



brightwater
holidays

SPECIAL OFFERS

LOW DEPOSIT

£50

SAVE UP TO

£200

FREE TRANSFERS OR CANCELLATIONS

**SCENIC SCOTLAND, GARDENS
& ARCHAEOLOGY**

2021 HOLIDAYS 2nd Edition

Prices from £455pp



A NEW START

Well, where to begin. No one could have predicted what 2020 had in store for us and we are glad to finally see the back of it. Whether or not you managed to enjoy a holiday, we imagine you're very much looking forward to a brighter 2021 – a year that we hope will be filled with opportunities to travel to make the most of our wonderful world once again.

With this in mind, we're delighted to present you with our 2nd edition brochure for 2021, which includes a few treats such as special offers, a selection of new holidays and departures to look ahead to in 2022. But first, we want to tell you about our precautionary measures that will help you travel safely and with confidence over the coming months. We have our industry-leading 11-step action plan, which will be in place for every holiday that we operate, and we can also now offer optional insurance with specific cover for COVID-19. Find out more about these initiatives on pages 6 and 7.

Next, we are excited to share two rescheduled holiday experiences with you – the once-in-a-decade Oberammergau Passion Play and the annual Up Helly Aa fire festival of Shetland, both of which were cancelled in 2020 and 2021 respectively due to the pandemic. Both events will now take place in 2022 and we have memorable itineraries on offer that can take you there.

If you would like to make future travel plans, we have another great holiday on the horizon for 2022 that will take you to the amazing Floriade in the Netherlands. The theme for the 2022 iteration will be 'Green City of the Future' and the holiday also includes a chance to wander around a range of the best gardens that Holland has to offer. As you can see, we have a selection of 2022 departures already available, so you can start making plans! After all, wouldn't it be lovely to have something to look forward to?

All that's left to say is we hope the year ahead is fulfilling, memorable and one that we can help make more enjoyable with a holiday or two.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson

Managing Director



How to book

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

Give our friendly sales team a call, Monday to Friday between 9am and 6pm, on **01334 237 046**. Alternatively, send us an email at **info@brightwaterholidays.com**

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

Finally, if you have any questions, do feel free to get in touch with our customer care team on **01334 845530**.

Happy browsing, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Full financial protection

All our holidays are fully bonded and protected. The air holiday packages in this brochure are ATOL Protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 4498. ATOL protection does not apply to all holiday and travel services in this brochure. Holidays without flights are protected by ABTOT. This means that in the unlikely event of our insolvency, your holiday would be completed or refunded.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR FANTASTIC

OFFERS

£50

LOW DEPOSIT*

Book in January 2021 and secure your place for just £50 per person.

£200

PAY IN FULL DISCOUNT

Pay in full when you book and you could save up to £200 per person. Valid for bookings 1-31 January 2021 and tour departures from 1 June 2021.

FREE TRANSFERS OR CANCELLATIONS

In these uncertain times, if you change your mind about travelling, you can transfer to a future tour or cancel without penalty up to eight weeks prior to departure. Valid for 2021 bookings only.



Terms and conditions apply (see website for details). *Low deposits are available on tours if paid by 31 January 2021 with the difference between the low deposit and the standard deposit payable by 28 February 2021.



KEEPING YOU SAFE

A NEW WORLD OF TRAVEL IN THE COVID-19 ERA

Last year was difficult for us all, and also disappointing for those with travel plans disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our guests have a passion for travel and a desire to appreciate the historic treasures of the world, and they are reluctant to postpone holiday plans indefinitely. But, naturally, many of us are concerned about travelling in the time of COVID-19, and we share these concerns. Whilst the risk of contracting COVID-19 on your travels cannot be eliminated entirely, here at Brightwater Holidays we have introduced an industry-leading series of actions designed to minimise that exposure as far as possible for your peace of mind.

FREE 'Travel Safe' kits for every traveller

Other measures detailed on these pages try to allow for a measure of social distancing, but there will be moments on every tour where it is impossible to maintain the required distance from other people, including your fellow travellers. In those circumstances, the wearing of face masks and regular sanitisation of hands and surfaces reduces the risk of transmission considerably. Our kits, packed in a fully sanitised environment, comprise a face mask for every day of your tour (including travel days), flight-friendly bottles of hand sanitiser and packs of anti-bacterial wipes. Every one of our guests will receive a 'Travel Safe' kit prior to departure.



Enhanced health and safety audits

We have always, in partnership with two globally renowned organisations, applied rigorous health and safety checks to our hotels, airlines, cruise ships, coaches, excursion transport and any other significant aspect of a Brightwater holiday. However, we are now going even further by requiring that these services pass COVID-19 hygiene and cleanliness tests as part of our extensive health and safety protocols.

Insurance with COVID-19 cover

Perhaps unsurprisingly, many travel insurance providers are excluding COVID-19 from their cover. However, we have sourced a provider offering coverage in the event that you fall ill on your holiday as a result of COVID-19 and need to return home, in addition to standard coverage. More details may be found on our website. If you have independently arranged insurance, please check its COVID-19 terms.



Distanced seating on coaches

The overwhelming majority of Brightwater Holidays trips do not exceed 25 guests, but we will be securing full-sized coaches wherever possible, so that everyone has the option of two seats to themselves. That preserves the required distance across the coach, but as there may be guests both in front and behind you, we recommend that masks from your 'Travel Safe' kit are worn throughout all coach journeys.

Self-drive options

We are in the process of arranging self-drive options on UK and selected European itineraries for those who wish to maintain complete social distancing during travel. Choose to simply follow the coach or follow a pre-supplied map in your own car, or a hire vehicle and join the rest of the group at attractions and hotels.

'Get me home' service and private airport transfers

In the unlikely event that you are denied entry to your destination as a result of airport temperature checks, or you are forced to curtail your trip as a result of COVID-19 symptoms, you may wish to avoid public transport on journeys to and from your holiday. We can arrange a private transfer service to take you or from to your front door. This private home transfer service is also available to book if you simply wish to ensure social distancing on your way to and from the airport or departure points. There will be an additional cost for this service, but it is competitively priced.

Packed lunches and flexible dining options

Where possible and relevant, we will be providing packed lunches (prepared in an enhanced hygiene environment) in place of communal dining. We are also looking to offer opportunities to opt out of communal dining on selected itineraries, so you can better control your social distancing at meal times by dining independently, if you prefer. There may be a reduction in price for choosing to do this, but it will depend on the arrangements we have with our suppliers

and the number of people opting out. Let us know if you would like to opt out of meals at the time of booking and, if applicable, a deduction will be applied when your holiday balance becomes payable.

Flexible balance payment date and COVID-friendly refund conditions

If there are signs of COVID-19 in the area you are due to visit, we will contact you with a change to your balance due date. To give us more time to assess whether it is possible to run your tour, we can postpone the payment of your balance from 10 weeks before departure to six weeks. Furthermore, if you are forced to cancel your holiday close to departure as a result of COVID-19 symptoms and you are not able to claim through your insurance provider, we pledge to be as flexible as possible in our cancellation costs – instead of the industry-standard 100% cancellation fee, we would negotiate with our suppliers and charge only the costs that we could not recover ourselves.

Testing and medical training for tour staff

When reliable 'on demand' testing becomes available, it is our intention to test tour managers, guides and any other tour staff within 72 hours of departure. We are also enhancing the medical training that our tour managers receive to include COVID-19 specific knowledge and actions.

Constant monitoring and post-tour tracing

Dedicated Brightwater Holidays staff produce daily reports on the COVID-19 situation in every one of our destinations, along with any regulations or restrictions specific to airlines, attractions and local authorities. We can therefore provide you with the most useful and up-to-date advice, and plan contingencies in the event of staff or guest symptoms as well as the closing of a hotel, restaurant or other venue. In the event of a localised outbreak, we will be able to change our itinerary and arrangements swiftly to avoid possible exposure. We will also be in touch with you upon your return if you show any symptoms and need to self isolate, we can let all your fellow travellers know, so that they can do the same.

COVID-19 protocols at our hotels and aboard our cruise ships

We are working with every single one of our hotel and cruise suppliers to ensure minimal COVID-19 transmission risks. We expect the very highest standards of food hygiene, gloved and masked staff, and lower-floor rooms where possible to minimise lift usage. To give a few examples on the cruise side, our river cruise partners have already implemented numerous measures including the following (full details may be found at brightwaterholidays.com):

A-ROSA CRUISES

- Infrared temperature screening upon boarding
- Adhering to relevant distances on board through 'one-way streets', floor markings, increased seating space etc
- All crew and guests required to wear face masks in interior public areas
- New air refreshment and filtration system for guest rooms
- Mandatory hand sanitising on embarkation/disembarkation and at all entrances/exits
- No self-service food – two set sittings for meals and all food and beverages to be brought by staff
- Guest luggage disinfection and enhanced hygiene measures for guest room cleaning

CROISI-EUROPE CRUISES

- Infrared temperature screening upon boarding
- Adhering to relevant distances on board indicated by floor markings and directions, with furniture in public areas arranged accordingly
- Reserved seating, two sittings for meals and lunch and dinner buffets replaced by table service
- Hand sanitisers available at every entrance/exit
- Daily spraying of disinfectant and multiple daily cleaning of 'high touch' areas
- High temperature laundry of bedding, uniforms and tableware
- Social distancing on excursions and provision of masks, gloves and gel

BACKWATERS CRUISES

- Pre-cruise screening and daily temperature checks for guests
- Adhering to relevant distances on board in guest seating and food and bar service
- All food preparation staff to wear face masks at all times
- Anti-viral fumigation pre- and post-cruise
- Regular inspections and increased cleaning of all lounge, galley and bathroom areas
- Face masks for guests in public areas, on coaches etc
- Cruise curtailment contingency plans in the event of a positive COVID-19 test



If you would like to discuss any of this information further, please don't hesitate to give us a call: **01334 208224**

WHY CHOOSE BRIGHTWATER?



Having been based in picturesque Cupar – Fife's small county town – for over 25 years now, we've seen our fair share of glorious gardens and ancient sites. The team here at Brightwater really understands the restorative power of nature and feelings of awe that wandering around an archaeological treasure trove or a stunning garden can inspire, and we have designed our tours with these factors in mind. What's more, we've been going back to the same locations for so long that our relationships with the gardeners and staff allow us to treat our holiday guests to special access.

“

Best tour guide I've ever had on any holiday - his knowledge of places, wildlife and history was very extensive.

Guest 2019, Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

”

From start to finish, you'll be looked after with the award-winning Brightwater Holidays. Travelling aboard our comfortable coaches in the company of people who share your interest - whether it's for gardens, the Scottish islands or fascinating archaeology - we will take you to fabulous sites in all corners of the world. Our friendly tour managers are on hand to ensure that your every need is met, our itineraries have been designed by an incredibly experienced team and at all times we put you, the guest, first.

What makes our tours special?

- » We have over 25 years of experience and knowledge
- » Unique and innovative holidays
- » Exclusive access to private gardens
- » No hidden extras
- » Well-planned itineraries that are also perfectly paced
- » Friendly and authoritative tour managers
- » Professionally recognised partnerships
- » Welcoming and friendly service from first contact
- » You can enjoy peace of mind with financial protection



Departure points

UK garden tours generally depart from London, with additional pick-ups depending on the route of the coach. Tours in Scotland depart from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dunfermline, Kinross and Perth, with Dundee, Inverness and Aberdeen sometimes added. All Eurostar tours depart from London St. Pancras. Flight-inclusive tours depart from one or more of the main London airports, with regional flights often available at a supplement.



Connecting travel

UK regional airports offer a wide range of domestic flights with low-cost airlines to the main airports, while the national rail network offers frequent nationwide services, so do ask us to quote for connecting travel. Why not treat yourself to a first-class upgrade or enjoy the comfort of an airport lounge? We can also organise airport parking, fast-track security clearance or priority boarding where available.



What we include

Our programme includes a host of tried and tested favourites, a handful of holidays making a welcome return and a peppering of brand new tours to capture the imagination. As always, we try and give our guests a wealth of experiences. Whether it's special access to gardens, behind the scenes tours, private tours of historic houses – you can do it all with us. All our tours now include portage (where available), taking the weight off your mind.



Personalise your holiday

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



Room and cabin upgrades

Whether you want to treat yourself to a sea view, a junior suite or an upper deck cabin, just let us know and we'll do the rest.



Rail/air connections

Rail or air travel connections to get you to one of our pick-up points can be arranged along with airport parking, if required, for a supplement.



Extra nights either side

Overnight accommodation in or near our pick-up points, including airports, is available at a supplement.



Extend pre- or post-tour

If you want to explore more of what your destination has to offer, why not extend your trip with an extra week and later flights, for example.

British Travel Awards Winners 2018 and 2019



In November 2019, we were absolutely delighted to learn that Brightwater Holidays had won two prizes at the prestigious British Travel Awards. We brought home a gold prize for Best Coach Holiday Company and we also won silver for Best Special Interest Holiday Company.

This is the second year running we've enjoyed success at the BTAs, and in 2018 we brought home prizes in the very same categories. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everybody who took the time to vote for us, and we can't wait to make more of your holiday dreams come true in 2021.



- » Experience a Brightwater Holidays break on your own terms with this new travel style
- » Three different options available to ensure you get the most out of your independent holiday, depending upon your preference
- » Just browse our full programme of holidays and choose the one that interests you
- » Pack your bags for a memorable holiday!

INDEPENDENT & SELF-DRIVE TRAVEL

If you're looking for more flexibility, independence and the chance to maintain social distancing as part of your holidays from now on, we are delighted to share that all our tours can be run as Independent or Self-Drive Holidays, to help get you on your way. Following the unpredictable events of 2020, we sat down and thought about travel and how our holidays might be impacted by the pandemic. The option to explore the world independently is something we believe will be appreciated by many, which is why we decided to ensure that our programme of holidays can be enjoyed outside of our usual group setting.

More control over your holiday experience

There are three options for guests who choose this holiday type, which we hope will help you enjoy a well-deserved break with confidence in this new era of travel.

Firstly, you could opt to join a set departure and drive behind the coach yourself, rejoining the rest of the group at the visits and then again at overnight accommodation. This way, you would still get to enjoy part of the group holiday experience, while keeping more of a distance from the rest of your fellow travellers.

Alternatively, why not select any of our UK itineraries to enjoy at your own pace in your own transport, choosing a departure date that suits you outside of the usual group setting. We can also provide car-hire quotes if required. This option would be ideal for anyone who wants an expertly planned itinerary without the group aspect of an escorted tour – you can enjoy our holidays entirely on your own, at your own pace.

Finally, if you would prefer a touch of exclusivity, we can offer you a driver or tour guide – or both – as part of a fully inclusive package, so that you can indulge in a truly personal service on any of the itineraries featured. Select this option if you're looking for a real treat!

If you have any specific questions about our independent and self-drive holidays, please do just get in touch. Our team is always ready to help you find the holiday of your dreams.



Loch Lomond

3 DAYS FROM
£140

LOCH LOMOND SELF-DRIVE

The destination is the Trossachs and the hotel is the Winnock Hotel in Drymen. The rugged hills and tranquil lochs of the Trossachs have been attracting visitors for generations, yet only lie within a short drive of the major cities. The West Highland Way runs through here, without doubt a walkers' paradise, and there are also plenty of opportunities for cycling, boating, fishing and golf. If you simply want to relax, the hotel would be the perfect place for it.



Port Ellen

4 DAYS FROM
£495

ISLAY SELF-DRIVE

Travel independently to Kintyre in Western Argyll, just in time to catch the afternoon ferry from Kennacraig to Port Askaig on the island of Islay, where this holiday is based. Recommended visits include Loch Finlaggan, the pretty village of Port Charlotte, the Museum of Islay Life, and the neighbouring island of Jura. You could also explore the nearby isle of Colonsay, which is home to Colonsay House and the beautiful Kiloran Bay.

JUST ANNOUNCED FOR
2021



Gearrannan Blackhouses

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

The Outer Hebrides is a magical part of Scotland and one that we know incredibly well. This destination's amazing landscapes, history and archaeology never fail to astound, which is why we decided to create this 'new and improved' version of a previous tour in order to showcase its many treasures to guests.

The Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides will be led by local archaeologist Carol Knott, who has worked as a field archaeologist in the Western Isles of Scotland since 1989 and once served as an archaeologist for St Kilda for the National Trust for Scotland. She also guides specialist tours and lectures on history and archaeology.

In about 1800 BC, around the time that the Middle Kingdom of ancient Egypt was flourishing, an equally vigorous civilisation was leaving its mark on the islands of the Outer Hebrides. The Standing Stones at Callanish, tall and slender slabs of silvery Lewisian gneiss, are the enduring testament to the skill and knowledge of a long-vanished and mysterious community, who laid out these stones according to precise astronomical observations, lining up the main avenue with the point at which the full moon of midsummer sets. Later settlers left their mark too, and the tranquil islands of Lewis and Harris are blessed with an abundance of remains. Neolithic cairns, Bronze Age standing stones, Iron Age houses, Norse mills and Blackhouses from a couple of centuries ago – these islands are a living timeline and a paradise for the amateur archaeologist.



Clach Mhic Leoid



Stirling Castle

Christmas in Stirling

Join us on this charming four-day break that will see you enjoy a stay at the wonderful 4-star Stirling Highland Hotel. Set within a former school, this Victorian building boasts its own rooftop observatory, an extensive spa and fitness suite, a 17-metre indoor heated pool, and an interior that's bound to have you relaxing the moment you arrive. Along with the inimitable Scottish hospitality you'll be treated to here, this festive break includes time to explore the historic city of Stirling at leisure, a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings and even a scenic tour of the Trossachs. During your time in Stirling itself, why not pay a visit to its impressive castle (entrance not included) or do a spot of last-minute shopping? On your journey through the Trossachs, you will travel via Aberfoyle and the Duke's Pass; lochs Katrine and Venacher; and Callander and Dunblane, where you will see the gold letterbox that commemorates Sir Andy Murray's Olympic success. What's more, your time spent at the hotel will also be memorable, with mulled wine and mince pies, festive entertainment and delicious dinners to help you make the most of Christmas in Stirling.



Hogmanay

A Scottish Hogmanay

If you're after an authentic Hogmanay experience, look no further than a festive stay in Scotland's 'Queen of the South' – Dumfries. From the minute you arrive at the 4-star Woodland House Hotel, your holiday begins. This Grade B-listed Georgian mansion with its traditional yet relaxed surroundings is the perfect place from which to enjoy a Scottish New Year's experience. On New Year's Eve itself, we'll treat you to a glass of fizz and a four-course dinner, with musical entertainment provided by a fantastic local band. Then, the new year is welcomed in by a kilted piper – what a celebration! However, you won't spend all four days at the hotel on this trip. There will be a scenic coach tour of Dumfries and Galloway and a chance to journey along part of Hadrian's Wall across the border in England – an excursion that includes a stop at Walltown Crags, one of the most spectacular sections of this landscape.

JUST ANNOUNCED for 2022

Up Helly Aa

Experience Up Helly Aa, the annual winter festival of Shetland, which celebrates the lengthening of the days and the coming of another year, not to mention the chance of a good old knees-up. Cancelled in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic, this exciting annual event is due to resume in 2022 and we can take you there. It's run by Shetlanders for Shetlanders, but that's not to say visitors aren't welcome and the island hospitality will be as warm as ever.

A wander through the streets of Lerwick is normally a quiet and peaceful experience, but take a walk around there at the end of January and it's quite likely that you will bump into a squad of very large, very bearded Vikings, resplendent in gleaming chain-mail and winged helmets.

Later, the Vikings and their fancy-dressed followers fill the narrow streets, their flaming torches illuminating the dark winter skies and their boisterous songs filling the air. A 30-foot Viking longship is carried aloft before it is ceremoniously set alight with a thousand blazing brands. As the sky over Lerwick shimmers with heat and light, fireworks explode, brass bands play and the gloom of winter is lifted for another year.



However, this holiday doesn't just put you at the heart of the festivities. During our stay, we will take in the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof to the south, and tour as far as the islands of Yell and Unst to the north.

On the day of Up Helly Aa itself, there will be free time to enjoy the various events in Lerwick, culminating in the torchlight procession and boat burning ceremony in the evening, the highlight of an unusual and uplifting winter break.

