murillo and the Alameda del Tajo Gardens
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Sue Pomeroy as tour manager & local guides

NEW
TOUR

Springtime Flowers in Sintra & Lisbon

Palacio Fronteira

Embark on a journey through the stunning and historic gardens of Portugal, where springtime brings a burst of vibrant colours and fragrances. We visit the Palacio de Fronteira and its beautiful gardens: a perfect introduction to the elegance of Portuguese horticulture. We also explore the Estufa Fria, a lush indoor botanical garden, and the Lisbon Botanical Garden, an oasis of tranquillity in the city. Other highlights include the Marquês de Pombal Garden and the Queluz Palace, showcasing the opulence 18th-century garden design, plus the romantic Monserrate Palace gardens and the mystical Quinta da Regaleira, where every corner reveals a new surprise.



Monserrate Palace

Key Highlights

- See the stunning UNESCO World Heritage landmarks in Sintra, the Monserrate Palace and Quinta da Regaleira
- Visit the monumental D. Carlos I in Caldas da Rainha, with its African Sculpture art garden
- Enjoy the beauty of water mirrors, wide paths, leafy trees and a century-old Noria at Jardim do Cerco

7 DAYS from ~~£2,495~~ **£2,246**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £495

DEPARTURES: 5 - 11 Apr

- ▶ Six nights bed & breakfast at the 4-star Heritage Lisboa Plaza *(or similar)*
- ▶ Return flights from London to Lisbon
- ▶ Welcome and farewell dinners
- ▶ Visits include: The Foundation of the Houses of Fronteira and Alorna, Estufa Fria, Lisbon Botanical Garden, Queluz Palace, Marquês de Pombal Garden, Monserrate Palace, Quinta da Regaleira and Pena Palace
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist David Hurrian as tour manager

Key Highlights

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

8 DAYS from ~~£2,495~~ **£2,246**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £395

DEPARTURE: 1 - 8 May

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

Gardens of Madeira

Flower Festival

Set in a bright blue sea, some 400 miles off the coast of Africa, lies the lush, volcanic Portuguese island of Madeira. Just 36 miles long and 14 miles wide, it is an island of outstanding natural beauty. Orchids, bougainvillea, lilies, hydrangeas, magnolias, jacarandas and azaleas bloom effortlessly throughout the year and delight the eye at every turn. Our May departure is timed to coincide with Madeira's Flower Festival, when the streets are carpeted in flowers and colourful displays can be seen on every corner. Enjoy grandstand seating along the main avenues of Funchal to watch this floral spectacle.



Botanical Garden Monte






The Genius of Monet

Monet's Garden

Just as the gardens at Giverny inspired Monet, who spent half his life nurturing and enjoying them, so they continue to enthrall countless visitors in 2026, the 100th anniversary of his death. The lovingly restored gardens give a vivid impression of Monet's favourite subjects. Arched bridges, painted an acid apple green, are festooned with wisteria and the draped fronds of weeping willow frame the water lilies - Monet's paintings brought unnervingly to life. The perfect complement to Giverny is the Orangerie Museum in Paris.

The centrepiece of this outstanding collection is Monet's breathtaking series of murals, *Les Nymphéas*. Housed in two vast elliptical rooms, the two-metre-high murals extend to almost 200m in length and provide a moving and unforgettable testament to the genius of a painter at the height of his powers. Besides Giverny, we visit the Château de Chantilly, with its extensive collection of fine art and its gardens designed by Le Nôtre and also the pleasant market town of Senlis.

Key Highlights

-  The incomparable gardens of Giverny, carefully maintained as Monet would have wished
-  The Orangerie Museum and *Les Nymphéas* – impressionism at its most impressive
-  The sumptuously decorated Grands Appartements and the *Galerie de Peintures* of the Château de Chantilly

4 DAYS from ~~£1,495~~ **£1,346**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £325

 **DEPARTURES:** 1 - 4 May

- ▶ Three nights dinner (*with wine*), bed & breakfast at the Château Jeanne & the Forest, Chantilly
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Paris with Eurostar (*first class upgrades and regional connections also available on request*)
- ▶ Visits include: Château de Chantilly, the house and gardens of Claude Monet at Giverny and Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager



Château de Chantilly

Seine River Cruise featuring Monet's Garden & the Gardens of Normandy

Château de Canon







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 enthral countless visitors more than 90 years after his death.

