

A TREAT FOR THE SENSES

Discover Gardens at their Peak Beauty with the Experts

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Look forward to a summer of colour

Enjoy the dazzling Singapore Garden Festival

A colourful and inspiring experience with a truly international flavour, the Singapore Garden Festival is a real treat for the senses and showcases the best in garden and floral artistry. This kaleidoscopic event takes place every two years and is among the top flower and garden shows on the international calendar, featuring stunning landscape gardens, fragrant floral displays and informative workshops. With 2026 being the 10th anniversary and celebrating a 'Carnival of Blooms' theme, it's an excellent year to go! **For tour details see page 6.**

Stroll through a real-life Monet painting

It's no wonder that the idyllic gardens at Giverny continue to enthral countless visitors, 100 years after Monet's death. Make the most of an early arrival, a time when the gardens are at their most tranquil, and wander along the meandering paths – experiencing firsthand the harmony between art and nature that Monet determinedly sought to create. Arched bridges, painted an acid apple green, are festooned with wisteria and the draped fronds of weeping willow frame the water lilies to create a sight that's truly unmistakable. **For tour details see page 11.**

Experience our new Tom Stuart-Smith tour

This summer, join one of our most exciting itineraries to date, bursting with horticultural Hertfordshire delights that have been designed by award-winning Garden Designer, Tom Stuart-Smith. We are privileged to be joined by Tom for a private tour of his very own garden, The Barn, featuring bold planting schemes with an emphasis on texture and seasonal change. An evening is also spent in Tom's esteemed company, where he regales us with tales from his legendary career and there is the opportunity for a Q&A session. **For tour details see page 21.**

Discover the beauty of Namaqualand

Sign up for new sights and embark on an adventure to Namaqualand in South Africa's Northern Cape. A place of rare and exquisite beauty, the region is characterised by an unspoilt expanse of open spaces, broken by ancient outcrops of granite. Yet with an intensity dependent on the winter rains, come spring, the barren ground bursts into a vibrant carpet of flowers, creating a vast tapestry of stunningly interwoven colour. Pinks, purples, yellows and oranges transform the landscape into a horticultural equivalent of the prettiest of sunsets – it deserves a spot on every plant lover's must-see list. **For tour details see page 18.**

The Brightwater Holidays difference



Expert-led experiences

Our knowledgeable Tour Managers share their passion, insight and insider knowledge at every step.

Exclusive access

From private gardens and special events to archaeological discoveries and top cultural highlights, Brightwater opens doors you wouldn't reach on your own.

Well-planned itineraries

Every detail is carefully arranged – from travel connections to meals – so you can focus on enjoying each moment and making memories that last.

Every journey is seamlessly supported

From your first enquiry to your return home, our team ensures your experience is smooth, comfortable and worry-free.

The world's finest gardens await

Are you yet to make your travel plans for the best months of the horticultural calendar? Don't let this always-fleeting time of year pass you by. Instead, fill it with colour, natural wonders and landscapes at the height of their beauty – all arranged by the UK's leading garden tour specialists.

From iconic RHS gardens and private estates to internationally celebrated destinations, Brightwater Holidays curates meticulously crafted garden tours led by knowledgeable tour managers and friendly guides. This means that on any one of our tours, you'll experience the very best of your chosen destination in the company of experts.

There are plenty of locations on offer across the UK, Europe and beyond – from spectacular Scotland to South Africa. Throughout this collection, you'll also enjoy exclusive access to private and rarely opened gardens and have the chance to attend renowned events, such as RHS flower shows and the Singapore Garden Festival.

Whichever you choose, every detail is handled to ensure you can relax and savour your holiday from the moment you embark on your journey – you'll soon see why our holidays are award winning.

After such a long winter, the moment we look forward to year after year is nearly upon us: sunshine bathing flowers in a golden light, bees buzzing from plant to plant and the scent of flowers filling the air. Choose to make the most of it and fill your world with colour this year.

Warm regards,

The Brightwater Holidays Team

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Glamis Castle

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Best of Angus Gardens

4 DAYS from \$1,115 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

The rich, fertile soil of Angus creates ideal conditions for gardening and this historic corner of North-East Scotland is home to a wealth of beautiful gardens. The House of Pitmuies, with its lavishly planted herbaceous borders, is a clear highlight. We also visit two grand gardens: Edzell Castle, with its charming formal layout and Glamis Castle, famed for its royal connections and attractive grounds. Further delights include the traditional mixed borders of Dunninald and the gardens of Langley Park near Montrose, where four separate walled gardens, woodland and wildflowers combine to create a wonderfully varied horticultural experience.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-ups this morning and head for our first visit, **Glamis Castle** which has been the ancestral home of the Earls of Strathmore for over 600 years and was the childhood home of the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. There are superb displays of rhododendrons and azaleas in early summer and a delightful Italian garden filled with the scent of flowers. Lunch is available here *(not included)*.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Today we visit the garden at **Pitmuies House**, near Forfar. Behind the house, the old walled garden features lavish borders designed for long-lasting flowering. Beyond the walled gardens, a riverside walk passes a castellated dovecote and old woodland with beeches, oaks and ornamental shrubs, including the stunning Acer griseum. Next is **Dunninald**, a family home from 1824, surrounded by policies developed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Hospitalfield House**. In 2021, the walled garden was transformed by renowned designer **Nigel Dunnett**, showcasing 800 years of horticultural history, from monastic origins to Victorian fern enthusiasm. The 19th-century Arts and Crafts-style house, redesigned by Elizabeth Allan-Fraser and artist Patrick Allan-Fraser, overlooks the garden. Following this, we visit **Edzell Castle**, which was once home to the Earls of Crawford.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 This morning, we visit **Langley Park Gardens**. Set overlooking Montrose Basin, Langley Park Gardens include four walled gardens, three filled with herbaceous borders, fruit trees and vegetable plots, while the fourth is a small arboretum. Later, we visit the **House of Dun, Garden and Estate**, a grand 18th-century home with striking architecture and stunning vistas across the stunning Montrose Basin. Following this, we continue our homeward journey.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 4 Jul ~~\$1,185~~ \$1,115

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Langley Park Gardens



Iford Manor

Somerset's Secret Gardens

4 DAYS from \$1,185 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

The picturesque pastures, orchards and villages of Somerset provide a wonderful backdrop to a varied collection of private gardens at a time when they will be looking their best. Look forward to discovering the idyllic garden of Watcombe, the contrasting riot of colour and oasis of calm at Batcombe House, the breathtaking views at Stoberry and the Grade I garden of Iford Manor, amongst other gems.

Day 1 We depart from our London, Reading, Swindon and Bristol pick-up points this morning and head for our first visit, the privately-owned **Watcombe garden**. This ¾ acre garden was created between 1937 and 1975, in an Edwardian style of formal layout and informal planting. There are many unusual trees and shrubs, separated by a strong framework, giving scope for exploring around unexpected corners.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 This morning, we visit the privately-owned garden at **Batcombe House** near Shepton Mallet, considered to be one of the best in the county. We then continue into the beautiful Cathedral City of **Wells** – the smallest city in the country, where there will be time to look around at leisure and have lunch *(not included)*. We finish the day at **Stoberry Garden**, which, like the previous visit, offers breathtaking views over Wells and the Vale of Avalon. The six-acre family garden is planted sympathetically within its landscape, providing a stunning combination of vistas accented with wildlife ponds, water features and sculpture. There is also a large walled garden, a sunken garden, a gazebo, a potager and a lime walk.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 We begin with a visit to **Bradon Farm** near Taunton, a classic formal garden demonstrating the effective use of structure. Features include a parterre, a knot garden, a pleached lime walk, a formal pond, herbaceous borders, an orchard and wildflower planting. We continue 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. Steep flights of steps link the terraces with pools, fountains, loggias, colonnades, urns and figures.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Following breakfast, we check out of the hotel and enjoy a scenic drive through the heaths and woodlands of the **Quantock Hills**, which were designated as England's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1956. Our final visit is to 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. Following this, we continue our homeward journey back to our original departure points.

Meals: Breakfast

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 at the Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton with breakfast & dinner
- ▶ Comfortable travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Alex Goodyear as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

4 - 7 Jul ~~\$1,255~~ \$1,185Single Supplement ~~\$275~~ \$275

Quantock Hills



Singapore Garden Festival

Singapore Garden Festival

8 DAYS from \$5,525 | ACTIVITY RATING

JOINING POINT: Singapore

The Singapore Garden Festival takes place every two years and is among the premier flower shows on the international calendar. It was the first event to bring together award-winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturists from around the world. In addition to a day at the show, we explore Singapore's many treasures, including the iconic Gardens by the Bay, Singapore Botanic Gardens and Raffles.

