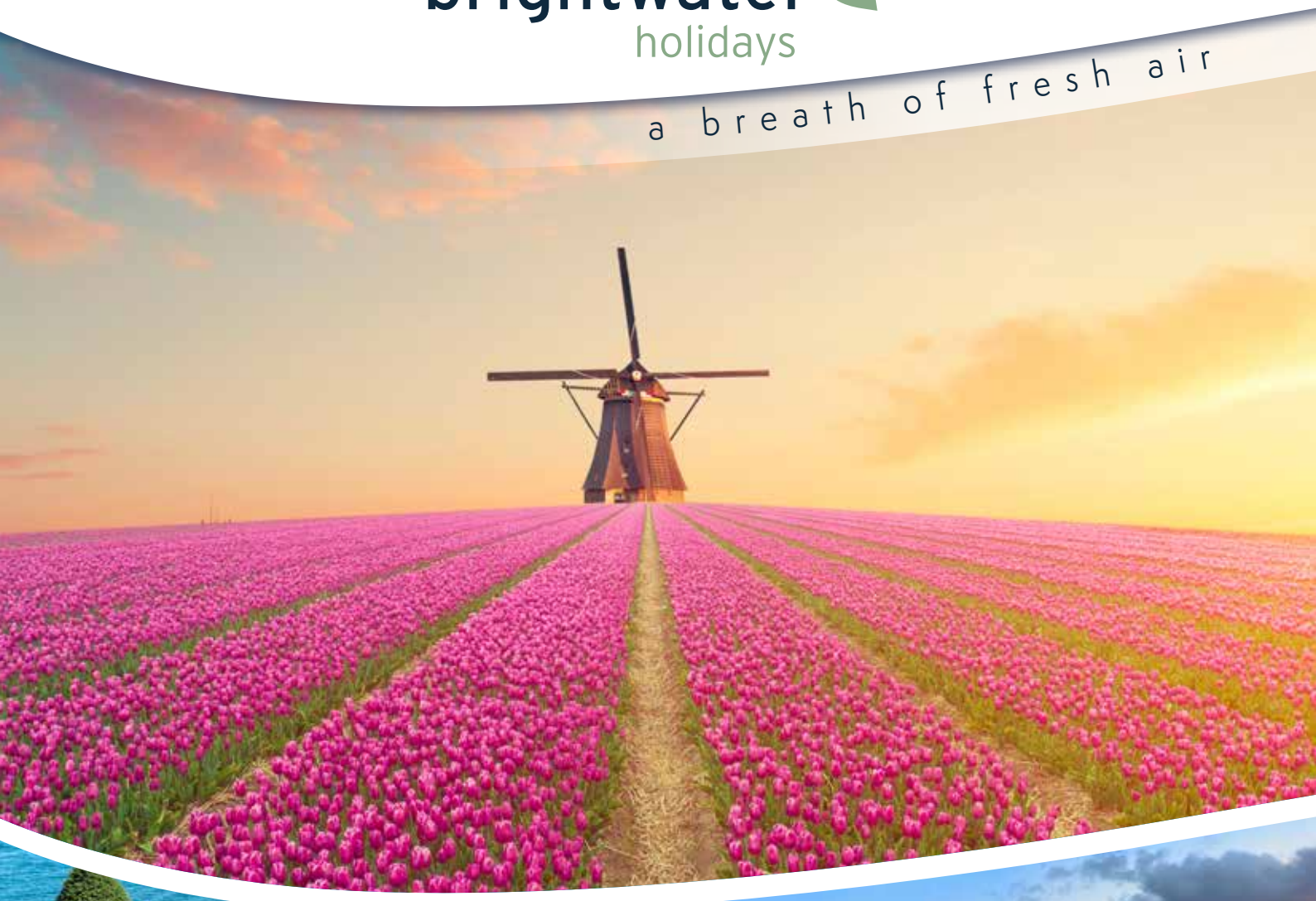
brightwater
holidays

a breath of fresh air



MORE THAN 400 NEW NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES

SAVE 10% ON SELECTED TOURS
PLUS A 5% PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

11 NEW 2024 TOURS

AWARD-WINNING UK & WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS 2024

PART OF THE **SPECIALIST JOURNEYS** GROUP OF TOUR OPERATORS

2024 and so much more

As we approach the end of another year it's time to look back and reflect on the ups and downs that life as a tour operator throws your way. We have had our fair share of challenges, but whatever the circumstances the wonderful team that I have the privilege of managing always seems to rise to the occasion, and often issues are resolved without our guests even being aware of them. Perhaps that's just one reason why this year we were thrilled to be named as Tour Operator of the Year at the International Garden Tourism Awards in Victoria, British Columbia! No sooner had we celebrated that prestigious accolade when word came through that we had once again triumphed at the British Travel Awards, with both Gold and Silver medals! What an incredible way to end the year and my sincere thanks go out to everyone who voted for us as well as to the outstanding team we are so lucky to have here at Brightwater Holidays, both behind the scenes and out on the road.

But of course we must never rest on our laurels and it's time now to look ahead to 2024 (and indeed 2025) and make sure that once again we deliver a first-class programme of well-paced, imaginative itineraries and relaxing vacation experiences, with you, our valued guests, first and foremost in our thoughts. So please, sit back and leaf through our selection of holidays to the very best gardens, the most fascinating archaeological sites and the most spell-binding scenery to be found in our wonderful world of travel.

We do hope we will have the pleasure of your company soon.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson

Managing Director

How to book

Once you've finished browsing these pages at your leisure and you're ready to treat yourself to a place on one of our holidays, just get in touch and we'll do the rest!

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

800 477 8358

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details on any of the trips mentioned, including information on our day-by-day itineraries or full booking conditions, please visit our website:

www.brightwaterholidays.com

Our Awards

BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS

We were delighted to win Gold for Best Travel Company for Coach Holidays at the 2023 British Travel Awards, along with Silver for Best Company for UK Coach/Touring Holidays, adding to our successes in previous years. Additionally, we also won the Feefo 2023 Trusted Service Award for excellence in customer service throughout 2022, so you can book with Brightwater safe in the knowledge that your holiday will be operated by a multi-award-winning travel company.

INTERNATIONAL GARDEN TOURISM AWARD

This has turned out to be a momentous year for us here at Brightwater Holidays as we were also voted Garden Tour Operator of the Year at the International Garden Tourism Awards in Canada. Ibo Gülsen, Chair of the International Garden Tourism Network stated that, along with other recipients, we "exemplify true leadership in the world of garden tourism", a truly wonderful accolade for a small company such as ours.

OFFERS

SAVE 10% ON SELECTED TOURS

If you book selected holidays featured in this brochure, you can save up to $1,665.50pp. **This offer has limited places and ends 9 February 2024.**

PLUS AN ADDITIONAL 5% PAY IN FULL*

What's more, if you choose to pay in full at the time of booking you'll get a further 5% off the price making your total saving up to 15%. But hurry, these offers are only valid until **9 February 2024.** Look out for this badge.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS*

In addition to our tours which currently feature no single supplement we have added an incredible **400 additional places** with no single supplement for a limited period. There are only a few places on each tour and they will be allocated on a first come first served basis – To take advantage of this incredible deal please contact our Specialist Sales Executive on **800 477 8358**. This offer is valid until **9 February 2024** and cannot be combined with any other offers. Look out for this symbol.

**Pay in full discounts of 5% relate to the amount payable after the 10% discount and any Credit Notes or Customer Holiday Vouchers have been applied. Offer is valid for tours departing from 1st June 2024 and discount can only be applied at the time of booking. These offers cannot be combined with any other offers – please speak to a Specialist Sales Executive for details. Offer expires 9 February 2024 but may be withdrawn at any time. Pay in full and no single supplements offers are not applicable to travel agent bookings or private groups. The discounts shown are based on per person prices sharing a twin/double room but the discount also applies to single room supplements.*

Find your favourite destination

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42	NEW Summer Gardens of Cornwall
43	Gardens of Jersey
43	Gardens of Guernsey and Sark

44 Gardens of Northumberland

44 Grand Gardens of Anglesey and Snowdonia

45 NEW Gardens of Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire

46 NEW The Chichester Flower Festival and Gardens of Hampshire

47 NEW Somerset's Secret Gardens

48 Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams

49 NEW Gardens of South and West Wales

50 Highgrove and the Cotswolds

51 NEW Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds

51 NEW Spring Gardens of Cornwall

52 The Gardens of Kent and Sussex

53 In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jeykll

54 RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West

55 Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk

55 The Manx Explorer

56 The Irish Rover

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72 The Genius of Monet

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

74 Iceland Northern Lights

75 Alpine Flowers of Wengen

76 Palladian Villas of Veneto

77 Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo

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92 Flora and Fauna of Madagascar

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101 Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island

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104 Gardens of New Zealand including Singapore

106 South Africa's Garden Route

107 Birdwatching and Wildlife Safaris in Tanzania

The perfect choice Brightwater Holidays

When choosing a company to book a holiday with, there are many things to consider. Choose Brightwater Holidays and look forward to a trip booked by multi-award-winning specialists with over 30 years of experience in the travel industry. We pride ourselves on creating memorable itineraries that visit the world's most spectacular gardens, Scottish islands, archaeological sites and much more.

What makes our tours special?

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

Back-to-back tours

Many of our tours can be linked together with just a night or two in between, in London or Edinburgh for example, to give you an extra special vacation experience and make the most of your time. If you book two tours back to back we offer a discount of **$70pp** and **$140pp** for three (with a maximum of three nights in between each tour, and subject to a minimum spend of **$1050pp** per tour). We can assist you with possible combinations and with additional overnight accommodation as required between each tour.

Multi-tour discounts

If you book three or more tours in the same calendar year, you will receive **$140pp** off your third booking. To qualify for this discount, at least two of your three tour bookings must be for overseas tours.

Solos

We recognise that many of our guests are single travelers and to that end we have increased the number of holidays we offer with no single room supplement – just look for the 'NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT' flash or the red symbol under Offers on page 3.

Financial Protection

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

ABTOT Financial Protection for Travel 25+ YEARS MEMBER

4498 ATOL PROTECTED

Extensions and group travel

When you travel with Brightwater Holidays, it is important that you enjoy every second of your trip. This is why we offer a variety of ways in which you can tailor your holiday to best fit your needs, and there are always things we can do to help.

Lots of previous travelers have tasked us with securing connecting flights to help them reach their departure points and many more have requested flights from regional airports to make their journeys easier. Should you wish to enhance your experience, we can also sort out hotel room upgrades or help you to extend your time away. We can, where possible, accommodate your requests for rooms with walk-in showers or try to ensure they are on lower floors – no question is too challenging and where we can, we will always do our best to meet your needs.

Extend pre- or post-tour

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

Room and cabin upgrades

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

Air connections

Many guests contact us to help them get to their departure points and we can always book your regional flights, should you require them. We can also help you with airport parking, just get in touch to discuss your needs.

Extra nights either side

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

Private group travel

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

What Brightwater can offer you?

- Bespoke packages exclusively for your group
- Local pick-up points or airports depending on whether staying in the UK or venturing overseas
- Hotel accommodation from comfortable 3-star to 5-star luxury
- Admission to all visits, exclusive access and private guided tours
- Services of a specialist Tour Manager, if required, allowing the group organizer to take a back seat and enjoy the holiday
- Free marketing materials and all booking and administration
- Dedicated group travel department who will work with you every step of the way
- Traveling with a multi-award-winning tour operator which also offers full financial protection for you and your members

brightwater
tailor-made group travel

Get in touch and get the ball rolling

Jenni Duncan is our Private Groups Manager and she would love to help plan your next group holiday. Please get in touch by calling her on **01334 766 064** or emailing **groups@brightwaterholidays.com** to get things started. You can also visit our website for some inspiration: www.brightwaterholidays.com
No matter what stage of planning you're at, our team will be able to work with you every step of the way.

A selection of our knowledgeable Tour Managers for Scottish tours

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

Alastair Walker

A native of Inverness with a rural background, Alastair's knowledge of Scotland is wide ranging, from the Northern Isles and the Hebrides to Perthshire, Galloway and the Borders.

David MacLennan

Since retiring from full time employment David has worked as a tour manager and guide throughout Scotland. Though native to Lancashire, David is of Scottish descent and if you are lucky he may even wear his kilt!

Sue Pomeroy

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

"Highly enjoyable. We managed to see so much of the island thanks to the knowledge of the local driver Phil and the enthusiasm of our guide, Alastair Walker. I had a list of must sees which I saw and so much else was offered. I feel I have seen more of Shetland than I expected."

Guest on Shetland and its Outer Isles, July 2023

"Wonderful! We saw amazing places and were looked after throughout. Accommodation was very good. Guide was extremely informative and cheerful."

Guest on Classic Scottish Steam break, August 2023

"It was an excellent trip in every respect. All the arrangements were good - the hotel, the transport, and the local tours and events."

Guest on Islay and Jura, June 2023

NUMBER ONE for Scotland vacations

With over 30 years' experience, it is no wonder that Brightwater Holidays is regarded as number one for scenic Scottish vacations. Wherever your interests lie we have something for you, whether island hopping in the Hebrides, exploring historic castles or going in search of native wildlife. Nothing pleases us more than sharing the delights of the country we call home with eager guests.

Our iconic tours of Scotland

Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

Our odyssey begins as we take the ferry to Lochboisdale and cross the causeway to Benbecula, the 'stepping stone' between the Uists. From here we visit the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra. Our journey continues as we travel through the magnificent scenery of Harris and Lewis to Stornoway. From here we explore ancient standing stones, blackhouse villages and deserted beaches - see p14.

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland

Sail away to lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery, far from the jostling crowds to the haunting beauty of the Orkney and Shetland Isles. Both islands have their own identity, Orkney being green and fertile while Shetland has a more rugged cliff and sea loch scenery. Both however share a colorful history of Picts, Norsemen, ancient antiquities, buried treasure and seafaring legends - see p19.

A Classic Scottish Steam break

Steam locomotion has an enduring fascination for many and combined with the wonderful scenery of Scotland it becomes utterly irresistible. The Jacobite Steam Train, from Fort William to Mallaig, is one of the longest steam-hauled rail journeys available in Britain today, through some spectacular scenery that includes the iconic 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct - see p16.

A selection of our knowledgeable horticultural Tour Managers

2023 GARDEN TOURISM AWARD
International Tour Operator Of The Year

Take a garden holiday with Brightwater and in most cases you will be accompanied by an experienced horticulturist with a wealth of plant knowledge, as well as the practical skills needed to ensure the smooth running of your tour. From an award-winning garden designer to a former Head Gardener to the Queen Mother and the Curator of one of Britian's most prestigious gardens, meet three of our most popular tour managers of the green-fingered variety.

Trevor Edwards

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

Colin Crosbie

Colin Crosbie was the Head Gardener to Her Majesty The Queen Mother and former Head Curator at RHS Garden Wisley. His extensive horticultural knowledge coupled with his good humour have established him as one of Brightwater's most popular guides.

Mike Nelhams

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

"For years I have wanted to visit Monet's Garden and I am so happy that I have waited to do that with Brightwater. The tour was magical. Our accommodation at the Château, our daily visits, and especially our tour manager made this a special holiday. It was the perfect length, and we were given just the right amount of free time. It couldn't have been better. Thank you, Brightwater."

Guest on The Genius of Monet, May 2023

"An amazing holiday with an excellent itinerary and a very knowledgeable tour leader, as well as a great selection of stunningly beautiful gardens. Overall, a holiday I will never forget. I'm nostalgic already!"

Guest on Seasonal Gardens of Japan, March 2023

"It is rare for us to have no problems or complaints about a holiday...but this is a first! From the airport meet and greet to the return flight it all went like clockwork. The holiday greatly exceeded our expectations!"

Guest on The Irish Rover, June 2023

NUMBER ONE for Garden vacations

Our award-winning garden vacations are second to none, offering memorable holidays to glorious gardens around the globe. The UK is home to some world famous gardens including the delightful gardens at Sissinghurst and the spectacular Bodnant Gardens, both of which we visit on our selection of tours closer to home. Further afield no garden tour collection would be complete without visits to the kaleidoscope of color that is the Dutch bulbfields or the sublime spectacle of cherry blossom in Japan.

Some of our guests' favourite Garden Tours

Dutch Bulbfields in Spring

Enjoy a riot of color among the beautiful bulbfields of Holland. For vibrancy, color and serious charm nothing quite compares to the sight of not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of flowering bulbs, carpeting the fields in a radiant vision of patterns and patchwork. Here, gardening is not merely a pastime – it's an art, a spectacular series of natural masterpieces - see p64.

Seasonal Gardens of Japan

Japanese gardens are places of exquisite beauty, where the eye is led gently to perfectly framed views, often 'borrowing' a distant landscape as part of the picture. Trees and plants are carefully chosen for certain qualities of form, color or texture, all of which combine to create an atmosphere of calm and contemplation. Travel in spring for the abundant cherry blossom or autumn for a palette of red, yellow and gold - see p86.

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show

This tour combines the color, prestige and excitement of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with some of the south of England's finest gardens, affording the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of horticultural excellence - see p58. We also offer an exclusive Behind-the-Scenes tour led by Mike Nelhams, which as well as a day at Chelsea being guided by Mike includes an exclusive after-hours visit and dinner at RHS Garden Wisley - see p59.

United Kingdom and Ireland

Glorious gardens, historic homes, world-class art and evocative archaeological sites await in the British Isles, and a tour here will show you just how much there is to discover. We have a broad range of UK-based holidays that can take you from private gardens to grand castles and their grounds, and everything in between.

Powerscourt Estate

Vatersay

5 DAYS FROM **$1,444.50**

6 DAYS FROM **$1,759.50**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$216.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

Whether you choose our five or six day itinerary, our best-selling grand tour takes in all the beauty and diversity of this very special environment with ten different islands and four ferry trips included. Two comfortable hotels ensure that this holiday is as relaxing as possible while at the same time offering great variety and the sense of a true journey of discovery which will live long in the memory. Our odyssey begins as we travel via Glencoe, Fort William and Glenfinnan to Mallaig. From here we take the ferry to Lochboisdale in South Uist and cross the causeway to Benbecula, the 'stepping stone' between the Uists, before visiting the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra.

A captivating journey follows as we travel by ferry from North Uist and on through the magnificent mountain scenery of Harris, the rolling moorland of Lewis, and on to Stornoway. We continue with visits to the Standing Stones of Callanish, the tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gearrannan.

St Clement's Church

Gearrannan

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow)* for Mallaig, where we take the ferry to Lochboisdale, with dinner served on board. On arrival we continue to our hotel in **Benbecula**. *(D)*

Day 2 We drive south to the island of **Eriskay** and continue by ferry to **Barra**. We will visit **Castlebay** with views of **Kisimul Castle**; watch as the plane lands on the beach which serves as the island's runway, and visit **Vatersay** with its amazing beaches of white sand and turquoise sea. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We travel north today as we take the ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh on the isle of **Harris**, visiting **St Clement's Church** at Rodel before continuing through the mountains to **Lewis** and our hotel in Stornoway. *(B, D)*

Day 4 The 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, **Black Houses of Gearrannan** and **Norse Mill** at Shawbost await us today. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We visit **Lews Castle and Museum** and **St. Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important archaeological sites in the area. We then see the **Port of Ness** and the **Butt of Lewis**. *(B, D)*

Day 6 We take an early ferry to **Ullapool** and return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

Our Stornoway to Benbecula itinerary operates in reverse, with two nights in Stornoway and three nights in Benbecula. Please note Callanish will be closed from 1 September 2024 and an alternative visit will be provided.

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

Kisimul Castle

- Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island / Isle of Benbecula Hotel and three nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway (one dinner and one breakfast served on board the ferry)
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON BENBECULA TO STORNOWAY

2024		
21 - 26 Apr	~~$1,955~~	$1,759.50
26 - 31 May	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50
23 - 28 Jun	~~$2,165~~	$1,948.50
22 - 27 Sep	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50

STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA

2024		
14 - 19 May	~~$2,165~~	$1,948.50
19 - 24 Aug	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50
Single Supplement		*$350*

Tour code: **BGTS / BGTB**

5-DAY ITINERARY

We also offer a five-day itinerary exploring the delights of these charming islands. Highlights include: Cockleshell Beach, the Standing Stones of Callanish, the Norse Mill at Shawbost and much more.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula and two nights at the Caberfeidh Hotel, Stornoway (one dinner and one breakfast served aboard the ferry)
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
15 – 19 Apr	~~$1,605~~	$1,444.50
30 Sep – 4 Oct	~~$1,535~~	$1,381.50
Single Supplement		*$280*

Tour code: **BGTO**

AN AIR VERSION OF THIS TOUR IS ALSO AVAILABLE DEPARTING ON 30 SEP 2024 - FROM $2,375PP ($2,137.50PP IF BOOKED BY 9 FEB 2024). PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.

The Jacobite steam train

4 DAYS FROM **$976.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$122.50** | NO/LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

A Classic Scottish Steam Break

Steam locomotion has an enduring fascination for many of us and combined with the wonderful scenery of Scotland it becomes utterly irresistible. The Jacobite steam train, from Fort William to Mallaig, is one of the longest steam-hauled rail journeys available in Britain today, an 84-mile round trip through some spectacular scenery that also includes the 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct. A gentler pace is set as we sail 'Doon ra Watter' on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, the PS Waverley*, still elegantly plying her trade on the Clyde. There can be no better way to enjoy the gentle beauty of the Argyll hills and the Kyles of Bute than from the deck of this grand old lady. We also enjoy a taste of steam as we cruise aboard the newly restored SS Sir Walter Scott on the calm waters of Loch Katrine amid the spectacular scenery of the Trossachs, and take a boat trip on the Falkirk Wheel, the world's first rotating boat lift and a modern engineering marvel. We offer two different packages for this tour following the same itinerary: one staying at the Arrochar Hotel and one staying at the Stirling Highland Hotel.

Falkirk Wheel

The Waverley

Loch Katrine

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh)* and travel to the **Falkirk Wheel**, the world's first rotating boat lift. We enjoy spectacular scenery as the wheel makes its ascent to join the **Union Canal** 35m above. We sail along the canal and under the Antonine Wall, the Romans' most northern frontier, and explore the visitor centre. We continue to our hotel for dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 Today is long but rewarding as we journey back in time aboard the **Jacobite steam train** and experience one of the most spectacular railway journeys in the world, the **Fort William to Mallaig line**. From the slopes of Ben Nevis, the line runs through rugged mountains, past sea and inland lochs and on to the shores of the Atlantic at Mallaig. The route also takes us over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct** overlooking Loch Shiel, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745. Enjoy some free time in **Mallaig**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today we sail on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, **The Waverley***, built in 1946 to replace the 1899 Waverley, which was sunk at Dunkirk. We leave the ship at Tighnabruaich and our coach will take us back to the hotel, traveling by the "Rest and Be Thankful". *(B, D)*

Day 4 Following breakfast we cruise on **Loch Katrine**, aboard the recently restored steam launch **Sir Walter Scott**. We continue by Aberfoyle, the Duke's Pass and Loch Venachar to **Callander**, where free time awaits before we return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

*Please note that the itinerary is subject to confirmation of the Waverley's sailing schedule.

STIRLING HIGHLAND HOTEL

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Stirling Highland Hotel
- Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel on the Jacobite steam train
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 20 May	~~*$1,185*~~	$1,066.50
12 - 15 Jul	~~*$1,225*~~	$1,102.50
Single Supplement		*$190*

Tour code: **BSTH**

ARROCHAR HOTEL

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Arrochar Hotel, Loch Long
- Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel on the Jacobite steam train
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 21 Apr	~~*$1,085*~~	$976.50
9 - 12 May	~~*$1,085*~~	$976.50
20 - 23 Jun	~~*$1,185*~~	$1,066.50
8 - 11 Aug	~~*$1,185*~~	$1,066.50
10 - 13 Oct	~~*$1,085*~~	$976.50
Single Supplement		*$130*

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR AND OCT

Tour code: **BSTB**

Portnahaven, Islay

7 DAYS FROM **$3,523.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$391.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

A Grand Tour of the Inner Hebrides

Complementing our Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides, this equally grand yet relaxing tour takes in the principal Inner Hebridean isles of Mull, Islay and Jura as well as the famous little island gems of Staffa and Iona.

We begin on the Isle of Mull with a visit to the colorful 'capital' of Tobermory, followed by an exciting boat trip to the tiny island of Staffa and its famous Fingal's Cave. A full day is spent visiting the wonderfully peaceful island of Iona with its famous abbey and beautiful beaches, a place of undeniable calm and contemplation, along with Duart Castle, which enjoys superb views over the Firth of Lorne and the surrounding mountains. We then drive south to Kennacraig, where we catch the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry to Islay. We will explore the island with visits to historic Loch Finlaggan and the Museum of Islay Life, as well as a tour and tasting at the Bowmore Distillery, one of nine distilleries on the island. We will also visit Jura, Islay's sparsely populated and rather mysterious neighbour, a naturalist's paradise dominated by three majestic mountains.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow)* and head for the Western Highlands. On arrival in **Oban** we take a ferry to Craignure on the island of **Mull**.

Day 2 We depart for **Tobermory**, the island's 'capital'. This is the starting point for our wildlife cruise to the **Treshnish Isles** and **Staffa**, during which we hope to see Whales, Dolphins, Basking Sharks, Puffins and Sea Eagles. When on Staffa, we will explore the island and Fingal's Cave. Next, we cross to the idyllic Isle of **Lunga** to view the stunning scenery and the large puffin colony nesting in the burrows on the hillside. These comical birds are incredibly inquisitive and will come within a few metres of you. *(B, PL)*

Day 3 This morning we drive along the Ross of Mull to Fionnphort, where we cross as foot passengers to the Isle of **Iona**. Here, we have the opportunity to visit the **abbey** and explore the island. In the afternoon we visit **Duart Castle**, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean. We can explore the dungeons, the state rooms and appreciate the strategic position of the castle from the top of the keep. *(B)*

Day 4 Following breakfast, we check out of our hotel and take the morning ferry back to Oban. From here, we then take a scenic drive down to Kennacraig to catch the ferry to **Islay**. *(B)*

Day 5 Our tour of Islay takes in **Loch Finlaggan**, the **Bowmore Distillery**, which is the oldest distillery on the island and the **Museum of Islay Life**, home to over 1600 artifacts. *(B)*

Day 6 We explore the neighboring island of **Jura** today. We'll enjoy a scenic tour before having some free time in Craighouse. *(B)*

Day 7 After breakfast we check out of the hotel and take the morning ferry to **Kennacraig** on the mainland. We then continue our homeward journey, arriving back at our original pick-up points this evening. *(B)*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, PL: Packed Lunch*

Puffin, Treshnish Isles

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' bed & breakfast at the Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure and three nights' bed and breakfast accommodation on Islay
- One packed lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
22 - 28 Jun	~~$3,915~~	$3,523.50
Single supplement		*$1,255*

Tour code: **BGIH**

St Magnus Cathedral

6 DAYS FROM **$1,885.50**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$244.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Highlights of Orkney & Shetland

Sail away to lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery – the Orkney and Shetland isles. Many people have landed there before us, some as early as 3000 BC. Most famous of all were the Vikings, but they were not alone and all around you historical treasures can be found. Both Orkney and Shetland have their own identities - Orkney is green and fertile, while Shetland has rugged cliff and sea loch landscapes. However, both share a colorful history of Picts, Norsemen, ancient antiquities and seafaring legends – bound together with an independent spirit that sets them apart from the rest of Scotland. We sail with Serco Northlink Ferries aboard their modern, purpose-built vessels overnight from Aberdeen to Lerwick, and then there are two full days to tour Shetland. After rejoining the ship for an evening sailing to Kirkwall, we have two days to explore Orkney.

St Ninian's Isle

THERE IS AN AIR VERSION OF THIS TOUR ON 25 MAY & 21 AUG FROM $2,725PP ($2,452.50PP IF BOOKED BY 9 FEB). SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth)* and head 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 in **Scalloway**, the former capital of Shetland, where we visit the ruined castle. We then continue north towards the spectacular cliffs of **Eshaness**, and the narrow isthmus known as **Mavis Grind**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Our day starts at 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 also visit **Sumburgh Head** with its RSPB reserve and enjoy free time in Lerwick. Later we re-join our ship for the evening sailing to Kirkwall, with dinner served on board. On arrival we transfer to the Kirkwall Hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we have an all 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** at leisure. 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*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- One night dinner, bed and breakfast at the Brae or Busta House Hotel, Shetland and three nights' bed and breakfast (plus two dinners) at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- All ferry crossings, including one night's accommodation in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjaltland on the outward sailing
- One breakfast and two dinners on board ship
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 16 May	~~$2,305~~	$2,047.50
18 - 24 May	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50
29 Jun - 4 Jul	~~$2,445~~	$2,200.50
14 - 19 Aug	~~$2,445~~	$2,200.50
16 - 21 Sep	~~$2,235~~	$2,011.50
Single Supplement		*$595*
Outside Cabin Supplement		*$80*

Tour code: **BOSH**

Sumburgh Head

5 DAYS FROM **$1,759.50**

SAVE PER PERSON **$195.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Shetland and its Outer Isles

If you want to get away from it all, Shetland is the place to be. As close to Norway as it is to Scotland, Shetland is rugged and remote, with a raw natural beauty, a unique culture and wonderful wildlife. There are over a hundred islands here, only 16 of which are inhabited, each with its own individual character, and our tour offers the opportunity to visit four of them, providing a real taste of the diversity of this amazing archipelago, not to mention the simple pleasure of traveling by boats, both large and small, as the indomitable inhabitants of these islands have done for hundreds of years.

We visit the little island of Mousa, whose Iron Age broch is the best-preserved example anywhere in the world, the Shetland Croft House Museum which gives an insight into a typical 19th century croft, while Jarlshof provides a unique archaeological time-capsule, spanning 3,000 years of successive settlements. Finally we have a tour of the northernmost islands of Yell and Unst, a day of stunning seascapes and air so fresh it takes your breath away.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar, Stonehaven)* and travel to Aberdeen. From here, we sail overnight to Lerwick with Serco Northlink Ferries. *(D)*

Day 2 Disembarking at Lerwick, we begin our visits at the **Shetland Croft Museum**, housed in a typical thatched croft house of the 19th century restored with traditional materials, low doorways and uneven floors and warmed by a peat fire. Next, we explore the outstanding Norse settlement of **Jarlshof**, with over three acres of remains, spanning 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age, including oval shaped bronze age houses, iron age broch and wheel houses, Viking long houses and medieval farmhouses. This afternoon, weather permitting, we visit the little island of **Mousa** and the 2,000 year old broch, the best preserved example in the world. The island is also a nature reserve and is rich in wildlife. Storm petrels, Arctic terns and skuas nest here, and harbor seals lounge on the shore. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today we enjoy 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 since it started operating in 1973, before arriving at Toft, where the ferry departs for the island of Yell. On arrival in Unst, we visit **Muness Castle**, **Baltasound** and **Saxa Vord Hill**. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we return to **Lerwick** to enjoy some free time. Later, we take the overnight ferry to Aberdeen. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We disembark and return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Lerwick

Mousa Broch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Brae or Busta House Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
3 - 7 Jul	~~*$1,955*~~	$1,759.50
17 - 21 Aug	~~*$1,955*~~	$1,759.50
Single Supplement		**$455**
Outside cabin supplement		**$80**

Tour code: **BSHI**

Fair isle knitting

6 DAYS FROM **$2,074.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$230.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Knitting in the Shetland Isles

Even those who think they know all there is to know about the art of knitting can pick up a thing or two in the scenic Shetland Isles, and we're not just talking about those pesky dropped stitches! There are workshops aplenty, both starting off our mornings and rounding off our afternoons. These present the perfect opportunity to hone our skills - and perhaps even learn some new ones - under the watchful eye of experienced local tutors.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee)* and travel to Aberdeen for our overnight sailing to **Shetland**. Dinner is served on board. *(D)*

Day 2 Disembark in Lerwick, before traveling to the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. We stop at **Sumburgh Head**, a windswept sanctuary, and migration route, for all manner of birds. This afternoon we visit the award-winning **Textile Gallery of the Shetland Museum** and Archives for a guided tour to learn all about the knitwear that once supported the island's economy. Our final visit of the day is the **Shetland Textile Museum**, where we find an inspiring collection of local pieces located within a restored 18th-century fishing station, or "böd". *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning we are joined by our local tutor for the first of our **interactive workshops** to learn the basics of Shetland hand knitting. After lunch, we depart for a visit to the **Nielanell Design Studio at Sandwick**, where we discover an inventive range of alternative knitwear, including hand-spun batts just waiting to be used. We continue to **Hoswick** where we will call in at the **Visitor Centre**, housed in a former woollen mill. The Centre includes weaving machinery, local items and an interpretation of the Hoswick Whale case. We will also visit the Laurence Odie Knitwear outlet at **Hoswick Woollen Mill**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 We depart on a tour of the southern mainland of Shetland which includes **St Ninian's Isle** and **Mavis Grind**, said to be the only place in the UK where you can throw a stone from the North Sea to the Atlantic. We return to our hotel in the afternoon for the second of our **knitting workshops**, a great opportunity to ask your tutor questions and hone your techniques. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 This morning we enjoy a final **knitting workshop** with a local tutor. After lunch, we head to **Scalloway**, the original capital of Shetland. The castle built by Earl Patrick Stewart still dominates the skyline. We continue to **Lerwick** where the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure. Later, we board our ferry back to Aberdeen and have dinner in the ship's restaurant. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 After our overnight sailing we arrive in Aberdeen this morning and return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Scalloway Castle

Jarlshof

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Busta House Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on ferry
- Three lunches
- Three knitting workshops with expert local tutor
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 24 Sep	~~$2,305~~	$2,074.50
Single Supplement		**$525**
Outside cabin supplement		**$80**

Tour code: **BKSH**

Jarlshof

6 DAYS FROM **$2,137.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$258.50** | TOUR MANAGER CLIVE WARSOP | TOUR MANAGER PETER YEOMAN

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland

The islands of Orkney and Shetland are littered with archaeological remains. People first came here over 5,000 years ago and many of their remains survive. Research is ongoing here and excavations by archaeologists continue to uncover new information. The islands are therefore of enormous interest to anyone who enjoys first-hand contact with ancient settlements and buildings as well as the people who once lived here.

During our time on Shetland we will visit the uninhabited island of Mousa with its 2,000-year-old full size broch, the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof; St. Ninian's Isle with its 6th century church and the ruined castle of Scalloway. We then travel to Orkney where we visit the Italian Chapel and the Churchill Barriers; Maeshowe, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe; the stone circles of Stenness and Brodgar and the famous site at Skara Brae as well as Skaill House. En route to Aberdeen, we will stop for a photo opportunity at Dunnottar Castle, a clifftop fortress dating back to the 3rd century.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth)* and head for Aberdeen. We will stop for a photo opportunity at **Dunnottar Castle**, a dramatic ruined clifftop fortress, before taking the overnight ferry to Lerwick. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin our exploration of Shetland with a visit to the Iron Age broch on the little island of **Mousa**. Remarkably the broch of Mousa still stands to its original height of 13m. The island is also a nature reserve and is rich in wildlife. We continue to the outstanding Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, spanning 3,000 years of human habitation. Finally, we stop at the nearby cliffs at **Sumburgh Head**, an RSPB reserve renowned for the puffins and seabirds that reside here. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Our first visit of the day is to **St. Ninian's Isle** and its church dating from the 6th century when Christianity first came to Shetland. We then travel to **Scalloway** to visit the ruined castle and continue through the **Tingwall Valley**, the site of the old Norse parliament. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We tour the southern end of Orkney Mainland with visits to the **Churchill Barriers** and **the Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. Several hundred Italians, captured during the North African campaign of World War II were sent here to work on the Causeways and converted two huts into a chapel. Later, we return to **Kirkwall** for some free time and a chance to visit the architectural masterpiece of St. Magnus Cathedral. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Today we head west into the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney**, where we find some of the most impressive and important archaeological sites in Europe, including the mysterious stone circles at **Stenness and Brodgar**, the chambered tomb at **Maeshowe** and the famous stone age village at **Skara Brae**. *(B, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast we take the ferry back to the mainland and continue to our original departure points. *(B)*

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER CLIVE WARSOP

Clive is in his element among the ancient stones of the Northern Isles, with a host of fascinating facts to pass on and tales to tell.

YOUR TOUR MANAGER PETER YEOMAN

Peter has tremendous knowledge and experience to draw from as brings the archaeology of these islands to life.