Other garden highlights include the Château de Miromesnil, 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.

Key Highlights

-  The magical gardens of Claude Monet at Giverny
-  A taste of Normandy at a Calvados producer
-  Guided tour of the gardens at Le Vasterival
-  Visit to the iconic Château de Versailles

8 DAYS from **£2,895**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £695

 **DEPARTURES:** 7 - 14 May

- ▶ Seven nights in a Deck 1 outer cabin on the A-Rosa Viva on a full board basis
- ▶ Drinks included throughout the day (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)
- ▶ Visits include: Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries, Jardin de Plume, Château de Miromesnil, Château de Canon and the house and gardens of Claude Monet
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager



A-ROSA VIVA



Gardens of the French Riviera - International Rose Festival

Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild

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



Monte Carlo

Key Highlights

- 🌿 The exotic planting of the Jardin Botanique Val Rahmeh
- 🌿 Parks and gardens in Monte Carlo
- 🌿 Marvellous sea views and opulent surroundings in St Jean Cap Ferrat

6 DAYS from ~~£2,395~~ £2,156

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £325

DEPARTURES: 7 - 12 May

- ▶ Five nights bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Le Grimaldi, Nice *(or similar)*
- ▶ Three dinners and four lunches
- ▶ Return flights from London to Nice
- ▶ Visits include: Jardin Botanique Val Rahmeh, Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, Hanbury Gardens, Serre de la Madone, Villa Thuret and La Mouissone
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager

NEW
TOUR



Gardens of Picardy

Les Hortillonnages

The River Somme, which meanders gently through the countryside of Picardy in north-east France, takes its name from a Celtic word meaning 'tranquillity'. We discover why this is so apt as we cruise along some 50km of the river aboard our electrically powered barge. Running the full length of the waterway, there is a well-maintained towpath, offering the chance to walk where the locks are more closely spaced. We enjoy three half-day cruises over the course of our tour, with the rest of the time spent exploring our host city of Amiens and visiting some of the region's outstanding gardens.



Gerberoy

Key Highlights

- 🌿 Enjoy three half-day cruises on the Somme waterways with lunch and wine included
- 🌿 Take a boat trip around the floating gardens of Les Hortillonnages
- 🌿 Discover the elegance at the Château de Long
- 🌿 Admire a tranquil country garden with many water features

7 DAYS from ~~£1,895~~ £1,795

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £295

DEPARTURE: 7 - 13 Jun

- ▶ Six nights bed & 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
- ▶ Visits include: Jardin Moulin Ventin, Les Hortillonnages, Château de Long, Floral Gardens of Digeon and the Gardens of Maizicourt
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS







Gardens of the Loire Valley

Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire

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 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.

Key Highlights

-  Celebrate the life and works of the genius botanist, engineer and artist Leonardo da Vinci at his former home, Château du Clos Lucé
-  Discover Château Chenonceau, one of the region's best-known castles, and its stunning gardens
-  Enjoy a wine tasting at Les Caves du Père Auguste, where the same family has been producing wine for 145 years
-  Admire Chédigny, the charming village transformed into a garden with thousands of blooming plants and flowers



Château de Chenonceau

7 DAYS from ~~£1,595~~ **£1,495**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £395

 **DEPARTURES:** 5 - 11 Jun

- ▶ 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 (first class upgrades and regional connections also available on request)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Linda Robinson as tour manager







Lavender Fields & Gardens of Provence Cruise

Provence



Delve into Provençal life at its best on this idyllic cruise, admiring lilac-hued fields, strolling through Old Town squares, discovering beautiful gardens and sampling superb French cuisine. Our ports of call along the Rhône are bursting with quaint charm and are filled with layer upon layer of history, such as popular Avignon and sun-drenched Arles, a city of terracotta-tiled rooftops with a treasure trove of UNESCO-listed gems. The pièce de résistance of Provence is of course its fragrant lavender, and we celebrate this glorious plant with an immersive experience at Un MAS en Provence de La Plante Au Parfum and a visit to the famous Musée de la Lavande Luberon. Combined with the chance to delve into the rich wine-making heritage of the region with a train journey through the Tain L'Hermitage Vineyards, joie de vivre awaits!

