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**SCOTLAND, GARDENS & SPECIAL INTEREST
HOLIDAY COLLECTION**

UK & WORLDWIDE 2026

SECOND EDITION

18 NEW TOURS | TRAVEL WITH EXPERTS | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES AVAILABLE





Where gardens flourish and culture thrives – Explore more with

Brightwater

Holidays

Welcome to our second edition brochure for 2026, featuring a selection of inspiring tours across the UK and Europe plus our extended range of Worldwide departures. In our first edition, we were delighted to unveil a range of exciting destinations and themes which made the most of every season, from the snowdrops of East Yorkshire and a Picardy barge cruise to long-haul adventures in sun-soaked Southern India and spectacular New Zealand. Yet we never stand still here at Brightwater, so we are pleased to introduce a further 18 tours in this brochure, giving you the chance to uncover even more wonders.

A particular highlight is our Singapore Garden Festival tour, featuring one of the world's top flower shows along with other bucket-list worthy experiences; the kaleidoscopic Gardens by the Bay at night-time and afternoon tea at the decadent Raffles Hotel to name but a few. Elsewhere, there is plenty of choice for the year ahead, whether you would like to discover the unique gardens of Sweden in the footsteps of Carl Linnaeus, the 'Flower King', enjoy a cruise through the natural beauty of the mighty Rhône and the lavender fields of Provence or embark on an archaeological adventure in Sardinia or Athens, where an abundance of treasures await.

We are pleased to also introduce several tours to the most iconic event of the horticultural calendar, including Gardens of Southern England and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, the crème de la crème of springtime tours covering a wide range of gardening excellence. With 2026 marking the 25th anniversary of the Eden Project, it's the perfect time to join our brand-new celebration of Cornwall too, or in Scotland, look forward to a grand tour of the country's finest gardens plus new discoveries to beautiful castles, abbeys and other fascinating relics of the past.

What's more, joining a tour has never been easier, with new flight options from regional airports offering even more flexibility. Every aspect of these tours has been meticulously crafted to take care of the details, so you can simply relax and delve into natural beauty and fascinating history.

However you choose to holiday in 2026, unique experiences and new memories await on every tour. From the private behind-the-scenes access to the expertise of knowledgeable guides, come along and see what makes our award-winning holidays so memorable.

I do hope you enjoy browsing our new brochure and we look forward to the pleasure of your company next year.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson
Managing Director

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



Your journey, our *expertise*

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

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

These awards mean a lot to us, so we would like to thank you for your continued support. Watch this space to see how we get on at the 2025 British Travel Awards!



Get in touch with an *expert*

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm, on:

866 562 7856

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:

brightwaterholidays.com

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"A lovely holiday, with a very nice group of people, and an amazing tour guide, who gave us a real insight into life on the islands, in the past and now. We were lucky with the weather, seeing amazing landscapes with some sunshine!"

Guest - August 2025

Financial protection

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





Singapore Gardens

A *unique* holiday experience

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

Expect quality & comfort

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

So much included

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

- ✓ Great value for money with coach travel, visits, accommodation and most evening meals included
- ✓ Over 30 years of tour experience and knowledge
- ✓ Unique and innovative itineraries
- ✓ Behind-the-scenes access to private gardens
- ✓ No hidden extras
- ✓ Knowledgeable and welcoming Tour Managers
- ✓ Professionally recognised partnerships
- ✓ Welcoming, friendly service from first contact
- ✓ Enjoy peace of mind with financial protection

"Excellent experience all round. Julia Corden was most professional, hotel and tours very well organised."

Guest - July 2025

Explore more with *Brightwater* Holidays

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

Award-winning garden tours

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

Passionate about Scotland

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

Unique worldwide experiences

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

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



Ashikaga Flower Park



Edinburgh



Hamilton Gardens

Bringing your
holiday
to life!

Knowledgeable Tour Managers

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

Horticultural *expertise*

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

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

David *Hurriion*

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



Mike *Nelham*

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



Sue *Pomeroy*

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



Trevor *Edwards*

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



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.



Tony *Russell*

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





Solo travel, shared experiences

Travel pushes us beyond the familiar, encouraging us to discover, savour and experience new things and exciting surroundings. It challenges us to embrace different cultures, connect with like-minded company and create lasting memories together. While travelling solo can at times feel a little intimidating, rest assured that you will be well looked after on a hassle-free Brightwater holiday: all the details are crafted with you in mind, and you are never alone unless you choose to be.

Many of our guests are single travellers and as such, we have a large number of holidays where there is no single supplement to pay or a lower single supplement.

Look out for the sticker on the tour page, choose your next adventure and then get ready to count down towards a memorable shared experience.

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**

Undiscovered Orkney
See pg. 22

**Castles, Palaces and
Abbeys of Eastern
Scotland**
See pg. 28

**Castles and Abbeys of
Western Scotland**
See pg. 29

**Autumn Tints of
Dumfries and Galloway**
See pg. 33

**A Classic Scottish Steam
Break**
See pg. 39

**Glasgow's Art Treasures
Featuring the Burrell
Collection**
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**The Architecture of
Glasgow and Edinburgh**
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Gardens of Yorkshire
See pg. 49

**Stately Homes and
Seaside Castles of
Norfolk**
See pg. 52

**History & Architecture of
Oxford**
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**The Mary Rose: A Tudor
Tale**
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**Snowdrops in East
Yorkshire**
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**Snowdrop Gardens of
the Cotswolds**
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Spring Gardens of Devon
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**The Art and Architecture
of Antwerp**
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**Rome, Ninfa and Castel
Gandolfo**
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A Cultural Tour of Malta
See pg. 99

**Malta's Archaeological
Heritage**
See pg. 99

**An Archaeological Tour
of Tunisia**
See pg. 103



Your holiday starts here

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



Regional coach pick-ups

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



Upgrade and enjoy more

Get in touch to enhance your experience from extending your tour to room upgrades, parking, airport lounges and fast track security - we are here to help.



Rail departures

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



Back-to-back holidays

If you're struggling to choose between holidays or would like to extend your time away, how about a back-to-back break? Experience *la dolce vita* and combine the ancient wonders of Rome with the sparkling coastline and colourful towns of Liguria, or if six glorious villas aren't enough in Veneto, discover more of the region's gems on a delightful retreat to the Italian lakes.

Elsewhere, uncover the Spanish highlights of Mallorca and then Andalucía, the artistic treasures of both Holland and Antwerp or make the most of a springtime trip to the Emerald Isle with an exploration of its charming gardens, followed by the wildflowers and unique landscapes of the Burren. There is certainly plenty of choice!

Look out for our Back-to-Back icon:

◀ BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS ▶

Extend your holiday

Your experts in
Scottish
tours since 1992

We've been bringing groups of guests to our home country of Scotland for over three decades now. With this kind of longevity comes a lot of experience, and our time in the travel industry has allowed us to become one of the leading tour operators for holidays to Scotland with a broad range of itineraries. Between us, the members of the Brightwater team have personally visited every island and destination among our Scottish portfolio, allowing our tours to be the very best they can be. So, chose Brightwater for your next Scottish holiday and see why we're the top choice for our most beloved destination, from islands to highlands.

From Skara Brae to Steam Trains: Scotland's Icons Await



Skara Brae

The ancient wonders of Orkney awaits, where just one highlight includes Skara Brae. Journey into prehistoric Scotland at one of Europe's best-preserved Neolithic settlements, framed by Orkney's dramatic coastline and layered history.



The Outer Hebrides

Discover the serene beauty of Scotland's western isles, from white-sand, Caribbean-like beaches in Barra to the wild landscapes of Harris and ancient standing stones on Uist – we know the best ways to travel around this magnificent part of the UK.



Jacobite Steam Train

Sit back and enjoy the views aboard the iconic Jacobite Steam Train, passing over the breathtaking Glenfinnan Viaduct, alongside sparkling lochs and through the striking beauty of the Western Highlands – this is Scotland's most scenic rail journey for good reason.



Scotland's Glorious Gardens

From the subtropical plants of Logan Botanic Garden on the southwest coast to the tranquillity of Edinburgh's Malleny Garden, Scotland boasts an extraordinary variety of horticultural treasures, featuring walled gardens, castle grounds and coastal havens.



Art Treasures & City Architecture

Explore Scotland's urban heritage with expert-led visits to the Burrell Collection in Glasgow, showcasing ancient Chinese porcelain, French paintings and medieval artefacts, along with architectural gems across both Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Visit our Scotland page on our website to find out more: brightwaterholidays.com/scotland-tours



Expertly curated *garden holidays* rooted in experience

Whether you're a keen horticulturalist or you simply enjoy the peace and serenity that walking around a beautiful garden can bring, there is bound to be a holiday for you from our inspiring collection. Our range is incredibly broad, taking in both public and private gardens closer to home and abroad, along with iconic flower shows and fragrant festivals. Combined with decades of experience, the company of knowledgeable experts and everything taken care of, it's no wonder our garden holidays are so popular.

Visits to iconic flower shows

We couldn't create garden tours without including some of the most exciting events on the horticultural calendar, which range from the legendary RHS Chelsea Flower Show to the new RHS Flower Show at Sandringham and beyond to destinations such as the Singapore Garden Festival.

Access to private gardens

Due to the fact that we have been operating award-winning coach holidays for over 30 years now, we have formed great relationships with garden owners, which enables us to grant you exclusive access!

Itineraries that showcase the best

When we design our garden itineraries, we are sure to include all the highlights a particular region has to offer at the right time of year, so that you can get the very best out of your chosen destination.

Visit our [garden holidays page](https://brightwaterholidays.com/tours/gardens) for more details of what's on offer: brightwaterholidays.com/tours/gardens

The grounds of historic houses

As you know, many of the UK's historic houses and castles are known for their glorious grounds, and we visit a fabulous array of these throughout our portfolio of garden holidays.

Gardens at home and abroad

We may be a UK-based tour operator, but our garden holidays can take you all over the world. We have many stunning itineraries on offer that visit gardens in destinations as diverse as France, Italy, Japan and the Caribbean island of Barbados, to name but a few.

Royal Connections

One of the UK's most alluring sights is that of a historic house with royal connections. From the perfectly manicured gardens that surround them to their decadent interiors, and from the legacies of those who once graced their halls to the incredible stories around every corner, these dramatic homes have become synonymous with the great British countryside. Look out for our wonderful itineraries that include some of our favourites.



Highgrove

The country home of His Majesty The King, Highgrove is simply charming and was built between 1796 and 1798. Many improvements have been made to the surrounding gardens, which are tended using wholly organic

methods. The gardens at Highgrove are truly delightful and seasonal highlights can be admired here between April and October in the Victorian-inspired Stumpery, the Sundial Garden and the fantastic Wildflower Meadow, which stretches across four acres. **See pg. 51**



Dumfries House

The 18th-century Palladian Dumfries House, located in Ayrshire, was saved by The King in 2007, when he headed up a consortium that purchased it along with its entire contents. Its stunning interiors are home to a world-

class collection of furniture by Thomas Chippendale and many other late 18th-century cabinet makers. The estate is also home to the Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland and in many ways the flagship restoration garden. **See pg. 32**



Balmoral

The Scottish holiday home to the Royal Family, Balmoral Castle boasts 170 years of regal history. Located in Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire, it was purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert in 1852 and is a category A listed building.

The castle gardens were first opened to members of the public in 1931, but Queen Mary devised the gardens between 1923 and 1925. The Duke of Edinburgh then extended them to include a lovely kitchen garden.

See pg. 30



Sandringham

Sandringham House was built in 1870 by the Prince and Princess of Wales, who later became Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, and has been passed down through subsequent generations. There is a vast collection of items

to be seen, many of which have been gifts bought by members of Russian and European royalty as well as many articles the previous monarchs have collected. There are numerous family portraits and a fascinating collection of oriental armour too. **See pg. 52 & 53**

Introducing our new 2026 tours collection

Look out for our fresh journeys across Scotland, the UK and worldwide – crafted for discovery, beauty and unforgettable experiences.

Our expanded 2026 programme features 18 exciting new tours, showcasing Scotland's landscapes, the UK's heritage and worldwide highlights. From hidden gardens and iconic castles to cultural encounters and world-class flower shows, each holiday is expertly curated for enrichment and enjoyment. With Brightwater Holidays, travel in comfort and confidence, always in the company of like-minded explorers.

A selection is listed below but look out for the NEW logo on the pages.



Castles and Abbeys of Western Scotland
See pg. 29



Castles of
Aberdeenshire
See pg. 30



Gordon Castle and
Gardens of the East
Highlands
See pg. 35



Grand Tour of the Gardens of
Scotland
See pg. 36



Gardens of Southern England
and the RHS Chelsea Flower
Show
See pg. 42



Castles and Gardens of Kent &
the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
See pg. 44



Hidden Gardens of the
Cotswolds and the RHS Chelsea
Flower Show
See pg. 45



Secrets of County Durham and North Yorkshire with
Nicholas Merchant
See pg. 47



"Rothschildshire" - The Vales of Aylesbury with
Nicholas Merchant See pg. 50



RHS Flower Show Sandringham & the Gardens
of Norfolk See pg. 53



History & Architecture of Oxford
See pg. 56



Gardens of Cornwall & the 25th
Anniversary of the Eden Project
See pg. 62



Gardens of the Island of Ireland
See pg. 64



Lavender Fields & Gardens of
Provence Cruise
See pg. 72



Sweden and Gotland in the Footsteps of
Carl Linnaeus
See pg. 91



Discover Ancient Athens
See pg. 94



Archaeological Secrets of Sardinia
See pg. 96



Singapore Garden Festival
See pg. 114



Explore Britain's beauty and heritage

From serene gardens to majestic castles, medieval abbeys, romantic estates, world-famous flower shows and hidden private gardens reveal all the nation's rich stories.

In Scotland, Castles and Abbeys of Western Scotland highlights power, faith and artistry, while the Grand Tour of the Gardens of Scotland culminates at Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden.

In the south, Gardens of Southern England with the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Castles and Gardens of Kent offer exclusive experiences, while the Hidden Gardens of the Cotswolds promises intimate discoveries. Further highlights include the RHS Sandringham Flower Show & Gardens of Norfolk and Cornwall's gardens celebrating the Eden Project's 25th anniversary.

From sweeping Highland vistas to delicate walled gardens, these tours capture Britain's heritage, horticulture and enduring charm.

Jacobite

Discover our UK Collection

18	Highlights of Orkney and Shetland	35	NEW Gordon Castle & Gardens of the East Highlands	51	Highgrove and the Cotswolds
19	Orkney and Shetland by Air	36	NEW Grand Tour of the Gardens of Scotland	52	Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk
20	Shetland and its Outer Isles	38	Scenic Scottish Railways	53	NEW The RHS Flower Show Sandringham & the Gardens of Norfolk
21	An Archaeologist's View of Orkney & Shetland	39	A Classic Scottish Steam Break	54	Gardens of South and West Wales
22	Undiscovered Orkney	40	Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection	54	Somerset's Secret Gardens
22	Knitting in Shetland	40	The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh	55	In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll
23	Up Helly Aa	41	Lord of the Glens – 7 Day Cruise	56	NEW History & Architecture of Oxford
24	A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides	41	Lord of the Glens – 8 Day Cruise	57	The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale
26	Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides	42	NEW Gardens of Southern England and The RHS Chelsea Flower Show	58	NEW Snowdrops in East Yorkshire
26	In the Footsteps of the Picts	44	NEW Castles and Gardens of Kent & the RHS Chelsea Flower Show	58	Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds
27	Scotland's Northern Edge	45	NEW Hidden Gardens of the Cotswolds and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show	59	NEW Spring Gardens of Devon
27	Scotland's Extreme North West	46	Highlights of Northumberland	59	Spring Gardens of Cornwall
28	Castles and Palaces of Eastern Scotland	47	NEW Secrets of County Durham and North Yorkshire with Nicholas Merchant	60	The Isles of Scilly
29	NEW Castles and Abbeys of Western Scotland	48	RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West	61	Great Gardens of Cornwall in the company of Mike Nelhams
30	NEW Castles of Aberdeenshire	49	Gardens of Yorkshire	62	NEW Gardens of Cornwall & the 25th Anniversary of the Eden Project
30	Highland Wildlife Safari	49	Gardens of Kent & Sussex	64	NEW Gardens of the Island of Ireland
31	Mull, Staffa and Iona	50	NEW "Rothschildshire" - The Vales of Aylesbury with Nicholas Merchant	65	Gardens and Wildflowers of the Burren
31	Arran, Scotland in Miniature				
32	Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway				
33	Autumn Tints of Dumfries & Galloway				
33	Autumn Tints of Arran				
34	Gardens of Wester Ross				

"A very enjoyable experience, rewarding, stimulating and interesting."

Guest - May 2025



St Ninian's Isle

Highlights of Orkney & Shetland

6 DAYS from \$2,655 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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 colourful 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.

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

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

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

served on board. On arrival, we transfer to our hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we have a full day excursion of west mainland **Orkney** visiting the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney – World Heritage Sites**. We begin at **Maeshowe**, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe. Built before 2700 BC. Maeshowe was raided by Vikings in the 12th Century. It thus houses the largest collection of runic inscriptions to be found in any one place in the world. We shall also visit the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, with the adjacent Neolithic village of **Barnhouse**, before continuing to **Skara Brae**, with its new visitor centre depicting the history of this world famous monument and **Skaill House**, a fascinating architectural medley to the side of Skara Brae. *(B, D)*

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

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ One nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Scalloway Hotel, Shetland *(or similar)* and three nights bed & breakfast *(plus two dinners)* at the Kirkwall or Shore Hotel, Orkney *(or similar)*
- ▶ All ferry crossings, including one night 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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

18 - 23 May	\$2,655
13 - 18 Jul	\$2,725
14 - 19 Sep	\$2,655
Single Supplement	\$695
Outside Cabin Supplement	\$85



Standing Stones of Stenness



Lerwick

Orkney & Shetland by Air

5 DAYS from \$3,075 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINTS: Aberdeen or Edinburgh

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

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

Day 1 We depart this morning on a flight from Aberdeen or Edinburgh to Sumburgh. On arrival we will transfer to **Sumburgh Head**, where the North Sea meets the Atlantic Ocean. The cliffs here are quite spectacular and home to an RSPB reserve. We will then visit the outstanding Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, spanning 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age. This afternoon we will transfer to **Scalloway**, the former capital of Shetland where we see the ruined castle built in 1600 by the infamous Earl Patrick Stewart. We then continue north to the spectacular **cliffs of Eshaness** - look out for the 'Otters Crossing' sign at the narrow isthmus known as Mavis Grind. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we will head to the island's capital town of **Lerwick**, where we enjoy some free time. You may wish to visit the state of the art Shetland Museum. Later, we will travel through small local communities until we reach Sandwick, where we will cross as foot passengers on the ferry over to the little island of **Mousa**, where we will visit the 2,000 year old iron age **broch**. *(B, D)*

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

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

Day 4 This morning after breakfast, 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 After breakfast we transfer to Kirkwall Airport where we will take the flight back to Aberdeen or Edinburgh. *(B)*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Two nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Busta House Hotel, Shetland and two nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Kirkwall or Shore Hotel, Orkney
- ▶ Flights from Aberdeen to Sumburgh, Sumburgh to Kirkwall, and Kirkwall to Aberdeen *(Edinburgh flight supplement \$315pp)*
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

12 - 16 May	\$3,075
11 - 15 Aug	\$3,075
Single Supplement	\$415



The Italian Chapel



Bressay Island

Shetland and its Outer Isles

5 DAYS from \$2,165 | ACTIVITY RATING:   

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

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 travelling 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 3000 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 and travel to Aberdeen. From here, we sail overnight to Lerwick. *(D)*

Day 2 Arriving early in Lerwick, we enjoy a full Scottish breakfast on board before a full-day tour. In the South Mainland, we visit the **Shetland Croft House Museum**, a restored 19th-century thatched croft house. Then, we explore **Jarlshof**, a Prehistoric and Norse Settlement spanning 3,000 years of history, with dwellings from the Stone Age to medieval times. In the afternoon, we cross to **Mousa** to see its 2,000-year-old broch, the best-preserved globally. Later, we head to our hotel for dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we tour the northern isles of **Yell** and **Unst**. Travelling via **Tingwall** and **Girgsta**, we pass Sullom Voe. A short ferry takes us to Yell and onward to Unst, where highlights include **Muness Castle** and views from **Saxa Vord Hill**, the UK's northernmost accessible point by coach. We return via East Yell and Burrae for dinner at our hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we check out and visit **St Ninian's Isle**, known for its ancient church and the 9th-century silver treasure hidden from Viking raiders. In **Scalloway**, Shetland's former capital, we explore its ruined castle built in 1600. After lunch *(not included)*, we pass Tingwall Valley, the old Norse parliament site, before returning to Lerwick for free time in the historic town. Later, we re-board the Northlink ferry for the overnight return to Aberdeen with dinner on board. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We disembark in Aberdeen after breakfast on board, returning to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Two nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 26 Jun	\$2,165
12 - 16 Aug	\$2,165

Single Supplement	\$555
Outside Cabin Supplement	\$85



Mousa Broch



Jarlshof

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland

6 DAYS from \$2,655 | ACTIVITY RATING:    

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

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 Skail 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 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 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 return to **Scalloway** to see the ruined castle before continuing 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 of **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*

Key Highlights

-  Mousa Broch – the best preserved Iron Age tower in existence
-  The multi-period settlement of Jarlshof
-  Neolithic Orkney – a UNESCO World Heritage Centre
-  The Churchill Barriers and Italian Chapel, poignant reminders of more recent history

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ One nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Scalloway Hotel, Shetland and three nights bed & breakfast *(plus two dinners)* at the Kirkwall or Shore Hotel, Orkney *(or similar)*
- ▶ All ferry crossings, including two dinners and one night 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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

11 - 16 Apr	\$2,655
24 - 29 Aug	\$2,795

Single Supplement	\$695
Outside Cabin Supplement	\$85



Dunnottar Castle

Undiscovered Orkney

5 DAYS from \$2,375 | ACTIVITY RATING:   

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

An archipelago of 70 islands, Orkney offers rich history and stunning landscapes. From Kirkwall, we'll explore the North and South Isles. Westray reveals Viking heritage, Mainland unveils Neolithic wonders, and Hoy showcases dramatic scenery. Despite years of exploration, Orkney still holds countless secrets and hidden gems waiting to be uncovered.

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

Day 2 We have a full day excursion of mainland Orkney. Visits include **Maeshowe**, **Skara Brae** and the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, lying to the north side of the Orphir Hills. Later we visit the **Pier Arts Centre** and **Highland Park Distillery**, using 200 year-old traditional methods of production. (B, D)

Day 3 Tour the island of **Hoy**, visiting the **Dwarfie Stane** and **Rackwick Bay**, once home to composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. We also visit the **Scapa Flow Museum**, the **Martello Tower** at Hackness and the **Naval Cemetery**. (B, D)



Westray

Day 4 Today we visit **Westray** and the **Scaun Natural Arch**, where guillemots and fulmars can be spotted. After a visit to the unique **Quoygrew 10th century Norse site**, we visit the **Kirk of St Mary** in Pierowall Village, and then **Castle O'Burrian**. Finally we visit the **Westray Heritage Centre**, and tour **Noltland Castle**. (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 pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Knitting in the Shetland Isles

6 DAYS from \$2,655 | ACTIVITY RATING: 

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

Even expert knitters can learn in Scotland's scenic Shetland Isles. Famous for warming wool and workshops, we refine our skills under local tutors. At Nielanell Design Studio, stylish souvenirs await. Exploring Jarlshof and Sumburgh Head, we discover the Shetland Isles' chilly charm and captivating history. A journey to remember together.

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

Day 2 Arriving in Lerwick, we visit the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, followed by stops at **Sumburgh Head**, a guided tour of the award-winning **Textile Gallery of the Shetland Museum and Archives**, and the **Shetland Textile Museum**. (B, D)

Day 3 Our first **interactive workshop** introduces Shetland hand knitting. After lunch, we explore the **Nielanell Design Studio at Sandwick**, **Hoswick Visitor Centre**, and the Laurence Odie Knitwear outlet at **Hoswick Woollen Mill**. (B, L, D)



Fair isle knitting

Day 4 We tour Shetland's western mainland, visiting **Walls**, the ferry terminus to Foula, and the headland at **Sandness**, overlooking Papa Stour. Back at the hotel, we enjoy our second **knitting workshop**. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Our final **knitting workshop** precedes free time in **Scalloway**, home to Earl Patrick Stewart's castle. Later, we relax in Lerwick before boarding our ferry to Aberdeen for dinner. (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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Kirkwall or Shore Hotel, Orkney
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 12 Jun **\$2,375**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Five nights dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the Brae 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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 18 Sep **\$2,655**

Single Supplement **\$555**
Outside cabin supplement **\$85**



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Up Helly Aa Festival

Up Helly Aa - Shetland's Festival of Fire

7 DAYS from \$2,375 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

Strolling through Lerwick in January, you may find yourself face-to-face with towering, bearded Vikings clad in chain mail and winged helmets. Later, they parade through the town in a blaze of torchlight, voices raised in song, as a hand-crafted longship is carried aloft and spectacularly set aflame. Fireworks burst overhead, brass bands strike up and the night sky glows against the winter dark. This is Up Helly Aa, Shetland's extraordinary fire festival, marking the lengthening days and the turning of the year. Entirely run by locals yet welcoming to visitors, it's a celebration of heritage, community spirit and Shetland's wild winter beauty.

Day 1 We travel to Aberdeen to board the Serco Northlink ferry for an overnight sail to Lerwick. Onboard, we check into en-suite cabins. The ship offers a restaurant for dinner, a bar, lounges for relaxation and a gift shop for souvenirs or essentials. (D)

Day 2 We arrive in Lerwick early, have breakfast and disembark for a **scenic excursion to Shetland's northern mainland**. The route crosses the **Mavis Grind** and passes hills, moors and lochans. Weather permitting, we'll walk along the dramatic **Eshaness sea cliffs**, offering stunning views, skerries and Britain's largest sea cave. See the lighthouse built by David Alan Stevenson (1925-1929). Later, we check into our accommodation, with dinner in the evening. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning, following breakfast, we enjoy another **scenic excursion to the west mainland** of Shetland, which will take us to Walls, the terminus for the ferry service to the island of Foula and the headland at Sandness, overlooking the island of Papa Stour. In the afternoon, we return to our hotel. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we head to Lerwick for a free day to explore the **Up Helly Aa festival**. As darkness falls, squads assemble for a torchlight parade, leading to a procession of 1,000 men carrying flaming brands and the crafted galley, which is ceremoniously burned in the spectacular finale. Dinner will be at a local restaurant, followed

by a transfer back to our hotels after the evening procession. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we embark on a full-day tour to the northern isles of **Yell** and **Unst**, weather permitting. Travelling through Tingwall, Girdsta and past the Sullom Voe oil terminal, we reach Toft for a ferry to Yell. After a 15-minute crossing, we drive to Gutcher and take another ferry to Unst. Heading north to Baltasound, we stop for lunch (not included) before continuing to Saxavord Hill for stunning views. Returning via East Yell and Burravoe, we transfer back to our hotel for dinner. (B, D)

Day 6 After breakfast, we check out and visit **Scalloway**, Shetland's original capital. Next, we explore the **Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement**, showcasing 3,000 years of history, including Bronze Age houses, Viking longhouses and medieval farmhouses. At **Sumburgh Head**, an RSPB reserve with a lighthouse museum, puffins and other birds nest seasonally but are at sea in January. We end the day boarding the Northlink ferry to Aberdeen for an overnight journey with dinner onboard. (B, D)

Day 7 After breakfast on board, we will disembark in Aberdeen and return to the original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Sumburgh Hotel
- Two nights accommodation in two-berth cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries Hrossey or Hjaltland with dinner and breakfast
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

24 - 30 Jan **\$2,375**

Single Supplement **\$630**

Outside cabin supplement **\$85**
Busta Hotel supplement **\$335**

4 DAY AIR PACKAGE OPTION (BRAE HOTEL)

26 - 29 Jan **\$2,375**

Single Supplement **\$490**

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS



Vikings march the streets of Lerwick



Luskentyre

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

5 DAYS from \$1,815 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

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

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

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

Day 2 This morning after breakfast we travel to the west coast of Lewis for a visit to **Calanais II**, an impressive site comprising of five standing stones and two fallen stones, forming an oval. A further, shorter stone lies pointing towards the centre. There may originally have been more stones in the ‘circle’. Its diameter of nearly 20 metres makes it almost twice as big as the circle at Calanais I (which is around 11–12m across). Inside the ‘circle’ is a low round cairn that was probably a later addition; it will have contained a burial chamber, but it has been badly damaged. When peat was first cleared away from this monument, shortly after 1857, people



Croft on Isle of Lewis

found traces of pebbles that had probably supported upright wooden posts inside the ‘circle’.

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

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

Day 3 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and travel south to **Harris**, which in contrast to the rolling moorland of Lewis is more mountainous – this is apparent within minutes of crossing the ‘border’ into Harris with a magnificent mountain vista to the right as the road climbs over the hill. There are further outstanding views as we travel along the coast, including the island of Taransay of ‘Castaway’ fame and the wonderful beaches at Horgabost, Borge and Scarasta. Continuing to the southern end of Harris we visit **St Clement’s Church** at Rodel, built on top of an earlier structure in the 16th century by Alasdair Crotach, 8th chief of the Macleods of Harris and Dun Bheagan. The church tombs are among the most spectacular in Scotland. We then take the ferry from Leverburgh to Berneray on North Uist, and continue over a series of causeways (*keeping a careful eye out for otters*) to Benbecula, the ‘stepping stone’ between the Uists. Here we check in to our comfortable accommodation, where dinner will be served in the evening. (B,D)

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

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

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

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

Key Highlights

- The unique airport at Cockleshell Beach
- 5,000 year old standing stones
- The tranquil location of the Norse Mill at Shawbost
- Four scenic ferry crossings

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula and two nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway (*breakfast served on board the ferry on day 5*)
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA

24 - 28 Apr **\$1,815**

BENBECULA TO STORNOWAY

16 - 20 Sep **\$1,955**

Single Supplement **\$280**

6 DAY PACKAGE OPTION

10 - 15 May **\$2,375**

Single Supplement **\$350**

7 DAY PACKAGE OPTION

30 May - 5 Jun **\$2,655**

Single Supplement **\$420**

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS



St Clement’s Church

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

5 DAYS from \$2,235 | ACTIVITY RATING:   

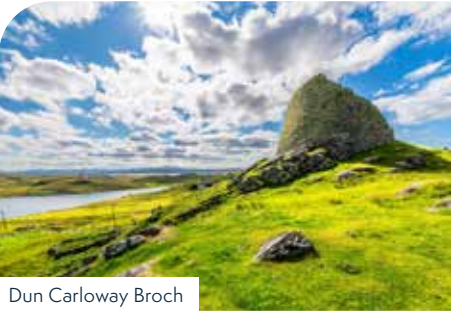
 PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth, Inverness

In 1800 BC, as Egypt’s Middle Kingdom thrived, an Outer Hebrides civilisation flourished. Together with a specialist guide, we’ll explore sites from Lewis to Harris. Highlights include Bosta Iron Age Village, the Callanish Standing Stones, and St Clement’s Church at Rodel. Join us on this historical journey.

Day 1 Depart from our designated pick-up points and head north to **Ullapool** to catch the evening ferry to Stornoway and our hotel.

Day 2 Crossing to the island of Great Bernera, we visit the fascinating **Bosta Iron Age Village** and its nearby **museum**. Later, we marvel at the 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, a highlight of the Western Isles. In the afternoon, we explore **St Columba’s Ui Church**, a key archaeological site on Lewis. *(B)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we journey south to **Harris**, a land of mountains and pristine white beaches. Highlights include **St Clement’s Church** at Rodel, with its ornate tombs, and the **Genealogy Centre** at Northton, where we delve into island heritage. We visit the ancient standing stone **Clach Mhic Leoid**, overlooking Taransay, before returning to Stornoway to explore **Lews Castle**. *(B)*



Dun Carloway Broch

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 **Dun 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*

*The main Callanish site will be closed until early 2026. Should the sit not have reopened will visit the nearby smaller circles instead.

In the Footsteps of the Picts

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

 PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh

Journeying beyond Rome’s northern frontier, we meet the Picts of Dark Age Scotland, famed as ‘painted ones’. Known for their fierce battles against Rome, they left few traces of homes but gifted us exquisite carved stones and jewellery, marking them among Europe’s finest early medieval artisans.

Day 1 We set off from our pick-up points, heading to the **National Museum of Scotland**. Here, we explore their Pictish collection, featuring jewellery and sculptures, including the remarkable **St Ninian’s Isle Treasure**, the only complete Scottish hoard of fine metalwork from this era. *(D)*

Day 2 Our journey takes us to **Aberlemno**, home to four stunning Pictish stones. Next, we meet professional stone-carver **David McGovern**, who demonstrates Pictish stone carving techniques exclusively for us. Afterwards, we visit the **St Vigeans Museum of Pictish Sculpture**, housing one of Western Europe’s most significant early medieval sculpture collections. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We begin at **Eassie**, viewing its symbol-inscribed cross-slab depicting angels and a cloaked figure. Then, we head to the newly



Aberlemno Pictish Stone

re-opened **Perth Museum**, following its £27 million redevelopment. Finally, we visit Dundee’s **McManus Museum**, where we encounter 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*

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights bed & breakfast at the Royal Hotel, Stornoway
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

14 - 18 Aug	\$2,235
Single Supplement	\$315



Bosta Beach

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights 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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 10 Aug	\$1,255
Single Supplement	\$130



Aberlemno Pictish Stone

Scotland’s Northern Edge featuring the North Coast 500

5 DAYS from \$1,745 | ACTIVITY RATING:   

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

On Scotland’s northern edge, where ancient rock meets restless sea, views are spectacular. Dunnet Head, the mainland’s most northerly point, offers vast sea vistas, as do Duncansby Head’s cliffs. Following the North Coast 500, explore stunning beaches, historic castles, and the Northern Highlands’ landscapes, including the Castle of Mey and Smoo Cave.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points 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**, we continue to the **Castle of Mey**, the 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



Ardreck Castle

Park. We continue to the ruins of **Ardreck Castle** and then on to **Lochinver** for some free time and an opportunity for lunch *(not included)*. After a visit to **Highland Stoneware**, we continue via **Drumbeg** and **Eddrachillis Bay** back to Kinlochbervie. *(B, D)*

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

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

Scotland’s Extreme North West

4 DAYS from \$975 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

The rugged north-west coast of Scotland transforms into a majestic spectacle in early spring and autumn. Towering Atlantic waves crash against the shore, showcasing raw natural power. From our Kinlochbervie base, we explore treasures like Oldshoremore beach and Smoo Cave, while our evenings promise fine food, camaraderie and fireside drams.