A 5-DAY AIR VERSION OF THIS TOUR LED BY PETER YEOMAN IS ALSO AVAILABLE DEPARTING ON 25 MARCH 2024 FROM $2,795PP NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ($2,515PP IF BOOKED BY 9 FEB). PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- One night dinner, bed and breakfast at the Brae or Busta House Hotel, Shetland and three nights' bed and breakfast (plus two dinners) at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- All ferry crossings, including two dinners and one night's accommodation in two berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/ Hjaltland on the outward sailing
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (Clive Warsop in April and Peter Yeoman in March and June)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
22 - 27 Apr	~~$2,375~~	$2,137.50
24 - 29 Jun	~~$2,585~~	$2,326.50
Single Supplement		**$595**
Outside cabin supplement		**$80**

Tour code: **BOSA**

Westray, Orkney islands

5 DAYS FROM **$1,885.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$219.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT*

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Undiscovered Orkney

An archipelago of 70 islands, each with their own distinctive charm, Orkney is home to boundless history and natural beauty. Based in Kirkwall, on the mainland, we will discover the landmarks and landscapes of the North and South Isles. On Westray, we relive Orkney's Viking past; on Mainland, we discover Neolithic Orkney; and on Hoy, we enjoy dramatic scenery as we sail across the Scapa Flow. Over the years we have explored almost every nook and cranny of Orkney, yet these beautiful islands contain many more secrets and hidden gems that demand to be discovered.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness)* and travel north to Scrabster, where we catch the ferry to Orkney. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we visit **Westray**, the 'Queen of the Orkney Isles'. Our tour here starts at the **Scaun Natural Arch**, at Westray's northmost point, where we should see sea birds such as the Shag, Black Guillemot and Fulmar. After a visit to the unique **Quoygrew** 10th century Norse site, we will visit the **Kirk of St Mary** in Pierowall Village, and then **Castle O'Burrian**, which is known as one of the best places to see puffins in Orkney. Finally we visit the **Westray Heritage Centre**, and **Noltland Castle**, one of the most unusual castles in Scotland and testament to a troubled period of Scottish history. It was built in the 1560s by Gilbert Balfour from Fife, who was up to his neck in the political intrigues common during the time of his sister in law, Mary, Queen of Scots, and as a result had made some powerful enemies. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Tour the island of **Hoy**, the second largest island in Orkney, which is mountainous in the north and flatter and more fertile in the south. Here, we visit the **Dwarfie Stane** and **Rackwick Bay**, once home to composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. We also visit the **Scapa Flow Museum**, which houses an important record of the role the Royal Navy played in Orkney during both World Wars and was in the final shortlist of five in the Art Fund Museum of the Year awards in 2023. In the afternoon we'll pay a visit to the stone-built **Martello Tower** at Hackness and the **Naval Cemetery**, a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made in this important theatre of two world wars. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We have a full day excursion of mainland Orkney visiting the many archaeological sites including Maeshowe, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe. Built before 2700 BC **Maeshowe** was raided by Vikings in the 12th Century. It houses the largest collection of runic inscriptions to be found in any one place in the world; **Skara Brae**, with its new visitor centre depicting the history of this world famous monument; and the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, lying to the north side of the Orphir Hills. Later, we continue to Stromness to visit the local Museum and the Pier Arts Centre, and then it's on to the **Highland Park Distillery**, which uses the same traditional methods of production as it did 200 years ago. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We catch the ferry back to the mainland and visit the **Timespan Museum and Arts Centre** in Helmsdale, which is described as a meeting place between past, present and future. We return to our original departure points in the afternoon and evening. *(B)*

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

Scapa Flow Museum ©Orkney Islands Council

Dwarfie Stane

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
10 - 14 Jun	~~$2,195~~	$1,975.50
27 - 31 Aug	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50
Single Supplement		$245

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN AUGUST*

Tour code: **BUOR**

LIMITED AVAILABILITY FOR 2024

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Up Helly Aa festival

5 DAYS FROM **$1,507.50** ~~SAVE OVER~~ **$167.50**

Up Helly Aa - Shetland's Festival of Fire

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

Day 1 We depart from our designated departure points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee, Forfar)* and travel to Aberdeen the overnight ferry to Lerwick. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast on board, we depart on a full day tour tour which begins with a visit to **Scalloway**, the original capital of Shetland. Later we head for the south of Mainland Shetland, where we visit the outstanding Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, with over three acres of remains, spanning 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age, including oval shaped bronze age houses, iron age broch and wheel houses, Viking long houses and medieval farmhouses. We continue to **Sumburgh Head**, the southern tip of mainland Shetland, which is an **RSPB reserve** and site of a lighthouse that is still functioning remotely, but incorporates museum aspects of its earlier operation as a manned station. In season, thousands of puffins, kittiwakes and razorbills nest here, but in January they will still be out at sea. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We travel to Lerwick, where you are free to explore at your leisure and view the various activities associated with the **Up Helly Aa festival**. Keep an eye out for the various 'squads' of 'guizers' – groups of about 20 men *(and since 2023, women)* who choose a theme and dress up as whatever takes their fancy each year. Only one squad, a different one every year, is allowed to dress up as Vikings and are known as 'jarls', the Viking term for Earl. As darkness falls the squads begin to assemble for the torchlight parade and eventually a procession of 1,000 men snakes its way through the streets carrying aloft flaming brands of paraffin-soaked hessian and carrying the superbly crafted galley which will then be ceremoniously burned in the spectacular finale to the day's events. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We set off for the northerly 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 40 years, before arriving at Toft, where the ferry departs for the island of Yell. We then take another ferry to Unst and enjoy the marvellous views from **Saxa Vord Hill**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Disembark in Aberdeen and return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Jarlshof

Up Helly Aa festival

Scalloway

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE IN 2024: UP HELLY AA BY AIR, 4 DAYS FROM $2,235PP; UP HELLY AA BY COACH AND FERRY, 7 DAYS FROM $2,235PP

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: two nights at the Scalloway Hotel and two nights on the overnight ferry from Aberdeen to Shetland in a twin-berth inside cabin
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025		
26 - 30 Jan	~~$1,675~~	$1,507.50
Single Supplement		**On request**
Outside cabin supplement		**$85**
Shetland Hotel Lerwick Supplement		*From* **$210**

Tour code: **BUHF**

5 DAYS FROM **$1,633.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$188.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT* | TOUR MANAGER CAROL KNOTT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

In about 1800 BC, at around the time that the Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt was flourishing, an equally vigorous civilisation was leaving its mark on the far flung islands of the Outer Hebrides. In the company of a specialist guide we will tour a succession of sites, from Lewis in the north to Harris in the south. Highlights include the Bosta Iron Age Village, the Standing Stones and St Clement's Church at Rodel.

Day 1 Depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness)* and head north to **Ullapool** to catch the early evening ferry to Stornoway and our centrally located hotel.

Day 2 We cross to the island of Great Bernera, where we visit **Bosta Iron Age Village** and the nearby **museum**. From here we travel to the 5,000 year old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, undoubtedly the most remarkable antiquity in the Western Isles. In the afternoon we visit **St Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important archaeological sites on the Isle of Lewis. *(B)*

Day 3 Following breakfast we travel south to **Harris**, which in contrast to the rolling moorland of Lewis is more mountainous and fringed by superb white sandy beaches. Here we visit **St Clement's Church** at Rodel, whose tombs are among the most spectacular in Scotland, followed by the **Genealogy Centre** at Northton, a chance to learn how island communites have evolved over the centuries. We continue to the ancient standing stone known as **Clach Mhic Leoid**, which overlooks the island of Taransay. Finally, we return to Stornoway and visit **Lews Castle**. *(B)*

Day 4 Today we discover the stunning scenery of **Lewis** as we take a journey through time from the Bronze and Iron Ages to the days of Norse settlement and the more recent past. Visits include **Carloway Broch**, **Black Houses**, **Norse Mill** and the standing stone **Clach an Trushal**. *(B)*

Day 5 We take the ferry from Stornoway to **Ullapool** then continue our journey back to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast*

Dun Carloway Broch

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 3-star Royal Hotel, Stornoway
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout and all ferry crossings
- Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (Carol Knott in July)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
21 - 25 Apr	~~$1,815~~	$1,633.50
6 - 10 Jul	~~$1,885~~	$1,696.50
Single Supplement		$245

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR*

Tour code: **BAOH**

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4 DAYS FROM **$1,003.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$111.50** | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT | TOUR MANAGER PETER YEOMAN

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

In the Footsteps of the Picts

Living beyond the northern frontier of the Roman Empire, the people of northern Scotland in the Dark Ages were known as the Picts – a name given by the Romans meaning the 'painted, tattooed ones'. They were renowned as one of the most warlike of the Celtic barbarian tribes of Europe, successfully attacking the Roman army, and yet few of their homes or forts have ever been found. They did, however, leave behind some of the finest carved stones and jewellery from early medieval Europe.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh)* and head to the **National Museum of Scotland**. Here we view their collection of the Pictish jewellery and sculpture held here, which includes the **St Ninian's Isle Treasure**, which was discovered in Shetland in 1958 and is the only Scottish hoard of fine metalwork of this date to survive in its entirety. *(D)*

Day 2 We enjoy a sculptural high-point with a visit to **Aberlemno**, with its four magnificent Pictish stones. We then visit a professional stone-carver, **David McGovern**, who will give us an exclusive Pictish stone carving demonstration. Then we travel the short distance to **St Vigeans Museum of Pictish Sculpture**, which houses one of the most important collections of early medieval sculpture in Western Europe. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today begins with a visit to the symbol-inscribed cross-slab depicting angels and a striding cloaked figure at Eassie. From here we continue to **Perth Museum** with its fine display of Pictish sculpture, and Dundee's **McManus Museum** to meet a digital reconstruction of a Pictish woman. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we drive to **St Andrews**, where we see the decorated stone sarcophagus of a great Pictish king, featuring biblical royal imagery along with artistic influences showing their European connections. Our final visit is to the **East Lomond Hillfort**, for a specially-arranged tour led by the leader of the current archaeological investigations. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Aberlemno Pictish Stone

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Links Hotel, Montrose
- Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (Peter Yeoman in June)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 - 17 Jun	~~$1,115~~	$1,003.50
2 - 5 Aug	~~$1,115~~	$1,003.50
Single Supplement		$85

Tour code: **BPIC**

5 DAYS FROM **$1,507.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$167.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT*

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Arran, Scotland in Miniature

Often described as "Scotland in Miniature", Arran has a blend of Highland and Island scenery with granite peaks and deep glens to the north of the island, contrasting with its rolling and lush farmlands to the south. From our base in Blackwaterfoot, we visit Brodick Castle and its wonderful gardens, we enjoy a circular tour of Arran that passes through Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Corrie and Sannox, and we can look forward to both a tour and a tasting at the Isle of Arran Distillery.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow)* and head to Ardrossan for our ferry to Arran and transfer to our hotel in **Blackwaterfoot**. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we have a **circular tour** visiting **Whiting Bay**, **Lamlash**, **Brodick**, **Corrie**, **Sannox**, **Catacol**, **Pirnmill** and **Isle of Arran Distillery**. Only 56 miles around its coastline, the small villages are compared to 'jewels on a necklace' strung out like pearls around the island. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Explore at your leisure or take an optional excursion to the little Hebridean **island of Gigha** including a visit to **Achamore Gardens**. Nestling close to the mainland just off the Kintyre peninsula, this is a gem of an island often overlooked by the island-hopper. Sir James Horlick came here in 1944 and created a woodland garden. The mild climate combined with high levels of rainfall means that there is always something in bloom. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we visit **Brodick Castle and Gardens**, looking east across the Firth of Clyde. The present garden dates from 1932 when the Duchess of Montrose started an ambitious woodland garden with a collection of rhododendrons. *(B, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast we depart on the morning ferry to Ardrossan and return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

A 4-DAY AUTUMN TINTS TOUR IS AVAILABLE ON 16 OCT 2024 FROM $1,255 ($1,129.50PP IF BOOKED BY 9 FEB 2024) – PLEASE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

Blackwaterfoot

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Best Western Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot
- Return ferry crossings
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
22 - 26 Apr*	~~$1,675~~	$1,507.50
20 - 24 May	~~$1,675~~	$1,507.50
17 - 21 Jun	~~$1,675~~	$1,507.50
12 - 16 Aug	~~$1,675~~	$1,507.50
9 - 13 Sep	~~$1,675~~	$1,507.50
Single Supplement		**$255**
Optional excursion Gigha:		**on request**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR*

Tour code: **BARR**

5 DAYS FROM **$2,641.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$293.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Islay and Jura

Islay represents the southern extreme of the Inner Hebrides. Once the ancient home of the Lord of the Isles, it has always been popular with archaeologists and historians. Today the island is perhaps better known for its distinctive malt whiskies, its sandy beaches and its diverse birdlife. While we are here we visit the Bowmore Distillery, the oldest distillery on the island, and Loch Gruinart RSPB Nature Reserve, where we will hopefully have the opportunity to see many bird species.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow)* and catch the ferry from Kennacraig to **Port Askaig**, Islay. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel.

Day 2 Our first stop will be at **Loch Finlaggan**, which was once the centre of the 'Lordship of the Isles'. We then enjoy a guided tour of **Bowmore Distillery** before visiting the **Museum of Islay Life**. Our final stop of the day will be at **Loch Gruinart RSPB Nature Reserve** where we will have an introductory talk and view many species of seabirds. *(B)*

Day 3 Following breakfast, you are free to explore **Islay**. Alternatively, you may wish to join our optional excursion to **Colonsay**, where we visit the gardens of **Colonsay House** and **Kiloran Bay**, the most famous of Colonsay's beaches, a crescent of sand over a mile long with waves rolling in from the Atlantic Ocean. *(B)*

Day 4 This morning we travel to the neighboring island of **Jura**, which has a record of habitation stretching back over 5,000 years. We enjoy a scenic tour before having some free time in **Craighouse**, the main settlement on the island with a shop, tearoom and Jura's distillery. *(B)*

Day 5 We leave Islay this morning and make our way home, stopping at the picturesque village of **Inveraray**, before returning to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Port Charlotte, Islay

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' bed and breakfast accommodation on Islay
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 12 Jul	~~$2,935~~	$2,641.50
9 - 13 Sep	~~$2,935~~	$2,641.50
Single Supplement		**$695**

Tour code: **BIJA**

4 DAYS FROM **$1,885.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$209.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Mull, Staffa and Iona

The Isle of Mull is a place of tumbling burns, high peaks, dramatic views, and a silent, lonely beauty. We will explore some of the highlights of the island including the multi-colored buildings that line the waterfront of the island's principal town, Tobermory. We sail on a wildlife cruise that takes us to the Treshnish Isles, and the little island of Staffa, whose natural cathedral of basalt columns is one of the wonders of the west coast. We also visit Duart Castle, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean and the sacred isle of Iona.

Duart Castle

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow)* 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 depart for **Tobermory**, the island's 'capital', and the starting point for our wildlife cruise to the **Treshnish Isles** and **Staffa**. We will land on the idyllic Isle of **Lunga**, the largest of the Treshnish Isles which is surrounded by wildflowers and stunning scenery. The main attraction that can be seen close up *(June departure only)* is the large puffin colony nesting in burrows on the grassy hillside. Next, we take the short crossing to the geological wonder of **Staffa**, which was formed by volcanic eruptions over 50 million years ago. We have a chance to explore the island and the massive natural cathedral known as **Fingal's Cave**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 Today we visit **Duart Castle**, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean. We can 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, L: Lunch, D: Dinner*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the comfortable Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, Craignure
- One packed lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
29 Jun - 2 Jul	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50
29 Sep - 2 Oct	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50
Single Supplement		$555

Tour code: **BMSI**

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4 DAYS FROM **$1,129.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$129.50** | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Highland Wildlife Safari

Scotland's natural environment is second to none with a more diverse range of habitats than almost any other country of comparable size. This tour of the Highlands aims to provide close encounters with a wide range of wildlife, all set against a backdrop of magnificent scenery.

Dolphins, Moray Firth

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth)* for the **Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve**, where the star attraction is a pair of breeding ospreys. We continue to the **Highland Wildlife Park**, near Aviemore, which has an extensive collection of both native and exotic animals. *(D)*

Day 2 We make our way to **Inverness**, capital of the Highlands, where we will leave for our **Dolphin Cruise** and head out onto the Moray Firth. We hope to see a variety of bird life such as terns, gannets, fulmars, razorbills, kittiwakes, red kites and ospreys, and a variety of wading birds on the shoreline. We later visit the **House of Aigas Field Centre** near Beauly. Here we will enjoy **lunch using produce from the estate** before embarking on a guided walk around the estate to view the beaver dam, Scottish Wildcat project and other native wildlife such as red squirrels. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 After breakfast we travel through some glorious mountain scenery to Loch Maree, where we enjoy a gentle woodland walk at the **Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve**. It is the oldest nature reserve in Britain comprising 10,500 acres and it was established in 1951. In the afternoon, we visit **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 We visit the **Abernethy National Nature Reserve** at Loch Garten, where we hope to see a number of different birds, including the crested tit, crossbills and ospreys. Our final stop is at **Pitlochry Dam and Fish Ladder**, an opportunity to see salmon passing upstream on the River Tummel. An interesting new visitor centre tells the story of the construction of the dam. We then return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Craiglynne Hotel, Speyside (or similar)
- One lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
21 - 24 Jun	~~$1,255~~	$1,129.50
19 - 22 Jul	~~$1,295~~	$1,165.50
Single Supplement		$130

Tour code: **BHWS**

4 DAYS FROM **$814.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$104.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

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

Gallery of Modern Art

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

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

Day 3 We start our day at the **Burrell Collection** which, following an ambitious and far-reaching refurbishment programme, was voted **Art Fund Museum of the Year** in 2023. This afternoon we head to **Holmwood House**, the finest and most elaborate residential villa designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson. *(B, D)*

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

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Garfield House Hotel, Glasgow
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
22 - 25 Mar	~~$1,045~~	$940.50
14 - 16 Jun	~~$1,045~~	$940.50
13 - 16 Sep	~~$905~~	$814.50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BGAT**

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4 DAYS FROM **$1,066.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$118.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

In the Footsteps of Robert Burns

Burns Night comes but once a year, and when it does we at Brightwater need no excuse to get involved. Neeps, tatties, whisky, haggis and poetry by the plateful: what better way to celebrate? This fantastic four-day tour charts the life and times of the brilliant Robert Burns, peerless poet of the lowlands, through the beautiful pastoral settings that inspired him. Basing ourselves in the west of Scotland, we follow in Burns' fascinating footsteps, from his humble Ayrshire beginnings in 1759, to his untimely death in Dumfries at the age of just 37.

Robert Burns

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh, Glasgow)* and journey to Ayrshire. We arrive at the village of Kirkoswald and **Soutar Johnnie's Cottage**. Soutar Johnnie is one of the three main characters in Burns' much-loved poem **Tam O'Shanter**, along with Jean Kirkton and Tam himself. We will also visit the nearby graveyard where these real-life people who inspired Burns are buried. We continue to our hotel in Kilmarnock. *(D)*

Day 2 Visit the **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum** and then we follow in his footsteps through the village where he spent the early years of his life. Find out what made the great poet and song writer tick, and visit **Alloway Auld Kirk**. After lunch we continue to **Rozelle House**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today we explore the lowlands of Scotland and see the landscapes which are captured in Burns' lyrical verses. We visit **Ellisland Farm**, the **Robert Burns House Museum** and the **Robert Burns Mausoleum**, which stands at the eastern end of the churchyard of St Michael's Church, Dumfries. We can enjoy a traditional **Burns Supper** at our hotel this evening. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast we head for Mauchline and the **Burns House Museum**, located in the former lodging of the poet and his wife. The museum showcases original manuscripts and inspirational objects he had surrounding him. We continue to Glasgow and the **Mitchell Library** for an exclusive **private viewing** of some of the most important Burns material with the Curator. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Park Hotel, Kilmarnock
- Two dinners and one Burns Supper in the hotel
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025		
23 - 26 Jan	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BFRB**

4 DAYS FROM **$1,192.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$132.50**

Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire is dotted with historic houses and castles, many of them outstanding examples of Scots Baronial architecture. Each one has a fascinating story to tell with countless legends and several royal connections including Balmoral, sadly now remembered as the place where Her Majesty The Queen passed away.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Dundee)* and head to **Drum Castle and Gardens**. The sweep of 700 years of history is stamped into Drum's stalwart battlements, medieval square tower and sprawling extensions. The beautiful Garden of Historic Roses is divided into quadrants that show how roses have been cultivated from the 17th to the 20th century and an ancient oak forest adjoins the castle. *(D)*

Day 2 Our first visit of the day is to **Haddo House**. Unusual for Aberdeenshire in that it is not a castle, the house elegantly blends Georgian architecture with late Victorian interiors. We'll also see its terrace garden with geometric rosebeds, a lavish herbaceous border and secluded glades. Later we visit the magnificent fortress of **Fyvie Castle** with ghosts, legends and folklore woven into its 800-year history. Outside we find an 18th century walled garden for fruit and veg. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We start at **Castle Fraser**, one of the grandest of the Scottish baronial tower houses, with a strikingly simple Great Hall. Next is **Craigievar Castle**, another fine example of Scots Baronial architecture, which seems to have grown naturally out of the rolling hills. We round off the day at **Balmoral**, which needs little introduction as a favourite royal residence. Built around 1854 for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, it is relatively modern though clearly in the style of a 'Scottish' castle. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We conclude at **Crathes Castle**, set against a backdrop of rolling hills and within its own glorious gardens. Crathes is every inch the classic Scottish tower house, with a labyrinth of cultural and family history. We then return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Balmoral

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Ardoe House Hotel, Aberdeen
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
3 - 6 Jun	~~$1,325~~	$1,192.50
Single Supplement		**$210**

Tour code: **BHHA**

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4 DAYS FROM **$1,125.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$139.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT*

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders

The Scottish Borders are often overlooked in comparison with the Highlands and Islands, whose grandeur and drama have an obvious attraction. Yet the Borders have a quiet, understated beauty of their own, with softly rolling hills draped in early morning mist, peaceful valleys dotted with sheep farms and the sinuous, salmon-filled River Tweed, which runs like a silver thread from the Lowther Hills to the sea at Berwick.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh)* and drive into the Scottish Borders for our visit to **Manderston House**, built in the finest Georgian country house style in the 1790s. The mansion was rebuilt in the early 20th century, and when the architect asked how much he could spend, he was told that "it simply doesn't matter." *(D)*

Day 2 Travel through Tweeddale to **Abbotsford House**, built by Sir Walter Scott following the success of his great novels. There are extensive grounds leading down to the River Tweed, a fine walled garden and a woodland walk, however it is the house that steals the show. In the afternoon we visit **Traquair House**, which is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning we visit **Mellerstain House**, one of Scotland's great Georgian houses. We move on to Kelso to visit **Floors Castle**, home of the Duke & Duchess of Roxburghe, situated on a natural terrace overlooking the River Tweed and facing the Cheviot Hills. This romantic fairytale castle boasts a roofscape of turrets, pinnacles and cupolas. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We conclude at **Thirlestane Castle**, a magnificent 16th century castle set in a quiet meadow landscape. The family home of the Duke of Lauderdale, Thirlestane Castle is one of the oldest and finest castles in Scotland, and dates back to at least the 12th century. Lunch is provided in the authentic Victorian Kitchen here. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B, L)*

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

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Mellerstain

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Peebles Hydro Hotel
- One lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
28 Apr - 1 May*	~~$1,395~~	$1,255.50
23 - 26 Jun	~~$1,395~~	$1,255.50
15 - 18 Sep	~~$1,395~~	$1,255.50
Single Supplement		**$170**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APR*

Tour code: **BHSB**

5 DAYS FROM **$1,696.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$188.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Scenic Journeys of Argyll and Bute

The West Highland Line from Glasgow to Oban is one of the most scenic in Scotland, and unjustly receives less attention than the more famous routes. Here there are many visual delights to enjoy, such as the views over Loch Long and Loch Lomond, the remote Glen Douglas, and the dramatic ruins of Kilchurn Castle. Enjoy the two island gems of little Gigha, home to Achamore Gardens, and the isle of Bute, where we find one of the most extravagant stately homes in the British Isles.

Mount Stuart

Day 1 Travel independently to Glasgow and assemble at Queen Street Station where we board the lunchtime train to Oban. The **West Highland Line** takes us along the shores of the Firth of Clyde, through Glen Falloch before joining the former Callander and Oban line and on to Dalmally, where we will leave the train and continue by coach to our hotel in **Inveraray** on the shores of Loch Fyne. *(D)*

Day 2 We depart on an excursion to the beautiful little Hebridean island of **Gigha** and explore **Achamore Gardens**, the former home of the Horlick family. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We take the ferry to the Isle of Bute. Here we visit the spectacular house and gardens of **Mount Stuart**, which is one of the largest, most spectacular High Victorian Gothic houses in Britain and yet one of the least known. These 300 acres of woodlands and gardens are a real treasure trove for the garden enthusiast. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We begin at **Ardkinglas**, considered to be one of architect Sir Robert Lorimer's masterpieces. Following a **private tour** of the house there will be time to look around the Woodland Gardens. This afternoon we have a **guided tour** of **Inveraray Castle**, the seat of the Duke of Argyll since the 17th century. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Today we visit **Arduaine**, full of the most magnificent plants. After a **farewell lunch** at the adjacent Loch Melfort Hotel, we drive north to Oban and take the afternoon train along the full length of the West Highland Line back to Glasgow Queen Street. *(B, L)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Inveraray Inn, Loch Fyne
- One lunch
- Comfortable coach travel, ferry crossings and standard class rail travel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
7 - 11 May	~~$1,885~~	$1,696.50
7 - 11 Sep	~~$1,885~~	$1,696.50
Single Supplement		$275

Tour code: **BSAB**

7 DAYS FROM **$2,389.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$265.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands

The Highlands and Islands of Scotland provide such a wealth of scenic journeys that it can be a daunting prospect to work out how best to take them all in. This tour aims to provide the answer to this Caledonian conundrum with an itinerary that ticks off a whole host of visual gems. At the same time it provides a series of relaxing, undemanding journeys driving through Glen Coe, traveling by train along the West Highland Line, a round trip on the historic Jacobite steam train and cruise along Loch Linnhe, in the shadow of Ben Nevis.

Glen Coe

Day 1 Assembling at Glasgow Queen Street Station where our tour begins, we depart on a rail journey for **Fort William**, with views of mountains, lochs and glens. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we drive down to Oban and take the ferry to **Mull** to visit **Duart Castle** and **Tobermory** before crossing by ferry to Morvern before returning to our hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 3 After a look at the canal locks known as **Neptune's Staircase**, we cruise on **Loch Linnhe** and take a scenic drive through the magnificent mountain scenery of **Glen Coe**, an ancient volcanic caldera. *(B, D)*

Day 4 A treat lies in store as we ride aboard the **Jacobite steam train** forging over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct** to **Mallaig**, following 'The Road to the Isles'. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We cruise on **Loch Ness**, with views of the ruins of **Urquhart Castle**, and travel to the shores of the **Moray Firth** where we hope to spot the resident pod of dolphins. *(B, D)*

Day 6 Using the scheduled diesel train service from Inverness, our route takes us through Strath Bran and the isolated little station at Achnasheen, on into Strath Carron to the head of Loch Carron, passing Stromeferry, the one-time terminus of the line, before we reach the current terminus at **Kyle of Lochalsh**. This afternoon, we visit the iconic **Eilean Donan Castle**. *(B, D)*

Day 7 Board the **Cairngorm funicular railway** for sweeping views. Later, we'll catch the train from Aviemore to Glasgow, where the group will disperse or make onward connections. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in the Fort William area and three nights in the Inverness area
- Comfortable coach travel, ferry crossings and standard class rail travel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 - 20 Jun	~~$2,655~~	$2,389.50
1 - 7 Sep	~~$2,655~~	$2,389.50
Single Supplement		$275

Tour code: **BSJH**

Jacobite train

4 DAYS FROM **$1,066.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$125.50** | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Scenic Scottish Railways

The north of Scotland is blessed with some wonderfully scenic railway lines. The challenge of building railways through difficult terrain was taken up by the great engineers of the Victorian age. Their legacy is in the sweeping curves and majestic viaducts of the single track lines which cross wild moors and lonely glens. Highlights on this short break include a visit to the much-photographed Eilean Donan Castle, a ride aboard the Jacobite steam train that takes us over the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct and a visit to Boat of Garten on the Strathspey Line, which you may recognise from the BBC series, Monarch of the Glen.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth)* and travel by coach to Aviemore and the **Strathspey Railway**. We will board the maroon liveried coaches which will evoke memories of train journeys in the 1950s and 60s and the train will be hauled by a lovingly restored steam locomotive. The line crosses heather covered moorland with the **Cairngorm Mountains** beyond and the train stops at Boat of Garten and Broomhill, which doubled as 'Glenbogle' in the popular BBC TV series, *Monarch of the Glen*. The train will then return to Aviemore, from where we continue our journey by coach to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 We transfer to **Inverness** and board the morning diesel train service to **Wick**. The line takes us along the shores of the **Cromarty** and **Dornoch Firths**, looping round by Lairg and back to the coast, passing the former junction with the Dornoch branch at The Mound. From Golspie the line follows the spectacular coastline as far as **Helmsdale**, where it turns inland, pausing at remote stations such as Forsinard and Altnabreac, before reaching **Georgemas Junction**, the most northerly railway junction in Britain. The driver changes ends here to take the train to Thurso before we continue to the terminus at Wick. On arrival here we will re-join our coach and return to our hotel by the more direct but equally scenic coastal route. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We depart once again by diesel train from Inverness, this time diverging at Dingwall and heading for **Kyle of Lochalsh**, traveling over what is often considered to be the most scenic of all Scotland's railway lines. In the afternoon we explore the iconic 13th century castle of **Eilean Donan**. This must be one of the most photographed castles in Scotland, with its impossibly romantic setting on Loch Duich. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After an early breakfast we check out of the hotel and travel via Loch Laggan to Fort William, where we join '**The Jacobite**' steam train and experience one of the most memorable and spectacular railway journeys in the world – to **Mallaig** on the famous 'Road to the Isles'. 'The Jacobite' combines the romance of the steam era with the opportunity to drink in the stunning views of this wild and historic part of Scotland. From the slopes of **Ben Nevis** the line runs through rugged mountains, past sea and inland lochs and onto the shores of the Atlantic at Mallaig. The route takes us over the massive **Glenfinnan viaduct** overlooking Loch Shiel, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745. After some free time in Mallaig we rejoin the train and return to Fort William. Thereafter we continue by coach to our original departure points where we expect to arrive late evening. *(B)*

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

Eilean Donan Castle

Strathspey Steam Railway

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Craiglynne Hotel, Speyside (or similar)
- Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
3 - 6 May	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
26 - 29 Jul	~~$1,255~~	$1,129.50
13 - 16 Sep	~~$1,255~~	$1,129.50
4 - 7 Oct	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
Single Supplement		*$130*

Tour code: **BSSR**

Loch Linnhe

7 DAYS FROM **$2,767.50**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$447.50**

Lord of the Glens
Voyage Through the Heart of Scotland

The MV Lord of the Glens, with its 27 beautifully appointed cabins, is the perfect vessel from which to enjoy the majesty of the Scottish highlands and islands. With all meals and shore excursions included the cruises offer excellent value, while providing a luxurious treat.

This six-night cruise combines both fresh and saltwater cruising, as 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, colorful 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 **McCaigs Tower** for sweeping views over **Oban Bay**. In the afternoon we sail to **Craignure** on the **Isle of Mull** and visit 13th century **Duart Castle**. *(FB)*

Day 3 We depart by coach and ferry for a visit to the **Isle of Iona** and then it's on to **Tobermory**. *(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**, traveling 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 by 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 Transfer by coach to Inverness. *(B)*

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

Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Six 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

2024		
Oban to Inverness		
11 - 17 Apr, 6 - 12 Oct, 18 - 24 Oct		
Lower Deck	~~$3,075~~	$2,767.50
Middle Deck	~~$3,915~~	$3,523.50
Middle Deck Superior	~~$4,475~~	$4,027.50
Upper Deck	~~$4,475~~	$4,027.50
Single Supplement		*from* **$2,240**

Tour code: **BLGG**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

8 DAYS FROM **$4,405.50**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$643.50**

Lord of the Glens
Secrets of the Highlands & Islands

Lord of the Glens

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 harbor 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, colorful 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.

Please note that the itinerary below also operates in reverse order, under the title 'Inland Waterways and Idyllic Isles' - please refer to our website for full details.

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**, traveling over the **Glenfinnan Viaduct**. *(FB)*

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

Day 5 We sail to Craignure, pausing for photographs in front of **Duart Castle**. We head to the **Isle of Iona** and then it's on to **Tobermory**. *(FB)*

Day 6 Visit the tiny island of **Eigg** and then the village of **Inverie** on Loch Nevis. *(FB)*

Day 7 Sail across the **Sound of Sleat to Armadale** 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 Transfer by coach to Inverness. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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

2024

Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh		
29 Apr - 6 May; 13 - 20 May; 2 - 9 Sep		
Lower Deck	~~$4,895~~	$4,405.50
Middle Deck	~~$5,595~~	$5,035.50
Middle Deck Superior	~~$6,435~~	$5,791.50
Upper Deck	~~$6,435~~	$5,791.50
Single Supplement		*from* **$2,800**

Tour code: **BLSW**

Kyle of Lochalsh to Inverness		
6 - 13 May; 23 - 30 Sep		
Lower Deck	~~$4,895~~	$4,405.50
Middle Deck	~~$5,595~~	$5,035.50
Middle Deck Superior	~~$6,435~~	$5,791.50
Upper Deck	~~$6,435~~	$5,791.50
Single Supplement		*from* **$2,800**

Tour code: **BLIW**

4 DAYS FROM **$850.50** SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$104.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Scotland's Extreme North West

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

Smoo Cave

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 22 Mar	~~$975~~	$877.50
9 - 12 Apr	~~$1,045~~	$940.50
23 - 26 Apr	~~$1,045~~	$940.50
8 - 11 Oct	~~$975~~	$877.50
22 - 25 Oct	~~$945~~	$850.50
Single Supplement		*$170*

Tour code: **BXNW**

5 DAYS FROM **$985.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$109.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Scotland's Northern Edge featuring the North Coast 500

On the northern edge of Scotland, where ancient rock meets restless sea, the views are among the most spectacular to be found in the British Isles. Dunnet Head in particular, the most northerly point on the mainland, offers extensive sea views, as do the cliffs at Duncansby Head. Following much of the North Coast 500 route, our tour also takes in John O'Groats and the late Queen Mother's Castle of Mey; the impressive Smoo Cave and the Knockan Crag Geo Park, which tells the story of the unique geology of the area and also provides some of the most stunning views on this highly scenic tour.

Ardvreck Castle

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness)* and head to our hotel in Thurso. *(D)*

Day 2 We visit **Duncansby Head**, which offers stunning views from the cliff top. After a brief stop at **John O' Groats**, the landmark at the "end of the road", we continue to the **Castle of Mey**, former holiday home of the late Queen Mother, and **Dunnet Head**, which boasts some of the most extensive views in northern Scotland. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We travel to **Tongue**, where we have some free time for lunch before we visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** then continue to our hotel in Kinlochbervie. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We travel to **Knockan Crag**, an open air visitor centre within the NW Highlands Geo Park with information panels describing the history and geology of the local landscape, which also enjoys stunning views across the Sutherland hills. We continue with a look around the ruins of **Ardvreck Castle** and then on to **Lochinver** for some free time and an opportunity for lunch *(not included)*. After a visit to **Highland Stoneware**, which produces beautiful hand-painted pottery, we continue over the highly scenic road via Drumbeg and Eddrachillis Bay back to Kinlochbervie. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We journey home today, traveling via **Laxford Bridge**, **Loch More**, **Loch Shin**, **Lairg**, **Bonar Bridge** and finally **Tain**. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the 3-star Station Hotel, Thurso (or similar) and two nights at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
6 - 10 May	~~$1,535~~	$1,381.50
11 - 15 Jun	~~$1,535~~	$1,381.50
10 - 14 Sep	~~$1,535~~	$1,381.50
Single Supplement		**$130**

Tour code: **BSNE**

4 DAYS FROM **$814.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$97.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Snowdrops of Eastern Scotland

As the dainty white flowers of the snowdrop break through the winter frosts, it's a sure sign that spring is on the way. This tour takes us to some of the most dazzling displays of Galanthus to be found on the eastern side of Scotland. Our visits include Cambo Gardens, home to the Plant Heritage national collection of snowdrops, and the private garden of Bruckhills Croft, with its informal cottage-style gardens.

At Ellon Castle, carpets of snowdrops can be seen throughout the grounds and at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh, there is a collection of specialist snowdrops. Other visits include St Andrews Botanic Garden, filled with plants from around the world; Crathes Castle whose woods are filled with snowdrops and the Cruickshank Botanic Garden in Old Aberdeen.

Snowdrops

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline)* for the **Cambo Estate**, where we enjoy lunch and a guided tour of the snowdrop collection of over 200 varieties. We continue to **St Andrews Botanic Garden**, a living research and conservation experiment with plants from around the world. *(L, D)*

Day 2 We pay a visit to the gardens of **Ellon Castle**, where among its ancient yews we find a carpet of snowdrops. This afternoon we explore **Cruickshank Botanic Garden**, which includes shrub borders, a rock and water garden and is home to a nationally important collection of over 2,500 labelled plants. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We visit the private garden of **Bruckhills Croft**, which has an impressive display of snowdrops. Later we depart for **Crathes Castle**, where there are marked trails through the woodlands,with a fine display of snowdrops. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We head south to **Ecclesgreig Castle**. Known principally for its excellent example of Renaissance gardening, there is also a charming display of snowdrops. We also explore the **Royal Botanic Gardens** in Edinburgh, where we view a collection of specialist snowdrops. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Village Hotel, Aberdeen (or similar)
- One lunch
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
16 - 19 Feb	~~$905~~	$814.50
2025		
21 - 24 Feb	~~$975~~	$877.50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BSES**

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5 DAYS FROM **$1,759.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$195.50** | **PREMIUM**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Castles and Palaces of the Highlands

This tour takes us through some of the most stunning and dramatic landscapes of Scotland. We head north to Blair Castle, nestled in the secluded Perthshire countryside. From our base in the heart of Speyside we visit a compilation of castles including the privately owned Ballindalloch Castle, the château-style Dunrobin Castle and blush-colored Brodie Castle. We also stand in awe beneath the mighty ramparts of Fort George, one of the most impressive fortifications in Europe. The highlight of the tour is our visit to Cawdor Castle, immortalised in William Shakespeare's Macbeth as the scene of King Duncan's murder, where we are delighted to be joined by Lady Cawdor herself for a private drinks reception.