Key Highlights

-  Soak up the lovely views and landscapes of Provence aboard the sun-deck of A-ROSA STELLA
-  Visit the Musée de la Lavande Luberon, home to the 'real' lavender of Provence
-  Discover the blooms intertwined with Saint-André Abbey, a Remarkable Garden of France
-  Enjoy an immersive experience at Un MAS en Provence de La Plante Au Parfum

8 DAYS from ~~£2,995~~ **£2,895**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £695

 **DEPARTURES:** 28 Jun - 5 Jul

- ▶ Seven nights in a lower deck cabin on the A-ROSA STELLA 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 to Paris on board Eurostar
- ▶ Return standard class rail from Paris to Lyon (first class upgrades and regional connections also available on request)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager



Lyon Botanical Garden



Gardens of the Neapolitan Riviera

Villa San Michele




Southern Italy has a beautifully warm climate which, combined with a rich and fertile soil, is ideally suited not only to olives, oranges and lemons but to a wide range of tender exotics. This has led to the creation of some fantastic villas, gardens, vineyards and lemon groves all doused in the ancient culture that surrounds the vibrant city of Naples itself.

The largest island in the Bay of Naples is Ischia and here we visit La Mortella, a dazzling garden of lush exotics and tender trees, which was started by the composer William Walton. Umbrella pines, groves of ilex and arbutus, Italian cypresses and myrtles thrive here in glorious companionship. In Ravello on the Amalfi coast, we visit the Villa Rufolo, laid out on three terraces within a complex of early buildings. On the upper terrace, umbrella pines and cypresses shade a wellhead, while on a lower level, classical geometric beds edged with box are filled with modern flowers. Nearby is the Villa Cimbrone, whose site on a clifftop promontory overlooking the sea is beyond compare. Finally, there is the opportunity to visit Pompeii, one of the most remarkable sites anywhere in the world, which offers a fascinating yet tragic glimpse into a distant past.



Villa Cimbrone

Key Highlights

-  Caserta Palace Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most beautiful gardens in Europe
-  The gardens of Villa San Michele on the island of Capri
-  The gardens of Villa Rufolo, which commands picture perfect views over the Amalfi coast

7 DAYS from ~~£2,395~~ **£2,156**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £395

 **DEPARTURES:** 21 - 27 Apr

- ▶ Six nights dinner with wine, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Best Western La Solara
- ▶ Return flights from London to Naples
- ▶ Visits include: Caserta Palace Gardens, Villa San Michele, Giardini di Augusto, La Mortella, Villa Rufolo, Villa Cimbrone and Pompeii
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager & local guides



Villas & Gardens of the Italian Lakes

Isola Bella



The fabulous scenery and benign climate of the northern Italian lakes have attracted aristocrats for years and today their elegant villas and lush gardens perfectly complement the natural landscape. From our bases on the Gulf of Borromeo on Lake Maggiore and the foot of Lake Como, we explore a succession of villas and gardens, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of snow-capped mountains and glittering waters. Look forward to discovering the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society, where we see a remarkable collection of over 500 plants and enjoy a relaxed lunch, the sumptuous terraced gardens of the Borromean islands, the rare botanical specimens of Villa Taranto and the dazzling display of azaleas and rhododendrons at Villa Carlotta. Once again, our tours will be led by popular tour manager and local resident Kate Williamson, and during our stay on Lake Como, we are also treated to a private tour with the owner of Villa Cicogna Mozzoni.