Day 1 We set off together from our pick-up points, heading north and pausing en route for refreshments. Our journey leads us to **Kinlochbervie** on the north-west coastline, where we settle into the Kinlochbervie Hotel, overlooking the fishing harbour and the open sea. *(D)*

Day 2 Today, we explore Assynt’s breathtaking landscape of moorlands and freshwater lochans. The coastline is equally stunning, featuring cliffs, sea stacks, and white beaches like **Achmelvich Bay**. We visit **Lochinver**, a village with a lively harbour and views of the imposing mountain **Suilven**, often snow-capped at this time of year. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We start with a stroll along **Oldshoremore Beach**, a picturesque stretch of white sand surrounded by rich machair dunes. Later, we head to **Durness**, visiting Balnakeil Church’s graveyard,



Smoo Cave

home to poet **Rob Don**, and the charming **Cocoa Mountain** chocolatier. We also explore **Smoo Cave**, featuring the largest sea cave entrance in Britain, and continue past **Loch Eriboll** to **Tongue**, steeped in Norse history. *(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 **Laig**, 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*

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the St Clair 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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 9 May	\$1,745
9 - 13 Jun	\$1,745
8 - 12 Sep	\$1,745
Single Supplement	\$170



John O’ Groats

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

12 - 15 Mar	\$975
17 - 20 Mar	\$975
7 - 10 Apr	\$1,045
17 - 20 Apr	\$1,045
6 - 9 Oct	\$975
Single Supplement	\$210



Achmelvich Bay



Falkland Palace

Castles, Palaces and Abbeys of Eastern Scotland

4 DAYS from \$1,395 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh

The East of Scotland boasts a remarkable array of Royal Palaces and historic castles. We begin at Linlithgow Palace, the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots, which also served as a resting point between Edinburgh and Stirling Castle. Stirling Castle, steeped in history, is next on our journey. Heading north to Angus, we explore Glamis Castle, famed as the inspiration for Shakespeare's Macbeth and the birthplace of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

In Perthshire, Scone Palace awaits us, renowned as the crowning site of Scottish Kings and the ancestral home of the Earls of Mansfield. Its red sandstone and Gothic Revival architecture make it a striking landmark. Our tour continues with Falkland Palace, a refuge for Mary, Queen of Scots, and Loch Leven Castle, where she was imprisoned. Finally, we marvel at Culross Palace, with its intricate passageways and painted ceilings, before concluding at Dunfermline Abbey and Palace, the burial site of Scottish royals, including Robert the Bruce.

Day 1 We set off from our pick-up points, heading to **Linlithgow Palace**, birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots. Exploring its ruins, we marvel at the Great Hall and courtyard fountain, with an option to climb to the roof for breathtaking views. Later, we visit **Stirling Castle**, stepping into Scotland's Renaissance era. Highlights include the Great Hall (1503), King James VI's Chapel, and Queen Anne Gardens. After our visit, we settle into our hotel. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we journey to Angus to tour **Glamis Castle**, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother's birthplace. Our **guided visit** unveils 1,000 years of history, tales of Mary, Queen of Scots, and even ghostly legends. In the afternoon, we explore **Scone Palace**, the crowning site of Scottish kings like Macbeth and Robert the Bruce. Inside, we admire its antiques, paintings, and artefacts. (B, D)

Day 3 We begin at **Falkland Palace and Gardens**, Mary, Queen of Scots' retreat. Wandering through its Renaissance palace, gardens, and meadow, we see the Falkland Bed and Queen's Room, styled as Mary might have used it. Later, we visit **Loch Leven Castle**, where Mary was imprisoned in 1567. Crossing the loch, we explore serene surroundings, the Tower House, and Glassin Tower. (B, D)

Day 4 Our day starts at **Culross Palace**, built by Sir George Bruce (1597-1611). We explore painted ceilings, passageways, and restored 17th-century gardens with views over the Firth of Forth. In the afternoon, we visit **Dunfermline Abbey and Palace**, featuring the Romanesque nave, St Margaret's shrine, and Bruce's tomb reconstruction before returning to our pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Salutation Hotel, Perth
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

12 - 15 Jun	\$1,395
28 - 31 Aug	\$1,395

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Culross

NEW TOUR



Culzean Castle

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Castles and Abbeys of Western Scotland

4 DAYS from \$1,325 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

Western Scotland, shaped by power, faith, and imagination, reveals its story through castles and abbeys. From aristocratic estates to sacred medieval ruins, this tour showcases the region's heritage against stunning landscapes. Highlights include Culzean Castle, perched on a clifftop over the Firth of Clyde; a private tour and afternoon tea at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute; Kelburn Castle's artistic flair; and visits to Paisley Abbey and Robert Burns' birthplace, reflecting Scotland's spiritual and cultural past.

Day 1 We set off from our pick-up points, journeying into western Scotland's historic heart. Our first stop is the ancient town of **Paisley**, where we visit **Paisley Abbey**, founded in 1163 by Walter FitzAlan, High Steward of Scotland. This former Cluniac monastery, rich in Gothic beauty, is thought to be the burial site of Marjorie Bruce, mother of Robert II. Later, we continue to the seaside town of **Troon** and check in at the South Beach Hotel, just steps from the shore. (D)

Day 2 We begin with a visit to **Culzean Castle**, a clifftop marvel designed by Robert Adam. Filled with elegant rooms, fine furniture and a vast arms collection, it was gifted to the National Trust for Scotland in 1945. General Eisenhower stayed in a special apartment here from 1946. In the afternoon, we explore **Robert Burns' birthplace** in Alloway, visiting his thatched cottage, the **Burns Monument**, **Alloway Auld Kirk** and the **Brig o' Doon** from *Tam O'Shanter*. Together, these sites celebrate Burns' life and legacy. We return to Troon for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 Today, we head to the Isle of Bute, crossing by scenic ferry to visit the extraordinary **Mount Stuart**. This neo-Gothic masterpiece, built in the late 19th century for the 3rd Marquess of Bute, blends art, mysticism and innovation. On our

private guided tour, we explore opulent rooms adorned with stained glass, marble and gilded ceilings, brimming with Victorian grandeur. After the tour, we enjoy a traditional **afternoon tea** and take in the estate's atmosphere. The gardens, with lush woodlands and views over the Firth of Clyde, are equally enchanting. (B, AT, D)

Day 4 Our final day brings visits to two contrasting castles. First, we explore **Kelburn Castle**, continuously inhabited since the 12th century and renowned for its vibrant 2007 mural by Brazilian artists, blending medieval heritage with modern art. In the afternoon, we tour **Hunterston Castle**, the ancestral seat of **Clan Hunter**. Its 13th-century tower and ancient relics offer a compelling glimpse into Scotland's medieval past. A **guided tour** reveals tales of feudal loyalty, maritime history and clan legacy. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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



Mount Stuart House

Key Highlights

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

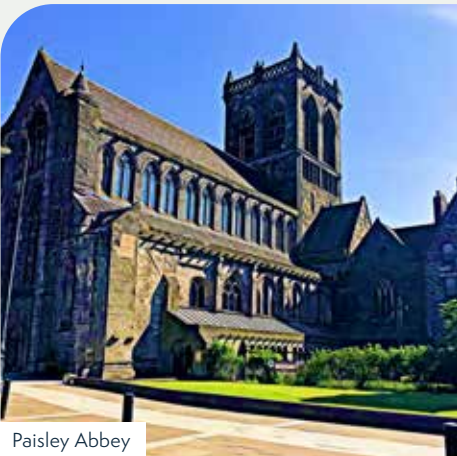
YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star South Beach Hotel, Troon
- ▶ Afternoon tea at Mount Stuart
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 4 Jun	\$1,325
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NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Paisley Abbey

NEW TOUR

Castles of Aberdeenshire

4 DAYS from \$1,325 | ACTIVITY RATING:

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

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

Join us on a four-day journey through Aberdeenshire’s castles, weaving history, legend, and architectural beauty. From Dunnottar’s clifftop ruins to Balmoral’s royal elegance, explore tower houses, fortresses, and gardens, revealing Scotland’s rich heritage amidst stunning northeast landscapes. A truly memorable escape awaits in this captivating journey.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points, heading to **Dunnottar Castle**. Its dramatic perch atop soaring sea cliffs, surrounded by the sea on three sides, creates an atmosphere steeped in mystique. Originally a Pictish fortress, Dunnottar has played a vital role throughout Scottish history. *(D)*

Day 2 Our journey begins at **Castle Fraser**, a magnificent Scottish baronial tower house featuring a strikingly simple Great Hall. Next, we explore **Drum Castle and Gardens**, with its medieval square tower, stalwart battlements and centuries of history. The Garden of Historic Roses showcases rose cultivation from the 17th to the 20th century, while an ancient oak forest lies nearby. *(B, D)*



Crathes Castle

Day 3 We visit **Crathes Castle**, a quintessential Scottish tower house. Renowned for its 16th-century painted ceilings and antique furnishings, the castle offers insights into the Burnett family’s history. Later, we embark on a **scenic tour of Royal Deeside**, famed for its picturesque landscapes, sparkling rivers, and historic villages like Ballater, with its royal connections. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Our final stop is **Balmoral**, the iconic royal residence built for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1854. After this, we return to our pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Highland Wildlife Safari

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$1,395 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points, heading to the **Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve**, home to a pair of breeding ospreys. Our journey continues to the **Highland Wildlife Park** near Aviemore, showcasing native and exotic animals. *(D)*

Day 2 Our adventure takes us to **Inverness**, the Highlands’ capital, for a **Dolphin Cruise** on the Moray Firth. We hope to spot terns, gannets, fulmars, razorbills, kittiwakes, red kites, ospreys, and wading birds. Later, we visit the **House of Aigas Field Centre**, enjoying lunch using produce from the estate before a **guided walk** to explore the beaver dam, Scottish Wildcat project, and native wildlife like red squirrels. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we traverse stunning mountain scenery to Loch Maree for a



Dolphins, Moray Firth

serene woodland walk at the **Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve**, Britain’s oldest reserve. In the afternoon, we visit **Inverewe Gardens**, one of the finest gardens in the country and celebrated for its exceptional botanical specimens. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We explore the **Abernethy National Nature Reserve** at Loch Garten, seeking crested tits, crossbills, and ospreys. Heading south, we stop at the **RSPB Reserve** at **Insh Marshes**, habitat to breeding waders like Curlews and Lapwings. Finally, we return to our pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- The magnificent painted ceilings at Crathes Castle
- Castle Fraser, one of Scotland’s grandest baronial tower houses
- 175 years of Royal history at Balmoral

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 11 Jun	\$1,325
Single Supplement	\$210



Balmoral Castle

Key Highlights

- Ospreys on the nest at Loch Garten and Loch of the Lowes
- The chance to see the famous Moray Firth dolphins seen from the water
- A walk on the wild side at Beinn Eighe
- Spectacular plant life at Inverewe
- Beaver and wildcat at the House of Aigas

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge *(or similar)*
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 25 Jun	\$1,395
Single Supplement	\$210



Red Squirrel

Mull, Staffa and Iona

4 DAYS from \$2,235 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

The Isle of Mull offers tumbling burns, towering peaks, and silent beauty. Together, we’ll explore Tobermory’s colourful waterfront, sail to the Treshnish Isles and Staffa’s basalt cathedral, and visit Duart Castle, home to Clan MacLean’s Chief, before reaching the sacred isle of Iona. Adventure awaits on this remarkable journey!

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

Day 2 Driving through the stunning Ross of Mull, we arrive at Fionnphort to cross as foot passengers to the ‘sacred isle’ of **Iona**. Here, you can visit the historic **Abbey** and stroll across the island, soaking in its tranquil and contemplative atmosphere that draws visitors worldwide. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Heading to **Tobermory**, Mull’s ‘capital’, we embark on a wildlife cruise to the **Treshnish Isles** and **Staffa**. On the Isle of Lunga, surrounded by wildflowers, we observe puffins nesting on the grassy hills *(June departure only)*. Then, we cross to Staffa, famed for its volcanic formations and the awe-inspiring **Fingal’s Cave**. *(B, PL, D)*



Tobermory

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 returning to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Arran, Scotland in Miniature

5 DAYS from \$2,095 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

Boarding the ferry at Troon, Goat Fell’s silhouette rises from the Firth of Clyde, hinting at Arran’s charm. Known as “Scotland in Miniature,” Arran blends Highland peaks and lush southern farmlands. We’ll explore villages, Brodick Castle’s vibrant gardens, and stay four nights at the welcoming Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head to Troon for our ferry to Arran and transfer to our hotel in **Blackwaterfoot**. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we have a **circular tour** visiting **Whiting Bay, Lamash, Brodick, Corrie, Sannox, Catacol, Pirnmill and Isle of Arran Brewery**. 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.



Blackwaterfoot

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 Troon and return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 16 Jun	\$2,235
19 - 22 Sep	\$2,235
Single Supplement	\$590



Puffin - Treshnish Isles

Key Highlights

- Sailing across the Firth of Clyde and watching the mountains of Arran draw ever nearer
- Highly scenic circular tour of the island
- Brewery tour and tasting
- The incomparable setting and colourful gardens of Brodick Castle
- The comfortable Kinloch Hotel, located on the ‘sunset side’ of the island

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Best Western Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

18 - 22 May	\$2,095
7 - 11 Jun	\$2,095
10 - 14 Aug	\$2,095
21 - 25 Sep	\$2,095
Single Supplement	\$455
Optional excursion Gigha:	\$120



Isle of Gigha



Logan Botanic Garden

Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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 colour. Further highlights include Drumlanrig Castle, one of the most important Renaissance buildings in Scotland.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for **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. *(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 colourful 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 This morning we visit **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. Our visit includes tea and shortbread. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Holiday Inn Dumfries *(or similar)*
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

31 May - 3 Jun	\$1,255
19 - 22 Jul	\$1,255
13 - 16 Sep	\$1,255
Single Supplement	\$275



Drumlanrig Castle

Autumn Tints of Dumfries and Galloway

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

As summer wanes, autumn bursts into vibrant colours in south-west Scotland. Amid fiery reds and golden yellows, we explore enchanting gardens: Dumfries House’s Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, Glenwhan Gardens, Logan Botanic, and Dalswinton Mill—Brightwater tour manager Colin Crosbie’s own creation.

Day 1 We begin our journey from designated pick-up points and travel to **Dumfries House**. Here, we enjoy a grand tour of the interiors, followed by tea and shortbread. We then explore the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**, a standout example in Scotland. Later, we visit **Burnside**, a dynamic 6½ acre garden with diverse plants offering year-round colour and variety. *(D)*

Day 2 Our day starts at **Glenwhan Gardens**, perched on a windy hilltop with views of Luce Bay and the Mull of Galloway. Next, we visit the renowned **Logan Botanic Garden**, famed for its walled garden, terraces and borders lined with cabbage palms. The mild climate here supports an extraordinary range of plants across various habitats. *(B, D)*



Drumlanrig Castle

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit the private garden at **Millhall** before heading to the **Threave Estate**, shaped by horticulture students since 1960. Our day concludes at **Corsock House**, featuring acid-loving trees and shrubs enhancing glades leading to an ornamental water garden. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We are honoured to visit Colin Crosbie’s garden, **Dalswinton Mill**, a plantsman’s haven set around an 18th-century watermill. Finally, we explore the gardens of **Drumlanrig Castle** before returning to our departure points. *(B)*

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

Autumn Tints of Arran

4 DAYS from \$1,395 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for Troon in time to catch the afternoon ferry to **Brodick**. On arrival we transfer to our hotel in **Blackwaterfoot**. *(D)*

Day 2 Today following breakfast we have a **tour of the island of Arran**. From Blackwaterfoot we will visit **Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick** – the capital of Arran; **Corrie** and **Sannox** under the shadow of Goat Fell and other mountains, and then down the west coast to **Catcol** and **Pirnmill** with its ‘12 Apostles’. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning we have included a visit to the gardens of **Brodick Castle** which occupies a splendid position, well protected from westerly winds and looking east across the Firth of Clyde. The present garden dates from 1932 when the Duchess of Montrose started an ambitious



Brodick Castle

woodland garden with a collection of rhododendrons. From the castle, paths wind downhill towards the seashore, and in a shady place there is a fernery and a delightful Bavarian summer house embellished with rustic work and lovely inlaid panels of pinecones. A walled garden, dating from 1710, has been restored and mixed borders on three sides retain the gardener’s interest throughout the year. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We will travel to the ferry port in time for the crossing to **Troon**, where we expect to arrive early afternoon. Thereafter we will return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- A visit to the Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, which is one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland
- The private garden at Millhall
- Stunning interiors and a wonderful walled garden at Dumfries House
- Colin Crosbie’s own garden, Dalswinton Mill

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Holiday Inn Dumfries
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

25 - 28 Oct	\$1,255
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NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Dumfries House ©Damian Shields

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

14 - 17 Oct	\$1,395
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Single Supplement	\$350
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Lochranza



Attadale

Gardens of Wester Ross

5 DAYS from \$1,605 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

Day 1 We leave our pick-up points and head north, stopping for lunch in Pitlochry *(not included)*. Next, we visit the private garden of the **Oldtown of Leys** near Inverness. Established in 2003, this three-acre garden offers year-round interest with seasonal highlights like spring rhododendrons, summer plantings, autumn trees and winter evergreens. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning, we head south through Torridon's stunning scenery, crossing the elegant Kyle of Lochalsh bridge to the **Isle of Skye**. At **Dunvegan Castle**, we explore its award-winning formal gardens. In the afternoon, we take the ferry from Sconser to Raasay to visit the **Raasay Walled Garden**. This revitalised community project features a productive fruit and vegetable garden, rose garden and herbaceous borders. We return to Skye, cross back to the mainland and reach the hotel in time for dinner after a fulfilling day. *(B, D)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we travel south to **Attadale Gardens** on the shores of Loch Carron, where the Gulf Stream-influenced micro-climate nurtures 20 acres of outstanding water gardens, old rhododendrons, unusual trees and a fern collection in a geodesic dome. We enjoy an **exclusive private visit**, guided by a member of the family and the gardening staff, followed by a **light lunch** served in the dining room of the main house, which

is not normally open to the public. We return to Gairloch, where there will be an opportunity to visit the **Gairloch Museum**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 Today, we explore northern Scotland, visiting **Dundonnell House Garden**, completed in 1769 by the Mackenzies of Dundonnell. The current owner has added vibrant borders around a 300-year-old yew tree. The garden features distinct sections, riverside walks through an arboretum and a restored Victorian glasshouse. Next, we visit **Inverewe Gardens**, renowned for its lush exotic trees and shrubs thriving in the mild Gulf Stream Drift Climate, with winding paths revealing glimpses of shimmering water. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We leave our hotel for Inverness, stopping in Munloch to visit **Old Allangrange**. This site features a 17th-century house surrounded by an ornamental garden and a three-acre productive garden with Keder greenhouses, designed with agroforestry, permaculture and no-dig techniques. Next, we stop at **Simpsons Garden Centre** near Inverness, where lunch is available. We then return to our pick-up points, arriving in the evening. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

19 - 23 May	\$1,605
Single Supplement	\$415



Dunvegan Castle

NEW
TOUR



Gordon Castle - Garden Cottage - © Ed Bollom

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Gordon Castle & Gardens of the East Highlands

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

The spectacular gardens and landscapes of the East Highlands await on this special break. Highlights include the UK's most northerly botanic gardens at Inverness, the beautiful lawns, wildflower meadows and walled garden of the fairytale Aldourie Castle Gardens on the banks of Loch Ness, and of course, the wonderful Gordon Castle Gardens. RHS Regional Partner Garden of the Year 2024 and one of Britain's largest kitchen gardens, this historic treasure has been restored to its Victorian and Edwardian heyday and offers the perfect spot for our included afternoon tea.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for our first visit, **Branklyn Garden**, a haven of peace and colour on the outskirts of Perth. Begun in 1922, on a south-facing slope with acid soil, the garden represents a wonderful collection of woodland plants along the winding paths. Afterwards, we continue northwards to our hotel on the north side of the stunning **Cairngorms National Park**, the largest National Park in Britain. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning we visit **Aldourie Castle Gardens**, nestled in a private 500-acre estate in a picturesque lochside setting and a lovely blend of formal and informal landscaping. Highlights include a peaceful walled garden, pretty wildflower meadows, vegetable-filled glasshouses and beautiful lawns surrounded by a wide variety of ancient trees, with views out to Loch Ness.

In the afternoon, we discover the enchanting **Inverness Botanic Gardens**, a hidden treasure in the heart of the city. Wander through the tropical house and cactus house, soak in the serene ambience and admire the formal gardens and wildflower meadows that create a beautiful range of colours. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today we make our way to the charming **Ruthven Cottage Hardy Plant Nursery**, home to a stunning array of herbaceous borders,

along with a peaceful pond, greenhouse and free-roaming chickens! Emphasising a naturalistic style of planting, many of the hardy perennials, shrubs and climbers we see are sold at the nursery here.

We continue to the real highlight of our break, **Gordon Castle Gardens**, Historic House's Garden of the Year 2021, the RHS Regional Partner Garden of the Year 2024 and one of Scotland's best-kept secrets. The eight-acre restored walled garden is now one of Britain's oldest and largest kitchen gardens, brought back to life by world-famous designer Arne Maynard. Enclosed within the ancient walls is a range of herbs, cut flowers, fruit and vegetables, creating beautiful colours and a sense of tranquillity all year round. It's a charming spot for our included **afternoon tea**. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and make our way to the splendid formal gardens of **Drummond Castle**. The gardens we see today were replanted during the 1950s, preserving features such as the ancient yew hedges and the copper beech trees planted by Queen Victoria to commemorate her visit in 1842. The garden was principally the work of Lewis Kennedy of Vineyard Nursery in Hammersmith, who supplied plants to many of Britain's finest gardens. Later, we continue back to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Stroll amongst the unique variety of plants and vibrant flowers at Branklyn Garden
- Enjoy exploring the impressive Gordon Castle Gardens, complete with afternoon tea
- Discover the colour of Aldourie Castle Gardens, set on the banks of Loch Ness
- Admire Inverness Botanic Gardens, an oasis of calm in the capital of the Highlands

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge
- Afternoon tea at Gordon Castle
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

14 - 17 Sep	\$1,255
Single Supplement	\$210



Drummond Castle

NEW
TOUR

SCOTLAND



Dunrobin Castle

Grand Tour of the Gardens of Scotland

11 DAYS from \$4,195 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

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

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



Branklyn Gardens

Day 1 We travel north to **Branklyn Gardens**, a serene garden with rhododendrons, blue poppies, magnolias and woodland plants. Paths wind through the land, showcasing beautifully grown plants. Next, we visit **Cluny House Gardens**, a Himalayan woodland paradise with exotic plants, including Britain’s widest conifer, a giant Wellingtonia. Later, we head to our hotel. (D)



Arduaine

Day 2 We take a morning visit to **Dunrobin Castle**, a fantasy chateau-style castle with formal gardens descending to the sea. Afterwards, we continue to **John O’Groats** and visit the private gardens of the **Castle of Mey**, the former home of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. (B, D)

Day 3 We visit **Dundonnell House Garden**, featuring borders, a 300-year-old yew tree, riverside walks and a restored Victorian glasshouse. Later, we explore **Inverewe Gardens**, an undoubtable highlight of the tour and a lush garden with exotic trees and shrubs, vibrant with Gulf Stream growth. We return to the hotel via **Loch Maree** and **Achnasheen**. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we visit **Abriachan Gardens**, then travel along scenic Loch Ness to Fort William and onwards to **Ardchattan Priory**, a historic garden with herbaceous borders, Philadelphus scents and orchids in a wildflower meadow. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning, we visit **Arduaine**, a garden started in 1897 with magnificent plants and panoramic views of Loch Melfort. In the afternoon, we visit **An Cala**, a quaint garden with stunning sea views. (B, D)

Day 6 Sit back and admire the views as we meander through scenic landscapes to **Ardkinglas**, home to Britain’s tallest conifers and rhododendrons. Next, we visit **Glenarn**, a restored woodland garden filled with rhododendrons and plants from Tibet and China. We continue to our accommodation near Glasgow. (B, D)

Day 7 Today we pay a visit to **Dumfries House**, featuring renowned Chippendale furniture and the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**. Highlights include a yew hedge maze and Japanese pagoda. (B, D)

Day 8 In the morning, we visit **Glenwhan Gardens**, a hilltop garden with pools, streams and unique plants. In the afternoon, we explore **Logan Botanic Gardens**, known for its mild climate and diverse plant habitats. (B, D)

Day 9 Today we visit **Broughton House**, an 18th-century house with a Japanese-inspired garden, followed by **Ellenbank** nursery with cottage garden perennials. Lastly, we explore **Threave Estate**, featuring woodland, shrub roses, mixed borders and glasshouses. (B, D)

Day 10 We visit **Dawyck Botanic Gardens**, a world-famous arboretum, and **Kailzie Gardens**, home to a walled garden, laburnum arches and a historic glasshouse. Later, we travel to our hotel near Edinburgh. (B, D)

Day 11 We visit **Malleny Garden**, a peaceful haven with heritage roses and ancient yew trees. We conclude in the regal surroundings of the **Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh**, one of the finest botanic gardens in the world. The world-famous Rock Garden is a particular highlight, where there are approximately 5,000 species planted at any one time. After exploring this gem and reflecting on our grand horticultural journey, we return to our original departure points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Ten nights dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in the Inverness area; two nights in the Oban area; one night near Glasgow; two nights near Stranraer; one night in Dumfries; one night in the Edinburgh area
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2 - 12 Jun	\$4,195
Single Supplement	\$1,255

SCOTLAND



Ivatt Loco No 46512 heads out of Broomhill

Scenic Scottish Railways

4 DAYS from \$1,325 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌿

 DEPARTURE POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross, Perth

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 and travel by coach to Aviemore for a return trip on the **Strathspey Railway**. Our train of maroon-liveried coaches will be hauled by a lovingly restored steam locomotive as we travel to Boat of Garten and Broomhill, with the Cairngorm Mountains providing a scenic backdrop. 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** and follows the spectacular coastline as far as **Helmsdale**, where it turns inland before reaching the terminus at **Wick**. We re-join our coach and return to our hotel by the more direct but equally scenic coastal route. (B, D)

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

Day 4 Today we travel to Fort William, where we join **'The Jacobite'** steam train and experience one of the most memorable and spectacular railway journeys in the world, crossing the famous **Glenfinnan Viaduct** as we steam on a return trip to **Mallaig**. After some free time and an opportunity for lunch (not included) in Mallaig, we return on the train to Fort William. We then return by coach to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

-  Iconic views over Loch Shiel from the Glenfinnan Viaduct
-  Eilean Donan situated on an island where three lochs meet
-  The palm trees of Plockton
-  Scenic banks of the Beaulieu Firth

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge (or similar)
- ▶ Comfortable coach and standard class rail travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
27 - 30 May	\$1,395
14 - 17 Oct	\$1,325
Single Supplement	\$210



Eilean Donan Castle



The Jacobite Steam Train

A Classic Scottish Steam Break

4 DAYS from \$1,115 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌿

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

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

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

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

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

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Please note: *On the June departure we will sail on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, the Waverley, whilst it is here in Scotland instead of Loch Lomond and Inveraray Castle. (subject to timetable)

Key Highlights

-  Enjoy a journey on the Falkirk Wheel boat lift
-  Stunning views from the Jacobite steam train
-  Cruise the Firth of Clyde aboard the PS Waverley (June date only)
-  A captivating sailing on Loch Katrine on the steamship Sir Walter Scott

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

23 - 26 Apr	\$1,115
7 - 10 May	\$1,185
25 - 28 Jun	\$1,325
8 - 11 Oct	\$1,115
Single Supplement	\$130

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN APRIL



the Waverley

Glasgow’s Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$975 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

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

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

Day 3 We start our day at the **Burrell Collection** which, following an ambitious and far-reaching refurbishment programme, in 2024



Kelvingrove

received the Andrew Doolan **Best Building in Scotland Award**. This afternoon we head to **Holmwood House**, the finest and most elaborate residential villa designed by Alexander ‘Greek’ Thomson. *(B, D)*

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh

Scotland’s two largest cities, just 45 miles apart, enjoy a friendly rivalry. We explore their architecture, contrasting Glasgow’s grand Victorian edifices with Edinburgh’s Georgian elegance in Old and New Towns.

Day 1 We begin our journey from Glasgow and Edinburgh, heading to central **Edinburgh** for a tour of the Old Town. Strolling along the Royal Mile, we visit **Gladstone’s Land**, a historic building with 500 years of history, including war, fire, and disease. Continuing down the High Street, we explore **St Giles’ Cathedral**, site of His Majesty The King’s ‘Scottish Coronation’. We then proceed to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the **Scottish Parliament**. Next, we tour the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, exploring its historic apartments, Holyrood Abbey ruins, and gardens. After lunch *(not included)*, we delve into the New Town’s elegant terraces and **Charlotte Square**, visiting **The Georgian House**, restored to reflect 18th-century life. Our day concludes at the **National Gallery of Scotland**, showcasing masterpieces by Rubens, Titian, and Van Gogh. *(B, D)*



Edinburgh

Day 3 Heading to Glasgow, we explore the **Merchant City**, tracing its 18th-century mercantile roots. A **private tour** of the ornate **Glasgow City Chambers** highlights its Beaux Arts style. After a city tour, we enjoy **afternoon tea** at **Mackintosh at the Willow**. We finish at **The Tenement House**, a preserved 20th-century time capsule. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 4 Our final day in Glasgow includes **Templeton on the Green**, a Venetian-inspired former carpet factory, and the striking **Riverside Museum**, showcasing vehicles and recreated historic streets. Later, we return to our pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Explore the newly refurbished Burrell Collection
- Visit Scotland’s oldest public museum
- Discover one delight after another at Kelvingrove
- See world class art *(and a Glasgow icon)* at the Gallery of Modern Art
- Charles Rennie Mackintosh’s design brought to life at the House for an Art Lover

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 16 Mar	\$1,115
30 Oct - 2 Nov	\$975

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Holmwood House

Key Highlights

- Guided tour of the Scottish Parliament building
- Contrast and compare Edinburgh’s Georgian House with Glasgow’s Tenement House
- Private tour of the marble staircases and cavernous rooms at Glasgow City Chambers
- Afternoon Tea at Mackintosh at the Willow

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed and full breakfast at 4-star hotel in the Glasgow area
- ▶ One afternoon tea
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 23 Mar	\$1,255
6 - 9 Nov	\$1,255

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Glasgow City Chambers

Lord of the Glens - Voyage Through the Heart of Scotland

7 DAYS from \$3,195 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: Inverness

Join us on a six-night cruise aboard the Lord of the Glens, travelling from Inverness through the Caledonian Canal to the Isle of Mull and Oban. Highlights include Loch Ness, Neptune’s Staircase, Iona, Tobermory, Glenfinnan Viaduct, Culloden Battlefield and Clava Cairns. Enjoy fine dining and comfort aboard this elegant vessel.

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 are bound for the gaily painted waterfront at **Tobermory** where we are free to explore at leisure. *(FB)*

Day 3 From Craignure we travel to the **Isle of Iona** and its restored Abbey.. *(FB)*

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



Lord of the Glens

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

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

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

Day 7 Following breakfast we disembark. Transfer by coach to Inverness. *(B)*

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

Lord of the Glens - Secrets of the Highlands & Islands

8 DAYS from \$5,035 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: Inverness

This seven-night cruise blends fresh and saltwater cruising as the Lord of the Glens sails through the Caledonian Canal from Inverness to Skye, Mull, Oban, and Kyle of Lochalsh, showcasing Scotland’s west coast’s stunning scenery.

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

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

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



Urquhart Castle

Day 5 We sail to Craignure, pausing for photographs in front of **Duart Castle**. We head to the **Isle of Iona**. *(FB)*

Day 6 This morning we sail to **Tobermory** where we enjoy some free time. We later visit the tiny island of **Eigg** where you can go in search of marine animals and birdlife. *(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 Following breakfast we disembark. Transfer by coach to Inverness. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Negotiating Neptune’s Staircase and the rest of the Caledonian Canal
- Cruising Loch Ness, keeping an eye out just in case...

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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

Oban to Inverness	
11 - 17 & 23 - 29 Oct	
Inverness to Oban	
5 - 11 & 17 - 23 Oct	
<i>Please note these dates run in reverse order</i>	
Lower Deck	\$3,195
Middle Deck	\$4,755
Middle Deck Superior	\$5,455
Upper Deck	\$5,455
Single Supplement	On request

Key Highlights

- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Negotiating Neptune’s Staircase and the rest of the Caledonian Canal
- Explore the community owned tiny island of Eigg

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh	
18 - 25 May & 21 - 28 Sep	
Kyle of Lochalsh to Inverness	
6 - 13 Jul, 20 - 27 Jul, 31 Aug - 7 Sep	
<i>Please note these dates run in reverse order</i>	
Lower Deck	\$5,035
Middle Deck	\$6,015
Middle Deck Superior	\$6,855
Upper Deck	\$6,855
Single Supplement	On request

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS



RHS Rosemoor

Gardens of Southern England and The RHS Chelsea Flower Show

12 DAYS from \$4,195 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌸🌸🌸

 PICK-UP POINT: London

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

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up point and head to **Heale House Gardens**, a charming garden blending Edwardian and Tudor styles, designed by Harold Peto. Nestled within historic Heale House estate, largely unchanged since King Charles II hid there in 1651, these eight acres feature a walled garden, a Japanese water garden, an authentic Japanese tea house, and the iconic red Nikko bridge. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit **Tremenheere Sculpture Garden**, a 22-acre sub-tropical garden offering stunning views of St Michael’s Mount. Opened in 2012, it showcases contemporary art, ceramics, and sculptures by renowned artists such as David Nash RA and James Turrell RA.

Next, we explore **Godolphin Gardens**, one of Cornwall’s most significant medieval gardens, listed as Grade II on the national Register of Parks and Gardens. Godolphin’s historical role in Cornwall’s mining heritage is fascinating. Its grounds include a medieval garden, the Piggery tea room, Grade II listed farm buildings, and 500 acres of picturesque countryside. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning, we visit the privately-owned **Lamorran House** garden on the Roseland peninsula. Designed in an Italianate style with Japanese influences, the garden is divided into unique compartments, creating an air of discovery.