Floriade

An international garden and exhibition festival that takes place once every 10 years in the Netherlands, Floriade is a horticultural highlight that is not to be missed. The theme for the 2022 iteration will be 'Green City of the Future'. You'll be able to enjoy a range of innovative exhibitions from cities, countries and businesses alike, and wander among unique collections of trees and flowers that support the motif. During the 2022 Expo, Almere – the event's host city – will share its vision and philosophy on the 'green city', a topic on everyone's lips. There will be workshops and conventions to attend and explore, and there will be four themes to discover at the event: food, energy, health and green. In addition, the 2022 Floriade will see a 'Green City Arboretum' at the heart of the impressive 60-acre site. We will also be taking you to a selection of gardens in the region. So, not only will you get to experience this Dutch horticultural event in full, you will also get to wander around the best gardens that Holland has to offer.



Oberammergau

The legendary Passion Play created from the desperation of a deadly plague saw its almost 400-year history disrupted by a modern-day pandemic, but it will return in 2022 and we have now launched a series of exciting holidays that can take you to experience it.

Germany's Oberammergau Passion Play was first staged in 1634, a year after citizens of the charming Bavarian village by the same name made a desperate plea to God that if no more lives were taken by the deadly plague, they would perform a play depicting Christ's life, suffering, death and resurrection once every ten years as a way of showing their eternal gratitude. The villagers kept their promise and throughout its almost 400-year history, the Passion Play has only seen a few incidents where it had to be postponed or cancelled – with the most recent being 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

So, why not experience living history by attending the rescheduled Passion Play? We have two Oberammergau holidays on offer and the highlights of each reflect the beauty, culture and heritage of the areas visited.

The first is our Oberammergau & Lake Constance holiday, which at six days in duration will take you from the grounds of Ludwig's fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein to the stunning flower island of Insel Mainau. What better way to reach the island, which lies roughly two-thirds of the way up the lake from Bregenz, than by boat, on a leisurely cruise that calls in at various ports along the way? Elsewhere, this holiday will visit Meersburg New Palace, the picturesque former residence of the prince-bishops of Constance; the Salem Monastery and Palace, one of the most beautiful and culturally important sites in the Lake Constance region; and the UNESCO-listed Pilgrimage Church of Wies.

Then, we have our six-day Oberammergau & Austrian Tyrol holiday. We begin in Salzburg where you can choose between a Mozart or *The Sound of Music*-themed day tour, before we transfer to the beautiful Ziller valley in the mountainous Tyrol region. Here, we hop aboard the narrow-gauge Zillertal Steam Railway for a journey through breathtaking scenery to the chic ski resort of Mayrhofen and take a cable car to a mountain-top restaurant for lunch; pay a visit to the Tyrolean capital of Innsbruck with its Golden Roof palace, Triumphal Arch and Cathedral, and finally tour historic Tratzberg Castle.

Both tours include Category 2 tickets for the epic two-act Passion Play, with dinner and drinks served in the intermission.



Since its inception over 25 years ago, Brightwater Holidays has provided tailor-made travel arrangements for many private groups and societies, with a dedicated Group Travel department providing a highly personal service. The itineraries and packages have been as varied as the groups themselves, ranging from a short city break to an extended tour of South Africa.

Typically, tours include all transportation, accommodation and entry costs, visiting gardens, stately homes, art galleries and other specialist attractions depending on the group's individual requirements.

On most occasions, we also provide an experienced Tour Manager, who will ensure the smooth running of the holiday, leaving the group organisers free to relax and enjoy themselves.

We aim to understand fully the requirements of your group, so if you are a group travel organiser or a group of friends and would like some advice or a quotation for a tour, please contact our Private Groups Manager, Jenni Duncan, who would be delighted to help tailor a package for you.

Remember it's your tour, and we will try and supply the perfect holiday to match your requirements and budget.



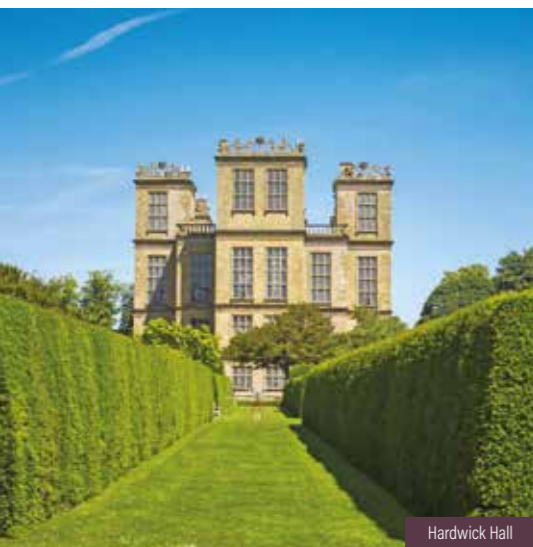
Our friendly and highly experienced tailor-made Private Groups Manager, **Jenni Duncan**, has been with Brightwater for over 20 years.

During that time she has worked in every department of the company so knows the business inside out, and having travelled extensively has a wide ranging knowledge of destinations and tour ideas.

No challenge is too daunting for Jenni and with a host of contacts to call upon, she will always produce fully costed and attractively presented proposals. With her pleasant manner and patient approach she is very easy to work with and the large number of repeat customers we have is testament to that.

“
The gardens were beautiful
and our guide was
absolutely excellent.
”

“
I found the Brightwater
office service excellent
as usual.
”



Hardwick Hall



Senso-ji Temple



Valletta



Bantry House

What Brightwater can do for you

» Group Size

A small group of friends, a club of 50, or anything in between — no matter the number, we'll find the visits and hotels that offer the perfect fit.

» Transport

Plane, train or coach — how will you get to your destination? We figure out the cost and itinerary implications so you can make an informed choice.

» Room & Board

5* luxury accommodation and pre dinner drinks or comfortable hotels and independent meals? You decide on the particulars, and we'll factor it all into your total price.

» Tour Destination

Let us know where you'd like to go, and for how many days, and we'll do the rest. Multi-centre trip around Scotland or three-week break to New Zealand — whatever you have in mind, we can make it happen.

» All Inclusive

All site and garden visits included, or a pick-and-mix of optional excursions — just how much you'd like to cover in the cost of your tour is up to you.

Get in touch and get started

Our friendly and highly experienced tailor-made Private Groups Manager, **Jenni Duncan**, would be delighted to hear from you. Give her a call on **01334 208 164**, or send an email to **groups@brightwaterholidays.com** to get things started.

If you would like some inspiration, have a look at our website **www.brightwaterholidays.com**

No matter what stage of planning you're at, our team will be able to work with you every step of the way.

Popular group itineraries



Floriade

Floriade 2022

On a purpose-built site close to the vibrant city of Amsterdam, Floriade is bound to be one of the horticultural high points of 2022 — and, if the previous event in 2012 is anything to go by, a very popular destination for private groups, too.



Cardiff's Bute Park

South Wales

The beautiful valleys of South Wales offer a host of interesting visits, ranging from gardens and historic houses to outdoor museums and scenic coastlines. As such, it is the ideal destination for private groups of all interests.



North York Moors National Park

Yorkshire

Yorkshire lies within easy reach of both Scotland and the south of England and also offers a wide range of attractions. Take a nostalgic train ride across the North Yorkshire Moors, enjoy the splendours of Castle Howard or explore historic York.



Coastal Scotland

Orkney and Shetland

Best experienced in the long days of the summer months, the archipelagos of Orkney and Shetland offer a unique experience unlike anywhere else in the British Isles. The archaeology is world-class and the views are simply breathtaking.



Lanhydrock

Devon and Cornwall

Whether it's for gardens or historic houses, literary connections or delicious cream teas, the adjoining counties of Devon and Cornwall are hard to beat. Spring comes earlier and summer lasts longer here, providing plenty of travel opportunities.



Blarney Castle

Irish Rover

Our north to south tour of the island of Ireland's beguiling gardens and lush, green pastures has been very successful over the years. With ferry travel as an alternative to flying, we have also arranged tours to other popular areas such as Kerry and Donegal.

INDEPENDENT AND SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAYS

We are very happy to prepare tailor-made packages for individuals, couples or families who may prefer to travel independently. You can travel wherever, whenever and however you want. The following are examples of four typical itineraries, but the possibilities are as endless as your imagination...

ORKNEY & SHETLAND

The Northern Isles of Orkney & Shetland are perfectly suited to a self-drive holiday as the roads are generally of good quality – particularly in oil rich Shetland – and are very quiet and uncrowded. There is also a plethora of attractions and scenic viewpoints, so you don't have to travel far before it's time to stop and have another wander round an ancient monument or get the camera out and capture another amazing vista. Jarlshof, Skara Brae and Maeshowe are among the outstanding sights.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Drive to Aberdeen in time for the overnight sailing to Lerwick.

Day 2 Begin your exploration of Shetland, perhaps with a visit to the remote islands of Yell and Unst, about as far north as you can drive in the British Isles, before driving to your hotel in Lerwick.

Day 3 You may wish to visit the little island of Mousa with its outstanding example of a 2,000-year-old broch or explore your host town of Lerwick.

Day 4 After visits to Scalloway, Sumburgh Head and the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof, take the evening sailing from Lerwick to Kirkwall and drive on to your harbour-side hotel.

Day 5 Explore Neolithic Orkney today with visits to Maeshowe, Skara Brae and also the great stone circles of Brodgar and Stenness.

Day 6 Suggested visits today include the Italian Chapel, Churchill Barriers and St. Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall.



Skara Brae

Day 7 Take a ferry to one of the outer islands such as Hoy, where you can visit the Scapa Flow exhibition, the Napoleonic Martello Tower or perhaps the poignant war cemetery.

Day 8 Take a ferry to the island of Westray or a flight to North Ronaldsay, both ideal locations for birdwatching. In the evening, take the overnight ferry back to Aberdeen.

Day 9 Today you will return home.

9 DAYS FROM
£1095

THE OUTER HEBRIDES

The roads here in the Outer Hebrides can be a little narrower, but for spectacular scenery there is nowhere quite like it in Britain, as the drive over the mountains of Harris to Stornoway will testify. Just as in the Northern Isles, the Western Isles offer a succession of jaw-dropping panoramas and fascinating historical sites, from the endless, empty beaches of blinding white sand on the Uists to Kisimul Castle and the mysterious standing stones of Callanish. The Gaelic-speaking culture adds another layer of interest here.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Drive to Skye and cross this most scenic of islands to Uig, for the ferry to Lochmaddy in North Uist, with dinner available on board (not included). On arrival, continue over the causeways that link the islands to Benbecula and the Dark Island Hotel, your base for the next two nights.

Day 2 Take the ferry from Eriskay to Barra and tour the island. Suggested visits include Kisimul Castle, the neighbouring island of Vatersay and the unique airport at Cockleshell Beach.

Day 3 Take the morning ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh on Harris and after a visit to St Clement's Church at Rodel, drive over a spectacular mountain pass and on to Stornoway, where you will spend the next three nights.

Day 4 Spend the day touring the west side of Lewis, whose attractions include the 5,000-year-old standing stones at Callanish, the Black Houses at Gearrannan and the recreation of a Norse Mill at Shawbost.



Callanish Stones

Day 5 Further suggested visits in Lewis today include Lews Castle and Museum, home to the famous Lewis Chessmen; St Columba's Ui Church, one of the most important archaeological sites on Lewis; and the Butt of Lewis, where a unique Stevenson lighthouse stands sentinel.

Day 6 Return to the mainland on the ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool and return to your starting point via the central Highlands.

6 DAYS FROM
£695

LOCH LOMOND

The rugged hills and tranquil lochs of the Trossachs have been attracting visitors for generations, yet only lie within a short drive of the major Scottish cities. The West Highland Way runs through here, a walkers' paradise, and there are also opportunities for cycling, boating, fishing and golf. If you simply want to relax, the hotel is the perfect place for it, offering the highest standards of comfort and cuisine, set in a pretty conservation village.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Travel independently to the Winnock Hotel in Drymen, a former coaching inn which dates back to the late 1700s. It has been lovingly restored and tastefully extended to its present day form. This evening, why not relax in one of the many cosy lounges by the open log fire?

Day 2 The day is yours to explore the surrounding area. Walkers may wish to follow part of the West Highland Way, which runs along the eastern bank of nearby Loch Lomond. For a more leisurely

pastime, take a boat trip on Loch Lomond or Loch Katrine. Other attractions include Charles Rennie Mackintosh's masterpiece Hill House in Helensburgh; Ardkinglas Woodland Garden on the shores of Loch Fyne and, on the other side of the loch, the magnificent Inveraray Castle.

Day 3 Check out of the hotel and depart for home or for further visits in the area, such as the Lomond Shores retail outlet. **Longer stays are available on request.**



Loch Lomond



Winnock Hotel

3 DAYS FROM
£140

MAGICAL ISLAY

Islay lies as far south as Glasgow yet offers a true taste of the Hebrides and the joys of island life. It is perhaps most famous for its whisky, with no fewer than nine distilleries and aficionados of the 'water of life' will be in heaven here. Other attractions include deserted sandy beaches, interesting museums and historical sites, along with birdwatching, golf and angling. The neighbouring islands of Jura and Colonsay offer further opportunities to enjoy the simple pleasure of a ferry journey as well as a glimpse of remote island magic.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Travel independently to Kintyre in western Argyll, in time to catch the afternoon ferry from Kennacraig to Port Askaig, Islay. The ferry journey takes just over two hours with splendid views of Gigha and Jura as you go. On arrival on the isle of Islay, transfer (a very short distance) to your comfortable accommodation at the Port Askaig Hotel, which is in a superb location overlooking the harbour. Dinner is served in the evening.

Day 2 The day is yours to explore at leisure. Recommended visits include Loch Finlaggan, which was once the centre of the 'Lordship of the Isles'; the picturesque village of Port Charlotte and the Museum of Islay Life.

Day 3 Today, you may wish to travel to the nearby island of Colonsay. A pleasant sailing of just over an hour takes you north to this tranquil little island, which, with just over a hundred permanent residents, is one of the most remote communities in Britain.

Alternatively, you could visit another neighbouring island – Jura, which has a record of habitation stretching back over 5,000 years and remains a sparsely populated and rather mysterious island, dominated by three mountains known as the 'Paps of Jura'.

Day 4 Check out of your hotel and catch the ferry from Port Askaig or Port Ellen to Kennacraig on the mainland, after which you are free to continue your onward journey.



Port Ellen, Islay



Port Askaig Hotel

4 DAYS FROM
£495

Please note: these are sample itineraries, hotels and prices only - all tours are tailored to your exact requirements.

A GRAND TOUR OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES

6 DAY

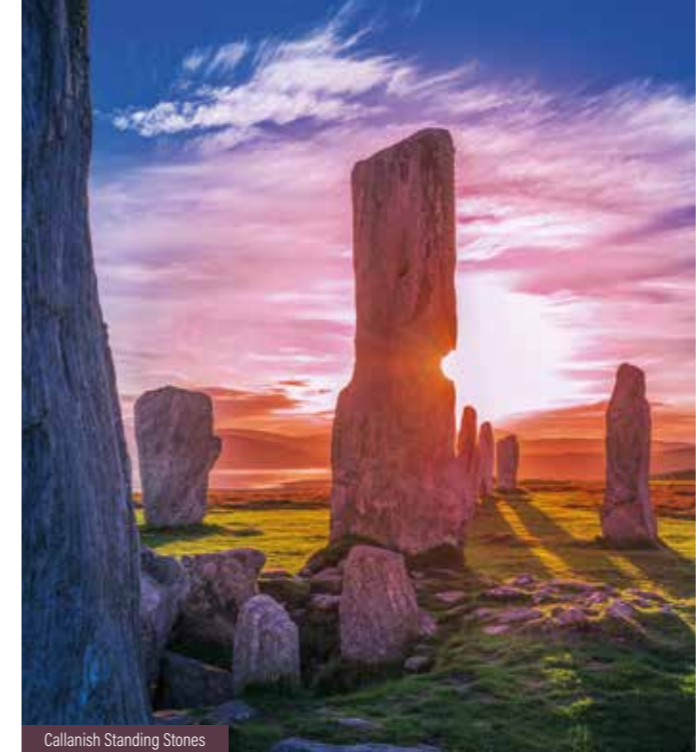
6 DAYS FROM
£995



Eriskay Harbour © Graham Addison

Our extended tour of the Hebrides has proved extremely popular, offering as it does a unique opportunity to travel the length and breadth of the Western Isles. Our Grand Tour takes in all the beauty and diversity of this very special environment with 10 different islands and four ferry trips included. Two comfortable hotels ensure that this holiday is as relaxing as possible, while at the same time offering great variety.

We take the ferry from Mallaig to Lochboisdale in South Uist and continue to our hotel in Benbecula. We visit the islands of Eriskay; Vatersay with its fantastic sandy beaches and Barra, where visits include Kisimul Castle and Cockleshell Beach, with the latter being used as the island's airport. A captivating journey follows as we travel north by ferry from North Uist and on through the magnificent mountain scenery of Harris and the rolling moorland of Lewis to Stornoway. We continue with visits to the remarkable Standing Stones of Callanish, the tranquil little Norse Mill at Shawbost and the distinctive Black Houses at Garrannan. Our return route takes us by ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool.



Callanish Standing Stones



Lewis Castle

SCOTLAND

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head to Mallaig, stopping en route for refreshments. We catch a ferry to **Lochboisdale** in South Uist and enjoy dinner on board. Upon arrival, we continue over causeways until we arrive in Benbecula. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast we head for Barra, travelling via the little island of **Eriskay**. Upon arrival in **Barra**, we enjoy a tour of the island, including a visit by boat to **Kisimul Castle**. Next, we visit **Cockleshell Beach**, the unique airport runway whose use is governed by the tides. Finally, we visit **Vatersay** by the causeway, which links the two islands. In the course of our tour today, we hope to see many species of wildflowers. (B & D)

Day 3 We check out of our hotel and take the ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh, located on the Isle of Harris. Upon arrival, we visit **St. Clement's Church** at Rodel. The tombs here are among the most spectacular in Scotland. Next, we travel along the coast to the rolling moorland of **Lewis**, continuing to our hotel in Stornoway. (B & D)

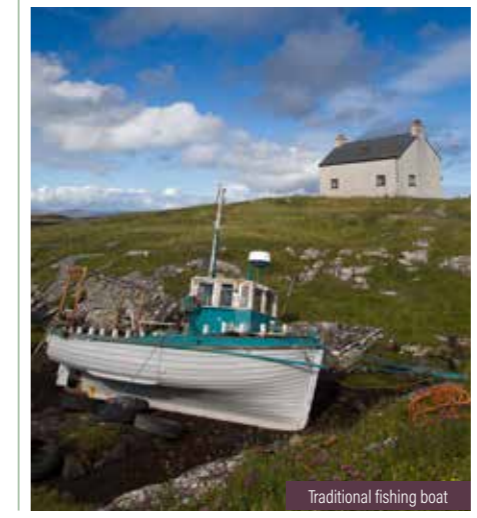
Day 4 This morning after breakfast we travel to the west coast of Lewis for a visit to the 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish**. Undoubtedly the most remarkable antiquity in the Western Isles, this collection of almost 50 stones forms a well-marked megalithic avenue. From here, we move on to the **Black Houses at Garrannan**, typical of the crofting settlements, which, until relatively recently, were found throughout the Western Isles. The final visit on our circular tour is to the **Norse Mill** at Shawbost, a reconstruction of the type of building used by Viking settlers. (B & D)

Day 5 Today we visit **Lewis Castle and Museum**, where we can meet the famous Lewis Chessmen and view the Outer Hebrides as never before in a wrap-around audio-visual presentation. This afternoon we visit **St. Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important archaeological sites on the island. We will also see the **Port of Ness** and the **Butt of Lewis**, home to the unique Stevenson Lighthouse. (B & D)

Day 6 This morning we check out of the hotel and take the early morning ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool (breakfast will be served on board), before continuing to our original pick-up points. (B)

Note: The above itinerary is for the Benbecula to Stornoway departures. Please note this tour also operates in reverse on 9 May, 4 July, 1 August and 5 September, 2 nights in Stornoway and 3 nights in Benbecula, from £995pp.