Cawdor Castle

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth)* and head north to **Blair Castle**, home to some of the finest views in Scotland, not to mention the only private army in Britain. A **private guided tour** of the Castle has been arranged, after which we enjoy a **light lunch**. *(L, D)*

Day 2 This morning we visit **Ballindalloch Castle**, a privately owned castle that is a much-loved home and has been continuously lived in by the original family since the 16th century. Then we head to **Cawdor**, home to a magnificent garden, that includes include vast herbaceous borders, a rose garden, a peony walk and a kitchen garden. **Lady Cawdor** will host a **drinks reception** and share her experiences as a chatelaine. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We travel north into Sutherland for a full day at **Dunrobin Castle**, which appears to have been plucked from the Loire Valley. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We visit **Brodie Castle**, which has been the ancestral home of the Brodie clan for over 400 years, and continue with a visit to **Fort George**, one of the most impressive fortifications in Europe. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We conclude in the historic surroundings of **Scone Palace**, where we have a guided tour of the gardens in the company of Head Gardener **Brian Cunningham** of Beechgrove Garden fame. We will also explore the palace and have lunch before returning to our pick-up points. *(B, L)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey
- Two lunches
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 21 Jul	~~$1,955~~	$1,759.50
Single Supplement		**$340**

Tour code: **BPHL**

Logan Botanic Garden

4 DAYS FROM **$1,066.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$118.50** | TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway

In the south-western corner of Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway is home to some of the country's most attractive gardens. The artistic highlight of our tour is undoubtedly Dumfries House, actually in Ayrshire and which King Charles helped to save. One of the Adam Brothers' finest achievements, the stunning interiors showcase a unique collection of Chippendale furniture, while the walled garden is one of the most exciting new garden developments in all of Scotland.

We see something rather different at Broughton House – an artist's garden at the restored former home of 'Glasgow Boy' E. A. Hornel, which shows the influence of his time in Japan and is always full of color. Further highlights include Drumlanrig Castle, one of the most important Renaissance buildings in Scotland, and Crawick Multiverse, a gem hidden among the rolling hills of Dumfriesshire.

Former Head Curator of RHS Garden Wisley Colin Crosbie will lead our July and September departures.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow)* and head for **Dumfries House**, whose stunning interiors are home to a world class collection of furniture, and explore the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**, one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland. We continue to our hotel in Dumfries. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin with a visit to the lavishly planted **Glenwhan Garden**, with marvellous views over Luce Bay. At its heart is an extensive pool, divided by a grassy causeway and fed by a tumbling stream. This afternoon we explore the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens**. The gardens are beautifully laid out, particularly in the walled garden with its fine terraces and well-planned borders under an avenue of cabbage palms. The climate here is exceptionally mild and several different habitats provide conditions for a huge range of plants. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning sees us at the former artist's studio of **Broughton House**, whose compact but colorful garden displays Japanese influences. Next we spend some more time in **Kirkcudbright**, a haven for artists, as paid testament to by its abundance of art galleries. We visit one such gallery and browse the work of local artists. Following this we visit the wonderful plantsman's nursery of **Ellenbank**. This wonderful nursery is full of cottage garden perennials such as violas, clematis and penstemons. Our last visit of the day will be to the gardens of the **Threave Estate**, whose extensive gardens have been largely created by students at the School of Horticulture which started here in 1960. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Art and horticulture are beautifully combined at **Drumlanrig Castle**. Surrounded by the 120,000 acre Queensberry Estate, Country Park and grand Victorian gardens, Drumlanrig Castle was completed in 1691 by William Douglas, 1st Duke of Queensberry and is one of the first and most important Renaissance buildings in the grand manner in Scotland. Our final visit is to the **Crawick Multiverse**, a hidden gem nestled among rolling hills. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Dumfries House

Drumlanrig Castle

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Cairndale Hotel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager (Colin Crosbie in July and September)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 5 Jun	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
21 - 24 Jul	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
15 - 18 Sep	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
Single Supplement		*$225*

Tour code: **BDAG**

Castle Kennedy

4 DAYS FROM **$1,192.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$132.50** | **NEW** | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT | TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

The Best Rhododendron Gardens in the World?

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

Colin Crosbie, former Head Curator at RHS Garden Wisley, will be our guide and will also show us round his own garden, which has a very good selection of deciduous azaleas.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow)* and head for the private garden at **Millhall**. This impressive five-acre garden has a large collection of mature shrubs, including over 200 rhododendron species which should be in full bloom. *(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. At its heart is an extensive pool, divided by a grassy causeway and fed by a tumbling stream. The slopes above are lavishly planted with trees and shrubs and at this time of year we can expect the rhododendrons to be at their peak. The garden is also dotted with interesting sculptures and statuary – look out for the fearsome boar next to a frothy azalea! In the afternoon we travel a short distance to the spectacular garden at **Castle Kennedy**. This is a vast and historic piece of landscaping with the garden lying between two castles - the 15th century Castle Kennedy and the 19th century Lochinch Castle. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We visit the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens**. The garden was started by the McDougall family who lived here for 800 years, and since 1969 it has been in the care of the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh. Logan Botanic Garden is beautifully laid out, particularly in the walled garden with its fine terraces and well planned borders under an avenue of cabbage palms. Next door are the gardens of **Logan House** which feature seven United Kingdom and fourteen Scottish champion trees. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Today we visit the gardens at **Corsock House**, where a large variety of acid-loving trees and shrubs, including many varieties of rhododendron, enhance the natural glades which run down from the loch to the ornamental water garden. Our final visit is to Colin Crosbie's own garden, **Dalswinton Mill**, where we enjoy a tour and **lunch.** As one would expect, this is very much a plantsman's garden, set around an 18th-century watermill with the Pennyland Burn running through it. The garden contains a wide range of perennials, trees and shrubs that favour the local climate and have been planted during the last few years, including a good collection of deciduous azaleas, a relative of the rhododendron. A variety of statuary can be found throughout the garden. We later return to our pick-up points. *(B, L)*

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

Glenwhan

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin leads tours for Brightwater Holidays all over the world but on this occasion he is literally in his own back yard, as a visit to his own garden is included.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed, and breakfast at the 3-star Fernhill Hotel, Portpatrick
- One lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of horticulturist Colin Crosbie as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
15 - 18 May	~~*$1,325*~~	$1,192.50
Single Supplement		*$130*

Tour code: **BRHO**

Inverewe

5 DAYS FROM
$1,633.50

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO
$181.50

NEW

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of the Northern Highlands

A journey to the far north of Scotland brings many rewards, not least the sense of freedom and open space to be found in the thrilling seascapes of the coasts or the vast, empty expanses of mountain and moorland. Rewards also come in the shape of some enchanting castles and gardens, which we have threaded together to bring out the best of this remote and unspoilt region. Top of the bill is Inverewe, a truly wonderful garden, which involves a journey to the wild beauty of the west coast through some of the most spectacular scenery to be found anywhere in the world. The Castle of Mey sits high on a cliff, overlooking the turbulent waters of the Pentland Firth, and it is here that Queen Elizabeth, the late Queen Mother, had one of her favourite retreats, and where she created a homely garden which reflected her great love of flowers. We also visit the gardens of Culloden House, a sympathetically restored walled garden, Dunrobin Castle, the imposing ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland, and several private gardens of contrasting styles.

Inverness

Dunrobin Castle

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth)* and head north, stopping for lunch in Pitlochry *(not included)*. We continue with a visit to **Culloden House Gardens**. Culloden's four-acre walled garden was built by the Forbes family in the 18th century to provide food and flowers for the house. Some years ago they decided to restore the gardens and commissioned Michael Innes, the former Gardens Advisor for the National Trust of Scotland, to give it a stylish new look. Later we will continue to our accommodation in Inverness. *(D)*

Day 2 We have a long but most rewarding day as we drive across the north of Scotland to visit **Dundonnell House Garden**. The current owner has added delightful new borders for year-round color, centred on an enormous and ancient yew tree over 300 years old. Our second visit of the day is to **Inverewe**, unquestionably one of the most outstanding gardens in the country. Famous gardens do not always live up to their reputations but it would be hard to imagine anyone failing to be excited by Inverewe, when at this time of year it will be at its most colorful. We will return to Inverness via **Loch Maree** and **Achnasheen**, another spectacularly scenic journey. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We check out of the hotel and head north to **Dunrobin Castle**, the château-style ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland. The castle is a wonderful early 19th-century fantasy castle with a touch of the Loire and a dash of Bavaria. Below the castle is a magnificent example of a formal 19th century garden. We then visit the private garden **Langwell**, a beautiful old walled garden with spectacular borders situated in the secluded Langwell Strath. We continue to our small but comfortable hotel in Thurso. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Travel along the northern coast to **Bighouse Lodge**, situated at the mouth of the River Halladale. The two-acre walled garden consists of a central axis leading to a charming bothy with lawn, herbaceous borders, a sunken garden and four separate conceptual gardens behind the hedgerows. This afternoon we will visit the **Castle of Mey**, the former holiday home of the late Queen Mother. Having acquired the most northerly castle on the British mainland, she renovated and lovingly restored it and for over half a century she spent her summers here and created the beautiful gardens we see today. *(B, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast we head for home with two further visits en route, beginning with the private gardens of **Old Allangrange**. The formal gardens lie in front of the 17th century lime washed house from where the sculpted hedges play with perspectives by blocking and exposing views. Our final visit is to the private garden of **The Lookout** at North Kessock. This small, award-winning garden enjoys lovely views over the Moray Firth and is created out of a rock base with shallow pockets of ground, planted to encourage all aspects of wildlife. We return to our original departure points. *(B, D)*

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

Castle of Mey

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: two nights at the Palace Hotel, Inverness and two nights at the Station Hotel, Thurso
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 12 Jul	~~$1,815~~	$1,633.50
Single Supplement		*$555*

Tour code: **BGNH**

5 DAYS FROM **$751.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$83.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island and Alnwick Castle

This break to Northumberland explores the best the region has to offer. Home to rugged hills, spectacular seascapes, ancient castles, rolling moorland and bustling cities this corner of Northeast England has something for everyone. On this captivating break we explore the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle, the second largest inhabited castle in England and the university city of Durham, home to a wide array of historical buildings including the Norman Castle and the Romanesque Cathedral. We also explore Hadrian's Wall, one of Britain's most significant Roman sites, as well as Chester's Fort, one of the best-preserved Roman cavalry forts and Vindolanda, a Roman auxiliary fort.

Hadrian's Wall

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(London, Luton, Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Middlesbrough)* and head northwards to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we depart for the **Holy Island of Lindisfarne**, where you are free to explore. You may wish to visit the Castle, which was converted into a private house by the young Edwin Lutyens, or the Priory, one of the most important centres of early Christianity in Anglo-Saxon England. We later head to **Alnwick Castle**, the historic home of the Duke of Northumberland, which has been described as the Windsor of the North and is the second largest inhabited castle in England. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We have a full day exploring the university city of **Durham**. Among the attractions you may wish to visit are the Norman Castle and Romanesque Cathedral; the 13th century Crook Hall and its beautiful gardens and Durham University's Botanic Garden with its woodland and tropical plants *(entrance fees not included)*. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Today we discover the Roman heritage of the region, with visits to **Hadrian's Wall, Vindolanda Museum** and **Chester's Fort**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast we return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 3-star Ramada Newcastle Gateshead
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and driver/guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
9 - 13 Jun	~~$835~~	$751.50
29 Sep - 3 Oct	~~$835~~	$751.50
Single Supplement		**$170**

Tour code: **BENB**

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4 DAYS FROM **$1,255.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$139.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Castles and Houses of Northumberland

A visit to the low lying coast and wide open spaces of Northumberland is always a treat but when it includes a host of historic houses and castles the pleasure is magnified greatly. Perhaps the most impressive of these is Bamburgh Castle, which sprawls over a rocky plateau on the coast, close to the Farne Islands. Further highlights include a trip to the holy island of Lindisfarne and visits to both the castle and priory; a visit to Belsay Hall; Wallington House, which dates back to 1688, and Alnwick Castle, the historic and imposing home of the Dukes of Nurthumberland, which has been described as the 'Windsor of the North'.

Bamburgh Castle

Day 1 We depart from London Kings Cross by train for Newcastle and continue to the house and gardens of **Belsay Hall**, a classical brown stone mansion, built in the 19th century in Greek revival style to the design of its owner, Sir Charles Monck. In the grounds there is also a medieval castle. *(D)*

Day 2 We travel north along the dramatic Northumberland coast to **Bamburgh Castle**, an impressive fortress that has stood here for over 1,400 years. Nearby lies the Holy Island of **Lindisfarne**, where we will visit both the 16th century **Castle**, converted to a private house by Lutyens, and the **Priory**, one of the most important centres of early Christianity. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning we visit **Alnwick Castle**, the historic home of the Duke of Northumberland, described as the 'Windsor of the North' and the second largest inhabited castle in England, along with the neighboring **Alnwick Garden**. Later we explore **Cragside House**, which has the appearance of something from a Grimms fairy tale but when built in 1870 was crammed with the latest gadgets. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We conclude at **Wallington House** which dates back to 1688 and was home to many generations of the Blackett and Trevelyn families, all of whom have left their legacy behind. We then return to Newcastle for our afternoon train journey back to London Kings Cross. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Maldron Hotel, Newcastle
- Return standard class rail travel from London to Newcastle (first class upgrades and regional rail connections available; $100pp discount for no rail)
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 5 Jun	~~$1,395~~	$1,255.50
1 - 4 Sep	~~$1,395~~	$1,255.50
Single Supplement		**$170**

Tour code: **BCHN**

5 DAYS FROM **$1,633.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$181.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Coastal Castles and Magnificent Mansions of Dorset

We wind our way through the stunning Surrey countryside, the rolling downs of Hampshire and the New Forest National Park to discover the coastal castles and magnificent mansions of Dorset. We visit Deans Court, the ancestral home of William and Ali Hanham, whose family has lived here for nearly 500 years. We also have a private guided tour of Highcliffe Castle, visit the opulent Kingston Lacy, as well as the Russell-Cotes House and Gallery.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(London, Basingstoke)*. Our first stop is **Deans Court**, an exquisite historic house set in mature gardens that has been owned by the same family for almost 500 years. *(D)*

Day 2 We take a nostalgic trip on the **Swanage Railway** and explore the ruins of **Corfe Castle**, partially destroyed by Cromwell's troops in 1646. Later we visit **Highcliffe Castle**, said to be one of the most important surviving houses of the Romantic and Picturesque styles. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Visit the opulent **Kingston Lacy**, built to emulate a Venetian Palace with lavishly decorated interiors and notable collections of paintings and Egyptian artifacts. Later, we head to the **Russell-Cotes House and Gallery**, home to exceptional collections of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite art. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Two splendid castles feature today. **Sherborne Castle** was built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 and has been home to the Wingfield Digby family since 1617. It reflects some 400 years of decorative styles and there are nationally important collections of furniture, paintings, and porcelain to discover inside. The grounds were landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. **Portland Castle** was built almost 50 years earlier by Henry VIII as a coastal defensive fortress. There is much to explore including the Tudor Kitchen, Herb Garden, the Armoury and the Gun platform. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We conclude at **Athelhampton Hall**, one of the finest Tudor manor houses in England. The Great Hall showcases great Tudor architecture in the form of its linenfold panelling, ancient heraldic stained glass and minstrel's gallery. Following **lunch** here we return to our original pick-up points. *(B, L)*

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

Highcliffe Castle

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Marsham Court, Bournemouth (or similar)
- One lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 15 Jun	~~$1,815~~	$1,633.50
5 - 9 Sep	~~$1,815~~	$1,633.50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BCMD**

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4 DAYS FROM **$1,192.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$132.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Colors of the Lake District

It's easy to see why so many celebrated literary figures chose to call the Lake District home - this part of the country is simply spectacular. By far the UK's most popular national park, the Lake District was given UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2017 and its spellbinding landscape of rolling mountains and sprawling lakes is sure to inspire even the most uncreative soul!

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(London, Luton, Northampton, Birmingham, Lancaster)* and head to **Sizergh Castle**. Originally built in the Middle Ages by the Strickland family, this imposing house at the gateway to the Lake District stands proud in a rich and beautiful garden, with a pond, a lake, an important collection of hardy ferns and a superb limestone rock garden. We continue to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 We visit two of William Wordsworth's former homes: **Dove Cottage**, featuring the very couch referred to in the poem 'Daffodils', and **Rydal Mount**, which contains many of his prized possessions. In the afternoon we visit the Arts & Crafts house of **Blackwell**, overlooking Lake Windermere. Architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott designed Blackwell as a holiday home for Manchester brewer Sir Edward Holt in 1901 and it is considered a masterpiece of artistic design. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We tour **Hill Top**, the delightful 17th century farmhouse where **Beatrix Potter** lived and worked, complete with the little garden that inspired 'Peter Rabbit'. Our theme continues at the **Beatrix Potter Gallery**, a 17th century solicitor's office now home to her original watercolors and sketches. Then we visit **Brantwood**, a medieval-style garden which contains an extensive collection of British native herbs. Behind the house over 270 different British hardy ferns thrive beneath the tall oaks of the Linton Fern Garden. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We visit **Levens Hall**, with its world-famous topiary gardens created in 1694 by Monsieur Guillaume Beaumont, who had been trained under Le Nôtre at Versailles, and who laid out the gardens at Hampton Court before returning to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Derwentwater, Keswick

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Skiddaw Hotel, Keswick
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 20 Jun	~~$1,325~~	$1,192.50
29 Sep - 2 Oct	~~$1,325~~	$1,192.50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BATL**

RHS Garden Rosemoor

7 DAYS FROM **$2,830.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$314.50** **NEW**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Summer Gardens of Cornwall

A visit to Cornwall in early summer is a rewarding experience and there is an abundance of gardens to choose from - thanks to the benign climate a wide range of plants can be grown here, from the great Asiatic shrubs to tender exotics. Among the outstanding visits is a specially arranged guided tour of the garden at Tregrehan with owner Tom Hudson, who will give us his personal insight into the pleasures and pitfalls of gardening here in the Duchy of Cornwall. Other highlights include the garden at Marsh Villa, the result of years of hard labour by the enthusiastic owner, and the Tremenheere Sculpture Garden near Penzance, which has established itself as a major attraction over the last decade. We also offer the option to visit one of the wonders of the garden world, the unique Abbey Gardens on the island of Tresco, and take the opportunity to visit RHS Garden Rosemoor in neighboring Devon, where the huge collection of roses will be at their peak of flowering.

Day 1 We depart by coach from our pick-up points *(London, Reading, Swindon, Bristol)* and head for Cornwall, breaking our journey with a visit to **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we visit **Tregrehan**, where we will be privileged to have a guided tour with owner **Tom Hudson**. Tregrehan is now an important green gene bank of known source plants including camellias bred by the late owner. We continue today with a visit to **Marsh Villa**, situated in a former tidal creek made famous by Daphne du Maurier's book '*The House on the Strand*'. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning we visit **Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens**, near Penzance. The garden is set in a beautiful sheltered valley, surrounded by woods, a stream and dramatic vistas, and is filled with high quality contemporary art installations. We continue to the gardens at **Trengwainton**, which contain many rare and unusual species, which are difficult to grow in the open anywhere else in the country. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We begin today with a visit to the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**. The award-winning gardens, asleep for more than seventy years, are the scene of the largest garden restoration project in Europe and we will discover the story as well as enjoy a guided tour of the garden by a member of staff. We then transfer to the remarkable **Pinetum Park and Pine Lodge Gardens**, which has consistently received rave reviews over the years. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We begin today with a trip on the **River Fal** to visit **Trelissick**, a modern garden which is constantly evolving, with new planting and fresh ideas. We transfer to the garden of **Lamorran House**, where we will have an introductory talk before viewing the garden, which has both Italianate and Japanese styles. *(B, D)*

Day 6 A free day to relax in the hotel or explore the surrounding area. Alternatively we offer an optional excursion by helicopter to **Tresco** and the fabulous **Abbey Gardens**, famously described as 'Eden with the lid off'. *(B, D)*

Day 7 We break our return journey with a detour into north Devon as we visit **RHS Garden Rosemoor**. At this time of year the roses which grow in abundance here will be at their peak, providing a kaleidoscope of color, as we will discover in the course of our guided tour. We then return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Lost Gardens of Heligan

OPTIONAL EXCURSION - $350PP

After an early breakfast we depart for Land's End Airport from where we will fly to St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly. On arrival you will be taken to the quayside for a short boat transfer to Tresco, where we visit the unique **Abbey Gardens,** home to more than 3,000 species and magnificent vistas, colors and scents. The head gardener will be on hand to answer any questions.

PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Vara, Truro
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 - 30 Jun	~~*$3,145*~~	$2,830.50
Single Supplement		*$555*
Optional Excursion - Tresco		*$350*

Tour code: **BUCO**

5 DAYS FROM **$1,822.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$230.50** | TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Jersey

Mont Orgueil

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

Day 1 Upon arrival in Jersey we transfer to our hotel. Our local guide will host a pre-dinner welcome meeting to introduce us to this wonderful island. *(D)*

Day 2 Three private gardens await this morning, starting with **Domain des Vaux**, whose attractive gardens and woodland are set around a traditional Jersey farmhouse. We continue to **Les Aix** with its borders of old English roses and on to **Creux Baillot**, where we will meet the enthusiastic owner of this, one of the most established gardens on the island, filled with many rare and unusual plants. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today is free for us to explore all that **Jersey** has to offer. Alternatively, join our optional excursion to neighboring **Guernsey**, which includes a guided tour of historic **Sausmarez Manor** followed by time to explore its lush sub-tropical gardens. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we visit the privately owned **Samarès Botanic Gardens**, a development of gardens created in the 1920s by Sir James Knott. After some free time in Gorey, we head to the **Eric Young Orchid Foundation** which has an outstanding collection of orchids, followed by **Ransoms Garden Centre**, where we enjoy a cream tea and a chance to pick up some souvenirs. *(B, CT, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast, we transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, CT: Cream Tea, D: Dinner*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Pomme d'Or Hotel, St Helier
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager (Colin Crosbie in September)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
15 - 19 May	~~$2,025~~	$1,822.50
4 - 8 Sep	~~$2,305~~	$2,074.50
Single Supplement		$415

Tour code: **BJER**

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5 DAYS FROM **$1,791.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$227** | TOUR MANAGER RACHEL DOVEY

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Guernsey & Sark

La Seigneurie Gardens

The island of Guernsey, just 20 miles off the coast of France, flourishes in the warmth of summer and is home to some wonderful gardens. On our first day here we visit the Guernsey Millennium Tapestry which provides a colorful introduction to the island's history, followed by Castle Cornet where a profusion of plants nestles within the ancient walls; a large town garden with good planting in St. Peter Port as well as a small private garden. Local resident Rachel Dovey will be our expert guide on the island.

Day 1 On arrival in Guernsey, where we begin with a visit to the **Guernsey Millennium Tapestry**, illustrating 1,000 years of local history. We continue with visits to the gardens at **Castle Cornet**, where there is a profusion of plants both ancient and modern, followed by two **private gardens**. We transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we explore the walled garden at **Saumarez Park** and the **Guernsey Folk & Costume Museum**, followed by a visit to a **private garden** set in a very old estate. We continue to the workshop of jewellers **Bruce Russell & Son** before concluding today with a visit to **Candie Gardens** with panoramic views over St Peter Port. *(B, D)*

Day 3 A **private garden** awaits us this morning with its wide variety of unusual and tender plants and shrubs. We continue with a visit to a **Craft and Farmers Market**, followed by **Le Friquet Garden Centre**, which is the largest on the island and offers a huge array of plants, seeds and bulbs, together with a relaxed covered shopping area and lively eateries. Later we enjoy a **scenic guided coach tour** of the island, stopping off at points of interest along the way. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Today is free to explore Guernsey at leisure, or alternatively join our optional excursion to neighboring **Sark**, where we visit the lovely gardens of **La Seignurie** and enjoy a ride on a pony and trap on this traffic-free little island. *(B, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast, we have free time for shopping. There's time to visit a **private garden** before we transfer to the airport, where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star La Barbarie Hotel, St Peter Port, Guernsey
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of Rachel Dovey as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 15 Apr	~~$1,990~~	$1,7910
12 - 16 Sep	~~$2,270~~	$2,043
Single Supplement		$555
Optional Excursions: Sark		$135

Tour code: **BGYS**

4 DAYS FROM **$1,255.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$139.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Northumberland

The largely rural county of Northumberland is home to a range of individual and imaginative gardens, with each one giving an unusual insight into the pleasure of gardening in this most beautiful and tranquil corner of England. We visit the gardens of Belsay Hall, which are uniquely set in the quarry that provided the stone to build the house itself; Mindrum, with its large and generous garden and the newer sister garden at Kirky Cottage, where we enjoy a delightful lunch. Newbiggin House, in the pretty village of Blanchland, offers us delightful old fashioned herbaceous borders, while, by way of contrast, the Alnwick Garden, whose inspiration stems from the unbridled passion of the Duchess of Northumberland, gives us a garden for the 21st century, full of innovative features and bold planting.

Day 1 We travel by rail from London's Kings Cross to Newcastle and transfer to **Belsay Hall**, which was completed in 1817, using stone quarried from what is now the gardens. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we travel through the wild and rugged landscape of north Northumberland to **Mindrum**. The garden was created with great skill and verve by the owner, and is now looked after by her son. We transfer to her new garden, created a few years ago at **Kirky Cottage**, where **lunch** is included. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 Today, we visit **Alnwick Garden**, one of the world's most ambitious new gardens. The Duchess of Northumberland's vision for a forgotten plot is now a 21st century experience full of imagination, inspiration and fun. Our second visit today will be to the garden at the **Manor House**, a charming English country house garden with a history which features a contribution from the dream team of garden design, Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Before heading home, we travel to the Northumberland/Durham border to **Newbiggin House**, a five-acre landscaped garden at 1,000ft started in 1996, which has matured beautifully. We then catch a train from Newcastle back to London. *(B)*

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

Alnwick Gardens

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the centrally located 4-star Marriott Royal County Hotel, Durham and one lunch
- Return standard class rail travel from London Kings Cross to Newcastle (first class upgrades and regional rail connections available; $100pp reduction for no rail travel) and comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
28 - 31 Jul	~~*$1,395*~~	$1,255.50
Single Supplement		**$170**

Tour code: **BNBG**

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4 DAYS FROM **$1,003.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$111.50** TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Grand Gardens of Anglesey and Snowdonia

Set among glorious scenery that includes the mountains of Snowdonia, dramatic seascapes and ancient castles, North Wales is home to some outstanding gardens. One of the best is Plas Cadnant, whose new owner brought it back to life and it has since emerged as a gem of a garden full of interest. Further highlights include Plas Newydd on Anglesey, the magnificent Bodnant Garden and the eccentric Italianate village of Portmeirion.

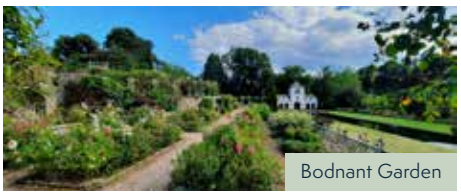
Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(London, Luton, Northampton, Birmingham)* and head to the gardens of **Powis Castle**. This amazing garden is cared for by the National Trust and has some of the most flamboyant and stylish herbaceous planting of any garden in the British Isles. From here, we continue to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 We visit the gardens at **Plas Brondanw**, followed by the village of **Portmeirion** – both created in a unique Italianate style by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. Much work has been carried out in recent years to improve the gardens here, enhancing the architecture's beauty. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today we begin with a visit to **Plas Newydd**. Set amidst breathtakingly beautiful scenery on the Menai Strait, this elegant house was redesigned by James Wyatt in the 18th century. There is a fine spring garden and Australasian arboretum, with an understorey of shrubs and wildflowers, a summer terrace, and massed hydrangeas. We then visit the gardens at **Penrhyn Castle**, built between 1820 and 1845 for the wealthy Pennant family. Our final visit today is **Plas Cadnant**, a historic hidden garden which is slowly being uncovered and restored to its former glory. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Today we travel to the privately owned garden of **Maenan Hall**, a beautiful property set among mature hardwoods on the slopes of the Conwy Valley. In the afternoon we visit **Bodnant Garden**, an outstanding garden which is divided into two parts, the upper garden with terraces and informal lawns and the lower wild garden known as the Dell, all filled with a range of beautiful plants from around the world. Later, we return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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


Bodnant Garden

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

As a resident of Snowdonia, Tony is intimately acquainted with the wonderful gardens in this particularly scenic corner of Wales.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of horticulturist Tony Russell as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
10 - 13 May	~~*$1,115*~~	$1,003.50
5 - 8 Aug	~~*$1,115*~~	$1,003.50
Single Supplement		**$275**

Tour code: **BNWA**

Barnsdale ©Steve Hamilton

4 DAYS FROM **$1,066.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$118.50** | **NEW**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire

The late Geoff Hamilton is fondly remembered as a long-serving presenter of the BBC's Gardeners' World, often broadcasting from his beloved garden at Barnsdale, which for many will be the highlight of this East Midlands experience. But there are many other gems to be enjoyed here, such as Belton House, often described as the perfect English country estate, and the 400-year old Easton Walled Garden, brilliantly brought back to life after decades of neglect. The owners of The Old Vicarage had a similar task on their hands and have transformed an overgrown wilderness into a wonderful garden. We also have visits to Stowe Landscape Gardens, one of 'Capability' Brown's most notable works, and the extensive Coton Manor Gardens. Aside from gardens we enjoy a relaxing cruise on Rutland Water and, seeing as we are in Leicester, discover the remarkable story behind the discovery of the body of King Richard III.

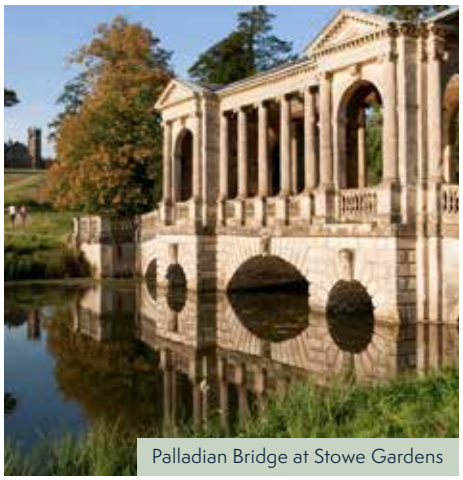
Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points *(London, Luton, Milton Keynes)* and head to **Stowe Landscape Garden**, where Lancelot 'Capability' Brown joined the gardening staff as Head Gardener in 1741. Over the next few years Brown created one of the finest Georgian landscaped gardens, comprising valleys and vistas, narrow lakes and rivers with more than 30 temples and monuments designed by leading architects of the 18th century. *(D)*

Day 2 Today, following breakfast, we begin with **Barnsdale Gardens**, near Oakham. These gardens were designed and made famous by Geoff Hamilton, who presented BBC Gardeners' World from 1979 until his death in 1996. Barnsdale is now home to Britain's largest collection of individually designed gardens, the 38 plots ranging in style from traditional cottage plantings to modern gardens, allotments, woodlands and formal ponds and have been likened to a theme park for gardeners. Following our visit here we transfer to **Rutland Water**, England's largest reservoir by surface area, where we will enjoy an hour-long cruise aboard the Rutland Belle. We conclude today with a visit to a private garden, the **Old Vicarage** at Burley. The garden sits on a hill, and when the current owners took over the garden in 1996, it was a wilderness of nettles, brambles and barbed wire. This wonderful garden is now divided into different areas including a pond, rose garden and walled garden. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Our first visit is to **Belton House**, often cited as the perfect example of an English country house estate. Later we visit **Easton Walled Gardens**, which are at least 400 years old and were abandoned in 1951 when Easton Hall was pulled down. Since 2001 the 12 acres of forgotten gardens have undergone extensive renovation and today the 16th century garden with its Victorian embellishments can be enjoyed once again. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Before we leave Leicester we will call in at the **King Richard III Visitor Centre**, which tells the remarkable story of the amazing evidence gathering that led to the discovery of the long-lost remains of Richard III under a car park. We break our journey back to London with a visit to **Coton Manor Gardens**, near Guilsborough. The ten acre garden occupies a hillside position and is noted for its luxuriant borders using a wide range of unusual plants. We then continue our journey back to our original departure points. *(B)*

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



Palladian Bridge at Stowe Gardens

Coton Manor Gardens

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Holiday Inn, Leicester
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			
14 - 17 Jun		~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
Single Supplement			$275

Tour code: **BRBG**

Chichester Flower Festival 2022

4 DAYS FROM **$1,129.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$125.50** | **NEW** | TOUR MANAGER JULIA CORDEN

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

The Chichester Flower Festival and Gardens of Hampshire

The biennial Chichester Flower Festival, in the magnificent setting of the 940 year-old Cathedral, is the centrepiece of this garden tour, an opportunity to experience a host of beautiful handcrafted floral arrangements along with an exhibition of sculptures. Our colorful and fragrant tour begins at the garden of Bramdean House, famous for its mirror image herbaceous borders. Next we visit the Sir Harold Hillier Garden & Arboretum, whose unique collection of plants makes this one of the best arboretums and nurseries in Britain, and Mottisfont Abbey, whose collection of old roses will be at the peak of its flowering glory. We also visit West Dean Gardens, one of the greatest restored gardens in the country, and conclude at Longstock Water Garden. Our tour is led by experienced horticulturist and tour manager Julia Corden, currently Head Gardener at Goodwood House.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points *(London, Heathrow, Basingstoke)* and head for our first visit, the garden of **Bramdean House**, which has a large and unusual collection of plants and shrubs. A large walled garden features prize-winning vegetables, fruit and flowers. We then continue to our hotel in Winchester. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin today with a visit to **West Dean Gardens**, one of the greatest restored gardens open to the public today. Nestled at the foot of the South Downs in West Sussex, the garden boasts a wide range of historic features, from working Victorian Glasshouses and a 300 foot Edwardian pergola to a sunken garden and a restored walled garden. Following this we transfer to **Chichester Cathedra**l, the venue for the **Festival of Flowers**. Here we have the opportunity to experience 60 floral arrangements, handcrafted by talented florists and flower enthusiasts from across the county. The Festival will also see the return of celebrated Sculptor Philip Jackson, who will be presenting an exhibition of sculptures exclusively for ticket holders. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning we visit **Sir Harold Hillier Garden & Arboretum**. The unique collection of plants here make this one of the best arboretums in Britain. Several National Collections of plants are held, including cotoneaster, dogwoods, hazels and hornbeams, but every genus of hardy woody plants in the British Isles is represented, and it is a great delight to see so many fine plants in close proximity. Our afternoon visit is to **Mottisfont Abbey**, home to the National Collection of pre-1900 old roses. Ancient trees, rolling lawns and bubbling brooks surround the house, but it is the roses that steal the show here and at this time of year they will be at their peak, filling the air with their delicate fragrance. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We depart for **Longstock Water Garden and Nursery**. With its varied habitats, the garden provides the ideal environment for cultivating a great diversity of water-loving plants, with over eighty different types of water lily alone. The nursery is also home to the NCCPG National Collection of Buddleia - there are over 100 different varieties, many of which are displayed for sale in the nursery's beds. We later continue to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Longstock Water Garden

Mottisfont Abbey

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Holiday Inn Winchester
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of horticulturist Julia Corden as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			
7 - 10 Jun		~~$1,255~~	$1,129.50
Single Supplement			*$275*

Tour code: **BCFF**

Quantock Hills

4 DAYS FROM **$1,066.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$118.50** | **NEW** | TOUR MANAGER ROY CHEEK

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Somerset's Secret Gardens

One of England's most scenic counties is Somerset, whose lush green pastures, orchards and little villages provide a wonderful backdrop to a most colorful and varied collection of private gardens. We begin with a visit to Coldharbor Cottage, an idyllic rural garden with a sublime mix of thoughtful planting. The same can be said of Batcombe House, an outstanding plantswoman's garden in two parts, one a riot of color, the other an oasis of contemporary calm. We visit Milton Lodge, an Edwardian terraced garden, and sympathetically planted Stoberry. We continue with Bradon Farm, a classic formal garden; Lane End House, a well-stocked garden with specimen trees, and Hillcrest, a garden full of interest and with stunning views. Finally we visit the Walled Gardens of Cannington, which our guide, RHS judge and vastly experienced horticulturist Roy Cheek, helped to create.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points *(London, Reading, Swindon and Bristol)* and head for our first visit, the privately-owned **Coldharbor Cottage** near Radstock, an idyllic rural garden set in peaceful countryside. Here we find a sublime mix of thoughtful planting and natural areas reflecting the historical and modern heritage of this secluded acre. We then continue to our accommodation at the Holiday Inn Taunton. *(D)*

Day 2 We visit the privately-owned garden at **Batcombe House** near Shepton Mallet. This is a plantswoman's and designer's garden of two parts: one a riot of color through kitchen terraces and a potager leading to a wildflower orchard; the other a calm contemporary amphitheatre with large herbaceous borders and interesting trees and shrubs. We then visit the beautiful cathedral city of **Wells** for some free time before continuing to the garden at **Milton Lodge**, a mature Grade II, terraced garden conceived around 1900. It was in 1960 that the garden was lovingly restored to its former glory by replacing an orchard with a raised collection of ornamental trees. We finish today at **Stoberry Garden**, which provides a stunning combination of vistas accented with wildlife ponds, water features and sculpture. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We begin today with a visit to **Bradon Farm**, a classic formal garden demonstrating the effective use of structure, featuring a parterre, a knot garden, a pleached lime walk, a formal pond, herbaceous borders and an orchard. In the village of Stoke St Gregory we find **Lane End House**, where a rough grazing field has been transformed into a well-stocked garden with a large number of specimen trees, as well as an apiary, pond and flower-filled borders. Close by is the garden of **Hillcrest**, which enjoys stunning views over the Somerset Levels, Burrow Mump and Glastonbury Tor. There are woodland walks, varied borders, a flowering meadow and several ponds, along with a produce garden and a large gravel garden. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We enjoy a scenic drive through the heaths and woodlands of the **Quantock Hills** on the way to our final visit, the **Walled Gardens of Cannington**, which our guide, expert horticulturist and RHS judge **Roy Cheek**, helped to construct. Classic and contemporary features include a hot herbaceous border, a blue garden, a sub-tropical walk and a Victorian style fernery. There is also a botanical glasshouse where tropical plants can be seen. Following this we continue to our original departure points. *(B)*

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

Wells Cathedral

Stoberry Garden

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn Taunton
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of horticulturist Roy Cheek as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
9 - 12 May	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
4 - 7 Jul	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
Single Supplement		*$275*

Tour code: **BSSG**

Tresco

5 DAYS FROM **$2,515.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$286.50** | TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS | **PREMIUM**

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams

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

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

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

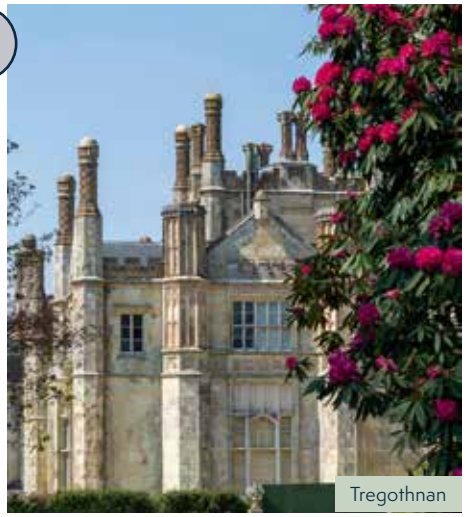
Day 2 We begin with a visit to the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, where we will be welcomed by Sir Tim Smit who 'discovered' and restored the gardens to their former glory. We will then be joined by Alasdair Moore, Head of Gardens and a former assistant to Mike Nelhams on Tresco, for a tour of the gardens.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

Day 3 We transfer to Penzance and take a helicopter flight to **Tresco**, where Mike will take us on a personal guided tour of the **Abbey Garden**, without doubt one of the most stunning gardens in the British Isles. Caressed by the Gulf Stream, the exceptionally mild climate allows a wide range of exotic, sub-tropical plants to thrive here. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we depart for a visit to the privately-owned garden of **Lamorran House**, which has been designed by the owner in an Italianate style, although there are also Japanese influences here. Many features are included to divide the garden into intimate compartments which the visitor can explore. We continue to **Tregothnan Estate**, where we hope to be welcomed by the owner Lord Falmouth. After **lunch** we will be joined by Managing Director Jonathon Jones for a tour of the unique **Tregothnan Tea Plantation**, which has expanded greatly since the first bushes were planted in 1999. *(B, L, D)*

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

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



Tregothnan

YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Alverton Hotel, Truro
- Two lunches
- Return standard class rail travel between London and Truro (regional rail connections and upgrades can also be arranged at a supplement; ($140pp discount for no rail travel)
- Return helicopter flight to the Scilly Isles
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Mike Nelhams as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
25 - 29 Mar	~~$2,795~~	$2,515.50
15 - 19 Apr	~~$2,865~~	$2,578.50
Single Supplement		*$415*

Tour code: **BCMN**

Laugharne

5 DAYS FROM **$1,471.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$167.50** | **NEW** | TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

Gardens of South and West Wales

Tucked away in the rolling countryside of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire are some fine parks and gardens, both large and small; ancient and modern. The centrepiece of our tour is the National Botanic Garden of Wales, the first garden of its type to be created in the United Kingdom for 200 years. This spectacular re-interpretation of the historical garden blends the careful restoration of the historic, double-walled garden with Norman Foster's Great Greenhouse, the largest single span glasshouse in the world, where mere panes of glass separate the familiar green hills of Wales from a panoramic sweep of warm, Mediterranean scenery. By contrast Aberglasney is a superb 16th/17th century garden, which was discovered after 50 years of neglect and has been restored to produce a garden with immense appeal. We visit superb woodland gardens at Upton and Picton Castle along with some interesting private gardens, including Dyffryn Fernant, built from scratch.