In the afternoon, we head to **Trelissick**, a modern garden evolving within shelter belts planted two centuries ago. Innovations here include sustainable water management and energy systems. Visitors



Heale House Garden

enjoy formal lawns, vibrant herbaceous borders, exotic plants, and scenic views of the River Fal. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We start at **Wildside Garden**, located near Dartmoor. Keith Wiley has cultivated this innovative garden over 25 years, transporting visitors to landscapes resembling Utah’s ochre cliffs, South Africa’s Namaqualand, and the Mediterranean. At this time of year, azaleas, Japanese maples, Rodgersias, wisterias, and irises are in bloom.

In the afternoon, we explore **The Garden House**, a romantic garden built around 16th-century ruins. Located on Dartmoor’s fringes, its terraces offer lovely views of the garden and countryside. Clematis and roses climb the old walls, adding richness to this horticultural treasure. *(B, D)*



West Green House

Day 5 Today, we visit **RHS Rosemoor**, where formal gardens blend seamlessly with naturalistic plantings. On our **guided tour**, we explore two gardens: a woodland garden from the 1960s, home to acid-loving trees and shrubs, and a more ambitious garden developed by the RHS since 1988, featuring rose gardens, giant borders, and a Mediterranean garden. We return to our hotel for dinner afterwards. *(B, D)*

Day 6 Join our optional excursion to **Fursdon House**, a countryside estate with 750 years of history. During our **guided tour** of the house, we learn about its transformation from a cob and thatch dwelling to a Georgian manor. The four-acre gardens blend beautifully with parkland and offer views of Dartmoor. Highlights include the Fox Garden, Vine Pavilion, and Meadow Garden.

Later, we visit **Exeter** for free time. Attractions include the cathedral, antique shops, art exhibitions, and the cobbled quayside, ideal for a canal-side stroll. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we embark on a **guided tour of Hestercombe**, a remarkable masterpiece by Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens. This garden features a round pool within a round-walled garden filled with wintersweet and roses, alongside a Dutch garden showcasing lamb’s ears, lavender, and the charming orangery.

Next, we visit the stunning **Bishop’s Palace**, a medieval residence that has housed the Bishops of Bath and Wells for 800 years. Founded in the early 13th century by Bishop Jocelin Trotman, it boasts 14 acres of gardens, including the serene well pools from which the city derives its name. We also enjoy free time in **Wells** to explore its breathtaking cathedral and distinctive architecture. *(B, D)*

Day 8 In the morning, we head to **East Lambrook Manor**, celebrated globally as the ‘Home of English Cottage Gardening’. Created in the mid-20th century by gardening icon Margery Fish, her informal planting style harmonised everyday plants with rare species, showcasing colour, texture, and form. A dedicated display bed here highlights a nationally recognised collection of hardy geraniums.

Our journey continues to the formal gardens at **Barrington Court**, inspired by Gertrude Jekyll’s designs. These enchanting walled rooms include the White, Rose, Iris, and Lily Gardens, offering a delightful experience. *(B, D)*

Day 9 We begin with a visit to the world-renowned **Stourhead** garden, featuring temples, urns, a grotto, and a wealth of trees. The serpentine path around the lake invites exploration and creates a unique atmosphere.

Our next stop is **West Green House Garden**, one of England’s finest manor house gardens. Designed by Marylyn Abbott, this garden combines neo-classical elegance with contemporary flair. Highlights include a grand water staircase, follies, a chinoiserie chicken pavilion, and elegant fruit cages. We enjoy tea, cake, and an introductory talk about this gem. *(B, D)*

Day 10 Today, we experience the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, a quintessential British tradition filled with inspiration. The show features over 20 full-sized gardens, the Great Marquee with hundreds of floral displays, and exhibitions of floristry, garden design, window boxes, and hanging baskets. *(B, D)*

Day 11 This morning, we visit **RHS Garden Wisley**, a hub of horticultural excellence. Highlights include the rock garden, the lush Glasshouse, the Bowes-Lyon Rose Garden, and the Pinetum, home to century-old trees. **Lunch** is included to maximise your experience before returning to the hotel for leisure in the afternoon. *(B, L, D)*

Day 12 After breakfast, we check out and enjoy an **‘early-bird’ visit to Sissinghurst**, Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson’s celebrated garden. This enchanting space consists of romantic areas enclosed by remnants of an Elizabethan mansion, offering inspiration to all visitors.

We then stop at the unique **Long Barn Garden**, open by appointment only. Created by Sackville-West and Nicolson during their residence, its three acres are lovingly curated with a picturesque 16th-century barn backdrop. Following this final visit, we return to our original pick-up point. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- 🌸 Spend the day at the Great British gardening event of the year, The Chelsea Flower Show
- 🌸 Enjoy lunch and an extended visit to the ornamental and experimental gardens of RHS Wisley
- 🌸 Experience an ‘early-bird’ visit to the world-renowned courtyard gardens of Sissinghurst Castle
- 🌸 Discover the temples, urns and grottos in the timeless landscape of Stourhead
- 🌸 Admire Hestercombe Gardens, a horticultural masterpiece from Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 11 nights dinner, bed & breakfast: 3 nights at the Penmorvah Manor Hotel, near Falmouth, 2 nights at the Headland Hotel, Torquay, 3 nights at the Walnut Tree, South Petherton & 3 nights at the Holiday Inn, Farnborough *(or similar)*
- ▶ Lunch at RHS Wisley
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 24 May	\$4,195
Single Supplement	\$835

Optional excursion - Fursdon House and Exeter Price on request



Wildside Garden

GARDENS

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS



Hever Castle

Castles and Gardens of Kent & the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

7 DAYS from \$2,655 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINT: London

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

Day 1 We set off together from our designated pick-up points, heading south to visit the historic **Hall Place and Gardens** in Bexley, a hidden gem of the South-East. Once a grand country residence, Hall Place offers a captivating look at centuries of domestic life, with elegant interiors and stunning architectural features. *(D)*

Day 2 We begin our garden explorations today at **Leeds Castle**, often called the ‘loveliest castle in the world.’ We explore its opulent interiors and stroll through its delightful gardens, from the fragrant Culpeper Garden to the Mediterranean-inspired Lady Baillie Garden.

In the afternoon, we visit **Doddington Place Gardens**, set within a 19th-century estate surrounded by parkland. Peaceful and varied, Doddington is a Kentish horticultural treasure recognised by Historic England. After a day immersed in history and beauty, we return to our hotel for dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We begin at **Whitstable Castle**, an 18th-century manor overlooking the Kentish coast. After a guided tour of its interiors and gardens, we enjoy a **traditional cream tea** in the Orangery, with sea views.

In the afternoon, we visit **Mount Ephraim Gardens**, a ten-acre Edwardian estate with features

such as a Japanese rock garden, rose terraces, topiary, a grass maze, and vibrant borders. *(B, CT, D)*

Day 4 At **Yotes Court**, a modern garden and vineyard in the Kent Downs, a gardener shares insights into its design and planting. We enjoy sweeping views, structured borders, and a tasting of the estate’s award-winning wines with a **light lunch**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 We visit **Hever Castle**, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Its gardens include Italian displays, Tudor-inspired topiary, and lakeside walks. An **exclusive tour with the Head Gardener** enriches our experience before exploring the castle’s interiors. *(B, D)*

Day 6 We spend the day at the celebrated **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, exploring show gardens and specialist plant exhibits at leisure, soaking up inspiration. *(B, D)*

Day 7 On our final day, we visit **Wakehurst**, the wild botanic garden of Kew, with sweeping vistas and tranquil ponds, before returning to our pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Admire the floral artistry of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- Explore the historic beauty of Hever Castle & Gardens
- Enjoy a wine tasting at Yotes Court Vineyard
- Discover the romantic setting of Leeds Castle

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Six nights dinner bed & breakfast; 3 nights at a comfortable hotel in Kent; 3 nights at the Crowne Plaza Felbridge Hotel
- ▶ One light lunch and one cream tea
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

16 - 22 May	\$2,655
Single Supplement	\$490



RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025

NEW
TOUR



Highnam Court

Hidden Gardens of the Cotswolds and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show

7 DAYS from \$2,655 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINT: London

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

Day 1 We travel to Tom Stuart Smith’s **The Barn**, known for its modern design and diverse UK-friendly plants. We also explore the **Plant Library** and **The Serge Hill Project**, focusing on sustainability, biodiversity and community engagement. *(D)*

Day 2 We visit **Knebworth House and Gardens**, featuring Tudor Gothic architecture, formal gardens and woodland walks. In the afternoon, we explore **Hatfield House**, with knot gardens, rose gardens, and expansive lawns, including the West Garden and Old Palace Garden. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We spend the day at the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, showcasing over 20 show gardens, floral displays and garden design



Knebworth House and Gardens

innovations. Highlights include courtyard gardens, flower arranging and hanging baskets. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning, we visit **Rousham House Gardens**, an 18th-century masterpiece by William Kent, featuring serene vistas and classical statues. Later, we explore **Upton Wold Garden** in the Cotswolds, with a labyrinth, wildflower meadow and rare plants, emphasising sustainability and biodiversity. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We visit **Sudeley Castle**, a royal residence with award-winning gardens and the tomb of Queen Katherine Parr. In the afternoon, we explore **Highnam Court Garden**, a Victorian landscape with water, rock and walled gardens. *(B, D)*

Day 6 We visit **Cerney House Garden**, a secluded family-run garden with a walled garden, woodland walk, and herb garden. We spend the afternoon at **Miserden Garden**, offering views over the Golden Valley, ancient yew hedges and unique topiary. *(B, D)*

Day 7 We enjoy a morning visit to **Hidcote Manor**, known for its “garden rooms” and quintessential English design and then an afternoon at **Kiftsgate Court**, featuring enclosed gardens and the famous rambling rose R. filipes ‘Kiftsgate’. We then return to our pick-up point. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- A full-day visit to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- Rousham House Gardens, one of the most exquisite examples of 18th-century landscape design in England
- Hidcote Manor, one of the best-known gardens in Britain
- An exclusive visit Highnam Court Garden, a stunning example of Victorian landscape architecture

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Six nights dinner, bed & breakfast: 3 nights in a hotel in Hertfordshire and 3 nights at a hotel in the Cotswolds
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 26 May	\$2,655
Single Supplement	\$415



RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025

GARDENS

SPECIAL INTEREST



Alnwick Gardens

Highlights of Northumberland

5 DAYS from \$1,745 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London Kings Cross

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

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

Day 1 We depart from London Kings Cross by train to **Newcastle**. On arrival, we join our coach and travel to the house and gardens of **Belsay Hall**, built in the 19th Century in Greek revival style to the design of its owner, Sir Charles Monck. (D)

Day 2 We travel north along the coast to **Bamburgh Castle**, an impressive fortress that has stood for over 1,400 years. A few miles along the coast lies the **Holy Island of Lindisfarne**, which we will visit in the afternoon as the island is accessed by a causeway that is covered at high tide. Perched atop a rocky crag, the 16th century **Lindisfarne Castle** presents an exciting and alluring aspect. After the castle, we will also visit **Lindisfarne Priory**. (B, D)

Day 3 We depart for a full day at **Alnwick Castle and Gardens**. It has been in the possession of the Percy family since 1309 and houses an

exquisite collection of art treasures. This unique garden project was inspired by the Duchess of Northumberland and has established itself as one of the most notable gardens in England. (B, D)

Day 4 We begin our day at **Hadrian’s Wall** before heading to **Chester’s Fort**, the most complete Roman cavalry fort in Britain where you can wander through the well-preserved baths, steam rooms and officers’ quarters. (B, D)

Day 5 We check out of the hotel and travel to **Wallington House**. Dating back to 1688 Wallington House was home to many generations of the Blackett and Trevelyn families. The house is set in magnificent grounds with lawns, lakes and woodlands, the perfect finale to our short break. We then return to Newcastle for our afternoon train journey back to London Kings Cross. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at a comfortable 3-star hotel in the Newcastle area
- Return standard class rail travel between London and Newcastle
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of local expert Alan Appleton as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

27 Jun - 1 Jul	\$1,745
13 - 17 Sep	\$1,745
Single Supplement	\$275

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

NEW TOUR



Ushaw Historic House

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SPECIAL INTEREST

Secrets of County Durham and North Yorkshire with Nicholas Merchant

5 DAYS from \$1,815 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London Kings Cross

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

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

Day 1 We depart London Kings Cross station for **Darlington**. Upon arrival, we head to our hotel and enjoy a welcome talk and drink with expert **Nicholas Merchant** before dinner. (D)

Day 2 This morning, we explore **Ushaw**, a former Roman Catholic seminary, with a **guided tour**. Its centrepiece is a chapel by Augustus Pugin, famed for the Houses of Parliament. After a **light lunch**, we tour the library and view rare tomes. We **meet the Curator** to see rare Catholic heritage items, including medieval textiles. After tea and free time in the gardens, we return to the hotel for a talk with Nicholas on tomorrow’s destinations. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Today we visit **Raby Castle**, the seat of Lord Barnard, with silken-walled state rooms showcasing Meissen porcelain and art by Marco Ricci, Joshua Reynolds, and David Teniers. Later, we explore the **Bowes Museum**, a French-style chateau with a strong collection of 18th and 19th century French art, including the silver swan. We

gather before dinner for a talk with Nicholas about tomorrow’s destinations. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we visit **Hovingham Hall**, home to Sir William Worsley. The Palladian style house, built by Thomas Worsley, blends horse and architectural passions. It features vaulted ceilings, diverse architectural styles, and a collection of art and furniture. The gardens boast yew hedges, lawns, and a 17th century dovecote.

This afternoon, we visit **Rokeby Park**, a Palladian villa by Sir Thomas Robinson, known for Castle Howard’s West wing. Home to the Morritt family since 1769, it houses a fine collection, including a version of the Rokeby Venus. (B, D)

Day 5 After a leisurely breakfast, we depart the hotel for Darlington station and return to London by rail. (B)

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

Key Highlights

- A guided tour at Ushaw and an opportunity to meet the curator
- A guided tour of Hovingham Hall
- The fine art and furnishing collection of Rokeby Park
- The extensive collection at the Bowes Museum

YOUR TOUR MANAGER NICHOLAS MERCHANT

Nicholas Merchant is a freelance lecturer on the Decorative and Fine Arts. He lectures extensively throughout the United Kingdom and Europe as one of the accredited lecturers of the Arts Society, formerly National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast (with wine) at the 4-star Mercure Darlington Kings Hotel
- Return standard rail travel from London to Darlington
- One Lunch
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of expert lecturer Nicholas Merchant as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

24 - 28 May	\$1,815
Single Supplement	\$210

LOW SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



The Paradise Garden © RHS Neil Hepworth

RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West

4 DAYS from \$1,045 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

RHS Garden Bridgewater, Europe’s largest gardening project, opened in 2021, offering visitors a chance to witness its evolution. This ambitious endeavour by the Royal Horticultural Society transformed a historic site into a world-class garden, blending heritage with community outreach, education, volunteering and training programmes. Designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, a Chelsea Gold Medal-winning landscape architect, it features one of the UK’s largest walled gardens, landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials. We also explore the North West’s finest gardens, starting at Trentham Estate in Staffordshire, where Stuart-Smith revitalised the Italian Gardens. At Dunham Massey, we discover a plantsman’s garden filled with native and exotic treasures. Tatton Park’s gardens, developed over 200 years, retain their Edwardian charm, while Arley Hall offers herbaceous borders considered among England’s finest sights. Together, we journey through horticultural excellence, uncovering landscapes that reflect history, creativity and nature’s beauty.

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

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

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Dunham Massey**, a great plantsman’s garden full of native favourites and exotic treasures set around an elegant Georgian mansion. After being pressed

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

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

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

23 - 26 May	\$1,045
15 - 18 Aug	\$1,045
Single Supplement	\$170



Arley Hall

Gardens of Yorkshire

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$1,395 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

Discover Yorkshire’s beauty with visits to top houses and gardens in England’s largest county. Highlights include the Himalayan Garden and Sculpture Park, Newby Hall’s stunning herbaceous borders, York Gate’s enchanting one-acre garden and RHS Harlow Carr. A guided tour offers insights into the development of this landmark garden.

Day 1 From our pick-up points we travel to **Breezy Knees Gardens**, one of Northern England’s largest, with over 7,000 varieties of flowers, shrubs and trees. Highlights include a 250-foot herbaceous border, rock and cottage gardens, fountains, ponds and an annual meadow. *(D)*

Day 2 Following breakfast, we head to the **Himalayan Garden & Sculpture Park** near Ripon, set in 45 acres of woodland, lakes and an arboretum. Inspired by the Himalayas, it boasts 20,000 plants including azaleas, magnolias and rhododendrons, plus over 85 sculptures. We continue to **Newby Hall**, an exquisite Adam house surrounded by gardens influenced by Hidcote Manor, with sweeping herbaceous borders leading to the River Ure. *(B, D)*



Newby Hall

Day 3 This morning, after breakfast, there is free time to enjoy the spa town of **Harrogate**, famed for its architecture and gardens. This afternoon we visit **Harlow Carr**, the Royal Horticultural Society’s northern flagship, which continues to set the highest possible standards in the gardening world. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we visit **York Gate**, a one-acre gem of innovative design, divided into themed ‘rooms’ by yew and beech hedges. Afterwards, we return to our pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Gardens of Kent and Sussex

4 DAYS from \$1,325 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Gatwick

Join us as we stroll through England’s finest country gardens, each a masterpiece to savour. Highlights include Great Comp’s rare shrubs, Lullingstone Castle, Nymans Garden’s dramatic plants, Sussex Prairie Garden and Sissinghurst, the world’s most-imitated flower garden. These enchanting sites beckon, much like a beloved novel worth revisiting.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points 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. *(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. *(B, D)*

Day 3 This morning, we are privileged to have an ‘early bird’ visit to the manicured gardens



Scotney Castle

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. We continue to another classic English Country Garden, namely Christopher Lloyd’s **Great Dixter**. *(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**. 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*

Key Highlights

- A visit to the award winning Breezy Knees Garden
- Guided tour at RHS Harlow Carr
- Free time in the picturesque spa town of Harrogate

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

30 Jun - 3 Jul	\$1,395
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	



RHS Harlow Carr

Key Highlights

- Lullingstone Castle’s innovative World Garden of Plants
- Outstanding plant collections at Nymans
- The magnificently manicured gardens of Sissinghurst
- Lunch and guided tour of RHS Wisley

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Mercure Hotel, Tunbridge Wells
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 4 Jun	\$1,325
9 - 12 Aug	\$1,325
Single Supplement	\$210



Sissinghurst Castle Garden

NEW TOUR
LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SPECIAL INTEREST



Waddesdon Manor

“Rothschildshire” - The Vales of Aylesbury with Nicholas Merchant

4 DAYS from \$1,395 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINT: London

Join us on this exclusive journey through architectural marvels and treasures associated with the Rothschild family. We explore iconic locations, such as Stowe House, the Natural History Museum in Tring and Waddesdon Manor and learn more about the legacy of one of the world’s most renowned families. With expert guidance from Nicholas Merchant, this tour combines in-depth historical narratives, curated visits to exquisite collections and the chance to experience the impressive views of the Vale of Aylesbury. Admire Capability Brown’s Georgian landscapes and discover the Rothschild family’s unparalleled contributions to art and architecture on this enriching and memorable experience.

Day 1 We begin our journey from central London, travelling to the **Natural History Museum Tring**. Once the private museum of Lionel Walter, 2nd Baron Rothschild, it lies on the Rothschild family’s Tring Park estate. The Zebra Café showcases Lord Rothschild’s fascination with zebras, including images of his trained zebras pulling carriages. Before dinner, expert guide **Nicholas Merchant** gives a short talk on the Rothschilds’ local ties. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we head to **Stowe House**, a Grade I listed property. Home to Stowe School, it is managed by the Stowe House Preservation Trust, which has invested over £25 million in its restoration. We enjoy a **guided tour** before some free time for lunch (not included).

In the afternoon, we explore the **Stowe Landscape Garden**, where Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown began his work as Head Gardener in 1741. Over time, Brown created a stunning Georgian landscape of valleys, lakes, rivers, and over 30 temples and monuments designed by prominent 18th-century architects. Recent restoration efforts have revitalised many garden buildings and thousands of shrubs and trees have been planted. (B, D)

Day 3 Our morning starts at the **Rothschild Foundation at Windmill Hill**, which continues the Rothschild tradition of architectural

patronage in the Vale of Aylesbury. With spectacular views, this transformed dairy farm combines cutting-edge art and architecture with space for the extensive Waddesdon Archive.

Later, we visit **Ascott House**, a Jacobean farmhouse remodelled between 1876 and 1884 by George Devey for Leopold de Rothschild. Inside, Ascott boasts a remarkable collection of paintings, fine furniture, and oriental porcelain. Donated to the National Trust in 1949 by Anthony de Rothschild, Ascott remains a countryside residence of the de Rothschild family. Mary Gladstone once described it as “a palace-like cottage, the most luxurious and lovely thing I ever saw.” (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we travel to **Waddesdon Manor**, renowned for its collection of French 18th-century decorative arts and paintings. Assembled by three Rothschild generations, the collection includes over 15,000 works of art, celebrated for their beauty and craftsmanship. Waddesdon’s French 18th-century furniture, porcelain, and textiles are particularly notable. We enjoy a **guided tour** of the ground-floor rooms, followed by an included **lunch**. Later, **Mia Jackson, Curator of Decorative Arts**, delivers a talk on the furniture collection. The afternoon is free to explore the gardens before we return to our original pick-up point. (B, L)

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

Key Highlights

- A guided tour of Stowe House
- A talk on the furniture at Waddesdon Manor with Mia Jackson, Curator of Decorative Arts
- A visit to the Natural History Museum in Tring

YOUR TOUR MANAGER NICHOLAS MERCHANT

Nicholas Merchant is a freelance lecturer on the Decorative and Fine Arts. He lectures extensively throughout the United Kingdom and Europe as one of the accredited lecturers of the Arts Society, formerly National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Holiday Inn, Aylesbury
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of expert lecturer Nicholas Merchant as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 6 Aug	\$1,395
Single Supplement	\$170



Ascott House



Highgrove ©Robert Smith

Popular Favourite

GARDENS

Highgrove and the Cotswolds

4 DAYS from \$1,395 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

29 May - 1 Jun	\$1,395
26 - 29 Jun	\$1,395
13 - 16 Aug	\$1,395
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 early 2026.



Hidcote Manor



Sandringham

Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk

5 DAYS from \$2,235 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Colchester

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

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head to **Oxburgh Hall**, built in 1482 at the peak of the War of the Roses by the Bedingfield family. We continue to **Castle Rising**, one of the best preserved keeps in England. (D)

Day 2 We begin at **Blickling Estate**, a Jacobean mansion surrounded by magnificent gardens and historic parklands 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 the British monarchy. Here we will enjoy **afternoon tea** and a **private guided tour**. (B, AT, D)

Day 3 We tour the grand Palladian-style mansion **Holkham Hall**, the home of the Earls of Leicester with a vast collection of art. This afternoon we take the short journey to **Hindringham Hall**, a delectable little moated manor house that looks as though it has been plucked straight from a

storybook. Here 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. We have a **tour of the house with the owner** followed by some free time to explore the gardens. This afternoon we head to **Wolterton Hall**. We have an 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. After our tour and some time to enjoy the gardens we enjoy 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

Key Highlights

- Afternoon Tea with Sparkling wine and private guided tour of Sandringham
- House and Gardens tour at Wolterton with refreshments in the Saloon
- Journey on the North Norfolk Railway
- Private afternoon access to the gardens & grounds at Hindringham Hall
- Tour with Lady Walpole at Mannington Hall with Lunch
- House tour with the owner at Hoveton Hall with refreshments
- Visits to Oxburgh Hall, Holkham Hall, Castle Rising and Blickling Estate

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- 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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
8 - 12 Jun	\$2,235
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	

NEW TOUR



Helmingham Hall

The RHS Flower Show Sandringham & the Gardens of Norfolk

5 DAYS from \$1,815 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Brentwood, Chelmsford

Norfolk's gentle landscapes, rich gardening heritage and coastal charm provide the perfect backdrop for this summertime tour. Including the RHS Sandringham Flower Show, one of the season's most anticipated events, we also visit a handpicked selection of the region's most beautiful gardens. From the hidden tranquillity of the Bishop's House Garden in Norwich to the world-class rose displays at Peter Beales Roses, there's something to inspire every garden lover. We explore the imaginative designs of East Ruston Old Vicarage, the wild serenity of Fairhaven Garden and end in style at the elegant Helmingham Hall Gardens in Suffolk. With exclusive access, expert planting and classic English charm, this is a delightful celebration of East Anglia in full bloom.

Day 1 We set off from our pick-up points, heading to **Fullers Mill Garden**, a tranquil seven-acre retreat by the River Lark. Woodland walks, glades, and waterside borders display rare shrubs, perennials, and vibrant colour combinations.

Next, we visit **Bishop's House Garden in Norwich**, a secluded gem behind the cathedral. This private ten-acre garden spans 900 years and includes ancient trees, herbaceous borders, a wildflower labyrinth, and a rose garden. Rarely open to the public, it offers a glimpse into Norfolk's historic gardens. We conclude the day with dinner at our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Today, we attend the **RHS Sandringham Flower Show**, hosted at the Sandringham Estate, the British Royal Family's private retreat. This event combines traditional English gardening with contemporary styles. Guests can enjoy show gardens, browse specialist plant stalls, and watch talks and demos by leading UK gardening experts. From floral artistry to innovative tools, inspiration is everywhere. (B, D)

Day 3 Our morning begins at **Peter Beales Roses** in Attleborough, a paradise for rose lovers with over 1,100 varieties. A **guided tour** reveals award-winning gardens showcasing roses with

perennials, alongside insights into rose breeding and care. We finish with a **cream tea** before heading to **Bressingham Gardens**, near Diss. Highlights include themed areas like the Dell Garden and Foggy Bottom, celebrated for their creative plant combinations. (B, CT, D)

Day 4 We begin with **Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden**, a serene 130-acre organic garden in the Norfolk Broads. Its tranquil paths, streams, glades, and private broad blend natural beauty with cultivated plantings.

In the afternoon, we explore **East Ruston Old Vicarage**, a 32-acre masterpiece created by Alan Gray and Graham Robeson. Despite its coastal location, clever windbreaks enable diverse planting, including palms and succulents. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we visit **Helmingham Hall Gardens** in Suffolk, a moated Tudor manor owned by the Tollemache family for over 500 years. Though the house remains closed, the gardens blend historic design with modern planting by Lady Tollemache, a Chelsea Gold Medal-winning designer. After exploring, we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Key Highlights

- Enjoy an exclusive visit to the Bishop's House Garden in Norwich
- Spend a day at the RHS Sandringham Flower Show
- Explore the richly planted borders and rose displays at Peter Beales Roses
- Discover the extraordinary design and exotic plantings of East Ruston Old Vicarage

YOUR TOUR MANAGER LINDA ROBINSON

Join horticulturalist Linda for the inaugural RHS Sandringham Flower show in 2026



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner bed & breakfast at the Holiday Inn Norwich
- One cream tea
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of horticulturalist Linda Robinson as expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 26 Jul	\$1,815
Single Supplement	\$275



Bishop Gardens

Gardens of South and West Wales

5 DAYS from \$1,815 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

In Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire’s countryside, we’ll visit stunning parks and gardens, ancient and modern. Highlights include the National Botanic Garden of Wales, with Norman Foster’s Great Greenhouse, blending Welsh hills with Mediterranean views. Other gems are Aberglasney, Upton Castle, Picton Castle, and private gardens such as Dyffryn Fernant and Llwyngarreg.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head to the splendid **Dyffryn Botanic Gardens**, a Grade 1 listed Edwardian masterpiece by Thomas Mawson. We continue to Pembrokeshire, staying at **Beggars Reach Hotel**, Burton, where **Tony Russell** introduces us to the region’s gardens before dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the **National Botanic Garden of Wales**, showcasing the world’s largest single-span glasshouse and innovative features like the herbaceous boardwalk. Next, we explore **Aberglasney**, a restored 16th/17th-century garden with six distinct spaces. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We tour **Dyffryn Fernant Garden**, featuring unique garden ‘rooms’ and sculptures. In the afternoon, we visit **Picton Castle**,



Aberglasney

with 40 acres of woodland gardens, a maze, and elegant walled gardens. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We explore **Upton Castle Gardens**, featuring veteran trees, a restored walled kitchen garden, and rare specimens. Later, we visit **Laugharne**, home to poet **Dylan Thomas**, and end the day at **Llwyngarreg**, a private garden showcasing vibrant plant collections. *(B, D)*

Day 5 After breakfast, we visit **Dewstow Gardens**, renowned for its rediscovered underground grottoes, tunnels, and sunken ferneries - a magical finale to our journey. *(B)*

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

Somerset’s Secret Gardens

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

Somerset’s rolling pastures, orchards and timeless villages provide a fitting backdrop to this tour of remarkable private gardens. From vibrant borders and wildflower meadows to romantic terraces, highlights include the Grade I listed Italianate Garden at Iford Manor.



Wells Cathedral

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel to the privately-owned **Watcombe Garden**, a 3/4 acre garden which was created between 1937 and 1975, in an Edwardian style of formal and informal planting. *(D)*

Day 2 Today we visit the privately-owned garden at **Batcombe House** near Shepton Mallet. This is a plantswoman’s and designer’s garden. We then visit the beautiful cathedral city of **Wells** for some free time before continuing to **Stoberry Garden**, which provides a stunning combination of vistas accented with wildlife ponds, water features and sculpture. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We begin 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. We continue

our day with a visit to **Iford Manor**, near Bradford on Avon. This romantic award-winning Italian garden designed by Harold Peto contains a formal garden on old terraces embellished with his collection of classical statuary and architectural fragments, which we will discover during our visit. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We enjoy a scenic drive through the Somerset **Quantock Hills** on the way to our final visit, the **Walled Gardens of Cannington**. 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*

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER
TONY RUSSELL

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



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

10 - 14 Apr	\$1,815
Single Supplement	\$450



Aberglasney Gardens

Key Highlights

-  Eclectic mix of topiary and hedging at Watcombe
-  Breathtaking views of Wells and the Vale of Avalon at Stoberry
-  Grade I registered garden of Iford Manor
-  The hidden gem of Cannington Walled Garden
-  Scenic drive through the Quantock Hills

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Walnut Tree Hotel, South Petherton
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

4 - 7 Jul	\$1,255
Single Supplement	\$275



Quantock Hills



East Lambrook

In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll

6 DAYS from \$2,935 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

 PICK-UP POINTS: London, Basingstoke

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.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points *(London, Basingstoke)* and head towards Somerset. Here, we find the garden at **Barrington Court**. These enchanting, formal gardens, inspired by the designs of Gertrude Jekyll, are laid out in a series of walled rooms and include the White, Rose, Iris and Lily Gardens. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning we visit **Hestercombe**, a masterpiece by Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens. Highlights include a circular walled garden with wintersweet and roses, a Dutch garden with lamb’s ears and lavender, and a stunning 20th-century orangery. Later, we head to **Knightshayes Court**, a Grade I Victorian country house by William Burgess, featuring formal and woodland gardens with over 1,200 plant species and year-round interest. *(B, D)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **East Lambrook** in Somerset, known globally as the ‘Home of English Cottage Gardening’. Created by Margery Fish in the mid-20th century, her informal planting style and talent for blending everyday and rare plants made her a key influence on modern gardening. The visit includes a talk on its history by the gardening team. After a brief lunch stop *(not included)*, we head to **Heale House gardens** by the River Avon in Middle Woodford. The house, largely unchanged since King Charles II hid here in 1651, is

surrounded by gardens with streams and vibrant planting. The timeless atmosphere reflects generations of the Rasch family, who continue to shape the gardens. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Today, we visit the garden at **Upton Grey Manor House**, which is believed to be the most comprehensive and authentic Jekyll Garden in existence - a living museum of the Jekyll design. *(B, D)*

Day 5 We visit the **Phillips Memorial and Cloister, Hatchlands**, and the gardens at **Gravetye Manor**. Gravetye, home to renowned gardener William Robinson from 1884 until his death in 1935, showcases his pioneering vision of The English Natural Garden. Despite post-war neglect, the gardens were revived after Peter Herbert established a country house hotel in 1958, with projects like restoring the kitchen garden and peach house. After touring the gardens, we enjoy an **exquisite private dinner**, a tour highlight. *(B, D)*

Day 6 After breakfast, we visit the garden at **Vann**, which incorporates Gertrude Jekyll’s 1911 water garden. Later, we visit **Loseley Park**, a highlight of which is the Walled Garden. We return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Five nights bed & 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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

17 - 22 Jun	\$2,935
Single Supplement	\$695



Gravetye Manor

NEW
TOUR

SPECIAL INTEREST



Oxford Cathedral

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

History & Architecture of Oxford

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Heathrow, High Wycombe

Steeped in history and architectural splendour, Oxfordshire offers a fascinating glimpse into England’s cultural heritage. From the dreaming spires of Oxford to the grandeur of Blenheim Palace, this tour reveals centuries of scholarship, power and elegance. In Oxford, we explore the city’s iconic landmarks, including a guided visit to its unique cathedral and the world-renowned Bodleian Library, with its exquisite medieval Divinity School. We also travel beyond the city to Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, where we enjoy a traditional afternoon tea in opulent surroundings. Finally, a visit to the elegant Kingston Bagpuize House offers a more personal perspective on English country life. Perfect for lovers of history, architecture and beautiful surroundings, this is a tour filled with insight and charm.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points to visit the historic city of **Oxford**, renowned for its scholarly tradition and stunning architecture. Upon arrival, we enjoy a **guided tour** of the iconic **Bodleian Library**, one of Europe’s oldest libraries with origins from 1602, housing over 13 million items. Highlights include the Divinity School, a late Gothic masterpiece with a fan-vaulted ceiling.

Next, we visit the **Museum of Oxford** in the historic Town Hall. The museum showcases Oxford’s journey from a medieval market town to a global learning hub, featuring artefacts, university traditions and rare objects that reveal the city’s rich social and cultural history. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we explore **Oxford on a guided walking tour**, starting at the iconic Radcliffe Camera. Designed by James Gibbs in the 18th century, this neoclassical rotunda was built for the Radcliffe Science Library and is among the city’s most photographed landmarks.