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.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 We enjoy a half-day city tour, beginning in the Colonial District. Next, we visit Merlion Park, home to the Merlion statue, half fish and half lion, one of Singapore's iconic sights. We continue to Chinatown and Little India and then Marina Bay Sands, with its distinctive rooftop garden and spectacular views. We also enjoy a cruise along the Singapore River in a traditional 'bumboat' before dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After a leisurely morning, we visit Gardens by the Bay. This award-winning venue houses over 250,000 rare plants innovatively and imaginatively. Afterwards, we visit the Cloud Forest, a mysterious botanical world veiled in mist, followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Later, we enjoy the world-famous show at Supertree Grove Gardens, where the Supertrees are brilliantly illuminated.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 After breakfast, we visit the UNESCO-listed Singapore Botanic Garden, which showcases the best and most spectacular of tropical flora. We enjoy lunch together before spending the afternoon at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Today is spent at the Singapore Garden Festival, popular for its garden displays, orchid extravaganza and demonstrations. It brings together award-winning creatives to team up with Singapore's own talented horticulturalists. Dinner is at a local restaurant this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 This morning, we visit Singapore's Chinese and Japanese Gardens, known as the Jurong Gardens. The Chinese Garden's concept is based on Chinese gardening art, while the Japanese Gardens are designed with a calmness to evoke inner peace. We return to the hotel to change into smart-casual attire for this afternoon's treat, afternoon tea at Raffles Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea

Day 7 We begin today with a visit to Hort Park, a series of botanical and horticultural parks and gardens. The afternoon is at leisure and tonight, we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 This morning, we visit the Fort Canning Spice Garden before transferring to the airport for our independent journey.

Meals: Breakfast

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 INCLUDES

- ▶ Seven nights at the Orchard Rendezvous Hotel, Singapore with breakfast
- ▶ Five dinners & one lunch
- ▶ Afternoon tea at Raffles
- ▶ All visits as described in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

6 - 13 Jul	\$5,735 \$5,525
Single Supplement	\$1,395



Merlion Park



Great Comp Garden

Perch Hill with Sarah Raven & Gardens of the South East

4 DAYS from \$1,675 | ACTIVITY RATING

PICK-UP POINTS: London

Enjoy an English country garden at the height of summer on this tour. Explore the perennials of Great Comp, the restored Walled Kitchen Garden at Titsey Place and the Edwardian Rock Garden of Riverhill Himalayan Garden plus enjoy a tasting at the renowned Hush Heath Estate. The highlight is Perch Hill, where Sarah Raven gives a special talk, followed by a guided tour and lunch.

Day 1 We depart our pick-up point in London and continue to **Great Comp Garden**, a beautiful seven-acre garden with many beautiful and rare shrubs, perennials and other hardy plants. We enjoy a guided tour, before we continue to our hotel.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 We depart for a visit to Sarah Raven's own garden, **Perch Hill**. Once a rather ramshackle ex-dairy farm with a lot of concrete, corrugated iron and not much else, the land has been converted to an organic two acres of new seed and plant varieties.

Exclusive event: On arrival, we are welcomed by **Sarah Raven**, who will give us an hour-long talk on her experiences at Perch Hill. We then have a guided tour of the garden, followed by a sit down to a two-course lunch featuring fresh produce from the garden. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure before dinner is served at our hotel in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 This morning, we visit **Riverhill Himalayan Gardens**, home to over 12 acres of historic gardens. In the afternoon, we head to **Titsey Place & Garden**, one of the largest historic estates in Surrey. After our visit, we are treated to a guided tour of the house, which dates back to 1775.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 This morning, after breakfast, we travel to the **Hush Heath Estate**, home to the **Balfour Winery**. This 400-acre estate in the heart of Kent is home to a manicured vineyard, orchards, wildflower meadows and ancient woodland. Here we enjoy an expert-led vineyard tour and wine tasting experience in the winery, as well as some time to explore the wider estate grounds. Later, we return to our original pick-up point.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- Exclusive visit to Perch Hill with Sarah Raven
- The historic Riverhill Himalayan Garden
- An expert-led vineyard tour and wine tasting at the Hush Heath Estate
- The plantsman's haven of Great Comp Garden

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Donnington Manor Hotel, Sevenoaks with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ An exclusive visit to Perch Hill with a one-hour talk with Sarah Raven, a guided tour & a two-course lunch
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 16 Jul	\$1,745 \$1,675
Single Supplement	\$275



Perch Hill

NEW TOUR

GARDENS



Dunrobin Castle Garden

Orkney's Garden Trail

6 DAYS from \$2,585 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

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

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

Meals: Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ One night at the Park Hotel, Thurso & four nights at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney with breakfast & dinner (*one dinner is taken on the ferry*)
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Return ferry travel
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Sue Pomeroy as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

17 - 22 Jul	\$2,655 \$2,585
Single Supplement	\$415



Ring of Brodgar



Drumlanrig Castle

Gardens of Dumfries & Galloway

4 DAYS from \$1,185 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

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

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

Meals: Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 This morning, we visit **Broughton House**, a fascinating 18th-century house and garden.

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the three-star Holiday Inn Dumfries with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalists Richard Baines in May, Brian Cunningham in July and Brian Sinclair in Sept

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

19 - 22 Jul	\$1,255 \$1,185
13 - 16 Sep	\$1,255
Single Supplement	\$275



Dumfries House

GARDENS

NEW TOUR

GARDENS



Sandringham House Gardens

RHS Sandringham & Gardens of Norfolk

5 DAYS from \$1,745 | 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 new 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 tranquility of Norwich's Bishop's House Garden to the world-class rose displays at Peter Beales Roses, there's something to inspire everyone.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and begin our journey to East Anglia, heading first to **Fullers Mill Garden**, a seven-acre oasis set on the banks of the River Lark. We continue to the city of **Norwich**, where we enjoy an **exclusive, by-appointment visit** to the **Bishop's House Garden**, a true hidden gem tucked behind the cathedral. Later, we check into our hotel, where we enjoy dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Today is dedicated to one of the highlights of the horticultural calendar, the **RHS Sandringham Flower Show**. We explore the stunning show gardens, browse a wide variety of specialist plant stalls and enjoy lively talks and demonstrations from some of the UK's leading gardening experts. From exquisite floral displays to the latest in garden tools and techniques, there's inspiration at every turn.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 This morning, we visit **Peter Beales Roses** in Attleborough, a paradise for rose lovers and a name synonymous with world-class English roses. We begin with a **guided tour** of the award-winning gardens and our visit concludes with a **traditional cream tea**, the perfect accompaniment to a rose-scented morning. In the

afternoon, we continue to **Bressingham Gardens** near Diss, created by renowned plantsman Alan Bloom and later expanded by his son, Adrian. Set within 17 acres, the gardens are divided into themed areas, including the Dell Garden and Foggy Bottom, famed for its sweeping borders and imaginative plant combinations.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

Day 4 Today offers a wonderful contrast of wild beauty and creative garden design, beginning with a visit to **Fairhaven Woodland and Water Garden**. In the afternoon, we visit one of Norfolk's most remarkable private gardens, the **East Ruston Old Vicarage**. Created from scratch by Alan Gray and Graham Robeson since 1973, this extraordinary 32-acre garden is a masterclass in bold planting, garden rooms and imaginative design.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 After breakfast and check-out, we begin our journey home, but not before one final highlight. We make a stop at the exquisite **Helmingham Hall Gardens** in Suffolk, a moated Tudor manor that has been home to the Tollemache family for over 500 years. After time to explore, we continue our journey back to our original pick-up points.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- Enjoy an exclusive visit to the Bishop's House Garden in Norwich
- Spend a day at the celebrated 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 INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights at the four-star Holiday Inn Norwich with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Linda Robinson as expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 26 Jul ~~\$1,915~~ \$1,745

Single Supplement ~~\$275~~



Bressingham Gardens



Monet's Garden

The Genius of Monet

4 DAYS from \$1,685 | 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, they continue to enthral countless visitors in 2026, the 100th anniversary of his death. His paintings are brought to life, with apple-green arched bridges festooned with wisteria and water lilies framed by the draped fronds of weeping willow. The perfect complement to Giverny is the Orangerie Museum in Paris, where the centrepiece of this outstanding collection is Monet's breathtaking series of murals, **Les Nymphéas**. We also visit the **Château de Chantilly**, with its extensive collection of art and gardens designed by Le Nôtre.