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

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

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

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

Day 5 We travel to **Dewstow Gardens**, a garden of tunnels and underground grottoes that was buried underneath thousands of tons of soil for over 50 years until 2000 when the gardens were rediscovered and renovated. We then return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Aberglasney

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

As 'Our Man in Wales' Tony has designed this new itinerary which features some of the best gardens in the south and west of the Principality.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Beggars Reach Hotel, Burton
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of horticulturist Tony Russell as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
12 - 16 Apr	~~$1,635~~	$1,471.50
27 - 31 May	~~$1,675~~	$1,507.50
Single Supplement		*from $385*

Tour code: **BGSW**

Highgrove ©Robert Smith

4 DAYS FROM **$1,066.50**

SAVE PER PERSON **$118.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Highgrove and the Cotswolds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hidcote Manor

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
17 - 20 May	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
21 - 24 Jun	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
2 - 5 Aug	~~$1,185~~	$1,066.50
Single Supplement		*$275*

Please note, by the very nature of this holiday we are dependent on a successful application for admittance to Highgrove. Departures are expected to be confirmed in February 2024.

Tour code: **BHGC**

4 DAYS FROM **$877.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$104.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT | **NEW**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds

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

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

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

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

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

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

Snowdrops

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn Gloucester-Cheltenham
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
9 – 12 Feb	~~$975~~	$877.50
2025		
7 – 10 Feb	~~$1,045~~	$940.50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BSNC**

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4 DAYS FROM **$940.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$104.50** | **NEW**

Spring Gardens of Cornwall

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lost Gardens of Heligan

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 – 21 Mar	~~$1,045~~	$940.50
Single Supplement		*$210*

Tour code: **BSGC**

Wakehurst Place © Jim Holden - RBG Kew

4 DAYS FROM **$1,129.50**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$149.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

The Gardens of Kent and Sussex

If there's one tour that epitomises the joy of strolling around a perfect English country garden, it is this one – with one shining example after another to be savoured and enjoyed.

Even if you have visited some of these properties before, such is their allure that you can return again and again, just as you would re-read your favourite novel. First-time visitors will be bowled over by the quality and pedigree of these gardens, which capture the essence of the English country garden. We start at Great Comp, filled with rare and beautiful shrubs, followed by Lullingstone Castle. Nymans Garden offers outstanding plants in a theatrical setting and is twinned with the Sussex Prairie Garden, reminiscent of the work of the great Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf. We also visit Sissinghurst, surely the most-copied flower garden in the world, and Great Dixter. A stroll around the picturesque gardens of Scotney Castle and a guided tour of RHS Garden Wisley round off a distinguished tour.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(London, Gatwick)* and head to **Great Comp Garden**, home to rare shrubs, perennials and hardy plants. We continue to **Lullingstone Castle**, with its unique World Garden of Plants, inspired by Tom Hart Dyke's experience as a captive of Colombian guerillas. *(D)*

Day 2 Today, we set off for **Sussex Prairie Garden** at Henfield. Surrounded by mature oak trees, this eight-acre garden consists of a series of interlocking arcs of large, planted borders in a naturalistic style, reminiscent of the work of the great Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf. We continue to **Nymans Garden**, an outstanding plant collection in an inspirational setting. This theatrical garden design, created by the Messel family, is one of the finest gardens in Sussex and still retains much of the personality of the family who created it. There are many rare and exotic plants combined with a pinetum, walled garden, Italian garden and woodland walks. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning, we are privileged to have an 'early bird' visit to the manicured gardens of **Sissinghurst**. This famous garden was created by Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson from 1930 onwards and became the most admired English Garden of its time. Few great gardens live up to their reputations so effortlessly as this. We continue to another classic English Country Garden, namely Christopher Lloyd's **Great Dixter**. No gardener could come here without making discoveries and rekindling a zest for gardening. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Our first visit is to **Scotney Castle**, which boasts a picturesque garden and a 14th century moated castle. We conclude in the distinguished surroundings of **RHS Garden Wisley**, where the highest standards of horticulture are deployed. **Lunch** and a guided tour are included here, rounding off our tour in style. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B, L)*

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

Lullingstone Castle

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Donnington Manor Hotel, Sevenoaks
- One lunch
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			
21 - 24 Jun		~~$1,495~~	$1,345.50
16 - 19 Aug		~~$1,325~~	$1,192.50
27 - 30 Sep		~~$1,255~~	$1,129.50
Single Supplement			*$275*

Tour code: **BKSG**

The grapevine arch in Loseley Park

6 DAYS FROM **$2,389.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$265.50** | PREMIUM

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jeykll

Over the last hundred years, few would doubt the great influence Gertrude Jekyll had on garden design. In her lifetime Jekyll was a prolific garden designer creating over 400 gardens; she was a plantswoman extraordinaire, painter and writer, however she is perhaps best remembered for her association with the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens.

We start our tour at the private garden of Durmast House, which was originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll, followed by Knightshayes with a unique collection of plants, and Hestercombe, perhaps Jekyll and Lutyens' most famous collaboration.

Heading eastwards, we explore Munstead Wood, Jekyll's home for almost 40 years. We will visit Loseley Park and Gravetye Manor, the home of William Robinson with whom Gertrude Jekyll collaborated on plants and writings and which is considered one of the most historically significant gardens in England. We also visit the nearby garden of Vann and the privately owned Manor House near Upton Grey.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(London, Basingstoke)* and head towards **Durmast House** where we find the private garden originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll. Later, we continue on to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning we visit **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces, where we enjoy a tour with the **Head Gardener**. The garden is home to a round pool in a circular walled garden and the most beautiful orangery of the 20th century. Later, we proceed to **Knightshayes Court**, a Grade I listed Victorian country house designed by William Burgess. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today, we visit **East Lambrook**, recognised throughout the world as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening', having been created in the 1940s, 50s and 60s by the late gardening icon, Margery Fish. Her informal style of planting was unique and her work as an outstanding plantswoman, writer and journalist has made her one of the most important influences on gardening in the 20th century. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we begin the day with a visit to **Munstead Wood**, which is where Gertrude Jekyll lived until her death in 1932 and was the scene of her highly influential garden experiments. The garden today is mainly woodland with many oaks, Scots pines, silver birches and chestnuts. South of the house a lawn spreads out, from which the Broad Walk and other paths lead into the woodland. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We begin at **Loseley Park**, a highlight of which is the Walled Garden, an extensive area divided into 'rooms'. Later, we visit the gardens at **Gravetye Manor**, home to William Robinson, one of the greatest gardeners of all time. After a look around the garden we have an **exclusive private dinner** experience. *(B, D)*

Day 6 Following breakfast, we visit the garden at **Vann**, which incorporates Gertrude Jekyll's 1911 water garden. Later, we visit the garden at **Upton Grey Manor House**, which is believed to be the most comprehensive and authentic Jekyll Garden. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Hestercombe Gardens fountain

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' bed and breakfast: two nights at the boutique Lanes Hotel, Yeovil and three nights at the 4-star Frensham Pond Hotel, Farnham (or similar)
- Four dinners at the hotels and one at Gravetye Manor
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
4 - 9 Jun	~~$2,655~~	$2,389.50
Single Supplement		**$695**

Tour code: **BJEK**

Italian Gardens, Trentham Estate

4 DAYS FROM **$877.50**

SAVE PER PERSON **$97.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West

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

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

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

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

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Dunham Massey**, a great plantsman's garden full of native favourites and exotic treasures set around an elegant Georgian mansion. After being pressed into service to help the war effort in both world wars, Dunham Massey was taken over by the National Trust in 1976 and work began to transform the garden to its former glory. It was decided that the garden would have an Edwardian pleasure ground feel with the freedom to choose from a range of planting options, with native favourites alongside exotic treasures. The garden continues to evolve today - modern additions include the Rose Garden and the Winter Garden. Next, we explore **Tatton Park**, whose gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character. *(B, D)*

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

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

The Paradise Garden, RHS Bridgewater
© RHS Neil Hepworth

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 14 May	~~$975~~	$877.50
22 - 25 Jun	~~$975~~	$877.50
3 - 6 Aug	~~$975~~	$877.50
Single Supplement		*$170*

Tour code: **BBNW**

5 DAYS FROM **$1,759.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$195.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT | **PREMIUM**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk

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

Oxburgh Hall

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(London, Colchester)* and head to **Oxburgh Hall**, a stunning moated country house before continuing to **Castle Rising**. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin at **Blickling Estate**, a Jacobean mansion surrounded by magnificent gardens, historic parklands and delightful meadows before enjoying a nostalgic trip aboard a heritage train on the **North Norfolk Railway**. From here, we pay a visit to **Sandringham**, the private home to five generations of British monarchs, where we will enjoy afternoon tea and a guided tour. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 3 We tour **Holkham Hall**, the home of the Earls of Leicester with a vast collection of art. Nearby is **Hindringham Hall**, where we enjoy a private tour of the lovely gardens. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We depart for **Hoveton Hall**, which has been in the Buxton family since 1946 and is a much-loved family home. We have a tour of the house with the owner. This afternoon we head to **Wolterton Hall**, set in over 150 acres of sculptured parkland. We have in depth tour of the house and the garden followed by some light refreshments in the Saloon. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We depart for **Mannington Hall**, a charming moated medieval manor house and home to the Walpole family where we join **Lady Walpole** for a tour of her estate. Enjoy some time to view the gardens then a light lunch before we take to the road to return to our original pick-up points. *(B, L)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star Knights Hill Hotel, King's Lynn
- One lunch and one afternoon tea
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 23 May	~~*$1,955*~~	$1,759.50
1 - 5 Sep	~~*$1,955*~~	$1,759.50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BPCN**

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5 DAYS FROM **$1,192.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$132.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

The Manx Explorer

The Isle of Man is something of a mecca for steam and rail enthusiasts, with three different railway experiences, not to mention a delightful horse-drawn tram.

Traveling to the Isle of Man by the traditional, stress-free ferry route, our first trip sees us ride the Isle of Man Steam Railway, the longest narrow-gauge steam line in the British Isles that still uses its original locomotives and carriages. Next, it's all aboard the Manx Electric Railway, which connects with the Snaefell Mountain Railway at Laxey and takes us to the summit 2,000 feet above sea level. A visit to the iconic Laxey Wheel follows, along with another opportunity to ride the Electric Railway. On our penultimate day on the island, we explore several more historical attractions before enjoying the gentlest of rides on one of the horse-drawn trams that ply back and forth along the promenade on Douglas Bay.

Snaefell Mountain Railway

Day 1 Travel independently to **Heysham** in time to check in for our afternoon ferry to the **Isle of Man**. On arrival we will be met by our local coach and driver/guide and transfer to our hotel in Douglas, the island's principal town. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we take a trip on the **Isle of Man Steam Railway** to Port Erin. Here we rejoin our coach and transfer to the ancient capital of **Castletown**, visiting **Castle Rushen**. We also visit the **Old House of Keys** and then it's on to **Cregneash**, one of the last strongholds of traditional customs, crafts and skills. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We travel on the **Manx Electric Railway** and the **Snaefell Mountain Railway** which winds its way up 2,000 feet to the top of Snaefell. We'll also visit the iconic **Laxey Wheel** and the **Grove Museum of Victorian Life**. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Visits today include **Peel Castle**, **The House of Manannan**, and **Tynwald Hill**. We'll also take a trip on the **Douglas Bay Horse Tram**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast we take the ferry back to Heysham for our independent journeys home. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Ellan Vannin Hotel
- Return ferry crossings from Heysham to the Isle of Man
- Comfortable coach travel on the Isle of Man
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a local driver/guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 22 Jun	~~*$1,325*~~	$1,192.50
24 - 28 Sep	~~*$1,325*~~	$1,192.50
Single Supplement		*$315*

Tour code: **BMXE**

Powerscourt gardens

8 DAYS FROM **$2,704.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$300.50** | TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

The Irish Rover

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

We begin in Northern Ireland at the dazzling and idiosyncratic garden of Mount Stewart, truly one of the great gardens of the world. We also visit romantic Rowallane and atmospheric Castle Ward, with its unique mix of contrasting architectural styles.

We move on to Dublin where we meet June Blake, a passionate plantswoman who grows a unique mix of bamboos, ornamental grasses and perennials, and her brother Jimi Blake at Hunting Brook, with its fusion of prairie and tropical planting. We also visit the Airfield Estate, which came to prominence under Jimi Blake; Malahide, one of the oldest and most historic castles in Ireland, with its own splendid botanic garden and Powerscourt, one of Ireland's most famous gardens with magnificent vistas over the surrounding countryside.

Day 1 On arrival in Belfast we transfer to **Mount Stewart**, the dazzling and idiosyncratic gardens that bask in the micro-climate that exists here. *(D)*

Day 2 We visit **Rowallane Garden**, filled with dazzling borders, shrubs and trees, and **Castle Ward**, adorned with exotic planting. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Traveling south into the Republic, we call in at **Malahide Castle**, one of the oldest and most historic castles in Ireland, with an exceptional botanic garden. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Today we visit plantsman Jimi Blake's garden **Hunting Brook**, which is home to Ireland's largest collection of ornamental grasses with over 200 different species and cultivars. We continue to Jimi's sister's garden at **June Blake's Nursery**, in which she grows a unique mix of bamboos, ornamental grasses and perennials. Later, we visit **Russborough**, featuring both a woodland and a walled garden, which has been restored in recent years. *(B)*

Day 5 Visit the gardens of **Kilruddery**, among the oldest in Ireland and the perfect destination for leisurely walks, along with **Powerscourt**, Ireland's most famous historic garden. *(B)*

Day 6 On our way to Cork we call in at **Mount Usher**, a lovely informal garden which dates back to 1850, and **Mount Congreve**, home to one of the largest collections of plants in the world. The majestic gardens comprise seventy acres of intensively planted woodland, a four-acre walled garden and ten miles of walkways. *(B, D)*

Day 7 This morning we take the ferry to Garinish Island to visit **Ilnacullin**, surely one of the highlights of our visit to Ireland, with its Italianate folly overlooking a sunken garden. We continue to **Blarney Castle and Gardens**, perhaps most famous for its eloquence-conferring stone but which also has a lovely garden. *(B, D)*

Day 8 We transfer to Cork airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Blarney Castle Garden

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Trevor has been our own 'Irish Rover' for many years now and as this popular tour continues to evolve he is looking forward to leading it once again.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast: two nights at the 4-star Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim; three nights at a 3-star hotel in Dublin; and two nights at the 3-star Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel, Cork (hotels subject to change)
- Five dinners
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 - 20 Jun	~~$3,005~~	$2,704.50
8 - 15 Aug	~~$3,005~~	$2,704.50
Single Supplement		*$695*

Tour code: **BIFG**

Lismore Castle

6 DAYS FROM **$2,200.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$244.50** | **NEW** TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Waterford and Cork

Our bases in Cork and Waterford make a fabulous foundation for a journey visiting the very best gardens this corner of Ireland has to offer, personally selected by our host and tour manager, Trevor Edwards.

Ask us about the multifarious charms of world-beloved Irish capital Dublin, and we could keep going for hours. But venturing further afield on the Emerald Isle holds rich rewards indeed, not least a hoard of horticultural gems. Explore colorful collections of camellias at Tourin House; rare and tender trees at Fota Arboretum, and one of the largest collections of plants anywhere in the world. We also include private gardens owned by passionate plantsmen and women, who are kind enough to give us personal guided tours of their treasured outdoor havens.

Day 1 On arrival in Cork we transfer to **Fota Arboretum and Garden**, home to one of the finest collections of rare and tender trees throughout the British Isles. In the afternoon we continue to the private garden of **Hester Forde** at Coosheen, which houses a unique collection of plants and has been described by Shirley Lanigan in her book The 100 Best Gardens in Ireland as 'nothing short of a tour de force'. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we visit **Anne's Grove**, a historic estate located near Castletownroche. In the afternoon we visit the historic gardens of **Lismore Castle**. Set within the outer defensive walls, the gardens are divided into three distinct parts, the Reilig Garden, the Upper Garden and the Lower Garden. The gardens collectively cover 10 acres and are the oldest cultivated plots in the country. *(B)*

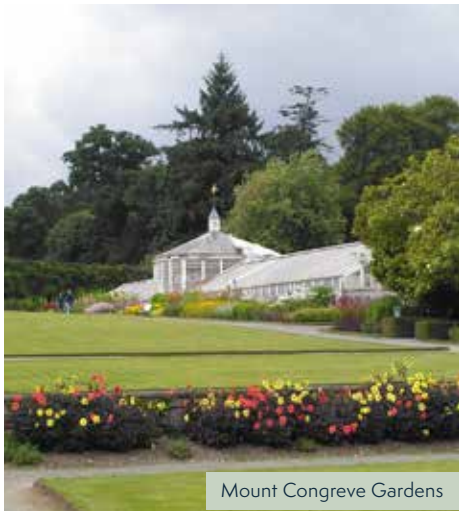
Day 3 We visit the garden at **Salterbridge House**, filled with camellias, magnolias, rhododendrons and many other woodland shrubs. We continue to **Cappoquin House**, a Georgian mansion, before visiting **Dromana House**, another former castle site occupying a spectacular position high above the river. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We spend the entire morning exploring the palatial **Curraghmore Estate**, the historic home of the 9th Marquis of Waterford. Its 2,500 acres of formal gardens and woodland make it the largest private demesne in the country, and one of its most impressive stately homes. We continue to **Tourin House and Gardens**. The 16th century tower house originally built on the plot can still be seen from the garden. *(B)*

Day 5 Today we visit **Mount Congreve Gardens**, home to one of the largest private collections of plants in the world and **Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens**, which are a living biography of the Greek/Irish writer Patrick Lafcadio Hearn. *(B)*

Day 6 We visit the gardens at **Ballymaloe Cookery School** first today, a verdant paradise filled with treasures, then conclude our tour at **Hillside**, the private garden of Mary Byrne. As well as ancient woodland there is a scree bed filled with treasures such as salvias, irisies, saxifrages, gentians and phloxes; a large border with a series of calming penstemons, crocosmias and lobelias, and small gravel paths lined with shade lovers such as hellebores, hostas and ferns. Following this, our final visit, we transfer to Cork airport where the tour concludes. *(B)*

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



Mount Congreve Gardens

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Trevor helped us with the content of this new tour and is looking forward to sharing one of his favourite corners of Ireland with our guests.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' bed and breakfast: two nights at the Maldron Shandon Hotel, Cork and three nights at the Tower Hotel, Waterford (or similar)
- Two dinners
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
22 - 27 Jun	~~$2,445~~	$2,200.50
Single Supplement		*$595*

Tour code: **BWCG**

RHS Chelsea Flower Show

7 DAYS FROM **$2,389.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$265.50**

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Classic English Gardens

This tour combines the color and excitement of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with some of the south of England's finest gardens, affording the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of horticultural excellence.

We begin at the classic English gardens of Sissinghurst and Great Dixter before enjoying a full day at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show followed by a visit to the unmissable RHS Garden Wisley. Heading west, we call in at the beautiful gardens of Wilton House near Salisbury then have some free time to explore the historic city of Bath. Next comes the ancient Bishop's Palace in Wells, followed by Hestercombe, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. We take a stroll through the arboretum at The Courts and explore Henry Hoare's celebrated landscape garden at Stourhead before our tour concludes at the Harold Peto designed garden at Iford Manor.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points *(London)* and transfer to the famous gardens of **Sissinghurst**. The history here is rich and fascinating and the gardens are simply stunning, as close to gardening perfection as you can get. In the afternoon we head for **Great Dixter**, where we are treated to an exclusive guided tour. We continue to our hotel. *(D)*

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

Day 3 We travel to **RHS Garden Wisley**, which is where the Royal Horticultural Society shows the gardening public how it should be done. Here the highest standards of practical horticulture are deployed in the setting of a splendid old site, rich in fine trees against a backdrop of other plants, all impeccably labelled. An informative guided tour is included here. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We make our way to the gardens of **Wilton House**, an impressive Palladian mansion near Salisbury. In the afternoon we transfer to the historic city of **Bath** for some free time. *(B, D)*

Day 5 This morning we visit the **Bishop's Palace** in Wells, a stunning medieval palace which has been home to the Bishops of Bath and Wells for 800 years. Here we will enjoy a special 'Horticulture at the Palace' tour. In the afternoon we visit **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. *(B, D)*

Day 6 This morning we head to **The Courts**, a charming garden showing English style. Peaceful water gardens and herbaceous borders with topiary exhibit creative use of color and planting. There is also an arboretum filled with wonderful species of tree and naturally planted spring bulbs, the perfect backdrop for a relaxing stroll. Later we visit the garden at **Stourhead**. Temples, urns, a grotto and a wealth of trees all contribute to the special atmosphere of this celebrated landscape garden. *(B, D)*

Day 7 We conclude at the gardens of **Iford Manor**, where we have an exclusive private visit. Following this we return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

RHS Garden Wisley

Sissinghurst

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner bed and breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Felbridge and three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Walnut Tree, North Petherton (or similar)
- Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
23 - 29 May	~~$2,655~~	$2,389.50
Single Supplement		*$555*

Tour code: **BCHB**

RHS Chelsea Garden

3 DAYS FROM **$1,255.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$139.50** | TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show
behind-the-scenes with Mike Nelhams

This unique, specially arranged tour is led throughout by the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens Mike Nelhams, who will give us personally guided tours of RHS Garden Wisley, where he studied horticulture prior to taking up a scholarship at the Abbey Gardens, and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, with which he has been involved for many years and has visited countless times. After an exclusive private dinner at Wisley, Mike will also give us a talk revealing the secrets of what goes on behind the scenes at the world's most famous flower show, as well as anecdotes from his time both as a young student at Wisley and of course as Curator of the unique Abbey Gardens. Our short tour continues in the regal setting of the Savill Garden in Windsor, which was created in the 1930s and developed under the patronage of Kings and Queens, and the nearby Valley Garden, filled with exotic blooms from all over the world. We then join Mike for a full day visit to RHS Chelsea Flower Show, during which he will provide personal guided tours of the site, picking out his favourite garden exhibits and giving us an insight into what it takes to produce a prize-winning display.

Day 1 Travel independently to our hotel in Woking. At an agreed time we will assemble in the foyer and depart by coach for **RHS Garden Wisley**, one of the world's great gardens. Here Mike Nelhams will give us a personal guided tour, picking out some of the horticultural highlights. Once the site has closed to the public we will enjoy private access to the garden before gathering in one of the restaurants where we will be privileged to enjoy an exclusive three-course dinner with wine. Following dinner Mike will give us a talk encompassing his experiences as a student at Wisley and his subsequent career in horticulture before moving on to the subject of the Chelsea Flower Show. Mike will reveal what goes into the creating of displays at Chelsea from his own experience as well as some of the other behind-the-scenes activities, plus give a look ahead to our visit. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast this morning we depart for the **Savill Garden**, set within Windsor Great Park. Neither a botanical garden, nor a kitchen garden attached to a great house, the Savill is a garden for the garden's sake, which never fails to charm visitors who come to explore its 35 acres of contemporary and classically designed gardens and exotic woodland. We will then have some time in the nearby **Valley Garden**, filled with exotic blooms from all over the world, including National Collections of magnolia, rhododendron, Glenn Dale azaleas, as well as Himalayan and Chinese birches. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We check out of the hotel and depart for our full day visit to the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, which holds a rare position as a great British tradition and an exciting source of inspiration and advice. We will be accompanied by our guide Mike Nelhams, who will divide our party up into a number of smaller groups and give each group a personal guided tour of the show ground, picking out some of the most notable displays and medal-winning gardens and giving us a unique insight into the hidden secrets of Chelsea. In the late afternoon we will assemble for our transfer to our original meeting point in central London, or you may leave the tour here at Chelsea. *(B)*

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

RHS Garden Wisley

YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Two nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Woking
- One dinner at the hotel and one private dinner with wine at RHS Garden Wisley
- Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of Mike Nelhams as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
21 - 23 May	~~$1,395~~	$1,255.50
Single Supplement		*$275*

Tour code: **BCBS**

Europe

Europe is home to some truly incredible destinations, all within easy reach whether by air or rail. Discover the elegant gardens of the south of France, enjoy some spring sunshine in Sicily or explore the amazing gardens of Ninfa in Italy.

Ninfa

Château de Canon

8 DAYS FROM **$3,915** | TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

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

Join us on a relaxing cruise on the sinuous River Seine, into which we have woven a series of visits to the outstanding gardens of Normandy, including Monet's garden at Giverny, which continues to enthrall countless visitors more than 90 years after his death.

Other garden highlights include the Château de Mirosmesnil, which represents four centuries of harmonious architectural styles, and Le Vasterival, one of the finest gardens of its type and a lasting legacy of its creator, the Princess Sturdza. At the Jardin de Plume we will discover a natural yet structured contemporary garden in a typical Normandy orchard and at the Jardins d'Angélique we explore a romantic and delightfully old-fashioned garden. A visit to the interesting garden at Château de Canon is combined with a heart-warming taste of Normandy at the cellars of Calvados Père Magloire.

MS Botticelli ©CroisiEurope

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards is one of our busiest and most popular garden Tour Managers, and has led many garden tours around the world.

Day 1 We depart from London St Pancras International on the Eurostar to Paris Gare du Nord where on arrival, we will transfer to our ship. In the evening we will be introduced to the crew and enjoy a **welcome cocktail** before dinner on board. *(D)*

Day 2 Following breakfast we depart for the **Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries**, which is home to the series of 2-metre high murals entitled **Les Nymphéas**. After lunch on board, the afternoon is at your leisure. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 This morning is spent cruising to **Vernon**. After lunch, we depart for a visit to Giverny and the world famous house and gardens of **Claude Monet**. You will have plenty of time to explore, followed by the opportunity to visit the little church where Monet is buried. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast we depart for the gardens at the **Château de Miromesnil** which includes a rare example of Louis XIII monumental style. Later, we continue to the nearby garden of **Le Vasterival** created by the talented plantswomen Princess Sturdza. A guided tour is included here. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 This morning we drive along the Côte Fleurie from Honfleur to **Caen**, pausing for a visit to the **Pegasus Bridge Memorial Museum**. In the afternoon we visit the garden at **Château de Canon at Mezidon-Canon** and conclude today in Pont L'Evêque at the famous **Calvados house of Père Magloire**. We will be guided by the Cellar Master for a visit to the cellars followed by a tasting in the shop. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 We sail upstream this morning to **Rouen**, where after lunch we depart for a visit to the **Jardin de Plume**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 This afternoon we visit the impressive **Jardins d'Angélique** at Montmain. *(B, L, D)*

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

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024	
21 – 28 May	
Main deck	**$3,915**
Upper deck	**$4,190**
Single Supplement	*from $835*

Tour code: **BSEI**

Jardín de Cactus, Lanzarote

8 DAYS FROM **$5,910** | TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands

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

Day 1 On arrival at Tenerife airport we transfer to **Puerto De La Cruz.** This afternoon is spent at leisure relaxing on board before dinner. *(D)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Lanzarote airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

MV La Belle Des Océans

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' full board on board the MV La Belle Des Océans in a Horizon cabin on deck 3
- Drinks on board with meals and at the bar (excluding premium drinks and spirits)
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturist Tony Russell as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024	
17 - 24 Feb	
Deck 3	$5,910
Deck 4	$6,470
Deck 5	$7,450
Deck 6	$7,870
Single Supplement	**from $1,675**
Optional Excursions:	
La Gomera	*$90*
Las Palmas/Bandama	*$70*
Teror/Garden	*$85*
Fuerteventura	*$65*

Tour code: **BGCI**

Keukenhof Gardens

5 DAYS FROM **$2,326.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$258.50**

Dutch Bulbfields in Spring

Enjoy a riot of color among the beautiful bulbfields of Holland where nothing quite compares to the sight of not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of flowering bulbs, carpeting the fields in a radiant vision of patterns and patchwork. We begin in the Belgian city of Antwerp with a visit to the Museum Mayer Van Den Bergh with its wonderful collection of works by Bruegel and other Belgian artists before enjoying a visit to the botanic gardens. We then embark on our cruise to Rotterdam. We enjoy a visit to one of the most famous gardens in the world – Keukenhof, a magnificent display of different tulip, daffodil and hyacinth varieties. We arrive in the Dutch capital of Amsterdam, where we visit the 700-year-old Castle Muiderslot and Kasteel Museum Sypesteyn.

On this cruise, we'll enjoy four nights on board MS Beethoven. The refined decoration and the elegant and friendly atmosphere are in perfect harmony with its environment. The restaurant offers a delicate cuisine in a refined setting, where wide windows allow you to fully enjoy the passing panorama as you dine. Comfortable sun loungers are provided on the sun deck, the ideal place to relax and admire the surrounding landscapes.

Day 1 We depart by rail from London St Pancras to Antwerp, where we visit the **Museum Mayer Van Den Bergh**, which has an intimate and homely atmosphere and showcases work by Belgian artists from the 16th century, and the **Botanic Garden**. We later embark the MS Beethoven and enjoy a **welcome cocktail reception** before dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning we cruise from Antwerp to **Rotterdam**. On arrival we venture ashore and explore at leisure. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 This morning we cruise from Rotterdam to **Utrecht** and in the afternoon we depart for **Keukenhof**, one of the most famous gardens in the world. Over seven million bulbs are planted annually and around one million visitors pass through it from mid-March to mid-May. We rejoin the ship in **Amsterdam** and following dinner you are free to explore ashore, or alternatively join our optional canal cruise, an opportunity to view this spectacular city from the water. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 Today we explore **Kasteel Museum Sypesteyn**, built in the early 20th century in 17th century style. Located beside the Loosdrecht lake and River Vecht, the castle is surrounded by stunning gardens. Later, we visit **De Haar Castle** which has equally splendid grounds including a Roman garden, ponds and canals. As was the fashion when the garden was reconstructed around 1895, the garden closest to the castle was in the French style while the surrounding parkland was in a Romantic English landscape style. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 We disembark and have the morning free to explore **Amsterdam**. Recommended is a visit to the **Museum Van Loon**, a magnificent canal-side private residence from the Dutch 'Golden Age', with a large collection of paintings, fine porcelain and silver. In the afternoon, we catch the train from Amsterdam Centraal railway station to London St Pancras. *(B)*

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

THREE-DAY AMSTERDAM EXTENSION FROM $485pp

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
4 - 8 May		
Upper Deck	~~$2,585~~	$2,326.50
Single Supplement		**$525**
Optional Excursions:		
Amsterdam canal cruise		**$70**

Tour code: **BCDB**

Mouse Island

5 DAYS FROM **$1,822.50**

SAVE PER PERSON **$202.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Discover The Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell

Explore the Greek island that inspired Gerald Durrell's hilarious accounts of a sun-kissed childhood with his eccentric family (and other animals), as well as ITV's *The Durrells*. During this tour, we meet naturalist and writer Lee Durrell, who will give a talk on her late husband Gerald's pioneering role in wildlife conservation and will accompany us as we visit some of her family's favourite places in Corfu. We also enjoy a walking tour of historic Corfu town and an excursion to Vidos, a thickly wooded islet in the bay opposite which is home to a special array of flora and fauna and is therefore protected as a nature reserve.

Day 1 On arrival in Corfu we will transfer to our luxurious home for the next four nights: the 5-star **Corfu Holiday Palace**, which has superb facilities including two swimming pools and a private beach. In the afternoon, we ease into our holiday with an optional guided walking tour through picturesque **Corfu Town**. *(D)*

Day 2 Our local guide joins us again as we start today with an excursion to **Vidos**, a thickly wooded islet in the bay opposite Corfu Town which is home to a special array of flora and fauna and is therefore protected as a nature reserve. The 15-minute boat trip across the bay is very pleasant in itself and on arrival we will have free time to explore and take in the peaceful atmosphere, with an opportunity to enjoy the views over a drink in the taverna. Worth a visit is the **Serbian Mausoleum**, which commemorates the 150,000 Serbian soldiers who fled to Corfu in 1915. On our return to Corfu Town we discover the tragic yet fascinating story of wartime exiles at the **Serbian Museum**. After a free afternoon, this evening we will meet naturalist and writer **Lee Durrell**, who will give a fascinating talk about the Durrell family's love affair with Corfu and its wildlife and tell the story of her and Gerald's pioneering work for the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We are joined once again by Lee as we visit some of the unforgettable locations from Gerald Durrell's books and the TV series, beginning with **Mouse Island**, a place that Gerald and his sister Margo both loved to visit, and where Gerald Durrell's ashes are scattered. We continue to the **White House** in Kalami, the beautiful building on the north-east coast of Corfu that was once the home of Lawrence Durrell, Gerald's novelist brother, where we have lunch. In the afternoon we continue to the **Lake of the Lillies**, where Lee will give a poignant reading from the chapter in which it features in *My Family and Other Animals*. We conclude today at the abandoned but picturesque village of **Perithia**, where we meet a local bee keeper with an opportunity to buy some delicious honey. *(B, L, D)*

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

Day 5 After breakfast, we transfer to Corfu airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Lee Durrell

HOLIDAY EXTENSION

Don't want to go home? For those who'd like to stay in Corfu a little longer, we have arranged an optional, great value two-night extension for an additional $350 per person, including airport transfers and breakfast (single price $505).

PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
7 - 11 May	~~$2,025~~	$1,822.50
7 - 11 Oct	~~$2,025~~	$1,822.50
Single Supplement		*$315*

Tour code: **BCFU**

Santiago de Compostela

6 DAYS FROM **$1,570.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$188.50** | TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Galicia's Camellia Route

With a milder, wetter climate than the rest of Spain, the gardens in Galicia have a luxuriant air, accentuated by the fact that many belong to grand country mansions (pazos). Another happy feature of the climate is that camellias thrive here, and in the spring sunshine they provide welcome splashes of color, blooming exuberantly in shades of white, pink and red.

We will follow the length of the camellia route, which extends from La Coruña in the north by way of the historic pilgrimage centre of Santiago de Compostela to Vigo in the south. Along the way, we visit a collection of splendid gardens, including the outstanding Castillo de Soutomaior, while enjoying some spring sunshine and the uplifting sight of one of the garden world's favourite flowering plants in full bloom.