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



Traditional fishing boat



Butt of Lewis

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

Benbecula - Stornoway	
4 May	from £1075pp
22 June	from £1175pp
24 August	from £1075pp
28 September	from £995pp

Single Supplement **£200**



Callanish, Isle of Lewis



Luskentyre, Harris

A GRAND TOUR OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES 5 DAY

Our shorter version of the Grand Tour begins with a scenic drive via Fort William, Glenfinnan and Mallaig, before taking the ferry to Lochboisdale in South Uist and continuing to our hotel in Benbecula. From here, we visit the islands of Eriskay; Vatersay with its fantastic sandy beaches and Barra, where we include a visit to Cockleshell Beach, which is used as the island's airport. A captivating journey follows as we travel north by ferry from North Uist, on through the magnificent mountain scenery of Harris and the rolling moorland of Lewis to Stornoway, our base for the next two nights. We continue with visits to the remarkable Standing Stones of Callanish, the tranquil little Norse Mill at Shawbost and the distinctive Black Houses at Gearranan. Our return route takes us by ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach from our pick-up points and head for the ferry terminal at Mallaig. We sail to Lochboisdale in South Uist before continuing to our hotel in Benbecula. Dinner is on board the ferry. (D)

Day 2 Today we head for Barra, travelling via the little island of Eriskay. We enjoy a tour of the island before visiting **Cockleshell Beach**, the unique runway whose use is governed by the tides. Finally, we visit **Vatersay**, which was the film location for "Whisky Galore". (B & D)

Day 3 This morning we take the ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh on the Isle of Harris and visit **St. Clement's Church** at Rodel. The tombs here are among the most spectacular in Scotland. We continue along

the coast through the rolling moorland of Lewis to our hotel in Stornoway. (B & D)

Day 4 We have a full day of visits today. First, we gaze upon the **Standing Stones of Callanish**, then we visit the **Black Houses** at Gearranan and the **Norse Mill** at Shawbost. (B & D)

Day 5 We depart this morning on an early ferry to Ullapool, with breakfast served on board. Upon arrival on the mainland, we continue to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

5 DAYS FROM
£695



St. Clement's Church



Luskentyre, Harris

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

6 April	from £725pp
25 May	from £895pp
18 July	from £845pp
21 September	from £845pp
5 October	from £695pp
12 October	from £695pp

Single Supplement **£160**

WALKING IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES

The Outer Hebrides provide some of the best walking to be had in the British Isles, with wide open spaces, deserted beaches and breathtaking vistas at every turn, not to mention the freshest of fresh air and the warmest of Hebridean hospitality.

From our base at the Harris Hotel in Tarbert we will set out upon a series of manageable but highly scenic walks. These include a circular walk to the lighthouse at Scalpay, a leisurely stroll along the much-photographed beach at Luskentyre and a circuit that starts and finishes in Tarbert itself, with stunning coastal views. We also travel north into Lewis, where our walks feature two of the outstanding ancient monuments of the island, the Dun Carloway Broch and the 5,000-year-old Standing Stones of Callanish.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach from our designated pick-up points and head to Uig on the Isle of Skye for the ferry to Tarbert on Harris and our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Transfer by coach to the island of Scalpay and take the circular walk that passes the lighthouse (6.25 miles). In the afternoon we transfer to **Luskentyre Beach** with its glorious views towards Taransay Island for a leisurely walk (2.75 miles). (B, L & D)

Day 3 We drive through the mountainous terrain of Harris to the flatter landscape of Lewis and enjoy a circular walk that takes in the **Dun Carloway Broch**, which dates back to around 100 AD (3.25 miles). In the afternoon we travel even further back in

time as we walk between the three sites that comprise the 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, the most remarkable antiquity in the Hebrides (2.25 miles). (B, L & D)

Day 4 We set out from Tarbert on the **Urgha and Maraig Circuit**. This circular walk takes in the superbly engineered old footpath from Urgha to Rhenigidale, with stunning coastal views, before following a quiet minor road and an old path back to Tarbert (11.5 miles). A shorter walk can be arranged for those who wish. (B, L & D)

Day 5 After breakfast we catch the morning ferry from Tarbert to Uig and continue across Skye, making our way back to our original departure points. (B)

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

5 DAYS FROM
£995



Harris



Scalpay

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Harris Hotel, Tarbert
- » Three packed lunches
- » All walks as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager



Please note a good degree of mobility is required to make the most of this holiday.

Departures & Prices

30 March	from £995pp
6 April	from £1035pp
23 July	from £1035pp
21 October	from £995pp

Single Supplement **£160**

GRAND TOUR OF THE INNER HEBRIDES

7 DAYS FROM
£1675



Isle of Iona

Complementing our Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (see pages 20-22), this equally grand yet relaxing tour takes in the principal Inner Hebridean isles of Mull, Islay and Jura as well as the famous little island gems of Staffa and Iona.

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



Puffin, Treshnish Isles



Jura

SCOTLAND

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for the Western Highlands. On arrival in Oban we take a ferry to **Craignure** on the island of Mull. Our base is the Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, conveniently located close to the ferry terminal with superb views of the Morvern Hills and Duart Castle. The hotel offers excellent spa and leisure facilities, including an indoor swimming pool and steam room. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast we depart for **Tobermory**, the island's 'capital' and whose colourful buildings lining the waterfront will be familiar from a hundred calendars. This is the starting point for our cruise to the little island of **Staffa** and the **Treshnish Isles**, during which we hope to see whales, dolphins, basking sharks, various seabirds and sea eagles. We sail first to Staffa, where we hope to have time ashore to explore **Fingal's Cave**, one of the wonders of the west coast. We continue to the **Treshnish Isles** and observe the wildlife, which in the summer months includes puffins. (B, L & D)

Day 3 We cross as foot passengers to the Isle of **Iona**. Here, we have the opportunity to visit the abbey and wander over the island, taking in the atmosphere of calm and contemplation, which attracts visitors from all over the world. In the afternoon we visit **Duart Castle**, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean. We explore the dungeons, the state rooms and appreciate the strategic position of the castle from the top of the keep. (B & D)

Day 4 Following breakfast we catch the ferry back to Oban then drive south to Kennacraig where we catch the ferry to **Port Askaig**. Our hotel is conveniently located next to the harbour. (B & D)

Day 5 This morning, following breakfast, our first visit will be to **Loch Finlaggan**, which was once the centre of the 'Lordship of the Isles'. We continue to **Bowmore Distillery**, which is the oldest distillery on the island and has stood on the shores of Loch Indaal since 1779. It's here we will see how this unique whisky is produced by hand, before maturing in Spanish and American oak casks. Later, we transfer to Port Charlotte on the other side of Loch Indaal for a visit to the **Museum of Islay Life**. The museum was established in 1976 and is housed in the former Free Church in Port Charlotte. Since then, it has built up a main collection of over 2,700 objects, including stone implements used in the Mesolithic era. (B & D)

Day 6 This morning, we travel to the neighbouring island of **Jura**, an island which has a record of habitation stretching back over 5,000 years. The island, with approximately 200 inhabitants, is 30 miles long and seven miles wide and it is a naturalist's paradise. It is dominated by the three mountains known as the "Paps of Jura", the highest being 2,576ft. The northern end of the island was home to George Orwell, who wrote his masterpiece "1984" while living here at Barnhill. We enjoy a scenic tour before having some free time in **Craighouse**, a lovely little village and the main settlement on the island with a shop and tearoom. (B & D)

Day 7 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and take the morning ferry to **Kennacraig** on the mainland. We continue our homeward journey, stopping en route in **Inveraray**, before returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

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



Oban

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

6 May	from £1725pp
10 June	from £1725pp
1 July	from £1675pp
5 August	from £1675pp
2 September	from £1695pp
Single Supplement £325	



St Ninian's



Up Helly Aa festival

UP HELLY AA 2022

5 DAY

A wander through the streets of Lerwick is normally a quiet, peaceful experience, but take a walk there at the end of January and it's quite likely that you will bump into a squad of very large, very bearded Vikings, resplendent in gleaming chain mail and winged helmets. Later, the Vikings and their fancy-dressed followers fill the narrow streets, their flaming torches illuminating the dark winter skies and their boisterous songs filling the air. This is Up Helly Aa, the annual winter festival of Shetland, which celebrates the coming of another year, not to mention the chance of a good old knees-up. It's run by Shetlanders for Shetlanders, but that's not to say visitors aren't welcome as the island hospitality will be as warm as ever.

5 DAYS FROM
£995



Lerwick



Viking squad

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from our designated departure points and travel to Aberdeen, where we cross overnight to Lerwick aboard the Serco Northlink Ferry. (D)

Day 2 We arrive in the morning and after breakfast on board, we enjoy a full day tour, which begins in **Scalloway**. Later, we visit the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlishof** and the RSPB reserve at **Sumburgh Head**. (B & D)

Day 3 Today we depart for **Lerwick**, where we enjoy free time before the **Up Helly Aa** festivities begin. As darkness falls (mid-afternoon at this time of year), the celebrations start. (B & D)

Day 4 Another full-day tour awaits today, this time to the isles of **Yell** and **Unst**. During this excursion, we travel through **Girista** and **Tingwall**, and we enjoy the views from **Saxa Vord Hill**. (B & D)

Day 5 After breakfast on board, we disembark in Aberdeen and return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at Busta House Hotel and two nights in a two-berth inside cabin on board Serco Northlink Ferries (outside cabins at a supplement of £50pp)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

23 January 2022 from **£995pp**
Single Supplement **£275**
Shetland Hotel supplement **£120pp**

UP HELLY AA 2022

7 DAY

During our stay we will take in the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlishof and the sweeping sea views of Sumburgh Head to the south, and tour as far as the islands of Yell and Unst to the north. We also cross the narrow isthmus, with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the North Sea on the other, to the spectacular sea cliffs at Eshaness, which, if the weather is kind, offer breathtaking views.

Up Helly Aa itself is on the Tuesday, when we will have the day free to enjoy the various events in Lerwick, culminating in the torchlight procession and boat burning ceremony in the evening, the highlight of an unusual and uplifting winter break.

7 DAYS FROM
£1145



Yell



Eshaness

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Travel to Aberdeen for the overnight ferry to Lerwick. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast on board, we depart on a full-day tour of mainland Shetland, including visits to **Scalloway**, the original capital of Shetland; the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlishof** and the rugged cliffs and sweeping sea views at **Sumburgh Head**. (B & D)

Day 3 We set off on a scenic excursion to the north of Shetland. Our route will take us over the **Mavis Grind**, an isthmus just 100 yards wide, and through a stark landscape of hills, moors and lochans. We will stop for a walk (weather permitting) along the spectacular sea cliffs at **Eshaness**, which offer breathtaking views. (B & D)

Day 4 We depart for **Lerwick**, where we have free time ahead of the unforgettable **Up Helly Aa** festivities. Dinner is served in a local restaurant. (B & D)

Day 5 Enjoy a scenic excursion to the west mainland of Shetland, with visits to **Walls**, terminus for the ferry service to **Foula**, and **Sandness**. (B & D)

Day 6 We set off for the northerly isles of **Yell** and **Unst**, travelling through **Girista** and **Tingwall**, and enjoying the views from **Saxa Vord Hill**. In the evening, we join the overnight ferry and sail back to Aberdeen. (B & D)

Day 7 Disembark in Aberdeen and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the Sumburgh Hotel and two nights in a two-berth inside cabin on board Serco Northlink Ferries (outside cabins at a supplement of £50pp)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

22 January 2022 from **£1145pp**
Single Supplement **£350**
Busta House supplement **£200pp**

HIGHLIGHTS OF ORKNEY & SHETLAND

THE 'ISLANDS OF THE SIMMER DIM'

6 DAYS FROM
£1195



Seascape, Orkney

Sail away to lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery – the Orkney and Shetland isles. Many people have landed there before us, some as early as 3,000 BC. Most famous of all were the Vikings, but they were not alone and all around you historical treasures can be found. Both Orkney and Shetland have their own identities. Orkney is green and fertile, while Shetland has rugged cliff and sea loch landscapes. However, both share a colourful history of Picts, Norsemen, ancient antiquities and seafaring legends – bound together with an independent spirit that sets them apart from the rest of Scotland. We sail with Serco Northlink Ferries aboard their modern, purpose-built vessels overnight from Aberdeen to Lerwick, and then there are two full days to tour Shetland. After rejoining the ship for an evening sailing to Kirkwall, we have two days to explore Orkney.



Ring of Brodgar



Neolithic site of Skara Brae

SCOTLAND

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated departure points and travel to Aberdeen. We take the overnight ferry to **Lerwick** and once on board, we shall check in to our comfortable twin-berth cabins, which all have en-suite facilities. The ship has a delightful restaurant, where dinner is served this evening. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we leave the ship and commence our tour of Shetland. Our first stop is **Scalloway**, where we visit the ruined castle built in 1600 by the infamous Earl Patrick Stewart. We then continue north to the spectacular cliffs of **Eshaness**. Look out for the 'Otters Crossing' sign and indeed the otters themselves at the narrow isthmus known as Mavis Grind, where it is said to be possible to throw a stone from the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. From here, we transfer to our accommodation at the historic and characterful Busta House Hotel. (B & D)

Day 3 Today we start with a visit to the outstanding Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, with over three acres of remains, spanning 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age, including oval-shaped Bronze Age houses, an Iron Age broch and wheel houses. From here, we travel to nearby **Sumburgh Head** and visit the **RSPB reserve**, home to thousands of seabirds including puffins (May-Aug), guillemots and razorbills. This afternoon we travel through small communities before we have free time in the island's capital of **Lerwick** and an opportunity to visit the state of the art Shetland Museum. This evening, we rejoin our ship and sail south to Orkney. Dinner is served on board and upon arrival in Orkney we transfer to our hotel. (B & D)

Day 4 We have a full-day excursion around mainland Orkney, visiting its many archaeological sites including the great stone circles of **Brodgar** and **Stenness**, which lie to the north side of the Orphir Hills. To this day, the monuments' ages remain uncertain. We then continue to **Maeshowe**, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe. Built before 2,700 BC, Maeshowe was raided by the Vikings in the 12th century, and it houses the largest collections of runic inscriptions to be found in any one place in the world. A visit to **Skara Brae** is also included, with its new visitor centre depicting the history of this world-famous monument. (B & D)

Day 5 This morning, we have free time to explore **Kirkwall** at leisure. Places of interest include St. Magnus Cathedral, one of Europe's greatest architectural masterpieces with its red and yellow sandstone still vibrant after 861 years, and the adjacent Bishop's Palace. In the afternoon, we depart on a tour of the south end of mainland Orkney, crossing the **Churchill Barriers**, which were built after the sinking of the HMS Royal Oak in October 1939. We also stop off at the beautiful **Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former prisoner of war camp. The marvellous paintings in the interior were done by one of the prisoners who returned several times to restore and repaint parts of the building. (B & D)

Day 6 After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and transfer to St. Margaret's Hope to catch the Pentland Ferries sailing to Gills Bay. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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



Puffins

Your Tour Includes

- » One night's dinner, bed & breakfast at the Busta House Hotel, Shetland and three nights' bed & breakfast (plus two dinners) at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- » All ferry crossings, including one night's accommodation in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjaltland on the outward sailing (outside cabins available at a supplement of £40pp)
- » One breakfast and two dinners on board ship
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

3 May	from £1295pp
17 May	from £1245pp
7 June	from £1395pp
2 August	from £1395pp
20 September	from £1195pp
Single Supplement £375	



Skara Brae



Shetland seascape

UNDISCOVERED ORKNEY

Orkney is an archipelago of 70 islands, each with their own distinctive charm, history and natural beauty. Based on Mainland, as the principal island is called, we will have an opportunity to visit previously unexplored areas as we discover the historic landmarks and captivating landscapes of the North and South Isles.

On the island of Westray we will relive Orkney's Viking past as we sail the old Norse sea routes. We also sail across Scapa Flow to Hoy – an island of dramatic mountain scenery and seascapes that inspired the Orcadian symphonies of former resident Sir Peter Maxwell-Davies. Finally, we will explore Mainland and the sites that are collectively known as the 'Heart of Neolithic Orkney' – Maeshowe, the Standing Stones of Stenness and Skara Brae.

5 DAYS FROM
£995



Westray



Black Guillemot

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and travel north to catch the evening ferry across the Pentland Firth to Orkney. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we head to **Westray** and visit the **Scaun Natural Arch**, where guillemots and fulmar can be spotted. Later, we discover **Westray Heritage Centre** before touring the historic **Nottland Castle**. (B & D)

Day 3 We tour the island of **Hoy**, visiting the **Dwarfie Stane**, which dates from around 3,000 BC, and **Rackwick Bay**, once home to the composer Sir Peter Maxwell-Davies.

Later, we visit the stone-built **Martello Tower**, **Lyness Naval Base**, which records the role the Royal Navy played in Orkney, and the poignant **Naval Cemetery**. (B & D)

Day 4 A full day exploring mainland Orkney awaits, as we visit the archaeological sites of **Maeshowe**, **Skara Brae** and the **Standing Stones of Stenness**. After an opportunity to explore the local Museum and Arts Centre, we visit the **Highland Park Distillery** for a behind the scenes tour and a warming dram. (B & D)

Day 5 We catch the ferry back to the mainland and visit the **Timespan Museum and Arts Centre** in Helmsdale before continuing home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

24 June from **£995pp**
30 August from **£995pp**
 Single Supplement **£200**

SHETLAND AND ITS OUTER ISLES

If you want to get away from it all, Shetland is the place to be. There are over a hundred islands here, only 16 of which are inhabited and each with its own individual character. Our tour offers the opportunity to visit four of them, providing a real taste of the diversity of this amazing archipelago. We visit the little island of Mousa, whose Iron Age broch is the best-preserved example anywhere in the world; the Shetland Croft House Museum, which gives an insight into a typical 19th century croft; and Jarlshof, which provides a unique archaeological time capsule, spanning 3,000 years of successive settlements. Finally, we have a tour of the northernmost islands of Yell and Unst, a day of stunning seascapes and air so fresh it takes your breath away.

5 DAYS FROM
£1045



Lerwick



Jarlshof

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and travel to Aberdeen. From here, we sail overnight to **Lerwick** with Serco Northlink Ferries. (D)

Day 2 Disembarking at Lerwick, we start with a visit to the **Shetland Croft House Museum**, housed in a typical thatched croft house of the 19th century. Next, we explore the outstanding Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, which has over three acres of remains, including Viking longhouses and medieval farmhouses. This afternoon, we visit the little **island of Mousa** to view the 2,000-year-old broch – the best-preserved example in the world. (B & D)

Day 3 Today, we have a full day tour of **Yell** and **Unst**. We travel north through Tingwall and Girlsta, and past Sullom Voe, before arriving at Toft where we catch the ferry to Yell. Upon arrival, we transfer to Gutcher before taking the ferry to Unst and visit **Muness Castle**, **Baltasound** and **Saxa Vord Hill**. (B & D)

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

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

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Busta House Hotel (Sumburgh Hotel in July) and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries (outside cabins are available for a supplement of £.40pp)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

21 June from **£1195pp**
26 July from **£1045pp**
29 August from **£1075pp**
 Single Supplement **£325**



Local colour © Frances Taylor



Jarlshof

KNITTING IN THE SHETLAND ISLES

Even those who think they know all there is to know about the art of knitting can pick up a thing or two in the scenic Shetland Isles, and we're not just talking about those pesky dropped stitches...

As anyone who's been lucky enough to visit the Shetland Isles can surely attest, it can get a bit chilly. It should come as no surprise, then, that one of their most famous exports is as warming as the welcome we receive on landing there.