Next, a **guided tour** unveils the architectural heritage of **Oxford Cathedral**, also known as Christ Church Cathedral. Serving as both the cathedral for the Diocese of Oxford and the chapel for Christ Church College, it features vaulted ceilings, intricate stone carvings and stunning stained glass windows. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Today we explore the Oxfordshire countryside and visit the stunning **Blenheim Palace**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Britain’s grandest homes. Built between 1705 and 1722, this baroque masterpiece was gifted by Queen Anne to John Churchill, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, for his military victories. Designed by Sir John Vanbrugh with parkland by Capability Brown, the palace is rich in history, including its connection to Sir Winston Churchill, born here in 1874. In the afternoon, we enjoy a **traditional afternoon tea** in one of the palace’s elegant rooms. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and visit **Kingston Bagpuize House**, a charming early 18th-century country house blending Georgian features with later additions. Rarely open to the public, it offers a unique glimpse into English country life.

We take a **guided tour**, exploring its architecture, history, and wartime role as an officers’ mess for the nearby RAF base. The tastefully furnished rooms evoke quiet grandeur with period pieces, portraits and antiques. After the tour, we enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits, reflecting on the heritage we’ve explored. We then return to our pick-up points, concluding our journey through Oxfordshire’s architectural and historical treasures. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Admire the striking architecture of Oxford Cathedral
- Explore the world-famous Bodleian Library
- Enjoy a visit to UNESCO world heritage site, Blenheim Palace along with a traditional afternoon tea
- Discover the elegance of Kingston Bagpuize House on our guided tour

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights bed and full breakfast at the 4-star Oxford Belfry Hotel *(or similar)*
- ▶ Afternoon tea at Blenheim Palace
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

27 - 30 Mar	\$1,255
2 - 5 Oct	\$1,255

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Blenheim Palace



Mary Rose ©

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:

PICK-UP POINT: London

The raising of Henry VIII’s flagship the Mary Rose was one of the most complex and expensive maritime salvage projects in history and the surviving section of the ship and thousands of recovered artefacts are of great value as a Tudor period time capsule. Today the museum which houses her, rebuilt in 2013, is one of the foremost visitor attractions on the south coast and forms the centrepiece of this new tour which takes in a series of properties associated with the great Tudor age.

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

Day 2 After breakfast, we head for Portsmouth to visit the **Historic Dockyard**, home to the **Mary Rose**. Built between 1510-1511 she was for many years Henry VIII’s favourite warship, fast, well-armed and successful. The raising of the Mary Rose and her subsequent restoration was a remarkable achievement, while the collection of some 19,700 genuine Tudor artefacts is unparalleled and provides an invaluable insight into 16th-century life. Our visit begins with an **exclusive one-hour talk** on the relationship between Henry VIII and the Mary Rose. We then enjoy a **live tour** of the museum by a knowledgeable member of the Mary Rose team. There will then be free time for lunch *(not included)* and should you wish, there will

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

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

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

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

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

Key Highlights

- Walk in Henry VIII’s footsteps at Hampton Court Palace
- Exclusive Mary Rose talk & guided tour with Tudor artefacts
- Explore Anne of Cleves’ House & historic Arundel Castle
- Discover Anne Boleyn’s childhood home at Hever Castle

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

31 Mar - 3 Apr	\$1,255
9 - 12 Oct	\$1,395

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Hampton Court Palace

SPECIAL INTEREST

Snowdrops in East Yorkshire

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$1,045 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

Symbolising new beginnings and spring’s arrival, snowdrops brighten winter walks. This uplifting East Yorkshire tour visits award-winning gardens, York’s historic sites, Burnby Hall Gardens, Sledmere House’s Galanthus trail, and Hutton Cranswick’s snowdrop-filled countryside.

Day 1 We begin our journey together, departing from designated pick-up points to visit **Burnby Hall Gardens**, the jewel of East Yorkshire. Here, we’ll explore the contemporary Walled Garden, Edwardian Rock Garden, Aviary Garden with its restored summer house, Birch Walk, and a Highgrove-inspired Stumpery. The snowdrop display highlights a variety of species, celebrating their individual beauty. *(D)*

Day 2 Our adventure continues at **Sledmere House**, built in 1751 amidst Capability Brown-designed parkland. Its Walled Garden changes with the seasons, while the snowdrop trail is a winter gem. In the afternoon, we’ll enjoy a leisurely walk along the **Hutton Cranswick Circular**, a scenic route through East Yorkshire’s charming villages, ideal for spotting uplifting blooms. *(B, D)*



Woodland Snowdrops

Day 3 We visit **Sewerby Hall Gardens**, boasting 50 acres of award-winning gardens, wood carvings, and thousands of snowdrops. Next, **Burton Agnes Hall** awaits, a historic marvel with herbaceous borders, a yew maze, and woodland carpets of snowdrops. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Our final day takes us to **York Minster**, a Gothic masterpiece with stunning medieval stained glass. We’ll explore **York** at leisure before returning to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

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

Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$1,045 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

The Cotswolds offer superb snowdrop gardens, appealing to galanthophiles and nature lovers alike. Highlights include Colesbourne, Newark Park’s snowdrop carpets, Cerney House’s romantic displays, Stroud’s Museum in the Park, Painswick Rococo Garden’s naturalistic plantings, and Rodmarton Manor’s stunning 150 varieties.

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

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

Day 3 Today we head to the town of Stroud and visit the **Museum in the Park**, in whose gorgeous walled garden there is an impressive



Snowdrops

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*

Key Highlights

-  See a breathtaking variety of Galanthus in Burnby Hall’s Edwardian Rock Garden and Walled Garden
-  Walk along the Hutton Cranswick Circular, where snowdrops carpet the rolling countryside
-  Discover the Elizabethan architecture and winter blooms of Burton Agnes Hall
-  Admire the stunning medieval stained glass at the impressive York Minster

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights bed and full breakfast at the 4-star Mercure Grange, Hull
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
13 - 16 Feb	\$1,045
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	



Sledmere House

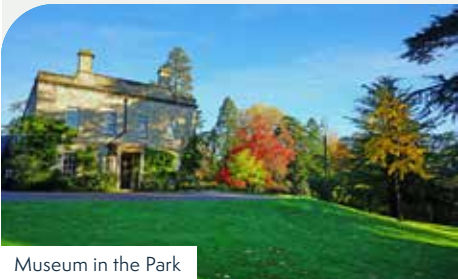
Key Highlights

-  Colesbourne House, considered to be England’s greatest snowdrop garden
-  Stunning Victorian walled garden at Cerney House
-  Arts and Crafts style at Rodmarton Manor
-  Snowdrops, snowdrops and more snowdrops

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Holiday Inn Gloucester-Cheltenham
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
6 - 9 Feb	\$1,045
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	



Museum in the Park

Spring Gardens in Devon

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

5 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

In spring, gardens enchant us with warmth, blossoms, and buzzing bees. Devon’s landscapes and plants offer paradise: tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and cherry blossoms. Over five days, we uncover serene gems like Fast Rabbit Farm and Forde Abbey.

Day 1 We set off by coach heading to **Forde Abbey** in Dorset, a former 12th-century Cistercian monastery. The Abbey’s bog garden showcases moisture-loving plants, while the walled garden and rockery brim with seasonal blooms. We then travel to the Headland Hotel, offering views of the English Riviera. *(D)*

Day 2 Our journey takes us to **Fast Rabbit Farm** in **Strawberry Valley**, where spring bursts forth with daffodils, magnolias, camellias, and rhododendrons. In the afternoon, we visit **Dartington Hall**, an RHS partner garden. Its tulip-filled borders and tranquil **Tiltyard** provide a serene escape amidst manicured lawns and water features. *(B, D)*

Day 3 At **RHS Rosemoor**, we marvel at golden daffodils, crocuses, and fragrant hyacinths.



Forde Abbey

Tulips unfurl in vivid reds and soft pinks, while fritillaries and irises hint at summer’s approach. Rosemoor’s spring splendour offers a feast for the senses. *(B, D)*

Day 4 We visit **Greenway House**, Agatha Christie’s retreat, where spring gardens bloom with camellias and magnolias. In the afternoon, we explore Torquay’s seaside, shops, and cafés. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Our final stop is **Burrow Farm Garden**, where the Azalea Glade and Millennium Garden offer contrasting spring displays. After exploring, we return home by coach. *(B)*

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

Spring Gardens of Cornwall

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$1,045 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

Cornwall’s gardens are globally celebrated and our tour features some of the finest. Spring arrives early, with rhododendrons, magnolias, and camellias blossoming at Trebah and Glendurgan. Explore the award-winning Lost Gardens of Heligan and the transformative Eden Project. National Trust gems Knightshayes Court and Killerton complete the journey.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head to **Knightshayes Court**, a Gothic Revival country house with extraordinary interiors. Its garden boasts a waterlily pool, rare shrubs, seasonal blooms and an impressive Victorian kitchen garden supplying fresh, organic produce to the restaurant. Lunch is available here *(not included)*. Later, we arrive at the **Pentire Hotel**, near Fistral Beach. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we travel to St Austell to visit the **Eden Project**, celebrating 25 years in 2026. This reclaimed china clay pit houses two conservatories, one recreating a tropical climate. Next, we explore the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, Europe’s largest garden restoration project, featuring historic shrubs, including camellias and rhododendrons. *(B, D)*



Lost Gardens of Heligan

Day 3 Following breakfast, we visit **Trebah**, a vibrant Cornish garden with exotic plants, spectacular Rhododendron Valley, and rare discoveries. Then, we head to **Glendurgan**, a tranquil haven with stunning magnolias, camellias, and a hedge maze built in the 1830s. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After a hearty breakfast, we journey home, stopping at **Killerton**, where the house showcases period costumes and the gardens are brimming with rhododendrons, magnolias, countless trees and shrubs as well as a sparkling rock garden. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
6 - 10 Apr	\$1,255
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	



Daffodils in the garden of Greenway

Key Highlights

-  Gothic Revival style at Knightshayes Court
-  The continually evolving marvel that is the Eden Project
-  Masses of rhododendrons in full flower
-  Negotiating the hedge maze at Glendurgan

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the comfortable Pentire Hotel, Newquay
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
26 - 29 Mar	\$1,045
Single Supplement	\$210



Eden Project



St. Mary's

The Isles of Scilly

6 DAYS from \$3,495 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: Land's End Airport

The Isles of Scilly have been described as ‘the most fortunate of all the islands around Britain’s coasts with clean seas and beaches, wonderful scenery, welcoming inhabitants and temperate climates’.

The wonderful Abbey Gardens on the island of Tresco are home to more than 3,000 species and magnificent vistas, colours and scents. Other highlights include a Pelagic boat excursion to the Western Rocks and Bishop Rock Lighthouse with local bird expert Will Wagstaff; a guided tour at a local flower farm on the island of St Martins, who were the first to pioneer sending flowers by post.

Day 1 Travel independently to Penzance. We will meet at Land's End airport in time for your flight to the **Scillies**, which only takes 15 minutes. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the **St Mary's Hall Hotel**. Dinner will be served in the evening after which we will have a **special talk from our tour manager Mike Nelhams, Curator of the Abbey Gardens**. (D)

Day 2 Today we enjoy a private tour of **St Mary's Island** with a chance to stop at a selection of view points with commentary about island life along the way. We will enjoy **lunch** at Juliet's Garden a family run restaurant with views across St Mary's. The remainder of the afternoon will be at your leisure to explore. (B, L, D)

Day 3 After breakfast today we head out for a **Pelagic boat excursion** to the **Western Rocks** and **Bishop Rock Lighthouse**. We will be joined by **bird expert Will Wagstaff** as we explore this mecca for birdwatchers in search of Manx shearwaters, puffins, razorbills, kittiwakes and storm petrels. We will stop in St Agnes for some free time for lunch (*not included*) before we return to the sea and head back to St Mary's. (B, D)

Day 4 This morning, we depart for **St Martins**. On arrival we make our way to **Scilly Flowers Farm** for a **guided tour**. Here we learn about this

small family run farm that was among the first to pioneer sending flowers by first class post. Over 30 years later the small farm is thriving and now sends over 100,000 beautiful boxes to doorsteps throughout the UK every year. After our tour **we have lunch at the Karma Hotel** before having some free time to explore at leisure. At an agreed time, we will meet and return by boat to St Mary's. (B, L, D)

Day 5 After breakfast this morning we take a boat over to the island of **Tresco** and have a **guided tour of the Abbey Gardens**. This afternoon you are then free to explore Tresco at leisure. At an agreed time we will re-assemble and take the boat back to St Mary's and return to our hotel. (B, D)

Day 6 Today it is time to say goodbye to the Scilly Isles as we transfer to the airport for our return flight to Land's End Airport. Our tour will conclude here. (B)

Please note - Walking Fitness
Due to the limited public transport, we believe it fair to remind passengers that a degree of mobility is required to get the most out of your visit to the Scillies and lose Islands as most of the tour will be on foot.

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

Key Highlights

- Guided tour of Abbey Gardens on Tresco with Mike Nelhams
- Pelagic Boat tour with local birding expert
- Guided tour of a local flower farm
- Lunch at Juliet's Garden with views across St Mary's

YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

Mike Nelhams has lived and worked in the Scilly Isles for many years and is the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Garden - so no one knows it better!



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Five nights dinner, bed and full breakfast at the St Mary's Hall Hotel, St Mary's in a standard room – upgrades available on request at a supplement
- Two lunches
- Return Skybus flight from Land's End to St Mary's
- Boat transfers between islands
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as expert tour manager
- Presentation and Q&A session with Mike Nelhams on Abbey Gardens

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

4 - 9 Sep	\$3,495
Single Supplement	\$735



Tresco Abbey Gardens



Tresco

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams

5 DAYS from \$2,935 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London Paddington

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

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

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

Day 2 We begin with a visit to the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, where we hope to be welcomed by Sir Tim Smit who 'discovered' and restored the gardens to their former glory. We are joined by a member of the gardening team for a tour of the gardens.

Later we transfer to **Caerhays Castle**, where we hope to be welcomed by Charles Williams, whose family have owned Caerhays since the mid-19th century. After **lunch in the castle** we enjoy a **guided tour** of the garden with a member of the family. (B, L, D)

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

Day 4 This morning we depart for a visit to the privately-owned garden of **Lamorran House**, which has been designed by the owner in an Italianate style, although there are also Japanese influences here. Many features are included to divide the garden into intimate compartments which the visitor can explore.

We continue to **Tregothnan Estate**. After **lunch**, we hope to be joined by Managing Director Jonathon Jones for a tour of the unique **Tregothnan Tea Plantation**, which has expanded greatly since the first bushes were planted in 1999. Blessed with the optimum microclimate for growing tea, Tregothnan produces some of the world's rarest and highest rated teas and new varieties are tested all the time. There will of course be an opportunity to taste and buy some of the teas produced here. (B, L, D)

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

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

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



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Alverton Hotel, Truro
- Two lunches
- Return standard class rail travel between London and Truro
- Return helicopter flight to the Scilly Isles
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

31 Mar - 4 Apr	\$2,935
14 - 18 Apr	\$3,075
Single Supplement	\$415



Tregothnan Estate

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS



Eden Project

Gardens of Cornwall & the 25th Anniversary of the Eden Project

4 DAYS from \$1,675 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London Paddington

2026 marks a remarkable anniversary for the Cornish horticultural scene as it marks 25 years since the Eden Project first opened the full site to the public. Since then, it has flourished into not only Cornwall’s premier tourist attraction but into a leading authority on conservation and biodiversity. We enjoy a full day here visiting the unique biomes, walking through the world’s largest indoor rainforests and enjoying the calm fragrance of the Mediterranean.

We also visit some of the other unique gardens that can be found in Cornwall including Trelissick, a beautiful landscape garden with enviable views above the River Fal and Falmouth, Bonython Estate Gardens, a magnificent 20-acre garden home to three lakes and an 18th-century walled garden and Glendurgan, which is set in a woodland valley and was first created the early 19th century by Albert Fox.



Trelissick

Day 1 We depart by train from London Paddington to Truro and continue by coach for our first visit - **Trelissick**, a modern garden which was created within shelter belts planted 200 years ago. The garden is constantly evolving with new planting and fresh ideas. Trelissick has seen trees grow to maturity, the tide ebbing and flowing, but over the course of time it has become a dynamic, forward-looking estate. The iconic Water Tower was built for



Glendurgan

irrigation and fire-control; now the lavatories are flushed with rainwater stored underground in modern reservoirs. Heat is extracted from kitchen appliances and the sun to provide hot water and heating. We later continue to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast we travel to St Austell where we spend the day at the **Eden Project**, which since its opening in 2001 has become one of Cornwall’s star attractions. The Eden Project is a 50 metre deep, 34 acre china clay pit which was reclaimed and transformed to house two controlled-environment plant conservatories, the larger of which recreates the climate of the Tropics and displays some of its plants such as cotton, rice, rubber, orchids, bamboo and rainforest flowers. At its highest point it reaches 50 metres, taller than Nelson’s Column. The second conservatory recreates a warm temperature climate and houses plants from Southern Africa, the Mediterranean and southwestern America, with orange trees, olives, grape vines and hundreds of colourful flowers. Here we enjoy an **exclusive guided tour** with limited places with one of the members of the horticultural team. *(B, D)*

Day 3 Following breakfast we visit **Bonython**, a courtyard garden which is divided into colourful areas mostly themes of blue, purple, yellow and white. It is home to a collection of perennials and shrubs which change with the seasons and a parterre which is filled with delightful flowers and ornamental vegetables. The banks of Lake Joy have

imaginative and bold displays of South African and Mediterranean plants, and the shores of Lake Sue are equally bright with hot reds toned down by numerous grasses. The whole garden is surrounded by trees and shrubs, and the stream leads down to a woodland dell dotted with wildflowers.

In the afternoon we visit **Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens**, near Penzance. This major attraction opened in September 2012 and is set in a beautiful, sheltered valley, surrounded by woods, a stream and dramatic vistas to provide a perfect setting for this 22-acre sub-tropical and exotic garden. The garden is filled with high quality contemporary art installations from renowned artists such as David Nash RA and James Turrell RA. You will also have the opportunity to visit the Gallery to view paintings, ceramics and sculptures by renowned artists, all available to buy. *(B, D)*

Day 4 Today our final visit is to **Glendurgan**, a place of great beauty and tranquillity. Three valleys converge and drop towards the sparkling waters of the Helford River and the hamlet and beach at Durgan. The garden has many fine trees, rare and exotic plants from the four corners of the globe and provides interest in every season. Look out too for the hedge maze, originally built by the owners in the 1830s to entertain their 12 children. From here we return to Truro rail station for the return journey to London *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

Exclusive guided tour at the Eden Project with a member of the horticultural team

The exotic and sub-tropical Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens

Trelissick with its delightful views across the River Fal

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the four-star Penmorvah Hotel
- ▶ Return standard class travel from London to Truro
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 8 Sep	\$1,675
Single Supplement	\$415

GARDENS

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS



Bantry House Gardens

Gardens of the Island of Ireland

8 DAYS from \$3,215 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London

Embark on a captivating journey through the enchanting gardens of Ireland, where botanical beauty, wild landscapes and fascinating history combine to spectacular effect. Beginning in Belfast and meandering southwards to Dublin, through the Wicklow Mountains and on to Bantry Bay, this tour offers a unique opportunity to explore some of the most breathtaking spots the island has to offer, from the 400-year-old Antrim Castle Gardens in Northern Ireland to the stunning Italianate landscapes of Inlacullin on spectacular Garnish Island. Along the way, we discover hidden gems such as a contemporary garden set in a former railway viaduct and a range of contrasting styles, right through to world-famous horticultural wonders. Follow in the footsteps of royalty at The King's official residence of Hillsborough Castle, bask in the peaceful charm of Mount Stewart's grounds, wander through the extensive plant collections of Mount Congreve and visit the world's third finest gardens according to National Geographic: Powerscourt Gardens, where striking terraces, ornamental lakes and fine statuary awaits. With expert guidance and an itinerary brimming with botanical wonders, this inspiring holiday promises to be an unforgettable celebration of the Emerald Isle's natural beauty.

Day 1 We depart London for Belfast and discover the contrasting styles of **Holly House garden**. Next is **Antrim Castle Gardens**, featuring 400-year-old canals, ponds and a Victorian Pleasure Garden, then **Randalstown Viaduct Community Garden**, a transformed railway viaduct. (D)

Day 2 This morning, we visit **Mount Stewart**, known for its vibrant parterre, Spanish garden, sunken garden and serene lake. Later, we explore **Rowallane Garden**, featuring a walled garden with mixed borders, specimen trees and a naturalistic rock garden with azaleas and daphnes. (B, D)

Day 3 We head to King Charles' residence of **Hillsborough Castle**, with its beautiful State Rooms, followed by **Ardán Garden**, a coastal garden blending beauty and conservation, recognized by UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere. (B)

Day 4 The morning is spent at **June Blake's Garden**, showcasing ornamental grasses and perennials. Next is **Hunting Brook**, Jimi Blake's garden featuring tropical planting, woodland walks

and Ireland's largest ornamental grass collection, then **Russborough House**, a Palladian mansion with beautiful walled gardens. (B)

Day 5 We discover the diverse species of **Mount Usher**, an informal garden inspired by William Robinson, followed by iconic **Powerscourt Gardens**, with terraces, statuary and scenic Wicklow Mountains views. (B)

Day 6 The **National Botanic Garden** awaits in Kilmacurragh, known for its conifers and rhododendrons. Before we continue to Bantry, we visit **Mount Congreve**, with acres of woodland, a walled garden, a Chinese pagoda and Georgian glasshouse. (B, D)

Day 7 We take the ferry to **Inlacullin**, a stunning garden blending formal and wild elements. Our last visit is **Bantry House & Garden**, featuring terraces, fountains, and azaleas inspired by European travels. (B, D)

Day 8 We transfer to Cork airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in June

Join our Gardens and Wildflowers of the Burren departure 1 - 5 Jun on pg 65

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards is once again leading this exploration of some of Ireland's most spectacular gardens.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights bed & breakfast: two nights in the 4-star Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim, three nights at a 3-star hotel in Dublin and two nights at the 3-star Maritime Hotel, Bantry (or similar)
- Four dinners
- Flights from London to Belfast, returning from Cork
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

23 - 30 May	\$3,215
8 - 15 Sep	\$3,215
Single Supplement	\$835



The Cliffs of Moher

Gardens and Wildflowers of the Burren

5 DAYS from \$1,745 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London

The Burren, derived from the Irish "bhoireann" meaning "stony place," spans over 300 square kilometres in northwestern Co. Clare. It is the largest karstic limestone area in western Europe. Though its initial appearance may seem stark, closer inspection unveils a stunning diversity of flora, with vibrant wildflowers captivating visitors. Depending on conditions, we may encounter many fascinating species.

Our journey begins at Knockpatrick, a private garden featuring rare magnolias, azaleas and rhododendrons. We then explore the tiny island of Inis Oírr, where geological features, coastal landscapes, and traditional farming enhance its flora and fauna. Cruising past the iconic Cliffs of Moher, we admire Ireland's most dramatic natural spectacle. A full day in The Burren with a local guide offers an opportunity to see its unique plant life, limestone pavements, flower-rich grasslands and disappearing lakes. Finally, we conclude at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, nestled in 26 acres of pristine Co. Clare countryside, bringing our adventure to a charming close.

Day 1 We depart London for **Shannon**, meeting our coach and tour manager upon arrival. Transferring to Knockpatrick, we visit Helen and Tim O'Brian's **private garden**, overlooking the Shannon estuary. This 1930s garden, lovingly maintained by the fourth generation of the family, features running water and nourishment from the family farm. It showcases magnolias, azaleas, rhododendrons, and other plants like calicanthus, clianthus and dicksonia. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we drive to Doolin and take a ferry to **Inis Oírr**, the smallest Aran Island. Its geology, coastal setting, and farming practices enrich its flora and fauna, with wildflowers, coastal species, and Burren plants like bloody cranesbill and spring gentian. Wildlife may include seals, puffins, and dragonflies. After exploring the island and an optional lunch (not included), we enjoy a 50-minute cruise beneath the dramatic **Cliffs of Moher**, best seen from the water. Returning to Doolin, we head back to the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3 Following breakfast, we visit **Caher Bridge Garden**, a limestone plantsman's garden with Irish cultivars, daylilies, and hostas. Next, we explore **Doreen Drennan's Garden**, featuring rolling lawns, a walled garden, and a river walk. Doreen's impressionist art studio, inspired by the Wild Atlantic Way, is included. On our return, we briefly stop at the impressive **Poulnabrone Dolmen**, a megalithic tomb dating back to 3600BC. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we embark on a full-day exploration of the **Burren** with a local expert. Expect diverse flora, including Arctic, Alpine, and Mediterranean species, alongside limestone features like disappearing lakes. **Note: this involves five hours of walking, requiring mobility, sturdy boots, and waterproofs.** (B, D)

Day 5 In the afternoon, we transfer to Shannon Airport for our return flight to London, where the group disperses. (B)

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

Key Highlights

- Privately-owned gardens giving an insight to gardening in this corner of Ireland
- Masses of wildflowers of great variety
- Unique landscapes of The Burren
- Dramatic vistas from the Atlantic of the Cliffs of Moher
- Poulnabrone Dolmen, an impressive megalith

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in May

Join our Gardens of the Island of Ireland departure 23 - 30 May on pg 64

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Join Trevor Edwards, one of our most popular garden tour managers, where he will be in his element in his back yard.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner, bed breakfast at the Treacy's West County Hotel
- Return flights from London to Shannon
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 5 Jun	\$1,745
Single Supplement	\$275



Aran Islands

GARDENS

Europe's timeless beauty

Just a short journey from home, Europe reveals gardens, history and art in perfect harmony. Archaeological Secrets of Sardinia uncovers Nuragic and Roman legacies, while Discover Ancient Athens explores temples and iconic works of art. In the north, Sweden and Gotland in the Footsteps of Carl Linnaeus showcases lakes, forests and Baltic seascapes that inspired the great botanist. Garden lovers will delight in Gardens and Villas of Liguria and Arts and Gardens of Florence & Tuscany, pairing palaces and Renaissance masterpieces with fragrant gardens. In Portugal, Springtime Flowers in Sintra and Lisbon promise colour and fragrance, while Lavender Fields & Gardens of Provence immerses visitors in lilac-hued landscapes. Classic favourites endure too – the Loire châteaux, Picardy's waterways and Holland's Golden Age paired with hidden courtyards. Each tour captures Europe's beauty, culture and enduring charm...



Château De Grignan- Provence

Discover the gardens & heritage of Europe

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81	Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo	96	NEW Archaeological Secrets of Sardinia
82	NEW Arts and Gardens of Florence & Tuscany	97	Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden
83	NEW Gardens and Villas of Liguria	98	The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus
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		99	Malta's Archaeological Heritage

"We felt at ease from the start of our holiday with the most thoughtful and caring Tour Manager. We found each day full of highlights meeting the most special people in stunning locations. Quality of accommodation, food, transport and service were second to none. We will repeat for sure and highly recommend Brightwater Holidays."

Guest - May 2025



Keukenhof Gardens

Tulips of Keukenhof & Dutch Gardens Cruise

5 DAYS from \$2,065 | ACTIVITY RATING:   

 DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Key Highlights

-  The tulip fields of Keukenhof Gardens
-  The Vliedhof Garden designed by Piet Oudolf
-  The recently re-opened Rubens House

THREE-DAY AMSTERDAM EXTENSION FROM \$695pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

4 - 8 Apr	\$2,065
Single Supplement	\$555
Middle Deck Supplement	\$140
Upper Deck Supplement	\$175
Single Cabin upgrade supplements	On request



Vliedhof

NEW TOUR

Art Masters of Holland

6 DAYS from \$2,025 | ACTIVITY RATING: 

 DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

Explore a rich collection of museums which showcase some of the most well-known Art Masters and celebrated paintings in the world, from Vermeer’s Girl with a Pearl Earring to Vincent van Gogh’s Sunflowers. This insightful and fascinating journey into the Dutch Golden Age is accompanied by an experienced Art Historian.

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

Day 2 This morning, we visit Haarlem’s **Frans Hals Museum**, home to the artist’s lively portraits, including the iconic The Laughing Cavalier. Next is **Teylers Museum**, the Netherlands’ oldest museum, boasting works by **Michelangelo** and **Raphael**. (B)

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit the **Mauritshuis Museum**, home to Vermeer’s Girl with a Pearl Earring and Rembrandt’s The Anatomy Lesson. Next, we immerse ourselves in **Panorama Mesdag**, a 360-degree painting of 19th-century Scheveningen by **Hendrik Willem Mesdag**. (B, D)



Teylers Museum

Day 4 Today, we visit the **Van Gogh Museum**, exploring the artist’s masterpieces like Sunflowers. The museum offers insights into his life and contemporaries. The afternoon is free in Amsterdam. (B)

Day 5 We begin at **Our Lord in the Attic**, a hidden church in a 17th-century canal house. Later, we visit the **Rijksmuseum**, featuring The Night Watch and The Milkmaid. We enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, D)

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

The Art and Architecture of Antwerp

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

5 DAYS from \$1,815 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

 DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

A gem in Belgium’s Flanders region, famed for its medieval streets and Renaissance monuments, Antwerp is home to thousands of paintings by the Old Masters throughout iconic museums. This tour explores some of the city’s wonderful architecture and notable art collections with expert local guides.

Day 1 We depart London St Pancras on the morning Eurostar to Brussels, before connecting to **Antwerp** and transferring to hotel. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we explore Antwerp’s historic centre on a **walking tour**, passing **Antwerpen-Centraal Station**, **Saint James Church**, the medieval fortress **Steen**, **town hall**, **guild houses** and **Vlaaikensgang**. Next is the **Cathedral of Our Lady**, showcasing statues and masterpieces by Rubens, and then the **Diamond Quarter**. (B)

Day 3 **KMSKA – Royal Museum of Fine Arts** is our first stop, with a **guided tour** of Flemish works by Fouquet, Rodin, Chagall, Ensor and Wouters. We then take a **guided tour** of **Snijders & Rockox Huis**, featuring 16th-17th century art by



Antwerp Central

Rubens, Jordaens and Van Dyck, along with silverware and terracotta collections. (B)

Day 4 We visit the **Rubens Experience Centre and Gardens**, showcasing Rubens’ life and work with interactive displays and a reconstructed studio, followed by a tour of the UNESCO-listed **Plantin-Moretus Museum**. (B, D)

Day 5 This morning we enjoy a walking tour of **Art Nouveau architecture** in the Zurenborg district, exploring buildings inspired by Horta, Hankar and Van de Velde. We then depart Antwerp and join the return Eurostar to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

-  The Laughing Cavalier by Frans Hals at the Frans Hals Museum
-  The iconic Sunflowers at the Van Gogh Museum

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in March
Join our The Art and Architecture of Antwerp departure 26 - 30 Mar below

YOUR TOUR MANAGER

MARISKA BEEKENKAMP-WLADIMIROFF

Mariska, an expert in Dutch Baroque, connects with people globally through her art courses and museum visits, sharing her passion for this iconic period of art.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Five nights bed & breakfast at the 4-star Golden Tulip Hotel, Leiden
- Return standard class rail travel between London and Amsterdam with Eurostar
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Art Historian Mariska Beekenkamp-Wladimiroff as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 25 Mar	\$2,025
17 - 22 Aug	\$2,025
Single Supplement	\$525

Key Highlights

-  Guided tour of the KMSKA - Royal Museum of Fine Arts
-  Guided tour of Snijders & Rockox Huis
-  Visit to the Rubens Experience Centre and Gardens
-  A visit to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Plantin-Moretus Museum

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in March
Join our Art Masters of Holland departure 20 - 25 Mar above

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights bed & breakfast at the 4-star Mercure Antwerp (or similar)
- Return Eurostar from London to Brussels and onwards rail to Antwerp (first class upgrades and regional connections available at a supplement)
- Two dinners
- Comfortable coach travel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager plus local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

26 - 30 Mar	\$1,815
8 - 12 Oct	\$1,815
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	



Les Hortillonnages

Gardens of Picardy

7 DAYS from \$2,655 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London, Dover

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights bed & breakfast at a comfortable 3-star hotel in Amiens
- Three half-day cruises on the Somme Waterways with lunch and wine included
- Two dinners
- Return ferry crossings from Dover to Calais
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 13 Jun	\$2,655
Single Supplement	\$415



Gerberoy



Château de Chaumont-sur-Loire

Gardens of the Loire

7 DAYS from \$2,065 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

As we travel through the tranquil Loire Valley, one magnificent château after another appears before us, each with their romantic atmosphere, dramatic locations and beautiful grounds. Yet the serene gardens that surround the pale sandstone walls of these castles belie the turbulent history of the area, which played an important role in the French Revolution. Nowhere is this serenity more evident than among the immaculately maintained terraces of the Château de Villandry, with its faithful recreation of a 16th-century Renaissance Garden.

From our comfortable hotel in Tours, we also visit the Château Chaumont-sur-Loire during the International Garden Festival and the Château du Clos Lucé, which celebrates the life and works of Leonardo da Vinci. We also have the chance to sample some of the region’s wines in one of the local wine caves.

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

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

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

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

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

Day 4 Today we head to the well-known Château de Chenonceau and spend the morning

exploring the gardens, featuring the Garden of Catherine de Medici, Green Garden and Flower Garden amongst other horticultural gems.

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

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

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

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

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER LINDA ROBINSON

Join Linda exploring some of the most charming Châteaux of the Loire and their iconic gardens.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights bed and full breakfast at a comfortable 3-star hotel in Tours
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Return Eurostar travel from London St Pancras
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of horticulturalist Linda Robinson as expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 11 Jun	\$2,065
Single Supplement	\$555



Château de Villandry

NEW
TOUR

CRUISE



Lavender field - Provence

Lavender Fields & Gardens of Provence Cruise

8 DAYS from \$4,195 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

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



A-ROSA STELLA

Day 1 We depart from London St Pancras International on the morning Eurostar service to Paris Gare du Nord. *(First Class upgrades and regional connections also available on request).* Upon arrival, we catch the train to Lyon, where we board the **A-ROSA STELLA** for the start of our seven-night cruise. This evening we enjoy dinner on board and meander along the river to **Tournon-sur-Rhône**. *(D)*

Day 2 Bathed in the Rhône region’s mild climate, nature flourishes in picturesque **Tournon-sur-Rhône**, and a stroll in the delightful **Le Jardin Zen d’Erik Borja** shows us this pretty spot in full bloom. The inspiration is mainly Japanese, with highlights including an ornamental pond with mini waterfalls, a tea garden, meditation garden, Mediterranean garden and a riverside arboretum.