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

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

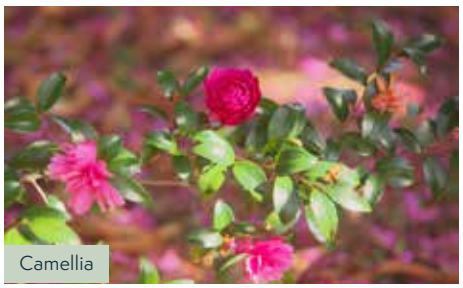
Day 3 We leave La Coruña and head for **Santiago de Compostela** where we will visit the **Monasterio de San Lorenzo de Trasouto**. Its garden is occupied by an extraordinary masterpiece of box topiary; a wriggling rounded hedge with only the smallest of spaces separating its parts creating a sculpture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

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

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

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

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



Camellia

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' hotel accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis, plus three dinners with wine; two nights at the Eurostars Ciudad de La Coruña; two nights at the Eurostars Gran Hotel, Santiago de Compostela; one night at the Eurostars de Vigo (or similar)
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel
- Services of a horticulturist as tour manager (Tony Russell in 2024)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 - 18 Mar	~~$1,745~~	$1,570.50
2025		
12 - 17 Mar	~~$1,885~~	$1,696.50
Single Supplement		*$275*

Tour code: **BGAL**

Villa Giulia

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

8 DAYS FROM **$2,704.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$333.50** | TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Gardens and Villas of Sicily

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

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

Taormina

Day 1 Upon arrival in Catania we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Palermo airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

One of my favourite features of this tour is the typically Sicilian lunches – superb!

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' dinner including wine, bed & breakfast: three nights in Giardini Naxos; two nights in Ragusa; two nights in Palermo
- Three lunches
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager (Trevor Edwards in 2024) and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 26 Mar	~~$3,005~~	$2,704.50
16 - 23 Apr	~~$3,335~~	$3,001.50
2025		
18 - 25 Mar	~~$3,195~~	$2,875.50
Single Supplement		$555

Tour code: **BSIC**

Isola Bella

8 DAYS FROM **$3,303** | SAVE PER PERSON **$367** | TOUR MANAGER KATE WILLIAMSON

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes

The fabulous scenery and warming climate of the Northern Italian Lakes have attracted eager aristocrats and the wealthy for years. The beguiling beauty of this unique corner of Europe shows no signs of waning with the emergence of spring flowers such as tulips and azaleas in May and colorful dahlias in July. Elegant villas and lush gardens complement the natural landscape of the Northern Italian Lakes. We have a real treat when we visit the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society, home to a collection of over 500 plants. Nowhere captures the extravagant spirit of the Lakeland gardens better than the three Borromean islands, Bella, Madre and Pescatori, which feature sumptuous terraced gardens, shaded woodland walks, flowered terraces and elegant statuary. Other highlights during our stay include a fascinating wholesale specialist plant nursery, Villa Taranto and Villa Pallavicino, where animals from the villa's own zoo roam the grounds. Monumental trees and English roses put on a dazzling display at Villa Carlotta and the impeccably maintained and manicured garden of Villa Balbianello completes our memorable tour.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Milan** we transfer to our hotel at **Lake Maggiore** where we enjoy lunch. *(L, D)*

Day 2 Visit the gardens of **Villa Taranto**, flourishing with rare botanical examples and a wide range of plants. Later, we visit the most remarkable wholesale nursery business in the Italian Lake District, **Compagnia Del Lago**. *(B, D)*

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

Day 4 Tour the private garden of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**, home to 500 plants and 318 cultivars. After lunch, we have some free time in Stresa before we visit **Villa Pallavicino**. Ornate ponds, greenhouses with rare exotic plants, various architectural styles and a charming tiny Swiss-style chalet complete this idyllic spot. *(B, L, D)*

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

Day 6 Today is free to explore at your own pace. Take a boat trip on the lake or visit the nearby **Villa Melzi d'Eril** *(admission not included)*. *(B, D)*

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

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Milan airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Lake Como

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Grand Majestic Hotel, Lake Maggiore and three nights at the 4-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior, Lake Como
- Two lunches
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
1 - 8 May	~~$3,670~~	$3,303
3 - 10 Jul	~~$3,670~~	$3,303
6 - 13 Oct	~~$3,670~~	$3,303
Single Supplement		*$835*

Tour code: **BLSG**

Generalife gardens at Alhambra

8 DAYS FROM **$2,169**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$244.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia

Andalucia is unrivalled in Europe for its wealth of history, culture, Moorish architecture and gardens – as Michael Portillo has been so passionately revealing to us over the last few weeks. We visit the gardens which complement the adjoining palaces and discover the wild mountain landscapes. A highlight for many will be the wonderful Generalife Gardens in Granada, where patios and terraces are filled with color, and captivating views of the city are framed by archways. Moving on to Córdoba we will visit the Great Mosque, one of the most ancient gardened sites in the world, and the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos with its characteristic terraced pools. Our tour then takes us to the beautiful city of Seville, where we visit the Cathedral and the Orange Tree Courtyard that belonged to the old mosque; the amazing Royal Palaces of the Alcázar; the Patio de la Yesería, the Old Jewish Quarter of Santa Cruz and some of its beautiful courtyards; the Maria-Luisa Park, the Plaza de España and the Gardens of Murillo.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Málaga** we transfer to our hotel for our evening meal. *(D)*

Day 2 Visit the **Alhambra Palace** and **Generalife Gardens**. The Alhambra has one of the most spectacular sites in the world. Alhambra means "red castle", and the buildings are of a seductive pink stone and were built in the 14th Century. We will also visit the gardens of The Generalife which was the summer palace of the Sultans of Granada in the 14th Century. Later we wander through the medieval streets of the **Albaicín**, catching glimpses of patio gardens. *(B)*

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

Day 4 En route to Seville, we visit **Córdoba**, and discover the **Great Mosque** with its Orange Grove, which was first laid out in the late 8th century. The gardens of **The Royal Palaces of the Alcázar** are laid out in rows around long pools with numerous fountains. After lunch *(not included)* we will have some free time to discover the charms of this most Spanish of towns *(B, D)*

Day 5 Enjoy a guided tour of **Seville** including the **Plaza de España**, **Gardens of Murillo** planted in honour of the famous painter from Seville, the **Cathedral**, Seville's **Orange Tree Courtyard** and the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar**. The Alcázar is a magnificent palace which mixes Christian and Moorish styles and has several patios and salons all of which are grand and very highly decorated. After the wonder of the palace it is refreshing to walk through the beautiful gardens made up of a mixture of several eras. *(B)*

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

Day 7 We visit **Ronda**, a spectacular town rising above the gorge of the River Tajo. Here we visit the **Alameda del Tajo Gardens**, with spectacular views over the gorge, and the **Palacio de Mondragon**, with its ancient Moorish courtyards and gardens. *(B, D)*

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Málaga airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

Columbus Column, Seville

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Hotel Santos Saray in Granada; three nights at the 3-star Hotel Macarena in Seville; one night at the 3-star Hotel R. Polo in Ronda (or similar)
- Three dinners
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager & local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 25 Mar	~~$2,410~~	$2,169
13 - 20 May	~~$2,445~~	$2,200.50
9 - 16 Sep	~~$2,445~~	$2,200.50
Single Supplement		*$555*

Tour code: **BANG**

Raixa

6 DAYS FROM **$1,822.50**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$258.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

Away from the busy beach resorts, the Balearic island of Mallorca offers a timeless, verdant landscape of wooded hills and orange groves, sweeping bays and rocky mountains. Dotted around the island is a host of historic gardens whose origins date back hundreds of years, as well as more modern creations, providing a rich range of horticultural delights to be enjoyed in the warm spring sunshine. These include the gardens at Raixa and Alfaiba, both with Moorish origins and later Christian influences, and Son Marroig, a former residence of Archduke Luis Salvador with dramatic views.

Elsewhere we visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, with its peerless location high in the mountains; tour the island's principal city of Palma with its Gothic cathedral and Arab baths; visit the unique prehistoric necropolis of Son Real and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Soller, a heritage train also known as the Orange Blossom Express, that runs through spectacular mountain scenery.

Day 1 On arrival in **Palma** we transfer by coach to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 Our day starts at the gardens of **Raixa**, once part of a Moorish estate. The garden is divided into seven terraces with parterres, pergolas, fountains and loggias, and a semi-circular belvedere, which offers a fine view over the valley towards Palma. From here, we take a tour of the garden of **Son Marroig**, which is arranged in a series of attractive terraces and the dramatic views of the rocky coastline make this garden memorable. Later, we take a ride on the vintage narrow gauge train, known as the **Orange Blossom Express** that runs along a highly scenic route from Soller to Palma. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 We visit the **Jardínes de Alfabia**, which date back to the 14th and 15th centuries. Young chusan plams *(Trachycarpus fortune)* contrast with more substantial mature date palms; there are also bougainvillea-covered pergolas, flowers cascading over stone terraces and vistas of olive trees. After lunch, we visit the monastery of **Real Cartuja de Valldemosa** with its green bell tower. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 Today we tour the city of **Palma**. Visits here include the **Gothic cathedral**, the former royal residence **Palacio de la Almudaina** and the adjacent **Hort del Rei**, the 10th century **Arab Baths** and the **Castell de Belver**, a heavily fortified Gothic castle that is now the city's museum. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast, we transfer to the unique necropolis of **Son Real**, the largest prehistoric cemetery in the Balearic Islands, dating back over 2,500 years. After lunch in the former capital of the island, **Alcudia**, we transfer to the **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca**, which showcases a collection of modern art exhibitions with surrounding beautiful gardens linking art, nature and architecture, to promote cultural development and respect for the natural environment. The gardens boast a sculpture park and medieval walled garden with more than 100 varieties of old English roses. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast, we transfer to Palma airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Necropolis of Son Real

Garden at Son Marroig

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel THB Maria Isabel, Playa de Palma, plus four lunches
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 24 Mar	~~$2,025~~	$1,822.50
23 - 28 Apr	~~$2,305~~	$2,074.50
1 - 6 Oct	~~$2,165~~	$1,948.50
2025		
18 - 23 Mar	~~$2,165~~	$1,948.50
22 - 27 Apr	~~$2,585~~	$2,326.50
Single Supplement		*$455*

Tour code: **BMCA**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Botanical Garden Monte

8 DAYS FROM **$2,106** SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$286.50**

Gardens of Madeira

Set in a bright blue sea, some 400 miles off the coast of Africa, lies the lush, volcanic Portuguese island of Madeira. Just 36 miles long and 14 miles wide, it is an island of outstanding natural beauty. Much of the island is assigned as a conservation area where rare flowers cover the island like a green mantle. Orchids, bougainvillaea, lilies, hydrangeas, magnolias, jacarandas and azaleas bloom effortlessly throughout the year, and delight the eye at every turn. One of the best ways to explore the island is by following the footpaths alongside the "levadas" (small man-made irrigation canals), which wind their way around the island, and we have included a gentle half-day levada walk, with the opportunity to take further walks on your free days. Further highlights include the splendid Palheiro Gardens and the glorious Monte Palace Gardens, to name but two of Madeira's horticultural wonders.

Day 1 On arrival in **Funchal** we transfer to our hotel accommodation, where a welcome dinner is included this evening. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin our exploration of Madeira with a visit to the **Quinta da Boa Vista**, a historic former estate that is home to the best orchid collection on the island. In the afternoon we visit the **Botanical Gardens**, which boasts more than 2,000 exotic plants. *(B)*

Day 3 We visit the **Quinta do Palheiro** *(formerly known as Blandy Gardens)*. Established over several generations, the gardens have something for everyone with green fingers. In the afternoon we will enjoy a gentle half-day walk on the footpaths alongside the **"levadas"** *(small irrigation canals)*, which wind their way around the island. In the late afternoon we stop for tea and cake at the **Jasmin Tea House**. *(B)*

Day 4 Today we visit the local market, the **Mercado dos Lavradores**, followed by the **Quinta Vigia**, a small garden which is part of the Presidential Palace, and the neighboring **Santa Catarina Park**, set in a natural amphitheatre. We conclude at a tea house where we enjoy some Madeiran specialities. *(B)*

Day 5 Today is at leisure to relax in the hotel or explore on your own. Alternatively join us on an optional full day tour of the island, with lunch. Highlights include the picturesque villages of **Camara de Lobos**, made famous by Sir Winston Churchill in 1950 when he painted here; **Porto Moniz**, famous for its natural bathing pools and lovely scenery, and **Ponta do Sol**, which as the name implies is the sunniest part of the island. *(B)*

Day 6 We take the 10-minute cable car ride from the centre of Funchal to the fashionable hill town of Monte, which offers splendid views over the harbor and the bay. Here we visit the wonderful **Monte Palace Gardens** which surround the château-like Palace. In the afternoon we go to the famous **Reid's Palace Hotel** for a look around the lush gardens followed by a delicious afternoon tea in luxurious surroundings. *(B, AT)*

Day 7 Today is at leisure to relax in the hotel or explore on your own. A farewell dinner will be served in the hotel in the evening. *(B, D)*

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Funchal airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

Levada Walk

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star Golden Residence Hotel, Funchal (or similar)
- Welcome and farewell dinners at the hotel and afternoon tea at Reid's Palace
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 25 Mar	~~$2,480~~	$2,232
6 - 13 May*	~~$2,865~~	$2,578.50
25 Nov - 2 Dec	~~$2,340~~	$2,106
Single Supplement		*$555*

Includes Madeira Flower Festival

Tour code: **BGMD**

Monet's Garden

4 DAYS FROM **$1,633.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$181.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

The Genius of Monet

Just as the gardens at Giverny inspired Monet, who spent half his life nurturing and enjoying them, so they continue to enthrall countless visitors more than 90 years after his death. The lovingly restored gardens give a vivid impression of Monet's favourite subjects. Arched bridges, painted an acid apple green, are festooned with wisteria and the draped fronds of weeping willow frame the water lilies - Monet's paintings brought unnervingly to life. The perfect complement to Giverny is the Orangerie Museum in Paris. The centrepiece of this outstanding collection is Monet's breathtaking series of murals, Les Nymphéas. Housed in two vast elliptical rooms, the 2-metre-high murals extend to almost 200m in length and provide a moving and unforgettable testament to the genius of a painter at the height of his powers. Besides Giverny, we visit the Château de Chantilly, with its extensive collection of fine art and its gardens designed by Le Nôtre, and also the pleasant market town of Senlis.

Our base is the unique, 4-star Château de Montvillargenne, set in a 15 acre park. All our bedrooms are in the original château building, furnished and decorated to a high standard.

Château de Chantilly

Day 1 We depart from London by Eurostar and upon arrival in **Paris** we are met by our comfortable coach. We travel to the charming town of **Chantilly**, in the heart of the Chantilly Forest, where our hotel is set in its own wooded grounds. All our bedrooms are in the original building. Later, we enjoy a welcome glass of kir before sitting down to dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning, we transfer to the **Château de Chantilly**, one of the jewels in the crown of France's cultural heritage, a magnificent edifice surrounded by water. Our visit includes the sumptuously decorated Grands Appartements, along with time to stroll around the extensive formal gardens, designed in part by André le Nôtre. Later we transfer to **Senlis**, a market town typical of Picardy, where we can explore the shops or enjoy some pâtisserie. *(B, D)*

Day 3 The famous house and gardens of **Claude Monet** await discovery today, along with free time in **Giverny** where you can visit the church where Monet is buried. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We travel to Paris today and visit the **Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries**. The highlights of its collection are Monet's two-metre-high murals, entitled **Les Nymphéas**. Thereafter, there is time to sightsee at leisure before we catch our Eurostar train back to London. *(B)*

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

Musée de l'Orangerie

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the Château de Montvillargenne, Chantilly
- Return standard class rail travel between London and Paris with Eurostar
- Comfortable coach travel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 - 27 May	~~$1,815~~	$1,633.50
15 - 18 Jul	~~$1,815~~	$1,633.50
Single Supplement		*$415*

Tour code: **BMOG**

Menton Lemon Festival parade

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

6 DAYS FROM **$2,200.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$286.50**

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

Jardin Exotique d'Ẽze

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

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

In May 2024 the International Rose Festival in Grasse will take the place of the Lemon Festival.

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

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

Day 3 We begin at the private garden of **Clos du Peyronnet** for a guided tour. To one side of the house is a splendid water garden, where a long canal-like pool runs at right angles to the slope. Exotic flowers and foliage press in from all sides, giving the impression of a jungle only just kept at bay. Next, we go from France to Italy and tour the stunning gardens of La Mortola. **La Mortola** is perhaps the greatest of the Riviera Gardens, in the richness of its collections, the power of its presence and not least in the impact it has had all over the French Riviera. *(B, L, D)*

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

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

Day 6 We conclude in the glamourous surroundings of **Monte Carlo**, playground of the rich and famous. Here we will enjoy a walk through some of the charming public parks and gardens that bring splashes of color and open space to the tightly packed urban landscape. Later, we transfer to Nice airport where the tour concludes. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Five nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Le Grimaldi, Nice (or similar)
- Three dinners and four lunches
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
Menton Lemon Festival		
24 - 29 Feb	~~$2,445~~	$2,200.50
2025		
13 - 18 Feb	~~$2,585~~	**$2,326.50**
Single Supplement		*$415*
2024		
International Rose Festival		
11 - 16 May	~~$2,865~~	$2,578.50
Single Supplement		*$695*

Tour code: **BLEM & BFRR**

Aurora borealis, Reykjavík

5 DAYS FROM **$2,452.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$300.50** | TOUR MANAGER ALASTAIR WALKER

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Iceland Northern Lights

Seeing the Northern Lights is a bucket list item for many of us, but aurora borealis aside, Iceland offers a host of attractions, quite unlike anywhere else in the world. From geothermal dips to moonlit trips, this tour is a Who's Who of once-in-a-lifetime experiences. It may be the focus of our tour, but the aurora borealis is only one of the many natural wonders present in Iceland. It's unlikely you'll find another country with such extensive otherworldly appeal: lunar lava-formed landscapes, thunderous waterfalls, moody geysers and glistening glaciers — and those are just the geological bits!

On our tour of Reykjavík, the world's most northerly capital, it becomes clear that even Iceland's man-made efforts have that same air to them — the cavernous and craggy Lutheran church of Hallgrímskirkja, seemingly more suited to a spot in Middle Earth than the North Atlantic; and the parliamentary buildings of Alþingi, thought to be the oldest parliament in the world. Bucket list at the ready...

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Reykjavík** we visit the **Raufarhólshellir Lava Tunnel**, a unique experience exploring the inner workings of a volcanic eruption. From here we head to **Eyrarbakki Village** and then onto the **Urriðafoss waterfall** with its impressive volume of cascade in the whole of Iceland. We continue to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 Our full-day tour of south Iceland includes **Skógafoss waterfall** and a visit to **Skógar Folk Museum**, which will give you a taste of how Icelanders lived in past centuries. We also enjoy a wonderfully unique experience where we walk behind **Seljalandsfoss waterfall**. On our journey we see some stunning views of glaciers and the famous black sand coastlines. *(B, D)*

Day 3 The remote **Skálholt church** and **Þingvellir National Park** await, where the tectonic plates of Europe and North America meet. This creates the stunning landscape we admire today, including the **Gullfoss waterfall** and the **Geysir Geothermal Area** where we can see **Strokkur** erupt. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 We enjoy a city tour of Reykjavík, including its iconic **Hallgrímskirkja church**, the capital's landmark with its magnificent 73m high steeple. We move on to the Icelandic parliament **'Alþingi'** which was founded in AD930 and is considered the oldest Parliament in the world. Next, we visit the panoramic viewing platform at the **Perlan** and the **Aurora Reykjavík centre**. Later, we bathe in the geothermal **Laugarvatn Fontana springs** and after dinner in a local restaurant we go in search of the **Northern Lights**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We head for the **Reykjanes Peninsula** today, which lies on one of the world's major tectonic plate boundaries, the Mid Atlantic Ridge. Next, we make our way past **Reykjanes Lighthouse** towards the **Gunnuhver Hot Springs**, a highly active geothermal area and home to the biggest mud pool in Iceland. Nearby is the fishing town of **Grindavík**.

En route to Reykjavík airport, where our tour concludes, we visit **Kleifarvatn Lake**. *(B)*

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

Strokkur geyser

YOUR TOUR MANAGER ALASTAIR WALKER

A finalist for Wanderlust's World Guide Awards Best Tour Leader prize in 2021, Alastair has been leading tours for Brightwater since 2014.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Stracta Hotel, Hella and two nights at the Grand Hotel Reykjavík
- One lunch
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Alastair Walker as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
4 - 8 Feb	~~$2,725~~	$2,452.50
17 - 21 Nov	~~$3,005~~	$2,704.50
2025		
9 - 13 Feb	~~$2,865~~	$2,578.50
Single Supplement		*$555*

**The Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon and therefore unpredictable. The order of the itinerary may be changed to accommodate the best viewing conditions but no guarantees of seeing the lights can be given. There may also be restricted access to Reykjanes due to volcanic activity.*

Tour code: **BICE**

Wengen

8 DAYS FROM **$3,492** | SAVE PER PERSON **$388** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Alpine Flowers of Wengen

Lying in the Bernese Oberland region at the heart of Switzerland, Wengen, at a height of some 1,274 metres, is ringed by some of Europe's highest and best known mountains including the Eiger and Jungfrau. With breaktaking scenery, rich green alpine meadows and spruce forests below, it is a superb destination for a range of native flora as well as bird and butterfly spotting opportunities.

Each day we will walk a different route of up to five miles, sometimes taking a mountain railway to the starting point. We will also take the rack railway to Schynige Platte where we will visit the Alpine Botanic Garden which has 600 different species of local plants.

Kleine Scheidegg

Lady's Slipper Orchid

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Zürich** we continue by train to the car-free resort of **Wengen**. *(D)*

Day 2 We take the train to **Kleine Scheidegg**, gateway to the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau where the mountain farmers converge with their cattle and where some of Switzerland's most attractive walks begin. From here, we walk to **Wengernalp**, which offers spectacular views of the surrounding peaks and Ibex Wood, looking for flowers on the way. *(B, D)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we take the cable car from Wengen to Männlichen and walk to **Kleine Scheidegg**, approaching from the opposite direction to yesterday. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Following breakfast today we take the train to Lauterbrunnen, the bus to the end of the valley and then an exciting cable car ride to **Mürren** and on to **Schilthorn**. We will then have a moderate walk from Birg back to Mürren, seeking out wildflowers on the way. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Take the train to Wengernalp and walk down to **Slipper Valley**, to look for the most spectacular plants of the area, including the Lady Slipper Orchid *(Cyspripedium calceolus)*. *(B, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast this morning we travel by cable car to the glacier village of **Grindelwald**. There's a fine view of the massif that features the Wetterhorn, Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau mountains, and the start of many classic walks. The Upper Grindelwald Glacier terminates a short distance from the village. From Grindelwald we will travel to **First** for a gentle walk and look at the flowers in this most scenic part of the Bernese Oberland. *(B, D)*

Day 7 Following breakfast we will travel on the rack railway to **Schynige Platte**. The Schynige Platte Railway climbs for 50 minutes to an alpine plateau from Wilderswil, 4km from Interlaken Ost. This is the finest panorama of the surrounding area overlooking both lakes and mountains. It is hoped that we will be able to enjoy a visit to the delightful Alpine Garden with its spectacular flora and fauna. Many of the 500 different species of plants in the garden have been saved from extinction and now the garden contains 80% of the Swiss mountain flora growing above treeline. *(B, D)*

Day 8 Today we return by train to Zürich, where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Bellevue, Wengen
- Return rail transfers between Zürich and Wengen and a Berner Oberland Rail Pass
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
18 - 25 Jun	~~$3,880~~	$3,492

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Please note a good degree of mobility is required to make the most of this holiday.

Tour code: **BWEN**

Villa Pisani

5 DAYS FROM **$2,043** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$267.50** | TOUR MANAGER KATE WILLIAMSON

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Palladian Villas of Veneto

Veneto is one of Italy's wealthiest regions, reflected in the extravagance of its grand villas and their stunning gardens. Many of the villas we visit were designed by Andrea Palladio, one of the most influential individuals in the history of western architecture. Join us as we discover no fewer than five glorious villas on our tour. The first on our list is one of the most recognisable buildings of the Renaissance - the palladian masterpiece, Villa Rotonda. The UNESCO World Heritage Site was designed for elegant entertainment and is definitely one for art lovers as it is lavishly decorated with stucco and frescoes.

A short walk along a leafy lane takes us to an outstanding architectural and artistic site, the Villa Valmarana. With members of the aristocratic Valmarana family giving us personal tours and hosting dinner, this is a unique experience.

It's easy to get lost in the beauty of Villa Barbarigo at Valsanzibio. The exceptional Baroque gardens have been described as some of the most entertaining gardens in Italy. Amongst our visits to the remaining villas, we also enjoy the beautiful little town of Asolo - "The City of a Hundred Horizons". Our farewell dinner is a special affair, hosted by yet another member of the old Italian nobility, the Godi Malinverni family.

Villa Rotonda

Asolo

Day 1 On arrival at **Venice Marco Polo** airport we join our local coach and visit the grand gardens of the **Villa Pisani**. The high walls here enclose an impressive array of greenhouses, where prize-winning camelias were once grown. From here, we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 We are joined by a local guide for a walking tour of Vicenza's historic city centre, including the wonderful **Teatro Olimpico**. We continue to **Villa Rotonda**, where we have a personal guided tour with the aristocratic owner. From here, we visit the **Villa Valmarana** and enjoy a personally guided tour followed by dinner in a room adorned with Tiepolo's frescoes. The Villa's surroundings are designed to suit different tastes and functional needs, ranging from an Italian garden with dovecote and the well, the walk through the hornbeam and the pagoda in the woods. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We start at the **Villa Barbarigo**, surrounded by an exceptional example of Baroque gardens. One of the most striking features is a series of ascending pools decorated with statues and fountain. Next, we'll have a photo opportunity outside **Villa Vescovi** in the Euganean Hills. Dating from 1535, this was the summer retreat of the Bishops of Padua. Later, we explore **Le Paradis des Papillons**, a wonderful garden which is a haven for butterflies and birds. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we explore the **Villa Barbaro**, with its secret garden behind the villa. In the evening we visit the lustrous **Villa Godi Malinverni**, where we have a gala dinner, hosted by the aristocratic owners. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We head for Padua and visit the **Orto Botanico** *(Botanic Garden)* followed by the **Scrovegni Chapel**, with its exquisite Giotto frescoes, before we transfer to Venice Marco Polo airport where our tour finishes. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' bed and breakfast in the 4-star Sweet Hotel in Schiavon (or similar)
- Four dinners
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of a professional tour manager (Kate Williamson in May)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 - 28 Mar	~~$2,270~~	$2,043
21 - 25 May	~~$2,675~~	$2,407.50
17 - 21 Sep	~~$2,550~~	$2,295
Single Supplement		*$275*

Tour code: **BVEN**

Gardens of Ninfa

4 DAYS FROM **$1,885.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$209.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the beautiful gardens of Ninfa. We also have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Popes as we visit the gardens of Castel Gandolfo.

The romantic flower-covered ruins at Ninfa are as close to gardening perfection as you can get. Scented roses, hydrangeas and jasmines curtain what remains of the walls of medieval buildings and paths meander beside a crystal-clear river.

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

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Rome** we have a short city tour. **Rome** has a justified claim as one of the world's greatest cities, combining the magnificence of the Renaissance with the vibrancy and excitement of a thriving city. We see the **Colosseum, St. Peter's Square and Basilica** and the **Spanish Steps**. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast we depart for **Viterbo**, where we have a guided tour. We'll see a number of grand palaces and a host of old churches which are enclosed by an intact set of medieval walls. Nearby, we find the gardens of **Villa Lante**, described as "one of Italy's greatest Renaissance gardens." This study in geometry and symmetry dates back to 1568 when it was designed for Cardinal Gianfrancesco Gambara by the architect Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola. The dominant theme is water, and in front of the palazzine is a central water parterre, which is a classic example of late Renaissance or mannerist style. A later addition is the ornate French-style parterre de broderie, with intricate shapes in clipped box set against a ground cover of reddish gravel. *(B)*

Day 3 The gardens of **Castel Gandolfo** await discovery this morning, the traditional papal residence outside of Rome. In the afternoon, we visit **Ninfa** – named after a mythical nymph and with a curious history. The garden is now deemed by many to be the most beautiful garden in Europe, though for hundreds of years the site lay deserted due to malaria. After the mosquito hazard was removed in 1922, the Duchess of Sermoneta and her son Prince Caetani began to lay out a romantic garden among the village ruins. At least 10,000 plants were collected and planting has continued ever since, giving Ninfa an entrancing beauty. *(B)*

Day 4 This morning we visit **Villa d'Este** in Tivoli, the 16th century gardens known for their use of water. From the upper terrace, the valley seems to be full of sparkling spray and the senses are confused by the continual sound of cascading water. Amble along the Path of One Hundred Fountains to the remains of the miniature Rometta. Later, we transfer to Rome airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

Villa d'Este

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Three nights' bed & breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Rome
- Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
14 - 17 May	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50
3 - 6 Sep	~~$2,095~~	$1,885.50
Single Supplement		*$590*

Tour code: **BRNI**

5 DAYS FROM **$1,192.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$146.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Cultural Malta

Valetta

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

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Malta**, we transfer to our comfortable hotel in St Paul's Bay, overlooking the sea. *(D)*

Day 2 We spend a full day in **Valletta**, Malta's bustling capital city with its unique combination of architectural styles. We will enjoy views over the Grand Harbor from the **Barrakka Gardens**, admire the art works in **St John's Co-Cathedral**, one of the most spectacular in Europe, and visit the **Casa Rocca Piccola**, which gives an insight to the customs and traditions of the Maltese nobility over the last 400 years. We conclude at the **Malta Experience**, where a state-of-the-art presentation brings 7,000 years of history to life. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today is free to explore the island at your leisure, or join one of two optional excursions - a full day on the peaceful neighboring island of **Gozo**, including visits to the prehistoric **Ggantija Temples**, the capital city of **Victoria** and the picturesque **Bay of Xlendi**, or a half-day touring the southern half of Malta, with visits to **Vittoriosa**, including a boat trip around the harbor, and the village of **Marsaxlokk**. *(B, D)*

Day 4 A full day's tour takes us to the **Palazzo Parisio**, where we will have an **exclusive afternoon tea** in the most opulent surroundings, We also visit **Mdina**, Malta's former capital city; **Ħaġar Qim**, Malta's main historic site; and the **Blue Grotto**, where we enjoy a boat trip. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast, we transfer to Malta airport where the tour concludes. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star AX ODYCY, St Paul's Bay
- Afternoon tea at Palazzo Parisio
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
5 - 9 Mar	~~$1,325~~	$1,192.50
5 - 9 Nov	~~$1,465~~	$1,318.50
2025		
4 - 8 Mar	~~$1,465~~	$1,318.50
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		
Sea View Supplement		*$60*
Optional Excursion - Gozo		*$205*
Optional Excursion - Southern Malta		*$120*

Tour code: **BMAC**

5 DAYS FROM **$1,854** | SAVE PER PERSON **$206**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Marrakech

La Majorelle Garden

This timeless city has an enduring appeal with its low-rise pink and red buildings set against the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. Its beating heart is the square of Jemaa El Fna, where musicians and story-tellers and snake-charmers act out compelling scenes which have changed little over the centuries, and you will find yourself irresistibly drawn here.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Marrakech** we transfer to our hotel, where there will be a **guided tour** of the resort grounds. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin our tour of Marrakech at **El Bahia Palace**. The garden here spans over two-acres with rooms opening onto sunlit courtyards, planted with cypress, orange trees and jasmine. From here we will walk to **El Badi Palace** before continuing on to famous garden of **La Majorelle**, which was made in the 1920s by the French painter Jacques Majorelle, with marble pools, raised pathways, banana trees, groves of bamboo, coconut palms and bougainvilleas. Later, we explore **Yves Saint Laurent Art and Design** for a brief visit before we drive to the expansive gardens of **M. Ben Chaabane**, who is a renowned Garden Designer and botanist. *(D)*

Day 3 Our first visit today is to the tranquil **Menara Garden**, which has its origins in a 12th century orchard of palm, olive and fruit trees. We continue with a walk in **Arset Moulay Abdessalam** then on to **Jnane Harti**, known for its cactus and other exotic plants. After lunch, we explore one of the most sumptuous palaces of Marrakech, **Dar el Basha**. Later, we explore **Le Garden Secret**, the **artisan quarter** and then a guided walk on the square of **Jemaa El Fna**. *(D)*

Day 4 We head into the **Atlas Mountains** to visit a **Saffron Plantation** and learn all about this ancient, expensive and almost mythical spice. Then, we travel to **Nectarome**, an aromatic garden located deep in the valley, for a guided tour. This afternoon we visit the contemporary gardens of **Anima**, created by an Austrian artist who skilfully combines plants and indigenous African art. *(L)*

Day 5 After breakfast, enjoy some free time for some last-minute shopping and sightseeing before we transfer to Marrakech airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 5-star El Saadi Hotel, Marrakech
- Three dinners and one lunch
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 6 Oct	~~$2,060~~	$1,854
Single Supplement		*$560*

Tour code: **BMRK**

9 DAYS FROM **$2,673** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$325** | TOUR MANAGER CLIVE WARSOP

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Portuguese Archaeology

With the roar of the Atlantic Ocean and the tranquillity of the Iberian hillsides as constant companions, we travel through time stopping off at Megalithic standing stones, Iron Age settlements, Roman ruins and medieval plazas.

We will enjoy a host of UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the city of Évora, Sintra and Guimarães. We also explore the vibrant maritime city of Lisbon, the ancient University town of Coimbra and Porto, a mecca for connoisseurs of wine.

Day 1 On arrival in **Lisbon** we enjoy a tour of the city. Later, we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 We travel to **Évora** to visit the **Almendres Stone Circle Menhir** and the **Anta Grande do Zambujeiro**. *(B)*

Day 3 Visit the **Museu Caloste Gulbenkian**, which houses a world-class collection of art, and the **Mosteiro dos Jerónimos**, a Manueline monastery. *(B)*

Day 4 We visit the **Palácio Nacional de Sintra**, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and the best preserved medieval royal palace in Portugal, and the **Castelo de Pena**. *(B)*

Day 5 We tour the **Mosteiro de Batalha**, erected in commemoration of the 1385 Battle of Aljubarrota, and which would serve as the burial church of Portuguese royals. We also visit the Roman city of **Conimbriga**. *(B, D)*

Day 6 Enjoy the **Buçaco Forest** and be treated to a **wine-tasting** in Porto. *(B, D)*

Day 7 A free day to explore **Porto**, or join our optional excursion – a boat trip on the **River Douro**, including lunch and free time to explore Regua. *(B)*

Day 8 Visit the religious sanctuary of **Bom Jesus Do Monte**, the Iron Age archaeoloical site of **Citania de Briteirios** and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Guimarães** which is associated with the emergence of the Portuguese national identity in the 12th century. *(B)*

Day 9 After breakfast, we transfer to Lisbon airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Bom Jesus do Monte

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Eight nights' bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Marriott Hotel, Lisbon; one night at the 4-star Melia Hotel, Coimbra and three nights at the 4-star Vila Gale, Porto (or similar)
- Three dinners
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
19 - 26 Mar	~~$2,970~~	$2,673
15 - 22 Oct	~~$3,250~~	$2,925
Single Supplement		*$835*
Optional Excursion:		
Douro River boat trip		*$175*

Tour code: **BPOA**

8 DAYS FROM **$3,285** | SAVE PER PERSON **$388** | TOUR MANAGER CLIVE WARSOP

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden

The neighboring Nordic nations of Sweden and Denmark offer a host of archaeological and historical sites, from Neolithic megaliths to Viking forts, from fairytale castles to a magnificent royal warship. We visit the archaeological sites at Gamla Uppsala, Anundshög and Baroque Skokloster Castle, and the excellent Historical Museum and impressive Vasa Museum. A relaxing rail journey takes us to Malmö in the south of Sweden, where we tour the Österlen region before crossing the Öresund Bridge to Copenhagen. We have a day in the Danish capital, including Rosenborg Castle, then transfer to Aarhus in mainland Denmark, where we visit the Moesgård Viking Museum and the Viking Castle at Fyrkat.