There are workshops aplenty, both starting off our mornings and rounding off our afternoons, which present the perfect opportunity to hone our skills — and perhaps learn some new ones — under the watchful eye of experienced tutors.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Departing by coach from our pick-up points, we travel to Aberdeen for our overnight sailing to Shetland. Dinner is served on board. (D)

Day 2 Disembark at Lerwick, travelling to the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. We stop at **Sumburgh Head**, Lerwick's **Textile Gallery** of the **Shetland Museum and Archives**, and finally the **Shetland Textile Museum**. (B & D)

Day 3 Today is the first of our **knitting workshops**, where we learn about Shetland hand-knitting. After lunch, we visit the **Nielanell Design Studio** and **Hoswick Visitor Centre**. (B, L & D)

Day 4 We depart on a tour of the western mainland of Shetland with visits to **Walls**, terminus for the ferry service to the island of Foula, and the headland at **Sandness**, overlooking the island of Papa Stour. We return to our hotel in the afternoon for the second of our **knitting workshops**. (B, L & D)

Day 5 Our final **knitting workshop** is followed by a visit to **Scalloway** and some free time in **Lerwick**, where you can stock up on wool or local knitwear. (B, L & D)

Day 6 We return to Aberdeen this morning, where we join our coach and make our way back to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

6 DAYS FROM
£1445



Sumburgh Head



Scalloway Castle

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights' at the Shetland Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries (outside cabins are available for a supplement of £40pp)
- » Three lunches
- » Three knitting workshops with expert local tutor
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

24 September from **£1445pp**
Single Supplement **£350**

AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S VIEW OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND

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

During our time on Shetland we will visit the uninhabited island of Mousa with its 2,000-year-old full size broch, the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof, St. Ninian's Isle with its 6th century church, and the ruined castle of Scalloway. We then travel to Orkney where we visit the Italian Chapel; the Tomb of the Eagles, which offers a unique 'hands-on' experience - an opportunity to handle 5,000-year old artefacts excavated from an extensive cliff-top site; Maeshowe, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe; and Skara Brae as well as Skail House. En route to Aberdeen, we will stop for a photo opportunity at Dunnottar Castle, a cliff-top fortress dating back to the 3rd century.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart for Aberdeen, with a photo stop en route at **Dunnottar Castle**, and take the overnight ferry to Lerwick. (D)

Day 2 We begin our exploration of Shetland with a visit to the Iron Age broch on the little island of **Mousa**. Later we tour the outstanding Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, spanning 3,000 years of human habitation. **Note: we stay at the Brae Hotel in May and August and at the Busta House Hotel in April and July.** (B & D)

Day 3 Visit the 6th century church at **St Ninian's Isle**, **Scalloway Castle** and **Tingwall Valley**, before taking the evening sailing to Kirkwall. (B & D)

Day 4 We tour the southern end of Orkney Mainland with visits to the **Churchill Barriers** and the **Italian Chapel** from World War II before moving much further back in time at the **Tomb of the Eagles**, dating back to 3,000 BC, and the nearby **Liddle Burnt Mound**. (B & D)

Day 5 Today we head west into the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney**, where we find some of the most impressive and important archaeological sites in Europe, including **Maeshowe** and **Skara Brae**. (B & D)

Day 6 We depart for home, via the short sea crossing from South Ronaldsay. (B)

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

6 DAYS FROM
£1245



Mousa Broch

Your Tour Includes

- » One night's dinner, bed & breakfast at either the Brae Hotel or the Busta House Hotel, Shetland and three nights' bed & breakfast (plus two dinners) at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- » All ferry crossings, including one night's accommodation in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjalmland on the outward sailing (outside cabins available at a supplement of £40pp)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

Departures & Prices

26 April from **£1295pp**
31 May from **£1245pp**
12 July from **£1445pp**
23 August from **£1445pp**
Single Supplement **£375**

NEW FOR 2021

ANCIENT STONES OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES

5 DAYS FROM
£695



Standing Stones of Callanish

In about 1800 BC, at around the time that the Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt was flourishing, an equally vigorous civilisation was leaving its mark on the far-flung islands of the Outer Hebrides. The Standing Stones at Callanish, tall and slender slabs of silvery Lewisian gneiss, are the enduring testament to the skill and knowledge of a long-vanished and mysterious community, who laid out these stones according to precise astronomical observations, lining up the main avenue with the point at which the full moon of midsummer sets. Later settlers have left their mark too, and the tranquil islands of Lewis and Harris are blessed with an abundance of archaeological remains. Neolithic cairns, Bronze Age standing stones, Iron Age houses, Norse mills and Blackhouses from a couple of centuries ago – the islands are a living timeline and a paradise for the amateur archaeologist. In the company of local specialist guide **Carol Knott**, we will tour a succession of sites, from the rolling moorlands and sweeping beaches of Lewis in the north to the dramatic mountains of Harris in the south.



Luskentyre, Harris



Gearrannan Black House Village

SCOTLAND

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head north to Ullapool in time for the early evening ferry to Stornoway. On arrival in Lewis we will transfer the short distance to our hotel. Dinner is served on board the ferry. (D)

Day 2 This morning we cross to the island of Great Bernera, where we visit the **Bosta Iron Age Village**. These stone structures from the 7th - 8th century were uncovered in Bosta thanks to a period of heavy storms, in much the same way that Skara Brae on Orkney came to light. A replica Iron Age house gives an insight into an ancient way of life here on a particularly beautiful beach. We will also visit the nearby museum where artefacts found at the site are displayed.

From here, we travel to the west coast of Lewis for a visit to the 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, undoubtedly the most remarkable antiquity in the Western Isles, a collection of almost 50 stones that form an impressive megalithic avenue. This afternoon we will visit **St Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important archaeological sites on Lewis. It was the main church during the medieval period and is a burial place for the Macleod and Mackenzie chiefs. Finally we visit **Lewis Castle**, where we meet the famous Lewis Chessmen and view the Outer Hebrides in an impressive wrap-around audio-visual presentation. (B & D)

Day 3 We travel south to Harris, which, in contrast to the rolling moorland of Lewis, is more mountainous and fringed by white sandy beaches. Here we visit **St Clement's Church**, whose tombs are among the most spectacular in Scotland, and the **Genealogy Centre** at Northton, a chance to get to know some of the factors that have had an influence on the development of the various island communities. We continue to the ancient standing stone known as **Clach Mhic Leoid** (MacLeod's Stone) which enjoys a superb situation overlooking the Isle of Taransay, which was the setting for the BBC TV series 'Castaway'. (B & D)

Day 4 Today we enjoy the stunning scenery of Lewis as we take a journey through time from the Bronze and Iron Ages to the days of Norse settlement and the more recent past. Our visits include the exceptionally well-preserved and imposing **Carloway Broch**; the **Black Houses** at Gearrannan and Arnol, which are typical of the crofting settlements that until relatively recently were found throughout the Western Isles; the **Norse Mill** at Shawbost, a recreation of the type of building where barley grain was ground into meal by Viking settlers; and the standing stone **Clach an Trushal**, which at over 6m is one of the tallest in Scotland. (B & D)

Day 5 We take the ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool and return to our original departure points. (B)

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



Carloway Broch



Bosta Iron Age Village

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Cabarfeidh Hotel (Caladh Inn in May), Stornoway
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout and all ferry crossings
- » Services of local archaeological expert Carol Knott as tour manager

Departures & Prices

5 May	from £795pp
3 October	from £695pp
Single Supplement £160	



Pictish Stone, Aberlemno



Oban

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PICTS

4 DAYS FROM
£575

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

During this tour, we will travel through the heartland of the southern Picts in Perthshire and Angus, tracking down these elusive people and coming face to face with them through the clues of their everyday life as seen in the incredible artistry of their monumental stone sculpture.



St. Andrews Cathedral



Isle of May

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach from our pick-up points and transfer to the **National Museum of Scotland**, where we will be joined by one of the curators for a specially arranged guided tour of the Pictish jewellery collection and sculpture held here. (D)

Day 2 We begin with a visit to the symbol-inscribed cross-slab, depicting angels and a striding cloaked figure, at **Eassie**. We then travel to **Brechin** to view the medieval round tower and adjacent cathedral, and we visit nearby **Aberlemno** with its four magnificent Pictish stones. From here, we travel the short distance to **St. Vigeans Museum of Pictish Sculpture**. (B & D)

Day 3 We head to **Dunkeld** to visit the **Pictish hillfort**, and then on to the attractive village of **Dunning**, where we visit the **Pictish monastery**. We then travel to **Forvieiot**, the royal centre of Pictish kings, and finally we explore **Perth Museum**, viewing its fine displays and collections. (B & D)

Day 4 We drive to **St. Andrews** this morning to see the decorated stone sarcophagus of a great Pictish king before travelling by boat (weather permitting) to visit the monastery on the **Isle of May**, a National Nature Reserve. We return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Links Hotel, Montrose
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

Departures & Prices

18 June	from £595pp
23 July	from £575pp
6 August	from £595pp
3 September	from £575pp
Single Supplement £90	

SPRING AND AUTUMN IN THE WEST HIGHLANDS

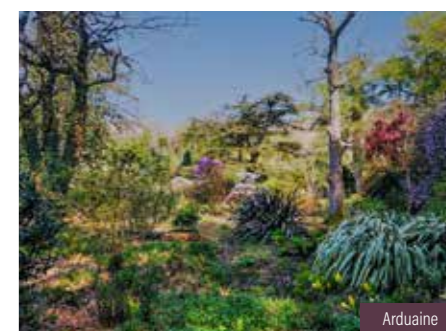
4 DAYS FROM
£465

Spring and autumn are wonderful times of the year to visit the West Highlands of Scotland. In spring there may still be patches of snow on the mountains, but the trees are in fresh green leaf and plants such as rhododendrons bring the first welcome splashes of colour to the gardens. Come in autumn and you may well see snow on the hills again, but at lower levels the trees have taken on a golden hue while the gardens put on one last defiant display of colour before winter's icy grip returns.

Ardkinglas Woodland Garden is the perfect example, with vibrant displays from rhododendrons and other Asiatic shrubs in spring and a multi-hued show of autumn colours from its great collection of trees. The story is repeated at Arduaine Gardens, whose collection of plants is rivalled only by the superb sea views, and at Glenarn, one of the best woodland gardens in Scotland, filled with plants brought back from expeditions to Tibet and China.



Inveraray



Arduaine

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points stopping on the way for a visit to **Ardkinglas Woodland Garden**. In the spring, Ardinglas presents a vibrant display of colour as the rhododendrons hit their peak season, while in the autumn, the ancient beech trees take on a multitude of golden tints. We continue to our hotel in Oban. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast we travel south of Oban along the scenic coastal road to **Arduaine Garden**, a splendid site full of the most magnificent plants, both native and exotic. In the afternoon we visit the **Kilmartin House Museum** and some of the nearby ancient burial cairns. (B & D)

Day 3 Today is free to explore **Oban**. A walk up to the Coliseum-like McCaig's Folly is rewarded with splendid views over the bay towards the Isle of Mull. Alternatively, if you would like a closer look at **Mull**, join our optional excursion to the island, with visits to **Tobermory** and **Duart Castle**. (B & D)

Day 4 We depart for home today, breaking our journey in **Inveraray** and at **Glenarn**, one of the best woodland gardens in Scotland. Many of the original plants were brought back from Asia so we can expect to see colourful rhododendrons and magnolias in spring and a panoply of golden tints in autumn. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

29 March	from £465pp
25 October	from £495pp
28 March 2022	from £485pp
Single Supplement £175	
Optional excursion - Mull £40pp	



Loch Eribol



Achmelvich

SCOTLAND

SCOTLAND'S EXTREME NORTH-WEST

The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the early spring and autumn months as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty. Enormous waves roll in from the Atlantic and hurl themselves against the shore in an awesome display of raw natural power. The coastal views and landscapes are even more breathtaking and the warmth of our highland hotel even more welcoming at this time of year.

From our base at the Kinlochbervie Hotel, overlooking the fishing harbour with panoramic views over lochs and hills to the open sea, we seek out some of the gems of the north west coast, such as Oldshoremore, an exquisite beach of white sand, and Smoo Cave at Durness, a huge sea cave with a waterfall and a 'blowhole'. In the evenings we will enjoy fine food, good company and even a fireside dram.

4 DAYS FROM
£475



Assynt

Your Itinerary

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

Day 2 Today we travel south into **Assynt**, an extraordinary landscape of vast, undulating moorland studded with hundreds of freshwater lochans. We will spend some time in **Lochinver**, a large village with a busy harbour, set on the shores of Loch Inver with superb views inland to the famous mountain of **Suilven**, usually flecked with snow. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning we will have a walk along the beach at **Oldshoremore**, one of the most beautiful in Scotland, before travelling up the single track road and through spectacular scenery to **Durness**, where we visit a wonderful chocolatier. We also visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** and travel by **Loch Eribol** and the old Norse settlement of **Tongue**. (B & D)

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

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

22 March	from £475pp
19 April	from £495pp
4 October	from £495pp
18 October	from £495pp
Single Supplement £120	

HIGHLAND EXPLORER SKYE AND THE FAR NORTH

A classic coach tour of Scotland, with nothing more demanding than sitting back and enjoying one scenic delight after another unfold before you, as we travel north into the Cairngorms, north west to Gairloch and further north still to the wilds of Assynt and the glorious beach at Achmelvich. We enjoy a full day on the Isle of Skye, passing the Cuillin Mountains, more often than not wreathed in ethereal mist, to Portree, the epitome of a colourful Hebridean harbour - with some of the best fish 'n' chips in the country!

From Fort William, which sits at the foot of the impressive bulk of Ben Nevis, we head west to Mallaig, stopping for a unique photo opportunity at the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct. Our homeward journey takes us via the haunting beauty of Glen Coe, a deep valley that was scoured out by the last ice age, flanked by majestic mountains.

6 DAYS FROM
£795



Loch an Eilein

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head north for the **Cairngorms National Park** and the ancient pine forest of the **Rothiemurchus estate**. We continue to our hotel in Gairloch with its panoramic views to the Isle of Skye. (D)

Day 2 We travel north on a full-day scenic tour that takes us by Loch Broom to **Ullapool** and on into **Assynt**, an extraordinary landscape of vast, undulating moorland and beautiful, deserted beaches such as the one at **Achmelvich**. (B & D)

Day 3 A full-day excursion takes us over the bridge to the **Isle of Skye**, including a visit to colourful **Portree**. (B & D)

Day 4 We check out of our hotel this morning and head south, travelling via the shores of **Loch Ness**, with its carefully cultivated monster myth, and bustling **Fort Augustus**, bisected by the Caledonian Canal, to Fort William on the shores of Loch Leven in the shadow of Ben Nevis. (B & D)

Day 5 We head west to **Mallaig**, running parallel with the railway line, with a stop at the **Glenfinnan Viaduct** timed to coincide with the passing steam train for a unique photo opportunity. (B & D)

Day 6 Today we travel via the hauntingly beautiful **Glen Coe** and tranquil **Loch Earn** to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the Gairloch Hotel and two nights at a comfortable hotel in the Fort William area
- » All excursions as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

4 June	from £795pp
30 July	from £825pp
3 September	from £825pp
Single Supplement £250	

STORNOWAY AND THE SUMMER ISLES

6 DAYS FROM
£895



Can any three place names evoke the joys of Scotland's great outdoors more succinctly than Stornoway, Skye and the Summer Isles? Stornoway, a stronghold of Gaelic culture; Skye, one of the most popular island destinations in Scotland and the Summer Isles – well, the very name says it all. Join us on this tour and get to know them better.

Calming coastlines, ancient megaliths, brilliant black mountains and romantic boat rides are all there for us to enjoy first hand, creating extraordinary experiences and memories to last a lifetime. Take, for example, a sunlit morning cruise aboard the fittingly regal 'Summer Queen', with the chance of spying a shy grey seal at the surface; a circular tour of Lewis, taking in archaeological sites from the Stone Age, Iron Age brochs, Viking settlements and thatched cottages that were common just a couple of generations ago; and the lush sub-tropical eden of Inverewe Gardens, where we are free to admire lush rhododendrons and constellations of olearia.



SCOTLAND

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head north, through some spectacular mountain scenery to our comfortable hotel in Gairloch, which enjoys splendid views of the north end of Skye with the hills of Harris and Lewis low on the horizon. (D)

Day 2 Transfer to Ullapool where we will board the MV Summer Queen for our **Summer Isles Cruise**. We can expect to see basking seals and shags and cormorants nesting inside Cathedral Cave and enjoy the views towards the Outer Hebrides (weather permitting) before we weave our way back to Ullapool.

On the way back to our hotel we call in at **Inverewe Gardens**, unquestionably one of the most outstanding gardens in the country. The balmy Gulf Stream Drift climate promotes luxurious growth and Inverewe is a veritable jungle of mature exotic trees and shrubs laced with winding walks, giving sudden glimpses of shimmering water through the foliage. (B & D)

Day 3 We depart for Tarbet, on a road that takes us through a breathtaking landscape of mountains and lochs. Upon arrival we catch the little ferry to **Handa Island**, where we are free to explore at leisure. Look out for seabirds such as guillemots, razorbills, great and arctic skuas; a profusion of wildflowers and also the archaeological remains of an old village, which was inhabited up until 1847. (B & D)

Day 4 This morning we return to Ullapool and catch the morning ferry to Stornoway. On arrival we visit the **Lewis Castle and Museum** where we can meet the famous Lewis Chessmen and view the Outer Hebrides as never before in a wrap-around audio-visual presentation. Later this afternoon we will visit **St Columba's Ui Church** at Point, just outside Stornoway, one of the most important archaeological sites on the Isle of Lewis, before continuing to our hotel. (B & D)

Day 5 We travel to the west coast of Lewis for a visit to the 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, undoubtedly the most remarkable antiquity in the Western Isles, comprising 19 monoliths and ending in a circle of 13 stones. From here we move on to the **Black Houses** at Gearrannan, typical of former crofting settlements; the exceptionally well-preserved **Carloway Broch**, and the **Norse Mill** at Shawbost, a reconstruction of the type of grain mill used originally by Viking settlers and by islanders up until the 1930s. (B & D)

Day 6 Travel south to Harris and catch the morning ferry to Uig on **Skye**. We then travel across the island with brief comfort and photo stops at **Portree** and **Sligachan**, where there are views towards the imposing mountain range of the **Cuillin Hills**. We cross back to the mainland via the graceful arc of the Skye Bridge and continue our homeward journey. (B)

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



Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the Gairloch Hotel and two nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway (Caladh Inn in July)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

20 July from **£995pp**
14 October from **£895pp**
 Single Supplement **£195**



Ballindalloch

SPEYSIDE'S WHISKY TRAIL

Join us on a whisky-tasting tour in the heart of Speyside, home to some of the most famous single malts in the world and also one of the most splendidly scenic corners of Scotland. This tour will appeal both to whisky connoisseurs and to those who are just getting to know the manifold delights of the 'water of life'.

Heading north into the magnificent mountains of the Cairngorms we visit Dalwhinnie Distillery, not far from the headwaters of the great river that gives its name to this wondrous part of Scotland. Over the next two days we explore the Spey Valley with tours and tastings at Cardhu, Glenlivet and Strathisla, as well as visits to the Speyside Cooperage, where we watch the highly skilled coopers at work, and Ballindalloch Castle with its magnificent grounds. We will also enjoy a nostalgic trip on the Dufftown to Keith heritage railway. Heading home, we call in at the premium retail outlet The House of Bruar for a chance to stock up on the very best of Scottish produce.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach from our designated departure points and travel north for our visit to **Dalwhinnie Distillery**, set high in the hills not far from the source of the Spey. Our tour includes tastings of two single malts together with some specially selected chocolate that combines beautifully with the whisky. We then continue to our hotel in Speyside. (D)

Day 2 We enjoy a tour of **Cardhu Distillery** before heading for **Ballindalloch Castle**, set in magnificent grounds and home to a superb rock garden. We conclude today with a visit to the home of one of the great names of Speyside whisky, **The Glenlivet**, with a tasting straight from the cask. (B & D)

Day 3 We discover the secrets behind one of the key components of whisky production as we visit the **Speyside Cooperage**. In days gone by, whisky was transported by rail from Speyside and we will enjoy a taste of these days as we take a ride on the **heritage railway line** from Dufftown to Keith, before we visit the nearby **Strathisla Distillery**, the home of 'Chivas Regal'. (B & D)

Day 4 We round off our tour with a visit to **The House of Bruar**, with its wide range of whisky and other Scottish produce, and after some free time in picturesque **Pitlochry** we head for home. (B)

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

4 DAYS FROM
£595



A dram



River Spey

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

1 June from £595pp

28 August from £595pp

Single Supplement £90



Balmoral

HISTORIC HOUSES OF ABERDEENSHIRE

Aberdeenshire is dotted with historic houses and castles, many of them outstanding examples of Scots Baronial architecture. Each one has a fascinating story to tell with countless legends and several royal connections.

Our tour starts with a bang at Drum Castle, where 700 years of history is woven into its battlements. Haddo House showcases the crisp Neo-Classical style of William Adam, while Fyvie Castle represents a prime example of the more extravagant Scots Baronial form.

Castle Fraser is the most elaborate Z-plan castle in Scotland, while Craigievar seems simply to have grown naturally out of the rolling hills. The Queen's late summer residence of Balmoral Castle is the most modern property we visit, though no less fascinating, and we conclude at glorious Crathes Castle.

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Fyvie Castle

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We begin at **Drum Castle and Gardens**. The sweep of 700 years of history is stamped into Drum's stalwart battlements, medieval square tower and sprawling extensions. The beautiful Garden of Historic Roses is divided into quadrants that show how roses have been cultivated from the 17th to the 20th century and an ancient oak forest adjoins the castle. (D)

Day 2 Our first visit of the day is to **Haddo House**. Unusual for Aberdeenshire in that it is not a castle, the house elegantly blends crisp Georgian architecture with sumptuous late Victorian interiors. Later we visit the magnificent fortress of **Fyvie Castle** with ghosts, legends and folklore woven into its 800-year history. (B & D)

Day 3 We start at **Castle Fraser**, one of the grandest of the Scottish baronial tower houses, with a strikingly simple Great Hall. Next is **Craigievar Castle**, whose great tower stands just as it did when completed in 1626, and we round off the day at **Balmoral**, which needs little introduction as a favourite royal residence. Built around 1854 for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, it is relatively modern though clearly in the style of a 'Scottish' castle. (B & D)

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

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at a 4-star hotel in the Aberdeen area
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Luxury coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

28 April from £595pp

6 June from £595pp

18 July from £595pp

3 October from £595pp

Single Supplement £150

Non-NT supplement £100pp

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Abbotsford House



Goatfell

SCOTLAND

HISTORIC HOUSES OF THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

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

This prosperous region is also home to a remarkable number of historic houses including Manderston House, described as "the swansong of the stately home"; Traquair House, the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland; and Abbotsford, home to Sir Walter Scott. Perhaps the grandest of all is Floors Castle, the magnificent home of the Duke of Roxburghe.