Day 1 We depart from London St Pancras International on the morning Eurostar service through the Channel Tunnel to Paris Gare du Nord. (First class upgrades and regional connections also available on request). On arrival, we are met by our comfortable local coach and travel to the **Château Jeanne & the Forest**. In the evening, join our party for a welcome glass of Kir in the bar before dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 This morning, we transfer to the nearby **Château de Chantilly**. Our visit includes the sumptuously decorated Grands Appartements, dating from the 17th to 19th centuries. Next is **Senlis**, a pleasant market town typical of Picardy, for free time.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Following breakfast, we depart for the world-famous house and gardens of **Claude Monet**. Our early start today ensures an early arrival at Giverny – a time when the gardens

are at their most tranquil. We have plenty of time to explore this marvellous garden at our leisure. Following our visit, enjoy free time in Giverny, along with an opportunity to visit the little church where Monet is buried.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 After breakfast, we travel to Paris for a visit to the **Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries**, where the highlight is undoubtedly the series of two-metre high murals entitled **Les Nymphéas**, a sequence of impressions such as clouds, reflections and sunsets which Claude Monet installed between 1914 and 1918. Afterwards, there is time at leisure to shop and sightsee. Paris is, of course, the most romantic city in the world with wonderful art galleries, churches and shops – there is plenty to see. Later, we return to the Gare du Nord for our Eurostar train back to London, where we expect to arrive in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast

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

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 (first class upgrades and regional connections also available on request)
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

24 - 27 Jul ~~\$1,925~~ \$1,685

Single Supplement ~~\$455~~



Château de Chantilly

GARDENS



Lullingstone Castle Gardens

Gardens of Kent & Sussex

4 DAYS from \$1,255 | ACTIVITY RATING

PICK-UP POINTS: London, Gatwick

If there's one tour that epitomises the joy of strolling around a perfect English country garden, it is this one. Even if you have visited some of these properties before, such is their allure that you can return again. Highlights include Great Comp filled with rare and beautiful shrubs, Lullingstone Castle, Nymans Garden, offering outstanding plants in a theatrical setting, as well as an early bird visit to iconic Sissinghurst, renowned for its stunning garden rooms.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points in London and Gatwick and head towards Kent and our first visit, **Great Comp Garden** – a beautiful seven-acre garden with many beautiful and rare shrubs, perennials and other hardy plants. This Kent Garden is a plantsman's haven. From here, we continue to **Lullingstone Castle**, with its unique World Garden of Plants.

Meals: Dinner

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.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 This morning, we are privileged to have an 'early bird visit' to the magnificently manicured gardens of **Sissinghurst**. Few great gardens live up to their reputations so effortlessly as this. Sissinghurst is a large connoisseurs' garden consisting of a series of small romantic areas enclosed by the surviving parts of an Elizabethan mansion.

We continue to another classic English Country Garden - **Great Dixter**. The distinguished garden writer Christopher Lloyd (*who died in January 2006 at the age of 84*) was the genius behind Great Dixter, with its timbered 15th-century house. Restored by Edwin Lutyens, who also planned the garden, Mr Lloyd has firmly put his lively stamp on it. A recent experiment involved installing a summer tropical garden rich in bold shapes and brilliant colours

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 This morning, we will leave the hotel and head for **Scotney Castle**, which boasts a picturesque garden and a 14th-century moated castle. With a moat, quarry garden, woodland glade, heather-thatched icehouse, Victorian boathouse, and expansive views across the wider estate, the edges between tamed and wild nature are deliberately blurred. The separate one-acre octagonal-walled kitchen garden is filled with wall-trained and standard fruit trees, vegetable beds and flowers for cutting. We conclude the tour in the distinguished surroundings of RHS Garden Wisley, where the highest standards of horticulture are deployed. Wisley is the historic home of the RHS and houses one of the largest plant collections in the world. **Lunch and a guided tour** are included here, rounding our tour off in style.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the four-star Mercure Tunbridge Wells with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Service of horticulturalists David Hurrion as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

9 - 12 Aug ~~\$1,325~~ \$1,255

Single Supplement \$210



Scotney Castle



Highgrove

Highgrove & the Cotswolds

4 DAYS from \$1,325 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

Our tour of the Cotswolds features an exclusive visit and lunch at Highgrove House, the country home of The King. This is a rare opportunity to see these fascinating gardens cultivated using organic methods alongside fine gardens nestled in the rolling hills of Gloucestershire. Discover the 'outdoor rooms' of Rodmarton Manor, marvel at the colour of Hidcote Manor, breathe in the fresh air at Westonbirt and enjoy the plant collection at Kiftsgate Court.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for our first visit, the house and gardens of **Rodmarton Manor**, between Tetbury and Cirencester. The eight-acre Cotswold garden was originally designed as a series of outdoor rooms and is still the same today, with each part of the garden having different characters ranging from alpines in troughs, bigger plants in the rockery, lawns, a large kitchen garden and white borders, to the magnificent herbaceous borders which are constantly being re-planted and improved.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 This morning, we visit the gardens of **Hidcote Manor**, near Chipping Campden. Although among the best-known gardens in Britain, Hidcote Manor still has the power to startle. It was begun before World War I by an American, Major Lawrence Johnston, who devised a type of garden that many think of as quintessentially English. This afternoon, 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'.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After breakfast, we head to **Highgrove**, the country residence of HRH the Prince of Wales. This visit offers a rare chance to explore the captivating gardens, cultivated entirely through organic methods. Since acquiring the property in 1980, His Royal Highness sought guidance from Lady Salisbury, an experienced organic gardener renowned for her work at Cranbourne and Hatfield House in Hertfordshire. In the afternoon, we visit **Painswick Rococo Garden**, a pleasure ground created during the decadent and fun-loving early 18th century. Follies are nestled within a hidden valley, surrounded by stunning views of the Cotswolds. Its key features include rococo buildings, woodland walks and carefully planned vistas.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 After checking out of the hotel, we make our way to **Westonbirt**, the **National Arboretum**, which is perhaps the most important and widely known arboretum in the United Kingdom. Following our visit, we return to our original pick-up points.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- Weaving through the magical meadows of Highgrove 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 at a comfortable hotel in the Cotswolds with breakfast & dinner
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

13 - 16 Aug ~~\$1,395~~ \$1,325

Single Supplement \$275



Painswick Rococo Garden



RHS Bridgewater

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

RHS Bridgewater & Gardens of the North West

4 DAYS from \$975 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

One of the largest gardening projects in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater has established itself as a world-class garden. Come along and discover its wonders alongside other horticultural gems on this delightful exploration. Highlights include Trentham Estate with its Italian Gardens, the great plantsman's garden of Dunham Massey and Tatton Park, whose gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character.

Day 1 We depart by coach from our pick-up points this morning and head for the north-west of England, where we begin with a visit 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. Take the circular lakeside walk all the way round as it winds beside the River Trent, by the bird hide, through Capability Brown's cascading weir and along atmospheric woodland trails. Afterwards, we continue to our hotel in Cheshire.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 After breakfast, we depart for our visit to the **RHS Garden Bridgewater** at Worsley, to the west of Manchester. This once-in-a-generation project saw the Royal Horticultural Society take inspiration from the heritage of the site and transform it into a world-class garden, while also delivering a programme of community outreach and education activities, volunteering and training. In the afternoon, we visit a nearby private garden, which, in contrast to Bridgewater is much smaller but no less intriguing. **The Secret Valley** was transformed by its owner from a former Coal Board dumping ground into an urban paradise, where swans and kingfishers nest on the floating islands of the tranquil lake.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Following breakfast, we visit the gardens at **Dunham Massey**. Previously, a garden of straight lines and regimented planting favoured by the 2nd Earl of Stamford and Warrington, the garden became the family's pleasure ground under the 5th Earl when sweeping lawns and meandering paths were introduced. The garden continues to evolve today – modern additions include the Rose Garden and the Winter Garden. Later, we visit **Tatton Park**, whose gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character. Lewis William Wyatt and Joseph Paxton, architect of Crystal Palace, designed various elements, including the Conservatory, which is now open following a comprehensive restoration programme.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and depart for a visit to **Arley Hall**. 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 our final visit, we return to our original pick-up points.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- Special visit to RHS Garden Bridgewater
- 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 at the four star Pinewood Hotel, Wilmslow with dinner & breakfast
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of Horticulturalist Julia Corden as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

15 - 18 Aug	\$1,045 \$975
Single Supplement	\$170



Dunham Massey.

NEW TOUR



Hestercombe

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Delightful Summer Gardens of Devon

5 DAYS from \$1,465 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

Join us for a jaunt to the English Riviera! We explore **Mothecombe Gardens**, an RHS partner garden perched on a cliff top, **Wildside Garden** with its ecological niches and the **Garden House**, where the walled garden's herbaceous borders steal the show. The award-winning **Marwood Hill Gardens** rounds off a superb collection.