Day 1 On arrival at **Stockholm** we join our local coach and depart for the archaeological site of **Gamla Uppsala** with its three Royal Mounds. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we visit the archaeological site at **Anundshög**, and then **Skokloster Castle**, one of the great castles of Baroque Europe. *(B)*

Day 3 We visit the **Vasa Museum** with its impressive model of the ill-fated warship and the **Swedish History Museum** whose collections comprise archaeological artifacts and ecclesiastical art. We take a late afternoon train to the southern city of **Malmö**. *(B, LM)*

Day 4 The ancient megaliths of **Ales Stenar** before crossing the **Öresund Bridge**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Visit **Copenhagen's** historic sites and museums, including **Rosenborg Slot**, the **National Museum** of Denmark and the **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**. *(B)*

Day 6 We tour **Frederiksborg Slot**, the largest Renaissance Palace in Scandanavia. *(B, D)*

Day 7 Today we visit the **Viking Museum**, the Viking site of **Fyrkat** and then the astonishingly well preserved 'Bog Bodies' at **Silkeborg Museum**. *(B)*

Day 8 We visit the archaeological site of **Jelling**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site before transfering to Copenhagen airport where our tour ends. *(B)*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, LM: Light meal, D: Dinner*

Frederiksborg Palace

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast in 3- and 4-star hotels: two nights Uppsala, one night Malmö, two nights Copenhagen and two nights Aarhus
- Three dinners and one light meal on board the train
- Standard class rail journey from Stockholm to Malmö
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
2 - 9 Sep	~~$3,650~~	$3,285
Single Supplement		*$695*

Tour code: **BDSA**

7 DAYS FROM **$1,948.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$244.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Malta's Archaeological Heritage

Ħaġar Qim

Malta's diminutive archipelago is by no means any indication of the vast riches it holds — from the Neolithic to now, they are many and varied – a land of golden limestone cliff coasts, lucid seas, beautiful laidback towns and heart-stirring views. During this tour, we venture inside the walled citadel of Mdina, explore the warren of narrow tomb lined passages of St Paul's Catacombs, and take to the waves for a boat trip around the spectacular cliffs and caverns of the famed Blue Grotto. But most startling of all, perhaps, are the mysterious sites left by civilisations with whom we are just starting to get acquainted — the millennia-old Mnajdra Temples and the megaliths of Ħaġar Qim: which make for a truly unforgettable archaeological expedition.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Malta** we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 We explore **Valletta**, Malta's capital city, including the **Upper Barrakka Gardens**, the **Grand Master's Palace** and the **Archaeological Museum**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today we explore **Mosta Church** and the walled citadel of **Mdina**. Later we visit the **Skorba Temples**, the **Museum of Roman Antiquities** and **St. Paul's Catacombs**. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Visit **Ħaġar Qim** and the **Mnajdra Temples**. We then take a **boat trip** to the stunning **Blue Grotto** and the **Dingli Cliffs**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Today is free to spend at leisure or there is an optional excursion to the neighboring island of **Gozo**, which has archaeological wonders of its own. *(B, D)*

Day 6 Take a tour of the fishing village of **Marsaxlokk**, visit the **Tarxien Temples** and explore the world-renowned **Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum**. This historic wonder is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we transfer to Malta airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Six nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star AX ODYCY, St Paul's Bay
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			
5 - 11 Mar		~~$2,165~~	$1,948.50
7 - 13 May		~~$2,445~~	$2,200.50
5 - 11 Nov		~~$2,165~~	$1,948.50
2025			
4 - 10 Mar		~~$2,305~~	$2,074.50
Single Supplement			*$275*
Seaview Room Supplement			*$85*
Optional Excursion:			
Gozo			*$205*

Tour code: **BMAL**

8 DAYS FROM **$2,106** | SAVE PER PERSON **$234**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Archaeology of the Peloponnese

Mystras

A place of timeless beauty, the Peloponnese is home to 3,000-year-old relics at Mycenae, classical ruins at Epidaurus and Byzantine churches at Monemvasia – the whole region is rich with history. The Greeks and the Spartans fought out the Peloponnesian war here, to be followed in turn by Romans, Goths and Slavs, Franks, Turks and Venetians. Nowadays the atmosphere is one of peace and tranquillity, but the connection with the past, with battles won and civilisations lost, is inescapable.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Athens** we join our coach and transfer to our hotel in **Nafplion**, a charming Venetian port. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit **Mycenae**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Greece and the centre of the Mycenaen culture. *(B)*

Day 3 Discover the **Archaeological Museum of Nafplion and Tiryns** with its Cyclopean walls praised by Homer. We later visit **Epidaurus**, touring its famous theatre in the atmospheric forest setting. *(B)*

Day 4 From Nafplion, we head south via **Argos**, considered to be the oldest city in the world, with an imposing though neglected theatre, and **Tripoli**, where we will stop for lunch *(not included)*, before continuing to our comfortable hotel in **Sparta**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We explore the fascinating dead city of **Mystras**, which casts its silent gaze over modern Sparta. A unique atmosphere pervades this somewhat melancholic but beautiful site. *(B)*

Day 6 Today we visit the UNESCO-listed archaeological site of ancient **Messene** and the coastal town of **Kalamata**. Here, we explore the **Archaeological Museum of Messenia**. *(B, D)*

Day 7 This morning we visit the **Fort City of Monemvasia**, a wonderful time capsule where history unfolds before you, along the narrow-cobbled lanes that wind among Byzantine churches and red-tiled houses. *(B)*

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Athens airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights in Nafplion, two nights in Sparta, two nights Gythion; three dinners
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an officially accredited local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			
30 Sep - 7 Oct		~~$2,340~~	$2,106
Single Supplement			*$415*

Tour code: **BPEL**

8 DAYS FROM **$2,137.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$241**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Crete Archaeology

Palace of Knossos

The Greek island of Crete presents a rich tapestry of archaeological treasures, sleepy villages and lively towns, all set in a Homeric landscape of mountains, gorges and flower-strewn pastures. It was home to one of the earliest European civilisations, the Minoans, who roamed these hills some 4,000 years ago. Their legacy can be seen all over the island, in particular at the legendary Palace of Knossos, the centre of the Minoan civilisation in Europe.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Crete** we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

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

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

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

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

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

Day 7 Today, we visit the Minoan cemetery of **Armeni** and Byzantine monuments in the picturesque **Amari valley**. *(B, D)*

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Atrion Hotel, Heraklion and four nights at the 4-star Bio Hotel in Rethymnon
- One dinner in the hotel and a farewell dinner (with wine) in a local taverna
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
23 - 30 Apr	~~$2,375~~	$2,137.50
8 - 15 Oct	~~$2,410~~	$2,169
Single Supplement		*$415*
Optional Excursions:		
Arkadi Monastery		*$155*
Spinalonga		*$135*

Tour code: **BCRE**

8 DAYS FROM **$2,232** | SAVE PER PERSON **$248** | TOUR MANAGER PETER YEOMAN

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Albanian Archaeology

Amphitheatre at Butrint

Albania is opening its doors to the world. In archaeological terms, offering some of the best sites in Europe with a host of Classical cities that were once on a par with those in Greece and Italy. A dramatic landscape of mountains and rugged coastline adds to the experience as we tour the country visiting the best of the sites. These include Durrës, one of the largest amphitheatres in the Balkans; Apollonia, the second largest Greek colony in Albania; the UNESCO World Heritage site at Butrint, and the remote mountain city of Byllis.

Day 1 On arrival in **Tirana** join our local coach and transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning we enjoy a walking tour of **Tirana,** visiting the **Skanderbeg Square**, the **Mosque of Et'hem Bej,** the **National Historical Museum** and **Skanderbeg Castle**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning we drive along the coast to the **Bay of Vlora** before heading to **Llogara National Park**. We travel through the seven villages of the Himara region and after visiting the **springs of Borshi** we continue towards Saranda. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Enjoy a full day at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Butrint**. We will admire the theatre, temple of **Asclepion**, the **Baptisteries,** the **Gymnasium,** the **aqueduct,** and the **Venetian Castle**. This evening we visit **Lekuresi Castle**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Today we travel to the town of **Gjirokastra**, visiting the 8th century castle museum, the ethnographic museum, the 18th century bazaar and the **Antigonea Archaeological Park**. *(B, D)*

Day 6 This morning we visit **Byllis**, perched dramatically on a mountain top overlooking the Vjose River valley. We also visit **Cobo Winery** where we enjoy a tour. *(B, D)*

Day 7 Today we discover the attractive medieval town of **Berat**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During our time here, we will visit Byzantine churches and mosques. *(B, D)*

Day 8 We spend the morning at **Appolonia** where we visit the **Odeon**, the **Pritaneon** and the **temple of Diana**. From here, we travel to **Durrës** to visit the amphitheatre. We then return to Tirana airport at the conclusion of our tour. *(B, D)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two night in Tirana; two nights in Saranda; one night in Gjirokastra and two nights Berat
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of archaeological expert Peter Yeoman as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 15 Oct	~~$2,480~~	$2,232
Single Supplement		*$385*

Tour code: **BALB**

Worldwide

If you're looking to explore more of our wonderful world, we have a spectacular array of long-haul holidays to choose from, which can take you from the forest temples of Japan and the Supertrees of Singapore to stunning Caribbean gardens in sun-soaked Barbados and Grenada. So, whether you're looking for a wild escape or a scenic break, you're bound to find inspiration from our once-in-a-lifetime itineraries on the following pages.

Gardens by the Bay

Marina Bay

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

7 DAYS FROM **$4,909.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$545.50** | **NEW** TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

Singapore Garden Festival

The Singapore Garden Festival takes place every two years and is among the top flower and garden shows on the international calendar. It was the first event to bring together top international award-winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturists from around the world, who are invited to the Festival to work alongside Singapore's own talented horticulturists. Singapore's geographic location makes the Festival an ideal platform to showcase horticultural and gardening products and services from the northern and southern hemispheres, including Asia and New World nations. A colorful and stimulating experience with a truly international flavor, the Festival is a treat for the senses. Other highlights include the spectacular Gardens by the Bay, whose illuminated Supertrees have gained iconic status, and afternoon tea at Raffles, the famous Singaporean institution.

Jurong Gardens

Gardens by the Bay

YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

Mike Nelhams, the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens, is looking forward to returning to one of his favourite destinations, the multi-cultural city-state of Singapore.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Singapore** we will be met and taken to our 4-star city centre hotel. In the afternoon we depart on a city sightseeing tour of Singapore, which includes visits to **Chinatown** and **Little India**. Later we return to our hotel to freshen up before we transfer to a local restaurant for our welcome dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning we visit **Singapore Botanical Garden**, which was founded in 1859 and

National Orchid Garden

showcases the best and most spectacular of tropical flora, set in a stunning verdant landscape. Entrance to the **national orchid garden** is also included. In the afternoon we tour the **Colonial District**, where we will see the Cricket Club, Parliament House, the Supreme Court and the City Hall. We then visit the **Marina Bay Sands**, a landmark hotel and leisure complex, with a distinctive rooftop garden known as the Skypark, 57 stories above the ground. The views over the city are spectacular and include the Gardens by the Bay and Supertree Grove, the capsules of the Singapore Flyer and the orange-tiled roofs of the shophouses that line the Singapore River. We continue with a visit to the **Merlion Park**, home to the Merlion statue, half fish and half lion, another of Singapore's iconic sights. Finally today we enjoy a cruise along the **Singapore River**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We visit Singapore's iconic horticultural attraction, **Gardens by the Bay**. Spanning 101 hectares, this award-winning venue houses over 250,000 rare plants in an innovative and imaginative way. There are obvious similarities to our own Eden Project, in particular the huge domed conservatories, but other features are strikingly unique, such as the impressive Supertrees. In the afternoon we visit the **Cloud Forest**, a mysterious botanical world veiled in mist, with breath-taking mountain views surrounded by diverse vegetation and hidden floral gems. After dinner in a local restaurant we return to the Gardens by the Bay for the evening performance of the **Rhapsody** light and sound show at the **Supertree Grove Gardens**, a truly spectacular event. At night the Supertrees can be seen to full effect as they are brilliantly illuminated in an ever-changing kaleidoscope of color, complemented by a garden rhapsody of well-known music from the movies. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Today is given over to the **Singapore Garden Festival**, where we will enjoy viewing the garden displays and orchid extravaganza as well as attending talks and demonstrations. *(B, D)*

Day 5 This morning we visit Singapore's Chinese and Japanese Gardens, known as the **Jurong Gardens**. The Chinese Garden is modelled along the northern Chinese imperial style of architecture and landscaping, while the Japanese Garden takes its inspiration from the Muromachi period of 1392 to 1568 and the Azuchi–Momoyama period of 1568 to 1615. We return to the hotel to freshen up and change into the requisite smart-casual attire for **Afternoon Tea** at **Raffles Hotel**. Established by Armenian hoteliers in 1887, the hotel is named after Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the founder of the original trading station and has become an unmissable part of the city's heritage. *(B, AT)*

Day 6 We begin today with a visit to **Hort Park**, a series of botanical and horticultural parks and gardens in the southwestern corner of Singapore, connected by elevated walkways and bridges. The afternoon is free to shop and sightsee at leisure, or join our optional excursion to **Sentosa Island**, the extensive park that lies just off the main island and is accessed by cable car. Admission is included to all the major attractions, including the Aquarium, Madame Tussauds, Images of Singapore and the 4D Adventureland Ride. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After checking out of the hotel we have time for one more visit, the **Fort Canning Spice Garden**. Here we will discover the trees and plants that produce many familiar spices such as nutmeg and cloves, on a site that was originally Singapore's first Botanical and Experimental Garden, started in 1822 by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. Following our visit we transfer to the airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Six nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star Orchard Rendezvous Hotel, Singapore (or similar), plus five dinners and one afternoon tea at Raffles Hotel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel
- Services of Mike Nelhams as tour manager and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
5 - 11 Aug	~~$5,455~~	$4,909.50
Single Supplement		*$975*
Optional Excursion: Sentosa Island		**$245**

Tour code: **BSIN**

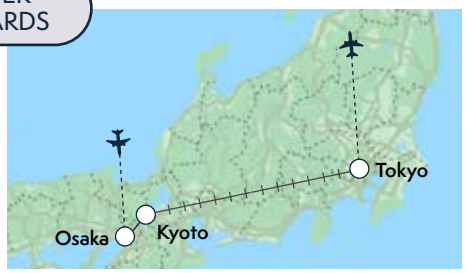
Mount Fuji

12 DAYS FROM **$7,177.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$909.50** | TOUR MANAGER JIM HART | TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Seasonal Gardens of Japan

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

Golden Pavilion, Kyoto



Day 1 Upon arrival in Osaka, we head to the gardens of the **Imperial Palace** which feature broad gravel paths, lawns and groves of trees, including attractive weeping cherry trees, which should be in blossom for our spring tour. From here, we continue to our hotel in Kyoto for dinner and a welcome drink. *(D)*

Day 2 We enjoy a full day in **Kyoto** visiting some outstanding gardens. These include **Daisen-in temple**, **Ryogen-in**, **Zuiho-in**, **Kinkakuji temple** and **Ryoan-ji temple**. *(B)*

Day 3 We journey to the **Prefecture of Shiga**. Beginning in **Otsu**, we visit the ancient temple of **Ishiyamadera**, which was established around the middle of the 8th century by Roben Osho. From here we continue along the shores of **Lake Biwa-ko** to the historic town of **Omihachiman** and the **Hachimanbori Canal**. Before returning to Kyoto, we'll also visit the **Nishikawake House**, the former residence of a wealthy merchant family. *(B)*

Day 4 Today we explore **Ginkaku-ji** or 'Silver Pavilion', a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the private garden of **Hakusasonso** and **Kyoto**

Heian-jingu Shrine

Botanical Garden, which displays over 120,000 plants. We'll also visit the **Bamboo Forest Path** in Sagano, a strange, otherworldly forest of dense bamboo, whose soaring trunks shade the path, their leaves rustling musically in the breeze. *(B)*

Day 5 Enjoy Kyoto at leisure or join an optional excursion by train to **Hiroshima** and view the **Peace Memorial Park**. *(B)*

Day 6 This morning we transfer to **Nara** and explore the **Todai-ji Temple**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will also enjoy **Nara Park** and visit the **Kasuga Grand Shrine**, one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines. Later, we discover the **Kodai-ji Temple** and this evening we have a special treat as we transfer to the geisha district of Gion to have **dinner with a maiko**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and visit the **Heian-jingu Shrine**, a rare example of an extensive pond garden in the grounds of a Shinto shrine. Next, we explore the **Nanzen-ji Temple complex**, a quintessential Zen temple that exudes an air of serenity. This afternoon we leave Kyoto, taking the famous 'Shinkansen' or **Bullet Train** to Tokyo. *(B)*

Day 8 We journey to the historic seaside town of **Kamakura** to visit the **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine**, located between two lotus ponds. Next, we admire the **Great Buddha**, which has survived tidal waves, earthquakes, fires and typhoons. We continue to the **Hase Kannon Temple**. Simple and elegant, the temple is home to a superb 11-faced Kannon, Goddess of Mercy, which is said to date from the 8th century. *(B, L)*

Day 9 Enjoy a full day excursion to **Hakone** and **Mount Fuji**, which begins with a visit to **Onshi Hakone Park**, an area of forested mountains and deep ravines. We will also enjoy a cruise on **Lake Ashi**, the principal attraction of Hakone, 723m above sea level. After lunch, we drive along the foot of **Mount Fuji** for a further photo stop at **Lake Kawaguchi**. *(B, L)*

Day 10 Our day begins at the garden of **Kyu Furukawa**, a masterpiece of modern design, combining the authentic Japanese style with an Italian terraced-style garden full of roses. Next, it's on to **Mukojima Hyakkaen Garden**, the only surviving flower garden of the Edo period. Free time follows. *(B)*

Day 11 Following breakfast we have a full day sightseeing in **Tokyo** today. We begin with a visit the **Senso-ji Temple**, Tokyo's most sacred temple. Directly in front of the Senso-ji Temple lies the **Nakamise-dori**, the temple's shopping precinct, where you will have free time to browse the stalls which sell everything from haircombs, fans and kimonos to wigs and genuine Edo crafts. We continue to **Rikugien Garden**, often considered Tokyo's most beautiful Japanese landscape garden. Our next visit is to the **Imperial Palace East Garden**, which has a fine collection of bamboo and Japanese spring blossom. In the afternoon, we explore **Hamarikyu Garden** and take a cruise along the **Sumida River**. We conclude with a farewell dinner this evening. *(B, D)*

Day 12 We check out of our hotel today and transfer by coach to Tokyo Airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 11 nights' bed & breakfast; six nights at the 4-star ANA Hotel, Kyoto and five nights at the 4-star Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa, Tokyo (or similar)
- Dinner and welcome drink on first evening, a dinner with a maiko, three lunches and a farewell dinner
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Bullet Train from Kyoto to Tokyo
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager (Jim Hart in March 2024 and Trevor Edwards in November) and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
28 Mar - 8 Apr*	~~$8,535~~	$7,681.50
7 - 18 Nov	~~$7,975~~	$7,177.50
2025		
25 Mar - 5 Apr*	~~$9,095~~	$8,185.50
Single Supplement		*$2,100*
Optional Excursion: Hiroshima		*On request*

**Cherry blossom departure*

Tour code: **BJPG**

Cameron Highlands

10 DAYS FROM **$2,965.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$328.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Malaysia

Peninsular Malaysia, the long finger of land that extends south from Asia and points towards the equator, is a multi-cultural and contrasting country of tropical jungle and palm-fringed beaches, high-rise cities and aboriginal villages. Our journey takes us from the steamy heat of Malacca in the south to the ultra-modern capital city of Kuala Lumpur; up into the cool, tea-growing valleys of the Cameron Highlands and on to Penang with its colorful mixture of colonial architecture and Chinese culture.

Day 1 On arrival at **Kuala Lumpur** airport this morning we transfer by coach to our hotel in Malacca. *(IF, D)*

Day 2 We depart on a full day guided coach tour of **Malacca**, beginning with a visit to the **Botanic Garden**, which has a lush and tranquil setting, surrounded by indigenous forest and divided up into five gardens. As the name suggests, the beautifully landscaped **Garden of a Thousand Flowers** contains a wide range of flowering plants. Following a stroll along Malacca's famous **Jonker Street**, we enjoy a tour of the city. *(B)*

Day 3 Transfer by coach to **Kuala Lumpur**, stopping en route at the **Agricultural Heritage Park**. After a visit to the charming public **botanic garden** in Putrajaya we we continue our journey north to Kuala Lumpur, where on arrival we will visit the **'secret garden'** on top of the Utama Shopping Centre. Evening at leisure. *(B, L)*

Day 4 This morning, we depart for a visit to **FRIM** *(Forest Research Institute Malaysia)* forest reserve at Kepong, which features a canopy walkway system suspended from the trees at about 30m above ground level. Returning to Kuala Lumpur we visit the **Lake Gardens** *(Taman Tasik Perdana)* which date back to the 1880s. We will also visit the **Orchid Garden** here, which contains over 800 species from Malaysia alone. We round off with a guided coach tour of **Kuala Lumpur**. *(B)*

Day 5 We depart for **Cameron Highlands**, which was developed in the 1920s and was originally intended as a health resort before the growing of tea was established as the primary activity, and we should see tea pickers in action. *(B, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast we enjoy a full day guided coach tour of the countryside of the **Cameron Highlands** which is packed full of local color and variety. We also visit **Tan's Camellia Garden**, where the passionate owner grows a wide range of anthuriums, amaryllis and camellias. *(B, L)*

Day 7 We depart for Penang, breaking our journey with visits to **Sam Poh Tong Cave Temple**, a Chinese Buddhist temple built into a limestone hillside. We continue our journey via Kuala Kangsar, where we see the **Ubudiah Mosque** and **Iskandariah Palace** before reaching the **Taiping Lake Gardens**. We continue to **Penang**, referred to as the Pearl of the Orient for its natural beauty and exotic heritage. *(B, L)*

Day 8 We depart on a full day tour of Penang, including visits to the **Tropical Spice Gardens**, **Fort Cornwallis**, **Little India** and **Chinatown** and **Penang Botanic Gardens**. *(B)*

Day 9 The day is free to relax in the hotel or go shopping or sightseeing on your own. *(B)*

Day 10 We transfer to the airport in Penang for an internal flight to Kuala Lumpur, where the tour concludes. *(B,)*

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

Putra Mosque

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Nine nights' bed and breakfast: two nights at the 4-star Baba House, Malacca, two nights at the 4-star Four Points by Sheraton, Kuala Lumpur, two nights at the 4-star Century Pines Resort, Cameron Highlands; three nights at the 4-star Wembley Hotel, Penang (or similar)
- Two dinners and three lunches
- Internal flight from Penang to Kuala Lumpur
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			
18 - 27 Oct		~~$3,285~~	$2,956.50
Single Supplement			*$770*

Tour code: **BMAY**

Mahone Bay

8 DAYS FROM **$6,484.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$7250.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Nova Scotia in the Fall

Nova Scotia is the crown jewel of Canada's east coast. Comprising a peninsula and its surrounding islands, it offers the chance to indulge yourself in the Canadian outdoors at its best, while offering excellent accommodation and dining. October is a spellbinding time of year here, as hardwood trees such as maple, beech, poplar and birch blaze in the most brilliant colors. The variety of color is enormous, ranging from dark wine red to scarlet, orange and yellow. Inland, it is still wild and densely forested, with quiet rivers and lakes reflecting the blue sky. You are never more than 56km from the sea in Nova Scotia and the coastline is infinitely varied, from rocky peninsulas to seemingly endless empty beaches.

Day 1 On arrival in **Halifax, Nova Scotia**, we transfer to our downtown hotel.

Day 2 Enjoy a city tour of Halifax this morning, with visits to the **Halifax Citadel, Victorian Public Gardens** and sites of the **Halifax Explosion** of 1917. We continue with a tour of the **Alexander Keith's Brewery**, founded in 1820 and one of the oldest working breweries in North America. We head to the **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic**, which houses artifacts from the **Titanic**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today, we drive the Lighthouse route along Nova Scotia's South Shore for breakfast by the iconic **Peggy's Cove Lighthouse**. We then head to **Mahone Bay** for a photo stop, and continue to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Lunenburg** for a tour of this historic fishing town before heading to Yarmouth, where we spend the evening. We visit the historic Victorian houses and the **Cape Forchu Lighthouse**, to see one of the clearest night skies in North America. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we visit the **Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens**, 17 acres impeccably manicured gardens which at this time of year will be draped in glorious autumn colors. We then travel to Acadia University to tour the **Harriet Irving Botanical Gardens**, which includes 50 acres of woodlands and six acres of botanical gardens. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We visit the **Hector Heritage Quay** in Pictou, an incredible waterfront development where a full-scale replica of the ship 'Hector' has been built. Next, we tour the **Alexander Graham Bell Museum**, dedicated to the most famous resident of Cape Breton, and the site of his early work on the telephone and powered flight. *(B, D)*

Day 6 We spend today touring around the incredible **Cabot Trail**, one of the most spectacular drives in all of Canada, with visits to **Cheticamp**, home to Acadian culture and craft, and the winding, rocky splendour of **Cape Breton Highland National Park**. *(B, L)*

Day 7 We make our way to the **Fortress of Louisbourg** today, a reconstruction of an early French colonial town and the largest of its kind in North America. We then head back towards **Halifax**, for our farewell dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 8 We have a guided tour of the **Victorian Public Gardens** in Halifax before we transfer to the airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

Cabot Trail

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' in 3-star hotels on a bed & breakfast basis: four nights in Halifax, one night in New Glasgow, two nights in Baddeck
- Five dinners and one lunch
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a local tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 15 Oct	~~$7,205~~	$6,484.50
Single Supplement		*$1,225*

Tour code: **BNOV**

Butchart Gardens

9 DAYS FROM **$6,579**

SAVE PER PERSON **$731**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens and Wildlife of Western Canada

Spectacular scenery and a warm, friendly welcome await us in Vancouver, a city which owes its vibrancy and cosmopolitan flavor to the diverse cultural background of its inhabitants. Set amidst majestic mountains and surrounded by blue Pacific waters, Vancouver's gentle climate keeps the city green year-round and makes it the perfect backdrop for many outstanding gardens. We will be privileged to visit some of the finest private gardens in Vancouver and Victoria. Our journey also includes the opportunity to enjoy a whale watching trip, and, if we're lucky, we'll catch a glimpse of orca, grey, humpback and minke whales. From the resort of Tofino, we embark on a bear watching boat tour along the calm coastal waters and we'll explore the Naa'Waya'Sum Gardens (formerly known as Tofino Botanical Gardens) spread over 12 hectares of gardens, forest and shoreline.

Day 1 On arrival at the airport in **Vancouver** we transfer to our hotel.

Day 2 After breakfast, we take a tour around **Vancouver**, a modern metropolis surrounded by nature on all sides. We explore **Stanley Park** with its famous Totem Poles, **English Bay**, **Canada Place**, historic **Gastown**, **Chinatown** and **Vancouver Lookout** at Harbor Centre. We ascend the building in a glass lift to the observation deck 167 metres above sea level for panoramic views. This afternoon we visit **Van Dusen Botanical Gardens**, which is spread over 55 acres and features one of the most extensive arrays of ornamental plants in Canada. We also visit the first authentic full-sized classical Chinese garden built outside China, that of **Dr Sun Yat-Sen**. The garden is a five million dollar "architectural space" shaped by artisans brought to Vancouver from China and is constructed in an authentic Ming Dynasty-style, the first of its type built since the late 15th century. *(B)*

Day 3 This morning we explore the **UBC Botanical Garden**, the oldest university botanical gardens in Canada. The gardens showcase British Columbia's native flowers and trees as well as a collection of plants from every corner of the globe. Later, we head northwards to the **Capilano Suspension Bridge Park** which seamlessly blends history, culture and nature. *(B)*

Day 4 A long but rewarding day awaits. We start with a ferry trip to **Vancouver Island** and upon arrival, we head to the world famous **Butchart Gardens**, one of the world's premier floral show gardens. Originally created to beautify a worked out quarry, the property now extends to 55 acres of breathtaking gardens, divided into four sections. We later enjoy some sightseeing, traveling through the unhurried streets of **Victoria**, where highlights include the **Inner Harbor**, which is sprinkled with pleasure craft and the impressive **Parliament**

Capilano Suspension Bridge

buildings. *(B)*

Day 5 Our day begins with an optional **whale watching** cruise tour. We head out onto the coastal waters in search of orca, grey, humpback and minke whales. During our voyage we may also see sea lions, seals and porpoises. This afternoon, we take a scenic route to the historic **Hatley Estate**, one of Canada's largest and most diverse National Historic Sites, noted for its heritage planting and majestic native trees. At the centre is a magnificent castle built in 1908 by former British Columbia Premier and coal baron, James Dunsmuir. We have ample time here to explore the Japanese, Italian and Rose Gardens. *(B)*

Day 6 We venture to **Ucluelet**, enjoying the scenery as we traverse Vancouver Island to its Pacific coast. We have a visit to the **Milner Gardens and Woodland**, a seaside garden set in Qualicum beach on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island, which covers an impressive 28 hectares of unspoiled natural beauty perched on an oceanfront bluff with views across the Strait of Georgia. *(B)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we head out onto the calm shallow waters on the coastline in search of the **Vancouver Island black bears** which at this time of the year venture to the shoreline in search of rock crab and other seafood treats. Later, we visit the **Naa'Waya'Sum Gardens**. Formerly known as the Tofino Botanical Gardens, the site is spread over 12 hectares of gardens, forests and shorelines and it explores the relationship between culture and nature. There is a network of paths and boardwalks which take you through cultivated gardens, a sculpture park and old growth temperate rainforest. *(B)*

Day 8 This morning as we travel across **Vancouver Island**, passing through Parksville to Nanaimo where we board the ferry to **Horseshoe Bay**. Upon arrival, we head into **Vancouver** for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *(B, D)*

Day 9 Explore at your own leisure this morning before we transfer to Vancouver airport at the conclusion of our tour. *(B)*

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

Orca

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Eight nights' bed and breakfast in 3-star hotels: four nights Vancouver, two nights Victoria & two nights Ucluelet
- One dinner
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
13 - 21 Sep	~~*$7,310*~~	$6,579
Single Supplement		*$1,255*
Optional Excursion:		
Whale watching		**$130**

Tour code: **BGWC**

Lemur

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

13 DAYS FROM **$7,807.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$867.50**

Flora and Fauna of Madagascar

Madagascar, the world's fourth-largest island, is like a gigantic ark sailing ever so slowly across the Indian Ocean, having broken free from the African continent some 160 million years ago. The national parks and private reserves that feature on this tour are among the finest in the world. On the botanical side, we can expect to see a huge range of fascinating trees and plants, none more curious than the baobab. Among the other highlights are spiny bush plants including the unique cactus-like didiereaceae, tree ferns, aloes and euphorbias. Think of Madagascar and you think of lemurs – and, for many, these endearing primates will top a star-studded cast list of wildlife.

Day 1 Upon arrival in Antananarivo *(known as 'Tana')*, we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we take an internal flight to Diego Suarez/Antsiranana. Later, we drive towards towards **Sakalava Bay** and walk along the **Three Bays**. We visit the lighthouse and the old French military installations. After lunch, we explore the local fishing village of **Ramena**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 A full day excursion to the **Montagne d'Ambre National Park** awaits. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 We head to the dry **Montagne des Français** to see the locally endemic dry-country flora. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 Fly to Fort Dauphin and travel to **Berenty Private Reserve**, which protects parcels of the bizarre 'spiny desert' habitat, and the tamarind gallery forest. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 Explore the **Berenty Reserve**, best known for its large and well habituated populations of the ringtail lemur. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 After a free morning and lunch at the reserve's restaurant, we return to Fort Dauphin, making stops to see localised and rare flora including tall, spiny Didieraceae trees; Baobabs *(Adansonia za)* and the peculiar, endangered and highly localised Triangulated palm *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 After breakfast we return to Fort Dauphin's airport and fly to Tana. *(B, L, D)*

Day 9 We depart for Andasibe with a picnic en route. We visit **Peyrieras**, a farm home to chameleons and reptiles. *(B, L, D)*

Day 10 Explore the rainforest of '**Périnet**' ***(the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park)***. Later, we can visit the **Vakona reserve** by canoe to spot species of lemurs. *(B, L, D)*

Day 11 Trek through the forest reserve of **Analamazaotra**. Lunch is at the hotel and a free afternoon follows. At nightfall, we will have a one-hour **nocturnal visit** to discover the smallest chameleon, lemur and frog species in the rainforest. *(B, L, D)*

Day 12 After breakfast we transfer back to Antananarivo for free time. *(B, L, D)*

Day 13 Morning visit to the nursery of the late **Alfred Razafindratsira** before free time and transfer to the airport for our return overnight flight to London. *(B , L, D, IF)*

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

Chameleon

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 12 nights' full board: four nights at the Hotel du Louvre, Antananarivo; two nights at the Mantasaly Resort, Diego Suarez; two nights at the Berenty Lodge; one night at the Hotel La Croix du Sud, Fort Dauphin; three nights at the Lemurs Lodge (all hotels subject to change). Please note that picnic lunches are provided on days when we are away from the lodge or hotel
- Four internal flights in Madagascar
- All land transfers in appropriate vehicles for the road conditions
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024			
4 - 16 Nov		~~$8,675~~	$7,807.50
Single Supplement			*$1,115*

Tour code: **BMAD**

Monteverde

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

12 DAYS FROM **$5,476.50** | SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$622.50** | TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Gardens of Costa Rica

The term biodiversity may have been coined with Costa Rica in mind, such is the range of different species within its pristine, tropical forests. Throw in some spectacular scenery and resplendently laid-back citizens, and you have all the makings of a life-affirming holiday experience.

Visit a broad range of gardens both public and private, such as the Else Kientzler Botanical Gardens with its world-class collection of plants. At the Monteverde Cloud Reserve we will see some of the 100 mammals, 400 bird species and more than 2,500 varieties of plants that thrive here, including, if we are lucky, the famously elusive resplendent quetzal.

In Jnauary 2024 this tour will be led by Colin Crosbie, former Head Curator of RHS Garden Wisley and currently President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

Day 1 On arrival in **San José** we transfer to our hotel, arriving in time for dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the stunning **Else Kientzler Botanical Garden**, home to a vast array of tropical plant species from around the globe. Later, we will visit a **private garden**. *(B, L)*

Day 3 Today we visit **La Paz Waterfall Gardens** where we explore the world's largest **butterfly garden** and learn about the surprisingly complex life of the butterfly. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 Travel to La Tirimbina reserve to visit an **organic cacao plantation** and learn about pineapple farming at the **Organic Paradise Tour**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 Explore a medicinal garden at the majestic **Arenal Volcano** and discover how various endemic plants are used to produce effective medicines. *(B, L, D)*

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

Day 7 After a **boat trip** on **Lake Arenal**, Costa Rica's largest body of fresh water, we head south to **Monteverde**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 Wander around **orchid and butterfly gardens** today. This evening, there is the opportunity to dine at the Tree House restaurant *(not included)*. *(B, L)*

Day 9 Tour the **Monteverde Cloud Reserve**, with its complex ecosystem and vast array of flora and fauna. Animal species include the jaguar, ocelot and Baird's tapir and birds such as the three-wattled bellbird. *(B, L)*

Day 10 Explore the **Manuel Antonio National Park**, one of the most beautiful and bio-diverse areas in the world, before touring the **Rainforest Spices Plantation**. *(B, L)*

Day 11 Today we tour La Garita's **Orchid Garden** en route to San José. *(B, L, D)*

Day 12 We transfer to San José airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin is really looking forward to returning to Costa Rica, one of his favourite destinations.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 11 nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the Bougainvillea Hotel, San José; two nights at La Quinta, Sarapiqui, two nights in the Arenal area, two nights in Monteverde, two nights in Manuel Antonia (hotels subject to change)
- Six dinners and ten lunches
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager (Colin Crosbie in Jan 2024) and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
26 Jan - 6 Feb		$6,085
18 - 30 Nov	~~$6,085~~	$5,476.50
2025		
26 Jan - 6 Feb	~~$6,225~~	$5,602.50
Single Supplement		*$1,395*

Tour code: **BCOS**

Torres del Paine

15 DAYS FROM **$14,989.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$1,665.50** | TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Chile and the Falkland Islands

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

We begin in the Chilean capital, Santiago, a huge city of shining skyscrapers and beautiful parks. We tour the National Park of La Campana (in the footsteps of Charles Darwin) before flying south to Punta Arenas and the Torres del Paine National Park. Two full days are set aside to do justice to the extraordinary range of plants, birds and animals to be found here in the magnificent desolation of Patagonia, and we have also included a boat trip on Lake Grey and the Grey Glacier. We then fly from Punta Arenas to the Falkland Islands, situated 400 miles off the coast of South America in the South Atlantic Ocean. The Falklands offer fresh air, big skies and an abundance of wildlife, much of which is very tame and approachable – we will discover that the penguins have no hesitation in coming up to investigate visitors! There are also elephant seals, sea lions and albatross amongst other birds and animals and in the course of our stay we will visit several different islands providing endless photo opportunities and an unforgettable experience of life on these unspoilt and proudly British islands. Truly a trip of a lifetime!

Lake Grey

Day 1 On arrival at the airport in Santiago we will be met and transferred to our hotel. In the afternoon we depart on a half day tour of historical **Santiago**, Chile's capital city. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast this morning we depart for a full day excursion to **La Campana National Park**, which was created in 1967 to help preserve one of the most important ecosystems of the region and is now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. *(B)*

Day 3 Transfer to Santiago airport for our flight to Punta Arenas. We will be met on arrival and transferred to **Torres del Paine National Park**. As we drive though the vast Patagonian steppes we will take the opportunity to look for some of the

Bleaker Island

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

Day 4 A full day excursion to **Torres del Paine National Park**, where we can expect to find a very interesting array of plant species. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 Transfer to the Grey area and take a boat trip across **Lake Grey**, which is fed by the Grey Glacier. Smaller inflatable boats will take us up to the glacier itself. Later we continue our exploration of the **Torres del Paine National Park** and aim to discover representative species of the Patagonian steppes. The grandeur of the scenery should make for a truly memorable day in this magnificent Biosphere Reserve. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 Transfer to Punta Arenas where we will stay overnight. *(B, L)*

Day 7 Transfer to Punta Arenas airport for our flight to Mount Pleasant International Airport on the **Falkland Islands**. On arrival a 30-minute internal flight will take us to **Bleaker Island**, which lies close to the south-east coast of East Falkland, at the entrance to Adventure Sound. *(B, D)*

Day 8 We will explore **Bleaker Island** today, beginning with an orientation tour. Flowers on Bleaker include the yellow and dog orchids, lady's slipper, common violet and vanilla daisy. Queen of the Falklands butterflies breed in the Pebbly Bay area, feeding on native flowers. *(B, L, D)*

Day 9 Our exploration of **Bleaker** and its wildlife continues today. Forty different breeding birds have been recorded, including Magellanic, southern rockhopper, macaroni and gentoo penguins and a very large colony of imperial cormorants. Peale's dolphins reside in the bays south of the settlement year-round and sea lions can also be seen at this time of year. *(B, L, D)*

Day 10 After breakfast we fly to the penguin paradise of **Pebble Island**, named after the unusual pebbles that were once abundant on its beaches. Around 40 bird species have been recorded, including over 1,000 pairs of imperial cormorants that breed on Tamar Point. *(B, L, D)*

Day 11 We have a full day excursion exploring **Pebble Island**, which is home to several large colonies of gentoo, Magellanic and southern rockhopper penguins. Eight of the Falkland endemic plants grow here, including vanilla daisy and lady's slipper. *(B, L, D)*

Day 12 After breakfast we depart on an internal flight to **Stanley**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 13 Depart on a full day excursion to **Volunteer Point**, a stunning three-mile long beach which is home to the Falklands' largest colony of breeding King penguins, here at the northerly limit of their breeding range. The birds are usually very tame and approachable and will not hesitate to come and greet visitors! *(B, L, D)*

Day 14 We take a flight back to **Santiago**, Chile, where we stay overnight. *(B)*

Day 15 Return to Santiago Airport for our onward connections. *(B)*

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin rates the Falkland Islands as one of the most amazing habitats he has ever visited.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' accommodation in Chile: three nights' bed and breakfast at the Hotel Marina Las Condes, Santiago; three nights' half board at the Hotel Las Torres, Torres del Paine; one night bed and breakfast at the Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas (or similar)
- Welcome drink and dinner and three lunches
- Seven nights' accommodation on a full board basis in the Falkland Islands: three nights at Cassard House/Cobb's Cottage on Bleaker Island; two nights at the Pebble Island Lodge on Pebble Island; two nights at the Malvina House Hotel, Stanley
- All connecting and internal flights in Chile and the Falkland Islands
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturist Colin Crosbie as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
1 – 15 Dec	~~$16,655~~	**$14,989.50**
Single Supplement		*$5,595*

Tour code: **BCFK**

Styx Tall Tree Conservation Area

18 DAYS FROM **$10,516.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$1168.50** | TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens and Flora of Tasmania and Victoria with Colin Crosbie

In late 2022, Colin Crosbie, former head gardener to HM The Queen Mother and later Head Curator of RHS Garden Wisley, went on a working holiday to Australia, in particular the states of Victoria and Tasmania, where he visited a large number of gardens, from small privately owned properties to distinguished botanical establishments. On his return he gave us his ideas for a tour which, if followed in its entirety, would have lasted about six weeks, such is the abundance of wonderful gardens to be found there!