This afternoon provides the perfect chance to delve into the rich wine-making heritage of the region



Lyon Botanical Garden

with an optional train ride through the **Tain L’Hermitage Vineyards**, famous for its beautiful panoramic views. This evening we cruise to **Avignon**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 We begin with the **Musée de la Lavande Luberon**, housed in an idyllic farmhouse, to learn about the history of Provence’s lavender. Surrounded by purple-hued fields shaded by olive trees and umbrella pines, this spot has produced and distilled fine lavender since 1890 – it’s a glorious delight for the senses!

In the afternoon, we discover the ancient cloisters and frescoes of **Saint-André Abbey**. The serene gardens are the real highlight, listed as a Remarkable Garden of France. Designed in classic Tuscan Renaissance, Mediterranean and Provençal styles, sculptures, ponds, pretty rose bushes, historic pine trees, olive groves, romantic wisteria and a whole host of other plants all intermingle between the ruins of the former abbey. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 In the morning, we visit the **Pavillon De Galon**, a stunning garden located in the heart of Provence. This remarkable site showcases meticulously designed formal gardens with geometric patterns, surrounded by vibrant Mediterranean flora. After exploring the gardens, we discover the world of Van Gogh, who was a resident in Arles and painted some 200 works around the town. The **Van Gogh Foundation** and **L’espace Van Gogh** are the perfect places to immerse ourselves in the artistic legacy of this famous painter through curated exhibits and the preserved spaces. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 The delightful **Un MAS en Provence de La Plante Au Parfum** awaits. We enjoy an immersive experience, learning about the art of transforming plants into fragrances and sampling natural essential oils. Afterwards, we embark on a

walking tour of **Arles’ historic centre**, where we delve into the storied past of this city. As we wander the cobbled streets, look out for iconic landmarks such as the Roman Amphitheatre, the Ancient Theatre and the Church of St. Trophime. Back on board, we sail overnight to **Viviers**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 We embark on a **guided tour of Château de Grignan**, a majestic Renaissance castle perched atop a rocky hill overlooking the Drôme Provençale. Inside, we explore the opulent interiors adorned with period furnishings and artwork, gaining insights into the life of the Marquise de Sévigné, who famously resided here. After exploring the gardens, we then enjoy an **afternoon at leisure** before our overnight cruise to **Lyon**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 Soak up the scenery during our cruise back to Lyon, taking in the stunning views of the Rhône River as we glide past picturesque villages, lush vineyards and historic landmarks.

Later on, we visit **Lyon Botanical Gardens** in Parc de la Tête d’Or. Boasting over 15,000 species of plants, this renowned horticultural gem contains one of Europe’s richest collections. Established in the mid-19th century, the gardens are divided into thematic sections, including a rose garden, alpine garden and an arboretum, with plants ranging from exotic tropical wonders housed in grand greenhouses to native flora meticulously cultivated across its sprawling grounds.

This evening, enjoy Lyon’s joie de vivre as our ship stays in port overnight. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 After breakfast, we disembark in Lyon and catch the train to Paris, where we board our Eurostar service back to London. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

28 Jun - 5 Jul	\$4,195
Single Supplement	\$975
Middle Deck supplement	\$385
Upper Deck supplement	\$505
Single Cabin upgrade supplements	On request

CRUISE



Château de Canon

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

8 DAYS from \$3,915 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Rouen

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



Château de Versailles

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



A-ROSA VIVA

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

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

Day 7 After breakfast, we depart for one of France's most iconic palaces, the **Château de Versailles**. We have a full day to explore the Royal Apartments, the Hall of Mirrors with 357 mirrors, where courtiers and illustrious guests were received at the time of Louis XIV; the Chapel, the Royal Opera and the Museum of the History of France. Outside, the world-famous gardens, which were designed by André le Nôtre, are also the largest museum of outdoor sculptures in the world, with a total of 221 pieces. The waterbed comprises two large pools which reflect light and illuminate the façade of the Hall of Mirrors. The Northern Parterre is divided into two, each side centred around a circular pool. *(B, PL, D)*

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

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

Key Highlights

- The incomparable gardens of Giverny, carefully maintained as Monet would have wished
- A taste of Normandy at a Calvados producer
- Guided tour of the gardens at Le Vasterival
- Comfortable rail travel with Eurostar. All-inclusive cruising

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Award-winning Garden Designer, Writer and Broadcaster Trevor Edwards is looking forward to sailing along the Seine and exploring the wonderful gardens of Northern France.



THREE-DAY PARIS EXTENSION FROM \$695pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 14 May	
Main deck	\$3,915
Single Supplement	\$975
Middle Deck Juliette Balcony supplement	\$385
Upper Deck Juliette Balcony supplement	\$505
Single Cabin upgrade supplements on request	



Monet's garden

The Genius of Monet

4 DAYS from \$1,830 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌸

DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

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

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)



Château de Chantilly

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

Key Highlights

- 🌿 The incomparable gardens of Giverny, carefully maintained as Monet would have wished
- 🌿 The Orangerie Museum and Les Nymphéas – impressionism at its most impressive
- 🌿 The sumptuously decorated Grands Appartements and the Galeries de Peintures of the Château de Chantilly
- 🌿 Comfortable rail travel with Eurostar

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the Château Jeanne & the Forest, Chantilly
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Paris with Eurostar
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

29 May - 1 Jun	\$1,899
24 - 27 Jul	\$1,830
Single Supplement	\$455



Eiffel Tower



Menton Lemon Festival parade

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

6 DAYS from \$2,515 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌸🌸🌸🌸

With elegant gardens, azure skies, and a stunning coastline that inspired artists, the French Riviera has retained its glamour for over a century. We explore fine gardens, including those of Thomas Hanbury and the Rothschilds. In February, Menton hosts the vibrant Lemon Festival, a colourful celebration with elaborate floats and citrus sculptures parading through the Promenade du Soleil, bringing zest and joy to early spring.

We also visit the Jardin Botanique Val Rahmeh, the Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild gardens, Italy's Hanbury Gardens, Jardin Exotique d'Èze, Villa Thuret, Serre de la Madone, Monte Carlo parks, and La Mouissone's tranquil spaces.

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

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Nice**, enjoying lunch at a local restaurant before visiting the historic garden of **Serre de la Madone**, created by Lawrence Johnston. We continue to our hotel in Nice, followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (L, D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the **Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild**, featuring the Baroness de Rothschild's collections plus gardens designed in distinct architectural styles. Lunch is included.

Later, we explore **Jardin Exotique d'Èze**, overlooking the Mediterranean and boasting exotic plants. (B, L)

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Jardin Botanique Val Rahmeh**, established by Lord Radcliffe and featuring exotic species, palms, citrus and a rainforest area.

We explore **La Mortola**, planted by Sir Thomas Hanbury in 1867. This botanical collection includes exotics from South Africa, Australia and South America. Lunch is included.

We enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 4 We spend the day at the **Menton Lemon Festival**. Grandstand seats are included for the parade, featuring floats decorated with citrus fruits, music, folkloric performances and dance troupes. (B)

Day 5 We visit **Villa Thuret**, home to rare plants like the first eucalyptus planted on the Côte d'Azur, followed by **La Mouissone**, a hillside garden with olive trees and prairie-style areas. Lunch is included.

In the afternoon, we visit **St Paul de Vence**, a haven for writers and artists. Later, we enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 6 We conclude in glamorous **Monte Carlo**, visiting the reopened **Jardin Exotique de Monaco** before we transfer to Nice airport where our tour concludes. (B)

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

Please note: several of these gardens feature steep areas or narrow paths.

Key Highlights

- 🌿 Sit back and enjoy all the colour and spectacle of the Menton Lemon Festival - in February
- 🌿 Cacti of every shape and size in Èze
- 🌿 The richness of the plant collection at the Hanbury Garden
- 🌿 Marvellous sea views and opulent surroundings in St Jean Cap Ferrat

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Join Colin the former Header Gardener to Her Majesty the Queen Mother as witnesses to the dazzling displays at the Menton Lemon Festival.



YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

Join Mike Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens as he returns to his favourite garden hotspots in the South of France.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 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 horticulturalists Colin Crosbie in February and Mike Nelhams in May

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Menton Lemon Festival	
12 - 17 Feb	\$2,515
Single Supplement	\$455
International Rose Festival	
7 - 12 May	\$3,145
Single Supplement	\$820



Flower Festival

Gardens of Madeira

8 DAYS from \$2,795 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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, bougainvillea, lilies, hydrangeas, magnolias, jacarandas and azaleas bloom effortlessly throughout the year, and delight the eye at every turn. One of the nicest 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. Our May departure is timed to coincide with Madeira’s Flower Festival, when the streets are carpeted in flowers and colourful displays can be seen on every corner. Enjoy grandstand seating located along the main avenues of Funchal to watch this floral spectacle.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Funchal** we transfer to our hotel, where a welcome dinner is included. (D)

Day 2 The **Children’s Parade** is a highlight of the Madeira Flower Festival where hundreds of children dressed in colourful costumes parade from Avenida Arriaga to Praça do Município. We later visit the **Madeira Botanical Garden**, an oasis of natural beauty. This lush garden is a veritable treasure trove of plant life from around the world. We then head to the **Quinta da Boa Vista Gardens**, renowned for its exceptional collection of orchids. (B)

Day 3 Today we visit the **Quinta do Palheiro**, the gardens most famous for their camellias, though there is something for everyone including a wonderful spread of agapanthus and arum and belladonna lilies in season. We then enjoy a gentle walk on the footpaths alongside the “levadas”, which wind their way around the island. On our May tour we later enjoy the **Flower Festival Parade** from one of the grandstand seats located along the main avenues of Funchal. The parade includes hundreds of participants, floats cross the city to the sound of music, displaying combinations of floral species. (B)

Day 4 Today we visit **Mercado dos Lavradores**, followed by the **Quinta Vigia**, a small garden which is part of the Presidential Palace, and the neighbouring **Santa Catarina Park**. We conclude at a tea house and enjoy some Madeiran specialities. (B)

Day 5 Today is at leisure or 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 **Ponta do Sol**. (B)

Day 6 We take the 10-minute cable car ride from the centre of Funchal to Monte and visit the wonderful **Monte Palace Gardens**. In the afternoon we go to the famous **Reid’s Palace Hotel** for a look around the lush gardens followed by **afternoon tea**. (B, AT)

Day 7 Today is at leisure. A farewell dinner will be served in the hotel in the evening. (B, D)

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

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights bed & breakfast at the 4-star Golden Residence Hotel, Funchal (or similar)
- Welcome and farewell dinners at the hotel and afternoon tea at Reid’s Palace
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 8 May	\$3,495
24 Nov - 1 Dec*	\$2,795
Single Supplement	\$555

Optional Excursion: Island tour	\$135
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*itinerary will vary slightly in November - please see website for details.



Botanical Garden Monte



Almond trees, Douro Valley

Route of the Almond Blossom

8 DAYS from \$3,355 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

Day 1 On arrival in **Porto**, we embark on a **city tour**. Strolling through the UNESCO-listed Ribeira area, we admire narrow streets and panoramic views over the Douro River. To end the day, we visit the **Crystal Palace Gardens**, renowned for their romantic design, and breathtaking views over the city and river. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we explore **Quinta da Arcadia** before visiting **Quinta de Vilar d’Allen**, a historic estate featuring formal gardens, camellias, sculptures, and a fountain from Monchique Monastery. A **Port wine tasting** completes our visit. The afternoon is at leisure, with an optional tile painting workshop available. (B)

Day 3 We head to **Vila Nova de Foz Côa**, famed for its almond blossoms that transform the landscape into a sea of flowers. After **lunch**, we visit **Castelo Melhor** for stunning views and explore prehistoric rock art at **Penascosa**. (B, L)

Day 4 We tour **Casa de Mateus**, a historic estate with unique gardens and art collections. After **lunch**, we visit **Casa do Campo**, home to Portugal’s oldest camellia tree and enchanting Baroque-style gardens featuring boxwood paths, camellia alleys, fountains, and stone tables. (B, L)

Day 5 We visit the **Bom Jesus do Monte Sanctuary**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with neo-classical architecture, landscaped gardens, and panoramic views. In the afternoon, we explore the **Biscainhos House Museum**, showcasing Baroque gardens with Rococo influences and a Historic Garden Quality Seal. (B)

Day 6 In the Vinho Verde region, we explore **Quinta da Aveleda**, featuring rare centenary trees, camellias, and Romantic-style gardens. Later, we visit **Guimarães**, a UNESCO-listed historic centre, followed by a trip to **Camelias Flavius nursery**, home to over 2300 camellia varieties. (B)

Day 7 We begin at Braga’s **Santa Bárbara Garden**, a Baroque-style gem. At **Quinta dos Curvos**, fairy-tale-like gardens and vineyards await. In the afternoon, we explore **Park de São Roque**, featuring flowerbeds, a pond, and sweeping valley views. A farewell dinner in Porto concludes the day. (B, D)

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

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

Key Highlights

- Explore The Ribeira area, the historic centre of Porto, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Visit the Crystal Palace Gardens
- Almond blossom in Vila Nova de Foz Côa
- Visit to Casa de Mateus
- Camelias Flavius nursery, home to more than 2300 varieties and strains of camellia

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS



Join Trevor in the Douro Valley as the arrival of delicate Almond Blossoms signal the arrival of spring.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Vila Gale Porto, one night at the 4-star Vila Galé Collection Douro, three nights at the 4-star Vila Gale Braga
- Welcome and farewell dinner
- Two lunches
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

26 Feb - 5 Mar	\$3,355
Single Supplement	\$695
Optional Excursion: Tile Painting	\$65



Palacio Fronteira

Springtime Flowers in Sintra and Lisbon

7 DAYS from \$3,005 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Lisbon**, transferring to our hotel upon arrival. Later, we explore **The Foundation of the Houses of Fronteira and Alorna**, dedicated to preserving the legacy of these noble families. Set amidst formal gardens, woodlands, and a former pleasure farm, the palace offers a unique insight into Portuguese history and culture. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit Lisbon’s **Estufa Fria**, a botanical garden nestled in Eduardo VII Park. Built in the 20th century, it maintains a controlled microclimate for acclimatising exotic plants. Later, we explore the **Lisbon Botanical Garden**, a serene oasis spanning 10 acres in the Príncipe Real neighbourhood. Housing over 10,000 plants, it’s renowned for the Australian Cycad with its unique twisted trunks. *(B)*

Day 3 Today, we delve into Portugal’s royal heritage with visits to the **Queluz Palace** and **Marquês de Pombal Garden**. The Marquês de Pombal Garden surrounds a statue honouring the statesman’s pivotal role in Lisbon’s recovery after the 1755 earthquake. At Queluz Palace, the elegant 18th-century gardens, fountains, and pavilions reflect aristocratic grandeur. *(B)*

Day 4 In Sintra, we visit **Monserrate Palace**, a Romantic masterpiece blending Gothic, Moorish, and Indian styles, surrounded by lush gardens filled with exotic plants and waterfalls. Next, we explore **Quinta da Regaleira**, an enigmatic estate with grottoes, towers, lakes, and mysterious underground tunnels, designed by Luigi Manini for António Augusto Carvalho Monteiro. *(B)*

Day 5 Our guided tour of **Sintra** begins at **Pena Palace**, a former monastery transformed by King Ferdinand II into a royal residence blending Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and Moorish styles. Its surrounding park features exotic plants and hidden paths. In the afternoon, we visit **Jardim do Cerco**, a Versailles-inspired garden with water mirrors, leafy avenues, and a century-old Noria. *(B)*

Day 6 We explore **Parque D. Carlos I**, a romantic garden surrounding a historic thermal hospital. The **Modern and Contemporary Sculpture Garden** offers artistic encounters, while the African Sculpture Garden showcases Zimbabwean Shona stone carvings blending physical and spiritual themes. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER DAVID HURRION

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



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights bed & breakfast at the 4-star HF Fenix Lisboa *(or similar)*
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits are as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist David Hurrion as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 11 Apr	\$3,005
Single Supplement	\$695



Monserrate Palace

Palladian Villas of Veneto

5 DAYS from \$2,900 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Veneto is one of Italy’s wealthiest regions, reflected in the extravagance of the grand villas and their stunning gardens. Join us as we discover no fewer than six glorious villas, many of which were designed by Andrea Palladio, one of the most influential individuals in the history of Western architecture.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Venice**, we visit the grand gardens of **Villa Pisani**, commissioned by Doge Alvise Pisani in 1735. Highlights include a long pool, ornate pavilion, avenues, hexagonal belvedere and enclosed greenhouses. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we enjoy a guided walking tour of **Vicenza**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. See landmarks such as Corso Palladio, Basilica Palladiana and Teatro Olimpico before joining Count Valmarana for a tour of **Villa Rotonda**, designed by Palladio. **Villa Valmarana** is next, known for its dwarf statues and Tiepolo frescoes, complete with dinner in a fresco-adorned room. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We visit **Villa Barbarigo**, featuring Baroque gardens with statues and fountains. Stop for photos at **Villa Vescovi**, a 1535 summer retreat of Padua’s bishops, before exploring **Le Paradis des Papillons**, a haven for butterflies and birds. *(B, D)*



Botanical garden in Padua

Day 4 **Villa Barbaro** and its secret garden awaits. In the evening, visit **Villa Godi Malinverni** for a gala dinner hosted by the 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 airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo

NO/LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

4 DAYS from \$2,305 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this opportunity to visit the beautiful gardens of Ninfa. They are as close to gardening perfection as you can get – roses, hydrangeas and jasmines curtain what remains of the walls of medieval buildings and paths meander beside a crystal-clear river. Equally rare is the chance to follow in the footsteps of the Popes at the gardens of Castel Gandolfo, the traditional papal residence just outside Rome.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Rome**, we have a short city tour, including sights such as the **Colosseum, St. Peter’s Square and Basilica** and the **Spanish Steps**. *(D)*

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



Papal Garden in Castel Gandolfo

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

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

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- Guided tour of Villa Rotonda with Count Valmarana
- The gardens of Villa Barbarigo, the most complete historical garden in Europe

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in September
Join our Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes departure 21 - 28 Sep on pg 84

YOUR TOUR MANAGER KATE WILLIAMSON

Kate enjoys nothing more than welcoming guests to her adopted country, and has a fantastic store of local knowledge.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights bed & breakfast in the 4-star Sweet Hotel in Schiavon *(or similar)*
- Four dinners
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

15 - 19 Sep	\$2,900
Single Supplement	\$275

Key Highlights

- Enjoy exclusive access to the beautiful and ancient gardens of Ninfa
- Wander Castel Gandolfo, the Papal residence
- Visits to Villa d’Este and Villa Lante
- Guided tour of Viterbo

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in May
Join our Gardens and Villas of Liguria departure 1 - 7 May on pg 83 or Gardens and Villas of Sicily 13 - 20 May on pg 85

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Three nights bed & breakfast at the Hotel Albergo Santa Chiara in Rome *(or similar)*
- Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of an expert tour manager (*horticulturalist Julia Corden In May*)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 11 May	\$2,305
1 - 4 Sep	\$2,305
Single Supplement	\$275
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IN SEPTEMBER	

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS



Boboli Gardens

Arts and Gardens of Florence & Tuscany

7 DAYS from \$3,565 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Pisa** this afternoon, we enjoy an exclusive private visit to the **Toriggiani Gardens**, Florence’s most renowned monumental gardens. This botanical haven boasts a remarkable variety of global tree and plant species alongside captivating sculptures. Other notable pieces include statues of Janus and Esculapius, a classical group by Pio Fedi, and a column honouring botanist **Pier Antonio Micheli**, who played a key role in founding the Italian Botanical Society. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we explore the **Boboli Gardens**, famed for their history, formal design, fountains, grottoes, and sculptures spanning Roman, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. Later, we visit the nearby **Bardini Gardens and Villa**, a hidden gem restored over five years. Its flower beds bloom with roses, crocuses, and mimosa, while oak and cypress trees shelter blackbirds and robins. *(B)*

Day 3 Our day begins at the iconic **Uffizi Gallery**, home to a stunning collection spanning 600 years. Masterpieces by Lippi, Leonardo, Botticelli, and others await, including Botticelli’s Birth of Venus and Primavera. Later, we visit **Galleria dell’Accademia**, which houses Michelangelo’s David. Founded in 1563, it was Europe’s first art academy. *(B)*

Day 4 We start at **Villa Gamberaia**, located in Florence’s countryside. Its intimate scale and Edwardian-era restoration make it a celebrated villa, with box hedges, topiary, and a unique water parterre replacing flowerbeds. In the afternoon, we visit **Villa La Pietra**, once home to prominent Florentine families and later Chicago natives Hortense and Arthur Acton. Their collection of art, tapestries, and furniture is exceptional. *(B)*

Day 5 Today is free to explore Florence’s wonders, such as Palazzo Vecchio or Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral. Alternatively, join our optional excursion to **Villa Ambra**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a splendid Medici summer residence. Built between 1445 and 1520, it showcases Renaissance architecture and gardens adorned with rare plants and terracotta statues. *(B)*

Day 6 After breakfast, we travel to **Siena** for a guided tour of **Piazza del Campo** and its **Civic Museum**. We also explore the Cathedral, Baptistery, Opera Museum, and Piccolomini Library. Later, we visit **Castello di Verrazzano** vineyard for a guided tour of its Renaissance gardens and historic cellars, followed by wine tasting. Our farewell dinner concludes the day. *(B, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER KATE WILLIAMSON

Kate enjoys nothing more than showing off the wonderful gardens of her adopted country, and has a fantastic store of local knowledge.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights bed & breakfast at a comfortable hotel in Florence
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

31 May - 6 Jun	\$3,565
Single Supplement	\$555
Optional Excursion: Villa Ambra	\$155



Bardini Gardens

NEW
TOUR



Villa Durazzo

Gardens and Villas of Liguria

7 DAYS from \$2,830 | ACTIVITY RATING:

DEPARTURE POINT: London

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day 4 We depart for **La Spezia**, stopping en route at the 17th-century **Villa Durazzo** for a **guided tour**, originally built by the noble Durazzo family and set against the stunning Gulf of Tigullio.

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

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

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

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

Day 7 After breakfast we transfer to Pisa Airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

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

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in May
Join our Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo departure 8 - 11 May on pg 81

YOUR TOUR MANAGER KATE WILLIAMSON

Kate is looking forward to guiding this brand new tour in 2026 exploring the villas and gardens along the Italian Riviera.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights bed & breakfast at 3-star hotels: three nights at the Best Western Hotel Porto Antico, Genoa and three nights at the Hotel Corallo, La Spezia *(or similar)*
- Welcome and farewell dinners at local restaurants
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 7 May	\$2,865
2 - 8 Oct	\$2,830
Single Supplement	\$555
Optional excursions: Aquarium and the Biosphere Galata Museum	\$65 \$35

GARDENS



Isola Bella

Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes

8 DAYS from \$3,705 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

- Day 1

Upon arrival in **Milan** we transfer to our hotel at **Lake Maggiore**. *(D)*
- Day 2

Visit the gardens of **Villa Taranto**, flourishing with rare botanical examples and a wide range of plants. Later, we visit **Lake Orta** and take a boat trip to the tiny island of **San Giulio**, followed by a visit to a little-known **private garden**. *(B, D)*
- Day 3

Spend a full day exploring the famous Borromean islands. We start with a cruise from Stresa to **Isola Bella** to see the vast baroque palace built from the island's rock and surrounded by terraced gardens. We then continue to **Isola Pescatori**, with its narrow cobbled streets and pretty harbour, and **Isola Madre**, which in contrast to Isola Bella has a simple, unspoilt aspect. *(B, D)*
- Day 4

Tour the private garden of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**, home to a remarkable collection of camellias, with over 500 plants and 318 cultivars. The garden is, of course, in full bloom in spring and provides the perfect setting for a delightful and relaxed lunch. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 5

Explore the perfect example of a formal Italian garden at **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni**

situated in what were ancient hunting grounds for the nobility, in the foothills between Varese and Lake Lugano. Here we will be privileged to enjoy a **private guided tour** with the owner. Later we transfer to our hotel in Como, where wine is included each night with dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 6

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

Day 7

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

Day 8

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

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

Key Highlights

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

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in September
Join our Palladian Villas of Veneto departure
15 - 19 Sep on pg 81

YOUR TOUR MANAGER KATE WILLIAMSON

Kate is looking forward to welcoming guests once again to the Italian Lakes - the area she calls home.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner *(with wine)*, bed & breakfast at the four-star Hotel Milan Speranza au Lac on Lake Maggiore; three nights dinner *(with wine)*, bed & breakfast at the four-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior on Lake Como
- One lunch
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of officially accredited guide Kate Williamson as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
22 - 29 Apr	\$3,705
17 - 24 Jun	\$3,705
21 - 28 Sep	\$3,705
Single Supplement	\$835
Lake View Supplement	On request



Palermo Botanical Gardens

Gardens and Villas of Sicily

8 DAYS from \$3,250 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

- Day 1

Upon arrival in **Catania** and 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 where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Driving up the slopes of Mount Etna
- Tour with a member of the gardening team at Giardini San Giuliano, Villasmundo
- Lunch at a former Benedictine Monastery
- An eclectic mix of cultures at Palermo

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights dinner including wine, bed & breakfast: three nights in Giardini Naxos; two nights in Ragusa; two nights in Palermo
- Three lunches
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager *(Horticulturalist David Hurron in March)*

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 27 Mar	\$3,250
13 - 20 May	\$3,740
Single Supplement	\$555



Villa Giulia



Villa San Michele

Gardens of the Neapolitan Riviera

7 DAYS from \$3,110 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Southern Italy boasts a wonderfully warm climate paired with fertile soil, making it ideal for cultivating olives, oranges, lemons, and a variety of tender exotic plants. This has inspired the creation of stunning villas, gardens, vineyards, and lemon groves, all infused with the ancient culture of vibrant Naples.

The largest island in the Bay of Naples, Ischia, is home to La Mortella, a mesmerising garden of lush exotics and tender trees, initiated by composer William Walton. Here, umbrella pines, ilex, arbutus, Italian cypresses, and myrtles flourish harmoniously. On the Amalfi coast in Ravello, we explore Villa Rufolo, a terraced garden featuring umbrella pines and cypresses on its upper level, and geometric flower beds bordered by box on its lower terrace. Nearby, Villa Cimbrone offers unparalleled views from its cliff-top promontory. Lastly, we visit Pompeii, an extraordinary site offering a poignant yet captivating window into the distant past.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Naples**, we begin our journey with a visit to the **Caserta Palace Gardens**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned as one of Europe’s most stunning gardens. Designed by Luigi Vanvitelli in the 18th century, the gardens are a Baroque masterpiece, divided into the formal Italian Garden with fountains and sculptures, and the more natural English Garden with lakes and meadows. A **guided tour** is included. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we travel by boat to the charming **island of Capri**. First, we visit the gardens of **Villa San Michele**, perched on a mountain face overlooking the Gulf of Naples. Built by Swedish author Axel Munthe, the villa houses Roman sculptures and antique treasures. Next, we explore **Giardini di Augusto**, offering panoramic views of Capri’s south side. The gardens, once part of Friedrich Alfred Krupp’s villa, feature a statue of Lenin commemorating his stay. (B, D)

Day 3 Following breakfast, we transfer to Naples harbour and take a ferry to **Ischia**, the largest island in the Bay of Naples. Here, we visit the gardens of **La Mortella**, created by Sir William Walton and his wife Susana. Designed by Russell

Page, the garden blends lush exotics and indigenous plants across steep terraced hillsides. A guided tour is included. Later, enjoy free time to explore before returning to Naples. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we visit **Villa Rufolo**, offering breathtaking views of the Amalfi Coast. Its gardens feature classical geometric beds, umbrella pines, and tender plants. In the afternoon, we explore **Villa Cimbrone**, a 19th-century garden designed atop a cliff-top promontory. Highlights include themed gardens, a wisteria pergola, and spectacular Mediterranean views. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, the day is at your leisure. (B, D)

Day 6 Today, we delve into history with a **guided tour of Pompeii**. Buried under ash after Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, this ancient town reveals preserved streets, villas, and sculptures. Nearly four-fifths of the city has been unearthed, with many treasures displayed in Naples’ National Museum. (B, D)

Day 7 After breakfast, we transfer to Naples airport where our tour concludes. (B)

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Best Western Hotel La Solara (or similar)
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert as tour manager & local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

21 - 27 Apr	\$3,110
Single Supplement	\$555



Villa Cimbrone



Alberobello Trulli Houses

White Cities of Puglia

8 DAYS from \$3,180 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Puglia is the long strip of land that makes up the ‘heel’ of Italy. For centuries it was fought over and conquered by the major powers of the day, from the Greeks and Romans to the Turks and Spanish, all of whom have left their mark.

Today it remains a traditional and relatively undiscovered region, yet with fine architecture, attractive countryside and a relaxed culture that deserves to be better known. Among the more striking features are the cylindrical, whitewashed buildings with grey conical roofs known as trulli, which are often joined together in a random, organic manner. Elsewhere we will see imposing castles and ornate cathedrals, ancient archaeological sites and mysterious caves, and have a taste of the top-quality olive oil for which the region is famous.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Bari** we transfer to our hotel with a welcome dinner included. (D)

Day 2 Today we explore **Lecce**, a beautiful town characterised by the warm pink of the local sandstone. Our **guided walking tour** includes the **Basilica de Santa Croce**, **Piazza del Duomo** and Roman Amphitheatre. (B, D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Gallipoli’s** historic centre with a local guide, surrounded by fortified walls and accessed by a bridge. In the afternoon we embark on a captivating tour of **Santa Maria di Leuca**, where turquoise waters and dramatic cliffs meet at Italy’s southern tip. (B)

Day 4 Enjoy a walk through **Otranto’s** centre with our local guide, learning about the coastal town’s history and exploring highlights such as the **Santa Maria Annunziata Cathedral**. Later, we discover **Orte bay** and the **Bauxite Caves** before visiting **Cutura Botanical Garden**, a triumph of scents and colours with rare plants. (B)

Day 5 We enjoy a visit to **Cisternino’s** oil mill for an olive oil tasting and to learn the secrets of production. Afterwards, we take a guided tour of the town of **Alberobello** to see some of the unique

trullo houses, the cylindrical, whitewashed buildings with grey conical roofs that are unique to this part of Italy. Our guide explains their history and construction. (B, D)

Day 6 A guided tour of **Castellana Caves** awaits. This stunning underground wonderland was carved over millions of years and invites visitors on a journey into the heart of the Earth. Next is **Matera**, a UNESCO-listed **Sassi town**, famous for its cave houses and filming locations for *The Passion of Christ* and *No Time to Die*, before heading to our Alberobello hotel. (B)

Day 7 This morning, we visit **Taranto** for a guided tour of its historic sites, including the **Aragonese castle** and **National Archaeological Museum**, showcasing one of the largest collections of Magna Graecia artefacts. (B)

Day 8 Our final day begins in **Bari’s** Old Town with a guide, visiting landmarks such as the **Basilica of St. Nicholas**. We also discover the imposing fortress of **Castello Svevo** before transferring to the airport where our tour concludes. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- La Cutura Botanical Garden, an old country estate built in the classic rural style of the late 19th century
- Guided tour of the town of Alberobello to see some of the trullo houses
- Matera, the Sassi town, famous for movies like “The Passion of Christ” and the James Bond film “No Time to Die”
- A stop in the Orecchiette Street, Bari to see the locals hand-crafting this regional pasta

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights bed & breakfast; four nights at a comfortable hotel in the Salento area and three nights at a comfortable hotel in the Itria Valley area
- Three dinners
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 14 Oct	\$3,180
Single Supplement	\$555



Gallipoli

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucía

8 DAYS from \$2,725 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

Andalucía is unrivalled in Europe for its wealth of history, culture, Moorish architecture and gardens, all set against the backdrop of the snow-capped mountains. Visit the classical gardens which complement the adjoining palaces and churches perfectly and discover the wild landscapes here.

- Day 1

Upon arrival in **Málaga** we transfer to the hotel. *(D)*
- Day 2

We visit the **Alhambra Palace** and **Generalife Gardens**, explore Albaicín's medieval streets and Moorish-era gardens and enjoy free time later. *(B)*
- Day 3

Today is spent at **Alpujarra** and **Sierra Nevada**, visiting villages and enjoying mountain scenery, complete with an afternoon walk. *(B)*
- Day 4

We travel to **Córdoba**, visit the **Great Mosque**, discover the gardens of **The Royal Palaces of the Alcázar** and continue to our **Seville** hotel. *(B, D)*



Alhambra Arch, Granada

- Day 5

Enjoy a guided tour of **Seville** including the **Plaza de España**, **Gardens of Murillo**, the **Cathedral**, **Seville's Orange Tree Courtyard** and the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar**. *(B)*
- Day 6

Today is free to explore **Seville**. *(B)*
- Day 7

We visit **Ronda**, a spectacular town rising above the gorges of the River Tajo. *(B, D)*
- Day 8

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

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

Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

6 DAYS from \$2,095 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

The Balearic Island of Mallorca offers a timeless landscape of wooded hills, orange groves, sweeping bays and rocky mountains as well as a host of beautiful gardens. We visit several of these, discover the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, tour the city of Palma, observe the flora and fauna of the Albufera Nature Reserve and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Soller.