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Traquair House



Floors Castle

Your Itinerary

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

Day 2 Travel through Tweeddale to **Abbotsford House**, built by Sir Walter Scott following the success of his great novels. In the afternoon we visit **Traquair House**, which is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited house in Scotland. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning we visit **Mellerstain House**, one of Scotland's great Georgian houses. We move on to **Floors Castle**, home of the Duke & Duchess of Roxburghe, a romantic fairytale castle with a roofscape of turrets, pinnacles and cupolas. (B & D)

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

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

25 April	from £695pp
27 June	from £735pp
22 October	from £695pp

No Single Supplement

AUTUMN TINTS OF ARRAN

At no time are we more assured of Arran's beauty than in the autumn months, when its wild woods and wide open spaces are aflame with a riot of red and gold foliage. Just add impressive castles, imposing mountains and idyllic bays for a truly unforgettable trip.

We will be based for three nights at the 3-star Best Western Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot, on the western shore of the island, overlooking Kilbrannan Sound and the Mull of Kintyre. The hotel has a heated swimming pool, sauna, solarium, squash court, snooker and fitness room. Here you will receive a truly warm welcome, sample the best of local Arran produce and enjoy a friendly atmosphere.

4 DAYS FROM
£495



Lochranza



Catacol

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for Ardrossan to catch our ferry to Brodick. Upon arrival, we travel to our hotel in **Blackwaterfoot**. (D)

Day 2 Today we have a circular tour of the island of Arran. From **Blackwaterfoot** we will visit **Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick, Corrie** and **Sannox**, under the shadow of **Goatfell** and other mountains, and then down the west coast to **Catacol** and **Pirnmill**, with its '12 Apostles'. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning, we visit **Brodick Castle and Gardens**, which occupies a splendid position as it is well protected from westerly winds and overlooks the

Firth of Clyde. The present garden dates from 1932 when the Duchess of Montrose started an ambitious woodland garden with a collection of rhododendrons. A walled garden, dating from 1710, has been restored and mixed borders on three sides retain the gardener's interest throughout the year. We have free time this afternoon to explore **Brodick**. (B & D)

Day 4 This morning we catch the ferry back to the mainland before returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot (or similar)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

18 October	from £495pp
25 October	from £495pp

Single Supplement **£135**



Brodick Castle



Tiree

ARRAN: 'SCOTLAND IN MINIATURE'

5 DAYS FROM
£675

As you board the ferry at Ardrossan, you see the distinctive silhouette of Goatfell rising dramatically from the clear waters of the Firth of Clyde, giving a foretaste of your destination whose unique magic never disappoints. Often described as "Scotland in Miniature", Arran has a blend of Highland and Island scenery with granite peaks and deep glens to the north of the island, contrasting with its rolling and lush farmlands to the south.

Only 56 miles around its coastline, the small villages are compared to 'jewels on a necklace' strung out like pearls around the island. From Blackwaterfoot, we will visit Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick - the capital of Arran, the pretty village of Corrie under the shadow of Goatfell and Sannox before passing the '12 Apostles' at Lochranza.



Goatfell

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for Ardrossan to catch the ferry to **Brodick**. Upon arrival we travel to our hotel in Blackwaterfoot. (D)

Day 2 This morning we embark on a circular tour of Arran. From Blackwaterfoot, we visit **Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick, Corrie** and **Sannox**. Down the west coast we take in **Pirnmill** and **Catacol**, with its '12 Apostles', 19th century cottages built to relocate locals from inland homes. Next, we visit **Arran Distillery** for a tour and tasting of their single malt. In the evening, we enjoy some live folk music. (B & D)

Day 3 Today we are free to relax. For those who prefer, there is an optional excursion to the little Hebridean island of **Gigha** and **Achamore Gardens**, where something is always in bloom. (B & D)

Day 4 We travel to **Brodick Castle and Gardens**, which offers views across the Firth of Clyde. On site we find a delightful Bavarian summerhouse. The afternoon is free to explore **Brodick** before we return to the hotel for a farewell dinner. (B & D)

Day 5 This morning we catch the ferry back to the mainland before returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot (or similar)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

26 April	from £675pp
24 May	from £715pp
21 June	from £685pp
12 July	from £685pp
13 September	from £685pp

Single Supplement **£180**

Optional excursion - Gigha **£55pp**

COLL AND TIREE

5 DAYS FROM
£1295

Coll and Tiree are two little jewels basking in the Hebridean Sea. Steeped in the romantic legends and the tangled history of the western isles, they abound with natural wonders, abundant wildlife and ancient remains. Offering peace, tranquillity and spiritual calm, they can also be wildly invigorating as the machair (coastal meadowland) comes alive with flowers during the summer months, creating a colourful carpet along the shoreline.

From our base in comfortable and friendly guesthouse accommodation, we will explore unspoilt beaches of glistening white sand, and some of the ancient cairns and Iron Age forts that litter the island of Coll. In Tiree, we visit the Skerryvore Lighthouse Museum, which records the building of Britain's tallest lighthouse.



Coll

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head for Oban, where we board a ferry to **Coll**. We arrive in the little harbour of Arinagour and we transfer to our accommodation. (D)

Day 2 We depart for a tour of the island, enjoying the purples, yellows and whites of the flowers that punctuate the rich greens of the machair in summer. Next, we visit the **RSPB reserve**, which was established to help protect the corncrake. (B, L & D)

Day 3 This morning, we take the short ferry crossing to **Tiree**, renowned as one of the sunniest places in Britain. We have the rest of the day to relax. (B & D)

Day 4 Today we tour Tiree, passing through the small crofting townships where some of the distinctive speckled cottages remain. We will visit the **Skerryvore Lighthouse Museum** and the **Treshnish Isles Natural History Museum**, which offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the enchanting Treshnish Isles. (B, L & D)

Day 5 We check out of our hotel and view '**An Turas**', a piece of architecture the locals have named the 'Wind Tunnel', before we board the ferry back to the mainland and return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast in guesthouse accommodation: two nights on Coll and two nights on Tiree
- » Two packed lunches
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

22 June	from £1395pp
20 July	from £1345pp
3 August	from £1295pp
14 September	from £1295pp

Single Supplement **£360**



Port Charlotte, Islay



Duart Castle

ISLAY AND JURA

5 DAYS FROM
£995

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

To the north-east is Islay's neighbour Jura, an untamed and rather mysterious island with just 200 human inhabitants, dominated by the "Paps of Jura".

Completing our trio of islands, we offer an optional excursion to Colonsay, home to glorious beaches and a superb woodland garden.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and catch the ferry from Kennacraig to Port Askaig, Islay. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel, which overlooks the harbour. (D)

Day 2 Our first stop will be to **Loch Finlaggan**, which was once the centre of the 'Lordship of the Isles'. We then enjoy a guided tour of **Bowmore Distillery** before visiting the **Museum of Islay Life**. Our final stop of the day will be to **Loch Gruinart RSPB Nature Reserve**. (B & D)

Day 3 Following breakfast, you are free to explore **Islay**. Alternatively, you may wish to join our optional excursion to **Colonsay**, where we visit the 30-acre woodland garden and Kiloran Bay. (B & D)

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

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

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



Bowmore distillery



Inveraray

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Port Askaig Hotel, Islay
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

17 May	from £1045pp
7 June	from £1045pp
12 July	from £1045pp
13 September	from £1075pp
4 October	from £995pp
Single Supplement £200	
Optional excursion - Colonsay £55pp	

MULL, STAFFA & IONA

4 DAYS FROM
£795

The Isle of Mull is a place of tumbling burns, high peaks, dramatic views, and a silent, lonely beauty. From our base at the comfortable Isle of Mull Hotel & Spa, we will explore some of the highlights of the island. The multi-coloured buildings that line the waterfront of the island's principal town, Tobermory, will be familiar to many. From here, we sail on a wildlife cruise that takes us to the Treshnish Isles, home to thousands of seabirds including puffins, and the little island of Staffa, whose natural cathedral of basalt columns is one of the wonders of the west coast. We also see Duart Castle, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean, which enjoys stunning views across the Firth of Lorne to Ben Cruachan. Lying just off the Ross of Mull, the sacred isle of Iona is famous the world over for its peaceful abbey, a place of calm and contemplation.

Your Itinerary

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

Day 2 Today, we drive to **Fionnphort** and cross as foot passengers to **Iona**. Here, we visit its famous **Abbey** and explore the island, which attracts many visitors every year. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning, we depart for **Tobermory**, the starting point for our wildlife cruise to the **Treshnish Isles** and **Staffa**. We hope to see whales, dolphins and sea eagles. We arrive on the idyllic isle of **Lunga**, the largest of the Treshnish Isles. Surrounded by wildflowers and stunning scenery, the main attraction is

the large puffin colony nesting in burrows (May & June only). Next, we take the short crossing to **Staffa**. We explore the island, in particular the massive natural cathedral known as **Fingal's Cave**, following in the footsteps of illustrious tourists from Sir Walter Scott to Queen Victoria. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Following breakfast, we visit **Duart Castle**, where we have the chance to explore the dungeons and the state rooms. We take a short ferry crossing and enjoy a scenic drive through Morvern before crossing Loch Linnhe by the Corran ferry and continuing our journey back to our original pick-up points. (B)

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



Puffin



Fionnphort, Isle of Mull

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

22 May	from £825pp
18 June	from £875pp
13 August	from £835pp
10 September	from £795pp
Single Supplement £195	



John O'Groats



Dunrobin Castle

SCOTLAND'S NORTHERN EDGE

The coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking – sometimes quite literally, as the wind whips in off the Pentland Firth and snatches the breath from your mouth. Standing here on the northern edge of mainland Britain you are moved to reflect on the awesome, unstoppable power of the sea and the equally indomitable strength of the ancient rock beneath your feet.

We begin at Dunnet Head, the most northerly headland of all, and visit the Castle of Mey, the former summer home of the late Queen Mother. Travelling west, we continue to Strathnaver, the lonely valley which evokes the dark days of the notorious 'Highland Clearances'. From our hotel at Kinlochbervie we seek out some of the gems of the north-west, such as Smoo Cave at Durness and the little island of Handa, inhabited only by seabirds.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head to our hotel in Thurso. (D)

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

Day 3 Our first visit today is to **Strathnaver Museum**, which takes us on a journey from the mystical past of prehistory to the vibrant culture of today. We travel to **Tongue**, where we have free time for lunch

before we visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** and continue to our hotel in Kinlochbervie. (B & D)

Day 4 We travel south to **Tarbet**, the starting point for our boat trip to the island of **Handa**, whose human population left in 1847 and is now home only to seabirds. (B & D)

Day 5 We journey home today, travelling via Laxford Bridge, Loch More, Loch Shin, Lairg, Bonar Bridge and finally Tain. (B)

Please note: the June tour is operated in reverse order.

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

5 DAYS FROM
£745



Durness



Dunnet Head lighthouse

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

15 June	from £825pp
9 July	from £745pp
10 August	from £745pp
15 August	from £745pp
8 September	from £795pp
29 September	from £745pp

Single Supplement **£180**

GARDENS OF THE FAR NORTH

A journey to the far north of Scotland brings many rewards, not least the sense of freedom and open space to be found in the thrilling seascapes of the coasts or the vast, empty expanse of mountain and moorland that separates east from west. Rewards also come in the shape of some enchanting castles and gardens, which we have threaded together to bring out the best of this remote and unspoilt region.

Top of the bill is Inverewe, a truly wonderful garden, which involves a scenic journey to the wild west coast. The Castle of Mey is where the late Queen Mother created a homely garden, which reflected her great love of flowers. We also visit the gardens of Cawdor Castle, immortalised in 'Macbeth'; Dunrobin Castle, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland; Dunbeath Castle, perched on a promontory and the privately-owned garden of Langwell.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head north to our first visit, the gardens of **Cawdor Castle**, near Nairn, immortalised by Shakespeare in Macbeth. The magnificent gardens include vast herbaceous borders, a rose garden, a peony walk and a kitchen garden. (D)

Day 2 This morning we visit **Dunrobin Castle**, the château-style ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland, whose gardens are laid out on terraces that descend to the sea. We later continue to John O'Groats before an afternoon visit to the private gardens at the **Castle of Mey**, the much loved former home of Her Majesty The Queen Mother. (B & D)

Day 3 We drive through spellbinding scenery to visit **Dundonnell House Garden**, with its delightful borders centred on an ancient yew tree, and **Inverewe**, unquestionably one of the most outstanding gardens in the country, with its array of exotic plants and trees. (B & D)

Day 4 Two private gardens feature today as we visit **Dunbeath Castle**, which features new and mature plantings and **Langwell**, a beautiful old walled garden with spectacular borders. (B & D)

Day 5 We conclude with a tour of the gardens and lunch at the **House of Aigas** and a visit to the well-stocked nursery at **Abriachan**. (B & L)

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

5 DAYS FROM
£995



Inverewe



Castle of Mey

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Best Western Inverness Palace Hotel (or similar)
- » One lunch
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

4 July	from £995pp
18 July	from £995pp

Single Supplement **£280**



Dunbeath Castle



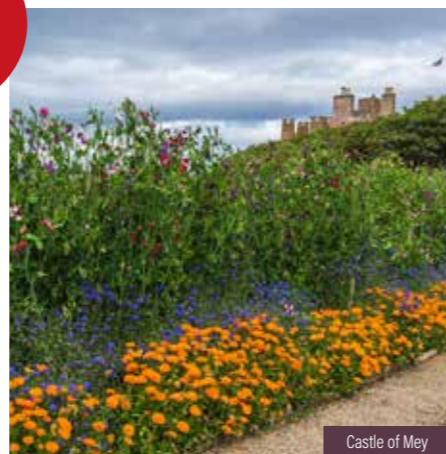
Quoy of Houton

PRIVATE GARDENS OF CAITHNESS & SUTHERLAND

The spectacular seascapes and wild lands of Caithness and Sutherland, right at the very top of Britain, are home to a surprising number of stunning gardens – from formal gardens that surround grand castles with heaving and colourful herbaceous borders, to small and homely gardens tucked away in neat little villages.

Travelling amongst the jagged headlands and shining white sands on the northern coast, our visits include two gardens both protected from the wind by high walls: Bighouse Lodge by Melvich and The House of Tongue in a spectacular setting on the Kyle of Tongue. We could not go to Caithness without including a visit to the Castle of Mey, the former summer retreat of the late Queen Mother, and we also tour the fine gardens that surround Dunbeath Castle.

4 DAYS FROM
£565



Castle of Mey

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart for the private garden of **Old Allangrange**, where a beautiful 17th century lime-washed house is the backdrop to a semi-formal garden with many fine old trees. We then continue to our comfortable hotel in Thurso. (D)

Day 2 Travel along the coast to **Bighouse Lodge**. The walled garden features herbaceous borders, a sunken garden and four separate conceptual gardens behind the hedgerows. We continue to the **House of Tongue**, a 17th century house with a walled garden, herbaceous borders, old fashioned roses, vegetables, soft fruit and even a small orchard. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning we visit the **Castle of Mey**, former summer home of the late Queen Mother, which she renovated and lovingly restored. This afternoon, we will visit the private garden at the **Auld Post Office** before continuing to **Dunbeath Castle**, whose extensive gardens feature mature and new plantings. (B & D)

Day 4 En route home, we visit the award-winning private garden **The Lookout** at North Kessock, which enjoys lovely views over the Moray Firth, before continuing to **Inverness Botanic Garden** which provides a sub-tropical oasis in the heart of the Highlands. We then return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

5 July	from £565pp
12 July	from £565pp
Single Supplement £150	

ORKNEY'S GARDEN TRAIL

You may be forgiven for thinking that the far north of Scotland and the Orkney Isles in particular are more about mountains and moorlands, crashing waves and high seaside cliffs than a picture of manicured gardens. Well of course it is all about wild landscapes, however it is also home to a collection of very determined gardeners who have created, in some cases over generations, a collection of excellent gardens, set amidst a beautiful landscape of long summer days and evenings when it hardly gets dark – a twilight that is known as the 'simmer dim'.

We begin in Caithness and Sutherland, with visits to the Castle of Mey and other gardens before crossing the Pentland Firth to Orkney. Here we follow Orkney's Garden Trail with visits to a selection of private gardens which have kindly allowed us special access, led by our guide **Sue Pomeroy**, herself a Highland gardener and plant expert of some distinction. Of course, we could not visit Orkney without calling in at some of its archaeological and historical wonders, such as Maeshowe, all the while enjoying those endless Orcadian summer days.

6 DAYS FROM
£1175



St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall



Marengo

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head north to our first garden, **Old Allangrange**, a lovely old property with surrounding garden set in the heart of the Black Isle. Continue north to Wick. (D)

Day 2 After photo stops at **Duncansby Head** and **John O'Groats** we visit the **Castle of Mey**, whose delightful gardens were created by the late Queen Mother, and we call in at the privately owned and secluded garden of the **Auld Post Office**, south of Thurso. (B & D)

Day 3 We take the ferry across the Pentland Firth and begin our tour of Orkney with visits to the world-famous monument of **Skara Brae** and the well-stocked Victorian garden at **Kierfold**. (B & D)

Day 4 We visit two private gardens this morning, the **Community Garden**, with its stunning variety of features, and **Stenwood** with its wide range of perennials, roses and shrubs. We then venture back in time with visits to the standing stones at **Stenness** and **Brodgar**, and the outstanding chambered tomb at **Maeshowe**. (B & D)

Day 5 Enjoy visits to five small gardens on Orkney's Garden Trail, including the historic **Quoy of Houton** and the community garden of **Marengo**, as well as the iconic **Italian Chapel**. (B & D)

Day 6 After taking the ferry back to the mainland we visit the lovely walled garden at **Langwell** before heading home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at Mackay's Hotel, Wick and three nights at the Orkney Hotel, Kirkwall
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- » Services of Sue Pomeroy as tour manager

Departures & Prices

14 July	from £1175pp
28 July	from £1175pp
Single Supplement £250	



Logan Botanic Gardens



Floors Castle

NEW FOR 2021

SCOTLAND

GARDENS OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

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

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

Our tours are led by local resident, **Colin Crosbie**, former Curator of RHS Wisley.

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Drumlanrig Castle

Your Itinerary

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

Day 2 We begin with a visit to the lavishly planted **Glenwhan Garden**, which enjoys marvellous views over Luce Bay and we continue to the world-famous Logan Botanic Garden with its superb collection of exotic plants. In June and July, our afternoon visit is to neighbouring **Logan House**, with its champion trees and sweeping lawns, while later in the year we call in at **Cally Gardens**, with its year-round colour. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning sees us at the former artist's studio of **Broughton House**, whose compact but colourful garden displays Japanese influences. Later we browse among the plants at the nursery of **Ellenbank** before enjoying the splendid surroundings of **Threave Estate**, whose extensive gardens have been largely created by horticulture students. (B & D)

Day 4 Art and horticulture are beautifully combined at **Drumlanrig Castle**, an imposing Renaissance building that is home to outstanding paintings and furniture as well as grand Victorian gardens. Our final visit provides a contemporary contrast: Charles Jencks' **Crawick Multiverse**, a hidden gem nestled in the rolling hills. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Woodland Hotel, Dumfries
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of Colin Crosbie as tour manager

Departures & Prices

6 June	from £675pp
14 July	from £595pp
15 August	from £645pp
15 September	from £595pp

Single Supplement **£180**

PRIVATE GARDENS OF THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Among the rolling hills of the Scottish Borders is a host of attractive gardens, from intimate private properties to the splendour of Floors Castle. Broadly following the course of the River Tweed, which runs like a silver thread through this tour, we visit a carefully selected series of gardens from our base just outside Peebles.

These include the walled garden at Kailzie and the private gardens of Carolside, Corbet Tower and Lennel Bank, each one offering interest and individuality. Lying adjacent to historic Melrose Abbey are the tranquil Harmony Gardens and the specialist Priorwood Gardens, while at West Leas we will discover a dramatic project on a grand scale with a passion for plants at its heart. Impressive as this project may be, nothing can quite compare to the grandeur and spectacle of Floors Castle, the largest inhabited house in Scotland, whose fine gardens enjoy glorious views over the Tweed.