Selecting the very best places to visit, while reluctantly discarding others, we have whittled this down to just under three weeks, and a tour that we think will provide the opportunity to experience a broad cross-section of beautifully landscaped and lavishly planted gardens as well as native flora, and a truly unforgettable holiday experience.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Melbourne** this evening we transfer to our city centre hotel.

Day 2 After breakfast, our tour begins in earnest with a visit to one of Melbourne's most exciting green spaces, **Cruden Farm**, created and nurtured for more than eighty years by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, the mother of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch. We continue to the **Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne**, which offers a natural bushland experience as well as an award-winning, contemporary botanic garden celebrating the beauty and diversity of Australian landscapes and flora. *(B)*

Day 3 We depart this morning for a visit to **Dandenong Ranges Botanic Garden**, Victoria's premier cool-climate garden. We continue to **Cloudehill Garden and Nursery**, whose principal terraces evoke the Arts and Crafts style of gardens associated with Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens. In the afternoon we continue with a visit to the **SkyHigh Gardens** on Mount Dandenong. *(B)*

Day 4 We return to the Dandenong Ranges for a visit to the **Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden and Nursery**, which uses exclusively native plants. We continue to the **Alowyn Gardens** in the Yarra Valley, comprising a number of different gardens and in the afternoon visit the **private garden** of a local plant lover. *(B)*

Day 5 We take a short flight to **Hobart**, Tasmania and on arrival visit the **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens**, Australia's cool climate garden, with a number of unique collections, including Australia's only Subantarctic Plant House. *(B, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast it's off to Margate for a visit to the **Inverawe Native Garden**, a sustainable garden whose plants are water wise, low maintenance and require little in the way of fertilisers.

Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne

In the afternoon we have a specially arranged visit to a **private garden** in Kingston, Hobart. *(B, D)*

Day 7 We spend today in the magnificent surroundings of the **Styx Tall Tree Conservation Area**, where we will see some of the largest and tallest eucalypts, hardwoods and flowering plants on earth. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 This morning we depart for **Launceston**, breaking our journey with a visit to the **Brickendon Estate and Heritage Gardens**, for a glimpse into Tasmania's convict heritage. *(B, D)*

Day 9 We begin today at the **Wychwood Garden and Nursery** and continue to the nearby **Marakoopa Café** in Mayberry, with its sweeping flower beds and productive garden. Our afternoon visit is to the privately-owned 'English Heritage Garden' of **Old Wesley Dale**. *(B, D)*

Day 10 We begin with a visit to the **Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden** at Romaine, an outstanding garden with a unique design. We continue to the **Tasmania Arboretum** home to the world's largest collection of Tasmanian woody plants. Later we call in at the **Grey Sands Vineyard** for a wine tasting and nibbles. *(B, D)*

Day 11 We return to Hobart, breaking our journey with a number of visits en route, including the scenic **Liffey Falls State Reserve** and the **Steppes Reserve**, which protects Tasmania's high country sheep-grazing heritage. *(B, D)*

Day 12 Today we are privileged to have specially arranged visits to three **private gardens**, in and around Hobart. *(B, D)*

Day 13 We begin this morning at the **Corinda Garden**, judged to be one of the finest private gardens in the whole of Tasmania. We continue to the privately-owned garden of **Crawleighwood,** which will be a definite contender for the most outstanding garden of our tour, with a barbecue lunch included. *(B, L)*

Day 14 Today we take our leave of Tasmania, but not before we have explored the gardens of **Government House Tasmania**, one of the finest private gardens from the Victorian era in Australia. We transfer to the airport and fly to Melbourne. *(B)*

Day 15 A day of botanical discovery in Melbourne lies ahead, beginning with a visit to the **University of Melbourne Burnley Gardens**, home to nearly 1,000 different species of plants; the **Maranoa Botanic Gardens**, and the distinguished surroundings of the **Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne**. *(B)*

Day 16 We visit the **Geelong Botanic Garden** and the **Yarrabee Native Garden**, with the afternoon free in Melbourne. *(B)*

Day 17 Our last touring day begins with a return to the Dandenongs, where we visit the **William Ricketts Sanctuary** and the **Ferny Creek Ornamental Gardens Reserve**. Our tour concludes at **Heronswood Garden**, where we tour the garden and enjoy a farewell dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 18 We transfer to Melbourne airport at the conclusion of our tour *(B)*

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Colin is looking forward to returning to the wonderful gardens he discovered in Tasmania and Victoria and sharing them with our guests.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 17 nights' bed and breakfast in 4-star hotels – eight nights Melbourne, six nights Hobart and three nights Launceston
- Nine dinners (eight in the hotel and one at Heronswood gardens) and two lunches
- Return flights from Melbourne to Hobart
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturist Colin Crosbie as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
29 Oct - 15 Nov	~~$11,685~~	$10,516.50
Single Supplement		*$2,655*

Tour code: **BTAS**

Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh

13 DAYS FROM **$3,775.50** SAVE PER PERSON **$419.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens and Palaces of India

Prepare for an assault on the senses as we plunge into the vibrant, chaotic, other-world that is India. In Delhi, the teeming capital city, we see contrasts of old and new, with visits to Humayun's Tomb and the museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a stimulating day that features the Garden of the Five Senses. Continuing by train to Agra we visit the Red Fort and, of course, the Taj Mahal - enjoying stunning views at both sunset and sunrise. We discover the Abhaneri stepwell before continuing to Jaipur, where we tour the impressive Amber Fort and visit the elegant gardens of the Rambagh and Sisodia Palaces. Moving on to Jodhpur we enjoy walks through the bustling bazaars and markets and explore the charming Mandore Gardens with a variety of flora and some chattering monkeys. We conclude in Udaipur, where we see an incredible Hindu temple and the treasures of the Jagmandir Island Palace. We also offer the options to extend your stay in either Shimla or Amritsar.

Day 1 On arrival at the airport in **Delhi** we join our local coach and transfer to **Lodhi Gardens**, a majestic park featuring ancient tombs. Later we enjoy a welcome drink followed by dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 2 Enjoy a sightseeing tour of **Delhi** and visit **Humayun's Tomb**. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We visit to the **Sunder Nagar Nursery** and the **Garden of Five Senses**, designed to stimulate sensory responses to the environment. This evening we have organized a talk from a **botanist** on various gardens in India. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Take the morning **Gatimaan Express** to Agra and visit the **Fort**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Later we see **Mehtab Bagh** with stunning sunset views of the Taj Mahal. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We return to **Taj Mahal** in time for sunrise and incredible views. Later we visit **Abhaneri Stepwell**, merited for its amazing stepwell and Hindu Temple. After lunch at **Umaid Palace** we continue to our hotel at Samode. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 A relaxing morning with free time to explore and enjoy the ambience of **Samode Bagh**. We depart for **Jaipur** and lunch at the **Samode Palace**, before continuing to our hotel. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 Enjoy a guided excursion to **Amber Fort**, and visit the **Gardens of Rambagh Palace** and **Maharaja's City Palace**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 We visit the **Sisodia Gardens and Palace** then drive to **Jodhpur** and our hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 9 This morning we explore **Jodhpur**, visiting **Mehrangarh Fort** and **Jaswant Thada** before a **private meeting** with the curator of the **Umaid Bhawan Palace**. Later visit the stunning **Mandore Gardens**. *(B, D)*

Day 10 We head for **Udaipur** and en-route visit the **Ranakpur Jain Temple**. *(B, D)*

Day 11 We visit **Jagdish Temple**, the **City Palace**, and the beautifully designed **Garden of Maidens**. Later we take a cruise on the placid waters of **Lake Pichola**. *(B, D)*

Day 12 We transfer to Udaipur airport for our flight to Delhi and overnight stay. *(B, D)*

Day 13 We transfer to Delhi airport where the tour concludes. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Twelve nights' dinner, bed, and breakfast: three nights at 4-star Oberoi Maidens in New Delhi, one night at 4-star Trident in Agra, one night at the 4-star Samode Bagh in Samode, two nights at heritage Alsisar Haveli in Jaipur, two nights at 4-star the Radisson in Jodhpur, two nights at 4-star the Trident in Udaipur, one night at 4-star Novotel Aerocity in Delhi (or similar)
- Three lunches
- Flight Udaipur to Delhi
- Rail travel Delhi to Agra in Executive Chair
- Gardens of India guidebook (on arrival)
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Service of a professional tour manager and local guide throughout

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
16 - 28 Oct	~~$4,195~~	$3,775.50
Single Supplement		*$1,115*
Shimla Extension		*from $1,255*
Amritsar Extension		*from $945*

Please note that tourist visas are not included.

Tour code: **BIND**

Luxor

12 DAYS FROM **$4,965**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$622.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt

Over the millennia, countless civilizations have come and gone, risen and fallen, turned from towering citadels to piles of rubble and ash. Not so Ancient Egypt. Within 24 hours of landing in the modern country we will find ourselves face to face with one of the most recognisable and iconic monuments anywhere in the world - the Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza. That is just the start of our journey along the Nile, the mighty river that sustained one of the greatest civilizations ever seen, and whose legacy remains in such gloriously tangible form. We will also see the Step Pyramid, the first of its kind, built nearly 5,000 years ago; the Temple of Luxor and Karnak Temple; the Valley of the Kings, filled with the funerary temples of one Pharaoh after another, and the Edfu Temple, one of the best-preserved shrines in Egypt, though a mere youngster at slightly more than 2,000 years old. A unique feature of this holiday is our four nights aboard a Nile river cruise ship.

Day 1 On arrival at the airport in **Cairo** we join our coach and transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin our full day of discovery in the company of a local expert Egyptologist visiting **Pharaonic Cairo, Saqqara** and **The Step Pyramid**. After lunch we discover **The Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza**, considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World and one of most important sites in Egypt. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 Today we visit the **Old Egyptian Museum** then visit the **Al-Orman Garden** – a stunning botanical garden which dates from 1875. Later we visit **Khan El-Khalili bazaar**, filled with tempting treasures. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 Today we fly to **Luxor** and head for the luxurious **Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor** which has a history of hosting royalty and celebrities throughout the years. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 This morning we enjoy a private half-day tour, visiting the **Temple of Luxor** and the **Karnak Temple**. We later transfer to our **5-star river vessel** and enjoy lunch, a free afternoon and entertainment in the evening. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 A full day visiting the ancient tombs of the **West Bank** today, including visits to **The Valley of the Kings**, **Antef**, the **Temple of Seti I** and the **Valley of Asasif**. We return to our river vessel for lunch and cruise overnight to **Esna**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 We begin with a private tour by **horse drawn carriage** and visit **Edfu Temple**, one of the best-preserved shrines in Egypt. Later we visit the **Kom-Ombo Temple**, built by the Ptolemaic dynasty during the Roman invasion. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 Cruise to **Aswan** where we have a private tour visiting the **High Dam** and the **Unfinished Obelisk**. We then visit **Philae Temple**, take a Felucca around Aswan Islands and visit the **Botanical Gardens**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 9 Optional excursion to **Abu Simbel**, a temple built by Ramesses II. Later enjoy **afternoon tea** at the Old Cataract Hotel where Agatha Christie wrote *Death on the Nile*. *(B, AT, D)*

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

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

Day 12 We transfer to the aiport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
8 - 19 Feb		$4,965
7 - 18 Nov	~~$6,225~~	$5,602.50
2025		
7 - 18 Feb	~~$5,525~~	$4,972.50
Single Supplement		*from $1,395*
Optional Excursion: Abu Simbel		*from $555*

Tour code: **BEGY**

Hunte's Botanical Garden © Trevor Edwards

8 DAYS FROM **$3,712.50**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$412.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Barbados

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

Day 1 On arrival at Grantley Adams airport in **Barbados** we join our local coach and transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

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

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

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

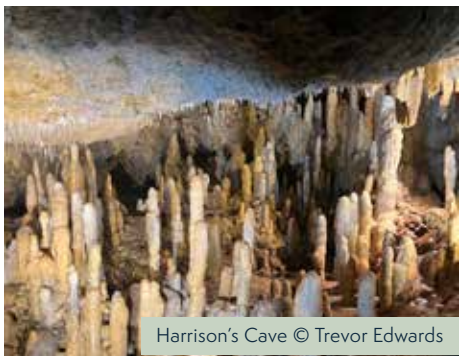
Day 5 We explore the **St. Nicholas Abbey Plantation**, 400 acres of undulating sugar cane fields, lush tropical gullies, mahogany forests and formal gardens. We will also enjoy a scenic ride on the **heritage railway** that winds through the plantation. Later, we visit historic **Speightstown**, which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

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

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

Day 8 Enjoy some last minute shopping before we transfer to the airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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



Harrison's Cave © Trevor Edwards

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Accra Beach Hotel, Barbados (or similar)
- Two dinners and four packed lunches
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
7 - 14 Feb		$3,985
6 - 13 Nov	~~$4,125~~	$3,712.50
2025		
6 - 13 Feb	~~$4,125~~	$3,712.50
Single Supplement		*$975*
Optional Excursion: Catamaran		*$170*

Tour code: **BGOB**

Grand Anse Beach

8 DAYS FROM **$3,555** | SAVE PER PERSON **$395** | TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island

Lying at the southern end of the Lesser Antilles, the little island of Grenada offers a typical slice of Caribbean life, flavored with spice and full of color. With a lush, mountainous interior and a coastline fringed with silky-smooth beaches, it is home to some wonderful privately-owned gardens, which we have threaded together like a richly-flavored kebab of delicious horticultural morsels.

Given that Grenada won its 16th gold medal at the 2023 Chelsea Flower Show, it's reasonable to assume that people here know a thing or two about gardening, and we can expect some real treats as we visit a host of gardens. We are based at the Blue Horizons Garden Resort, set back 300 yards from Grand Anse Beach, which provides accommodation in self-contained one-bedroom units offering both comfort and privacy. The grounds are extensive and merit a guided tour in their own right, as well as a bird-watching tour.

Day 1 On arrival at the airport in **Grenada** we are transferred to our hotel, where welcome drinks and dinner are served on arrival. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin our holiday with a guided tour of our hotel's lush **gardens and grounds**. *(B)*

Day 3 Today gets off to a fabulous start with an exploration of the island, with visits to a trio of private gardens; **Gemrose Eden**, **Hyde Park** and the historic **Tower Garden**, where afternoon tea is included. *(B, AT)*

Day 4 After breakfast, a full day island tour awaits, beginning at **Mount Edgecombe**, where we will follow a botanically fascinating trail through the grounds. Next it's on to the botanical wonders at the **Belmont Estate**. Known as the Caribbean's finest Agro-tourism experience, visitors are given the opportunity to participate in and observe the workings of a fully functional historic plantation. A delicious buffet lunch is served here. This afternoon we have a tour and tasting at the **River Antoine Rum Distillery**. *(B, L)*

Day 5 Our day starts at **Smithy's Garden**, where we enjoy a relaxed Grenadian breakfast with the owner. We will then tour the gently sloping garden, which is noted for its wild and natural feel, and be entertained by the resident birds. We continue to **Annandale Waterfall** and the **Grand Etang Rainforest**. Our day concludes at the **Balthazar Estate**, where we will see giant heliconia, musa and ginger. *(B)*

Day 6 Visit the beautiful **Sunny Side Garden**, home to koi ponds, an orchard and an excellent variety of palms, orchids and hibiscus. The afternoon sees us at **Palm Tree Gardens**, where two acres are filled with thousands of flowering plants, not to mention some resident tortoises and turtles. *(B)*

Day 7 Our last full day is free to relax or join our optional excursion - a **full day cruise**. We leave St. George's Harbor and set sail up the West Coast stopping for those who wish to snorkel at the Mollinaire Underwater Sculpture Park. *(B, D)*

Day 8 After a morning in the capital town of **St George's** we transfer to the airport at the conclusion of our tour. *(B)*

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards has a special affection for the island of Grenada.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the Blue Horizons Garden Resort in a superior garden view studio
- Two dinners, one lunch, one afternoon tea, welcome and farewell drinks
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
11 - 18 May	~~$3,950~~	$3,555
28 Sep - 5 Oct	~~$3,950~~	$3,555
Single Supplement		*$695*
Deluxe One Bedroom Garden View Room Supplement		*from $80*
Deluxe One Bedroom Partial Ocean View Room Supplement		*from $135*
Optional Excursion: Cruise		*$170*

Tour code: **BGRE**

Île aux Aigrettes

10 DAYS FROM **$3,216.50**

SAVE PER PERSON UP TO **$482.50**

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL

ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of Mauritius

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

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Mauritius**, we transfer to our hotel and have the rest of the day to settle in and relax. *(D)*

Day 2 Our day starts at **La Vanille Tropical Garden**, where we will have a guided tour of the flora and fauna in this unique zoo, which is beautifully landscaped with tropical plants. In the afternoon we visit the **Domaine de Saint Aubin**, a colonial house from 1819, which offers a number of different visitor experiences. You can also explore the Botanical Garden which houses one of just two Chorisia *(silk floss trees)* in Mauritius and a Spice Garden. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today we take a boat trip to the island's nature reserve of **Île aux Aigrettes**, where we will see plants and animals on the verge of extinction, which have been saved and now thrive here, such as rare orchids and pink pigeons. We continue to the well-stocked **Vaneron Garden Centre and Nursery at Trianon**. An **afternoon tea** with pastries is included here. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we visit the estate of **Gros Cailloux in Petite Rivière** on the west coast of the island. There are five different sectors which we will discover in our tour: agriculture, fruit and vegetables, a nursery, landscaping and leisure and events. Later we transfer to the capital city of **Port Louis** to explore the modest but very interesting **Natural History Museum** whose exhibits include a rare skeleton of the dodo, which became extinct in the 17th century. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Free day to relax and enjoy the facilities of the hotel or explore the surrounding area at your leisure. *(B, D)*

Day 6 Enjoy a guided visit to **Curepipe Botanical Garden** and **Le Petrin Nature Reserve**. The little botanic garden is notable for its palm *Hyphorbe amaricaulis*, a doomed species as it is the last of its kind in the world and has proved impossible to

Seven Colored Earths

propagate. In the afternoon we visit **Ebony Forest**, a conservation project which is helping reverse the impacts of habitat destruction and invasive species to provide a refuge for the island's threatened wildlife. Our day concludes at the **Seven Colored Earths**, a rare geological oddity created by volcanic activity which brought together a number of different minerals and elements. *(B, D)*

Day 7 We depart on an excursion to the **Black River Gorges National Park**. This beautiful highland area south-west of Curepipe is like no other part of the island and looks more like North America than an island in the Indian Ocean. Look out for the rare tambalacoque or dodo tree, black ebony trees and the exotic birds that perch in them. We also visit the **Plaine Champagne**, the **Grand Bassin** and stop at **La Morne beach** where those who wish can have a swim. *(B, D)*

Day 8 This morning we travel to the capital **Port Louis** for some free time before we depart for a visit to the **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolan Botanic Garden** at Pamplemousses, famous for its canal full of giant waterlilies. Later we visit the **Domaine de Labourdonnais**, which has become one of the most attractive cultural visits in Mauritius. We will discover the Château and the Nursery which has a wide range of plants before enjoying a tasting of local rum or fruit juice. *(B, D)*

Day 9 Today we visit the **Exotica Garden Centre and Nursery**, the largest on the island with a vast range of colorful plants including a huge flowered Hibiscus. We also visit the **Garden of Clothilde** at Anthelme and in the afternoon, we explore **Eureka House**, a colonial mansion where as well as the garden we will see a dramatic woodland ravine and where lunch is included. *(B, L, D)*

Day 10 For our final day we relax in the hotel and then transfer to the airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

Giant tortoise

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Nine nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Anelia Resort and Spa
- One Afternoon Tea and one lunch
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
28 Mar - 6 Apr	~~$4,685~~	$4,216.50
13 - 22 Nov	~~$4,825~~	$4,342.50
2025		
27 Mar - 5 Apr	~~$4,825~~	$3,342.50
Single Supplement		*$1,115*
Superior Ocean View Supplement		*from $190*

Tour code: **BMAU**

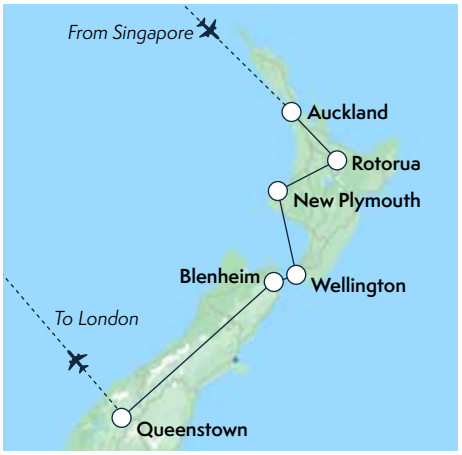
Milford Sound

18 DAYS FROM **$9,823.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$1091.50** | TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

SAVE UP TO A FURTHER 5% IF YOU PAY IN FULL
ON TOURS DEPARTING AFTER 1 JUNE 2024

Gardens of New Zealand including Singapore

For us in the United Kingdom, visiting New Zealand is rather like entering a parallel universe. On the surface, everything appears familiar, but look more closely and you notice subtle differences – an unusual plant, an outlandish insect or a brightly colored bird – which tell you that you are in fact a long way from home. There are parts of New Zealand that could be anywhere in the British Isles, from a Hampshire country garden to a Highland glen, an illusion which is strengthened by the abundance of familiar place names and by the plants which were imported by the early settlers to make them feel more at home. This is a long tour but we have made it as comfortable as possible, with a stopover in Singapore and dinner included on most days.



Day 1 Upon arrival at the airport in Singapore we join our coach and depart on a tour of the city. Visits include **Singapore Botanic Gardens**, **Chinatown** and **Little India**. Enjoy an evening at leisure.

Day 2 After breakfast visit Singapore's iconic horticultural attraction, **Gardens by the Bay**, an award-winning venue home to over 250,000 rare plants. Later, we catch our overnight flight to Auckland. *(B, IF)*

Day 3 We arrive in **Auckland** and head to **Totara Waters** which was recently awarded the honour of being one of New Zealand's "Gardens of National Significance". *(D)*

Day 4 Beverley McConnell's 12-acre country garden, **Ayrlies**, is our first stop today. There are collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and masses of old roses and other climbers twining through trees and over pergolas. We continue to **Rotorua**, stopping for a visit at the **Hamilton Gardens** en route. Tonight we are treated to a **Maori cultural experience**. *(B, D)*

Blenheim in place of Rotorua

Day 5 We depart for New Plymouth this morning and upon our arrival, we visit **Tikorangi**. This large landscaped garden has one of the best plant collections in the country and has been rated as a Garden of National Significance. We also stop at the **Te Rewa Rewa Bridge**. *(B, D)*

Day 6 Following breakfast we take a sightseeing tour of **New Plymouth**, featuring the gardens and beaches of this unique city. Visits include **Te Kainga Marire**, **Hollard Garden**, **Tupare** and **Pukeiti Garden**. *(B)*

Day 7 Transfer to **Wellington**, stopping en route at the **Paloma Gardens** in Wanganui, which has four distinct areas. *(B, D)*

Day 8 Our day starts with an informative sightseeing tour of the city, including the **Parliament Buildings, Old St Paul's Cathedral**, the **Botanical Gardens, Victoria University** and the views from **Kelburn**. We continue to **Otari**, or Wilton's Bush, New Zealand's only native botanic garden, devoted solely to the cultivation and preservation of indigenous plants. Later today, we visit the **Zealandia Ecosanctuary**, home to over 225 hectares of regenerating native forest and 40 species of birds. The rest of the afternoon is at

Christchurch Botanical Gardens

leisure to explore Wellington. Highly recommended is a visit to the **Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa**. *(B)*

Day 9 We board a ferry from Wellington harbor to the bustling port of Picton. From here, we continue to **Blenheim** where we visit the tasting room and cellar at **Wither Hills Vineyards**. *(B, D)*

Day 10 A full day of garden visits awaits. We start at the private garden of **Hortensia House**. The owner Huguette did not set out to create a particular style, it simply evolved with time, like a cottage garden, with masses of color co-ordinated flowers. We continue to **Woodend Gardens, Bhudevi Garden** and **Welton House**. *(B, D)*

Day 11 Explore **Blenheim** independently before we board the **Coastal Pacific** train for one of the most astonishingly beautiful journeys in New Zealand. *(B, D)*

Day 12 We travel south to North Canterbury to visit **Flaxmere Garden** which was established over 50 years ago on a sheep farm. Later, we continue down the coast to Christchurch, where on arrival we enjoy the sights of the 'Garden City', including a visit to the **Christchurch Botanic Gardens**. *(B, D)*

Day 13 This morning we travel out to Governor's Bay, to visit **Ohinetahi**, which is well known for its displays of art, architectural works and sculptures. Our next garden visits include the **Akaunui Historic House and Gardens** and **Trott's Garden**. *(B, L)*

Day 14 A day for spectacular sights as we say farewell to Christchurch and head for the magnificent blue waters of **Lake Tekapo**. We visit the **Church of the Good Shepherd** and the statue of the **Collie dog**, before continuing on to Cromwell where we visit **Mrs Jones' Fruit Shop**. This amazing shop is a Central Otago icon which also has a lovely rose garden attached. *(B, D)*

Day 15 Spend the day at leisure in **Queenstown**, with a range of optional activites available to book locally. *(B)*

Day 16 Enjoy a full day at **Milford Sound**. Here, we enjoy a boat trip which will take us to the edge of the fjord to the open sea and back again with a picnic lunch included. *(B, L, D)*

Day 17 This morning we visit **Chantecler Garden**, a 12-acre themed garden with specific aspects based on plants and garden styles from around the world. We continue to the **Gibbston Valley Winery** for a guided tour and tasting. For our last evening together we take a cruise across **Lake Wakatipu** on the steamer **TSS Earnslaw** to Walter Peak Station to dine at the **Colonel's Homestead** – this has proved to be one of the absolute highlights of this tour. *(B, D)*

Day 18 We transfer to Queenstown airport for onward connections. *(B)*

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards is one of our busiest and most popular garden Tour Managers, and has led many garden tours around the world.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 17 nights' bed & breakfast: one night in Singapore; two nights Auckland; one night Rotorua; three nights New Plymouth; two nights Wellington; three nights Blenheim; two nights Christchurch; three nights Queenstown
- 11 dinners and two lunches
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2025		
20 Jan - 6 Feb	~~$10,915~~	$9,823.50
Single Supplement		*$2,375*

Tour code: **BNZG**

Babylonstoren

14 DAYS FROM **$5,413.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$601.50** | TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

South Africa's Garden Route

South Africa's stunning Garden Route winds its way for some 200km between richly forested mountains and a crinkle-cut coastline dotted with beautiful beaches and empty bays. Vividly colored wildflowers delight the eye at every turn and progress tends to be leisurely, as one stunning photo opportunity after another presents itself. Visits include the Wilderness National Park, the sea cliffs at Knysna and the famous suspension bridge at Tsitsikamma. Also returning from the wilderness to grace our tour are the Drakensberg Mountains, where we do some gentle botanising and can visit neighboring Lesotho. We also visit Pietermaritzburg, known as the City of Flowers, and delightful Durban, home to some splendid gardens.

Day 1 Upon arrival at the airport in Cape Town we join our local coach and depart for a visit to the historic **Old Company Garden**. Later we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 We discover the indigenous flora on top of **Table Mountain**, followed by **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens**, home to some 6,000 different species. *(B)*

Day 3 We visit **Babylonstoren**, one of the best preserved werfs *(farm yards)* in the Cape Dutch tradition. In the afternoon we visit **Stellenbosch Botanical Garden**, featuring an enormous variety of plants from across the globe. *(B)*

Day 4 Today we visit the **Helderberg Nature Reserve** with its diverse flora in the mountain fynbos. At the **Vergelegen Wine Estate** we shall view their beautiful gardens before continuing to our hotel in Hermanus. *(B)*

Day 5 Enjoy an optional whale watching trip before visiting the **Fernkloof Nature Reserve**. *(B)*

Day 6 Setting out on the Garden Route, we head to **Mossel Bay** and visit the **Diaz Complex Museum**. We continue to our hotel at the seaside town of Wilderness. *(B)*

Day 7 Full day touring the **Wilderness National Park**, which protects major zones of indigenous forest, lakes and waterways. *(B)*

Day 8 Continue along the Garden Route to **Tsitsikamma National Park**, with glorious views of the turquoise ocean. We continue to our hotel at Port Elizabeth. *(B)*

Day 9 Fly to Durban and drive to our hotel in the **Drakensberg Mountains**. *(B, D)*

Day 10 Enjoy a leisurely **botanical walk** in the area surrounding the hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 11 Optional excursion to **Lesotho**, a glimpse into traditional Africa. *(B, D)*

Day 12 Visit the **Kwa-Zulu Natal Botanical Gardens** which focus on conservation and propagation of rare and endangered indigenous plants. From here, we journey to Durban. *(B)*

Day 13 Full day in **Durban** to discover the **Japanese Gardens** with traditional ponds and water lilies and **Makaranga Garden Lodge**, a luxury hotel with a private botanic garden. *(B, L)*

Day 14 We transfer to Durban airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 13 nights' accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis: three nights at the Signature Lux by ONOMO, Cape Town; two nights at the Windsor Hotel, Hermanus; two nights at the Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness; one night at the Kelway Hotel, Port Elizabeth; three nights at the Drakensberg Gardens Hotel and two nights at the Garden Court Marine Parade, Durban (all hotels subject to change)
- Four dinners and one lunch
- Flight from Port Elizabeth to Durban
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Colin Crosbie as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
25 Sep - 8 Oct	~~$6,015~~	$5,413.50
Single Supplement		*$835*
Optional Excursions:		
Whale watching		*$120*
Lesotho		*$140*

Tour code: **BSAG**

Cheetah, Serengeti National Park

9 DAYS FROM **$6,295.50** | SAVE PER PERSON **$699.50** | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT | TOUR MANAGER SUE POMEROY

Birdwatching and Wildlife Safaris in Tanzania

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

Day 1 Upon arrival at the airport in **Kilimanjaro**, we join our local coach and transfer to **Arusha** in time for lunch at our lodge. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. *(L, D)*

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

Day 3 We have another full day exploring the **Tarangire National Park** and the abundance of wildlife it has to offer. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 This morning we travel to **Lake Manyara National Park**. The shores are fringed with vast flocks of pink flamingos who head to the shallow shorelines of the lake for feeding, along with numerous other species. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 A long but rewarding day as we make our way from Lake Manyara to the **Serengeti National Park**. Spanning over 30,000 square kilometres the park is home to an impressive number of animals. Bird species include the wonderful Lilac-breasted Roller and three endangered Tanzanian species: Grey-rumped Spurfowl, Fischer's Lovebird and the Rufous-tailed Weaver. *(B, L, D)*

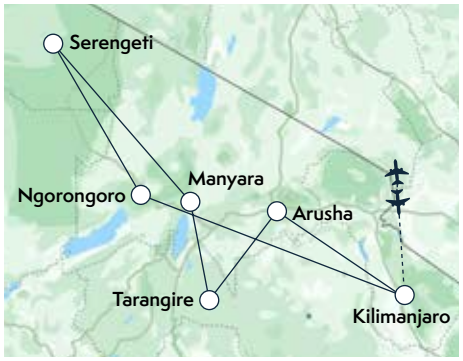
Day 6 We have a full day's game drive in the **Serengeti National Park** today where we may have the chance to see some other interesting birdlife such as ostrich, secretary bird, black eagle and kori bustard to name but a few. There are also frequent sightings of lion, cheetah and leopard in the area. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 Journey to the **Ngorongoro Conservation Area** and spend the afternoon at leisure. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 Descend into the **Ngorongoro Crater**, the world's largest caldera. The crater is a paradise for birdwatchers with annual migratory birds from Europe and Asia, grassland birds, ground-nesting birds, tree nesting birds, water birds and birds of prey. *(B, L, D)*

Day 9 We drive back towards **Arusha** and then to the airport for onward connections. *(B, L)*

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



YOUR TOUR MANAGER SUE POMEROY

Sue is really looking forward to returning to Tanzania in 2024, an opportunity to pass on her knowledge of the diverse flora and fauna of the region and African wildlife in general.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Eight nights' accommodation on a full board basis: one night at the Ngaresero Mountain Lodge, two nights at the Tarangire Safari lodge, one night at the Lake Manyara Serena, two nights at the Serengeti Serena and two nights at the Ngorongoro Serena (hotels subject to change)
- Transport in 4x4 safari land cruiser with the services of an English-speaking guide
- Entry fees to all parks and reserves included in the itinerary
- Services of Sue Pomeroy as tour manager
- Field Guide to Birds of East Africa

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
9 - 17 May	~~$6,995~~	$6,295.50

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour code: **BBTZ**

2024 Calendar

January

Gardens of Costa Rica
26 Jan - 6 Feb

February

Iceland's Northern Lights
4 - 8 Feb

Gardens of Barbados
7 - 14 Feb

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt
8 - 19 Feb

Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds
9 - 12 Feb

Snowdrops of Eastern Scotland
16 - 19 Feb

Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands
17 - 24 Feb

Gardens of the French Riviera - Menton Lemon Festival
24 - 29 Feb

March

Cultural Malta
5 - 9 Mar

Malta's Archaeological Heritage
5 - 11 Mar

Galicia's Camellia Route
13 - 18 Mar

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia
18 - 25 Mar

Gardens of Madeira
18 - 25 Mar

Spring Gardens of Cornwall
18 - 21 Mar

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
19 - 24 Mar

Gardens and Villas of Sicily
19 - 26 Mar

Portuguese Archaeology
19 - 26 Mar

Scotland's Extreme North West
19 - 22 Mar

Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection
22 - 25 Mar

Palladian Villas of Veneto
24 - 28 Mar

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the company of Mike Nelhams
25 - 29 Mar

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney & Shetland by Air
25 - 29 Mar

Gardens of Mauritius
28 Mar - 6 Apr

Seasonal Gardens of Japan
28 Mar - 8 Apr

April

Scotland's Extreme North West
9 - 12 Apr

Private Gardens of Guernsey and Sark
11 - 15 Apr

Lord of the Glens - 7 day cruise (Voyages Through the Heart of Scotland)
11 - 17 Apr

Gardens of South and West Wales
12 - 16 Apr

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the company with Mike Nelhams
15 - 19 Apr

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days
15 - 19 Apr

Gardens and Villas of Sicily
16 - 23 Apr

A Classic Scottish Steam Break
18 - 21 Apr

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (B-S)
21 - 26 Apr

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides
21 - 25 Apr

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney & Shetland
22 - 27 Apr

Arran, Scotland in Miniature
22 - 26 Apr

Scotland's Extreme North West
23 - 26 Apr

Crete Archaeology
23 - 30 Apr

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
23 - 28 Apr

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders
28 Apr - 1 May

Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)
29 Apr - 6 May

May

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
1 - 8 May

Scenic Scottish Railways
3 - 6 May

Dutch Bulbfields in Spring
4 - 8 May

Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)
6 - 13 May

Gardens of Madeira
6 - 13 May

Scotland's Northern Edge
6 - 10 May

Discover the Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell
7 - 11 May

Malta's Archaeological Heritage
7 - 13 May

Scenic Journeys of Argyll and Bute
7 - 11 May

Birdwatching and Wildlife Safaris in Tanzania
9 - 17 May

A Classic Scottish Steam Break
9 - 12 May

Somerset's Secret Gardens
9 - 12 May

Grand Gardens of Anglesey and Snowdonia
10 - 13 May

Gardens of the French Riviera - International Rose Festival
11 - 16 May

Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island
11 - 18 May

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland
11 - 16 May

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West
11 - 14 May

Gardens & Architecture of Andalucia
13 - 20 May

Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)
13 - 20 May

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (S-B)
14 - 19 May

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo
14 - 17 May

Gardens of Jersey
15 - 19 May

The Best Rhododendron Gardens in the World?
15 - 18 May

A Classic Scottish Steam Break (Stirling Highland Hotel)
17 - 20 May

Highgrove and the Cotswolds
17 - 20 May

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland
18 - 23 May

Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk
19 - 23 May

Arran, Scotland in Miniature
20 - 24 May

Palladian Villas of Veneto
21 - 25 May

Seine Cruise featuring Monet's Garden
21 - 28 May

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show Behind-the-Scenes with Mike Nelhams
21 - 23 May

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Classic English Gardens
23 - 29 May

