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See Scotland differently with Brightwater Holidays, part of Specialist Journeys. Our passion for this land runs deep, shaping every tour and brought to life by our expert, engaging Tour Managers.

Uncover Scotland's greatest treasures - dramatic landscapes, striking architecture and vibrant cities, all at a pace that lets you truly connect. Our carefully curated collection blends iconic sights with hidden gems, grand estates, beautiful gardens, legendary rail journeys and unforgettable scenery.

We know exactly where to find Scotland's standout moments and how to make them yours.

Wherever you choose to explore, expect exceptional service, expert guidance and exclusive access.

Warm regards,

The Brightwater Holidays Team

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From the moment you book to the moment you return home, you can relax knowing you are in great hands.

- ✓ Financially Protected (ABTOT)
- ✓ Award winning service
- ✓ Rated Excellent on Feefo
- ✓ Expert Tour Managers
- ✓ Carefully curated itineraries
- ✓ Trusted by travellers since 1992

Our commitment to quality doesn't stop there. With over 1,700 reviews and an excellent rating of 4.4 out of 5, travellers consistently praise our expertly curated itineraries, knowledgeable Tour Managers and seamless service.



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Everything Taken Care of

Brightwater Holidays has spent over 30 years perfecting travel that's expertly led, carefully curated and completely seamless.



Expertly led tours

Every tour is led by a specialist Tour Manager, chosen for their expert background in garden design, conservation or heritage, to uncover the stories that make each destination truly distinctive.

Exclusive access

From private gardens to behind-the-scenes cultural highlights, we opens doors you simply wouldn't reach on your own.

Private Groups

We have a dedicated group travel department - see page 35

Seamless, supported travel

From start to finish, we take care of everything. From travel connections and meals to handpicked accommodation and comfortable transport so you can sit back and relax.

Travelling solo?

You're in good company. With like-minded travellers and no or low single supplement on many of our holidays, it's the perfect way to explore independently.

So much included

- ✓ 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
- ✓ No or low single supplements
- ✓ Enjoy peace of mind with financial protection

How active are Brightwater Holiday's tours?

We have a simple grading system in place to help you decide whether or not a tour is suitable for you.

Level 1 | Easy ❁

A tour that is determined as gentle will have a relaxed pace, with little walking and less exertion where travel and day length are concerned.

Level 2 | Light ❁❁

On light tours, anticipate mild walking with a mostly relaxed pace. There will be more visits and travelling than on our gentle tours, but not by much.

Level 3 | Moderate ❁❁❁

A decent level of fitness is required for our moderate tours. There could be walking between sites, more standing and more travelling to encounter.

Level 4 | Active ❁❁❁❁

If you choose an active tour, come prepared for longer days – and ones that fit more in. More walking, bigger distances covered and more energy!



Uncover the beauty of Scotland with those who know it best

New For 2027

Gardens of the Highlands and Islands - Pg 18

A Grand Tour of the Gardens of Scotland - Pg 34

Coming soon

A Taste of Scotland

Back for 2027

Lord of the Glens Cruise - Pg 23

Whether you're drawn to dramatic island landscapes, historic castles, world-famous gardens or scenic rail journeys, our Scotland collection combines specialist knowledge with carefully curated experiences to help you see the country differently.



Islands & Coasts

This part of the world is abundant with wild, deeply indented coastlines, Sea lochs and fjord-like landscapes with expansive views. Many spots hold a special beauty and diversity unique to Scotland, such as the Outer Hebrides and the North Coast 500.



Gardens & Country Houses

Its striking concentration of historic houses, old castles and grand residences makes it easy to discover the history and legends of Scotland, as well as the beautiful surrounding gardens, from private havens to grand ornamental wonders.



Heritage & Archaeology

Scotland's heritage and archaeology form one of the richest historical landscapes in Europe, spanning over 10,000 years of human activity, from the Neolithic period to Gothic medieval ruins and early Modern sites.



Scenic Rail & Special Interest

The timeless appeal of steam locomotives, set against Scotland's dramatic scenery, creates an experience that is hard to resist. Enjoy sweeping Highland views on the Jacobite steam train, complemented by serene river cruises through peaceful landscapes.



Isle of Lewis

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

5 DAYS from £1,495 | ACTIVITY RATING ✿ ✿ ✿

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee

This best-selling tour of the Outer Hebrides promises to live long in the memory. Our odyssey begins as we travel north via the Highlands, 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 tranquil 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 before visiting the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel through the dramatic Highlands via **Glen Coe**, **Fort William** and **Glenfinnan** to **Mallaig**. The journey offers ever-changing scenery of mountains, lochs and coastline. From here, we take the ferry to Lochboisdale in South Uist, passing the **Small Isles of Rum** and **Canna** and the Cuillin Hills on Skye. On arrival, we continue over causeways (*keeping a careful eye out for otters!*) to Benbecula, the 'stepping stone' between the Uists and continue to our hotel, where dinner is served this evening. (D)

Day 2 We travel south via **Eriskay**, a small island rich in history, including Prince Charlie's Bay, where Bonnie Prince Charlie landed in 1745. From here, we take the ferry to **Barra** for a guided tour of the island. Although Kisimul Castle is currently closed for conservation, it can be viewed from the shore.

We visit **Cockleshell Beach**, where the island's unique tidal runway operates alongside the coastline. We also see the former home of Sir Compton Mackenzie, author of Whisky Galore, and visit St Barr's Chapel and his nearby grave. Continuing to Vatersay via causeway, we admire memorials to the 1944 Catalina aircraft crash and the emigrant ship Annie Jane, wrecked in 1853. The island's machair is especially rich in summer wildflowers, creating a striking coastal landscape. We return via Eriskay. (B, D)

Day 3 We travel to Berneray and cross by ferry to **Harris**, visiting **St Clement's Church**, Rodel, a striking 16th-century church built by the MacLeod clan. We continue along the spectacular Harris coastline, with views towards Taransay and beaches including Scarasta, Horgabost, Borve and **Luskentyre**. The scenery shifts between white sand, turquoise sea and rugged hills. We pause in Tarbert before continuing into Lewis and on to Stornoway for our hotel. (B, D)

Day 4 We explore the west coast of Lewis, beginning with **Calanais Standing Stones (Calanais II)**, where an impressive arrangement of standing stones and cairn remains provides a glimpse into the island's Neolithic heritage. We continue to **Gearrannan Blackhouse Village**, a preserved crofting settlement of traditional thatched homes, before visiting **Shawbost Norse Mill**, a reconstructed Viking-era grain mill. We return to Stornoway for our final night. (B, D)

Day 5 We take the morning ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool, enjoying wide views of the Minch during the crossing. On arrival, we continue south by coach through the Highlands, returning to our original pick-up points in the evening. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Our 9th Apr & 3rd Sep departures operate in reverse starting in Benbecula and finishing in Stornoway.

Key Highlights

- ✧ 5,000-year-old standing stones
- ✧ The Black Houses at Gearrannan, typical of the crofting settlements
- ✧ St Columba's Uì Church, one of the most important archaeological sites on the Isle of Lewis

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Two nights at the Dark Isle Hotel, Benbecula & two nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel & all ferry crossings
- ▶ Visits include: Barra, St Clement's Church and Black Houses at Gearrannan
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA

30 Apr - 4 May	£1,495
30 May - 3 Jun	£1,595

BENBECULA TO STORNOWAY

9 - 13 Apr	£1,495
3 - 7 Sep	£1,595

Single Supplement	£300
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Luskentyre

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

5 DAYS from £1,895 | ACTIVITY RATING ✿ ✿ ✿

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Dundee, Kinross, Perth, Inverness



Dun Carloway Broch

Around 1800 BC, a vigorous civilisation left its mark on the Outer Hebrides. The Standing Stones at Callanish align with the midsummer full moon, while later settlers created cairns, Iron Age houses, Norse mills and Blackhouses. With a local guide, explore Lewis and Harris's moors, Lews Castle, St Clement's Church and the standing stones of Clah Mhic Leoid and Clach an Trushal. Enjoy four nights in Stornoway, where Gaelic culture thrives, music plays and history lives on.

Key Highlights

- ✧ Bosta Iron Village and museum, the Outer Hebrides' version of Skara Brae
- ✧ The remarkable and mysterious Standing Stones of Callanish
- ✧ Glimpses into a not-so-distant past at the Blackhouses of Gearrannan and Arnol
- ✧ Echoes of vanished lives at the Genealogy Centre
- ✧ The incomparable scenery of the Western Isles

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights at the Royal Hotel, Stornoway with breakfast
- ▶ Visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout & all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 17 Aug	£1,895
Single Supplement	£225



Callanish standing stones

In the Footsteps of the Picts

4 DAYS from £995 | ACTIVITY RATING ✿ ✿

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Dundee, Kinross, Perth, Inverness



Aberlemno Pictish stone

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Beyond Rome's northern frontier, the Picts were fierce Celtic tribes who left few homes but remarkable carved stones and jewellery before disappearing around 900 AD. Explore their heartland in Perthshire and Angus, visit a newly excavated Pictish fortress and see their artistry and symbols of power in museum collections in Edinburgh, Perth and Dundee's McManus Museum plus a visit to Vigeans Museum of Pictish Sculpture.