Day 1 We depart our designated pick-up point and head for **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. We later continue to our hotel in Torquay.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Today we visit **Mothecombe Gardens**, an RHS partner garden which is situated above Mothecombe beach, at the mouth of the Erme estuary. They are tucked under one side of a valley running down to the beach, so they are several degrees warmer than the village of Holbeton and they are sheltered from the prevailing south-westerly salt-laden winds, allowing tender plants to flourish. This afternoon, we return to **Torquay**, where the afternoon is free to spend at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Our first stop today is **Wildside Garden**, an innovative garden on the fringes of stunning Dartmoor, which allows plants to thrive as they would in the wild. This afternoon we visit **The Garden House**, a glorious garden set in a quiet valley on the fringes of Dartmoor National Park. Built around decaying 16th-century ruins, Lionel Fortescue created a romantic garden, built on precipitous terraces with lovely views over the garden and surrounding countryside. Clematis and

roses scale the old walls that surround the garden and there is a wonderful richness of plants here.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 This morning we head north from Torquay to **Marwood Hill Gardens**. This private valley garden spans across an impressive 20 acres and is home to four National Plant Heritage Collections and several Champion trees. This award-winning garden is most well known for its incredible Astilbe collection, but is also home to stunning lakes and sculpture, as well as rare trees and shrubs. Later, we visit **Castle Hill Gardens** which are nestled amongst the beautiful North Devon landscape. We spend the afternoon exploring the 50 acres of enchanting grounds set against the backdrop of the stunning 18th-century Palladian mansion.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 We depart after breakfast for home, stopping off en route at the gardens of **Kilver Court**, Shepton Mallet. The Gardens feature a millpond and boating lake as well as rolling lawns, parterre and herbaceous borders, set against an unusual and highly impressive backdrop – a vast Grade II listed viaduct built for the Somerset and Dorset railway.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens' collaboration at Hestercombe
- Four National Plant Heritage Collections at Marwood Hill
- The innovative Wildside Garden

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- Four nights at the Headland Hotel Torquay with dinner & breakfast
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

17 - 21 Aug	\$1,535 \$1,465
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	



Marwood Hill Gardens



St Mary's Island

The Isles of Scilly

6 DAYS from \$3,705 | ACTIVITY RATING * * * *

DEPARTURE POINTS: Land's End Airport

The Isles of Scilly, a true sub-tropical paradise, has remained unspoiled and unchanged for decades, where spring arrives early, autumn lingers and winter is nearly absent. The highlight is Tresco's stunning Abbey Garden, home to thousands of plant species and an abundance of colour. There truly is no other garden like this in the world, and there's plenty more to enjoy on this tour, too.

Day 1 Travel independently to Penzance (overnight accommodation and rail travel from mainline stations can be arranged at a supplement on request; please contact us for assistance). We meet at Land's End airport in time for your flight to the Scillies. On arrival, we are transferred to the St Mary's Hall Hotel. Dinner is served in the evening, after which we have a special talk from our tour manager, Mike Nelhams, Curator of the Abbey Gardens. This is followed by a Q&A session with Mike, an opportunity to find out about growing tender sub-tropical plants such as those found in the Abbey Gardens.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Today we enjoy a private tour of St Mary's Island. We make our way around the island with the chance to stop at a selection of viewpoints on route with light-hearted commentary on island life along the way. We enjoy lunch at Juliet's Garden, a family-run restaurant with views across St Mary's, with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to explore.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 After breakfast today, we head out for a Pelagic boat excursion to the Western Rocks and Bishop Rock Lighthouse. We are 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 stop in St Agnes for some free time for lunch (not included) before we return to St Mary's.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 This morning, we depart for St Martins. On arrival, we make our way to Scilly Flowers Farm for a guided tour. After our tour, we have lunch at the Karma Hotel before having some free time to explore at leisure. At an agreed time, we meet and return by boat to St Mary's.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 After breakfast, we take a boat over to the island of Tresco and have a guided tour of the Abbey Gardens. This afternoon, we are free to explore Tresco at leisure - the ancient castles, beautiful beaches and headland walks. At an agreed time, we reassemble and take the boat back to St Mary's and return to our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Today, we transfer to the airport for our return flight to Land's End Airport. Our tour will conclude here (overnight accommodation in Penzance, extended stay and rail travel to mainline stations can be arranged at a supplement on request - please contact us for assistance).

Meals: Breakfast

(Please note - walking fitness: Due to the limited public transport, we believe it is fair to remind passengers that a degree of mobility is required to get the most out of our visit to the Scillies, as most of the tour will be on foot.)

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
- Led by Mike Nelhams, the Curator of Tresco's Abbey Gardens

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Five nights at the Star Castle Hotel in August and St Mary Hall hotel in Sept in a standard room (upgrades available on request at a supplement) with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return Skybus flight from Land's End to St Mary's (Exeter or Newquay flights available at a supplement)
- ▶ Boat transfers between islands
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as expert tour manager
- ▶ Presentation & Q&A session with Mike Nelhams on Abbey Gardens

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

22 - 27 Aug	\$3,775 \$3,705
4 - 9 Sep	\$3,495
Single Supplement	\$735



Abbey Gardens



Scone Palace

Castles, Palaces & Abbeys of Eastern Scotland

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

PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh

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

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

Meals: Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

28 - 31 Aug	\$1,395 \$1,325
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NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Linlithgow Palace

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Namaqua National Park

Spring Flowers of Namaqualand

13 DAYS from \$6,255 | ACTIVITY RATING

JOINING POINT: Cape Town

Namaqualand, in South Africa's Northern Cape, is a place of exquisite beauty, an unspoilt expanse of open spaces broken by ancient outcrops of granite. Come spring, the ground bursts into a carpet of flowers and in addition to this spectacular display, our tour includes coastal and mountain fynbos, succulent plants, bulbs and orchids, proteas and heaths, a game drive, whale watching and a vineyard visit!

Day 1 Upon arrival in Cape Town, we will transfer to the hotel to check in and drop off our luggage. We will then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before departing for **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**. The evening is at leisure.

Meals: Lunch

Day 2 After breakfast, we ascend to the top of **Table Mountain** by cable car, followed by a city orientation tour, including a walk in the **Company's Garden**. This afternoon is spent at leisure or on an optional excursion to **Robben Island**.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 We explore the Cape Peninsula today, heading to the **Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve**. We enjoy an oceanside lunch before **Boulder's Beach**, home to African Penguins.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4 This morning, we depart Cape Town for the **!Khwa Ttu San Cultural Centre and Nature Reserve**, where we enjoy a **tea tasting**. Later, we embark on a special 90-minute **open vehicle game drive** before visiting **West Coast National Park** and **Postberg Nature Reserve**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 Today's highlights include **Bokkomlaan**, lunch by the sea at **Elandsbaai** and **Clanwilliam**, where we visit the House of Rooibos,

and entering the unique **Namaqualand** region.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 A scenic journey awaits as we drive up the breathtaking **Vanrhyns pass** to the **quiver tree forest**. We also visit the sandstone church in Nieuwoudville for tea and pancakes, before continuing to **Matjiesfontein farm**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7 We spend the day at **Namaqua National Park**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 Look forward to marvelling at **Clanwilliam, Biedouw valley** and **Ramskop Wild Flower Garden** today.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9 The **Karoo National Botanical Gardens** awaits, featuring one of South Africa's largest collections of indigenous succulents.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 10 Today we visit **Stellenbosch Botanical Garden** and, after a picnic lunch, the **Vergelegen Wine Estate**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 11 We explore the **Caledon Wildflower Garden and Nature Reserve** before spending the afternoon at leisure in Hermanus or joining the optional whale watching excursion.

Meals: Breakfast

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 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 four dinners
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

30 Aug - 11 Sep	\$6,465	\$6,255
Single Supplement		\$695



Cape Town

Day 12 We round off our tour with the flora and fauna of the **Fernkloof Nature Reserve** and **Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 13 Enjoy time at leisure before transferring to the airport where the tour concludes.

Meals: Breakfast



Papal Garden in Castel Gandolfo

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Rome, Ninfa & Castel Gandolfo

4 DAYS from \$2,305 | ACTIVITY RATING

JOINING POINT: Rome

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the ancient gardens of Ninfa. They are as close to gardening perfection as you can get, with roses, hydrangeas and jasmines curtaining what remains of the walls of medieval buildings and paths meandering beside a crystal-clear river. Equally rare is the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Popes as we visit the gardens of Castel Gandolfo, the papal residence just outside Rome. The view from the balcony here, with its strict geometric parterres, edged by towering cypresses and umbrella pines, is a sight to behold.

Day 1 On arrival, we are met by our guide and continue by coach to **Rome**, where we have a short city tour, taking in the Coliseum, St Peter's Square and Basilica, the Spanish steps and the Trevi Fountain. Later, we continue to our hotel and enjoy a welcome drink followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 After breakfast, we depart for the medieval town of **Viterbo**. As we see on our guided tour, a number of grand palaces and a host of old churches are enclosed by an intact set of medieval walls. A short distance away in Bagnaia, we find the splendid gardens of **Villa Lante**, described by European garden expert Charles Quest-Ritson as 'one of Italy's greatest Renaissance gardens'. We return to our hotel for an evening spent at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 Following breakfast this morning, we hope to visit the gardens of Castel Gandolfo, the traditional papal residence just outside Rome. The tour begins with a shady walk to the Giardino della

Madonna and leads on to the Giardino del Belvedere, formed by a series of rigidly geometric parterres, edged by towering cypresses, cloud-shaped crowns of umbrella pines and gnarled cedars.

In the afternoon, we visit Ninfa, deemed by many to be the most beautiful garden in Europe – if not the world. Flowers from all over the world thrive in glorious companionship. After a lovely day, enjoy an evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 This morning, we visit the last of our gardens – those of the **Villa d'Este** in Tivoli. The garden is romantically overgrown with tall pines, evergreen oaks and cedars.