Cathedral La Seu

- Day 1

Upon arrival in **Palma** we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*
- Day 2

We visit the **Jardines de Alfabia**, where young chusan palms contrast with more substantial mature date palms alongside bougainvillea covered pergolas. Later, we drive to the **Botanical Gardens of Sóller** which are organised into different terraces that group plants into two main collections: wild plants mainly native to the Balearic and Canary Islands as well as more common Mediterranean flora. *(B, D)*
- Day 3

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

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

- Day 4

After breakfast we visit **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca** which showcases a collection of modern art exhibitions with surrounding beautiful gardens. We then head to the former capital of the island, **Alcúdia** to explore the Old Town. *(B, D)*
- Day 5

Today we tour the city of **Palma**. *(B, L, D)*
- Day 6

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

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

Key Highlights

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

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in April
Join our Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca departure 21 - 26 Apr below

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
26 Apr - 3 May	\$2,725
7 - 14 Sep	\$2,725
Single Supplement	\$555

Key Highlights

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

BACK-to-BACK HOLIDAYS

Extend your holiday in April
Join our Gardens and Architecture of Andalucía departure 26 Apr - 3 May above

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Five nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel THB Maria Isabel, Playa de Palma, plus one lunch
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
17 - 22 Mar	\$2,095
21 - 26 Apr	\$2,445
14 - 19 Oct	\$2,270
Single Supplement	\$555



Santiago de Compostela

Galicia's Camellia Route

6 DAYS from \$1,925 | ACTIVITY RATING:  

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

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

- Day 1

Upon 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. We then visit the garden of **Pazo de Mariñan** overlooking the quiet waters of a river estuary. Amongst the botanical varieties to be found here are many old camellia plants with multiple trunks, along with others which have been planted over the years to add fragrance and colour to the garden in the winter and spring. *(B)*

- Day 3

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

- Day 4

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

- Day 5

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

- Day 6

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

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

Key Highlights

-  Visit the famous pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela
-  Enjoy the sight of camellias at a selection of country estates (*pazos*)
-  The impressive hill-top site of Castillo de Soutomaio

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TONY RUSSELL

Tony is looking forward to returning to one of his favourite corners of Spain.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Five nights bed & breakfast plus three dinners *(with wine)*; two nights at the 4-star Eurostars Ciudad de La Coruña; two nights at the 4-star Eurostars Gran Hotel, Santiago de Compostela; one night at the 4-star Eurostars de Vigo *(or similar)*
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
11 - 16 Mar	\$1,925
Single Supplement	\$275



Camellia



Jardin de Cactus, Lanzarote



MV La Belle Des Océans

Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands

8 DAYS from \$5,315 | ACTIVITY RATING:

This volcanic archipelago near north-western Africa boasts black sand beaches, lunar landscapes, lush forests and gardens with rare plants. On this eight-day trip, we explore six of the eight islands, enjoying the winter sun. Highlights include Mount Teide National Park, Sitio Litre Garden in Tenerife, Caldera de Taburiente National Park and La Palma’s Botanical Garden. In Gran Canaria, we visit La Marquesa de Arucas Garden, while Lanzarote features the Cactus Garden and Green Heart of Haria.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Lanzarote** we transfer to the ship. Spend the afternoon at leisure on board before dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 We explore **Lanzarote**, the north-eastern Canary Island, where lava fields meet whitewashed houses. We visit the **Jardín de Cactus** and later, we tour *The Green Heart of Haria*, before returning to the ship for lunch and a relaxed afternoon. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 We cruise to **Fuerteventura**, where our optional excursion offers the opportunity to discover an award-winning **goat’s cheese**, visit an aloe vera cosmetics producer and explore historic **Betancuria**, the island’s first colony. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 We arrive in **Gran Canaria** for our optional morning visit to **Casa de Colón**, chronicling the Canaries’ history and in the afternoon, we have the opportunity to visit **Teror**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 We dock at **La Gomera**, an island of craggy mountains and verdant forests. Spend the day at leisure or join an optional excursion to Garajonay National Park. After a traditional lunch, we enjoy a demonstration of the island’s unique whistled language, Silbo Gomero. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 We arrive at **La Palma** this morning and join an onboard lecture. After lunch, we visit **Caldera de Taburiente National Park**, a UNESCO Biosphere reserve and explore the island’s **Botanical Gardens**, home to over 200 plant species thriving in its subtropical climate. We then cruise to Fuerteventura, where an optional excursion features goat’s cheese, aloe vera cosmetics and historic Betancuria, the island’s first colony. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 After breakfast, we visit **Mt Teide National Park**, a volcanic landscape of craters, peaks and petrified lava. After lunch, we explore the 18th-century **Botanical Gardens of Puerto De La Cruz**, featuring exotic plants like the South American **Coussapoa Dealbata**, palms, bromeliads and aloes. End the day at **Sitio Litre Orchid Gardens**, blending English formal design with tropical blooms, nearly 200 orchids and a 600-year-old **Dragon Tree**. *(B, L, D)*

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

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

Key Highlights

- Visit to Mt Teide National Park, Sitio Litre and Jardin Botanico, Tenerife
- The National Park of La Caldera de Taburiente and Botanical Gardens La Palma
- Visit to the Cactus Garden and the Green Heart of Haria, Lanzarote

YOUR TOUR MANAGER TREVOR EDWARDS

Trevor is looking forward to guests joining him for some winter sun discovering the volcanic landscapes and glorious gardens of the Canary Islands.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 14 Feb

Deck 3	\$5,315
Deck 4	\$6,545
Deck 5	\$7,415
Deck 6 Panorama	\$8,045
Deck 6 Riviera	\$8,045
Deck 6 Ocean	\$8,465
Single Supplement	from \$1,675

Optional Excursions:	
La Gomera	\$80
Las Palmas/Bandama	\$80
Teror/Garden	\$65
Fuerteventura	\$55

NEW
TOUR



Visby

Sweden and Gotland in the Footsteps of Carl Linnaeus

9 DAYS from \$4,020 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Join us on an enchanting journey inspired by botanist Carl Linnaeus, exploring lakes and gardens in southern Sweden and the wildflowers and seascapes of Gotland, a Baltic island. We start on the Swedish mainland, visiting historic sites tied to Linnaeus in Uppsala, including the Linnaeus Garden and Museum and his summer estate at Hammarby. From there, we delve into the picturesque Lakeland region, especially Lake Vättern, with its stunning wooded shores stretching deep into the hinterland.

Next, a ferry takes us across the Baltic Sea to Gotland, where Linnaeus embarked on an expedition in 1741. Amid limestone cliffs, we’ll revel in exceptional botanising opportunities and visit the studio of wildlife illustrator Lars Jonsson. Finally, we return to Sweden’s sophisticated capital, Stockholm, for a serene conclusion to this remarkable holiday.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Sweden**, a local coach takes us to Uppsala and our hotel. Dinner is arranged at a nearby restaurant. *(D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we explore Linnaeus’s world with a guided tour of the **Linnaeus garden and museum**, followed by his summer estate at **Hammarby**. Linnaeus, Sweden’s renowned Flower King, left a legacy through objects and portraits. Later, we visit the **Uppsala University Botanical Garden**, Sweden’s oldest, featuring over 8,000 species. *(B)*

Day 3 After breakfast, we check out and visit the **Dream Park** in Enköping, designed by **Piet Oudolf**. Heading towards **Lake Vättern**, Sweden’s second largest lake, we stop for lunch at **Bastadalen Herrgård**, known for its **Chinese Garden**. Later, we arrive at **Vadstena**, home to a 14th century abbey and a 16th century castle. *(B, L)*

Day 4 We travel south along Lake Vättern to Jonköping and then east to the coast, staying overnight in **Oskarshamn**. *(B)*

Day 5 After breakfast, enjoy a relaxed morning exploring Oskarshamn. In the afternoon, we transfer to the ferry terminal for our journey to **Visby** on Gotland. Our coach accompanies us to our accommodation in Visby. *(B)*

Day 6 We explore the **southern part of Gotland**, offering botanising opportunities amidst greener landscapes shaped by sandstone bedrock. Visits include Vamlingbo’s museum of ornithological author **Lars Jonsson**, where lunch is available but not included. We aim to see **Kallgatburg**, Ladies Slipper orchids, and unique Pasque Flowers. *(B)*

Day 7 Today, we visit the **northern part of Gotland**, enjoying garden visits and botanising amidst stark limestone landscapes. Highlights include Fårö island’s dazzling white sea stacks. *(B)*

Day 8 We depart early for the ferry to **Nynashamn**, with breakfast served onboard. On the mainland, we head to **Stockholm**, stopping at **Bergius Garden Cafe** to explore this botanical haven. A panoramic coach tour follows, ending at Södermalm and our hotel. An SL Access card is provided for free travel. *(B, D)*

Day 9 After breakfast, enjoy a morning at leisure exploring **Stockholm** before transferring to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

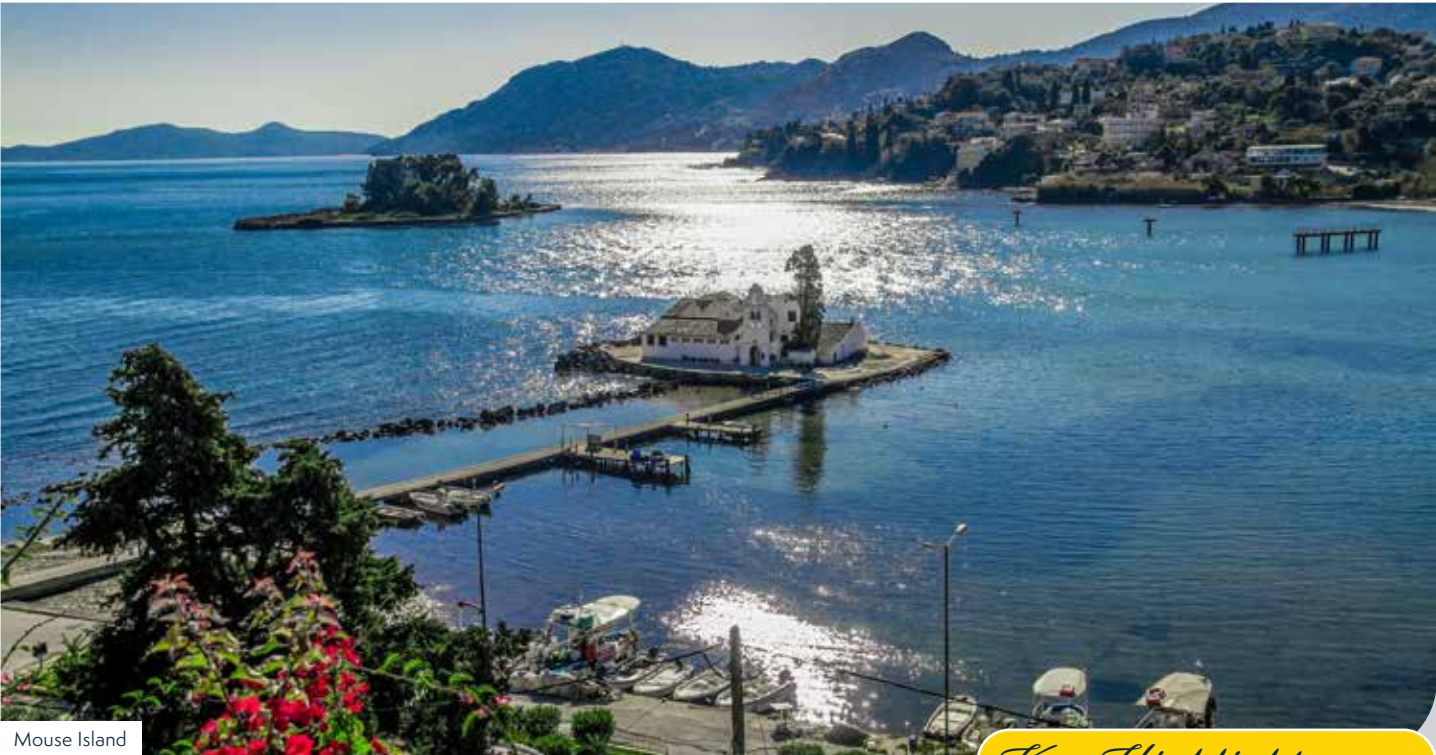
- ▶ Eight nights bed & breakfast: two nights Uppsala, one night Vadstena, one night Oskarhamn, three nights Gotland and one night Stockholm
- ▶ One lunch and two dinners
- ▶ Return ferry crossings from the Swedish mainland to Gotland
- ▶ Comfortable coaching in Sweden
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ 24hr SL Access card in Stockholm
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 21 Jun	\$4,020
Single Supplement	\$835



Stockholm



Mouse Island

Discover 'The Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell

5 DAYS from \$2,095 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

Day 1 Upon 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**, taking in the Spianada Square and the 16th-century St Spyridon Church, one of the island's iconic sights. *(D)*

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

Day 3 We are joined once again by Lee as we visit some of the unforgettable locations from Gerald Durrell's childhood, his books and the TV series, beginning at the **White House** in Kalami,

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

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

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

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

Key Highlights

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

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 \$415 per person (single supplement \$575 per person), including airport transfers and breakfast.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 9 May	\$2,095
6 - 10 Oct	\$2,165
Single Supplement	\$315



Lee Durrell



Pula

Cultural Croatia

8 DAYS from \$3,425 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit **Angiolina Park** with its colourful flower beds, ornate statues and charming fountains. Here we can see bamboo and various species of palms, which thrive in Opatija's mild climate, as well as the Japanese Camellia, a symbol of Opatija.

Later, we head to the **American Gardens**, an enchanting green space with breathtaking viewpoints of the sea and town below. *(B, D)*

Day 3 We start our day in **Krk** before heading to the harbour of Punat for a boat ride to **Kosljun**, a pretty islet in the middle of Puntarska Draga Bay.

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

Day 4 We enjoy a short boat trip to the pristine natural haven of Istria's **Veliki Brijun**. Here we travel on a small electric train and by foot in places as cars are not permitted. Later, we continue to our hotel in **Pula**. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Today we explore stunning **Pula**, known for its impressive Roman architecture such as the Forum Pula Forum, Temple of Augustus and Pula amphitheatre. *(B, D)*

Day 6 We explore **Rovinj**, one of the most picturesque towns on the Istrian Peninsula, before continuing to **Histria Aromatica**, which grows a wide range of aromatic herbs and plants for use in natural oils and balms. We conclude our visit with a tasting session, including herbal liqueurs, olive oils and honey. *(B, D)*

Day 7 Today is free to spend at leisure or join our optional excursion exploring the beautiful Istrian countryside, focusing on the region's frescoes, such as those in the small village of Beram. In Roc, there's also the chance to participate in a **guided fresco painting class** led by a local artist. *(B, D)*

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

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

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR MANAGER JULIA BERG

Join Julia our expert on Croatia through the landscapes and cultural highlights of Kvarner and Istria.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

30 May - 6 Jun	\$3,425
Single Supplement	\$415
Optional excursion: The Frescoes of Istria	\$210

NEW
TOUR

ARCHAEOLOGY



Athens Skyline

Discover Ancient Athens

6 DAYS from \$2,130 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Explore the illustrious Ancient Greek civilisation in storied Athens, a city pivotal to our grasp of modern culture, where democracy, Classical art, architecture, and literature thrived. Together, we uncover Athens’ historical treasures, including the famed Acropolis, the lively Agora, and the central square, where we witness the Evzones’ Changing of the Guard. Each day promises enthralling discoveries, with chances to marvel at weathered temples, towering statues, notable artefacts, captivating paintings, and sacred sanctuaries during this journey to one of antiquity’s most remarkable cities.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Athens**, we transfer to our centrally-located hotel.

Day 2 Our journey begins with the iconic **Acropolis**, a magnificent complex of ancient sanctuaries, dominated by the Parthenon – the ‘Chamber of the Maiden’. Built in the 5th century to house a colossal statue of Athena, the patron goddess of Athens, the views from this historic site are breathtaking.

In the afternoon, we explore the renowned **Acropolis Museum**, celebrated as one of the world’s finest museums. Designed by Bernard Tschumi and Michael Photiadis, it showcases remarkable artefacts from the Acropolis. The highlight is the Parthenon Gallery, featuring original sections of the frieze depicting the Panathenaic procession. *(B)*

Day 3 Our adventure continues with a visit to the ancient **Agora**, Athens’ economic hub in antiquity. Highlights include the arsenal, Tholos, stoas, and the well-preserved Temple of Hephaestus.

Next, we explore the **Temple of Olympian Zeus**, dedicated to Zeus, the chief Olympian god. Construction began in the 6th century BCE but was completed centuries later under Roman Emperor Hadrian. Once quarried in medieval times, this site now serves as an open-air museum, offering insights into Athens’ rich history.

Later, we visit the **National Museum of Athens**, home to over 11,000 artefacts and one of the greatest collections of antiquities globally. From the bronze statue of Poseidon *(or Zeus?)* to the golden mask of Agamemnon, these treasures are emblematic of ancient Greece. *(B)*

Day 4 Enjoy a leisurely day or join the optional excursion to **Piraeus**, Greece’s largest port and a historic commercial hub. We explore the **Piraeus Museum**, with its famed statue of Apollo, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. The afternoon is free to relax or further discover Athens. *(B)*

Day 5 This morning, we visit the **Benaki Museum**, housed in the former Benakis family mansion. Its collections span Greek history, featuring sculptures, textiles, ceramics, and two stunning parlours.

We then embark on a panoramic tour of **Athens**, including **Syntagma Square**, the city’s vibrant heart, and the **Changing of the Guard at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier**, a tribute to Greece’s fallen heroes. *(B)*

Day 6 After breakfast, we bid farewell to Athens and head to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Admire astounding city views and the stunning architecture of the Acropolis
- Discover the UNESCO listed Greek Agora, at the heart of ancient Athenian life
- View the unmissable artefacts displayed in the National Museum of Athens
- Experience the iconic Changing of the Guard at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Five nights bed & breakfast at a central 4-star hotel in Athens
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager and English speaking guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

23 - 28 Mar	\$2,130
Single Supplement	\$630
Optional excursion: Piraeus	\$190



National Archaeological Museum



Amphitheatre at Butrint

Albanian Archaeology

8 DAYS from \$2,585 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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 Upon arrival in **Tirana** we 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 **Appollonia** 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 where our tour concludes. *(B)*

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- The Roman amphitheatre in Durrës, one of the largest in the Balkans
- Apollonia, the second oldest Greek colony in Albania, dating back 2700 years
- The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint
- Dramatic views from the remote site of Byllis
- The medieval town of Berat, another UNESCO World Heritage site

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights 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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

6 - 13 Oct	\$2,585
Single Supplement	\$415

ARCHAEOLOGY

NEW
TOUR

ARCHAEOLOGY



Archaeological Area of Tharros

Archaeological Secrets of Sardinia

8 DAYS from \$3,180 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Welcome to a captivating journey through time and history on the beautiful island of Sardinia. This tour offers an unparalleled opportunity to explore ancient villages, discover key exhibits and learn about the lives and rituals of the ancient Sardinians. From the bustling streets of Cagliari to the serene landscapes of Supramonte, you will be guided by an expert who will bring the stories of the past to life. Join us as we delve into the mysteries of the Nuragic civilisation, marvel at Roman architecture and uncover archaic legacies.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Cagliari**, we transfer to our hotel. Later, we join a guided walking tour of Cagliari's city centre, led by a local guide. At the **Archaeological Museum**, we discover artefacts that narrate the island's fascinating history. In the evening, we gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *(D)*

Day 2 We start the day at the **Sant'Antioco Archaeological Park**, walking through Phoenician and Punic tombs, Roman streets, and early Christian catacombs, all brought to life by our expert guide. In the afternoon, we visit **Nora**, Sardinia's ancient settlement. Its Roman baths, amphitheatre, and Punic remains make this open-air museum a compelling destination. *(B)*

Day 3 Today, we visit **Barumini**, exploring **Su Nuraxi**, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the best-preserved example of Sardinian nuraghi. This extraordinary site showcases the ingenuity of the Nuragic civilisation. Later, we head to **Oristano**, where we enjoy leisure time before dinner. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we explore **Tharros**, a scenic Punic and Roman settlement, guided through its ruins including thermal baths and the **Tempio Tetrastilo**. En route to the **Supramonte region**, we stop at **Santa Cristina**, examining its

sacred well, village, and nuraghe tower, key to understanding Nuragic religious practices. *(B, D)*

Day 5 Our journey continues to Sassari, with a visit to **Nuraghe Santu Antine**, a Bronze Age marvel featuring a towering structure and ancient artefacts. Later, we explore the **Basilica della Santissima Trinità di Saccargia**, whose tranquil setting embodies Sardinia's medieval heritage. *(B, D)*

Day 6 In Sassari, we delve into the **Archaeological Museum Sanna**, tracing Sardinia's cultural evolution from the Nuragic civilisation to Roman times. Next, we visit the **Pre-Nuragic Altar at Monte d'Accoddi**, a stepped pyramid used for rituals circa 4000 BC, showcasing prehistoric Sardinian culture. *(B, D)*

Day 7 We embark on a boat trip to **Neptune's Grotto**, admiring stunning coastal views before a **guided tour** of the cave's remarkable formations. In the afternoon, we explore the **Anghelu Ruju Necropolis**, a Late Neolithic burial site with over 30 tombs, learning about ancient Sardinian burial customs. *(B, D)*

Day 8 Our journey concludes as we transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Enjoy a guided walking tour of Cagliari in the company of a local guide
- Visit one of the oldest settlement sites in Sardinia at Nora
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Su Naraxi

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights bed & breakfast at 3 and 4-star hotels: two nights at the Best Western Hotel Residence Italia, Cagliari; one night at the Mistral2 Hotel, Oristano; one night at the Gorropu Hotel, Supramonte and three nights at the Pegasus Hotel, Sassari
- Six dinners including wine
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager & English speaking local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 15 Oct	\$3,180
Single Supplement	\$345



Pre-Nuragic Altar at Monte d'Accoddi



Frederiksborg Palace

Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden

8 DAYS from \$3,985 | ACTIVITY RATING:

The neighbouring 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 Upon arrival in **Stockholm**, we visit 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 artefacts and ecclesiastical art. We take a late afternoon train to the southern city of **Malmö**. *(B, LM)*

Day 4 Today we visit 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 Scandinavia. *(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 transferring to Copenhagen airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, LM: Light meal, D: Dinner*



Ales Stenar in Sweden

Key Highlights

- The Royal Mounds at Gamla Uppsala, Sweden's oldest national symbols
- Skokloster Castle, one of the great castles of Baroque Europe
- The hugely impressive but ill-fated warship Vasa
- The Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, probably the best art museum in Denmark
- Coming face to face with a man and a woman who died more than 2300 years ago

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

16 - 23 Sep	\$3,985
Single Supplement	\$835



Frederiksborg Palace

ARCHAEOLOGY



Kato Pafos Archaeological Park

The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus

8 DAYS from \$2,515 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

- Day 1

Upon arrival in **Cyprus**, we transfer to our hotel. *(D)*
- Day 2

After breakfast, we depart for **Khirokitia**, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This well-preserved Neolithic walled village is home to over 60 stone round houses. Following this, we visit the village of **Kalavassos**, where the settlement of **Tenta** is of special interest, an aceramic Neolithic settlement that dates back to 7000 BC. Our last visit is **Amathous Archaeological Site**, which has yielded some interesting finds such as the Agora, public baths and the Temple of Aphrodite. *(B)*
- Day 3

Today we have a full day discovering the Cypriot capital of **Nicosia**. A settlement since the Bronze Age, the city has been continuously inhabited for almost 5,000 years. We have a visit to the **Cyprus Archaeological Museum** which is home to the world's most extensive collection of Cypriot archaeology. We have **lunch** in a local taverna with wine included, followed by some free time to explore. *(B, L)*
- Day 4

Today is yours to spend at leisure. *(B)*
- Day 5

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

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

Day 6

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

Day 7

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

Day 8

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

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

Key Highlights

- This exceptionally well-preserved Neolithic walled village of Khirokitia
- A visit to Amathous Archaeological Site
- A full day discovering the Cypriot capital - Nicosia
- Visits to Kourion Archaeological site, Sanctuary of Apollon Hylates and Aphrodite's Rock
- Archaeological sites in Paphos including the Archaeological Park and Museum and Tomb of the Kings

FOUR-DAY PAPHOS EXTENSION FROM \$245pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
18 - 25 Mar	\$2,515
11 - 18 Nov	\$2,515
Single Supplement	\$555

A Cultural Tour of Malta

5 DAYS from \$1,535 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Nowhere on earth concentrates as much turbulent past into such a small land mass as Malta, so if you'd like to learn as much as possible about the complex history and rich cultural heritage of the Mediterranean region in just five days, then this is the tour for you!

Day 1

Upon arrival in **Malta** we transfer to our hotel in **St Paul's Bay**, featuring lovely sea views. *(D)*

Day 2

After breakfast, we tour Malta's capital of **Valletta**, visiting **Upper Barakka Gardens** with its stunning outlook over Grand Harbour and **St. John's Cathedral**, famous for its Caravaggio painting. We continue to **Casa Rocca Palace**, showcasing Maltese nobility history, and the Malta Experience, a visual presentation of 7,000 years of island history. *(B, D)*

Day 3

Enjoy a day at leisure or join an optional excursion to **Gozo**, a peaceful island with green landscapes. Highlights here include the prehistoric **Ggantija Temples**, **Victoria's Citadel**, and scenic coastal spots like **Xlendi Bay** and **Dwejra**. *(B, D)*

Upper Barrakka Gardens

Day 4

Our full-day excursion begins with **Haġar Qim**, a megalithic site from 3000–2500BCE, followed by the spectacular **Blue Grotto** for an optional boat trip *(weather permitting)*. Next is **Mdina**, Malta's former capital, with restored medieval architecture and panoramic views, plus **Palazzo Parisio**, a 'miniature Versailles' with ornate interiors and gardens. We indulge in a delicious **afternoon tea** here before returning to the hotel. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 5

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

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

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Key Highlights

- Priceless art treasures at St John's Cathedral
- 5,000 year old temple of Haġar Qim
- Boat trip to the Blue Grotto
- A splendid afternoon tea in the most opulent surroundings

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights dinner *(with wine)*, bed & breakfast at a comfortable 4-star hotel
- Afternoon tea at Palazzo Parisio
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 7 Mar	\$1,535
3 - 7 Nov	\$1,605

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Sea View Supplement	\$85
Optional Excursions:	
Gozo	\$170
Southern Malta	\$120

SPECIAL INTEREST

Malta's Archaeological Heritage

7 DAYS from \$2,375 | ACTIVITY RATING:

From the Neolithic to now, Malta boasts many riches, all waiting to be discovered on this special tour. Explore mysterious sites left by ancient civilisations, venture inside the walled citadel of Mdina, discover St Paul's Catacombs and enjoy a boat trip around the spectacular cliffs and caverns of the Blue Grotto.

Day 1

Upon arrival in **Malta** and transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2

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

Day 3

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

Day 4

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

Haġar Qim

Day 5

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

Day 6

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

Day 7

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

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

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Key Highlights

- The ancient and mysterious Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The 'Cave of Darkness', one of the earliest sites used by Neolithic man
- The extraordinary labyrinth of St. Paul's Catacombs
- 5,000 year old temples of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Six nights dinner *(with wine)*, bed & breakfast at a comfortable 4-star hotel
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 9 Mar	\$2,375
3 - 9 Nov	\$2,445

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Seaview Room Supplement	\$125
Optional Excursion: Gozo	\$175

Mnajdra Neolithic Temple

ARCHAEOLOGY

98

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Experience the Wonders of the World

- 102 Gardens of Marrakech
- 103 **NEW** An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia
- 104 Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt
- 105 Gardens of Barbados
- 106 Gardens of Costa Rica
- 108 Spring Flowers of Namaqualand
- 110 Gardens of Mauritius
- 112 **NEW** Gardens of Southern India
- 114 **NEW** Singapore Garden Festival
- 116 Gardens of Honshu and Hokkaido
- 118 Seasonal Gardens of Japan
- 120 **NEW** Gardens of New Zealand
- 122 Chile & Falkland Islands

“A very enjoyable experience, rewarding, stimulating and interesting.”

Guest - May 2025



Gardens by the Bay

El Djem



La Majorelle Garden

Gardens of Marrakech

5 DAYS from \$2,235 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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 the 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**, a renowned garden designer. (B, 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. Later, we explore one of the most sumptuous palaces of Marrakech, **Dar el Basha**. Later, we visit **Le Jardin Secret**, designed by Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith, and the **artisan quarter**, before a guided walk on the square of **Jemaa El Fna**. (B, 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. (B, L)

Day 5 After breakfast, enjoy some free time for some last-minute shopping and sightseeing before we transfer to Marrakech airport where our tour concludes. (B)

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



Gardens of Anima

Key Highlights

- The bustling square of Jemaa El Fna at the heart of the city
- Faded glory at El Badi Palace
- Contemporary style at Le Jardin Secret
- Bright colours and international glamour at La Majorelle
- Delightful flavours and aromas in the Ourika Valley

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights bed & breakfast at the 5-star El Saadi Hotel, Marrakech (or similar)
- Three dinners and one lunch
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

20 - 24 Apr	\$2,235
5 - 9 Oct	\$2,410
Single Supplement	\$560



Menara Garden



Dougga

An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia

9 DAYS from \$2,585 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

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

Day 1 On arrival in **Tunis**, we transfer by coach to the Regency Tunis Hotel in Gammarth, where we stay for two nights. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the **Bardo Museum**, renowned for its exceptional Roman mosaics and Punic jewels, alongside galleries featuring Roman sarcophaguses, Christian baptisteries, and Hellenistic Greek art. Later, we explore **Carthage**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Highlights include **Byrsa Hill**, the ancient citadel, Salammbô's sacred Phoenician site, and the Roman Antonine Baths, showcasing Roman engineering and luxury. (B, D)

Day 3 Following breakfast, we depart for **Thuburbo Maius**, where we explore ruins like the Capitole, Temple of Mercury, and Summer Baths, offering insights into Roman life. In the afternoon, we visit **Dougga**, North Africa's best-preserved Roman town, featuring the Capitol, Temple of Saturn, and its theatre. We end the day at our hotel in Dougga. (B, D)

Day 4 Today, we visit **Bulla Regia**, known for underground villas designed for heat protection. These feature mosaics and architectural marvels, including the Memmian Baths, theatre, and the stunning House of Amphitrite. (B, D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we travel to **Kairouan**, enjoying the Tunisian countryside en route. Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and have the afternoon free. (B, D)

Day 6 We explore **Kairouan**, the fourth holiest Islamic city. Highlights include the UNESCO-listed medina and the Great Mosque of Kairouan, a 7th-century masterpiece. (B, D)

Day 7 After breakfast, we visit **El Djem** to see its Roman amphitheatre, which seated 35,000 spectators. In **Sousse**, we tour the UNESCO-listed Medina and the 8th-century Ribat. (B, D)

Day 8 Our journey continues to **Kerkouane**, a Punic city with well-preserved ruins, unique architecture, and a mosaic of the goddess Tanit. We then explore the **Nabeul Museum**, showcasing artefacts from Punic, Roman, and Islamic periods. (B, D)

Day 9 Following breakfast, we transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- Explore the ruins of Carthage, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Admire the Temple of the Sun at Dougga
- Step inside the Great Mosque of Kairouan
- Revel in the sights and sounds of a bustling medina

YOUR TOUR MANAGER

CLIVE WARSOP

Returning to Tunisia in 2026 Clive is delighted to share his passion for archaeology and ancient ruins.

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

16 - 24 Apr	\$2,585
25 Sep - 3 Oct	\$2,585

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Bardo Museum



Giza Pyramids

Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt

12 DAYS from \$5,945 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Over the millennia, countless civilizations have come and gone, risen and fallen, turned from towering citadels to piles of rubble and ash. Not so Ancient Egypt. We will find ourselves face to face with one of the most recognisable and iconic monuments in the world - the Great Pyramids and Sphinx of Giza. That is just the start of our journey along the Nile, the mighty river that sustained one of the greatest civilizations ever seen. A highlight in Cairo is a visit to the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum which displays never seen before artefacts and is now one of the largest museums in the world. We will also see the Step Pyramid, the Temple of Luxor and Karnak Temple, the Valley of the Kings, and Edfu Temple, one of the best-preserved shrines in Egypt. We also enjoy four nights on board a Nile river cruise ship.

Day 1 We arrive in **Cairo**, and transfer to our hotel. *(D)*

Day 2 Start the day with breakfast before exploring Pharaonic Cairo alongside a local Egyptologist. Visit **Saqqara**, Egypt's best-preserved ancient burial ground, and marvel at **The Step Pyramid**, built for King Zoser in the 27th century BCE. After **lunch at a local restaurant**, we continue to **The Great Pyramids & Sphinx of Giza**, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. *(B, L, D)*

Day 3 Explore the **Old Egyptian Museum**, housing iconic artefacts, and visit the **Citadel of Salah Al-Din** for panoramic views of Cairo. Discover the botanical beauty of **Al-Orman Garden**, established in 1875 and featuring cactus gardens, a lotus pond, and more. End the day at **Khan El-Khalili bazaar**, browsing treasures such as spices, jewellery, and Egyptian cotton. *(B, L, D)*

Day 4 Fly to Luxor and transfer to the historic **Sofitel Winter Palace Luxor**. Savour French cuisine and enjoy the oasis-like pool before lunch. Later, transfer to our evening hotel. *(B, L, D)*

Day 5 Tour Luxor's **East Bank**, including the **Temple of Luxor** and **Karnak Temple**. After lunch, board our 5-star river vessel for an afternoon of relaxation and evening entertainment. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 Explore Luxor's **West Bank**, visiting **The Valley of the Kings**, **Temple of Seti I**, and **Deir el-Bahri**. Reflect on the day's sights as we cruise overnight to Esna. *(B, L, D)*

Day 7 Tour the well-preserved **Edfu Temple**, built during the Ptolemaic Kingdom, and visit **Kom-Ombo Temple**, dedicated to Sobek and Haroeris. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 Arrive in Aswan and visit the impressive **High Dam**, the **Unfinished Obelisk**, and **Philae Temple**. After lunch, sail a **Felucca** around Aswan Islands and visit the **Botanical Gardens**. Dinner includes a Nubian Show. *(B, L, D)*

Day 9 Opt for an excursion to **Abu Simbel** before transferring to our hotel in Aswan. Enjoy **afternoon tea** at the historic **Old Cataract Hotel**, with stunning views of the Nile. *(B, AT, D)*

Day 10 Relax before flying to **Cairo** and transferring to our hotel. *(B, D)*

Day 11 Travel to **Alexandria** to explore the **Catacombs of Kom El-Shouqafa**, **Roman Amphitheatre**, and **Montazah Palace Gardens**. Return to Cairo for dinner. *(B, L, D)*

Day 12 Today we transfer to Cairo airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- The Great Pyramids and the Sphinx of Giza
- The stunning Al-Orman Garden
- Stopover at the luxurious Sofitel Winter Palace
- Four night Nile cruise on a full board basis
- The unique Valley of the Kings

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights dinner, bed & breakfast: five nights at the 5-star Ramses Hilton in Cairo, one night at the 5-star Jolie Ville Luxor, one night at the 5-star Mövenpick Aswan *(or similar)*
- Four nights on a full board basis on board a 5-star Nile Cruise
- Eight lunches and one Afternoon Tea
- Flights Cairo to Luxor and Aswan to Cairo
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- On arrival Tourist Visa Entry Fee
- Services of an expert tour manager and local Egyptologist guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
5 - 16 Feb	\$5,945
5 - 16 Nov	\$6,435
Single Supplement	\$1,675
Optional Excursion: Abu Simbel	\$695



Grand Egyptian Museum



Hunte's Botanical Garden

Gardens of Barbados

8 DAYS from \$4,335 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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 We arrive in **Bridgetown** 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 colourful and fragrant experience as we explore the **Tropical Gardens**, home to more than 20,000 orchids. *(B, L)*

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

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

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

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

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

Day 8 Enjoy some time at leisure before we transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Explore Hunte's Garden
- Visit George Washington House
- Discover Harrison's Cave and the Flower Forest

YOUR TOUR MANAGER

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



FOUR-DAY BEACH EXTENSION FROM \$695pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights bed & breakfast at the 4-star Accra Beach Hotel, Barbados *(or similar)*
- Two dinners and four packed lunches
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of horticulturalist David Hurrion as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
5 - 12 Feb	\$4,335
9 - 16 Nov	\$4,335
Single Supplement	\$1,115
Ocean View Suite Upgrade	from \$295
Deluxe Ocean View Suite Upgrade	from \$1,175

Optional Excursion:
Catamaran Cruise \$170



Monteverde

Gardens of Costa Rica

12 DAYS from \$6,015 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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.