Key Highlights

- ✧ Pictish jewellery and sculpture in the National Museum of Scotland
- ✧ Magnificent Pictish stones at Aberlemno
- ✧ Pictish stone carving demonstration
- ✧ Specially-arranged tour of East Lomond Hillfort

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Links Hotel, Montrose with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an archaeological expert as a tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

6 - 9 Aug	£995
Single Supplement	£125



McManus Museum



Standing Stones of Stenness

Highlights of Orkney & Shetland

6 DAYS from £2,095 | ACTIVITY RATING * * *

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar, Stonehaven, Aberdeen

Sail to lands of rich history, vibrant wildlife and breathtaking scenery – the Orkney and Shetland Isles. People have been drawn here for millennia, from early settlers around 3000 BC to the legendary Vikings. Orkney's green, fertile landscapes contrast with Shetland's dramatic cliffs and sea lochs, yet both are steeped in the stories of Picts, Norsemen and seafaring legends, united by a fiercely independent spirit. We travel overnight aboard modern Serco Northlink Ferries from Aberdeen to Lerwick, enjoy two full days exploring Shetland, then sail to Kirkwall for two days discovering Orkney's archaeological and natural treasures.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points for Aberdeen and take the overnight ferry to Lerwick. (D)

Day 2 We leave the ship after breakfast and start our **Shetland** tour. Our first stop is **Sumburgh Head** with its RSPB reserve and then onto the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. Over three acres of remains are here, spanning 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age, including Bronze Age houses, Iron Age broch and wheel houses, Viking long houses and medieval farmhouses. We then continue to **Scalloway**, the former capital of Shetland, where we see the ruined castle. (B, D)

Day 3 Our day starts at the spectacular **cliffs of Eshaness** and the narrow isthmus known as **Mavis Grind**. This remarkable location is often referred to as the place where the Atlantic Ocean meets the North Sea, offering stunning views and a chance to witness the unique geological formations shaped by millennia of erosion. Afterwards, we head to **Lerwick**, a charming town with its narrow lanes, unique shops and historical landmarks such as Fort Charlotte. The waterfront area is particularly picturesque, offering stunning views and a chance to observe local fishing boats and wildlife. Later, we take the evening sailing to Kirkwall, with dinner served on board. On arrival, we transfer to our hotel. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning we have a full day excursion of west mainland **Orkney** visiting the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney – World Heritage Sites**.

We begin at **Maeshowe**, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe. Built before 2700 BC, Maeshowe was raided by Vikings in the 12th Century. It thus houses the largest collection of runic inscriptions to be found in any one place in the world. We shall also visit the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, with the adjacent Neolithic village of **Barnhouse**, before continuing to **Skara Brae**, with its new visitor centre depicting the history of this world famous monument and **Skaill House**, a fascinating architectural medley to the side of Skara Brae. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning, we have free time to explore **Kirkwall**. Later, we tour the south end of Orkney, crossing the **Churchill Barriers** and visiting the charming **Italian Chapel**, which was built on a former prisoner of war camp. (B, D)

Day 6 After breakfast we catch the ferry from Stromness back to the mainland. From here, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- ◊ The multi-period settlement of Jarlshof
- ◊ Neolithic Orkney – a UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- ◊ Spectacular sea cliffs at Eshaness
- ◊ The Churchill Barriers and Italian Chapel, poignant reminders of more recent history
- ◊ Multitudes of seabirds at Sumburgh Head (May-July)

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ One night at the Sumburgh Hotel, Shetland (or similar) with dinner & breakfast & three nights at the Kirkwall Hotel or Albert Hotel, Orkney with breakfast plus two dinners
- ▶ All ferry crossings, including overnight accommodation in 2-berth cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjalmland on the outward sailing
- ▶ One breakfast & two dinners on board
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 8 May	£2,095
24 - 29 May	£2,195
6 - 11 Sep	£2,095
Single Supplement	£595
Outside Cabin Supplement	£60



Guillemots



Jarlshof

Orkney & Shetland by Air

5 DAYS from £2,395 | ACTIVITY RATING * * *

Meet us in Scotland: DEPARTURE POINTS Aberdeen or Edinburgh

You asked and we answered! As it's a long way by road and sea, we have launched this alternative itinerary that explores the glorious and wild Orkney and Shetland Isles by air. Over five memorable days, we discover lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery, far from the jostling crowds as we lose ourselves in the haunting beauty of the Orkney and Shetland Isles.

Many people have landed there before you - some as early as 3000 BC. Most famous of all were the Vikings, but they were not alone and all around you will find historical treasures. Both islands, but particularly Shetland, in summer have virtually no darkness and the beauty of this 'Simmer Dim', as it is called locally, has to be seen to be realised.

Day 1 We fly from Aberdeen or Edinburgh to Sumburgh this morning. Upon arrival, we visit **Sumburgh Head**, where the North Sea meets the Atlantic, featuring dramatic cliffs and an RSPB reserve. Next, we explore the remarkable Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, spanning 3000 years from the Stone Age. In the afternoon, we head to **Scalloway**, Shetland's former capital, to see the ruined castle built in 1600 by Earl Patrick Stewart. Finally, we travel north to the stunning **cliffs of Eshaness**, passing the 'Otters Crossing' sign at Mavis Grind. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we head to the island's capital town of **Lerwick**, where we enjoy some free time. Later, we travel through small local communities until we reach Sandwick, where we cross as foot passengers on the ferry over to the little island of **Mousa**, to visit the 2000-year-old Iron Age **broch**. (B, D)

Day 3 Today we depart from Sumburgh Airport to **Kirkwall**. On arrival, we depart on a tour of the south end of **mainland Orkney**, crossing the

Churchill Barriers, which were built after the sinking of HMS Royal Oak in October 1939. We also stop off at the beautiful **Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. We then return to Kirkwall, the capital of Orkney, where we have free time to explore at leisure. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we embark on an all-day excursion to Orkney's west mainland, exploring the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney – World Heritage Sites**. Highlights include **Maeshowe**, a chambered tomb built before 2700 BC, featuring Viking runic inscriptions, the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, the nearby Neolithic village of **Barnhouse**, **Skara Brae** with its visitor centre, and **Skaill House**, an architectural gem beside Skara Brae. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we transfer to Kirkwall Airport, where we take a flight back to Aberdeen or Edinburgh. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- ◊ Mousa Broch – the best preserved Iron Age tower in existence
- ◊ Spectacular sea cliffs at Eshaness
- ◊ Multitudes of seabirds at Sumburgh Head
- ◊ The multi-period settlement of Jarlshof
- ◊ Neolithic Orkney – a UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- ◊ The Churchill Barriers and Italian Chapel, poignant reminders of more recent history

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Two nights at the Busta House Hotel, Shetland & two nights at the Kirkwall or Shore Hotel, Orkney (or similar) with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Flights from Aberdeen to Sumburgh, Sumburgh to Kirkwall & Kirkwall to Aberdeen (Edinburgh flight supplement £225pp)
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

11 - 15 May	£2,395
10 - 14 Aug	£2,395
Single Supplement	£395



Lerwick



Shetland seascape

Shetland & its Outer Isles

5 DAYS from £1,695 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Fofar, Stonehaven, Aberdeen

Shetland's rugged islands offer raw beauty, unique culture and abundant wildlife. We visit four islands, including Mousa with its Iron Age broch, the Shetland Croft House Museum and Jarlshof, a 3,000-year archaeological treasure. We explore the northern islands of Yell and Unst, sail by boat as islanders have for centuries and take in dramatic seascapes, fresh air and the distinctive character of this remote archipelago.

Day 1 We depart from our designated departure points and travel to Aberdeen, where we join the Serco Northlink ferry for the overnight sailing to Lerwick. Accommodation is provided in comfortable 2-berth cabins with en-suite facilities and dinner is served on board in the evening. (D)

Day 2 Arriving early in Lerwick, we enjoy a Scottish breakfast on board before a full-day tour. Starting at the South Mainland, we visit the **Shetland Croft House Museum**, a restored 19th-century thatched croft house with traditional materials, low doorways, uneven floors and a peat fire. Next, we explore the **Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof**, featuring 3,000 years of history with Bronze Age houses, iron age brooch and wheel houses, Viking longhouses and medieval farmhouses. This afternoon, we cross as foot passengers to the fascinating little island of **Mousa**. Here we visit the 2,000-year-old **broch**, the best-preserved example in the world. (B, D)

Day 3 After a leisurely breakfast, we depart for a full-day tour to the northern isles of **Yell** and **Unst**. We travel north through **Tingwall** and **Girlsta**

and past the oil terminal at Sullom Voe, which has transformed life in Shetland over the last 25 years, before arriving at Toft. After a 15-minute crossing, we travel across Yell to Gutcher, then take a short ferry to Unst. We visit **Muness Castle**, drive to **Baltasound**, and after lunch (not included), head further north to enjoy views from **Saxa Vord Hill**. We return via East Yell and Burravoe. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning we leave the hotel and head south, visiting **St Ninian's Isle** and its 6th-century church. Next, we stop at **Scalloway**, Shetland's former capital, to see the ruined castle built in 1600 by Earl Patrick Stewart. After lunch in **Scalloway** (not included), we pass through **Tingwall Valley**, the site of the old Norse parliament, before returning to **Lerwick for free time**. Later, we board the Northlink ferry for an overnight trip to Aberdeen. Dinner is served onboard. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast on board, we disembark in Aberdeen and return to the original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- Rich wildlife on the Island of Mousa
- 3,000 years of archaeological history at Jarlshof
- Muness Castle, the most northerly castle in the British Isles
- The stunning sea cliffs of Noss
- Bobby's bus shelter in Baltasound – surely the most famous in the world!