The Genius of Monet
24 - 27 May

Orkney & Shetland by Air
25 - 29 May

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (B-S)
26 - 31 May

Gardens of South and West Wales
27 - 31 May

June

Castles and Houses of Northumberland
2 - 5 Jun

Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway
2 - 5 Jun

Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire
3 - 6 Jun

In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jeykll
4 - 9 Jun

The Chichester Flower Festival and Gardens of Hampshire
7 - 10 Jun

Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island and Alnwick Castle
9 - 13 Jun

Undiscovered Orkney
10 - 14 Jun

Coastal Castles and Magnificent Mansions of Dorset
11 - 15 Jun

Scotland's Northern Edge
11 - 15 Jun

The Irish Rover
13 - 20 Jun

Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection
14 - 17 Jun

Gardens of Rutland, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire
14 - 17 Jun

In the Footsteps of the Picts
14 - 17 Jun

Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands
14 - 20 Jun

Arran, Scotland in Miniature
17 - 21 Jun

Colors of the Lake District
17 - 20 Jun

The Manx Explorer
18 - 22 Jun

Alpine Flowers of Wengen
18 - 25 Jun

A Classic Scottish Steam Break
20 - 23 Jun

Gardens of Kent & Sussex
21 - 24 Jun

Highgrove and the Cotswolds
21 - 24 Jun

Highland Wildlife Safari
21 - 24 Jun

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West
22 - 25 Jun

Gardens of Waterford and Cork
22 - 27 Jun

A Grand Tour of the Inner Hebrides
22 - 28 Jun

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (B-S)
23 - 28 Jun

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders
23 - 26 Jun

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney & Shetland
24 - 29 Jun

Summer Gardens of Corwall
24 - 30 Jun

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland
29 Jun - 4 Jul

Mull, Staffa and Iona
29 Jun - 2 Jul

July

Shetland and its Outer Isles
3 - 7 Jul

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
3 - 10 Jul

Somerset's Secret Gardens
4 - 7 Jul

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides
6 - 10 Jul

Gardens of the Northern Highlands
8 - 12 Jul

Isaly and Jura
8 - 12 Jul

A Classic Scottish Steam Break (Stirling Highland Hotel)
12 - 15 Jul

The Genius of Monet
15 - 18 Jul

Castles and Palaces of the Highlands
17 - 21 Jul

Highland Wildlife Safari
19 - 22 Jul

Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway
21 - 24 Jul

Scenic Scottish Railways
26 - 29 Jul

Gardens of Northumberland
28 - 31 Jul

August

Highgrove and the Cotswolds
2 - 5 Aug

In the Footsteps of the Picts
2 - 5 Aug

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West
3 - 6 Aug

Singapore Garden Festival
5 - 11 Aug

Grand Gardens of Anglesey and Snowdonia
5 - 8 Aug

A Classic Scottish Steam Break
8 - 11 Aug

The Irish Rover
8 - 15 Aug

Arran, Scotland in Miniature
12 - 16 Aug

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland
14 - 19 Aug

Gardens of Kent & Sussex
16 - 19 Aug

Shetland and its Outer Isles
17 - 21 Aug

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (S-B)
19 - 24 Aug

Orkney & Shetland by Air
21 - 25 Aug

Undiscovered Orkney
27 - 31 Aug

September

Castles and Houses of Northumberland
1 - 4 Sep

Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands
1 - 7 Sep

Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk
1 - 5 Sep

Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden
2 - 9 Sep

Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise (Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)
2 - 9 Sep

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo
3 - 6 Sep

Gardens of Jersey
4 - 8 Sep

Coastal Castles and Magnificent Mansions of Dorset
5 - 9 Sep

Scenic Journeys of Argyll and Bute
7 - 11 Sep

Arran, Scotland in Miniature
9 - 13 Sep

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia
9 - 16 Sep

Islay and Jura
9 - 13 Sep

Scotland's Northern Edge
10 - 14 Sep

Private Gardens of Guernsey and Sark
12 - 16 Sep

Gardens and Wildlife of Western Canada
13 - 22 Sep

Scenic Scottish Railways
13 - 16 Sep

Glasgow's Art Treasures including the Burrell Collection
13 - 16 Sep

Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway
15 - 18 Sep

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders
15 - 18 Sep

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland
16 - 21 Sep

Palladian Villas of Veneto
17 - 21 Sep

Knitting in Shetland
19 - 24 Sep

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 days (B-S)
22 - 27 Sep

Lord of the Glens - 8 day cruise
(Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)
23 - 30 Sep

South Africa's Garden Route
25 Sep - 8 Oct

The Manx Explorer
24 - 28 Sep

Gardens of Kent & Sussex
27 - 30 Sep

Grenada - Gardens of the Spice Island
28 Sep - 5 Oct

Colors of the Lake District
29 Sep - 2 Oct

Mull, Staffa and Iona
29 Sep - 2 Oct

Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island and Alnwick Castle
29 Sep - 3 Oct

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days
30 Sep - 4 Oct

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides by Air - 5 days
30 Sep - 4 Oct

Archaeology of the Peloponnese
30 Sep - 7 Oct

October

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
1 - 6 Oct

Gardens of Marrakech
2 - 6 Oct

Scenic Scottish Railways
4 - 7 Oct

Lord of the Glens - 7 day cruise (Voyages Through the Heart of Scotland)
6 - 12 Oct

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
6 - 13 Oct

Discover the Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell
7 - 11 Oct

Albanian Archaeology
8 - 15 Oct

Crete Archaeology
8 - 15 Oct

Nova Scotia in the Fall
8 - 15 Oct

Scotland's Extreme North West
8 - 11 Oct

A Classic Scottish Steam Break
10 - 13 Oct

Gardens and Palaces of India
16 - 28 Oct

Portuguese Archaeology
15 - 22 Oct

Autumn Tints of Arran
16 - 19 Oct

Gardens of Malaysia
18 - 27 Oct

Lord of the Glens - 7 day cruise (Voyages Through the Heart of Scotland)
18 - 24 Oct

Scotland's Extreme North West
22 - 25 Oct

Gardens and Flora of Tasmania and Victoria with Colin Crosbie
29 Oct - 15 Nov

November

Flora and Fauna of Madagascar
4 - 16 Nov

Cultural Malta
5 - 9 Nov

Malta's Archaeological Heritage
5 - 11 Nov

Gardens of Barbados
6 - 13 Nov

Seasonal Gardens of Japan
7 - 18 Nov

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt
7 - 18 Nov

Gardens of Mauritius
13 - 22 Nov

Iceland's Northern Lights
17 - 21 Nov

Gardens of Costa Rica
19 Nov - 1 Dec

Gardens of Madeira
25 Nov - 2 Dec

Chile and the Falkland Islands
1 - 15 Dec

2025 dates

Please refer to individual tour pages for details of 2025 departure dates.

Booking terms & conditions

Your package holiday booking is with
Brightwater Holidays, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.
Telephone: 800 477 8358

These Booking Conditions set out the terms on which you contract with us and this contract is made on the terms of these booking conditions, which are governed by Scottish Law, and the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts. If you reside in England or Northern Ireland you may choose the applicable law and jurisdiction if you wish to do so.

In these booking conditions, "you" and "your" includes all persons named on the booking *(including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date)*. "We", "us" and "our" means Brightwater Holidays. Brightwater Holidays is a subsidiary of Specialist Tours Limited *(company number 08395250)*. Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us and which we agree to make, provide, or perform *(as applicable)* as part of our contract with you. All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "contract" or "arrangements" mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated.

KEY POINTS

You enter into a booking with us when we issue our booking confirmation/invoice. If you then cancel, there will be cancellation charges. Initially as a minimum this may only be a deposit but can go up to 100%. In certain circumstances you may be able to make changes to your booking however charges will apply. We can change and cancel your booking. We'll pay you compensation in certain circumstances. It is a condition of booking that all travelers are covered by comprehensive travel insurance. We are responsible to you for providing your holiday but there are legal limits.

BRIGHTWATER HOLIDAYS holds ATOL number 4498 issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. For all other packages, The Association of Bonded Travel Organizers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

1. BOOKING

All information provided in the brochure/website is, to the best of our knowledge or belief, correct at the time of publication. We will advise you of any changes that are fundamental to the contract, or which we believe will affect your enjoyment of the holiday. Please advise us if there is any requirement, which you believe is fundamental to your holiday so that we can give you the latest information at the time of booking.

When you ask us to proceed with a booking you will be required to make a (minimum) deposit payment which will vary dependent on the specific holiday you are booking. This will be advised at the time of booking and confirmed in your booking confirmation. It may also be necessary to collect payment at the time of booking for other (non-refundable) costs e.g. flight tickets, transfers etc. In the case of bookings made after the balance due date, we will require full payment for the holiday.

You must be at least 18 years old to make a booking and you guarantee that you have the authority to accept, and do accept, these terms and conditions for all members of the party (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date), and in particular payment for all the persons on the booking. We reserve the right in our absolute discretion to refuse to accept any booking without necessarily specifying a reason.

A contract is made when we accept your booking and issue our written booking confirmation/invoice. If we cannot accept or confirm the booking, any money paid will be promptly refunded. On receipt of the booking confirmation/invoice it is important to check the details and if there is any inaccuracy this must be notified to us immediately. It may not be possible to make changes or corrections later, or additional costs may be incurred which we will have to pass on to you.

Many of our holidays are based on specially negotiated airfares booked in a specific airline booking class. At the time of booking if these fares are not available, we will endeavour to secure an alternative air fare and advise you of any additional cost. Please note that most special air fares are non-refundable and non-changeable.

2. PAYMENT

We hold your deposit (and any additional payment required at the time of booking) towards the full cost of the holiday. The balance must be received by us no later than the final payment due date shown on your booking confirmation/invoice, as appropriate to your holiday. If you do not pay the full cost within the time specified, we may treat your holiday as cancelled by you in which case the cancellation charges shown in point 4 - Cancellation by You, will apply.

Deposit Payments (per person):

UK guests - $125 for holidays without flights, $250 for UK/Europe holidays with flights, 10% for long-haul holidays

Deposit for Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price.

US guests - $175 for holidays without flights, $350 for UK/Europe holidays with flights, 10% for long haul holidays

Deposit for Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price. You must pay the balance in full as follows (unless otherwise stipulated) :

Final Balance payment: 12 weeks prior to tour departure date (20 weeks for cruises).

If we are booking bespoke flight arrangements for you or deviating from the group flights, we will charge you any difference in cost and payment will be taken in full when the flights are booked.

Ways to Pay - we accept payment by Visa, MasterCard, cheque (GBP ONLY), or bank transfer for which no levy is charged by us. Your bank or credit card provider may charge an additional financial processing charge and we cannot be responsible for any such charges.

Please Note: if you are paying from an overseas bank account, you must accept all bank charges incurred by us. A surcharge of 2.5% will be applied for card payments made with cards registered outside the EEA and USA.

3. YOUR HOLIDAY PRICE

a) Prior to booking you will receive a verbal quote based on your specific holiday requirements and travel dates.

b) We reserve the right to notify you of any alteration in the advertised or quoted price and any changes in holiday arrangements before accepting your booking.

Note: We make every effort to ensure that the most up to date and correct prices are shown on our website, but we reserve the right to correct pricing errors at any time. The price you pay at the time of booking is the price we guarantee. Prices can go up when demand is so high, so we recommend you book early to avoid disappointment. Alternatively, you may amend your booking or select an alternative holiday at the applicable and correct price.

c) Subject to these conditions, once we have confirmed your booking, the price is fully guaranteed and will not be subject to any additional 'surcharges', which means any increase due to changes in the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from changes to the cost of fuel or other power sources, the level of taxes or fees imposed by third parties, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at port and airports or exchange rates.

d) Prices in our brochures and/or on our website are calculated on rates of exchange linked to those available to us; either based on rates previously secured or our view of currency exchange rates applicable at the time payments are due.

Single, Double, Twin Bedded Rooms

Single supplements are payable for sole occupancy of a room. A single room does not guarantee the provision of a double or twin room, and in some instances may be smaller. A 'double' bed is often two single beds pushed together, sometimes with double bed base linen (although it is not unusual for single duvets to be provided in some hotels for doubles).

4. CANCELLATION & VARIATION BY YOU

Cancellation by You

If you or any member of your party wish to cancel your holiday, or if you fail to pay the full cost of the holiday within the specified time you will be liable, as a minimum, to pay the charges detailed below up to the point of cancellation, in addition to any non-refundable items*. Or in the case of failure to pay, at the date that we deem your booking to have been cancelled. Notification from the person who made the booking must be received at our offices. This can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter. The cancellation charge will be calculated according to the date this is received, or the date upon which your cancellation is treated as occurring because of non-payment.

**Non-refundable holiday costs charged including upgraded air tickets, hotel upgrades, extensions, extra nights, transfers etc., will be charged at 100% and the charges shown below will then apply to the remainder of the holiday cost and any amendment charges are not refundable. Additional accommodation costs for reduced occupancy or other components, may be payable in the event that one or more passengers cancels but where remaining passengers still wish to travel.*

Group Bookings - cancellation charges will apply to any guests in the group who may wish to cancel in the unlikely event of cancellation by the lead passenger.

Note: If your cancellation falls within the provisions of your travel insurance policy you may be able to make a claim which must be made direct to your insurance company.

Cancellation Charges - if you cancel your holiday

Up to 84 days: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **83-64 days:** 35% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **63-46 days:** 55% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **45-31 days:** 75% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **From 30 days to departure:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs.

Lord of the Glens:

Up to 6 months: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **6 months-0 days:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs.

We will observe travel advice provided by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Should circumstances dictate, you can cancel your booking without paying cancellation charges if the performance of your holiday, or the carriage of passengers to your destination, is significantly affected by unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. In such circumstances, we will arrange for your booking to be cancelled and for you to receive a full refund.

Variation by You

Booking alterations: If, after our booking confirmation/invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, for example your chosen departure date or accommodation, we will do our utmost to make these changes (subject to agreement by our suppliers) but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes to be made must be received at our offices. This can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking. You will be asked to pay an administration charge starting from $50 per person in addition to any associated costs of the changes imposed by our suppliers and any extra arrangements, these costs are non-refundable. Quotes normally have a 24-hour time frame before they expire, and the price is therefore subject to change. You should be aware that these costs could increase as the departure date becomes closer and you should contact us as soon as possible. Additional fees may be charged, depending on the cost and work caused to us by the requested change.

Booking transfer to another person: You can transfer your existing booking to another person suggested by you (subject to agreement by our suppliers)*. Notice be made must be received at our offices, this can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking at least 25 days before departure. The replacement traveler must satisfy and fulfil any conditions that apply to the holiday, and all costs of the original

booking. Both you and the new traveler are responsible for paying all costs we incur before the transfer can be made by us. The cost of the transfer will consist of both an administration charge of $75 and any costs which our suppliers impose*.

Note: Certain travel arrangements may not be transferable after a reservation has been made, for example, some airlines may require payment of 100% cancellation charges and the cost of a new ticket for ANY variation that is made, and changes to other arrangements may incur a cancellation charge of up to 100%.

* If you are unable to travel, you may wish to check whether cover is provided for your cancellation within the terms of your travel insurance policy as this may incur less cost to you.

Booking transfer to an alternative holiday: It may be possible at our discretion for you to transfer to another holiday; however this is subject to availability and time frame of departure. You must transfer within 7 days of notifying Brightwater Holidays and the new departure must be within 1 year of notification. Any price difference between what you paid for your original tour and the price of the new tour will be payable. An administration fee of $75 per person applies to any transfer up to 12 weeks prior to departure. Less than 12 weeks prior to departure and full cancellation fee will apply.

While on holiday: If you decide to cut short your holiday for your own reasons, or not stay at accommodation that has been booked for you, take any pre-booked meals, excursions, or other holiday components, then we are unable to offer you any refund or cover any costs. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for such curtailment, so we suggest that you check the conditions and requirements of your policy.

5. CANCELLATION & VARIATION BY US

We start planning the holidays we offer many months in advance. Occasionally, we have to make changes to and correct errors and other details both before and after bookings have been confirmed or cancel confirmed bookings, events or activities. Holidays to remote and in some cases, underdeveloped parts of the world carry the risk that parts of the holiday may be subject to alterations beyond our control, sometimes at short notice. While we always endeavour to avoid changes and cancellations, we must reserve the right to do so.

Cancellation by Us:

We reserve the right to cancel your booking. Whilst we will endeavour not to cancel your confirmed booking after the final 'balance due' payment date, we may need to do so if, through late cancellations or other factors, the tour falls below its minimum number of participants (see below); additionally, as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances (see point 6) or failure by you to pay the final balance of your holiday.

Minimum Numbers - some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to enable us to operate them. If the minimum number of bookings required for a particular holiday or flight have not been received, we are entitled to cancel it even after the final 'balance due' payment date. Please note that in such cases we are not able to accept responsibility for any costs you may have incurred, including costs of other travel arrangements made in association with the cancelled holiday, unless booked through Brightwater Holidays.

We are happy to give you an indication at any time of the current number of passengers booked on a trip, but this should not be taken as any guarantee whether the holiday will or will not go ahead as booking numbers can fluctuate. There may be certain circumstances when a holiday may operate with less than the minimum number than the advertised group size.

We will endeavour to do all possible to have a tour operate. If the tour is not viable due to numbers, where possible we will see if suppliers will supply a more 'private' tour and we will come back to you with a revised cost. If everyone currently booked is willing to pay this, then the tour may continue with a much smaller group. If your holiday is cancelled, you can either have a refund of all monies paid or accept an alternative holiday of comparable standard from us if we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

In the event a refund is paid to you, we will compensate you for reasonable, non-refundable costs (eg flight tickets) which you have incurred, to be mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis.

Cancellation as a result of global travel disruption

If it becomes necessary to cancel your tour as a result of global travel disruption, we reserve the right to refund the cost of your tour in the form of credit for a limited amount of time, to be used against any other tour in the Specialist Journeys portfolio. If you do not use this credit within that time, a refund will be payable. This change to the standard booking conditions would only apply if approved by the UK Government and enshrined in the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations (PTRs) as an emergency measure to support tour operators in extraordinary circumstances such as the 2020 Covid-19 outbreak. The exact credit terms and time frame would be defined by the PTRs. Furthermore, at times of global travel disruption, when we may have thousands of guests to reimburse, refunds may take as long as 12-14 weeks to process.

Variation by Us:

It is a term of your booking that we are able to make changes to any aspect of your booking. If the change is insignificant, we will ensure that you are notified about it. Examples of insignificant changes include a change of airline or aircraft type, alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, change of airports and/or local connecting transport, tour staff and changes to supplementary arrangements such as site visit, or change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard.

Occasionally, we may have to make a significant change. If we are constrained by circumstances beyond our control to significantly alter any of the main characteristicsof the travel services that make up your package, you will have rights set out below.

• We will contact you and you will have the choice of accepting the change or having a refund of all monies paid. You can also accept an alternative holiday, where we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of lower value) or purchase an alternative holiday subject to availability and applicable cost. We will tell you the procedure for making your choice. Please read any notification of changes carefully and respond promptly as if you do not respond to us within the timescale given, your booking may be cancelled.

• If you choose to accept a refund, we will compensate you for reasonable, non-refundable costs (e.g. flight tickets) which you have incurred, to be mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis.

Very rarely, we may be forced by 'circumstances beyond our control' (see point 6) to change or terminate your holiday after departure but before the scheduled end of your time away. This is extremely rare, if this situation does occur, we regret we will be unable to make any refunds (unless we obtain these from our suppliers), pay you any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result.

We do not control the day-to-day management of your accommodation, and in exceptional cases it is possible that we may be advised that the reserved accommodation has been overbooked. If this happens before your departure or on arrival in a location, we will endeavour to provide accommodation of at least the same standard in the same area. If only accommodation of a lower standard is available, we will refund the difference of the holiday price between the accommodation booked and that available and will pay up to $50 per person for any inconvenience.

If under any circumstances a refund is applicable, this will be made to the lead passenger who made the original booking and to the payment method used for that booking.

6. CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation, reimburse expenses, or cover losses where the performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by, or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense of any nature as a result of 'circumstances beyond our control'. In these booking conditions, 'circumstances beyond our control' means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include actual or threatened war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity and its consequences (including suspected terrorist activity and all action taken during any "terror alert"), industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, epidemics and pandemics, unavoidable technical problems with transport, airport or airspace closures, as well as other air traffic management decisions (that may result in long or overnight delays or cancellations), fire, concert/event changes or cancellation and all similar events outside our control. This list is not exhaustive.

Group-based holidays and activities - worldwide weather patterns are becoming ever more erratic and unpredictable. If it is not possible to operate certain excursions for this reason, we will endeavour to offer alternatives if this is possible. Such circumstances are totally beyond our control and you therefore should proceed with your booking on this basis.

Public Holidays, Sporting & Local Events - in addition to public holidays, many countries host other national or international events or there may be local festivals, which may impact on local/tourist services or travel arrangements, including the reduction or closure of facilities, route diversions etc. during your visit. We have no control over these events, and as dates and details of arrangements are often changeable year on year, it is not possible for us to guarantee to forewarn you of specific details that may be relevant to your holiday or accept any responsibility for any disruption that may be caused. During public holidays, shops, restaurants, and tourist attractions may also be closed.

Third-Party Information & Websites - your booking is based on the information supplied to you by Brightwater Holidays. We understand you may conduct additional research into your holiday through other third parties and associated websites, but as we have no control over such information this does not form any basis of our contract with you.

Wi-Fi - where the provision of Wi-Fi may be indicated in a property description, no guarantee is given or implied that it will be operative during your holiday and its availability is outside our control. Some properties may charge for this service and the areas where it is available may be limited and not necessarily available in guest rooms. In all cases, no compensation or refund will be paid in the event that it is not available for whatever reason.

Dietary Requests & Allergies - even nowadays, in some destinations, basic well-known dietary requirements (such as vegetarian, gluten free etc.) are often misunderstood and seldom catered for adequately, despite the best intentions and assurances from hoteliers and restaurateurs. While we are happy to pass on any such requests, we cannot guarantee choice or availability - especially with any airline meal options. We cannot accept detailed lists of specific dietary or food preparation requests and are unable to accept any other requests (eg. personal preferences) that are not for medical or religious reasons. Note: Whilst on tour it is your responsibility to double-check and reconfirm any allergy or dietary requirements directly with the various holiday suppliers.

Other Hotel Guests - it is not unusual for hotels or other accommodation to receive group bookings (sometimes with large numbers) from guests participating in conventions and conferences or other gatherings. At certain times of the year, there may be an influx of groups such as students on organized educational visits (popular during school holidays), associations or clubs. This may result in hotel facilities being much busier than usual or additional demands on hotel staff and services, but we are unable to accept any responsibility for any inconvenience caused by such groups or their activities.

Guides - we reserve the right to substitute any named guide, guest lecturer or other escort with an alternative qualified person and this will not be deemed as any significant change to your arrangements.

Flights - if you have booked a flight upgrade and there is a change of airline prior to departure as a result of circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible to offer an equivalent upgrade, or an addition cost may apply.

7. FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH TRAVEL ADVICE, HEALTH, VISAS & DOCUMENTS

a) Your specific passport and visa requirements, and other immigration requirements including, inoculations and health certificates are your responsibility, and you should confirm these for all countries to, or through which you are intending to travel, and cover all costs for this. Requirements should be checked well in advance of travel and we do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements.

b) Essential information for British citizens (only), including health, passport and visa requirements along with up-to-date Foreign Office travel, safety and security advice can be obtained from https://www.gov.uk/travelaware. We also strongly recommend that you sign up for the latest email updates as travel and safety information can change at any point without notice.

c) If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non-British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the Embassy or Consulate of the country or countries to, or through which, you are intending to travel and consult the relevant authority for the latest travel and safety advice for the destinations you are visiting.

d) We recommend that you consult your doctor well in advance of travel for the latest advice on inoculations and health certificates. You can also obtain the latest health information ahead of travel by visiting the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNac) website https://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk.

8. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Our holidays are not designed for party members to undertake special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise. We cannot accept any liability for any losses or damages arising out of such use or planned use nor for any loss or damage which has special financial consequences. Please note if you do intend to use one of our holidays for such purposes you should obtain adequate insurance in respect of it and any special equipment you decide to bring with you on such holidays.

9. HOLIDAY PARTICIPATION

It is a condition of participation on our holidays that you agree to accept the authority and decisions of our employees, tour leaders and agents while on holiday with us. If in the opinion of such a person your health or conduct at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable, or happy progress of a holiday, you may be excluded from all or part of the holiday and/or we may terminate your holiday, and any additional costs incurred by you as a result of such exclusion will be your responsibility. In the case of ill health, eg. Covid-19, we may make such arrangements as we see fit and recover any resulting costs from you.

Note: Note: While there are no age limits or health requirements on our holidays, please note that for certain destinations require a degree of mobility and fitness to get the most out of the holiday and need to keep up with the group. Should you have any concerns or your mobility changes as your holiday gets closer, please contact us to discuss further.

10. OUR LIABILITY TO YOU

We make every effort to ensure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to provide as part of our contract with you are delivered with reasonable skill and care. It is the laws and regulations of the country in which the services are actually provided which apply to your holiday arrangements and not those of the UK or your home country and any resulting complaint or claim will be judged on this basis. If the particular services which gave rise to the claim or complaint complied with local laws and regulations applicable to those services at the time, the services will be treated as being properly provided. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care have not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers). Also bear in mind that standards of, for example, safety, hygiene, and quality may vary and services and transport your holiday involves may differ to the stringent standards we are accustomed to in the UK or your home country. Including for example, the absence of seatbelts on coaches contracted outside the UK as this is not always a legal requirement elsewhere.

Certain holidays involve risks and hazards of travel to and in remote and/or uninhabited areas where injury, illness, death, delay, or unanticipated events may occur as a result of forces of nature, wildlife and adverse weather conditions. Medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible in some parts, and the medical facilities that do exist could be of inferior quality compared to what is available at home. In remote regions risks may include but are not limited to: mechanical breakdown of expedition vehicle(s); becoming stranded in remote and/or uninhabited areas; being subjected to rugged terrain and a harsh climate; encounters with wild animals, insects and pests, and the possibility of illness, injury or death therefrom; the uncontrollable and unpredictable behaviour of wild animals in their natural habitat; the possibility of not seeing certain animals; and dangerous weather and climate conditions.

You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. If any of the travel services included in your package are not performed in accordance with the contract, or improperly performed, by us or the travel service suppliers, and this has affected the enjoyment of your travel arrangements, you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. We will not be liable where any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services is due to you or another member of your party; or a third party unconnected with the provision of the travel services in the package and is unforeseeable or unavoidable.

Our liability, except in cases involving death, injury, or illness, shall be limited to a maximum of three times the cost of your travel arrangements (excluding amendment charges). Our liability (if we are found liable to you on any basis) will also be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to:

a) The contractual terms of the companies that provide the travel services that made up your package.

These terms are incorporated into this booking contract; and

b) Any relevant international convention, for example the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of and conditions under which compensation can be claimed for death, injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage (there are strict Conditions of Carriage obligations for making claims for missing or damaged baggage that must be followed). We are regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of the extent of or the conditions under which compensation is to be paid under these or any conventions.

You can ask for copies of the travel service contractual terms, or the international conventions from Brightwater Holidays. Where a carrier or hotelier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation, or delay to flights – see point 11 below.

If it is impossible to ensure your return as scheduled due to unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, we will bear the cost of necessary accommodation, if possible, of equivalent category, for a maximum of three nights if this is not provided by your airline, in accordance with Regulation 261/2004. The limit doesn't apply to persons with reduced mobility and any person accompanying them, pregnant women and unaccompanied minors, or persons in need of specific medical assistance, provided that you notified us of these needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday.

Note: this entire clause does not apply to any services which do not form part of your contract with us i.e. 'own arrangements'. This includes for example, any additional services, including excursions, that you organize independently, or services which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where these are not organized by us as part of our contract with you. We recommend that sufficient and appropriate insurance is taken out. In addition, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any description (1) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (2) which did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees, or where we are responsible for them, our suppliers or (3) arises out of use of our services for special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise or (4) is connected with any business. We further advise you, and you agree that in the event of any claim against us, that such claim shall be governed by Scottish Law and Jurisdiction shall lie in any Court of Competent Jurisdiction in the United Kingdom and you further acknowledge these requirements and waive any objection(s) thereto.

11. TRAVEL DELAYS & CARRIAGE BY AIR

Should delays due to weather conditions disrupt your itinerary, additional costs may be incurred and these would be the responsibility of you, the client. You will be assisted by the airline in accordance with the airlines' policy on delays. We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in point 6 of these booking conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board a flight on time).

Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation, or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at EU airports and will also be available from airlines. However, reimbursement in such cases will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday cost from us. Your right to a refund and/or compensation from us is set out in these booking conditions. If any payments to you are due from us, any payment made to you by the airline will be deducted from this amount. You are required to make any claim under this regulation directly with the airline, but if your airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority on 0207 453 6424 https://www.caa.co.uk.

Where long flight delays result in lost holiday time, we are unable to offer any refunds for unused accommodation or other services as reimbursement will not be made by our suppliers in these circumstances, and hotel rooms are held for delayed arrivals and not re-let. We strongly recommend you have adequate insurance provisions in place to fully cover such eventualities.

We are unable to guarantee that all parties will be seated together. With some airlines it is possible to request, or in some cases, reserve certain preferred seats on the aircraft (most airlines will make an additional charge for this). We are happy to assist with this, but this is an additional service over and above your contractual arrangement for 'carriage by air' with the airline. Airlines reserve the right to make changes to any specific seat numbers for operational or safety reasons either before, or on the day of departure and you will be notified of any such change upon check-in. Where applicable, any additional charge made for pre-booking specific seats will be refunded.

In accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005 Article 9, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a "Community list" which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban within the EU. The Community list is available for inspection at https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air- ban_en.

In accordance with EU Regulations, we are required to advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to an operating ban as above as a result of which we/the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative, the provisions of point 5, "Cancellation and Variation by us" will apply.

We are not always in a position at the time of booking to confirm the flight timings, which will be used in connection with your flight. The flight timings shown in our brochure, on our website and/or detailed on your booking confirmation/invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration. Flight timings are outside our control. They are set by airlines and are subject to various factors including air traffic control restrictions, weather conditions, potential technical problems and the ability of passengers to check in on time. Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct and up to date flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been dispatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions. We advise that you keep check on your flight's departure information on the day of departure in case of any late flight changes.

In accordance with EU legislation, we are required to draw your attention to restrictions concerning the import of food items which cannot be brought into the EU (including the UK), from outside the EU. For details, please see http://ww2.

defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/personal-imports/ or contact this office.

12. INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking with us that you and all members of your party obtain travel insurance for all overseas Brightwater holidays and is highly recommended for UK Brightwater Holidays. It should include cover for COVID-19 cancellation, curtailment, repatriation, and quarantine. We also strongly recommend that you do not travel against medical advice. The cost of repatriation, medical and other treatment overseas can be high and we are unable to assist in meeting those costs. You should organize it immediately when you book to ensure you have cover against possible cancellation charges, medical treatment, and repatriation. Should you have your travel insurance in place we will need to know the details of your policy 6 weeks before departure at the latest. It is a requirement of booking that you provide us with an emergency contact number while you are on holiday stating your relationship (e.g. family member, neighbour, workplace). This is purely for your benefit in the unlikely event of you becoming ill or incapacitated on tour. Please note that we no longer sell travel insurance but do work closely with Global Travel Insurance who will be happy to provide you with a quotation (01903 235042). Please see our website for more details: brightwaterholidays.com/travel-insurance/

13. SPECIAL REQUESTS & MEDICAL CONDITIONS / DISABILITIES

If you or any member of your party have any special requests, you must advise us at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your booking confirmation/invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. For your own protection, you should obtain confirmation in writing that a special request will be provided (where it is possible to give this) where it is important to you.

We regret we cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as "standard" bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), you must tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops or worsens after your booking has been confirmed.

Brightwater Holidays cannot provide individual assistance with boarding coaches or other forms of transport, baggage handling, walking or other personal requirements, etc. and guests should be confident that they can do these tasks unaided. We are happy to give advice and assistance with the choice of your holiday which will be dependent upon the nature of any disability. Our brochures also give a simple guide per tour regarding how active the tour is. In order to ensure your enjoyment of the holiday, we ask all clients to provide full details of any disability or special requirements at the time of booking. Some suppliers such as airlines and cruise lines may request certification from your GP to confirm that you are fit to travel. We regret that we cannot be held liable for any costs you may incur as a result. You are urged to contact our Sales department for further information if you have any difficulty in walking or mobility problems and they will be pleased to advise you on the suitability of any particular holiday.

14. CLIENT BEHAVIOUR

When you book a holiday with Brightwater Holidays you accept responsibility for the proper conduct of you and your party. Brightwater Holidays reserves the right in its reasonable discretion to terminate the holiday of any member of your party whose conduct is disruptive or detrimental to the enjoyment of other clients, or whose conduct may prejudice the reputation of Brightwater Holidays with our suppliers or hotel owners. In that situation Brightwater Holidays shall have no further responsibility or liability to you. The departure of a coach, ship train, plane or other modes of transport will not be delayed for passengers who are not on board by the stated boarding time.

15. COMPLAINTS & ASSISTANCE ON HOLIDAY

If you have any reason to be unhappy with any element of your holiday, we would ask you first to bring this to the attention of the person in charge of the relevant service, on the spot. If this is not possible, please either contact our local representative or our UK office, using the number provided with your travel documents. It is essential that you do this to enable us to try and put matters right where possible. If a problem remains unresolved during your holiday you should make a complaint which must be received at our offices within 28 days of the completion of your holiday giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. This can be in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking. We will reply to you within 28 days of receipt of your complaint. Please keep your complaint concise and to the point. If you fail to follow the requirement to report your complaint while on holiday, we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify it and this may affect your rights under this booking. If you're in difficulty while on holiday and ask us to help, we will provide appropriate assistance, in particular by providing information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance; and helping you to find alternative arrangements and any necessary phone calls/emails. You must pay any costs we incur if the difficulty is your fault.

The terms of this contract are exclusively governed by Scottish Law and the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts.

16. PROTECTING YOUR MONEY

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays.

Flight inclusive tours:

we hold an Air Travel Organizer's Licence issued by the CAA (ATOL No. 4498) which provides for your protection in the event of Brightwater Holidays Ltd insolvency. The price of your air holiday packages includes the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL scheme as explained below.

Tours without flights arranged by us:

The Association of Bonded Travel Organizers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Brightwater Holidays Ltd - Member 5001, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Brightwater Holidays Ltd.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made

17. DATA PROTECTION

To process your booking and to ensure that your travel arrangements run smoothly and meet your requirements we need to use the information you provide. Depending on what's required, the personal data we collect may include names and contact details, credit/debit card or other payment information and special requirements such as those relating to any disability or medical condition which may affect holiday arrangements and any dietary restrictions which may disclose your religious beliefs.

The person who makes the booking is responsible for ensuring that other members of your party are aware of our booking conditions and this privacy policy and that they consent to your acting on their behalf in your dealings with us.

Any such personal data that you provide will be held securely and for the purpose you have provided it, in accordance with both UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

We take appropriate technical and organisational measures which are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

We must pass the information on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements such as airlines, hotels, transport companies, etc. We will not however, pass any information on to any person not responsible for part of your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. In making a booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons only.

We may need to disclose personal data to a third party within countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of providing your holiday. Controls on data protection in your destination may not be as stringent as in the UK. In addition, your data may be disclosed to regulatory bodies or public authorities such as customs or immigration for the purposes of monitoring and/or enforcing compliance with any regulatory rules/codes.

We will only send you information about special offers, brochures, new holidays and competitions if you have 'opted in' to receive marketing emails from Brightwater Holidays Ltd. If at any time you do not wish to receive this information you can use the 'unsubscribe' function at the bottom of any marketing email or call us.

For full details of how we may use your personal information and your rights in relation to your personal information, please see our Privacy Policy on our website: https://brightwaterholidays.com/privacy. By booking online, or over the phone, you are stating that you have read and agreed to our Privacy Policy.

We are Brightwater Holiday Ltd, registered limited company no: SC137295.

Registered Office: Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.

INTRODUCING OUR SISTER BRAND

ANDANTE
TRAVELS

Leading archaeological tour operator Andante Travels offers memorable explorations of the ancient world led by expert Guide Lecturers. Our guides include renowned academics, seasoned excavators and popular broadcasters, and their inimitable knowledge brings the sites visited to life in ways that an independently organized trip simply cannot.

Over the last 38 years, we have taken groups of curious guests to destinations both iconic and unfamiliar, from the legendary site of Pompeii to the Neolithic site of Gobekli Tepe in Turkey.

Often imitated but never matched, our multi-award winning itineraries are carefully crafted by our experienced logistical team alongside our experts. The relationships our Guide Lecturers have with the sites and their local custodians means that we know the best way to visit them, exploring parts often missed by the mainstream visitor and arranging special access encounters whenever the opportunity presents.

Guests with Andante can look forward to traveling as part of a small group, giving them the chance to get to know their fellow travelers personally. They can also anticipate stays at hand-picked, comfortable hotels chosen for their proximity to sites along with a chance to indulge in the culture of the destination their preferred tour visits. When guests travel with Andante, they are looked after round the clock with staff on hand to help both before and after they depart. What's more, most aspects of the tour are included, from return flights and tips throughout to the majority of meals and all entry to all sites on the schedule. We hope to welcome you soon.

What's included on our tours?

- **Services of an expert Guide Lecturer**
- **An experienced Tour Manager**
- **Most meals as per the itinerary**
- **Entry to all sites mentioned in the itinerary**
- **All taxes and gratuities**
- **Field notes ahead of travel**
- **Comfortable standard of accommodation throughout**
- **Local travel aboard an air-conditioned coach**

Call our team to book your tour today:

800 759 7715

Or visit our website:

andantetravels.co.uk

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