In the afternoon, we transfer to the airport where our tour ends.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

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

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 Horticulturalist Julia Corden as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

1 - 4 Sep	\$2,305
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NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Gardens of Ninfa

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Abbotsford House

SCOTLAND

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders

4 DAYS from \$1,535 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

The Scottish Borders offer rolling hills, misty valleys and the salmon-rich River Tweed. Visit historic houses and castles, including Paxton House, Traquair House, Mellerstain, Abbotsford and Floors Castle. Based at the Peebles Hydro, the tour blends tranquil landscapes with a rich slice of Scottish history, folklore and architectural heritage, revealing the understated beauty and remarkable past of this often-overlooked region.

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and drive into the Scottish Borders for our first visit to **Paxton House**, one of the finest Palladian houses in Britain. The house was completed in 1763 for Patrick Home of Billie, a member of one of the most important Scottish Border families. During our **guided tour**, we learn more stories of the house's history, designed by architect Robert Adam and cabinet maker, Thomas Chippendale. There is a fine collection of Chippendale furniture, paintings from Scotland's National Collection, Adam interiors and Georgian costumes. Following our visit, we continue to our hotel, where dinner is served this evening.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 This morning, we travel through Tweeddale to **Abbotsford House**, built by Sir Walter Scott following the success of his great novels. There are extensive grounds leading down to the River Tweed, a fine walled garden and a woodland walk, however it is the house that steals the show with its fascinating collections.

In the afternoon, we follow the River Tweed back towards Peebles and visit **Traquair House**, believed to be the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. 27 Scottish and English monarchs have visited Traquair, including Mary Queen of Scots, and William the Lion held court here in 1209.

Everywhere in the house are portraits, old prints and maps, which refer to its history. Later, we return to our hotel, where dinner is served in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After breakfast, we travel to **Mellerstain House**, the home of the Earl and Countess of Haddington, and one of Scotland's great Georgian houses. The ceilings are especially magnificent, having been preserved in their original 18th-century colours. The library is a masterpiece of classical decoration and colour with fine detailed plasterwork incorporating marble busts by Roubiliac. Mellerstain houses a superb collection of paintings, including works by Van Dyck, Gainsborough, Ramsay, Aikman and Nasmyth, many of which depict members of the family who have owned the house. Outside is an Italianate style terraced garden.

We move onto Kelso to visit **Floors Castle**, home of the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe. In 1721, William Adam was commissioned by the 1st Duke to make additions to the eastern end of an existing tower-house to create a plain, but symmetrical, Georgian country house. The 6th Duke invited the leading architect in Edinburgh, William Playfair, to remodel the castle between 1837 and 1847. The result is a romantic fairytale castle with its roofscape of turrets, pinnacles and cupolas. In the park lies a holly tree marking the spot where King James II of Scotland was killed in 1460, when his own cannon exploded while laying siege to Roxburghe Castle.

We later return to our hotel, where dinner is served in the evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 We check out of the hotel this morning and travel to the 16th-century **Thirlestane Castle**. Throughout its long history, Thirlestane has

Key Highlights

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

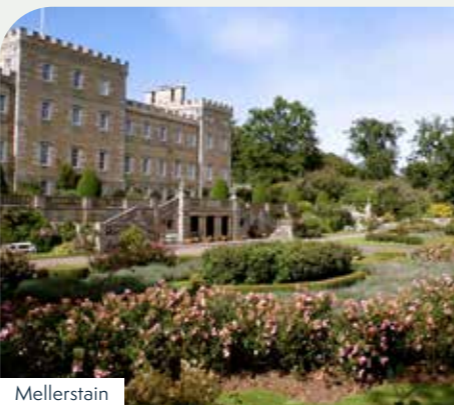
YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Peebles Hydro Hotel, Peebles with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager Alan Appleton

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2 - 5 Sep \$1,535

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Mellerstain

belonged to the Maitland family, one of the most famous in Scotland. In about 1260, Sir Richard Maitland married Avicia, daughter and sole heiress to Thomas du Thirlestane. We enjoy a **guided tour of the castle** to find out more, **followed by lunch**.

After a lovely final visit, we continue to our original pick-up points.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Broughton Grange

GARDENS

Garden Insights with Tom Stuart-Smith

4 DAYS from \$1,675 | ACTIVITY RATING

PICK-UP POINT: London

Explore a selection of gardens designed by award-winning landscape designer Tom Stuart-Smith. We visit **Broughton Grange**, set among sweeping Oxfordshire countryside and enjoy a private tour of Tom's own garden, **The Barn** and neighbouring **Serge Hill**. Tom also joins us for an evening talk and Q&A. Further highlights include **Church Gardens at Hughenden** and the impressive **Capel Manor Gardens**.

Day 1 We set off together for the Cotswolds to visit **Broughton Grange Gardens**, a spectacular 25-acre landscape of woodland and formal gardens in Oxfordshire. The highlight is the large terraced walled garden designed by Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal winner **Tom Stuart-Smith**, beautifully integrated into the surrounding countryside. Later, we visit **Cheslyn House and Gardens**, one of Hertfordshire's 'best-kept secrets'. Created by architect Henry Colbeck and his wife Daisy, the gardens also showcase exotic plants collected during their travels.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Today begins at **Capel Manor Gardens**, home to a collection of themed gardens offering year-round interest. Highlights include The Queen Mother's Garden, Mr. Fothergill's Display Garden and The Diana Legacy Rose Garden. This afternoon, we enjoy a special visit to **The Barn**, the private garden of renowned designer **Tom Stuart-Smith**, where Tom himself leads a **guided tour**. Created on a former dairy farm, the garden is arranged into a series of distinct garden rooms with rich planting and varied textures. We also visit the Plant Library before continuing to nearby **Serge Hill**, a Regency house with a walled garden planted by Tom's sister, Kate Stuart-Smith. This evening,

Tom joins us at the hotel for a drinks reception and a talk about his career in horticulture and garden design.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Church Gardens**, Harefield, a beautifully restored historic walled garden that has been transformed into a productive and sustainable space. We enjoy a guided tour followed by tea and cake. Later, we visit **Hughenden**, the former home of Victorian Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, where formal Italianate gardens, a Victorian parterre and pleasure grounds surround the historic house.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Our final day begins at **The Hill Garden and Pergola** on the edge of Hampstead Heath. Designed in the early 20th century by Thomas Mawson, this dramatic terraced garden features a magnificent pergola with views across the heath. Later, we visit two gardens designed by Tom Stuart-Smith: **Jellicoe Gardens** near King's Cross, inspired by Persian garden traditions and **The Reflection Garden**, a tranquil planting space close to St Paul's Cathedral. Afterwards, we return to our original pick-up points.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- Drinks reception, informative talk and Q&A with Tom Stuart-Smith
- Private visit to Tom Stuart-Smith's garden, The Barn
- Cheslyn House & Gardens, one of Hertfordshire's 'best-kept secrets'
- Hughenden, the country home of the Victorian statesman Benjamin Disraeli

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Leonardo Hotel, Watford with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Drinks reception, informative talk & Q&A session with Tom Stuart-Smith
- ▶ Private visit to Tom Stuart-Smith's garden, The Barn
- ▶ All other visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2 - 5 Sep \$1,675

Single Supplement \$210



Tom Stuart-Smith



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: 25 years since the Eden Project fully opened to the public. 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 county's other unique gardens including beautiful Trellissick, Bonython Estate Gardens and Glendurgan.

Day 1 We depart by train from London Paddington to Truro and continue by coach for our first visit – **Trellissick**, created within shelter belts planted 200 years ago. The garden is constantly evolving with new planting and fresh ideas, becoming a dynamic, forward-looking estate. After plenty of time to explore, we continue to our hotel.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 After breakfast, we travel to St Austell, where we spend the day at the **Eden Project**. Once a 50-metre deep, 34-acre china clay pit, it was reclaimed and transformed to house two controlled-environment plant conservatories, the larger of which recreates the climate of the tropics. The second conservatory recreates a warm temperature climate and houses plants from Southern Africa, the Mediterranean and southwestern America, with hundreds of colourful flowers. Here we enjoy an **exclusive guided tour** with one of the members of the horticultural team.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Following breakfast we visit **Bonython**, a courtyard garden which is divided into colourful areas of blue, purple, yellow and white. It is home to a collection of perennials and shrubs which change with the seasons and a parterre, filled with delightful flowers and ornamental vegetables. In the afternoon, we visit **Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens**, set in a sheltered valley surrounded by woods. The garden is filled with high-quality contemporary art installations from renowned artists such as David Nash RA and James Turrell RA.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Our final visit is to **Glendurgan**, a place of great beauty. The garden has many fine trees plus rare and exotic plants from across the globe. Look out for the hedge maze too, 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.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- Exclusive guided tour at the Eden Project with a member of the horticultural team
- The exotic and sub-tropical Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens
- Trellissick with its delightful views across the River Fal

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Penmorvah Hotel, Falmouth with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Return standard class travel from London to Truro (other regional rail connections and upgrades are available on request; £100pp reduction if no rail travel is required)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Alex Goodyear as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

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



Glendurgan



Alhambra Arch, Granada

Gardens & Architecture of Andalucía

8 DAYS from \$2,725 | ACTIVITY RATING: 🌸 🌸

JOINING POINT: Malaga Airport

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 of the Sierra Nevada. We visit the famous Alhambra and Generalife, which commands exceptional views down towards the old city, the Albaicín. Also included are the treasures of Córdoba and Seville before concluding in the dramatically situated town of Ronda.