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Two nights at either Busta House Hotel or Brae Hotel Shetland with dinner & breakfast
- Two nights in 2-berth cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjalftland with dinner and full breakfast
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

23 - 27 Jun	£1,695
27 - 31 Aug	£1,695
Single Supplement	£495
Outside Cabin Supplement	£60



Lovely Shag



Dunrobin Castle Garden

Orkney's Hidden Garden Trail

6 DAYS from £2,095 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

The far north of Scotland and the Orkney Isles may be known for wild moorlands, dramatic cliffs and booming surf. Yet, they also nurture remarkable gardens created by determined gardeners over generations. Long summer days – the famed 'summer dim' – provide an ideal backdrop for these green havens. We begin in Caithness and Sutherland with a visit to the **Castle of Mey** before crossing the Pentland Firth to Orkney. There, we follow Orkney's Garden Trail, enjoying special access to selected private gardens and exploring archaeological treasures such as the standing stones of **Stenness** and **Brodgar**.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head north, to our first garden just over the Kessock Bridge, **Old Allangrange**. Here we have some time to explore the ornamental garden surrounding the house and a three-acre productive garden with two Keder greenhouses. Following our visit, we will continue north by the scenic coastal road to our comfortable hotel. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we head out to **Duncansby Head** to see the huge sea-stacks and pose for photographs at John O'Groats before visiting the **Castle of Mey**, the former holiday home of the late Queen Mother. We take the evening sailing from **Scrabster** to **Stromness**, where dinner is taken on the ferry. (B, D)

Day 3 After an early breakfast, we visit **Greens Garden**, a young, small private garden located in Orkney's East Mainland. Next, we visit the **Churchill Barriers**, which were built after the sinking of the HMS Royal Oak in October 1939 before continuing to **Laura's Wood**, where 1,500 varied species were planted into a half-acre of rough ground in 2010. We also visit **Marengo Community Garden**, a special garden tucked out of sight in the village of St Margaret's Hope. On the way back to Kirkwall, we stop at the beautiful **Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning, we visit **Finstown's Community Garden**, featuring miniature shrubs, primula-lined valleys, and perennial flower borders. Next, we head north to **Skara Brae**, exploring its visitor centre and enjoying the café facilities for lunch (not included). In the afternoon, we visit the Victorian garden at **Kierfold** in **Sandwick**. Its layout has stayed mostly unchanged for 100 years, though planting reflects each owner's taste. (B, D)

Day 5 We start at **Waulkmill**, a three-acre garden overlooking Waulkmill Bay. Next, we visit **The Quoy of Houton**, a restored historic walled garden near the sea. Then, we explore the **Standing Stones of Stenness** and the **Ring of Brodgar**, believed to date back to 2500-2000 BC. We return to Kirkwall for some free time to explore at our leisure. There are many craft and woollen shops, and of course, the magnificent **St Magnus Cathedral** is well worth a visit. (B, D)

Day 6 After breakfast, we transfer to Stromness for the morning ferry to **Scrabster**. Heading south, we visit **Dunrobin Castle**, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland. This early 19th-century chateau-style castle features formal gardens descending to the sea. Continuing south, we stop for refreshments (not included) as needed, returning to our pick-up points by evening. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- The delightful gardens at the Castle of Mey
- Special access to private gardens in Orkney and on the mainland
- Explore the heart of Neolithic Orkney

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- One night at the Station Hotel, Thurso & four nights at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney with breakfast & dinner (one dinner is taken on the ferry)
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- Return ferry travel
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

26 - 31 Jul	£2,095
Single Supplement	£395



Ring of Brodgar



Jarlshof

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland

6 DAYS from £2,095 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Fofar, Stonehaven, Aberdeen

Orkney and Shetland are rich in archaeological treasures, from 5,000-year-old settlements to Norse and medieval sites. Visit Mousa with its 2,000-year-old broch, Jarlshof, St Ninian's Isle, Scalloway Castle, the Italian Chapel, Maeshowe, Skara Brae and Skail House. En route to Aberdeen, pause for photos at the dramatic Dunnottar Castle, offering a remarkable insight into ancient life and the people who shaped these islands.

Day 1 We leave our pick-up point and head north, stopping for lunch (*not included*). En route, we pause for photos at **Dunnottar Castle**, a dramatic cliff-top fortress with origins in a 3rd-century Pictish stronghold and former home of the powerful Earls Marischal. In Aberdeen, we board the **Northlink Ferry** for an overnight sail to Lerwick, with dinner served onboard. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we leave the ship to tour Shetland, passing through Gulberwick and Cunningsburgh. At Sandwick, we take a ferry to the island of **Mousa*** to visit the 2000-year-old Iron Age **broch**, which impressively remains at its original height of 13m. After returning to the mainland, we will stop at Hoswick Visitor Centre for lunch (*not included*). Lastly, we visit the remarkable **Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof** and then head to the cliffs at **Sumburgh Head**, where the North Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean. (B, D)

*Please note: the trail on Mousa is uneven, steep and boggy in places. It may not be suitable for those visitors requiring extra mobility assistance or are not sure-footed. Walking boots and waterproof

clothing are recommended. There are no toilets, seating or shelter on the island. If, for any reason, the excursion is cancelled (weather or boat problems – sadly it can happen), we will visit Scatness Broch on Mainland Shetland.

Day 3 This morning, we head south to visit **St Ninian's Isle** and its 6th-century church, marking Christianity's arrival in Shetland. Next, we explore **Scalloway**, Shetland's former capital, and its ruined **castle** from 1600, built by Earl Patrick Stewart. After lunch (*not included*), we pass through **Tingwall Valley**, site of the old Norse parliament, before returning to Lerwick to explore the historic town. Later, we board our ship for Orkney, enjoy dinner onboard, and transfer to our accommodation in Kirkwall upon arrival. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we tour southern mainland Orkney, crossing the **Churchill Barriers**, built after the HMS Royal Oak sank in October 1939. These causeways, made of massive concrete blocks, connect Burray and South Ronaldsay to the Orkney mainland. We visit the beautiful **Italian Chapel**, built on a former prisoner of war camp site. Then, we

Key Highlights

- ◊ Mousa Broch – the best preserved Iron Age tower in existence
- ◊ The multi-period settlement of Jarlshof
- ◊ Neolithic Orkney – a UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- ◊ Handling 5,000-year-old artefacts at the Tomb of the Eagles
- ◊ The Churchill Barriers and Italian Chapel, poignant reminders of more recent history

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ One night's dinner, bed and full breakfast at the Sumburgh Hotel, Shetland (*or similar*) and three nights' bed and breakfast (*plus two dinners*) at the Albert Hotel/Kirkwall Hotel*.
- ▶ All ferry crossings, including one night's accommodation in 2-berth cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjalaland on the outward sailing
- ▶ One breakfast and two dinners on board ship
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

*Please note: April at the Kirkwall Hotel & August at the Albert Hotel

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

10 - 15 Apr	£2,095
23 - 28 Aug	£2,195
Single Supplement	£495
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APRIL	
Outside Cabin Supplement	£60



St. Magnus Cathedral

return to Kirkwall, Orkney's capital, for free time to explore. Highlights include **St. Magnus Cathedral**, a stunning 861-year-old sandstone masterpiece; the **Earl's Palace**, **Bishop's Palace**, and the **Orkney Museum**. Dinner is at our hotel tonight. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we explore the west mainland of Orkney, visiting the Heart of Neolithic Orkney. We start at **Skara Brae**, with its visitor centre showcasing the history of this iconic site and Skail House nearby. Next, we visit the **Ness of Brodgar** excavation site. In the afternoon, we visit the **Standing Stones of Stenness** and Brodgar, with the adjacent Neolithic village of Barnhouse, before continuing to **Maeshowe**, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe. Built before 2700 B.C. Maeshowe was raided by Vikings in the 12th Century. Dinner is served in our hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 6 After breakfast, we transfer to **Stromness** to board the mid-morning Northlink ferry to **Scrabster**. Upon arrival, we commence our journey back to the original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner



Old Man of Hoy

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Undiscovered Orkney

5 DAYS from £1,875 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness

Orkney's 70 islands offer unique history, charm and landscapes. Based on the Mainland, we explore hidden gems across the North and South Isles. Sail Westray's Old Norse routes, cross Scapa Flow to Hoy with its dramatic scenery and discover the 'Heart of Neolithic Orkney' on Mainland, including the Stones of Stenness and Skara Brae. This itinerary also features part of the scenic North Coast 500.

Day 1 We depart by coach from our designated pick-up points and travel North to Scrabster in time to catch the Northlink ferry to Stromness. Dinner is served in the restaurant on board. On arrival in **Orkney**, we will transfer the short distance to Kirkwall and our accommodation. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we explore mainland Orkney's archaeological sites, starting with **Maeshowe**, a renowned chambered tomb. We visit **Skara Brae** and its visitor centre, the **Standing Stones of Stenness** and the charming **Italian Chapel**. Later, we tour the **Pier Arts Centre** and the **Highland Park Distillery**, known for its traditional methods. (B, D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we head to **Hoy**, Orkney's second-largest island, with mountains in the north and fertile plains in the south. A 45-minute ferry ride takes us across Scapa Flow to Lyness. We visit the stunning **Dwarfie Stone**, where silence feels profound, and then **Rackwick Bay**, a beach with boulders, cliffs and a dynamic seascape. Returning south, we explore the **Scapa Flow Museum** at the former Lyness Naval Base, showcasing the Royal Navy's role in Orkney during both World Wars. After lunch (*not included*), we visit the stone-built **Martello Tower** at Hackness. Later, we ferry back to Houton and drive to Kirkwall for dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning, we depart for the island of **Westray**, the 'Queen of the Orkney Isles', which is reached by ferry from the pier directly opposite the hotel, sailing along the old Viking sea route to the north, past the islands of Egilsay and Eday. On Westray, we visit the **Scaun Natural Arch**, spotting sea birds like Shag, Black Guillemot, and Fulmar. Next is the unique **Quoygrew** 10th-century Norse site, followed by the **Kirk of St Mary** in Pierowall Village. After lunch (*not included*), we explore **Castle O'Burrian**, the **Westray Heritage Centre** and finish at **Noltland Castle**, an unusual castle reflecting Scotland's troubled history. We return to Kirkwall by ferry and enjoy dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 5 We check out of the hotel and transfer to Scrabster to catch the ferry back to Stromness. On arrival in Scrabster, we continue our homeward journey, stopping en-route at the **Timespan Museum and Arts Centre** in Helmsdale, which is described as a meeting place between past, present and future. Following our visit we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- ◊ The Scaun Natural Arch and the spectacular sea cliffs, Westray
- ◊ Views of the Old Man of Hoy as we sail to Scrabster
- ◊ Discover Orkney's Naval history at the Scapa Flow Museum
- ◊ The UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Maeshowe, Stones of Stenness and Skara Brae
- ◊ A dram of the finest whisky at Scapa Distillery

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights at the Kirkwall with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

12 - 16 Jun	£1,875
11 - 15 Aug	£1,875
Single Supplement	£125



Puffins



Fair isle knitting

Knitting in the Shetland Isles

6 DAYS from £2,095 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar, Stonehaven, Aberdeen

Explore knitting in the Shetland Isles with workshops led by skilled artisans, visiting Nielanell Design Studio for wool souvenirs and enjoying other textile-related experiences. We also discover the islands' heritage and scenery, including Jarlshof and Sumburgh Head's cliffs and travel on the overnight ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick, combining relaxation, scenic cruising and an unforgettable crafting holiday in this remote and inspiring archipelago.