Our tour will be led by horticulturalist Julia Corden, who trained at RHS Garden Wisley and at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and has a wealth of knowledge on all types of plants, animals and birds.

Day 1 Upon arrival in **San José**, Costa Rica, we will be met by our coach and local guide and transferred to our accommodation, the Bougainvillea Hotel in Santo Domingo de Heredia, a few miles to the north of San José. The hotel is set within 10 acres of lush tropical garden and has a secluded outdoor swimming pool and sauna. *(If, D)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the stunning **Else Kientzler Botanical Garden**, home to a vast array of tropical plant species from around the globe. We spend some time exploring the gardens, wandering the trails and discovering the collections of succulents and bromeliads.

Also on the agenda today, is a visit to the **Ark Herb Gardens** where there are more than 1,600 species of ornamental plants and fruits. Here we visit the thematic ethnobotanical garden terraces, a culinary

garden, tropical food garden and an essential oils garden. *(B, L)*

Day 3 This morning we check out of our hotel and depart for a visit to **Lankaster Botanical Garden**, a research centre that is part of the University of Costa Rica and is dedicated to the exhibition, conservation and study of orchids.

We continue through Costa Rica's spectacular countryside through the central valley region to our hotel for the evening. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we visit the **CATIE Botanical Gardens**, where we discover a wide variety of tropical plants from around the world. The garden is home to a century old kapok tree, towering stalks of bamboo, dripping orchids, and hanging bromeliads. There is also the chance to



learn about the research institute's contributions with research and education of tropical agriculture.

Later, we visit **Hacienda Tayutic** a century-old plantation owned by the Ortuno family. Here we learn about the ancient methods of growing and processing sugarcane and the growing, harvesting and roasting of one of the world's most popular hot beverages – Coffee. *(B, L)*

Day 5 Today after breakfast, we head for **Palmitour**, a family run business that makes a variety of products from palm hearts. We have a tour here, where we learn about the process of growing and processing the palm hearts.

In the afternoon, we have a tour of a **pineapple plantation**. Here we learn all there is to know about the growing and processing of pineapples which is



Hummingbirds

a vital part of the Costa Rican economy. In fact, the country is the largest producer and exporter of pineapples in the world. *(B, L)*

Day 6 This morning we depart on a full day excursion to the **Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge**, close to the Nicaraguan border. This area of protected marshland is the epitome of 'biodiversity' – in the course of our two and a half hour **boat trip** we will see an astonishing variety of birds, monkeys, iguanas, sloths, alligators, and turtles as well as a diverse range of flora. We will travel back to the Arenal Area where we will visit some of the abundant **hot springs** to be found here, fed by the constant geo-thermal activity of the region. *(B, D)*

Day 7 This morning we leave the hotel and after a **boat trip** on **Lake Arenal**, Costa Rica's largest body of fresh water, which was enlarged to three times its original size when a hydro-electric dam was built here, we head south to **Monteverde**.

This afternoon we visit an **orchid garden**. Costa Rica has the richest orchid flora in Central America with more than 1,400 identified species. *(B, D)*

Day 8 This morning we have a tour of the **Monteverde Cloud Reserve**, whose variable climate and large altitudinal gradient supports a complex and extensive eco-system: over 100 species of mammals, 400 species of birds, tens of thousands of insect species, and over 2,500 varieties of plants, including orchids, bromeliads, ferns, vines and mosses. Animal species include the jaguar, ocelot and Baird's tapir and birds such as the three-wattled bellbird, bare-necked umbrella bird, and the famously elusive resplendent quetzal – you never know with animals and birds but we might be lucky! *(B, L)*

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

Day 10 This morning, we tour the **Manuel Antonio National Park**, which was established in 1972 to preserve, for future generations, one of the most beautiful and bio-diverse areas in the world. Although it is the country's smallest national park, the stunning beauty and diversity of wildlife in its 683 hectares is unequalled, with its charming combination of rain forest, beaches and coral reefs. The forest is home for sloths, iguanas, the rare squirrel monkeys and millions of colourful little crabs.

We later visit **Villa Vanilla**, a family run farm that was founded in 1987 by Henry Karcynski. Here we enjoy a tour of the farm where we can see an interesting variety of spices such as vanilla, true Ceylon cinnamon, cocoa, black pepper and allspice to name a few. We see the harvest warehouse where the spices are dried and packaged as well as enjoy a walk through the farm.

This afternoon is at leisure. *(B, L)*

Day 11 This morning we have another visit to an orchid garden to see these delicate flowers that thrive in the tropical climate of Costa Rica. We later drive to the central valley to visit the **private garden** of doña Esther's home in Ciudad Colón, in the suburbs to the West of San José. An avid gardener, she changes her garden yearly and she will join us showcasing these years highlights as well as sharing the story of her gardening journey with us. *(B, L, D)*

Day 12 We transfer to San José airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- World's largest butterfly garden at La Paz Waterfall Gardens
- The imposing volcano of Arenal
- Exploring the cloud forest at Monteverde
- Spotting subtropical wildlife in the Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge
- Visits to private gardens

YOUR TOUR MANAGER JULIA CORDEN

Join Julia as she explores the rich biodiversity of Costa Rica



FOUR-DAY MANUEL ANTONIO BEACH EXTENSION FROM \$1,045pp

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- 11 nights bed & breakfast: three nights at the Bougainvillea Hotel, San José; two nights Villa Florencia, Turrialba; two nights at the Volcano Inn, Arenal; two nights at the Los Pinos, Monteverde; two nights at the La Foresta, Quepos *(hotels subject to change)*.
- Five dinners and six lunches
- London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Julia Corden *(in 2026)* as expert tour manager and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

8 - 19 Feb	\$6,015
26 Jan - 6 Feb 2027	\$6,015
Single Supplement	\$1,395



Namaqua National Park

Spring Flowers of Namaqualand

13 DAYS from \$6,465 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

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

Day 1 Upon arrival in **Cape Town**, we transfer to the hotel to drop off our luggage. We enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant** before departing for **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**.

Established in 1913, today it is one of the finest botanic gardens in the world and provides the perfect introduction to South Africa’s flora. *(L)*

Day 2 After breakfast, we ascend to the top of **Table Mountain** by cable car and discover some of the many floral species to be found here. Later, we have a city orientation tour including a walk in the **Company’s Garden**. Afternoon is at leisure, or you may join our optional excursion to

Robben Island - the island prison which housed Nelson Mandela during his 18-year incarceration. *(B)*

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

Day 4 We depart for a visit to **!Khwa Ttu San Cultural Centre and Nature Reserve**. Here we try the memorable, health-giving tea and



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

Day 5 We drive up the West Coast and see the beautiful, bright yellow canola fields, enjoy lunch by the sea and, weather permitting, a lovely walk on the beach. We continue north and enter the unique region of **Namaqualand**. *(B, L, D)*

Day 6 We drive up the breathtaking **Vanrhyns Pass** and visit the quiver tree forest before continuing to **Matjiesfontein** to enjoy the fields of flowers that stretch as far as the eye can see. *(B, L, D)*



Wild Flower Garden in the Ramskop Nature Reserve



Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens

Day 7 We head further north and spend the day in the **Namaqua National Park**, walking along the flower paths and discovering the native flora and fauna. *(B, L, D)*

Day 8 We depart for **Clanwilliam**, marvelling at the amazing rock formations, and visit the **Ramskop Wild Flower Garden**, home to more than 350 species of cultivated wild flowers. *(B, L, D)*

Day 9 We visit the **Karoo National Botanical Gardens**, home to over 400 naturally occurring plant species, one of the largest collections of indigenous succulents in South Africa. *(B, L)*

Day 10 We head to **Stellenbosch Botanical Garden**, the oldest university garden in South Africa, featuring a huge variety of plants from across the globe. After a picnic lunch, we visit the **Vergelegen Wine Estate**. *(B, L)*

Day 11 We visit the **Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve**, a place of beauty and conservation. Afternoon at leisure in **Hermanus**. Alternatively, you may choose to join our optional **whale watching excursion**. *(B)*

Day 12 We begin with a visit to **Fernkloof Nature Reserve**, which protects coastal and mountain fynbos and a small patch of evergreen forest. Later, we visit **Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens**, renowned for its waterfalls and amber pools. *(B, L)*

Day 13 This morning is at leisure before transferring to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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

Key Highlights

- Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, one of the finest in the world
- Tea tasting with the San people
- Botanising in the Namaqua National Park
- Discover the Quiver Tree forest at the Vanrhyns Pass
- Optional Whale Watching Excursion

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Join Colin discovering the fynbos and delicate spring flowers of the Western Cape.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 12 nights bed & breakfast basis: three at the 4-star Commodore Hotel, Cape Town; one night at the 3-star Saldanha Bay Hotel, Saldanha; three nights at the 3-star Letsatsi Lodge, Vanrhynsdorp; one night at the 3-star Clanwilliam Hotel, Clanwilliam; two nights at the 4-star De Zalze Lodge, Stellenbosch, two nights at the 3-star Windsor Hotel, Hermanus *(or similar)*
- ▶ Ten lunches and five dinners
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager and local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
30 Aug - 11 Sep	\$6,465
Single Supplement	\$695
Optional Excursions:	
Whale watching	\$125
Robben Island	\$55

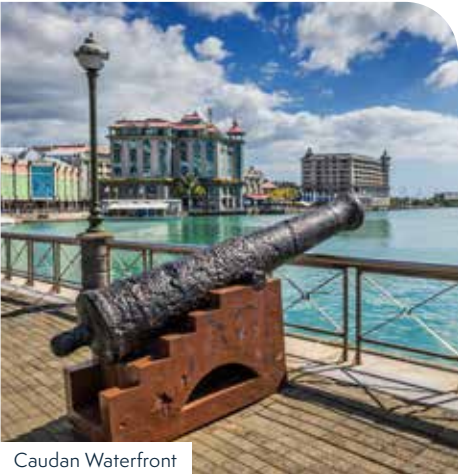


Botanical Garden in Pamplemousses

Gardens of Mauritius

10 DAYS from \$4,755 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌸 🌸

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



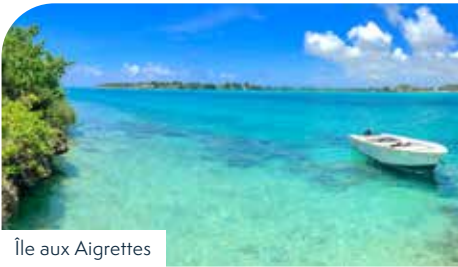
Caudan Waterfront

- Day 1

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

After breakfast, we head to Morcellement St André on the north coast where we visit a **large greenhouse** filled with plants and flowers and



Île aux Aigrettes

- Day 4

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

Today we take a boat trip to the island's nature reserve of **Île aux Aigrettes**, where

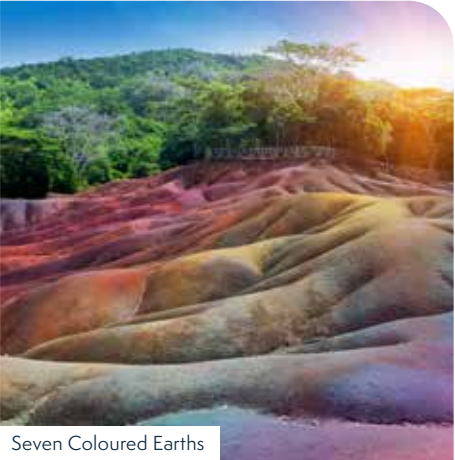


Eureka Creole House

- 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 6

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

Enjoy a guided visit to **Curepipe Botanical Garden**. The little botanic garden is notable for its palm *Hyphorbe amaricaulis*, a doomed species as it is the last of its kind in the world and has proved impossible to propagate. In the



Seven Coloured Earths

- afternoon we visit **Le Domaine de Bois Cheri**, the largest and oldest tea plantation in Mauritius, where we tour the museum and enjoy a tasting of the finished product. *(B, D)*
- Day 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**, where we discover the Château and the Nursery, which has a wide range of plants, before enjoying a tasting of local rum or fruit juice. *(B, D)*
- Day 9

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

For our final day we relax in the hotel and then transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*
- Inc. meals:

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

Key Highlights

- Giant tortoises at La Vanille
- Giant waterlilies at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolan Botanic Garden
- Rare trees and exotic birds in the Black River Gorges
- A taste of local rum at Labourdonnais
- Relaxing in a luxurious resort hotel and bathing in the wonderfully warm water of the Indian Ocean

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Nine nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Anelia Resort and Spa *(or similar)*
- One Afternoon Tea and one lunch
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of an expert tour manager and local guides *(Horticulturalists Sue Pomeroy in March and Trevor Edwards in November)*

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

19 - 28 Mar	\$4,755
11 - 20 Nov	\$5,175
Single Supplement	\$1,115

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS



Mysore Palace

Gardens of Southern India

10 DAYS from \$4,055 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌸🌸🌸

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

Day 1 On arrival in **Bengaluru** we are met at the airport and transferred to our accommodation. (D)

Day 2 Today we enjoy a full-day visit to two of Bengaluru’s finest gardens. We begin at **Cubbon Park**, a lush green space established in 1870 and home to 96 plant species and around 6,000 trees, as well as statues and historic buildings. We then continue to **Lalbagh Botanical Gardens**. Spanning 240 acres, they are famed for their glasshouse, inspired by London’s Crystal Palace and

feature orchids, tulips, a floral clock and the 20-million-year-old Lalbagh tree fossil. The Lalbagh Rock here is thought to be 3 billion years old. Our final visit is to the **private collection of Bonsai Master** Ms. Anupama Vedachala, who will also demonstrate Bonsai cultivation. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning, we drive to **Mysore** for an afternoon of sightseeing, beginning with **Chamundeshwari Temple** on Chamundi Hill. Dedicated to the Goddess Chamundeshwari, this striking Dravidian-style temple features intricate



Shri Chamundeshwari Temple

carvings and a towering gopuram. Inside, the sanctum houses the richly adorned idol of the goddess.

We stop to view the impressive monolithic Nandi Bull before continuing to **Mysore Palace**, built in Indo-Saracenic style with domes, arches and colonnades. The opulent interiors boast stained glass, carved doors, royal paintings and ornate chandeliers. In the evening, we visit Brindavan Gardens, where fountains and lights combine in a spectacular display. The **Maharaja’s Palace** is one



State Central Library in Cubbon Park

of the important sights in Mysore. Built in Indo-Saracenic style with domes, turrets, arches and colonnades, the palace is a treasure trove of exquisite carvings and works of art from all over the world. Afterwards, we arrive at our hotel in Mysore hotel, our base for two nights. (B, D)

Day 4 We begin with an early morning visit to lively **Devaraja Market**, a feast for the senses with stalls of marigolds, roses, jasmine, fresh produce, spices and traditional sweets. This afternoon, we return to **Brindavan Gardens** for a more in-depth look at its terraces, fountains and glasshouse, with the main gate modelled after India Gate in New Delhi. (B, D)

Day 5 Today we drive through rolling hills, forests and villages en route to **Coonoor**. Here we visit the beautiful **Botanical Gardens**, where highlights include a centuries-old camphor tree, a vibrant rose garden and an elegant rock garden. (B, D)

Day 6 After breakfast, we board the UNESCO-listed **Nilgiri Toy Train** for a scenic ride to **Ooty**, with views of the Nilgiri Mountains and tea plantations. Conceived in 1854 and opened in 1899, the line originally ran on steam, now replaced by bio-diesel engines. In Ooty, we explore the **Government Botanical Gardens**, founded in 1847, which feature orchids, rare species and a 20-million-year-old **Fossil Tree**. We also visit the **Rose Garden** on Elk Hill, home to over 2,000 varieties, before returning to our Coonoor hotel. (B, D)

Day 7 After a leisurely breakfast, we have the whole day to explore **Coonoor**, beginning with a visit to a **local tea plantation and factory**. As we stroll through the plantation, we learn about the various types of tea grown in the region and the intricate processes of plucking, drying and

processing the leaves. At the tea factory, we observe the intriguing journey from raw leaves to finished tea, including the machinery used for rolling, fermenting and sorting. We also have the opportunity to taste some of the finest Nilgiri teas, savouring their unique flavours while enjoying the panoramic views of the surrounding hills. (B, D)

Day 8 Today we visit a tea plantation and factory in **Kochi**, where we learn about cultivation and production, from plucking to fermenting and sorting. We also sample distinctive Nilgiri teas while admiring views of the surrounding hills. This evening features a spectacular **Kathakali dance performance**, a classical Indian dance-drama narrating tales from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. (B, D)

Day 9 This morning, we set out on a **Heritage Walk** through Fort Kochi, once a thriving harbour for traders. After a flood in 1341 created its estuary, Kochi became a key port and later India’s first European township when the Portuguese arrived in the 15th century. We pass the iconic **Chinese fishing nets**, **St. Francis Church** and **Santa Cruz Basilica**, meeting locals along the way.

We also visit the **Jewish Synagogue**, built in 1568 and among the world’s oldest and the **Dutch Palace**, built in the Kerala naalukettu style with temples dedicated to local deities. The afternoon is free to explore. (B, D)

Day 10 We transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- Cubbon Park and Botanical Garden, Bengaluru
- Evening show at Brindavan Gardens
- Visit to the colourful flower market in Mysore
- Journey on board the UNESCO World Heritage Nilgiri Railway
- Kathakali dance show in Kochi
- Heritage walk in Fort Kochi

YOUR TOUR MANAGER COLIN CROSBIE

Join Colin exploring the majestic gardens and captivating culture of Southern India



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

21 - 30 Jan	\$4,055
Single Supplement	\$835

GARDENS

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS



Singapore Garden Festival

Singapore Garden Festival

8 DAYS from \$5,805 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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 horticulturalists. Singapore’s geographic location makes the Festival an ideal platform to showcase horticultural and gardening products and services from the northern and southern hemispheres, as well as from Asia and New World nations. A colourful and stimulating experience with a truly international flavour, the Festival is a treat for the senses.

In addition, a full day at the show, we take the opportunity to explore Singapore’s many attractions, including the spectacular Gardens by the Bay, whose illuminated Supertrees have gained iconic status. Other garden visits include Hort’s Park, Fort Cannings Spice Garden and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Further highlights include a city sightseeing tour, a river cruise and afternoon tea at Raffles, the famous Singaporean institution.

Day 1 On arrival in **Singapore** we are met and taken to our hotel. This evening we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. *(IF, D)*

Day 2 This morning, we embark on a **half-day city tour** starting in the **Colonial District**. Singapore was a British colony from 1824 until independence in 1959, and much of the colonial legacy remains: we see Padang, the Cricket Club, Parliament House, the Supreme Court, and City Hall. Next, we visit **Merlion Park**, home to the iconic Merlion statue. We continue to **Chinatown** and **Little India**, originally a division of colonial Singapore where Tamil immigrants lived under

British ethnic segregation policy. We then visit the **Marina Bay Sands**, a landmark hotel and leisure complex with a distinctive rooftop garden, the Skypark, offering spectacular city views. F1 fans will recognise sections of the racing circuit. We also enjoy a **cruise** along the Singapore River in a ‘bumboat’, a traditional, brightly painted water taxi. Dinner will be at a nearby restaurant. *(B, D)*

Day 3 After a leisurely morning, we depart this afternoon to 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



Singapore Botanical Gardens

and imaginative way. There are obvious similarities to our own Eden Project, in particular the huge domed conservatories, but other features are unique, such as the impressive Supertrees. Afterwards, we visit the **Cloud Forest**, a mysterious botanical world veiled in mist. Here, we experience breathtaking mountain views surrounded by diverse vegetation and hidden floral gems and learn about rare plants and their fast-disappearing environment. After **dinner at a local restaurant**, we enjoy an evening performance of the Rhapsody light and sound show at the **Supertree Grove Gardens**. At night, the Supertrees are brilliantly illuminated in an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour,



Merlion Park

complemented by a garden rhapsody of well-known music from the movies. *(B, D)*

Day 4 After breakfast, we visit **Singapore Botanical Garden**, which was founded in 1859 and showcases the best and most spectacular of tropical flora, set in a stunning, verdant landscape. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, only the third botanic garden in the world to be so honoured, after Kew and Padua. We enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel for the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. *(B, L)*

Day 5 Today, we attend the **Singapore Garden Festival**, viewing garden displays and orchid extravaganza, with talks and demonstrations. Held biennially, it brings together top award-winning designers and horticulturalists globally with Singapore’s own talents. Dinner is at a nearby restaurant. *(B, D)*

Day 6 This morning, we visit Singapore’s Chinese and Japanese Gardens, known as **Jurong Gardens**. Built in 1975, the **Chinese Garden** integrates architectural features with the natural environment, modelled on northern Chinese imperial style. Linked by the ‘Bridge of Double Beauty’, the adjacent **Japanese Gardens** evoke calmness and meditative peace, inspired by Japan’s Muromachi and Azuchi–Momoyama periods. We return to the hotel to change for **Afternoon Tea at Raffles Hotel**, established in 1887. After tea, enjoy the hotel’s trademark cocktail, the Singapore Sling *(drinks not included)*. Dress code applies. *(B, AT)*

Day 7 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. Tonight, we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *(B, D)*

Day 8 This morning, 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 *(yes, him again!)*. Following our visit, we transfer to the airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*

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



Singapore

Key Highlights

- The iconic Gardens by the Bay
- Enjoy a full day at the Singapore Garden Festival
- Experience afternoon tea at the iconic Raffles Hotel

YOUR TOUR MANAGER MIKE NELHAMS

Join Mike as he returns to Singapore to experience the magnificent biannual Flower Festival - Asia’s premier horticultural highlight.



YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Seven nights’ bed and breakfast accommodation at a central 4-star hotel
- ▶ Five dinners
- ▶ Afternoon tea at Raffles
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 - 10 Aug	\$5,805
Single Supplement	\$1,115

GARDENS



Ashikaga Flower Park

Gardens of Honshu and Hokkaido

12 DAYS from \$7,835 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌸🌸🌸🌸

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

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



- Day 1

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

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

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



Shiretoko Peninsula

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

- Day 4

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

- Day 5

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

- Day 6

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

- Day 7

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

- Day 8

Today, we enjoy a full day excursion to the Notsuke Peninsula, a narrow sandspit shaped by sea currents and silt from the Shibetsu-gawa River. Said to resemble a shrimp's curved back, it is accessed via the scenic Flower Road, named for the wildflowers that bloom here in summer. We'll

also explore Todowara, an eerie landscape of withered fir trees, bleached and sculpted by seawater. Later, we visit the Notsuke Peninsula Nature Centre, a long-standing rest stop offering insight into the area's unique environment. (B, D)

- Day 9

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

- Day 10

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

- Day 11

We spend today touring Sapporo, including Odori Park, a flower-filled oasis which extends for 1500m through the city centre; the Hokkaido University Botanic Garden, which retains sections of virgin forest and contains some 4,000 varieties of plants collected from all over Hokkaido; and Yurigahara Park. We continue to Otaru, the Venice of Japan, to see the Otaru Canal, constructed in 1923 and now a popular photo-stop with its stone-built warehouses lining the canal side. On our return to the hotel we have some time in the Sakaimachi Shopping Street, an opportunity perhaps for some final souvenir shopping. (B)

- Day 12

After checking out, we head to Sapporo Airport where our tour concludes. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

Key Highlights

- 🌸 A visit to Kairakuen, ranked among Japan's three finest landscape gardens
- 🌸 Kenrokuen, another of the top three landscape gardens in the whole of Japan
- 🌸 Visit the Ashikaga Flower Park, famed for its spectacular display of wisteria
- 🌸 Lake Saroma, which is the largest lake in Hokkaido and the third largest in Japan
- 🌸 Visits to the Shiretoko Nature Centre, Furepe Falls and Shiretoko Five Lakes

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 11 nights bed & breakfast accommodation: two nights at the 4-star Grand Prince Takanawa, Tokyo; one night at the 3-star Daiwa Roynet Hotel in Kanazawa; one night at the 4-star Villa Fontaine Grand Haneda, Tokyo; two nights at the 4-star Hokuten No Oka Abashiri Tsuruga Resort in Abashiri; two nights at the 3-star Kussharo Prince Kussharo; three nights at the 4-star Gracery Sapporo in Sapporo (or similar)
- ▶ Four dinners
- ▶ All domestic flights and rail travel in Japan
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager and local English-speaking guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

5 - 16 May	\$7,835
Single Supplement	\$1,255



Heian Shrine's pond

Seasonal Gardens of Japan

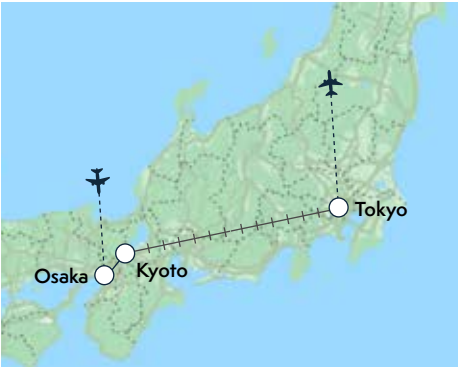
12 DAYS from \$8,255 | ACTIVITY RATING:

Japanese gardens originated as simple forest clearings for divine manifestations, evolving into idealized landscapes with stone, water, trees and moss. They offer serene beauty, framing views that often incorporate distant landscapes. Carefully selected trees and plants enhance the atmosphere, with autumn and spring foliage especially valued. Many renowned gardens are in Kyoto, the former capital, where we'll spend three days exploring diverse styles like landscape, stroll and pond-and-island gardens. A highlight is Kinkaku-ji, featuring the Golden Pavilion.

From Kyoto, we take the Bullet Train to Tokyo for more garden visits, including Hamarikyu. Beyond gardens, the itinerary showcases Japan's unique culture with visits to Omi Hachiman, the Imperial Palace Garden and a cruise on Lake Ashi near Mount Fuji. Optional excursions include Hiroshima and the Peace Memorial Park. Our final day in Kamakura features the Great Buddha, Hase Temple and concludes with a farewell Japanese-style dinner.



Deer in Nara



- Day 1

Arriving in **Osaka** in the morning, we transfer by coach to Kyoto to visit the gardens of the **Imperial Palace**, the former residence of Japan's Imperial Family until 1868. (D)
- Day 2

We explore Kyoto's remarkable gardens, starting with **Daisen-in temple**, a Muromachi period dry-landscape garden with white gravel forms and a boat-shaped rock. Next are **Ryogen-in** and **Zuiho-in**, followed by **Kinkakuji Temple**. The day concludes at **Ryoan-ji Temple**, a Zen garden dating back to the late sixteenth century. (B)
- Day 3

After breakfast, we head to Shiga Prefecture and visit the ancient temple **Ishiyamadera**, founded in the 8th century. Next, we visit **Omi Hachiman** and explore the **Hachimanbori Canal**, once vital for marine transport. In the old merchants' area, we visit the **Nishikawake House**, a former residence of a wealthy merchant family. (B)



Sensoji Temple

- Day 4

After breakfast, we visit the dry landscape garden at **Ginkaku-ji**, and then explore **Hakusa Sonso**, a garden by painter Hashimoto Kansetsu. We then visit the **Kyoto Botanical Garden**, known for its rose garden, bonsai collection and Yamashiro Basin trees. Finally, we walk the **Bamboo Forest Path** in Sagano, a magical forest of towering bamboo. (B)
- Day 5

Today, explore **Kyoto** at your leisure or choose to join an optional train trip to Hiroshima, the first city affected by an atomic bomb in 1945. The visit includes the Peace Memorial Park, which features a museum, the Memorial Cenotaph, the Children's Peace Monument and the Flame of Peace. (B)
- Day 6

After breakfast, we visit **Nara** and **Kasuga Grand Shrine**. The shrine was rebuilt every 20 years for purity until 1863. After lunch (included), we return to the hotel before an evening visit to **Kodaiji Temple**. In the evening, we visit **Gion**, **Kyoto's geisha district** with shops, restaurants and teahouses. (B, L, D)
- Day 7

We start our day with a visit the **Heian Shrine** and the **Nanzen-ji Temple**, a Zen temple central to Japanese Zen history since 1386, featuring 17th-century structures and a unique 1890 Western-style aqueduct. In the afternoon, we leave Kyoto via the **Bullet Train** to Tokyo, where a coach transfers us to our hotel. (B)
- Day 8

After breakfast, we take a coach to **Kamakura**, Japan's capital from 1185 to 1333. Surrounded by mountains and Sugami Bay, we visit the **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine**, known for its lotus ponds. Next, we see the 13.5m

- tall **Great Buddha**, Japan's second largest. After lunch in Kamakura (included), we visit the **Hase Kannon Temple**, featuring an 11-faced Kannon from the 8th century. We return to the hotel in the evening. (B, L)
- Day 9

After breakfast, we head out for a full-day trip to **Hakone** and **Mount Fuji**. Highlights include **Onshi Hakone Park** and a cruise on **Lake Ashi**, offering stunning views of Mount Fuji. **Lunch at a local restaurant** is included. Afterwards, we stop at **Lake Kawaguchi** for photos before heading back to Tokyo and our hotel. (B, L)
- Day 10

After breakfast, we explore **Tokyo**, starting with **Kyu Furukawa Garden** and then, **Mukojima Hyakkaen Garden**. There is also an optional visit to the **Shunkanen Bonsai Museum** (entrance not included). The afternoon is free for leisure exploration. (B)
- Day 11

After breakfast, we explore Tokyo. We visit the **Sensoji Temple** and **Rikugien Garden**, a stunning Edo-period strolling garden featuring trails, a pond, and miniature scenes from famous poems. We explore the **Imperial Palace East Gardens**, featuring bamboo, spring blossoms and artefacts gifted to emperors. In the afternoon, we visit **Hamarikyu Garden**, a serene spot with Tokyo's only seawater pond and a 300-year-old Black Pine. We also enjoy a cruise on the **Sumida River**. We end the day with a **farewell dinner** featuring Japanese specialities. (B, D)
- Day 12

We check out of our hotel and transfer by coach to Tokyo Airport where our tour concludes. (B)

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

Key Highlights

- The temples and gardens of Kyoto, probably the finest in Japan
- Stepping back in time to old Japan at Omi Hachiman
- Watching the deer roam free in Nara Park
- Riding the bullet train to Tokyo
- The enormous Buddhas at Todaiji and Kamamura
- Stunning scenery in Hakone, including the iconic Mount Fuji
- The pulsating light show that is Tokyo at night

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ 11 nights bed & breakfast; six nights at the 4-star ANA Hotel, Kyoto and five nights at the 4-star Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa, Tokyo (or similar)
- ▶ Dinner and welcome drink on first evening, a dinner with a maiko, three lunches and a farewell dinner
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager and local guides (Horticulturalists Colin Crosbie in March and Sue Pomeroy in November)

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON	
23 Mar - 2 Apr*	\$8,395
4 - 14 Nov	\$8,255
Single Supplement	\$1,395
Optional Excursion: Hiroshima	
*Cherry blossom departure	
On request	

NEW
TOUR

GARDENS



Wellington

Gardens of New Zealand

16 DAYS from \$8,395 | ACTIVITY RATING:

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

- Day 1

Upon arrival in **Auckland**, we are met by our coach and transfer to our first visit, **Totara Waters Subtropical Garden**. The garden displays many rare and collectable plants sourced from around the North Island, as well as garden art and unusual pots. *(D)*
- Day 2

After breakfast, we head south to visit **Beverley McConnell’s renowned 12-acre Ayrlies garden**. From Auckland, we stop in **Hamilton** to explore the stunning **Hamilton Gardens**. Continuing on, we reach **Rotorua**, famous for bubbling mud pools, geysers and vibrant hot springs. In the evening, we enjoy **Te Puia’s cultural experience** at Te Pō. *(B, D)*
- Day 3

This morning we travel south to **Taranaki**, dominated by Mount Egmont/Taranaki. We visit the five-star **Lava Glass Museum and Garden** in Taupo. In New Plymouth, we explore **Tikorangi**

- (The Jury Garden), a landscaped garden with one of the country’s best plant collections, rated as a **Garden of National Significance**. Before reaching the hotel, we pause at the **Te Rewa Rewa Bridge** for photos. *(B)*
- Day 4

Today we explore **New Plymouth**, visiting **Te Kainga Marire**, New Zealand’s only private native garden sanctuary rated as a **Garden of International Significance**. Highlights include **Holland Gardens**, the restored garden of **Tupare and Pukeiti Garden**, a premier rhododendron garden in lush rainforest. *(B)*
- Day 5

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



Olveston House

- Day 6

We start the morning with a **sightseeing tour of Wellington**, including Parliament Buildings, the lovely Botanical Gardens, and the views from Kelburn. Then we visit **Otari Native Botanic Garden** and **Wilton’s Bush Reserve**, New Zealand’s only native botanic garden. This afternoon we visit **Zealandia** and the **Karori Sanctuary**, with over 225 hectares of regenerating native forest and 40 species of birds. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. *(B)*
- Day 7

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



Christchurch Botanic Gardens

- Day 8

Our first stop this morning is **Hortensia House**. We continue to **Woodend Gardens**, a formal garden which features many different zones with unique elements. **Paripuma** is a large 20-year-old garden developed from a barren, windswept beachfront based around a formal design and vista across Cloudy Bay. Our final stop today is **Welton House**. *(B)*
- Day 9

Leaving Blenheim, we travel along a narrow stretch between the Pacific Ocean and rugged ranges to Kaikoura. We visit **Winterhome Garden**, a 1939 homestead surrounded by Pohutukawa trees, then cross the North Canterbury Plains and Waipara wine district, known for its grape-friendly micro-climate. **Pegasus Bay Winery** boasts a stunning country garden in the Waipara Valley. *(B)*
- Day 10