Day 1 We arrive in Málaga and transfer to our hotel.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 The pink-hued **Alhambra Palace** and the gardens of **The Generalife** await, which served as the summer palace for the Sultans of Granada during the 14th century. Our guide then accompanies us as we stroll through the medieval streets of the Albaicín, with its enclosed gardens known as '**Carmens**'.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 Today, we are accompanied by a local guide as we journey to the **Alpujarra** and the Sierra Nevada region, visiting some of the villages and strolling through the countryside.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 After a stop in **Córdoba**, we continue to **Seville** and the remarkable **Great Mosque**, regarded as one of the true wonders of the world. Outside the mosque lies the expansive **Patio de los Naranjos**, a courtyard shaded by orange trees. The gardens of the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar** are next, then some free time before proceeding to our Seville hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 Today is dedicated to exploring **Seville**, starting with the **Maria-Luisa Park** and the **Plaza de España**. Nearby, we find the Tobacco Factory, and later, the **Gardens of Murillo** and Seville's magnificent **cathedral**. We then visit Seville's **Orange Tree Courtyard**, followed by the gardens of the **Royal Palaces of the Alcázar**.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 Enjoy exploring Seville at leisure today.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 After breakfast, we head for **Ronda**, where we see the **Alameda del Tajo Gardens**, set on the edge of the spectacular gorge, and the **Palacio de Mondragon**. We also have the option of visiting the gardens of the old **Palace of the Moorish King of Ronda** before some free time.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Malaga Airport where our tour concludes.

Meals: Breakfast

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
- Centuries-old orange trees of Seville
- The historic Puente Nuevo bridge, which spans the El Tajo gorge in Ronda

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Senator Hotel, Granada, three nights at the Hotel Exe Macarena, Seville & one night at the Hotel R.Polo, Ronda (or similar) with breakfast
- ▶ Three dinners
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager & local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

7 - 14 Sep	\$2,725
Single Supplement	\$555



Generalife gardens at Alhambra

NEW TOUR

GARDENS



Bantry House Gardens

Gardens of the Island of Ireland

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

JOINING POINT: Belfast

Embark on a captivating journey through Ireland, where botanical beauty, wild landscapes and fascinating history combine. Beginning in Belfast and meandering to Dublin, through the Wicklow Mountains and on to Bantry Bay, this tour offers the opportunity to explore some of the most breathtaking spots the Emerald Isle has to offer, from the 400-year-old Antrim Castle Gardens to the Italianate Inacullin on spectacular Garnish Island.

Day 1 Upon arrival, we join our coach and transfer to the private garden of **Holly House**, followed by the 400-year-old **Antrim Castle Gardens** and Northern Ireland's answer to New York's 'The High Line' – **Randalstown Viaduct Community Garden**.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 After breakfast, we depart for **Mount Stewart**, the dazzling gardens which bask in the microclimate here. In the afternoon, we travel to the flower-filled spectacle of **Rowallane Garden**.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 Today we travel to **Hillsborough Castle**, King Charles' official residence in Northern Ireland, followed by **Ardán Garden**, with its coastal hillside location. We later continue to our hotel in Dublin.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 The morning is spent at **June Blake's Garden and Nursery** and her brother's garden at **Hunting Brook**, home of Jimi Blake and a plantsman's paradise. We conclude today at **Russborough House**, a stunning Palladian mansion with impressive views.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 We check out of the hotel and head to **Mount Usher**, a lovely informal garden which dates back to 1850, and **Powerscourt Gardens**, Ireland's most famous gardens, with a charming walled garden, striking terraces and fine statuary. This evening is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 Today's highlights include the **National Botanic Garden, Kilmacurragh**, famous for its collections of conifers and rhododendrons, and the gardens of **Mount Congreve**, home to one of the world's largest collections of plants. We later continue to our hotel in Bantry.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 We take the ferry across to Garnish Island to visit **Inacullin**, a wonderful intermingling of the formal and the wild, before exploring **Bantry House & Garden**, with seven terraces of gardens.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 We make our way to Cork Airport where you are free to make your onward travel arrangements.

Meals: Breakfast

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 Inacullin
- Visit the 400-year-old Antrim Castle 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
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

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



Powerscourt Gardens



Bamburgh Castle

Highlights of Northumberland

5 DAYS from \$1,745 | ACTIVITY RATING

DEPARTURE POINT: London Kings Cross

Explore the highlights of Northumberland, including the holy island of Lindisfarne, the imposing Bamburgh Castles, the 'Windsor of the North' Alnwick Castle, as well as some of the most significant Roman ruins to be found in Great Britain.

Day 1 We depart from London King's Cross by train to Newcastle (please note: connecting rail travel to Newcastle from other stations is available on request, or there is a discount of £100pp). On arrival at Newcastle Station, we join our coach and depart for our first visit, the house and gardens of **Belsay Hall**, a classical brown stone mansion, built in the 19th Century in Greek revival style to the design of its owner, Sir Charles Monck. After our visit, we continue by coach to our comfortable hotel in the Newcastle area.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 After breakfast, we head north along the scenic Northumberland coast to **Bamburgh Castle**, a vast fortress with over 1400 years of history. Covering nine acres, it is among the largest inhabited castles in the UK. Nearby is the Holy Island of **Lindisfarne**, accessible via a tidal causeway. Here, the 16th-century **Lindisfarne Castle**, originally a Tudor fort, was transformed into a private house in 1903 by Edwin Lutyens, featuring intimate rooms and a Gertrude Jekyll-designed walled garden. We also visit **Lindisfarne Priory**, a late 11th-century Benedictine Priory, a key site for early Christianity in Anglo-Saxon England.

(Please note that there is a three-quarter-mile walk from the coach park to the castle, although minibus transfers are available at a fare to be paid on board. There are no toilets in Lindisfarne Castle, nor a café, but full catering facilities are available in the village).

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After breakfast, we visit **Alnwick Castle**, home to the Duke of Northumberland and the second largest inhabited castle in England. Owned by the Percy family since 1309, it features a remarkable art collection, including Italian paintings. Lunch (not included) is available at **Alnwick Garden**, a notable garden inspired by the Duchess of Northumberland.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Today is spent discovering the Roman heritage of the area. We begin at **Hadrian's Wall** built as a fortification across northern Britain some 2,000 years ago, 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 5 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and travel into the Northumbrian countryside for the last time as we visit **Wallington House**, which dates back to 1688 and was home to many generations of the Blackett and Trevelyan families, all of whom have left their legacy behind. We then return to Newcastle for our afternoon train journey back to London Kings Cross (or other onward connections).

Meals: Breakfast

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
- Remarkable innovations at Cragside
- The magnificent grounds of Wallington House

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights at a comfortable three-star hotel in the Newcastle area with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel from London Kings Cross to Newcastle (first class up-grades & regional connections available on request – there is a discount of £100pp for those making their own way to/from Newcastle)
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel in Northumberland
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of a local expert Alan Appleton as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

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



Alnwick Castle

SPECIAL INTEREST



Gordon Castle - Garden Cottage - © Ed Bollom

Gordon Castle & Gardens of the East Highlands

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

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

Explore the spectacular gardens of the East Highlands, from grand glasshouses and royal plantings to unique nurseries and castle grounds. Highlights include the UK's most northerly botanic gardens at Inverness, the wildflower meadows of Aldourie Castle on Loch Ness and Gordon Castle Gardens, RHS Regional Partner Garden of the Year 2024, where its restored kitchen garden provides a perfect setting 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. Botanists from far and wide come to admire the rhododendrons, alpines and peat-garden plants, amongst others. Afterwards, we continue to our hotel in the stunning Cairngorms National Park.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 This morning, we visit **Aldourie Castle Gardens**, nestled in a private 500-acre estate in a picturesque lochside setting. 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 that boasts a tranquil atmosphere and a diverse array of exquisite plants.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

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. It's a charming spot for our afternoon tea!

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

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.

Following our final visit, we continue to our original pick-up points.

Meals: Breakfast

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 horticulturalist Sue Pomeroy as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

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



Drummond Castle



Botanical Garden in Padua

Palladian Villas of Veneto

5 DAYS from \$2,760 | ACTIVITY RATING:

JOINING POINT: Venice Marco Polo Airport

Veneto is one of Italy's wealthiest regions, reflected in the extravagance of the grand villas and their gardens. Many of the treasures we visit were designed by Andrea Palladio, one of the most influential individuals in the history of Western architecture. We discover no fewer than six glorious villas, beginning with one of the most recognisable buildings of the Renaissance, the Palladian masterpiece, **Villa Rotonda**.