Day 1 We travel north to Aberdeen and board the Northlink Ferry for our overnight crossing to Shetland, with dinner served on board. (D)

Day 2 Arriving in Lerwick, we head south to the remarkable Jarlshof, where 3,000 years of settlement include Bronze Age houses, Iron Age brochs and Viking longhouses. We continue to Sumburgh Head's dramatic cliffs before returning to Lerwick to visit the Textile Gallery at the Shetland Museum and the Shetland Textile Museum. Later, we transfer to our hotel in Brae for dinner. (B,D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we enjoy our first hands-on knitting workshop with a local tutor. In the afternoon, we visit Nielanell Design Studio and the Hoswick Visitor Centre, including the Laurence Odie Knitwear outlet, before returning to the hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 4 We tour western Mainland Shetland, visiting Walls and Sandness with views towards Foula and Papa Stour. Back at the hotel, we continue our second knitting workshop session. (B, L, D)

Day 5 A final morning workshop is followed by a visit to Scalloway and its castle, once home to Earl Patrick Stewart and later linked to the wartime "Shetland Bus". Free time in Lerwick includes Jamieson's of Shetland before our overnight ferry to Aberdeen. (B, L, D)

Day 6 This morning, we dock at Aberdeen and after breakfast on board, we join our coach and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Key Highlights

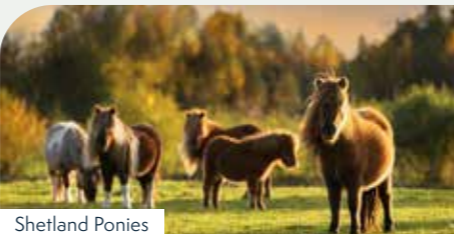
- Three tutored knitting workshops
- Learn from local experts
- Visits to textile galleries, museums and woollen mills
- See the Nielanell Design Studio at Sandwick
- Discover the picturesque village of Scalloway

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Two nights on board the Serco Northlink ferry & three nights at the Shetland Hotel, Shetland with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Three lunches
- ▶ Three knitting workshops with expert local tutor
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

11 - 16 Oct	£2,095
Single Supplement	£495
Outside cabin supplement	£60



Shetland Ponies



Up Helly Aa

Up Helly Aa - Shetland's Festival of Fire

7 DAYS from £1,795 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar, Stonehaven, Aberdeen

Lerwick transforms each January for Up Helly Aa, Shetland's dramatic Viking-inspired festival. Costumed squads parade with flaming torches, culminating in the burning of a replica longship amid music and fireworks. Enjoy the festivities alongside exploring Shetland's striking winter landscapes, historic sites and welcoming island hospitality.

Day 1 We travel to Aberdeen and board the Northlink ferry for an overnight crossing to Lerwick, enjoying dinner and onboard facilities. (D)

Day 2 Explore north mainland Shetland, including Mavis Grind and the dramatic cliffs of Eshaness, before checking into the hotel. (B,D)

Day 3 We take a scenic west mainland excursion to areas such as Walls and Sandness. (B,D)

Day 4 There's free time in Lerwick to experience Up Helly Aa Festival, highlighted by costumed guisers and a spectacular torchlit Viking procession ending with the burning of a galley. (B,D)

Day 5 Our journey takes us to the northern isles of Yell and Unst, with ferry crossings and visits to some of Britain's northernmost landscapes. (B, D)

Day 6 Visit Scalloway, including its historic castle and discover more about its wartime heritage. We then uncover Jarlshof's ancient settlement remains and Sumburgh Head. In the evening, we sail back to Aberdeen. (B, D)

Day 7 Disembark after breakfast and return home. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- Fire festival of Up Helly Aa
- 3,000 years of archaeological history at Jarlshof
- The dramatic, rugged scenery of Yell and Unst
- The picturesque village of Scalloway

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Two nights at the Sumburgh Hotel, Shetland (upgrades available to the Busta House Hotel) with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Two nights in 2-berth cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries Hrossey or Hjaltrand with dinner & breakfast (outside cabins are available on request)
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

23 - 29 Jan	£1,795
Single Supplement	£450
Supplement for Busta House Hotel	from £250
Outside cabin supplement	£60

4 DAY AIR PACKAGE OPTION (BRAE HOTEL)

25 - 28 Jan	£1,445
Single Supplement	£350

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

NEW TOUR



Mount Stuart Rock Gardens

Gardens of the Highlands and Islands

5 DAYS from £1,595 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Fofar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

Discover the unique beauty of Scotland's Highlands and Islands on this thoughtfully curated garden tour, where every stop has been chosen to showcase the region's extraordinary landscapes and rich heritage. From the vibrant exotic plant collections nestled within the sheltered haven of Crarae Garden to the hauntingly beautiful ancient monuments of Kilmartin Glen, each destination reveals a different facet of Scotland's natural and cultural story. We travel through dramatic coastlines, tranquil lochs, and rolling glens and explore charming villages steeped in tradition, along with visits to some of the country's most celebrated gardens, each shaped by its unique climate, history and design. Wander beneath towering trees, uncover centuries-old archaeological treasures, or simply soak up the serenity of unspoilt landscapes.

Day 1 Our journey begins at the enchanting **Crarae Garden**, where exotic plants, cascading waterfalls and winding woodland paths create a magical Himalayan-style setting. A scenic drive along Loch Fyne brings us to the picturesque harbour village of Tarbert for our first overnight stay. (D)

Day 2 We sail to the peaceful Hebridean island of **Gigha**, a hidden gem off the Kintyre coast. Here we enjoy lunch in a local café before visiting the beautiful **Achamore Gardens**, once home to the Horlick family. Thanks to the island's mild climate and abundant rainfall, the gardens are filled with colour and interest throughout the seasons. (B,D)

Day 3 Our morning begins with a ferry crossing to Portavadie before continuing to the Isle of Bute. We explore the magnificent **Mount Stuart House and Gardens**, renowned for its

extraordinary architecture and landscaped grounds, before visiting the charming **Ascog Hall Fernery**, home to rare plant collections. After time in the Victorian seaside town of Rothesay, we continue to Inveraray for our second hotel stay. (B,D)

Day 4 We continue along Scotland's west coast with a visit to **Arduaine Garden**, where exotic plants flourish beside stunning coastal scenery. Later, we step back in time at **Kilmartin Glen**, home to one of Scotland's most important prehistoric landscapes, featuring ancient standing stones, burial cairns and rock carvings. (B,D)

Day 5 On our final day, we visit the spectacular **Benmore Botanic Garden**, famed for its towering Giant Redwoods and impressive global plant collections. A scenic ferry crossing across the Firth of Clyde marks the start of our journey home. Later, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- Uncover Crarae Garden's Himalayan-inspired beauty, with exotic plants, winding woodland paths and cascading waterfalls.
- Discover hidden Hebridean gems Isle of Gigha and Achamore Gardens
- Visit Mount Stuart House and Gardens, an architectural masterpiece paired with landscaped grounds.
- Step into Scotland's prehistoric past at Kilmartin Glen's ancient wonders with standing stones and rock carvings.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Two nights at the Anchor Hotel & two nights at The Inveraray Inn with dinner & breakfast
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

31 May - 4 June	£1,595
Single Supplement	£225



Kilmartin Glen



Jacobite Steam Train

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

A Classic Scottish Steam Break

4 DAYS from £895 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Fofar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh

Scotland's steam journeys combine engineering feats with stunning scenery. Enjoy the **Jacobite Steam Train** from Fort William to Mallaig past Ben Nevis, Loch Morar, River Morar and across the Glenfinnan Viaduct. Discover the beauty of Loch Lomond followed by Inveraray Castle, cruise Loch Katrine on the steam-powered **Sir Walter Scott** and experience the rotating Falkirk Wheel, linking the Union and Forth & Clyde canals.

Day 1 This morning, we travel by coach to the **Falkirk Wheel**, the world's first rotating boat lift. Upon arrival, you can have lunch (*not included*) and explore the visitor centre before starting our water journey at New Port Downie, sailing into the Falkirk Wheel. Afterwards, we head to our accommodation for a champagne reception and dinner. (D)

Day 2 After an early breakfast, we head to Fort William to board the **Jacobite Steam Train**, renowned for one of the world's most stunning railway journeys. The Fort William to Mallaig line offers breathtaking views of Scotland's wild beauty, from Ben Nevis to rugged mountains, lochs and the Atlantic shores at Mallaig. The route crosses the iconic Glenfinnan viaduct overlooking Loch Sheil, linked to Bonnie Prince Charlie's 1745 uprising. In Mallaig, enjoy free time for lunch (*not included*) before returning to Fort William. We then head back to our hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Following breakfast, we head for Tarbet on the banks of **Loch Lomond**, Britain's largest inland body of water, and depart on a 60-minute 'Northern Highlights Cruise' with full commentary.

Afterwards, we cross the mountain pass known as the **'Rest and Be Thankful'** and descend to the shores of Loch Fyne, a long fjord-like sea loch. This afternoon, we visit **Inveraray Castle**, seat of the Duke of Argyll, chief of Clan Campbell, since the 17th century. We return to our hotel for dinner in the evening. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we check out and head to **Callander** for free time. In the afternoon, we take a scenic cruise on Loch Katrine aboard the steamship **Sir Walter Scott**, enjoying the beauty of The Trossachs with its lochs, hills and woods. After the cruise, we return to our pick-up points by coach. (B, D)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- Enjoy a journey on the Falkirk Wheel boat lift
- Stunning views from the Jacobite Steam Train
- Cruise on Loch Lomond and visit to Inveraray Castle
- A captivating sailing on Loch Katrine on the steamship Sir Walter Scott

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the Arrochar Hotel with dinner & breakfast
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- 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

22 - 25 Apr	£895
6 - 9 May	£895
7 - 10 Oct	£895
Single Supplement	£125



Falkirk Wheel

Scenic Scottish railways

4 DAYS from £1,095 | ACTIVITY RATING ✨

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth



LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Jacobite Steam Train

Northern Scotland boasts some of the country's most scenic railways, with Victorian engineers creating sweeping curves and majestic viaducts across wild moors and glens. Highlights of this break include Eilean Donan Castle, a ride on the Jacobite Steam Train over the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct and a visit to Boat of Garten on the Strathspey Line, where the charm of the Highlands' steam era is perfectly recreated.