This morning we travel out to Governors Bay to visit **Ohinetahi**, well known for its displays of art, architectural works and sculptures and for its magnificent grounds. This afternoon, we visit the **Christchurch Botanic Gardens**, which includes a native New Zealand Garden, the garden of native alpine plants and the renowned central Rose Garden. *(B)*
- Day 11

Today we travel through **Temuka**, famous for its pottery, and along the eastern coastline to Timaru. The **Timaru Botanic Gardens**, one of the oldest, impresses with its excellent collections. Passing through Oamaru with its white stone buildings, we may stop at **Moeraki Boulders** to admire the unique beach boulders before reaching **Dunedin**, a city with rich Scottish heritage. *(B)*
- Day 12

This morning, enjoy a **sightseeing tour of the city**. Visit **Olveston House**, a historic home showcasing early 20th-century merchant life, with a **guided tour of the house and gardens**. In the afternoon, explore **Larnach Castle gardens** with a guide and tour the castle independently. End

- the day with a **guided tour of the Dunedin Botanic Gardens**. *(B)*
- Day 13

Leaving Dunedin, we travel southeast via Milton onto the Taieri Plain. Continuing through Lawrence, Roxburgh and Alexandra, we follow the river valley through quaint Clyde and onto Cromwell. We visit **Jo Wakelins’ property** near Cromwell, inspired by visiting Beth Chatto’s dry garden in England. Later on, we arrive in **Queenstown**, situated on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. *(B)*
- Day 14

Today is at leisure to explore Queenstown independently. You may like to join an optional sightseeing tour to **Milford Sound**. On arrival, we join our boat for a cruise which takes us from the head of the fjord to the open sea and back again, with a **picnic lunch on board included**. At the conclusion of our cruise, reboard the coach and retrace your journey to Queenstown. *(B)*
- Day 15

Later this morning we board our coach and head to **Arrowtown**. Enjoy time at leisure to wander through the shops before travelling the short distance to **Ayrburn for a wine tasting in the Barrel Room**. This evening we take a **cruise across Lake Wakatipu on the steamer TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station to dine at the Colonel’s Homestead** – one of the absolute highlights of this tour. *(B, D)*
- Day 16

Our tour of New Zealand comes to an end today as we transfer to Queenstown Airport where our tour concludes. *(B)*
- Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*

Key Highlights

Discover a wide range of gardens at the peak of their summer flowering

Sail across the Cook Strait from North to South Island, admiring the stunning scenery of Marlborough Sounds

Enjoy a wonderful wine tasting in the Wither Hills

YOUR TOUR MANAGER
COLIN CROSBIE

Join Colin as he explores the glorious gardens of New Zealand as spring arrives bringing with it a new lease of life

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

► 15 nights bed & breakfast accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels; one night in Auckland; one night in Rotorua; two nights New Plymouth; two nights in Wellington; two nights in Marlborough; two nights in Christchurch; two nights in Dunedin and three nights in Queenstown

► Three dinners

► Comfortable coach travel throughout

► All visits as outlined in the itinerary

► Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

12 - 27 Nov

\$8,395

Single Supplement

\$1,675

Optional excursion: Milford Sound

\$245

GARDENS



Wild lupine flowers - Torres del Paine

Chile and the Falkland Islands

15 DAYS from \$16,095 | ACTIVITY RATING:     

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

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



Plaza de las Armas square

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



- Day 1

On arrival at Santiago Airport, we transfer to our hotel. In the afternoon we depart on a half day tour of historical Santiago, Chile’s capital city. (D)
- Day 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 are met on arrival and transferred to **Torres del Paine National Park**. As we drive through the vast Patagonian steppes, we take the opportunity to look for some of the great
-
- Gentoo Penguins
- 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 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 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

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 10

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

Day 11

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

Day 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 where our tour concludes. (B)

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

Key Highlights

-  Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin in La Campana National Park
 -  Stunning scenery and striking plant species in Torres del Paine National Park
 -  Boat trip to see the Grey Glacier
 -  Discovering native wildflowers on Bleaker Island
 -  Close encounters with penguins and other wildlife at Volunteer point

YOUR TOUR MANAGER JULIA CORDEN

Join Julia and explore the diverse terrain, flora and fauna of Chile followed by the wondrous wildlife of the Falkland Islands

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Seven nights accommodation in Chile: three nights bed & breakfast at the Hotel Marina Las Condes, Santiago; three nights half board at the Hotel Las Torres, Torres del Paine; one night’s bed & breakfast at the Hotel Cabo de Hornos, Punta Arenas (or similar)
 - Welcome drink and dinner and three lunches
 - Seven nights accommodation on a full board basis in the Falkland Islands: two nights at Cassard House/Cobb’s Cottage on Bleaker Island; three nights at the Pebble Island Lodge on Pebble Island; two nights at the 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 horticulturalist Julia Corden as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

15 - 29 Nov	\$16,095
Single Supplement	\$5,595

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Your
2026
Calendar



January

Gardens of Southern India
21 - 30 Jan
Up Helly Aa - 7 Day
24 - 30 Jan
Up Helly Aa by Air - 4 Day
26 - 29 Jan

February

Gardens and Temples of Egypt
5 - 16 Feb
Gardens of Barbados
5 - 12 Feb
Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds
6 - 9 Feb
Glorious Gardens of the Canary Islands
7 - 14 Feb
Gardens of Costa Rica
8 - 19 Feb
Gardens of the French Riviera - Lemon Festival
12 - 17 Feb
Snowdrops in East Yorkshire
13 - 16 Feb
Route of the Almond Blossom
26 Feb - 5 Mar

March

A Cultural Tour of Malta
3 - 7 Mar
Malta's Archaeological Heritage
3 - 9 Mar
Galicia's Camellia Route
11 - 16 Mar

Scotland's Extreme North West
12 - 15 Mar
Glasgow's Art Treasures Featuring the Burrell Collection
13 - 16 Mar
Scotland's Extreme North West
17 - 20 Mar
Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
17 - 22 Mar
The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus
18 - 25 Mar
Gardens of Mauritius
19 - 28 Mar
The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh
20 - 23 Mar
Art Masters of Holland
20 - 25 Mar
Gardens and Villas of Sicily
20 - 27 Mar
Seasonal Gardens of Japan
23 Mar - 2 Apr
Discover Ancient Athens
23 - 27 Mar
Spring Gardens of Cornwall
26 - 29 Mar
Art and Architecture of Antwerp
26 - 30 Mar
History and Architecture of Oxford
27 - 30 Mar
The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale
31 Mar - 3 Apr
Great Gardens of Cornwall with Mike Nelhams
31 Mar - 4 Apr

April

Tulips of Keukenhof and Dutch Gardens Cruise
4 - 8 Apr
Springtime Flowers in Sintra and Lisbon
5 - 11 Apr
Spring Gardens of Devon
6 - 10 Apr
Scotland's Extreme North West
7 - 10 Apr
Gardens of South and West Wales
10 - 14 Apr
Austrian Palaces, Gardens and Apricot Blossom
10 - 17 Apr
An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland
11 - 16 Apr
Great Gardens of Cornwall with Mike Nelhams
14 - 18 Apr
An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia
16 - 24 Apr
Scotland's Extreme North West
17 - 20 Apr
Gardens of Marrakesh
20 - 24 Apr
Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
21 - 26 Apr
Gardens of the Neapolitan Riviera
21 - 27 Apr
Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
22 - 29 Apr
A Classic Scottish Steam Break
23 - 26 Apr
Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides 5 Day
24 - 28 Apr

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia
26 Apr - 3 May
May
Gardens and Villas of Liguria
1 - 7 May
Gardens of Madeira
1 - 8 May
Gardens of Honshu and Hokkaido
5 - 16 May
Scotland's Northern Edge
5 - 9 May
Discover The Durrells' Corfu with Lee Durrell
5 - 9 May
A Classic Scottish Steam Break
7 - 10 May
Gardens of the French Riviera - International Rose Festival
7 - 12 May
Seine River Cruise featuring Monet's Garden and the Gardens of Normandy
7 - 14 May
Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo
8 - 11 May
Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 6 Day
10 - 15 May
Orkney and Shetland by air
12 - 16 May
Gardens and Villas of Sicily
13 - 20 May
Great Gardens of Southern England and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
13 - 24 May
Castles and Gardens of Kent and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
16 - 22 May

Arran, Scotland in Miniature
18 - 22 May
Highlights of Orkney and Shetland
18 - 23 May
Lord of the Glens - 8 days (Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)
18 - 25 May
Gardens of Wester Ross
19 - 23 May
Hidden Gardens of the Cotswolds and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
20 - 26 May
Gardens of the Island of Ireland
23 - 30 May
RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West
23 - 26 May
Secrets of County Durham and North Yorkshire with Nicholas Merchant
24 - 28 May
Scenic Scottish Railways
27 - 30 May
Highgrove and the Cotswolds
29 May - 1 Jun
The Genius of Monet
29 May - 1 Jun
Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 7 Day
30 May - 5 Jun
Cultural Croatia
30 May - 6 Jun
Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway
31 May - 3 Jun
Arts and Gardens of Florence and Tuscany
31 May - 6 Jun

June
Castles and Abbeys of Western Scotland
1 - 4 Jun
Gardens of Kent and Sussex
1 - 4 Jun
Gardens and Wildflowers of the Burren
1 - 5 Jun
Grand Tour of the Gardens of Scotland
2 - 12 Jun
Rock Art in Namibia
3 - 14 Jun
Gardens of the Loire
5 - 11 Jun
Arran, Scotland in Miniature
7 - 11 Jun
Gardens of Picardy
7 - 13 Jun
Castles of Aberdeenshire
8 - 11 Jun
Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk
8 - 12 Jun
Undiscovered Orkney
8 - 12 Jun
Scotland’s Northern Edge
9 - 13 Jun
Castles, Palaces and Abbeys of Eastern Scotland
12 - 15 Jun

Mull, Staffa and Iona
13 - 16 Jun
Sweden and Gotland in the Footsteps of Carl Linnaeus
13 - 21 Jun
In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll
17 - 22 Jun
Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
17 - 24 Jun
Highland Wildlife Safari
22 - 25 Jun
Shetland and its Outer Isles
22 - 26 Jun
A Classic Scottish Steam Break
25 - 28 Jun
Highgrove and the Cotswolds
26 - 29 Jun
Highlights of Northumberland
27 Jun - 1 Jul
Lavender Fields and Gardens of Provence
28 Jun - 5 Jul
Gardens of Yorkshire
30 Jun - 3 Jul

July
Somerset’s Secret Gardens
4 - 7 Jul
Lord of the Glens - 8 days (Inland Waterways and Idyllic Islands)
6 - 13 Jul
Highlights of Orkney and Shetland
13 - 18 Jul
Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway
19 - 22 Jul
Lord of the Glens - 8 days (Inland Waterways and Idyllic Islands)
20 - 27 Jul
The RHS Sandringham Flower Show and Gardens of Norfolk
22 - 26 Jul
The Genius of Monet
24 - 27 Jul

August
Singapore Garden Festival
3 - 10 Aug
“Rothschildshire” - The Vales of Aylesbury with Nicholas Merchant
3 - 6 Aug
In the Footsteps of the Picts
7 - 10 Aug
Gardens of Kent and Sussex
9 - 12 Aug
Arran, Scotland in Miniature
10- 14 Aug
Orkney and Shetland by air
11 - 15 Aug
Shetland and its Outer Isles
12 - 16 Aug
Highgrove and the Cotswolds
13 - 16 Aug
Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides
14 - 18 Aug
RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West
15 - 18 Aug

Art Masters of Holland
17 - 22 Aug
An Archaeologist’s View of Orkney and Shetland
24 - 29 Aug
Castles, Palaces and Abbeys of Eastern Scotland
28 - 31 Aug
Spring Flowers of Namaqualand
30 Aug - 11 Sep
Lord of the Glens - 8 days (Inland Waterways and Idyllic Islands)
31 Aug - 7 Sep

September
Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo
1 - 4 Sep
The Isles of Scilly
4 - 9 Sep
Gardens of Cornwall and the 25th Anniversary of the Eden Project
5 - 8 Sep
Gardens and Architecture of Andalucía
7 - 14 Sep
Scotland’s Northern Edge
8 - 12 Sep
Gardens of the Island of Ireland
8 - 15 Sep
Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway
13 - 16 Sep
Highlights of Northumberland
13 - 17 Sep
Knitting in Shetland
13 - 18 Sep
Gordon Castle and Gardens of the East Highlands
14 - 17 Sep
Highlights of Orkney and Shetland
14 - 19 Sep
Palladian Villas of Veneto
15 - 19 Sep
Archaeology of Denmark and Sweden
16 - 23 Sep
Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides 5 Day
16 - 20 Sep
Mull, Staffa and Iona
19 - 22 Sep
Arran, Scotland in Miniature
21 - 25 Sep
Lord of the Glens - 8 days (Secrets of the Highlands and Islands)
21 - 28 Sep
Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes
21 - 28 Sep
California: In the Footsteps of John Muir
22 Sep - 6 Oct
An Archaeological Tour of Tunisia
25 Sep - 3 Oct

October
Gardens and Villas of Liguria
2 - 8 Oct
History and Architecture of Oxford
2 - 5 Oct
Gardens of Marrakesh
5 - 9 Oct

Lord of the Glens - 7 days (Caladonian and Great Glen Explorer)
5 - 11 Oct
Scotland’s Extreme North West
6 - 9 Oct
Albanian Archaeology
6 - 13 Oct
Discover The Durrells’ Corfu with Lee Durrell
6 - 10 Oct
White Cities of Puglia
7 - 14 Oct
A Classic Scottish Steam Break
8 - 11 Oct
Archaeological Secrets of Sardinia
8 - 15 Oct
The Art and Architecture of Antwerp
8 - 12 Oct
The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale
9 - 12 Oct
Lord of the Glens - 7 days (Voyage through the Heart of Scotland)
11 - 17 Oct
Autumn Tints of Arran
14 - 17 Oct
Scenic Scottish Railways
14 - 17 Oct
Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca
14 - 19 Oct
Lord of the Glens - 7 days (Caladonian and Great Glen Explorer)
17 - 23 Oct
Brazil and its Natural Wonders
17 Oct - 2 Nov
Lord of the Glens - 7 days (Voyage through the Heart of Scotland)
23 - 29 Oct
Autumn Tints of Dumfries and Galloway
25 - 28 Oct
Glasgow’s Art Treasures Featuring the Burrell Collection
30 Oct - 2 Nov

November
A Cultural Tour of Malta
3 - 7 Nov
Malta’s Archaeological Heritage
3 - 9 Nov
Seasonal Gardens of Japan
4 - 14 Nov
Gardens and Temples of Egypt
5 - 16 Nov
The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh
6 - 9 Nov
Gardens of Barbados
9 - 16 Nov
Gardens of Mauritius
11 - 20 Nov
Gardens of New Zealand
12 - 27 Nov
The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus
11 - 18 Nov
Chile and the Falkland Islands
15 - 29 Nov
Gardens of Madeira
24 Nov - 1 Dec

Booking terms & conditions

Your package holiday booking is with Brightwater Holidays, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS. Telephone: 01334 800 372

These Booking Conditions, together with our Privacy Policy and where your holiday is booked via our website, our Website Terms of Use, together with any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking, form the basis of your contract with Brightwater Holidays Limited, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland, KY15 4HS & Company Number SC137295. ("we", "us", "our"). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. In these Booking Conditions references to "you" and "your" include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is added or transferred.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- a. he/she has read these Booking Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- b. he/she consents to our use of personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements);
- c. he/she is over 18 years of age and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- d. he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

1. Booking & Paying For Your Arrangements

A booking is made with us when you pay us a deposit (or full payment) and we issue you with a booking confirmation. We reserve the right to return your deposit (see the tables below) and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. A binding contract will come into existence between you and us as soon as we have issued you with a booking confirmation that will confirm the details of your booking. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, and you are a resident of the UK, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or booking confirmation or any other document we send you are wrong, you must advise us immediately as changes can not be made later and it may harm your rights if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document.

Deposit Payments (per person):

UK guests - £175pp for holidays without flights, £350pp for UK/ Europe holidays with flights, 15% of the total price for long-haul holidays, Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price.

US guests - \$175 for holidays without flights, \$350 for UK/ Europe holidays with flights, 15% for long haul holidays, Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price.

The balance of the cost of your arrangements (including any applicable surcharge) is due not less than 14 weeks prior to scheduled departure (20 weeks for cruises). If we do not receive this balance in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you in which case we shall retain your deposit.

If you are booking bespoke flight arrangements for you or deviating from the group flights, we will charge you any difference in cost and payment will be taken in full when flights are booked.

Ways to pay - We accept payment by Visa, MasterCard, cheque (GBP ONLY), or bank transfer for which no levy is charged by us. Your bank or credit card provider may charge an additional financial processing charge and we cannot be responsible for any such charges. (Please note: If you are paying from an overseas bank account, you must accept all bank charges incurred by us. A surcharge of 2.5% will be applied for card payments made with cards registered in countries outside the EEA and the USA).

2. Accuracy

We endeavour to ensure that all the information and prices both on our website [and in our brochures] are accurate, however occasionally changes and errors occur and we reserve the right to correct prices and other details in such circumstances. You must check the current price and all other details relating to the arrangements that you wish to book before you make your booking.

3. Insurance

Adequate travel insurance is a condition of your contract with us, and is compulsory for travel outside of the UK. You must be satisfied that your insurance fully covers all your personal requirements including pre-existing medical conditions, cancellation charges, medical expenses and repatriation in the event of accident or illness. Details of a policy suitable to cover the arrangements you book are available by contacting Global Travel Insurance. If you choose to travel without adequate

insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses howsoever arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available.

4. Pricing

We reserve the right to amend the price of unsold holidays at any time and correct errors in the prices of confirmed holidays. We also reserve the right to increase the price of confirmed holidays solely to allow for increases which are a direct consequence of changes in:

- (i) the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from the cost of fuel or other power sources;
- (ii) the level of taxes or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports; and
- (iii) the exchange rates relevant to the package.

Such variations could include but are not limited to airline cost changes which are part of our contracts with airlines (and their agents), cruise ship operators and any other transport providers.

You will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this condition. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £75. However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your travel due to contractual and other protection in place.

There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

Single, Double, Twin Bedded Rooms - Single supplements are payable for sole occupancy of a room. A single room does not guarantee the provision of a double or twin room, and in some instances may be smaller. A 'double' bed is often two single beds pushed together, sometimes with double bed base linen (although it is not unusual for single duvets to be provided in some hotels for doubles).

5. Jurisdiction & Applicable Law

These Booking Conditions and any agreement to which they apply are governed in all respects by English law. We both agree that any dispute, claim or other matter which arises between us out of or in connection with your contract or booking will be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales

only. You may however, choose the law and jurisdiction of Scotland or Northern Ireland if you live in those places and if you wish to do so.

6. Cutting Your Holiday Short

If you decide to cut short your holiday for your own reasons, or not stay at accommodation that has been booked for you, take any pre-booked meals, excursions, or other holiday components, then we are unable to offer you any refund or cover any costs. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for such curtailment, so we suggest that you check the conditions and requirements of your policy.

7. If You Change Your Booking & Transfers of Bookings

If you wish to change any part of your booking after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you must inform us in writing or by phone as soon as possible. This should be done by the first named person on the booking. Whilst we will do our best to assist, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet your requested change. Where we can meet a request, all changes will be subject to payment of an administration fee of £75 per person per change, as well as any costs and charges incurred by us and/or incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with condition 8.

Transfer of Booking:

If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- a. that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- b. we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- c. you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £75 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- d. the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation charges as set out in condition 8 will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements.

8. If You Cancel Your Booking Before Departure

If you or any other member of your party decides to cancel your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing or by phone. Your notice of cancellation will only take effect when it is received in writing by us at our offices and will be effective from the date on which we receive it.

Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

Since we incur costs in cancelling your arrangements, you will have to pay the cancellation charges as follows:

Cancellation Charges - if you cancel your holiday
Up to 98 days: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **97-84 days:** 15% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **83-64 days:** 35% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **63-46 days:** 55% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **45-31 days:** 75% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **From 30 days to departure:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs.

Lord of the Glens:

Up to 6 months: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **6 months-0 days:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs.

Please note that insurance premiums and amendments charges are not refundable in any circumstances.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended after they have been confirmed and any alteration or cancellation could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements in addition to the charge above.

If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

Where possible, we will deduct the cancellation charge(s) from any monies you have already paid to us.

Cancellation by You due to Unavoidable & Extraordinary Circumstances:

You may terminate the package travel contract applicable to your holiday at any time before the start of the package without paying a cancellation charge in the event of "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" occurring at the place of destination or its immediate vicinity which will significantly affect the performance of the package or carriage to your holiday destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. You must be able to show at the time you wish to cancel that there is no reasonable possibility of your holiday going ahead, in order to rely on this clause.

For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, other serious security problems such as terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination, or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which significantly affect travel to the travel destination as agreed in the package travel contract.

This condition 8 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013.

9. If We Change Or Cancel

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

Changes: If we make a minor change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure but we will have no liability to you. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements. Examples of what might be "significant changes" dependent upon the details of your booking include the following, when made before departure:

- (a) A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- (b) A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- (c) A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
- (d) A change of UK departure airport except between:
 - I. The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
 - II. The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
 - III. The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
 - IV. The Midlands airports: Birmingham and East Midlands
 - V. The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
 - VI. The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
 - VII. The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen
- (e) A significant change to your itinerary.

Cancellation: Unless we absolutely have to, we will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 30 days before your departure date, except for reasons of Events Beyond Our Control or failure by you to pay the final balance. We may cancel your holiday before this date if, e.g., the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible and if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of:

- i (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or
- ii having a refund of all monies paid in respect to your package; or
- iii if available and where we offer one, accepting an offer of an alternative holiday (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of our offer. If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice. If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements.

Insurance If we cancel or make a significant change and you accept a refund, we will provide a full refund of your travel insurance premiums if you paid them to us and can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy.

Compensation

In addition to a full refund of all monies paid by you, we will pay you compensation as detailed below, in the following circumstances:

- (a) If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking;
- (b) If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

Please get in touch with us directly to discuss compensation.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- (a) where we make a minor change;
- (b) where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 60 days before departure;
- (c) where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- (d) where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- (e) where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- (f) where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Events Beyond Our Control (please see condition 10).

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

10. Events Beyond Our Control

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these Booking Conditions we will not be liable or pay you compensation if our contractual obligations to you are affected by "Events Beyond our Control". For the purposes of these Booking Conditions, Events Beyond Our Control means any event beyond our or our supplier's control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Examples include warfare and acts of terrorism (and threat thereof), civil strife, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, the act of any government or other national or local authority including port or river authorities, industrial dispute, labour strikes, lock closure, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, chemical or biological disaster, unavoidable technical problems with transport and all similar events outside our or the supplier(s) concerned's control.

Guides - In the case of events beyond our control, we reserve the right to substitute any named guide, guest lecturer or other escort with an alternative qualified person and this will not be deemed as any significant change to your arrangements.

Flights - if you have booked a flight upgrade and there is a change of airline prior to departure as a result of circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible to offer an equivalent upgrade, or an addition cost may apply.

11. Special Requests

Any special requests must be advised to us at the time of booking e.g. diet, room location, a particular facility at a hotel etc. You should then confirm your requests in writing. Whilst every effort will be made by us to try and arrange your reasonable special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be fulfilled. The fact that a special request has been noted on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation or that it has been passed on to the supplier is not confirmation that the request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part unless the request has been specifically confirmed by us. We do not accept bookings that are conditional upon any special request being met.

12. Disabilities & Medical Problems

We are not a specialist disabled holiday company, but we will do our utmost to cater for any special requirements you may have. If you or any member of your party has any medical problem or disability which may affect your booking, please provide us with full details before you make your booking so that we can try to advise you as to the suitability of your chosen arrangements. We may require you to produce a doctor's certificate certifying that you are fit to participate. Acting reasonably, if we are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details.

It is a condition of participation on our holidays that you agree to accept the authority and decisions of our employees, tour leaders and agents while on holiday with us. If in the opinion of such a person your health or conduct at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable, or happy progress of a holiday, you may be excluded from all or part of the holiday and/or we may terminate your holiday, and any additional costs incurred by you as a result of such exclusion will be your responsibility. In the case of ill health, we may make such arrangements as we see fit and recover any resulting costs from you.

Note: While there are no age limits or health requirements on our holidays, please note that for certain destinations require a degree of mobility and fitness to get the most out of the holiday and need to keep up with the group. Should you have any concerns or your mobility changes as your holiday gets closer, please contact us to discuss further.

13. Complaints

We make every effort to ensure that your holiday arrangements run smoothly but if you do have a problem during your holiday, please inform the tour manager or the relevant supplier immediately as they will endeavour to put things right. If this is not possible please contact the UK office or the emergency number on your final travel documentation.

If the problem cannot be resolved and you wish to complain further, you must send formal written notice of your complaint to us at our office, ideally within 28 days of the end of your stay, giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise and to the point. This will assist us to quickly identify your concerns and speed up our response to you. Failure to follow the procedure set out in this condition may affect ours and the applicable supplier's ability to investigate your complaint, and will affect your rights under this contract.

14. Your Behaviour

All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our opinion or in the opinion of any hotel manager or any other person in authority, your behaviour or that of any member of your party is causing or is likely to cause distress, danger or annoyance to any other customers or any third party, or damage to property, or to cause a delay or diversion to transportation, we reserve the right to terminate your booking with us immediately. In the event of such termination our liability to you and/or your party will cease and you and/or your party will be required to leave your accommodation or other arrangements immediately. We will have no further obligations to you and/or your party. No refunds for lost accommodation or any other arrangements will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of termination. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment,

you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.

We cannot be held responsible for the actions or behaviour of other guests or individuals who have no connection with your booking arrangements or with us.

15. Our Responsibilities

(1) We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an "organiser" under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of the travel services specifically included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking. Please note that we shall not be responsible for any additional services provided to you, whether provided by the travel service providers or otherwise, which are not set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking.

(2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any personal injury or death unless you are able to prove that it was caused by our negligence or the negligence of our suppliers.

(3) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:

- (a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
- (b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or

- (c) Events Beyond Our Control (as defined in condition 10).

(4) **We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:**

(a) **loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions and money:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.

(b) **Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death:** the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.

(c) Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:

- i) The extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/ Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us. In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.

- ii) In any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of EC 261/2004 (denied boarding and flight disruption), any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.

iii) When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.

(5) Subject to these Booking Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services set out in the confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. **You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package.** The level of any such price reduction or compensation in respect of any claim for damages or compensation whatsoever will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Booking Conditions and the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us.

(6) It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this condition that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.

(7) Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.

(8) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:

- (a) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you;
- (b) relate to any business;
- (c) indirect or consequential loss of any kind.

(9) We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.

(10) Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your holiday, due to "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances", we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible, of a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per person. Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided we have been notified of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

16. Excursions

Excursions or other tours that you may choose to book or pay for whilst you are on holiday are not part of your contracted arrangements with us. For any excursion or other tour that you book, your contract will be with the operator of the excursion or tour and not with us. We are not responsible for the provision of the excursion or tour or for anything that happens during the course of its provision by the operator.

17. Insolvency Protection

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive (packages and ATOL protected flights) by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 4498, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk.

When you buy an ATOL protected product from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included

in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL Scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL Scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection for our non-flight inclusive tours under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Brightwater Holidays Limited, member number 5001, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

- Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Brightwater Holidays Limited.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukqi/2018/634/contents/made>

You can find out more about ABTOT here: <https://www.abtot.com/>

If you book arrangements other than package holidays from us, your monies will not be financially protected. Please ask us for further details.

18. Entry, Passport, Visa & Immigration Requirements, Safety & Health Formalities

We can only provide general information regarding entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements and safety and health formalities applicable to your package itinerary. It is your responsibility to check such requirements (in good time before departure), in order to make your decisions to fulfil such requirements regarding your destination and/or the country(ies) through which you may be transiting through.

Such information which you may need to check includes (but is not limited to) passport requirements including how valid your passport must be after return date, whether your passport must be machine readable or which visas/waivers may be required for entry such as ESTA for USA travel, ETIAS for EU travel and or the UK ETA if you are entering and exiting the United Kingdom.

You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant bodies as applicable. We have provided a few useful resources below, though it is your responsibility to check and see if such a body would be relevant to yourself.

- the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ("FCDO", <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>) (applicable to UK residents);
- UK Passport Office (0870 5210410 or <https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship>).
- Embassies, High Commission and/or Consulates;
- own doctor.

For UK residents booking European travel, you should obtain a UK Global Health Insurance Card (UK GHIC) prior to departure unless you are able to rely upon an existing European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For travel to Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, UK GHIC and EHIC can not be used for medical treatment. Passengers to these destinations should obtain comprehensive medical insurance prior to departure, including cover for emergency medical treatment and associated costs.

We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel, or incur any other loss because you have not complied with any entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. You agree to reimburse us in relation to any fines or other losses which we incur as a result of your failure to comply with any entry passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities.

EES – European Entry and Exit system

All non-EU nationals travelling to a European country will be subject to checks at the border. The EES system replaces passport stamping and automates border control procedures collecting and recording the data in your passport, your date and place of entry and exit from a European country and also your facial image and fingerprints. In most cases these checks will be carried out upon arrival in the EU when arriving by air, however, due to the dual French and UK border arrangements in Dover, these checks will take place in Dover for coach passengers, prior to boarding the ship for the cross channel sailing or at London St Pancras International and Paris Gare du Nord self-service pre-registration kiosk before going through the ticket gates if travelling via Eurostar.

European Travel Information Authorisation System (ETIAS)

During the last quarter of 2026, the rules of travel to Europe will change and there will be an entry requirement for visa-exempt nationals. Travellers will be required to make an online application for and obtain an ETIAS travel authorisation to enter most EU countries, a fee of €7 will be charged. Once confirmed this is linked to your passport and will be valid for 3 years or until your passport expires if that is sooner. If you get a new passport, you will need a new ETIAS travel authorisation. You must carry the email confirming your successful ETIAS submission and unique ETIAS application number along with your passport when travelling as both documents will be checked at the border. ETIAS is not required for Crown Dependencies – Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, or the common travel areas of Northern and Southern Ireland. Further details can be found at travel-europe.europa.eu and we will update this page as exact dates and further details are released.

19. Conditions of Suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions which will form part of your contract with us. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from us or the supplier concerned.

20. Prompt Assistance

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these Booking Conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

21. Delays, Missed Transport Arrangements & Other Travel Information

If you or any member of your party misses your flight or other transport arrangement, it is cancelled or you are subject to

a delay of over 3 hours for any reason, you must contact our head office and the airline or other transport supplier concerned immediately.

Under UK Law, you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from the airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at UK airports and will also be available from airlines. If the airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority at www.caa.co.uk/passengers. Reimbursement in such cases is the responsibility of the airline and will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday price from us. If, for any reason, you do not claim against the airline and make a claim for compensation from us, you must, at the time of payment of any compensation to you, make a complete assignment to us of the rights you have against the airline in relation to the claim that gives rise to that compensation payment. A delay or cancellation to your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in condition 10 of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on any flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

The carrier(s), flight timings and types of aircraft shown in this brochure or on our website and detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. We shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of it. The latest flight timings will be shown on your tickets which will be despatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You should check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. If flight times change after tickets have been dispatched we will contact you as soon as we can to let you know.

Please note the existence of a "UK Air Safety list" (available for inspection at <https://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry/airlines/licensing/requirements-and-guidance/third-country-operator-certificates/>) detailing air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the UK.

This website/brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements.

We are unable to guarantee that all parties will be seated together. With some airlines it is possible to request, or in some cases, reserve certain preferred seats on the aircraft (most airlines will make an additional charge for this). We are happy to assist with this, but this is an additional service over and above your contractual arrangement for 'carriage by air' with the airline. Airlines reserve the right to make changes to any specific seat numbers for operational or safety reasons either before, or on the day of departure and you will be notified of any such change upon check-in. Where applicable, any additional charge made for pre-booking specific seats will be refunded.

Some of our tours involve transfers or transport between, for instance, mainland and an island. Where ferries, and similar, are disrupted you may need to engage your travel insurance dependent upon the situation.

22. Advance Passenger Information

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our privacy policy.

23. DATA PROTECTION

To process your booking and to ensure that your travel arrangements run smoothly and meet your requirements we need to use the information you provide. Depending on what's required, the personal data we collect may include names and contact details, credit/debit card or other payment information and special requirements such as those relating to any disability or medical condition which may affect holiday arrangements and any dietary restrictions which may disclose your religious beliefs.

The person who makes the booking is responsible for ensuring that other members of your party are aware of our booking conditions and this privacy policy and that

they consent to your acting on their behalf in your dealings with us.

Any such personal data that you provide will be held securely and for the purpose you have provided it, in accordance with both UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

We take appropriate technical and organisational measures which are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.

We must pass the information on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements such as airlines, hotels, transport companies, etc. We will not however, pass any information on to any person not responsible for part of your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. In making a booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons only.

We may need to disclose personal data to a third party within countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of providing your holiday. Controls on data protection in your destination may not be as stringent as in the UK. In addition, your data may be disclosed to regulatory bodies or public authorities such as customs or immigration for the purposes of monitoring and/or enforcing compliance with any regulatory rules/codes.

We will only send you information about special offers, brochures, new holidays and competitions if you have 'opted in' to receive marketing emails from Brightwater Holidays Ltd. If at any time you do not wish to receive this information you can use the 'unsubscribe' function at the bottom of any marketing email or call us.

For full details of how we may use your personal information and your rights in relation to your personal information, please see our Privacy Policy on our website: <https://brightwaterholidays.com/privacy>. By booking online, or over the phone, you are stating that you have read and agreed to our Privacy Policy.

We are Brightwater Holiday Ltd, registered limited company no: SC137295.
Registered Office: Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.



brightwater

tailor-made 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!

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



Get in touch and get the ball rolling

Jenni Duncan is our Private Groups Manager and she would love to help plan your next group holiday.

Please get in touch by calling her on **01334 658 008** or emailing groups@brightwaterholidays.com to get things started. You can also visit our website for some inspiration: brightwaterholidays.com

No matter what stage of planning you're at, our team will be able to work with you every step of the way.



Eilean Donan Castle

Get in touch with an *expert*

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm GMT, on:

866 562 7856

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:

brightwaterholidays.com

Your journey, our *expertise*