Key Highlights

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

8 DAYS from ~~£2,895~~ **£2,606**

DEPARTURE: 22 - 29 Apr

8 DAYS from ~~£2,895~~ **£2,795**

DEPARTURE: 17 - 24 Jun

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £595

- ▶ Four nights dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Hotel Milan Speranza au Lac on Lake Maggiore; three nights dinner, bed and breakfast at the four-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior on Lake Como
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Return flights from London to Milan
- ▶ Visits include: Isola Bella, Madre and Pescatori, Carlotta and Balbianello
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of officially accredited local guide Kate Williamson



Isola Madre

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS

Gardens & Villas of Liguria

Villa Durazzo



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.

Key Highlights

-  Discover the Secret Garden at Palazzo Lomellino, a beautiful example of an Italian Renaissance garden
-  Take a guided walking tour of Genoa with its medieval buildings, vibrant piazzas, majestic palaces and winding alleys (known as *caruggi*)
-  Admire the gardens of Villa la Pergola, meticulously restored by famous landscape architect, Paolo Pejrone
-  Enjoy a guided tour of the exquisite Villa Marigola

7 DAYS from ~~£2,295~~ **£2,066**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £395

 **DEPARTURES:** 1 - 7 May

- ▶ Six nights bed & 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
- ▶ Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager



Villa Del Principe Garden

NO/LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Rome, Ninfa & Castel Gandolfo

Papal Garden in Castel Gandolfo



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 traditional papal residence just outside Rome.

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 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.

Key Highlights

-  Enjoy exclusive access to the beautiful and ancient gardens of Ninfa
-  Wander Castel Gandolfo, the Papal residence
-  Explore the streets of Rome at your leisure
-  Visits to Villa d'Este and Villa Lante
-  Guided tour of Viterbo

4 DAYS from ~~£1,795~~ **£1,616**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £195

 **DEPARTURES:** 8 - 11 May

- ▶ Three nights bed & breakfast at the Hotel Albergo Santa Chiara in Rome (*or similar*)
- ▶ Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- ▶ Return flights from London to Rome
- ▶ Visits include: Villa Lante, Castel Gandolfo, Ninfa and Villa d'Este
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Julia Corden as expert tour manager



Gardens of Ninfa

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS

Arts & Gardens of Florence & Tuscany

Boboli Gardens



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 Toriggiani 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.

Key Highlights

-  Admire the unforgettable panorama of Florence's red-tiled rooftops and Renaissance skyline from Bardini Gardens
-  Enjoy an exclusive visit to Toriggiani Gardens, Europe's largest private garden
-  Visit the world-famous Uffizi Gallery and the Galleria dell'Accademia, home to Michelangelo's David

7 DAYS from ~~£2,795~~ **£2,516**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT **£395**

 **DEPARTURES:** 31 May - 6 Jun

- ▶ Six nights bed & breakfast at a comfortable hotel in Florence
- ▶ Welcome and farewell dinners
- ▶ Return flights from London to Pisa
- ▶ Visits include: Toriggiani Gardens, Boboli Gardens, Bardini Gardens and Villa, the Uffizi Gallery, Galleria dell'Accademia, Villa Gamberaia and Villa La Pietra
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager



Bardini Gardens

Discover the Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell

Mouse Island

Come and explore the magical Mediterranean island that inspired ITV's hit drama *The Durrells*. Aside from Keeley Hawes, who played a British widow who moved her family to Corfu in 1935, one of the biggest stars of the show was the island itself. In fact, it's almost impossible to watch the hit show or read Gerald Durrell's wonderful books on which it's based without thinking, "I wish my family had moved to Corfu!"





So this is your chance to go on an unforgettable five-day holiday that includes some fantastic treats for Durrell fans. During this exclusive Corfu experience, we'll get the chance to meet the famous naturalist and writer Lee Durrell, who will give a private talk about her family's love affair with the island and her late husband Gerald's pioneering role in wildlife conservation. Lee will also accompany us on a visit to some of the Durrell family's favourite places in Corfu.

So instead of daydreaming about *The Durrells*, why don't you come and discover this beautiful and beguiling Mediterranean island for yourself? Lee Durrell will be the perfect guide to the Corfu that she, her late husband Gerry and the Durrell family so fell in love with.