Key Highlights

- Iconic views over Loch Shiel from the Glenfinnan Viaduct onboard 'The Jacobite'
- Eilean Donan situated on an island where three lochs meet
- The palm trees of Plockton
- Scenic shores of Cromarty, Dornoch and Beaulie Firths

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the Duke of Gordon, Kingussie with dinner & breakfast
- Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

12 - 15 Oct	£1,095
Single Supplement	£195



Eilean Donan Castle

Scotland's Northern Edge featuring the North Coast 500

5 DAYS from £1,345 | ACTIVITY RATING ✨ ✨ ✨

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness



LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Ardreck castle

Scotland's northern coast is breathtaking, where wind and sea clash against ancient rock. Highlights include Duncansby Head with sea stacks and seabirds, John O'Groats, Dunnet Head and the Castle of Mey, former summer home of the Queen Mother. Continue to the open-air visitor centre of Knockan Crag and the ruins of Ardreck Castle followed by a visit to Highland Stoneware. Journey home via the picturesque locks of More and Shin.

Key Highlights

- The famous Stacks of Duncansby Head
- Journey's End signpost at John O'Groats
- Summer gardens at the Castle of Mey
- The magical Smoo Cave

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Two nights at the Station Hotel, Thurso (or similar) & two nights at the Kinlochbervie Hotel, Kinlochbervie with dinner & breakfast
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 12 May	£1,345
10 - 14 Jun	£1,345
5 - 9 Sep	£1,345
Single Supplement	£175



Duncansby Head



LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Smoo Cave

Scotland's Extreme North West

4 DAYS from £745 | ACTIVITY RATING ✨ ✨

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness

Scotland's rugged north-west coast is at its most majestic in early spring and autumn, with Atlantic waves crashing dramatically against the shore. Based in Kinlochbervie, with panoramic views over lochs and hills, we explore coastal gems such as the white sands of Oldshoremore and Smoo Cave at Durness. Evenings are spent enjoying fine food, good company and a welcoming fireside dram in our highland hotel.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel north, pausing en route for refreshments, before continuing into the remote north-west Highlands. Our destination is Kinlochbervie, where we settle into our hotel overlooking the fishing harbour and the open Atlantic coast. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we explore Assynt, a landscape of moorland, lochans and dramatic coastline shaped by ancient geology. We visit Achmelvich Bay and the harbour village of Lochinver, with views inland to the distinctive peak of Suilven rising above the surrounding wilderness. (B, D)

Day 3 We walk at Oldshoremore Beach, a sweeping arc of white sand backed by machair and dunes rich in wildflowers. We continue

to Durness, visiting Balnakeil graveyard overlooking the sea, before time at Cocoa Mountain for hot chocolate and chocolates. We then visit Smoo Cave, with its vast sea entrance and waterfall, before continuing via Loch Eriboll to Tongue. (B, D)

Day 4 We begin our return journey through Laxford Bridge, Loch More, Loch Shin and Lairg, where sweeping Highland scenery reflects centuries of change. We continue through Bonar Bridge and Tain, travelling south through the Highlands before returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the Kinlochbervie Hotel, Kinlochbervie with dinner & breakfast
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

16 - 19 Apr	£745
10 - 13 Apr	£745
10 - 13 Oct	£745
Single Supplement	£150



Suilven Mountain



Highland Wildlife Park

Highland Wildlife Safari

4 DAYS from £1,095 | ACTIVITY RATING * * *

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

Scotland's Highlands offer wildlife encounters amid stunning scenery. We visit Loch of the Lowes to see breeding ospreys, deer and red squirrels, then the Highland Wildlife Park with rare animals including snow leopards and polar bears. Highlights include a Moray Firth dolphin-spotting boat trip, the House of Aigas, Inverewe Garden and the Abernethy and Insh Marshes reserves for ospreys and breeding waders.

Day 1 We depart from our designated departure points and head up the A9, stopping for refreshments, to the **Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre and Wildlife Reserve**, near Dunkeld. Loch of the Lowes covers 98 hectares and from early April to late August, the star attraction is a pair of breeding ospreys. From the hide, you can also spot fallow and roe deer, otters, red squirrel and common woodland birds, including tree creepers and great-spotted woodpeckers. We continue to the **Highland Wildlife Park** near Aviemore, which has an extensive collection of both native and exotic animals and birds. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we make our way to Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, for our Moray Firth **Dolphin Cruise**. Though nothing is ever guaranteed where wildlife is concerned, we hope to see some of the bottlenose dolphins at close quarters, plus common seals, grey seals and porpoise. Following our cruise, we depart for the **House of Aigas Field Centre**, near Beauly. Here we enjoy **lunch** using produce from the estate (included) before embarking on a guided walk around the estate. (B, L, D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we travel through some glorious mountain scenery to Kinlochewe at the head of Loch Maree. Here we visit the **Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve**, located on the loch's southern shore beneath the mighty 3000ft face of **Slioch**. It is the oldest nature reserve in Britain, comprising 10,500 acres and was established in 1951. After our Woodland Walk, we continue for an afternoon visit to **Inverewe Gardens**, unquestionably recognised as one of the most outstanding gardens in the country with a host of botanical specimens both native and exotic. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and travel south to visit the **Abernethy National Nature Reserve** at Loch Garten. Continuing south, our final stop is at the **RSPB Reserve at Insh Marshes**, near Kingussie. The marshes, part of the River Spey floodplain, are home to large populations of breeding waders, including curlews, lapwings, redshanks and snipes. We depart for home, returning to your original pick-up point in the evening. (B)

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

Key Highlights

- Ospreys on the nest at Loch Garten and Loch of the Lowes
- The chance to see the famous Moray Firth dolphins
- A walk on the wild side at Ben Eighe Spectacular plant life at Inverewe
- Beavers and wildcats at the House of Aigas

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the Duke of Gordon Hotel with dinner & breakfast
- One lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
19 - 22 Jun	£1,095
Single Supplement	£225



Inverewe Gardens

Lord of the Glens - Voyage Through the Heart of Scotland

7 DAYS from £2,940 | ACTIVITY RATING *

Meet us in Scotland: DEPARTURE POINT Inverness (or Oban)

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

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

Day 2 Enjoy a walk up to **McCaughs Tower** for sweeping views over **Oban Bay**. During lunch, we sail to **Tobermory**, Isle of Mull, for an afternoon exploring the harbour town. (FB)

Day 3 We depart by coach and ferry for a visit to the Isle of Iona and then it's on to Tobermory. From Craignure, we travel to the Isle of Iona to explore its restored Benedictine Abbey. (FB)

Day 4 We sail the sheltered waters of the fjord-like **Loch Linnhe** with spectacular views all around. On arrival at the village of Corpach at the

entrance to the Caledonian Canal, we depart by train along part of the **West Highland Railway**, travelling over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. (FB)

Day 5 The vessel ascends **Neptune's Staircase** and cruises along the **Caledonian Canal** and connecting lochs as far as **Fort Augustus**. (FB)

Day 6 We descend the locks at Fort Augustus and sail out into famous **Loch Ness**, pausing for photos of the ruins of **Urquhart Castle**. On arrival in Inverness we enjoy an excursion to the National Trust of Scotland's Visitor Centre at **Culloden** and the **Clava Cairns**. (FB)

Day 7 Disembark in Inverness. (B)

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



Lord of the Glens

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
Oban to Inverness	
3 Oct	
Lower Deck	£2,940
Middle Deck	£3,480
Single Supplement	On request

Lord of the Glens - Secrets of the Highlands & Islands

8 DAYS from £3,690 | ACTIVITY RATING *

Meet us in Scotland: DEPARTURE POINT Inverness

This seven-night cruise also combines both fresh and saltwater cruising, as the Lord of the Glens sails through the Caledonian Canal from Inverness to the islands of Skye and Mull and the bustling harbour of Oban and onwards to the Isle of Skye, before concluding in Kyle of Lochalsh. Once again there is a full programme of shore excursions including visits to **Armadale** on the Isle of Skye, the little islands of **Eigg** and **Iona**, colourful **Tobermory** and the 13th century **Duart Castle** on the Isle of Mull; the romantic and much-photographed **Eilean Donan Castle**, the iconic **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, the **Culloden Battlefield** visitor centre and the prehistoric **Clava Cairns**.

Day 1 Travel under our own arrangement to Inverness, where we embark the **MV Lord of the Glens**. Later, we join the crew for a welcome drinks reception. (D)

Day 2 Enjoy an excursion to the National Trust of Scotland's Visitor Centre at **Culloden** and the **Clava Cairns**. Later we set sail on the Caledonian Canal built between 1803 and 1822 to connect with the four lochs of the **Great Glen**. En route we pass **Urquhart Castle** before arriving at **Fort Augustus**. (FB)

Day 3 The vessel descends **Neptune's Staircase** before we arrive in **Corpach**. Later, we depart by train along part of the **West Highland Railway**, travelling over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. (FB)

Day 4 We journey to **Oban** and upon arrival, we walk up to **McCaughs Tower**. (FB)

Day 5 We sail to Craignure on Mull for a visit to the Isle of Iona, the last resting place of some 50 Scottish Kings. (FB)

Day 6 Visit the island capital of Tobermory and then sail to the tiny island of Eigg. (FB)

Day 7 Sail across the **Sound of Sleat** to **Armada** on the Isle of Skye. Here we visit the **Clan Donald Centre**, before we sail to Kyle of Lochalsh to visit **Eilean Donan Castle**. (FB)

Day 8 Disembark at Kyle of Lochalsh and transfer by coach to Inverness. (B)

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



Urquhart Castle

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh	
26 Apr, 24 May & 30 Aug	
Lower Deck	£3,690
Middle Deck	£4,440
Middle Superior	£4,990
Upper Deck	£4,990
Single Supplement	On request



Culzean Castle

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Castles & Abbeys of Western Scotland

4 DAYS from £995 | ACTIVITY RATING * * *

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Fofar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

Western Scotland's castles and abbeys reveal a landscape shaped by power, faith and imagination. This tour explores grand estates, ancient fortresses and sacred medieval sites amid dramatic coastal scenery. Highlights include Culzean Castle, high above the Firth of Clyde, a private tour and afternoon tea at Mount Stuart on Bute and the artistic Kelburn Castle, along with visits to evocative Paisley Abbey and the birthplace of Robert Burns.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and begin our journey into the historic heart of western Scotland, travelling first to the ancient town of Paisley, home to one of the country's most important ecclesiastical buildings.