3 DAYS FROM
£495



Peebles

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart for our first visit, **Kailzie Gardens**. Standing 700 feet above sea level, the garden has encountered frost in every month of the year and plant selection is restricted to the most hardy. From here, we travel to the private garden of **Carolside**, a traditional and romantic garden set in a beautiful 18th century landscape. (D)

Day 2 We visit the **Harmony** and **Priorwood Gardens** in historic Melrose before enjoying the marvellous vistas at **Floors Castle**, perhaps the grandest garden in the Borders. By contrast, **Lennel Bank** is a small private garden built on a series of terraces but packed with unusual shapes and plants. (B & D)

Day 3 We head for the private garden of **Corbet Tower**, set in parklands in the foothills of the Cheviots. The garden includes a formal box parterred rose garden with old fashioned roses, a well stocked traditional walled vegetable and cutting garden, lawns with a medieval peel tower and an attractive woodland walk. Next is **West Leas**, an ambitious project that is still in the making. At its core is a passion for plants allied to a love and understanding of the land in which they are set. We conclude at the private garden of **Monteviot**, a series of differing gardens, including a river garden with herbaceous shrub borders and a dene garden planted with a variety of foliage plants. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Two nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Cardrona Hotel, near Peebles
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

21 May	from £495pp
23 July	from £495pp

Single Supplement **£120**



Pitmuies



Dumfries House

SCOTLAND

BEST OF ANGUS GARDENS

The rich fertile soil of Angus provides an ideal environment for gardening, so it's no surprise that within this historic county in North-East Scotland there is a host of wonderful gardens to be enjoyed.

The House of Pitmuies, with its lavishly-planted herbaceous borders, is perhaps the star of the show. We see two grand gardens at Edzell Castle, which features a delightful formal garden, and Glamis, perhaps better known for its royal connections but home to some lovely grounds. Further highlights include a trip into the Braes of Angus to see an upland garden, the herbalist's garden at Logie House; traditional mixed borders at Dunninald, and Langley Park near Montrose, which features four separate walled gardens along with woodland and wildflowers. We conclude our tour with a visit to Gardyne Castle, which after a turbulent history of battles with the neighbouring Guthries, is now surrounded by an enchanting garden created by its current owners over the past few years.

4 DAYS FROM
£545



Edzell Castle

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points this morning and head for our first visit, **Inchmill Cottage**, a long, sloping terraced garden 800 feet above sea level in the Braes of Angus. We then continue to our hotel in Montrose. (D)

Day 2 We visit the herbalist's gardens at **Logie House**, where the herbs are labelled with a brief description of their actions and uses. We continue to **Glamis Castle**, the childhood home of the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, where there are superb displays of rhododendrons and azaleas in early summer and a delightful Italian garden. In the afternoon we visit the attractive private garden of **Torwood**. (B & D)

Day 3 We begin today at **Edzell Castle**, where we find a delightful formal garden decorated with sculptured stone panels. In the afternoon we visit two gardens close to our base in Montrose, **Langley Park** with its well planted herbaceous borders, and **Dunninald**, whose walled garden is planted with traditional mixed borders. (B & D)

Day 4 This morning we pay a visit to **Pitmuies**, whose lavishly planted and colourful borders will be one of the highlights of our holiday. We conclude at **Gardyne Castle**, whose enchanting garden with its romantic borders belies a turbulent history of battles with the neighbouring clan. We then return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

14 May from **£545pp**
20 August from **£545pp**
 Single Supplement **£90**

BEST OF AYRSHIRE GARDENS

While we have long extolled the virtues of Dumfries and Galloway as a destination for garden tours, the neighbouring county of Ayrshire has been rather neglected - unfairly so, for there is a host of fine gardens to be discovered in this green and fertile county.

We visit grand properties such as Culzean Castle and Dumfries House, complemented by smaller, privately owned gardens. These include Burnside, with its wide range of plants; Carnell, where a traditional walled garden is backed by a 100-yard-long herbaceous border; and Barnweil, where a splendid garden has been created despite the challenges of soil and aspect. Further highlights include Blair House, a lovingly restored 'sleeping beauty'; masses of colour at Auchlochan Walled Garden and Holmes Farm Nursery for a souvenir of our visit to Ayrshire. We also offer the opportunity to visit the wonderful island of Arran, with visits to the private garden of Dougarie as well as to Brodick Castle with its woodland and walled gardens.

4 DAYS FROM
£545



Culzean Castle

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We begin in the grand surroundings of **Culzean Castle**, perched atop a cliff overlooking the sea. The house is one of the finest examples of the architect's art in Scotland, while the surrounding landscape provides a picturesque and dramatic setting. The garden at **Burnside** is smaller but no less impressive, with a wonderfully diverse range of plants. We continue to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 **Carnell** is our first port of call this morning, a well-known traditional walled garden with mature hedges, specimen trees and a lime avenue planted to commemorate a battle in 1743. Next we visit **Barnweil**, where an impressive and well-stocked garden has been created despite clay soil

and a northerly aspect, followed by **Blair House**, a 'sleeping beauty' of a garden which has been lovingly restored. A visit to **Holmes Farm Nursery** completes an enthralling day. (B & D)

Day 3 Today is free, but there is our optional excursion to the **Isle of Arran**, where we visit the attractive privately owned garden of **Dougarie** and historic **Brodick Castle and Gardens**, which enjoys fine views over the Firth of Clyde. (B & D)

Day 4 **Dumfries House** is perhaps best known for its world-class collection, but its walled garden is one of the best in Scotland, as is that at **Auchlochan**, with a mass of colour at every turn. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

24 May from **£545pp**
26 July from **£545pp**
 Single Supplement **£135**
 Optional excursion - Isle of Arran **£50**



Puffins on the Island of Lunga



Bottlenose dolphin

MULL WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

With its diverse landscape of mountains, sea lochs, moorland and peatbog, the Isle of Mull is home to a wide range of mammals and birds, and has established itself as one of the UK's top wildlife destinations.

Mull is a paradise for birdwatchers and one of the best places in the country to see big raptors such as the golden eagle and white-tailed sea eagle, as well as a multitude of seabirds such as puffins, guillemots, razorbills and kittiwakes.

This is also one of the most important habitats in Europe for dolphins, porpoises and whales. In the course of our cruise in the waters around Mull, we hope to see some of these elusive and mysterious mammals as well as the huge but harmless basking sharks. Otters, seals and red deer are just some of the other animals we will look out for during our time on the island.

4 DAYS FROM
£995



Otter

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points and head for **Oban**, where we board the afternoon ferry to **Craignure** and transfer the short distance to our hotel. This evening we have a presentation by a member of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. (D)

Day 2 Our first stop today is awe-inspiring **Staffa** and, in particular, **Fingal's Cave**, formed as a result of volcanic activity millions of years ago. As we cruise through the many islands and rocks that make up the **Treshnish Isles**, look out for the common and Atlantic grey seals. Finally, we land on **Lunga**, the largest of the islands, where we spend a few hours viewing puffins, razorbills, fulmars, shags and kittiwakes. (B, L & D)

Day 3 Today, following breakfast, we have a **wildlife walk** on the island of Mull with one of Mull's top guides. We will learn how to find and where to search for different animals. Today, we can hope to see otters, seals and sea eagles. (B, L & D)

Day 4 We check out of our hotel and enjoy a short **wildlife cruise** in the waters around Mull. We will look for whales, dolphins, porpoises, basking sharks and seals. Thereafter, we catch the ferry back to Oban before returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

22 May from **£995pp**
Single Supplement **£195**

HIGHLAND WILDLIFE SAFARI

Scotland's natural environment is second to none with a more diverse range of habitats than almost any other country of comparable size.

We begin at the Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve where, in addition to a pair of breeding ospreys, you may spot deer, otters, red squirrels and woodland birds. The Highland Wildlife Park's collection includes both native and non-native species, such as the snow leopard and polar bears.

It is hoped that on our boat trip on the Moray Firth we may see the resident pod of dolphins, while at the House of Aigas, we see a beaver dam and also visit the wildcat project.

We have a day among the majestic mountains of Wester Ross as we travel to Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve and our tour concludes at the Fish Ladder at Pitlochry Dam, for a chance to see the mighty salmon making their way upstream.

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Osprey

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart for the **Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve**, where the star attraction is a pair of breeding ospreys. We continue to the **Highland Wildlife Park**, near Aviemore, which has an extensive collection of both native and exotic animals, including polar bears and the snow leopard. (D)

Day 2 We take a boat trip on the **Moray Firth**, where we have an excellent chance of seeing bottlenose dolphins at close quarters as they feed among the tidal waters here. We continue to the **House of Aigas Field Centre**, where we have a guided walk around the estate to view the beaver dam and Scottish Wildcat project, followed by lunch using produce from the estate. (B, L & D)

Day 3 We travel through some glorious mountain scenery to **Loch Maree**, where we enjoy a gentle woodland walk at the **Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve**. In the afternoon, we visit **Inverewe Gardens**, one of the finest gardens in the world with a host of botanical specimens, both native and exotic. (B & D)

Day 4 We visit the **Abernethy National Nature Reserve** at Loch Garten, where we hope to see a number of different birds, including the crested tit, crossbills and ospreys. Our final stop is at **Pitlochry Dam** and **Fish Ladder**, an opportunity to see salmon passing upstream on the River Tummel. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

25 June from **£695pp**
23 July from **£695pp**
Single Supplement **£90**

A CLASSIC SCOTTISH STEAM BREAK

4 DAYS FROM
£595



The Jacobite steam train

Steam locomotion has an enduring fascination for many of us and combined with the wonderful scenery of Scotland it becomes utterly irresistible. The Jacobite steam train, from Fort William to Mallaig, is one of the longest steam-hauled rail journeys available in Britain today, an 84-mile round trip through some spectacular scenery that also includes the 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct. A gentler pace is set as we sail 'Doon ra Watter' on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, the PS Waverley*, still elegantly plying her trade on the Clyde. There can be no better way to enjoy the gentle beauty of the Argyll hills and the Kyles of Bute than from the deck of this grand old lady. We also enjoy a relaxed and informative cruise on the calm waters of Loch Katrine amid the spectacular scenery of the Trossachs and a boat trip on the Falkirk Wheel, the world's first rotating boat lift and a modern engineering marvel. We offer two different packages for this tour in 2021, following the same itinerary: one staying at the Arrochar Hotel and one staying at the luxurious Stirling Highland Hotel.

*subject to confirmation of the Waverley's sailing schedule.



Falkirk Wheel



PS Waverley

SCOTLAND

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and travel to the **Falkirk Wheel**, the world's first rotating boat lift. We begin our journey on the water at New Port Downie, from where we will sail into the Falkirk Wheel and enjoy the truly spectacular scenery as the wheel commences its graceful ascent to join the Union Canal 35m above. We sail along the Union Canal and under the historic Antonine Wall, the Romans' most northern frontier, and also have time to explore the visitor centre. We then continue to our hotel where dinner is served in the evening. (D)

Day 2 Today we journey back in time aboard the Jacobite steam train and experience one of the most spectacular railways journeys in the world - the famous **Fort William to Mallaig** line. "The Jacobite" combines the romance of the steam era with the opportunity to drink in the stunning views of this wild and historic part of Scotland. From the slopes of Ben Nevis the line runs through rugged mountains, past sea and inland lochs and onto the shores of the Atlantic at Mallaig. The route also takes us over the massive **Glenfinnan Viaduct** overlooking Loch Shiel, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745. There is time to enjoy lunch (not included) in Mallaig, whether you choose fish and chips, crab sandwiches or freshly landed lobster. (B & D)

Day 3 Today we enjoy our sail 'Doon ra Watter' on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer - **The Waverley***, the last ocean-going paddle steamer plying its trade on the River Clyde. It was built in 1946 to replace the 1899 Waverley, which was sunk at Dunkirk, and is an extremely impressive sight with its immense 2,100 horsepower steam engine. We will leave the ship at Tighnabruich and our coach will be waiting to take us back to the hotel, travelling over the "Rest and Be Thankful" and through stunning Argyll scenery. (B & D)

Day 4 Following breakfast we check out of the hotel and depart for a cruise on **Loch Katrine**, which serves as Glasgow's water supply and is also one of the most attractive fresh water lochs in Scotland, set amid the famed beauty of the Trossachs. Following our cruise, we continue by Aberfoyle, the Duke's Pass and Loch Venachar to **Callander** where we will have some free time before returning to our original departure points. (B)

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



Loch Katrine

Stirling Highland Hotel

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

1 July	from £695pp
19 August	from £695pp
Single Supplement £120	

Arrochar Hotel

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

21 June	from £625pp
24 June	from £665pp
8 July	from £595pp
15 July	from £595pp
22 July	from £665pp
5 August	from £595pp
12 August	from £665pp
26 August	from £595pp
14 October	from £595pp
Single Supplement £90	



Strathspey Railway



Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway

NEW FOR 2021

SCOTLAND

SCENIC SCOTTISH RAILWAYS

The north of Scotland is blessed with some wonderfully scenic railway lines. The challenge of building railways through some of the most difficult terrain in the British Isles was taken up by the great engineers of the Victorian age. Their legacy is in the sweeping curves and majestic viaducts of the single-track lines, which cross wild moors and glens.

Using scheduled diesel train services, we will travel northwards to Wick, following the coast as far as Helmsdale, before sweeping inland through the wild and empty country of Sutherland and Caithness, and westwards to Kyle of Lochalsh, by Strath Bran and Strath Carron to the shores of Loch Alsh. We have the added attraction of steam haulage for our two other journeys. The Jacobite ensures that the haunting sound of a steam whistle continues to echo around Glenfinnan, as the train crosses 'Concrete Bob' McAlpine's magnificent viaduct on its way from Fort William to Mallaig.

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Eilean Donan Castle

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from our chosen pick-up points and travel by coach to Aviemore and the **Strathspey Railway**, where our train of maroon-liveried coaches hauled by a lovingly restored steam locomotive will evoke memories of train journeys in the 1950s and 60s. The line crosses heather-covered moorland with the Cairngorm Mountains beyond, scenes which have changed little in the last hundred years. (D)

Day 2 We transfer to Inverness and board the morning diesel train service to **Wick**, travelling first along the spectacular coastline before turning inland and passing through the stark beauty of the 'Flow Country'. We return by coach from Wick on the more direct but equally scenic coastal road. (B & D)

Day 3 We depart once again by diesel train from Inverness, this time diverging at Dingwall and heading for **Kyle of Lochalsh** on the west coast, a rail journey that is widely considered the most scenic in Britain. In the afternoon we explore the iconic and much-photographed castle of **Eilean Donan**. (B & D)

Day 4 We return to the west coast for our excursion on **'The Jacobite'**, the steam-hauled train that has established itself as one of the premier attractions in Scotland, thanks to the unbeatable combination of superb scenery and the sight, sound and smell of a powerful steam locomotive. After our return trip from Fort William to Mallaig, we depart for home by coach. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Craiglyne Hotel, Speyside
- » All excursions and visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

7 May	from £625pp
27 July	from £645pp
24 September	from £625pp
8 October	from £595pp
Single Supplement £90	

CALEDONIAN DAYS

In the days before widespread private car ownership, a day out in Scotland meant getting on a train or boarding a steamer – sometimes both – and for millions of people, the highlight of their year was a trip 'doon ra watter' on the Firth of Clyde or a leisurely train ride to the Highlands. This new tour is an unashamedly nostalgic recreation of such excursions, along with the opportunity to see some of the locomotives and ships that still survive from the golden age of excursion travel in beautiful Scotland.

We enjoy a steam-hauled journey at the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway and take a modern day 'steamer' across the Firth of Clyde to Rothesay, a classic day trip resort. A full-day excursion takes us on the superbly scenic West Highland railway to the bustling harbour town of Oban and finally we have a look around the paddle steamer Maid of the Loch at her berth at the southern end of Loch Lomond, another chance to catch a glimpse of those innocent yet exciting day trips of old.

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Maid of the Loch

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We travel by coach to Bo'ness for a return journey on the **Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway**, an attractive private heritage railway running along the Firth of Forth. We also explore the museum which houses one of the largest collection of locomotives, carriages and wagons in Scotland. (D)

Day 2 After a visit to the excellent **Riverside Museum of Transport and Travel** in Glasgow we take the electric train to **Wemyss Bay**, where the elegant station canopy has been sympathetically restored. A covered walkway takes us straight on to the ferry to Bute and the traditional seaside resort of **Rothesay**, an excursion that for thousands of people used to be one of the highlights of their year. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning we depart from Helensburgh Upper for a journey on the highly scenic **West Highland Line** to Oban. The route passes through magnificent scenery, past the sea lochs of Gare Loch and Loch Long and the northern end of Loch Lomond before climbing through Glen Falloch to Crianlarich, where the line turns west towards **Oban** and the sea. Our return journey by train and coach follows the route of the long-gone but equally scenic **Callander and Oban Railway**. (B & D)

Day 4 We return to the shores of Loch Lomond for a look around the vintage paddle steamer **Maid of the Loch**, a magnificent example of Clyde-built engineering. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Winnock Hotel in the Trossachs
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coaching and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

6 June	from £595pp
3 July	from £595pp
1 September	from £595pp
11 September	from £645pp
Single Supplement £90	



Tobermory



Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness

LORD OF THE GLENS

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS – 6 DAYS

The MV Lord of the Glens, with its 27 beautifully appointed state cabins, sails between Inverness, Fort Augustus and Oban.

We begin at Inverness and cruise Loch Ness to Fort Augustus. The vessel is then lifted by a series of locks to peaceful Loch Oich and continues to Banavie in the shadow of Ben Nevis. Here, we see Thomas Telford's engineering masterpiece – Neptune's Staircase, a series of eight inter-connected locks that take vessels back to sea-level near Fort William. We then sail out into the sea and cruise to Mull and Oban, where the voyage concludes. In between our cruising, there is also a full programme of shore excursions, which include a train journey, a visit to the Glenfinnan Monument, and visits to both Duart Castle and Tobermory.

6 DAYS FROM
£1495



Glenfinnan Viaduct

Your Itinerary

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

Day 2 Cruise the length of mysterious **Loch Ness** with a photo opportunity at **Urquhart Castle** and time to explore **Fort Augustus**. (FB)

Day 3 Continue through sections of the **Caledonian Canal** and peaceful lochs before we take a train ride across the iconic **Glenfinnan Viaduct** and visit the **Glenfinnan Monument**. (FB)

Day 4 Negotiate '**Neptune's Staircase**' then cruise Loch Linnhe to Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. (FB)

Day 5 Visit **Duart Castle** on Mull then sail over to Oban, where we visit the fantastic **whisky distillery**. (FB)

Day 6 Today we disembark and transfer by coach back to Inverness. (B)

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



Lord of the Glens

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' accommodation in a lower deck twin cabin on a full board basis. All cabins have en-suite facilities and can be upgraded at a supplement
- » Shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- » Return coach transfers from Inverness

Limited availability for 2021 – please see our website or contact us for more details.

Departures & Prices

2022

Inverness to Oban	
4 April	from £1495pp
6 October	from £1495pp
Oban to Inverness	
20 April	from £1495pp
1 October	from £1495pp
11 October	from £1495pp
Single Supplement from £900	

LORD OF THE GLENS

HEART OF THE HIGHLANDS – 8 DAYS

A slightly longer version of the tour to the left, this 8-day edition includes everything on the other itinerary, but also features an excursion to Eilean Donan Castle as well as time to visit the tiny island of Eigg. This latter destination offers a sense of what life is like for the 90 people who live there. There is also a visit to the Clan Donald Centre and Gardens on the Isle of Skye.

8 DAYS FROM
£2395



Neptune's Staircase



Glenfinnan Monument

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Travel under our own arrangement to Inverness. A coach transfer is provided to Kyle of Lochalsh on the west coast, where we embark the **MV Lord of the Glens**. Later, we join the crew for a welcome drinks reception. (D)

Day 2 Depart for a visit to **Eilean Donan Castle**, one of the most photographed castles in Scotland. Sail to Skye for a visit to the **Clan Donald Centre** and stay overnight in remote Inverie. (FB)

Day 3 Sail to the tiny island of **Eigg** and experience the remoteness of island life. Continue to Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. (FB)

Day 4 Cruise to the sacred **Isle of Iona** and on to Oban. (FB)

Day 5 Sail north into Loch Linnhe before taking a train ride across the iconic **Glenfinnan Viaduct** and visiting the **Glenfinnan Monument**. (FB)

Day 6 The vessel ascends **Neptune's Staircase** and sails through lochs and man-made sections of the Caledonian Canal. (FB)

Day 7 We negotiate the locks in **Fort Augustus** then cruise the length of Loch Ness. Afternoon visits to **Clava Cairns** and **Culloden battlefield** await. (FB)

Day 8 Disembark in Inverness. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' accommodation in a lower deck twin cabin on a full board basis. All cabins have en-suite facilities and can be upgraded at a supplement
- » Shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- » Return coach transfers from Inverness

Limited availability for 2021 – please see our website or contact us for more details.