Day 1 On arrival, we are met by a local coach and guide and visit the grand gardens of **Villa Pisani**, featuring a long pool of water, with the palace at one end and an ornate pavilion, converted into luxurious stables, at the other.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Today, we are joined by a local guide for a walking tour of **Vicenza's** UNESCO-listed city centre, with entrance included to the **Teatro Olimpico**.

After some free time in Vicenza, we visit the nearby **Villa Rotonda**, designed by Andrea Palladio and one of the most recognisable buildings of the Renaissance.

We return to the hotel and in the early evening transfer to the **Villa Valmarana**, where we are privileged to be shown round by a member of the family and enjoy dinner in a room adorned with Tiepolo's frescoes.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After breakfast, we head to **Padua**, where we visit the **Orto Botanico di Padova**, the world's oldest university botanical garden. We also visit the **Scrovegni Chapel**, home to one of the most amazing works of art you are ever likely to see.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 We visit to the gardens of the **Villa Barbaro**, the only Palladian villa in Veneto to retain some of its original garden. Then after some free time in the beautiful town of **Asolo**, we return to the hotel to freshen up before dinner at the **Villa Godi Malinverni**. We are met by a member of this aristocratic family, who shows us the villa.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 Following breakfast, we visit the gardens of **Villa Barbarigo** at Valsanzibio, featuring a series of ascending pools decorated with statues and fountains. We later transfer to the airport where our tour ends.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- Guided tour of Villa Rotonda with Count Valmarana
- The gardens of Villa Barbarigo, the most complete historical garden in Europe
- Giambattista Tiepolo's grand frescoes at Villa Valmarana
- Famous mazes at Villa Pisani
- Two dinners hosted by Italian aristocrats

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	\$2,760
Single Supplement	\$275



Villa Barbarigo



Isola Bella

Villas & Gardens of the Italian Lakes

8 DAYS from \$3,565 | ACTIVITY RATING

JOINING POINT: Milan Malpensa Airport

Come and explore a succession of villas and gardens set against snow-capped mountains and glittering waters. Look forward to discovering the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society, the terraced gardens of the Borromean islands, Villa Taranto's rare specimens and Villa Carlotta's dazzling display of azaleas and rhododendrons.

Day 1 We arrive in Milan and transfer to **Hotel Milan Speranza au Lac** on the shores of Lake Maggiore. Lunch is served on arrival and later, we enjoy a welcome drink and dinner.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the gardens of **Villa Taranto**, flourishing with rare botanical specimens. In the afternoon, we drive to charming **Lake Orta** with free time for lunch at your leisure in the picturesque Old Town of **Orta San Giulio** before taking a private boat trip over to the tiny island of San Giulio to visit the ancient church. Returning to the mainland, we visit a **private garden** on the hillside above the lake.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 We spend a full day exploring the famous Borromean islands.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 We start with a real treat by visiting the **private garden** of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**. It provides the perfect backdrop to our relaxed **lunch** before we have the afternoon free in **Stresa**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Following check out, we head for **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni**, where we enjoy a private guided tour with the owner. We then continue to the town of **Como**, where we check into our lakeside hotel, the **Barchetta Excelsior**.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Today we have a free day to shop or sightsee.

Day 7 Enchanting **Lake Como** awaits. On arrival in **Tremezzo**, we discover the 18th-century **Villa Carlotta**, where, in the spring, azaleas and rhododendrons burst into a dazzling display. Later, we catch the ferry to visit the **Villa Balbianello** on the Lavedo point, wonderfully remote from lakeside tourism.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 8 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and return to the airport where our tour ends.

Meals: Breakfast

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Four nights at Hotel Milan Speranza au Lac, Lake Maggiore & three nights at the Hotel Barchetta Excelsior, Lake Como with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ 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

21 - 28 Sep	\$3,565
Single Supplement	\$835



Isola Madre

NEW TOUR



Villa Durazzo

Gardens & Villas of Liguria

7 DAYS from \$2,830 | ACTIVITY RATING:

JOINING POINT: Pisa Airport

Experience *la dolce vita* in Liguria, with its sparkling coastline, colourful towns and historic treasures. We visit some of the most spectacular villas nestled along the coast, carefully restored to reflect their original splendour, with intricate stucco decorations, magnificent frescoes, period furnishings, remarkable art collections and beautiful gardens. The result is a fascinating glimpse into the lifestyles of the Italian elite during the Renaissance era.

Day 1 We arrive in **Pisa** and transfer to our hotel in Genoa. Later, our local guide takes us on a **guided walking tour** and in the evening, we gather for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 This morning, we visit **Palazzo Lomellino**, located in the historic centre of Genoa and a magnificent Renaissance palace dating back to the 16th century, with the adjoining **Secret Garden** offering a rare example of an Italian Renaissance garden in Genoa. Next is the 16th-century **Villa del Principe**, boasting impressive frescoes by Perin del Vaga, a pupil of Raphael.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 We head to **Alassio** village to visit the Gardens of **Villa la Pergola**, built in the late 19th century and a beautiful example of the English-Italian architectural style. We enjoy a **guided tour** before returning to Genoa to spend the afternoon at leisure. You may like to choose an optional excursion to the **Aquarium and the Biosphere** or the **Galata Museum**.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 After breakfast, we depart for **La Spezia**, stopping en route in **Santa Margherita** for a **guided tour** of **Villa Durazzo**. We continue with a visit to **La Cervara Abbey**, a historic and scenic monastery overlooking the Gulf of Tigullio and founded in the 14th century.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 Today's highlights include a **guided tour** of **Villa Marigola**, surrounded by beautiful gardens overlooking the Ligurian Sea, followed by **Villa Rezzola**.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 We begin with a **guided tour** of the **Caneva Botanical Gardens**, with over 2,200 plant species. We return to La Spezia for time at leisure before gathering for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 After breakfast, we transfer to Pisa Airport where our tour ends.

Meals: Breakfast

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

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 an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

25 Sep - 1 Oct	\$2,830
Single Supplement	\$555

NEW TOUR

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SCOTLAND



Culzean Castle

Castles & Abbeys of Western Scotland

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

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

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

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

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

Meals: Dinner

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 This morning, we travel to the Isle of Bute to visit one of Scotland's most extraordinary stately homes, the magnificent **Mount Stuart**. Our

private guided tour takes us through opulent rooms adorned with stained glass, marble and gilded ceilings, each infused with symbolism and Victorian grandeur. After our tour, we are treated to a traditional **afternoon tea** and a chance to relax and soak up the atmosphere of this truly unique estate.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

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

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

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

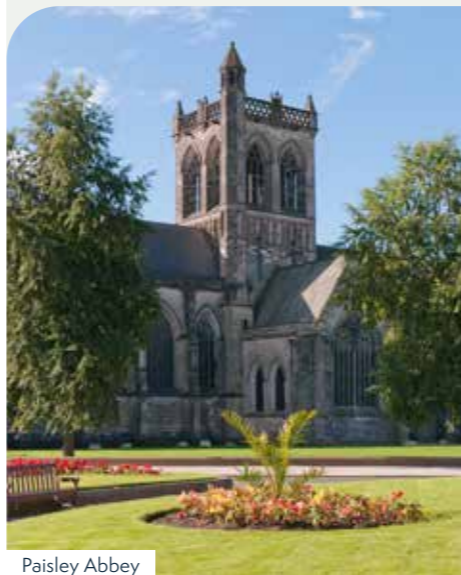
- Admire the romantic splendour of Culzean Castle
- Explore the richly decorated interiors of Mount Stuart, followed by a traditional afternoon tea
- Visit atmospheric Paisley Abbey, one of Scotland's most important medieval religious sites
- Discover the striking contrast of ancient stone and bold street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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
28 Sep - 1 Oct \$1,325

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Paisley Abbey



La Majorelle Garden

GARDENS

Gardens of Marrakech

5 DAYS from \$2,410 | ACTIVITY RATING: ***

JOINING POINT: Marrakech

Marrakech enchants with its rose-coloured buildings framed by the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. At its heart lies Jemaa El Fna, alive with storytellers, musicians and snake-charmers. Highlights include the serene courtyards of El Bahia Palace, the dramatic ruins of El Badi, the Menara gardens and the vibrant Majorelle Garden. We also escape to the peaceful Ourika Valley in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains.

Day 1 On arrival in **Marrakech**, we transfer to our hotel, where there will be a **guided tour** of the resort grounds.

Meals: Dinner

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.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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**.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 We head into the **Atlas Mountains** to visit a 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 After breakfast, enjoy some free time for some last-minute shopping and sightseeing before we transfer to Marrakech airport where the tour ends.