Paisley Abbey, originally founded in 1163 by Walter FitzAlan, the High Steward of Scotland, has long been a centre of spiritual and cultural life. Following our visit, we continue to the seaside town of Troon and check in to the South Beach Hotel, located just steps from the shore. (D)

Day 2 Today, we visit the dramatic Culzean Castle, perched on a clifftop overlooking the Firth of Clyde, with stunning views of Arran. Designed by Robert Adam in the late 18th century, this romantic-style castle features turrets, battlements and sweeping views reminiscent of a fairytale fortress. In the afternoon, we explore Scotland's poetic heritage at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway. We return to Troon for dinner and a relaxing evening. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning, we travel to the Isle of Bute to visit one of Scotland's most extraordinary stately homes, the magnificent Mount Stuart. Our private guided tour takes us through opulent rooms

adorned with stained glass, marble and gilded ceilings, each infused with symbolism and Victorian grandeur. After our tour, we are treated to a traditional afternoon tea and a chance to relax and soak up the atmosphere of this truly unique estate. (B, AT, D)

Day 4 Today, we explore two fascinating and very different castles along Scotland's west coast. We begin at Kelburn Castle, one of Scotland's oldest continuously inhabited castles and home to the Boyle family since the 12th century. While its core dates back to the 1200s, Kelburn is perhaps best known today for its vividly painted exterior, a bold, modern mural created by Brazilian street artists in 2007. This striking contrast between medieval stonework and contemporary art makes Kelburn utterly distinctive.

In the afternoon, we continue to Hunterston Castle, a far more traditional and atmospheric stronghold. Ancestral home of Clan Hunter, the castle dates to the 13th century and retains a sense of quiet dignity and historical weight. A guided tour reveals stories of feudal loyalty, maritime history and clan legacy, a powerful glimpse into Scotland's medieval past. Afterwards, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Key Highlights

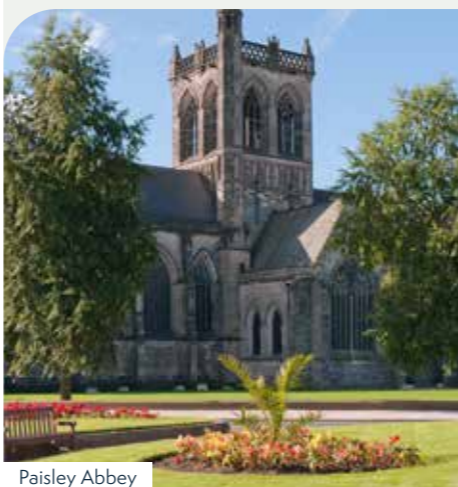
- Admire the romantic splendour of Culzean Castle
- Explore the richly decorated interiors of Mount Stuart, followed by a traditional afternoon tea
- Visit atmospheric Paisley Abbey, one of Scotland's most important medieval religious sites
- Discover the striking contrast of ancient stone and bold street art at Kelburn Castle

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the South Beach Hotel, Troon with dinner & breakfast
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
24 - 27 May £995

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Paisley Abbey



Falkland palace

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Castles, Palaces & Abbeys of Eastern Scotland

4 DAYS from £1,045 | ACTIVITY RATING * * *

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh

Explore the East of Scotland's royal palaces and historic castles. Highlights include Linlithgow Palace, Stirling Castle, Glamis Castle – birthplace of the Queen Mother and setting for Macbeth – Scone Palace, Falkland Palace and Loch Leven Castle. We also visit Culross Palace, with its maze of passageways and painted ceilings and Dunfermline Abbey, the resting place of Scottish royals including Robert the Bruce, celebrating Scotland's rich royal heritage.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel to our first visit - Linlithgow Palace. Situated on the shore of Linlithgow Loch, the Palace was once one of the principal residences of the monarchs of Scotland during the 15th and 16th centuries. Later, we head to the heart of the city of Stirling, where we find Stirling Castle. Following our visit, we continue to our comfortable hotel. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit Glamis Castle, the birthplace of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, to tour the castle and explore its 1,000-year history, including famous visitors like Mary, Queen of Scots. Glamis Castle is also known for its ghosts. In the afternoon, we head to Scone Palace, overlooking the River Tay in Perthshire, to discover its antiques, paintings and unique artefacts. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning, we visit Falkland Palace & Gardens, a refuge for Mary, Queen of Scots during 16th-century upheavals. We explore the Renaissance Palace, its gardens, and wildflower

meadow. Highlights include the Falkland Bed, royal apartments and the Queen's Room, arranged as Mary may have used it. This afternoon, we make our way to Loch Leven Castle. We cross the loch to the ruins of the Castle, where Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned in 1567. We spend some time surrounded by beautiful scenery, soaking up the tranquillity of the Castle's setting before exploring the Tower House rooms and Glassin Tower. (B, D)

Day 4 Today, we visit Culross Palace, which was constructed between 1597 and 1611 by Sir George Bruce, Laird of Carnock. We spend the morning exploring the tiny Palace rooms, connecting passageways and painted ceilings. We then head outside to the restored gardens, which incorporate many features which would have been found in the 17th century. In the early afternoon, we make our way to Dunfermline Abbey and Palace, before we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- Stirling Castle set in an imposing position with breathtaking views over the surrounding countryside
- Glamis Castle - the inspiration for William Shakespeare's Macbeth
- Loch Leven Castle where Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned in 1567

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the three-star Salutation Hotel, Perth with dinner & breakfast
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
11 - 14 Jun £1,045

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Linlithgow Palace

Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

4 DAYS from £845 | ACTIVITY RATING ✨

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow



NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Kelvingrove

Reopened in March 2022 after refurbishment, Glasgow's Burrell Collection offers access to all three floors, showcasing treasures like ancient Chinese porcelain, French paintings, and medieval artefacts. We'll also explore the Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Hunterian Museum, Gallery of Modern Art, Holmwood House, and House for an Art Lover.

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the Ibis Glasgow City Centre with dinner & breakfast
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 23 Mar	£845
13 - 16 Oct	£845

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Holmwood House

Charles Rennie Mackintosh & Gardens of the Clyde

4 DAYS from £995 | ACTIVITY RATING ✨ ✨

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermlin, Kinross, Perth



Geilston

Charles Rennie Mackintosh is arguably Scotland's most famous architect and designer, and his works were influential in various European design movements. 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. No Mackintosh tour would be complete without a visit to the Willow Tea Rooms, where we enjoy afternoon tea and a visit to his finest domestic creation at Hill House. Other highlights include the Burrell Collection, the Walled Garden at Geilston, Glenarn Garden and Mount Stuart.

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the Ibis Glasgow City Centre with breakfast & dinner
- Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Afternoon tea at the Willow Tea Rooms
- Services of Clive Warsop tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

21 -24 Jun	£995
Single Supplement	£195



Isle of Bute



Tobermory

Mull, Staffa & Iona

4 DAYS from £1,745 | ACTIVITY RATING ✨ ✨ ✨

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Fofar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

The Isle of Mull, with high peaks and dramatic coastal views, is a place of serene beauty. From our base at the Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, explore colourful Tobermory, sail to the seabird-filled Treshnish Isles and Staffa's basalt cathedral, visit Duart Castle with sweeping views to Ben Cruachan and discover the peaceful Abbey on Iona – a perfect blend of wildlife, history and tranquillity.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for **Oban**, where we board the late afternoon ferry to **Mull**. (D)

Day 2 Today we will drive through the spectacular scenery of the Ross of Mull to Fionnphort, from where we cross as foot passengers to the 'sacred isle' of **Iona**. Here you have the opportunity to visit the **Abbey** and wander over the island, taking in the atmosphere of calm and contemplation which attracts visitors from all over the world. (B, D)

Day 3 Today we head to **Tobermory**, the island's 'capital', for our wildlife cruise to the **Treshnish Isles** and **Staffa**. On the Isle of Lunga, the

largest of the Treshnish Isles, we'll see wildflowers, stunning scenery, and (June departure only) a puffin colony nesting on the grassy hillside. Then, we cross to Staffa, a geological wonder formed by volcanic eruptions over 50 million years ago, to explore the island and **Fingal's Cave**. (B, PL, D)

Day 4 Today we visit **Duart Castle**, the 13th-century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean. We explore the dungeons, the state rooms and appreciate the strategic position of the castle from the top of the keep before our ferry crossing back to the mainland and our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Key Highlights

- Sailing out of Oban Bay as the holiday begins
- Wildlife cruise plus the amazing spectacle of Fingal's Cave
- Taking in the view towards Ben Cruachan from the top of the keep at Duart Castle
- Moments of peaceful contemplation at Iona Abbey

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights at the Isle of Mull Hotel, Isle of Mull with dinner & breakfast
- One packed lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 -23 Jun	£1,745
Single Supplement	£475



Duart Castle



Brodick Castle and Gardens

Arran, Scotland in Miniature

5 DAYS from £1,645 | ACTIVITY RATING *

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Fofar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

As we approach the island, Goat Fell rises from the Firth of Clyde, hinting at Arran's magic. "Scotland in Miniature" blends northern granite peaks and glens with southern farmlands. Explore villages like Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick, Corrie and Sannox, passing the '12 Apostles' at Lochranza. Brodick Castle impresses with its dramatic setting and gardens, bursting with seasonal interest.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for Troon in time to catch the afternoon ferry to Brodick. On arrival on Arran, our coach will transfer us to Blackwaterfoot, where our accommodation has been organised for the next four nights at the Kinloch Hotel. (D)

Day 2 Today, following breakfast, we have a circular tour of the island of Arran. Only 56 miles around its coastline, the small villages are compared to 'jewels on a necklace' strung out like pearls around the island. From Blackwaterfoot, we visit Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick - the capital of Arran; Corrie and Sannox under the shadow of Goat Fell and other mountain and then down the west coast to Catacol and Pirnmill with its '12 Apostles'. Also included is a visit to the Isle of Arran Brewery, where we enjoy a tour and learn about the brewing and conditioning process and the ingredients that go into the beer. We also have the opportunity to taste some of the beers on offer. (B, D)

Day 3 Today is free to relax at the hotel or explore nearby. Alternatively, join an optional excursion to the Hebridean island of Gigha (not included). After breakfast, we take a ferry from Arran Lochranza to Claonaig, cross the Kintyre peninsula to Tayinloan and ferry to Gigha. On the island, enjoy

lunch at a local café and visit Achamore Gardens, created by Sir James Horlick in 1944, known for its blooms due to the mild, rainy climate. (B, D)

Please note: due to the problems of getting a modern coach onto the island, we will walk to the gardens from the café and jetty, a gentle stroll of half a mile. Local transportation can be arranged at approximately £5.00pp (paid locally); however, this must be booked in advance. Please advise if you require this when booking your excursion.