Departures & Prices

2022

Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh	
25 April	from £2395pp
9 May	from £2395pp
Kyle of Lochalsh to Inverness	
2 May	from £2395pp
19 September	from £2395pp
Single Supplement from £1500	



Dunkeld Cathedral

AUTUMN TINTS OF PERTHSHIRE

3 DAYS FROM
£345

Perthshire is home to some remarkable trees and, come autumn, the leaves turn from fresh green to a palette of red, gold, yellow and bronze – a wonderful sight to behold as the morning mists clear.

At Scone Palace, we see some of the towering specimens and then visit two historic trees – the Parent Larch in the grounds of Dunkeld Cathedral and the Birnam Oak, the last surviving remnant of the wood mentioned in ‘Macbeth’.

We visit the Fortingall Yew, which is at least 3,000 years old; The Hermitage, a wild ‘tree garden’ created by the Dukes of Atholl; and the wonderful woodland garden at Cluny House.

We conclude at Faskally Forest, which offers a glorious profusion of trees, and Diana’s Grove at Blair Castle, which presents probably the best ‘big tree’ experience in the country.



Autumn in the Hermitage, Dunkeld

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We travel to **Scone Palace**, whose magnificent collection of trees includes the original Douglas fir raised from the seed that plant-hunter David Douglas sent back from America in 1827. We continue to **Dunkeld** in the afternoon. Near the famous cathedral, we will find the remaining **Parent Larch**, the sole survivor from a group of larches planted here over 250 years ago, and nearby the **Birnam Oak**, believed to be the last surviving remnant of Birnam Wood, as mentioned in ‘Macbeth’. (D)

Day 2 Our first visit is to the geographical heart of Scotland, where stands the **Fortingall Yew**, which has been

guesstimated at anything between 3,000 and 9,000 years old. We continue to the wonderful woodland garden at **Cluny House**, the wild tree garden at the **Hermitage**, and then it’s on to **Aberfeldy**, where we see the birch trees that inspired Robert Burns. (B & D)

Day 3 After a stroll around **Faskally Forest**, we continue to the **Pass of Killiecrankie**, which offers a splendid walk beside the River Garry, then we travel north to **Blair Castle** to visit Diana’s Grove, an outstanding ‘big tree’ experience. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Two nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Birnam Hotel, Dunkeld
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

11 October from **£365pp**
18 October from **£345pp**
 Single Supplement **£50**



Christmas in Moffat

CHRISTMAS IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

4 DAYS FROM
£595

The four-star Cardrona Hotel, Golf & Spa, nestling on the banks of the River Tweed in a tranquil valley a few miles to the east of Peebles in the Scottish Borders, provides the luxurious setting for a relaxing, stress-free Christmas break. From the moment you arrive at the hotel, welcomed with a cream tea, you will enjoy the best of Scottish hospitality and a full festive programme that includes carol singing and a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. You can make full use of the superb leisure facilities, which include an 18-metre swimming pool, and a range of beauty treatments is also available. During the course of our stay, there will be an excursion into the rolling Borders hills and a visit to nearby Peebles, a charming little town with an appealing, timeless quality.



Celebrate the festive season

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart for **Peebles** and the four-star **Cardrona Hotel, Golf & Spa**, set on the River Tweed. We are welcomed on arrival with festive teas and after dinner there will be a drinks reception followed by Christmas carols. (D)

Day 2 After a glass of Buck’s Fizz with breakfast the morning is free to relax. A traditional **Christmas carvery lunch** with all the trimmings follows and after the Queen’s Speech you are free to use the leisure facilities, take a stroll or unwind and read a book. (B, L & D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we depart on an optional scenic coach tour of the Border country, which will see us visiting the delightful towns of **Moffat, Galashiels** and **Melrose**. Alternatively, book in for a spa treatment or enjoy a round of winter golf at the hotel. (B & D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we head for home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Cardrona Hotel, Golf & Spa, near Peebles
- » Welcome festive tea, Buck’s Fizz at breakfast and lunch on Christmas Day
- » Comfortable coach travel including scenic tour of the Borders
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

24 December from **£595pp**
 Single Supplement **£195**



Stirling Castle



Dumfries

SCOTLAND

NEW FOR 2021

NEW FOR 2021

CHRISTMAS IN STIRLING

Our base for this relaxing Christmas break is the 4-star Stirling Highland Hotel, which is uniquely set within a former school, a charming Victorian building with its own rooftop observatory, in the heart of historic Stirling. As well as luxurious rooms with traditional Scottish interiors, the hotel offers an extensive spa and fitness suite, with four treatment rooms, a 17-metre indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gym. From the moment you arrive at the hotel, you will enjoy the best of Scottish hospitality and a full festive programme that includes mulled wine and mince pies, a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings and even live entertainment. You can make full use of the superb leisure facilities, with a range of spa and beauty treatments also available (at a supplement). During the course of our stay there will be an excursion into the Trossachs, a highly scenic area of rolling hills and tranquil lochs.

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Traditional Christmas dinner

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from our designated pick-up points and head for **Stirling**, where there will be free time to explore this historic city, do some last-minute Christmas shopping or perhaps visit the impressive castle (entrance not included). Alternatively, make your own way to Stirling by road or rail. Mince pies and mulled wine are served on arrival. (D)

Day 2 After a leisurely breakfast and time to open a present or two, we gather for a traditional **Christmas Lunch** with all the trimmings. Later there will be entertainment and a light supper. (B, L & D)

Day 3 We depart on a scenic tour of **the Trossachs**, travelling via Aberfoyle and the Duke's Pass; Lochs Katrine and Venacher; Callander and Dunblane, where we will see the gold letter box commemorating the Olympic medal wins of the town's most famous son, Sir Andy Murray. We return to the hotel in the afternoon with time to relax and enjoy all the facilities of the hotel before enjoying another festive feast. (B & D)

Day 4 After a final leisurely morning and perhaps a stroll into town, it's time to head for home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Stirling Highland Hotel
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel including scenic tour of The Trossachs
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

24 December from **£595pp**

Single Supplement **£120**

A SCOTTISH HOGMANAY

Treat yourself to an authentic Hogmanay experience at the family run, 4-star Woodland House Hotel, in Dumfries – Scotland's 'Queen of the South'. Set in a sympathetically restored and extended Grade B-listed Georgian mansion with delightfully traditional yet relaxed surroundings, there's nowhere better to see in the New Year.

On Hogmanay we enjoy a circular tour through the rolling hills of Dumfries and Galloway, including a stop at the famous 'book town' of Wigtown, before the celebrations begin with a glass of fizz followed by a four-course Hogmanay dinner and live entertainment from a local band, culminating in 'the bells' at midnight, welcomed in traditional style by a kilted piper. A leisurely New Year's Day takes us over the border to Cumbria for a scenic drive along the route of Hadrian's Wall, perhaps the most impressive of all the Roman remains in Britain.

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Hogmanay

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points for Dumfries, where there will be some free time before we transfer to our hotel, with dinner served in the evening. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast on New Year's Eve we head out on a scenic coach tour of **Dumfries and Galloway**, travelling via Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright to Wigtown, notable for its second-hand bookshops, and returning via Newton Stewart and New Galloway. Back at the hotel it's time to let the celebrations begin with a glass of Woodland Fizz followed by a four-course dinner and musical

entertainment provided by a local live band. The New Year is welcomed in traditional style by a kilted piper bringing in 'the bells'. (B & D)

Day 3 A leisurely breakfast eases us into New Year's Day, after which we depart on an excursion that takes us over the border into England and along the route of **Hadrian's Wall**, with a stop at Walltown Crag, one of the most spectacular sections of this dramatic landscape. In the evening, we once again enjoy dinner from the special Hogmanay menu. (B & D)

Day 4 Today we depart for home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Woodland House Hotel, Dumfries
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coaching throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

30 December from **£595pp**

Single Supplement **£150**

THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW AND CLASSIC ENGLISH GARDENS



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

Our two-centre holiday begins in the West Country with a wander round Tyntesfield, a fine National Trust Victorian country house with a glorious walled garden. We also visit the ancient Bishop's Palace in Wells, the Harold Peto designed garden at Iford Manor, followed by free time in the elegant Georgian surroundings of Bath, and Hestercombe, one of Gertrude Jekyll's and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. Heading back towards London we visit 'Capability' Brown's famous landscape garden of Stourhead and the beautiful gardens of Wilton House near Salisbury. After a full day at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, we tour the unmissable RHS Garden Wisley as well as the outstanding gardens of Sissinghurst and Great Dixter in Kent.



GARDENS

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points in London and travel to **Tyntesfield**, a fine Victorian country house. Spiralling turrets and pinnacles adorn the roof, and ornate stone carvings and church-like windows complete the Gothic look. Terraced lawns give way to spacious parkland filled with hundreds of trees collected by the family, and a glorious walled kitchen garden beyond. We then continue to our hotel in Somerset. (D)

Day 2 Today, we visit **Iford Manor**, where we have an exclusive private visit. Its Italianate garden is Grade I listed and was created by the architect and landscape gardener, Harold Peto. In the afternoon we head to **Bath** for some free time in this historic city, noted for its fine Georgian architecture and its Roman Baths. (B & D)

Day 3 We start our day at **The Bishop's Palace** in Wells, Somerset. This is a stunning medieval building and we enjoy a special 'Horticulture at the Palace' tour upon arrival. There are 14 acres of gardens to explore, including the beautiful well pools from which the city takes its name. We will also be given some free time here to experience the city's architecture, view its breathtaking cathedral and have free time for lunch. In the afternoon, we visit **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Edwin Lutyens' greatest masterpieces. The garden is home to a round pool in a round walled garden filled with wintersweet and roses, a Dutch garden of lamb's ears, lavender and the most beautiful orangery of the 20th century. (B & D)

Day 4 We make our way to the gardens at **Stourhead**, first opened in the 1740s. Temples, urns, a grotto and a wealth of trees all contribute to the special atmosphere of this celebrated landscape

garden. It is, above all, a garden to walk in, following the serpentine path that borders the lake which forms the serene centrepiece. In the afternoon we visit the gardens of **Wilton House**, near Salisbury. This impressive Palladian mansion has been the country seat for the Earls of Pembroke for over 400 years and its gardens are quite superb. (B & D)

Day 5 Our entire day is spent at the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, a great British tradition and exciting source of inspiration and advice. One of the highlights of the show is the collection of over 20 full-sized show gardens. Inside the Great Marquee, visitors are dazzled by hundreds of floral displays, many of them incorporating new, rare and unusual plants. Other popular features here include flower-arranging, floristry and garden design marquees, courtyard gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets. (B & D)

Day 6 Today begins at the manicured gardens of **Sissinghurst**, where we are treated to an exclusive guided tour before the gardens open to the public. The history to be explored here is fascinating, and the gardens themselves are simply stunning.



We continue to another classic English garden – this time **Great Dixter**. The distinguished garden writer Christopher Lloyd was the genius behind the elegant gardens of a timbered 15th century house. (B & D)

Day 7 This morning we transfer to the showpiece **RHS Garden Wisley**, where we enjoy a guided tour. This outdoor space is home to glasshouses, an arboretum and many glorious gardens. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton, Somerset (or similar) and three nights at the 3-star Holiday Inn Farnborough (or similar)
- » Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

16 May from **£1295pp**
Single Supplement **£330**

NEW FOR 2021

RHS GARDEN BRIDGEWATER AND GARDENS OF THE NORTH WEST

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Italian Gardens, Trentham Estate



Tatton Park



Arley Hall

GARDENS

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head for the gardens of **Trentham Estate** in Staffordshire. The contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was led by renowned designer and multiple-Chelsea gold medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith. To the east of the Italian Gardens are the Rivers of Grass and the adjacent Floral Labyrinth. Both these schemes were designed by eminent Dutch plantsman and Chelsea gold medal winner, Piet Oudolf. At the centre of Trentham Gardens is the mile long, Capability Brown-designed Trentham Lake. Take the circular lakeside walk all the way round as it takes you beside the River Trent, by the bird hide, through Capability Brown's cascading weir and along atmospheric woodland trails. The show gardens offer further inspiration to gardeners on a more domestic scale. (D)

Day 2 We depart for the brand new **RHS Garden Bridgewater** at Worsley. This once in a generation project will see the Royal Horticultural Society take inspiration from the heritage of the site and transform it into a world-class garden. Based on an overall design by leading landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith, highlights will include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials.

In the afternoon, we visit a nearby **private garden**, which, in contrast to Bridgewater, is much smaller but no less intriguing. As featured on BBC TV's Gardeners' World, this is a two-acre water garden with ponds, streams, waterfalls, islands and a lake. There is a good variety of trees, plants and climbers and the garden is a haven for local waterfowl. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning we visit the gardens at **Dunham Massey**. Previously a garden of straight lines and regimented planting, the garden became the family's pleasure ground under the 5th Earl of Stamford and Warrington, when sweeping lawns and meandering paths were introduced. Dunham Massey was taken over by the National Trust in 1976 and work began to transform the garden to its former glory. It was decided that the garden would have an Edwardian feel with the freedom to choose from a range of planting options, with native favourites alongside exotic treasures. The garden continues to evolve today - modern additions include the Rose Garden and the Winter Garden.

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 designed various elements including the Conservatory. Other features include a vegetable garden used for growing varieties typical of the Edwardian era and a fine representation of a Japanese garden, thought to be the result of Alan de Tatton's visit to the Anglo-Japanese Exhibition at the White City in London in 1910. (B & D)

Day 4 We 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. There are also old walled gardens with good mixed borders and a simple terraced walk above a ha-ha. Still in private hands, Arley Hall preserves the atmosphere of a garden kept for its own delight.

Following our visit we return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Currently the largest gardening project in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater opens to the public in 2021 and we are delighted to be able to offer the opportunity to be among the first to visit it.

Based on an overall design by leading landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith, this once in a generation project will include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trails.

We will also take the opportunity to visit some of the best gardens in the North West, including Trentham Estate in Staffordshire, where the contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was also led by Tom Stuart-Smith; Dunham Massey, a great plantsman's garden; and Arley Hall, whose pair of herbaceous borders is one of the great garden sights of England.

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Best Western Plus Pinewood on Wilmslow Hotel, Cheshire (or similar)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

18 June	from £625pp
16 July	from £595pp
6 August	from £595pp
1 September	from £595pp
8 October	from £595pp
Single Supplement £120	



RHS Bridgewater Kitchen Garden ©Harris Bugg Studio



Arley Hall



Chatsworth House

NEW FOR 2021

GARDENS

THE RHS FLOWER SHOW TATTON PARK AND GARDENS OF CHESHIRE

The Royal Horticultural Society will once again bring a spectacular celebration of flowers and gardening to the north-west of England with the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park. Set against the splendour of Tatton Park's 1,000-acre deer park, the show will be full of attractions, imaginative and colourful displays, and exciting show gardens. This classic English flower show has everything you need – and didn't know you needed – for your garden to flourish.

The herbaceous borders at Arley Hall are one of the great garden sights in England, while Mount Pleasant is a traditional mixed garden complemented by impressive views. Ness Botanic Gardens has a host of features including herbaceous borders, climbing plants and lush water gardens, and finally we visit Stonyford Cottage, an informal natural garden and specialist plant nursery.

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Tatton Park Flower Show

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head for Cheshire where we visit **Ness Botanic Gardens**, which feature herbaceous borders, terraces with climbing plants, native plants and water gardens. Later, we transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 We depart for the **RHS Flower Show Tatton Park**. The show is full of attractions, from spectacular floral marquees ablaze with colourful displays from over 80 nurseries to a series of back to back gardens, proving that even the smallest space can become a treasured retreat. (B & D)

Day 3 We start with a visit to the gardens of **Arley Hall**. A pair of herbaceous borders were laid out here in 1846 and they survive to this day, beautifully maintained. In the afternoon we visit **Mount Pleasant**, 10 acres of landscaped garden and woodland with impressive views over the Cheshire countryside. (B & D)

Day 4 We visit the hidden treasure of **Stonyford Cottage**. This informal natural space has been developed around a pool with bridges leading to an island, which evokes Monet's iconic gardens at Giverny. After lunch we return home. (B & L)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

21 July from **£595pp**
Single Supplement **£135**

GARDENS OF DERBYSHIRE

Set against the classic landscape shaped by Capability Brown and Joseph Paxton, Chatsworth House is the crown jewel among the many attractions of Derbyshire's Peak District. After a tour of the house with its sumptuous interiors and furnishings we will explore the extensive grounds before enjoying a specially arranged private lunch.

We also visit some of the region's classic gardens including Felley Priory, with its beautiful herbaceous borders, old fashioned roses and white garden; Hardwick Hall, known for its woodland, an orchard and romantic rambling roses; and Haddon Hall, which although an ancient residence, has had areas of the garden redesigned in the past few years. We will also venture into neighbouring Yorkshire for a visit to the splendid RHS Garden Harlow Carr and afternoon tea at Betty's Tearoom.

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Hardwick Hall

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and travel to **Felley Priory**. The tranquil grounds house many rare and unusual plants, and the herbaceous borders are a true sight to behold. We continue to **Hardwick Hall**, which dominates the surrounding area. (D)

Day 2 Our day starts at **RHS Harlow Carr**. Within this handsome and well-wooded site, there are sections devoted to particular groups of plants. After refreshments at **Betty's Tearoom**, we have some free time in **Harrogate**, whose attractions include the **Mercer Art Gallery** and the **Royal Pump Room** (entrances not included). (B, Cream Tea & D)

Day 3 We depart for a visit to one of England's most famous stately homes, **Chatsworth House**, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, with a special private lunch included. In the afternoon we travel to nearby **Haddon Hall**, an intensely romantic and hugely historic house, whose gardens still have much of their 17th century character. (B, L & D)

Day 4 We journey to **Hare Hill**, where we find a tranquil woodland garden surrounded by parkland, with a delightful walled garden at its heart. Following our visit we return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Mercure Sheffield Kenwood Hall & Spa
- » Cream Tea at Betty's and private lunch at Chatsworth
- » All visits and comfortable coach travel
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

10 June from **£695pp**
Single Supplement **£90**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Alnwick Garden



Beth Chatto Garden

GARDENS

GARDENS OF NORTHUMBERLAND

The largely rural county of Northumberland is home to a range of individual and imaginative gardens, with each one giving an unusual insight into the pleasure of gardening in this most beautiful and tranquil corner of England.

Our tour begins at the gardens of Belsay Hall, which are uniquely set in the quarry that provided the stone from which the house itself was built. We continue with Mindrum, which was created by a natural artist who then set about creating a new garden at Kirky Cottage, filled with her favourite plants.

In Whalton, one of Northumberland's prettiest villages, we find Manor House, a charming English country house garden that features a contribution by Jekyll and Lutyens. Newbiggin House offers us delightful old fashioned herbaceous borders, while, in contrast, the Alnwick Garden gives us a truly innovative garden for the 21st century.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We travel from London's Kings Cross to Newcastle and transfer to **Belsay Hall**, a Grade I listed medieval Manor House with a banqueting hall that dates back to at least the 13th century. (D)

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

Day 3 Today, we visit **Alnwick Garden**, one of the world's most ambitious new gardens. The Duchess of Northumberland's vision for a forgotten plot is now a 21st century experience full of imagination, inspiration and fun. Our second visit today will be to the garden at the **Manor House**. (B & D)

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

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

4 DAYS FROM
£795



Belsay Hall Garden



Alnwick Garden Tree House

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

13 June	from £795pp
23 July	from £845pp
22 August	from £795pp

No Single Supplement

PRIVATE GARDENS OF EAST ANGLIA

The adjoining counties of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk feature on this tour of some of the finest gardens that East Anglia has to offer.

We begin in Essex, with visits to RHS Garden Hyde Hall and the late Beth Chatto's famous garden and nursery, which was transformed from overgrown wasteland into an informal garden harmonising with the surrounding countryside.

We continue to Helmingham Hall where the house, parkland and gardens together create an exceptional work of art, and to Wyken Hall vineyards and gardens.