Meals: Breakfast

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 the 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 horticulturalist David Hurron as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON
5 - 9 Oct \$2,410
Single Supplement \$560



Menara Garden



Cathedral La Seu

Gardens & Architecture of Mallorca

6 DAYS from \$2,270 | ACTIVITY RATING:

JOINING POINT: Mallorca

The Balearic Island of Mallorca offers a timeless, verdant landscape of wooded hills and orange groves, sweeping bays and rocky mountains. The gardens here are therefore a delight to visit, including Moorish Raixa and Alfaiba plus the Gardens of Sóller, a botanist's paradise. Elsewhere, we visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, tour Palma and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Sóller.

Day 1 We arrive in Palma and transfer to our hotel.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the **Jardines de Alfaiba**, set in the Tramuntana Mountains towards Mallorca's northwestern coast and with origins stretching back to the 14th and 15th centuries. Our next stop is Sóller, where we visit to the **Gardens of Sóller**.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 This morning we depart for the gardens of **Raixa** at Bunyola, boasting fine views over the valley towards Palma. We continue to the monastery of **Real Cartuja de Valldemosa**, where the gardens are predominately dark green and grey, creating a tranquil and timeless atmosphere. From here, we transfer to Sóller again for some free time before taking the charming **Tren de Sóller** back to Palma.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 Following breakfast, we visit **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca**, which showcases a collection of modern art exhibitions with

surrounding beautiful gardens linking art, nature and architecture. We then head to the former capital of the island, **Alcudia**, for some free time to explore the Old Town before we take a scenic drive back to our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5 Today we tour **Palma**, with visits to the **cathedral**, the second tallest Gothic cathedral in Europe which contains many fine works of art, the former royal residence of **Palacio de la Almudaina** and the adjacent **Hort del Rei** (the king's garden). We also visit **Castell de Belver**, a heavily fortified Gothic castle that is now the city's museum and enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 After breakfast, we transfer to Palma Airport where our tour concludes.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

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

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Five nights at the Hotel THB Maria Isabel, Playa de Palma with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ One lunch
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

14 - 19 Oct	\$2,270
Single Supplement	\$555



Raixa



Drumlanrig Castle

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Autumn Tints of Dumfries & Galloway

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

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

As summer fades, autumn colours blaze across south-west Scotland, creating a vivid backdrop for visits to the region's finest gardens. Highlights include Dumfries House with its Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, the hilltop Glenwhan Gardens overlooking Luce Bay and the beautifully arranged Logan Botanic Garden. We also explore private gems such as Burnside, Millhall and as a special privilege, Brightwater tour manager Colin Crosbie's own plantsman's garden at Dalswinton Mill.

Day 1 We depart from your local pick-up point and head for **Dumfries House** in Ayrshire. We enjoy a grand tour, admire the world-class collection of Chippendale furniture and have **tea and shortbread** before visiting the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**, one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland and in many ways the flagship of the restoration project. This afternoon, we visit the private garden of **Burnside**, a constantly changing 6.5-acre garden, home to a wide range of plants, giving colour and variety all year.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit **Glenwhan Gardens**, spread out over a hilltop with marvellous views of Luce Bay and the Mull of Galloway. We continue to our next destination: the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens** at Port Logan, started by the McDougall family who lived here for 800 years.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 We head for the private garden at **Millhall**, Kirkcudbright. This impressive five-acre garden has a large collection of mature shrubs, including over 200 rhododendron species. There are also camellias, hydrangeas and many rare Southern Hemisphere plants. Our next visit is the gardens of the **Threave Estate**, where the gardens have been largely created by students at the School of Horticulture which started here in 1960.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 This morning, we are privileged to see **Colin Crosbie's own garden, Dalswinton Mill**, with Colin guiding us round. As one would expect, this is very much a plantsman's garden, set around an 18th-century watermill with the Pennyland Burn running through it. The garden contains a wide range of perennials, trees and shrubs that favour the local climate. We enjoy morning coffee and scones before departing for **Drumlanrig Castle**, one of Scotland's first and most important Renaissance buildings in the grand manner.

Meals: Breakfast

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 at the Holiday Inn, Dumfries with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ 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

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

GARDENS



Dartmoor National Park

Autumn Gardens of Devon

4 DAYS from \$1,115 | ACTIVITY RATING

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

Join us for a jaunt to the English Riviera, where from our base in Torquay we explore some of Devon's most beautiful gardens as they metamorphose with the rich tapestry of colours that the autumn brings. Highlights include Lukesland Garden, one of the best in this corner of Britain, and Bicton Botanical Gardens, home to a collection of British champion trees and fine Victorian glass houses. We also visit Killerton, home to an impressive garden as well as a collection of period costumes, and the Garden House, a suitably romantic garden, with delightful views over surrounding countryside.

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head to the house and gardens of **Killerton**, home to a magnificent collection of 18th-20th-century costumes in period rooms. The estate is set on a steep wooded hillside with the remains of an Iron Age Hill fort on top of it. Countless trees and shrubs thrive in the gardens, with a wide palette of colours on show throughout autumn.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 This morning, we make our way to **Overbecks**, a subtropical paradise which is spectacularly perched on a cliff above Salcombe and home to a plethora of subtropical plant species from around the globe. The afternoon is at leisure in **Torquay** with its lively waterfront, bustling harbour and palm-lined promenade.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After breakfast, we head for **Lukesland Gardens**. In autumn, the shelterbelts of beech trees turn glorious shades of gold while the more exotic acers, azaleas and ginkgo trees turn fiery

shades of red. This afternoon, we visit **The Garden House**, where clematis and roses scale the old walls that surround the garden and there is a wonderful richness of plants.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 We depart Torquay and head for our final visit to **Bicton Botanical Gardens**, home to many rare and endangered species from around the world and one of the finest tree collections in Britain. Some areas of interest include the Italian Garden, laid out to designs of André Le Nôtre in 1735. The pinetum and arboretum, which feature over 1,200 trees, represent 300 species with many of them endangered – the highlight being the 46-metre Grecian fir, the tallest of its kind ever recorded. We enjoy an early afternoon **cream tea** and then board the coach to make our way back to our original pick-up points.

Meals: Breakfast, Cream Tea

Key Highlights

- Lukesland Gardens, one of the finest gardens in the Southwest
- A visit to Bicton Botanical Gardens including cream tea
- An afternoon at your leisure to explore Torquay

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Three nights at the Headland Hotel, Torquay with dinner & breakfast
- ▶ One afternoon tea
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager Michael Gill

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

26 - 29 Oct \$1,115

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Lukesland Gardens



The Grand Etang National Park

Grenada Flower Festival

11 DAYS from \$4,265 | ACTIVITY RATING

JOINING POINT: Grenada

Lying at the southern end of the Lesser Antilles, Grenada offers a typical slice of Caribbean life. With a lush, mountainous interior and a coastline fringed with silky-smooth beaches, it is home to some wonderful privately owned gardens, which we have threaded together alongside the wonderful Grenada Flower Festival. We certainly see why Grenada won its 18th gold medal at the 2025 Chelsea Flower Show!

Day 1 On arrival, we transfer to our hotel.

Day 2 This morning, we depart for a scenic drive to **Gem Rose Eden** to meet the owner, **Laura Herb** and **Spice Garden** and the gardens of **The Tower** to learn about the scented plants used for making perfumes.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 We drive along the picturesque west coast to **Mount Edgecombe Estate**, followed by **Belmont Estate**, where we enjoy lunch. Later this afternoon, we visit the historic **River Antoine Rum Distillery**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4 We spend the day immersing ourselves in the sights and fragrances of the **Grenada Flower Festival**.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 Today is spent at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 We begin with a relaxed Grenadian breakfast at **Smithy's Garden** and are joined by the owner, Anne, for a tour. Our next stop is **Cocodee Natural Farm and Garden**.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 Today's highlights include **Villa B Garden** and **Palm Tree Gardens**, a botanical gem with two acres of stunning gardens.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8 The day is left free to explore independently. Alternatively, you can join an optional half-day cruise aboard a catamaran or a traditional wooden sloop.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9 After breakfast, we revisit the **Grand Etang Rainforest** where we are joined by **Dr Guido Marcelle**, an island plant expert, to look for native flora and fauna. We then visit **Annandale Waterfall** and enjoy a relaxing drink before returning to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10 We have the opportunity to visit three hotel gardens today before enjoying a farewell dinner together later.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 11 Following breakfast, we have some free time to do some last-minute shopping or relaxing before we transfer to the airport and our tour concludes.

Meals: Breakfast

Key Highlights

- A full day enjoying the Grenada Flower Festival
- A visit to Gem Rose Garden with meet and greet with the owner, Gemma Flemming
- Breakfast on the veranda and tour at Smithy's Garden with the owner, Anne
- Grand Etang Rainforest with Dr Guido Marcelle, an island plant expert
- River Antoine Rum Distillery, which has been making rum since 1785

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES

- ▶ Ten nights at the True Blue, Grenada (or similar) with breakfast
- ▶ One dinner & one lunch
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

4 - 14 Nov \$4,265

Single Supplement \$555



Antillean Crested Hummingbird

GARDENS


brightwater
tailor-made group travel



Eilean Donan Castle



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