Day 4 This morning, we visit Brodick Castle and Gardens. The present garden dates from 1932, when the Duchess of Montrose started an ambitious woodland garden with a collection of rhododendrons. A walled garden, dating from 1710, has been restored and mixed borders on three sides retain the gardener's interest throughout the year. The afternoon will be free in Brodick. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning, following breakfast, we travel to the ferry port in time for the crossing to Troon, where we expect to arrive early afternoon. Thereafter, we return to our original pick up points to arrive late afternoon/early evening. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- ◊ Sailing across the Firth of Clyde and watching the mountains of Arran draw ever nearer
- ◊ Highly scenic circular tour of the island
- ◊ Brewery tour and tasting
- ◊ The incomparable setting and colourful gardens of Brodick Castle
- ◊ Optional excursion to Achamore Gardens and the tranquil Isle of Gigha
- ◊ The comfortable Kinloch Hotel, located on the 'sunset side' of the island

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights at the Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ All coaching and ferry transfers
- ▶ Guided tour of Arran
- ▶ Visit to the Isle of Arran Brewery, including tour and tasting
- ▶ Visit to Brodick Castle and Gardens
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

10 - 14 May	£1,645
21 - 25 Jun	£1,645
9 - 13 Aug	£1,645
Single Supplement	£395
Optional excursion Gigha	£85



Blackwaterfoot

Autumn Tints of Arran

4 DAYS from £1,145 | ACTIVITY RATING **

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow



Brodick Castle

Arran, often called "Scotland in Miniature", blends Highland peaks and glens with southern farmland. From Troon's ferry, Goat Fell's silhouette rises from the Firth of Clyde, hinting at the island's charm. Circling 56 miles of coastline, we'll visit villages like Brodick, Corrie, and Lochranza, plus Brodick Castle amid vibrant autumnal hues.

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Comfortable coach and all ferry crossings
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

11 - 14 Oct	£1,145
Single Supplement	£295



Machrie Moor

Best of Angus Gardens

4 DAYS from £995 | ACTIVITY RATING **

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermlin, Kinross, Perth, Dundee



Glamis Castle

Angus's fertile soils and gentle climate have long nurtured remarkable gardens. On this carefully planned tour, we visit the generous borders of Pitmuies, the historic grounds of Glamis Castle and Edzell Castle, and the varied plantings of Dunninald and Langley Park near Montrose - each offering a distinct perspective on this quietly beautiful corner of Northeast Scotland.

Key Highlights

- ◊ Historic castles and their fine gardens
- ◊ Sweeping views of Montrose Basin, a haven for birds
- ◊ Travel into the Angus Glens
- ◊ The richly planted borders of the House of Pitmuies

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Links Hotel, Montrose with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 4 Jul	£995
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NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Langley Park Gardens



Attadale

Gardens of Wester Ross

5 DAYS from £1,265 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

Discover some of the finest gardens in one of Scotland's most scenic regions. A highlight is our private visit to Attadale Gardens, voted RHS Partner Garden of the Year for Scotland in 2023, complete with a light lunch in the main house. We also explore a three-acre private garden near Inverness, visit Skye's award-winning Dunvegan Castle garden and enjoy magnificent Inverewe – an unforgettable tour for garden lovers.

Day 1 This five-day journey through the Scottish Highlands combines dramatic scenery with visits to some of the country's most inspiring gardens. Travelling north from the departure points, the tour begins with a scenic stop in Pitlochry before visiting **Oldtown of Leys**, a thoughtfully designed three-acre garden offering year-round interest, from vibrant spring rhododendrons to autumn colour and striking winter structure. (B)

Day 2 The following day takes in the majestic landscapes of Torridon en route to the Isle of Skye. Here, **Dunvegan Castle** Gardens provide a memorable contrast to the island's rugged terrain, with tranquil water features, formal planting and woodland walks. An afternoon ferry crossing to Raasay allows time to explore its revitalised walled garden, blending produce, flowers and community spirit, before returning to the mainland. (B,D)

Day 3 A visit to **Attadale Gardens** reveals the benefits of a Gulf Stream microclimate, where exotic planting, water gardens and unusual

collections thrive. A private guided tour and lunch in the main house offer a special insight, followed by time in Gairloch, including an optional museum visit. (B,L,D)

Day 4 The journey continues with **Dundonnell House Garden**, where historic charm meets imaginative planting around a 300-year-old yew, and **Inverewe Gardens**, renowned for its lush, almost tropical growth and winding, scenic pathways. (B,D)

Day 5 Our final day includes a visit to **Old Allangrange**, a productive and ornamental garden managed using sustainable, biodynamic principles. After a stop at Simpsons Garden Centre, the tour returns home, concluding a richly varied and rewarding exploration of Highland gardens. (B)

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

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights dinner, bed & full breakfast at the Gairloch Hotel
- ▶ Lunch at Attadale
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

18 - 22 May	£1,265
29 Jun - 3 Jul	£1,295
Single Supplement from	£225



Dunvegan Castle



Logan Botanic Gardens

Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway

4 DAYS from £945 | ACTIVITY RATING

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Fofar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow

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.

Day 1 We depart from your local pick-up point and head for the gardens at **Drumlanrig Castle**, one of the first and most important Renaissance buildings in Scotland. (D)

Day 2 Today we visit **Glenwhan Gardens**, spread out over a windy hilltop with marvellous views of Luce Bay and the Mull of Galloway. Since 1979, a very large, interesting and individual garden has been created, filled with a range of plants. This afternoon, we continue to our next destination, the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens** at Port Logan, lying in the Mull of Galloway. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning, we visit **Broughton House**, a fascinating 18th-century house and garden. Next, we spend some more time in **Kirkcubright**,

before stopping for lunch (not included). Following this, we visit the wonderful plantsman's nursery of **Ellenbank**, full of cottage garden perennials such as violas, clematis and penstemons. Our last visit of the day is to the gardens of the **Threave Estate**. (B, D)

Day 4 We check out of our hotel and visit **Dumfries House**, near Cumnock in Ayrshire. We are able to make the most of those interiors on our grand tour of the house, followed by tea and shortbread. Afterwards, we visit the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**, which is one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland and in many ways the flagship of the restoration project. Following our visit, we return to our original departure points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Holiday Inn Dumfries with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

6 - 9 Jun	£945
17 - 20 Jul	£945
Single Supplement	£225



Dumfries House

Autumn tints of Dumfries & Galloway

4 DAYS from £995 | ACTIVITY RATING  

 Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Stonehaven, Forfar, Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow



NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Drumlanrig Castle

As summer wanes, autumn bursts into vibrant colours in south-west Scotland. Amid fiery reds and golden yellows, we explore enchanting gardens: Dumfries House's Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, the dynamic 6 1/2 acre garden at Burnside, Glenwhan Gardens, Logan Botanic, and Dalswinton Mill—Brightwater Holidays' tour manager Colin Crosbie's own creation.

Key Highlights

- ◊ A visit to the Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, which is one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland
- ◊ The private garden at Millhall
- ◊ Stunning interiors and a wonderful walled garden at Dumfries House
- ◊ Visits to Threave Estate, Corsock House and Drumlanrig Castle

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Holiday Inn, Dumfries with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

24 - 27 Oct **£995**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Glenwhan Gardens

Gordon Castle and Gardens of East Highlands

4 DAYS from £995 | ACTIVITY RATING  

 Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth



LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Drummond Castle

The East Highlands offer a blend of grand estates and specialist gardens. From Inverness Botanic Gardens to the lakeside setting of Aldourie Castle Gardens on Loch Ness, the highlight is Gordon Castle Gardens, one of Britain's largest restored kitchen gardens and the RHS Regional Partner Garden of the Year 2024, where we enjoy an afternoon tea.

Key Highlights

- ◊ Stroll amongst the unique variety of plants and vibrant flowers at Branklyn Garden
- ◊ Enjoy exploring the impressive Gordon Castle Gardens, complete with afternoon tea
- ◊ Admire the herbaceous borders at Ruthven Cottage Hardy Plant Nursery
- ◊ Discover the splendid formal gardens at Drummond Castle

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Duke of Gordon, Kingussie with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Afternoon tea at Gordon Castle
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