Corfu

Key Highlights

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

5 DAYS from ~~£1,845~~ **£1,661**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £225

 **DEPARTURES:** 5 - 9 May

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







Austrian Palaces, Gardens & Apricot Blossoms

Belvedere Palace and Park

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 clifftop 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*.

Key Highlights

-  Apricot Blossom in the Wachau Valley
-  The Baroque Palace of Schönbrunn
-  Visit the abbey of Melk, the largest Benedictine Abbey in Europe
-  Leopoldskron Castle (the Castle at the pond from *The Sound of Music*)

8 DAYS from ~~£2,995~~ **£2,696**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £295

 **DEPARTURES:** 10 - 17 Apr

- ▶ Seven nights bed and breakfast in four-star hotels: four nights at the Strudlhof Vienna, one night Hotel Donauhof, Emmersdorf and two nights Hotel Untersberg in St Leonhard *(or similar)*
- ▶ Three dinners
- ▶ Flights from London to Vienna returning from Munich to London
- ▶ Visits include: the Palace of Schönbrunn, Schloss Hof Castle, the permanent garden exhibition in Tulln, an apricot farm where we enjoy a guided tour, Melk Abbey and Herrenchiemsee
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Linda Robinson as tour manager



Vienna



Cultural Croatia

American Gardens



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



Brijuni National Park

Key Highlights

-  Angiolina Park, the most famous and historic park in Opatija
-  Brijuni National Park, an enchanting island with some 700 plant species, located off the western coast of Istria
-  The American Gardens in Opatija, home to an array of Mediterranean and exotic plants
-  The historic city of Pula
-  One of Croatia's few immortelle farms on the island of Krk
-  Histria Aromatica, a beautiful botanical garden and estate

8 DAYS from ~~£2,695~~ **£2,426**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £295

 **DEPARTURES:** 30 May - 6 Jun

- ▶ 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 throughout
- ▶ Services of expert tour manager Julia Berg and local guides

NEW
TOUR



GARDENS

Sweden & Gotland in the Footsteps of Carl Linnaeus

Visby

Botanist Carl Linnaeus, known as the Flower King and renowned for his method of classifying plants, is the inspiration behind this fascinating tour, featuring lakes and gardens in southern Sweden and the wildflowers and seascapes of the Baltic island of Gotland. We begin on the Swedish mainland, touring some historic locations with direct Linnaeus connections in and around Uppsala, including the Linnaeus Garden and Museum and his summer estate at Hammarby, before exploring the beautiful Lakeland area, in particular Lake Vättern, where the beautiful shores are flanked by dense woodlands that stretch miles into the hinterland. A ferry takes us across the Baltic Sea to the island of Gotland, to which Linnaeus led an expedition in 1741. Here, among a distinctive landscape of limestone cliffs, we enjoy some excellent botanising opportunities along with a visit to the studio of wildlife illustrator Lars Jonsson, before returning to Sweden's sophisticated capital of Stockholm for a wonderful end to the holiday.

Key Highlights

-  Discover locations connected to the Flower King, Carl Linnaeus, including his museum and summer estate
-  Admire the diverse species at Uppsala University Botanical Garden, Sweden's oldest botanical garden
-  Visit the studio of wildlife illustrator Lars Jonsson on the Baltic island of Gotland

9 DAYS from ~~£3,095~~ **£2,995**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £595

 **DEPARTURES:** 13 - 21 Jun

- ▶ Eight nights bed & breakfast: two nights Uppsala, one night Vadstena, one night Oskarhamn, three nights Gotland and one night Stockholm
- ▶ One lunch and two dinners
- ▶ Return flights from London to Stockholm Arlanda (regional flights/connections available on request)
- ▶ Return ferry crossings from the Swedish mainland to Gotland
- ▶ 24hr SL Access card in Stockholm
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager



Stockholm

*"It was a very enjoyable
and informative holiday,
with an excellent tour
leader, a careful driver
and good companions."*

Guest - October 2025

Get in touch
with an *expert*

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday
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Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

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