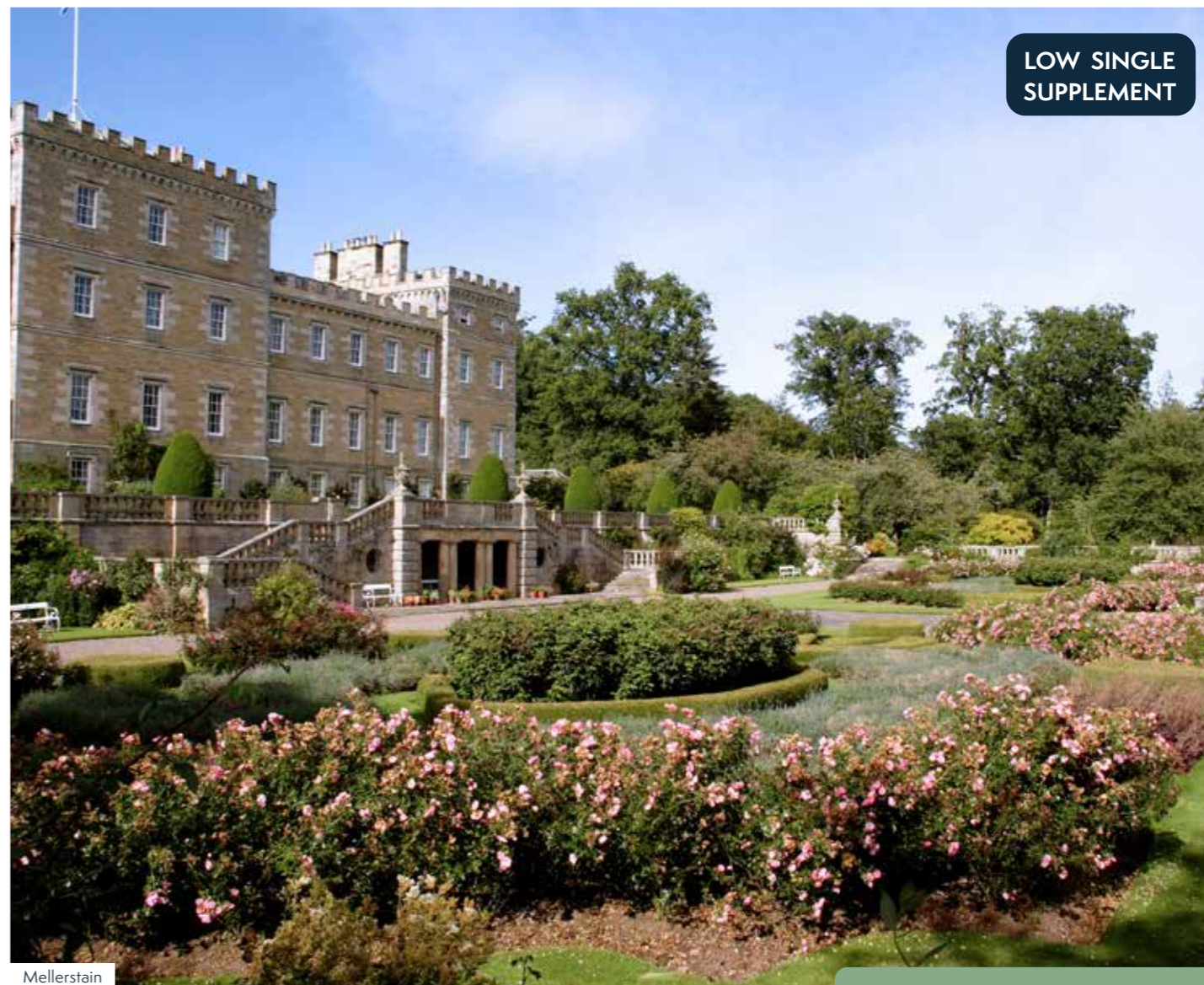
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 16 Sep **£995**

Single Supplement **£195**



Gordon Castle © Ed Bollom



Mellerstain

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders

4 DAYS from £1,195 | ACTIVITY RATING  

 Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh

The Scottish Borders combine rolling hills, the River Tweed and a remarkable collection of historic houses, including Paxton House, Abbotsford, Traquair, Mellerstain and Floors Castle. Staying at Peebles Hydro, this tour showcases elegant architecture, royal connections and centuries of Border history in one of Scotland's most quietly captivating regions.

Day 1 We travel into the Scottish Borders to visit **Paxton House**, one of Britain's finest Palladian mansions. Completed in 1763 and designed by Robert Adam, it houses an outstanding collection of Chippendale furniture, fine paintings and elegant Georgian interiors. After our **guided tour**, we continue to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 We journey through Tweeddale to **Abbotsford**, the romantic home created by Sir Walter Scott on the banks of the River Tweed. Inside are armour, rare books and personal treasures reflecting Scott's life and legacy. Later, we visit **Traquair House**, Scotland's oldest continuously inhabited home, rich with Jacobite history, royal connections and the famous Bear Gates, closed in 1745. (B, D)

Day 3 At **Mellerstain House**, begun by William Adam and completed by his son Robert, we admire magnificent 18th-century interiors, fine plasterwork and an impressive art collection. We then visit **Floors Castle** at Kelso, remodelled in the 19th century into a picturesque castle of turrets and pinnacles, set above the River Tweed. (B, D)

Day 4 Our final visit is **Thirlestane Castle**, seat of the Maitland family since the 16th century. A **guided tour** reveals centuries of history before we begin our journey home. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- ◊ Georgian masterpieces at Mellerstain
- ◊ Regal connections at Traquair House
- ◊ Sir Walter Scott's personal collections at Abbotsford
- ◊ The opulence of Floors Castle
- ◊ Lunch in the Victorian Kitchen at Thirlestane Castle

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Cardrona Hotel, Peebles with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour Manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 16 Sep **£1,195**

Single Supplement **£125**



Abbotsford House

NEW
TOUR



Dunrobin Castle

A Grand Tour of the Gardens of Scotland

9 DAYS from £2,845 | ACTIVITY RATING * * * *

Meet us in Scotland: PICK-UP POINTS Glasgow, Edinburgh

Our Grand Tour of Scotland's finest gardens spans every corner of the country, from the open spaces of the far north to the wilds of the west, the splendours of the south and the elegance of the east. We begin at Branklyn and Cluny House before continuing to Inverness for visits to Dunrobin Castle, Castle of Mey, Dundonnell and the outstanding Inverewe. Travelling through the Great Glen, we enjoy tranquil West Highland gardens such as Ardchattan, Arduaine and An Cala.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel north to **Branklyn Gardens and Cluny House Gardens**. After our visits, we continue to the hotel. (D)

Day 2 This morning, we visit **Dunrobin Castle** - the château-style ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland. Later, we continue to **John O'Groats** before having an afternoon visit to **Castle of Mey**. (B, D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Dundonnell House Garden** and later, **Inverewe Gardens**, before returning to Inverness via **Loch Maree** and **Achnasheen**. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning, we head to **Abriachan Gardens**. Passing Loch Ness and the Great Glen, we arrive at Fort William near Ben Nevis, Britain's tallest mountain. A coastal drive through Argyll offers views of Loch Etive and Ben Cruachan, ending at **Ardchattan Priory** gardens. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning, we visit the National Trust for Scotland's garden at **Arduaine**, started in 1897 by James Arthur Campbell, a tea planter and friend of Osgood MacKenzie of Inverewe. In the afternoon, we explore the private garden of **An Cala**, before returning for dinner. (B, D)

Day 6 After breakfast, we leave the hotel and drive through the Pass of Brander, Loch Awe with views of Kilchurn Castle and Loch Fyne to the woodland garden of **Ardkinglas**. Next, we visit **Glenarn**, one of Scotland's top woodland gardens, before heading to our overnight stay near Glasgow. (B, D)

Day 7 Today, we head south to Ayrshire to visit **Dumfries House**. Enjoy a grand tour of the house interiors, followed by tea and shortbread. We also explore the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**, a standout example in Scotland and a key part of the restoration project. Then, we proceed to our hotel. (B, D)

Day 8 After breakfast, we visit **Glenwhan Gardens** and explore **Logan Botanic Gardens** at Port Logan, located in the Mull of Galloway, the southern tip of Scotland. Established by the McDougall family, it has been managed by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh since 1969. (B, D)

Day 9 In the morning, we visit **Broughton House** and the gardens of the **Threave Estate**, created by students at the School of Horticulture since 1960. Later, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at a hotel in the Inverness area, two nights in the Oban area, one night near Glasgow, two nights near Stranraer, with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Private air-conditioned coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 9 Jun	£2,845
Single Supplement	£995



Glenwhan Gardens

Frequently asked questions

Will I receive financial protection when I book?

Yes, for all UK residents all our holidays are fully bonded and protected by the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust (ABTOT) please visit www.abtot.com.

Are your tours sustainable?

We work hard to ensure that our visits have a positive and respectful impact on the ancient places we go to. Our brochures and packing materials are made from recycled and sustainable sources, and we're always striving to improve on this where we can. We always buy local for treats and picnic lunches, and do our best to avoid single-use plastics on our tours where possible.

Private Groups?

Planning a trip for a club, society or group of friends? With over 30 years' experience, we create tailor-made holidays designed around your interests. From garden and heritage tours to rail journeys and cultural escapes, we'll help you plan a memorable group holiday.

What level of knowledge do I need to enjoy a tour?

All you need is a passion for travel and a curiosity for the past. Our itineraries are designed to be enjoyed and are accessible for all interest levels.

Do you accept late bookings?

We always recommend booking as early as possible, as many departures do sell out however. We do understand that sometimes the spirit of adventure is too strong to ignore and we often do take late bookings. Our Specialist Travel Executives are happy to help check availability.

Can I tailor my tour?

Sometimes our guests want to add little extras to their tours to make their time away a bit more special. If you wish to stay for extra days before the start or after the end of your tour, just call us to discuss.

Will there be support whilst on tour?

When you travel with us, you are looked after round the clock at all times. In the event of an emergency, your Tour Manager is on the ground and will be able to support you locally.

How active are the tours?

We have a simple 4-tier grading system in place to help you decide whether a tour is suitable for you, which is summarised on page 5 and featured on each tour page. If you would like more information about a particular itinerary, please visit our website.

Do I need travel insurance?

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What are your booking and cancellation conditions?

Full booking terms and conditions can be found at <https://brightwaterholidays.com/booking-conditions>, and we'd encourage you to read these carefully before booking. In summary: a deposit secures your place, with the balance due no later than 14 weeks before departure. Should you need to cancel, charges apply on a sliding scale depending on how close to departure the cancellation is made — these are detailed in full in our Booking Conditions. We recommend ensuring your travel insurance covers cancellation for peace of mind.

New important information for travel to Europe: EES & ETIAS

If you are travelling to Europe, new mandatory border checks (EES) and travel authorisation requirements (ETIAS) are likely to be in effect. Please read the information in our booking conditions carefully to understand how this may affect your journey and what pre-travel requirements you will need to make. **Further details can be found at <https://travel-europe.europa.eu/pub>**

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"My recent trip to the Outer Hebrides was super. Excellent itinerary, very good hotels, a tremendous tour guide and wonderful coach driver. We were fortunate with the weather and the ferries but everything was organised and executed brilliantly. Lovely people in the tour group enhanced the experience too."

Guest, A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - May 2026

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expecting you.**

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