We also have the privilege of visiting Raveningham Hall, the garden of RHS President Sir Nicholas Bacon Bt, along with East Ruston Old Vicarage, an inspirational exotic garden that lies less than two miles from the North Sea.

Our final day takes us to The Place for Plants at East Bergholt and Marks Hall Garden and Arboretum.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from London and visit **RHS Hyde Hall** at Rettendon, south of Chelmsford. We continue to **Beth Chatto Gardens** near Colchester, which was transformed from overgrown wasteland with poor gravel soil to a garden that has become justly famous. (D)

Day 2 This morning, we travel to **Wyken Hall and Vineyards** where the beautiful formal gardens should be bursting with topiary, herbs, roses and fruit trees. Next, we head to **Helmingham Hall**, which overlooks a deer park with a double avenue of oaks. To one side, a walled kitchen garden has been put to ornamental use. (B & D)

Day 3 We visit the gardens of **Raveningham Hall**, protected by shelter belts of woodland, herbaceous and mixed borders, wildflower meadows and rolling lawns. A highlight of our visit is the **Time Garden** – designed around Francis Bacon's essays based on the passage of time. We continue with a visit to the breathtaking 20-acre **East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden**, which for many will be the highlight of our visit to Norfolk. (B & D)

Day 4 We visit the incomparable **Place for Plants** at **East Bergholt** and then continue to our final visit – the gardens at **Marks Hall** – before we head for home. (B)

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

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Raveningham Hall



Place for Plants ©S C Eley

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

28 May	from £595pp
20 August	from £595pp

Single Supplement **£90**



Portmeirion



National Botanic Garden of Wales

NEW FOR 2021

GARDENS

GARDENS OF NORTH WALES

4 DAYS FROM
£595

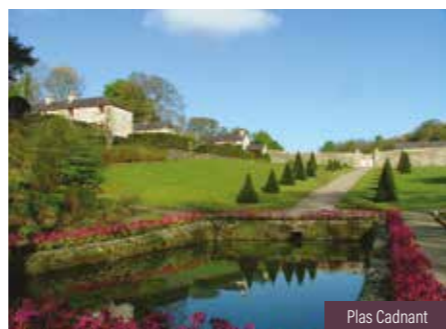
Set amongst glorious scenery that includes the mountains of Snowdonia, dramatic seascapes and ancient castles, North Wales is home to some outstanding gardens. One of the best is Plas Cadnant, which over 20 years ago was an overgrown, abandoned wilderness of ivy and decrepit fruit trees. Its new owner has brought it back to life and, rather like Heligan in Cornwall, Plas Cadnant has emerged as a gem of a garden, full of interest.

Further highlights include Plas yn Rhiw, a delightful manor house with an ornamental garden; Bodnant Garden, with a range of beautiful plants from all over the world; and Portmeirion, the eccentric and rather surreal Italianate village that has been enhanced in recent years with improvements made to the gardens.

Our tours are led by local resident **Tony Russell**, former Head Forester of Westonbirt Arboretum and a prolific author on trees and gardens.



Bodnant Gardens



Plas Cadnant

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach and head for Wales, where we visit the gardens of **Powis Castle**, influenced by French and Italian styles. We continue to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Today we travel to the privately owned garden of **Maenan Hall**, a beautiful property set among mature hardwoods on the slopes of the Conwy Valley, with dramatic views of Snowdonia. In the afternoon, we travel to **Colwyn Bay** to visit **Bodnant Garden** and then we tour **Plas Cadnant**, a historic hidden garden which, much like Cornwall's Lost Gardens of Heligan, is slowly being uncovered and restored to its former glory. (B & D)

Day 3 Today we visit **Mynydd Heulog**, an 18th century stone cottage set in a sloping garden with amazing views over the bay. We then visit **Plas yn Rhiw**, a delightful manor house with an ornamental garden. (B & D)

Day 4 We visit the gardens at **Plas Brondanw**, followed by the famous village of **Portmeirion** – both created in a unique Italianate style by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. Much work has been carried out in recent years to improve the gardens here, enhancing the beauty of the architecture. Following our visit here we return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

4 June	from £595pp
16 July	from £595pp
13 August	from £595pp
Single Supplement £195	

GARDENS OF WEST WALES

5 DAYS FROM
£695

Tucked away in the rolling countryside of Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire are some fine parks and gardens both large and small, ancient and modern. The centrepiece of our tour is the National Botanic Garden of Wales, a spectacular reinterpretation of the original garden that blends the careful restoration of the historic, double-walled garden with Norman Foster's Great Greenhouse, the largest single-span glasshouse in the world, where mere panes of glass separate the familiar green hills of Wales from a panoramic sweep of warm Mediterranean scenery.

Other visits include **Aberglasney**, which was discovered after 50 years of neglect and has been restored to produce a garden with immense appeal; **Dyffryn Botanic Gardens**, also recently restored to Thomas Mawson's original 1904 design; and two superb woodland gardens at **Picton Castle** and **Upton Castle**, along with **Cae Hir**, which has established itself as one of Wales' best loved gardens. A selection of interesting private gardens round off a captivating Cambrian campaign.



Aberglasney



Picton Castle

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach and head west for Swansea and the **Singleton Park Botanic Garden**, with its wonderful herbaceous border. We continue with a visit to a **private garden** before checking in to our Pembrokeshire hotel. (D)

Day 2 At **Picton Castle** we discover one of the most beautiful woodland gardens in Wales, while at **Upton Castle** we will see spectacular borders and a delightful formal rose garden. (B & D)

Day 3 We visit **Dyffryn Fernant**, a plantsman's garden created from scratch, and **Cae Hir** with its unique blend of wild and cultivated gardens. (B & D)

Day 4 Today is the 'marquee day' of our tour, which begins with a visit to the **National Botanic Gardens of Wales**, whose innovative and informative features include Norman Foster's unique single span Great Greenhouse and a herbaceous boardwalk. We continue to **Aberglasney**, which like Plas Cadnant and Heligan has emerged from decades of neglect as a wonderful garden of historical significance. (B & D)

Day 5 After a visit to **Laugharne**, a favourite haunt of poet Dylan Thomas, we round off with a visit to **Dyffryn Botanic Gardens**, featuring Roman and Japanese gardens and magnificent trees. (B & L)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Beggars Reach Hotel, Pembrokeshire
- » One lunch
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

1 June	from £695pp
6 September	from £695pp
Single Supplement £195	



Hampton Court Castle



Local residents, Chipping Camden

PRIVATE GARDENS OF HEREFORDSHIRE

Rural Herefordshire boasts some of Britain's finest gardens, offering a great variety of styles – from water gardens to plantsman's gardens, and from a garden of sentiment and memories to a garden of history and refinement.

Highlights include The Laskett, in the parish of Much Birch, the 'uniquely autobiographical' garden of sentiments and memories created by Sir Roy Strong.

Westonbury Mill Water Gardens is home to a wide range of water features and a number of delightful follies, all hand-built by the owner, including a unique water powered giant cuckoo clock!

At Stockton Bury, a four-acre plantsman's garden full of unusual plants, we are privileged to have a workshop, tour and talk with the gardener.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points for our first visit, **Misarden Park**, near Stroud. Originally designed in the 17th century, the gardens were redeveloped in the 20th century by Sir Edwin Lutyens in his famous Edwardian style. We continue to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 We visit the private garden of the **Old Rectory** at Thruxton, which is stocked with unusual perennials and roses. Later, we visit **Westonbury Mill Water Garden**, which is home to a bog garden and a 'Monet' bridge. (B & D)

Day 3 We begin by travelling to the gardens at **Hampton Court Castle**, a

15th century structure surrounded by 1,000 acres of parkland, pasture and woodland. We explore **Stockton Bury Gardens** at Kimbolton and enjoy lunch, a garden tour, workshop and talk with the head gardener. Many of the unusual plants here are for sale – the perfect souvenir. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Our final day culminates with a visit to Sir Roy Strong's former garden, **The Laskett**. The garden was created not long after Sir Roy and his late wife Julia Trevelyan Oman married in 1973 and is very much a garden of personal memories and sentiment. We return to our original departure points. (B)

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

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Hampton Court Garden



The Laskett

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

7 June	from £695pp
16 August	from £695pp
1 September	from £695pp
Single Supplement £120	

HIGHGROVE AND THE COTSWOLDS

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

Some of the finest gardens in England are to be found nestled among the green and rolling hills of Gloucestershire. Our tour begins at the Arts and Crafts house of **Rodmarton Manor**, whose fine garden comprises a series of 'outdoor rooms'. **Hidcote Manor's** contrasting garden rooms and **Kiftsgate's** splendid views are justly famous. We shall also visit the small, private garden of **Misarden Park** and then **Westonbirt**, the National Arboretum.

Please note, by the very nature of this holiday we are dependent on a successful application for admittance to Highgrove, which will be confirmed in February 2021.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head for **Rodmarton Manor**, an 'Arts and Crafts' house with a fine eight-acre garden comprising a series of 'rooms' each with its own distinctive character. We continue to our Cotswolds hotel. (D)

Day 2 More garden rooms feature today as we visit **Hidcote Manor**, an outstanding garden of dramatic contrasts and carefully framed vistas, and nearby **Kiftsgate Court** where the formality of the enclosed spaces is blurred by generous planting. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning we have a treat in store as we explore **Highgrove**, HRH The Prince of Wales' favourite garden. Since

buying the house in 1980, Prince Charles, with the help of friends and advisers, has created a wonderfully varied garden using wholly organic methods. Features include an experimental wildflower meadow, an arboretum and a walled kitchen garden filled with the Prince's favourite varieties. Later we visit **Misarden Park**, a walled garden that was redeveloped in the early 20th century by Sir Edwin Lutyens. (B & D)

Day 4 We conclude among the sylvan delights of **Westonbirt**, the National Arboretum, which comprises over 18,000 trees and shrubs. We then return to our original departure points. (B)

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

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Highgrove

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

23 April	from £595pp
21 May	from £625pp
4 June	from £625pp
25 June	from £645pp
8 August	from £595pp
22 August	from £595pp
3 September	from £595pp
24 September	from £595pp
Single Supplement £175	



Sissinghurst Castle Garden



Hestercombe

GARDENS

THE GARDENS OF KENT & SUSSEX

4 DAYS FROM
£765

If there's one tour that epitomises the joy of strolling around a perfect English country garden, it is this one – with one shining example after another to be savoured and enjoyed. Visitors will be bowled over by the quality and pedigree of these gardens, which capture the essence of the English country garden.

We start at Great Comp, filled with rare and beautiful shrubs, followed by Lullingstone Castle. Nymans Garden offers outstanding plants in a theatrical setting and is twinned with Sussex Prairie Garden, reminiscent of the work of the great Dutch garden designer, Piet Oudolf (replaced by Borde Hill in October). We also visit Sissinghurst, surely the most-copied flower garden in the world, with a special tour before the garden opens to the general public, and the remarkable garden of Great Dixter. A stroll around the gardens of Wakehurst Place and a special tour at Perch Hill, the garden of well-known writer and broadcaster Sarah Raven, round off a distinguished tour.



Great Dixter



Nymans Garden

Your Itinerary

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

Day 2 Today, we set off for **Sussex Prairie Garden** at Henfield, an eight-acre garden boasting large borders in a naturalistic style and drifts of herbaceous perennials. We continue to **Nymans Garden**, an outstanding plant collection in an inspirational setting. There are many rare and exotic plants combined with a pinetum, walled garden and Italian garden. (B & D)

Day 3 This morning, we are privileged to have an 'early bird' visit to the manicured gardens of **Sissinghurst**, before they open to the general public. We continue to another classic English Country Garden, namely **Great Dixter**. No gardener could come here without making discoveries and rekindling a zest for gardening. (B & D)

Day 4 Our first visit today is to **Wakehurst Place Gardens**, set in 100 acres. Thereafter, we continue to **Perch Hill**, the garden of writer and broadcaster Sarah Raven. After lunch here, we enjoy a special guided tour in the company of the Head Gardener, before returning to our original pick-up points. (B & L)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

23 April	from £795pp
28 May	from £795pp
25 June	from £825pp
20 August	from £825pp
22 October	from £765pp
Single Supplement	£195

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GERTRUDE JEKYLL

5 DAYS FROM
£975

Gertrude Jekyll was a painter, writer and plantswoman extraordinaire, however she is perhaps best remembered for her association with the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. Over the last hundred years, few would doubt the great influence Gertrude Jekyll had on garden design – during her lifetime she created well over 400 gardens and inspired countless others.

Our tour stretches across the south of England, from the Home Counties of Kent, Sussex and Surrey – where she lived for most of her life – to the southern counties of England and into the scenic West Country. Perhaps the true highlight of this holiday will be the rare chance to visit **Munstead Wood**. This was where Gertrude Jekyll lived and was the scene of many of her highly influential garden experiments and ideas. The garden today is mainly woodland with many oaks, Scots pines, silver birches and chestnuts.



Upton Grey



Munstead Wood

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We begin with a visit to the garden of **Vann**, which incorporates Gertrude Jekyll's 1911 water garden, and continue to **Loseley Park**, a highlight of which is the Walled Garden. (D)

Day 2 Today we visit **Upton Grey Manor House**, believed to be the most authentic Jekyll garden in existence. We continue with a visit to the excellent **Godalming Museum** before visiting the nearby garden at **Munstead Wood**, which is where Jekyll lived until her death in 1932. (B & D)

Day 3 We head southwest, for our visit to the private garden of **Bramdean**, near Alesford in Hampshire, before continuing

to the gardens of **East Lambrook**, near South Petherton in Somerset, recognised throughout the world as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening'. (B & D)

Day 4 We visit **Nynehead Court**, whose formal gardens feature a wide variety of trees, a walled vegetable garden and a parterre. Then we proceed to **Cothay Manor**, a magical, romantic garden that surrounds a perfect example of a small medieval manor. (B & D)

Day 5 Our final visit is to **Hestercombe**, one of Jekyll and Lutyens' greatest masterpieces, before we return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the 4-star Frensham Pond Hotel (or similar) and two nights at the 3-star Shrubbery Hotel, Ilminster (or similar)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

5 June	from £975pp
Single Supplement	£200



Jane Austen's House

LITERARY TRAILS OF THE SOUTH COAST

3 DAYS FROM
£395

It is a truth universally acknowledged that many of the giants of English literature, including the author of 'Pride and Prejudice' herself, have associations and connections with the south and south west of England. We have therefore strung together a sequence of visits that unites some of our best loved and most celebrated authors in these corners of the country.

This South Coast tour begins at Jane Austen's house in Chawton, regarded as the most treasured Austen site in the world, and nearby Chawton House, the 'great house' referred to in Jane's letters. The next day we call at Gilbert White's house in Selborne, where this pioneering 'parson naturalist' wrote his celebrated 'Natural History and Antiquities'. We also visit the Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum in Portsmouth and Jane Austen's grave and memorials in Winchester Cathedral, and we take a brief walk in the footsteps of that old Romantic, John Keats. Our tour concludes with a prowl around Virginia Woolf's former residence at Monk's House and a visit to Rudyard Kipling's old den at Bateman's, a Jacobean house with an elegant garden.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from London and head down into Hampshire where the first chapter of our tour begins at **Jane Austen's House** in Chawton, regarded as the most treasured Austen site in the world, where her genius flourished and where she wrote, revised and published all her novels. We continue to nearby **Chawton House**, the 'Great House' referred to in Jane's letters, where according to family legend she used to sit in the reading alcove in the Oak Room. We continue to our hotel in Farnborough. (D)

Day 2 We resume our literary trail with a visit to **Gilbert White's House** in Selborne, Hampshire, where the pioneering 'parson-naturalist' wrote the celebrated

'Natural History and Antiquities', which was first published in 1789 and has been continuously in print ever since. Heading south to Portsmouth, we visit the **Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum**, whose rooms take us on a journey into the life and times of the great author. Later we call in at **Winchester Cathedral** to pay our respects at the grave of Jane Austen and follow in the footsteps of the Romantic poet **John Keats**, who spent some time here. (B & D)

Day 3 Travelling into Sussex we visit **Monk's House**, the tranquil 16th-century cottage where novelist Virginia Woolf lived and entertained the 'Bloomsbury Group', and **Bateman's**, the Jacobean House which was the home of **Rudyard Kipling**. (B)

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



Cathedral Close, Winchester



Dickens' House

Your Tour Includes

- » Two nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Holiday Inn, Farnborough
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

21 May from **£395pp**
17 September from **£395pp**
 Single Supplement **£60**



Royal Crescent, Bath

LITERARY TRAILS OF THE WEST COUNTRY

3 DAYS FROM
£395

This tour takes us on the trail of further literary greats, but again also features Jane Austen. Our two literary tours have been arranged so that one follows the other, allowing anyone with a particular interest in Austen to do both.

We begin in the village of Lacock, which has been used as the location for countless dramas, notably *Pride and Prejudice*, and continue to Bath, where we have a guided tour of 'Jane Austen's Bath' as well as a visit to the Jane Austen Centre, where guides in period costume will provide an informative account of the author's fascination with this city. From our base in Somerset, we travel into Devon for a day on the trail of the most celebrated crime writer of them all, Dame Agatha Christie, with visits to the Torquay Museum with its dedicated Christie gallery and Greenway, Agatha's holiday home, which she referred to as 'the loveliest place in the world'. On our final day, our attention turns to Thomas Hardy as we head for Dorchester and visit the cottage in which he was born and the house he designed himself and lived in until his death in 1928.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Heading west, our first visit is the village of **Lacock** in Wiltshire, which will be instantly recognisable having been used as the location for countless TV and film period costume dramas, including the BBC's acclaimed adaptation of **Pride and Prejudice**. The Austen theme continues in **Bath**, where we have a guided tour of the city used as a backdrop for *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, and visit the **Jane Austen Centre**. (D)

Day 2 We spend today down in Devon, on the trail of the most celebrated crime writer of them all, **Dame Agatha Christie**. In Torquay we will view the sights on the

'**Agatha Christie Mile**', including the Grand Hotel, where Agatha spent her honeymoon night on Christmas Eve 1914, and continue to **Greenway**, Agatha's holiday home, which she referred to as 'the loveliest place in the world'. (B & D)

Day 3 Dorset is our destination today, or perhaps that should be 'Wessex', as the novelist **Thomas Hardy** dubbed it. We first visit **Hardy's Cottage**, the rustic dwelling where the author was born in 1840, and continue to **Max Gate**, which Hardy designed himself and where he wrote several of his most celebrated novels as well as much of his poetry. (B)

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



Thomas Hardy's Cottage



Agatha Christie, Torquay

Your Tour Includes

- » Two nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Holiday Inn, Taunton
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

18 May from **£395pp**
14 September from **£395pp**
 Single Supplement **£90**



Stourhead Garden



Lanhydrock Gardens

GARDENS

GARDENS OF SOMERSET AND DORSET

The neighbouring counties of Dorset and Somerset epitomise the timeless and restrained beauty of rural England, and are home to a fine selection of classic gardens in a variety of different styles. Both counties offer grand vistas, both natural and man-made, as well as small and intimate treasures, again, both natural and man-made.

From our base in Taunton, our tour heads out each day to all four compass points, visiting historic National Trust properties such as Barrington Court, Tintinhull and the wonderful landscape of Stourhead, as well as outstanding gardens such as Kilver Court, Forde Abbey and East Lambrook, recognised throughout the world as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening'. On our final day, we visit the enchanting Lytes Cary Manor.

5 DAYS FROM
£695



Forde Abbey

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head for the famous landscape garden at **Stourhead**, with its temples, urns and grotto. (D)

Day 2 Today we visit the gardens at **Kilver Court**, which feature an unusual and highly impressive backdrop – a vast railway viaduct. Later we visit the **Yeo Valley Organic Garden**, a constantly evolving patchwork of ornamental and edible plants. (B & D)

Day 3 We travel to the gardens at **Minterne**, an 18th century serpentine park with lakes, a stream and a fine woodland garden. We continue to **Forde Abbey**, whose towering fountain is a highlight for many in 30 acres of award-winning gardens. (B & D)

Day 4 We visit **Tintinhull Gardens**, set around an attractive 17th century manor house, and one of the most harmonious small gardens in Britain. In the afternoon we call in at **East Lambrook Manor**, created by gardening icon Margery Fish and recognised throughout the world as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening'. (B & D)

Day 5 We depart for the gardens of **Barrington Court**, enchanting formal gardens inspired by the designs of Gertrude Jekyll. Before returning to our original departure points our final visit is to **Lytes Cary Manor**, which is surrounded by an enchanting garden. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Holiday Inn, Taunton
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

1 July from **£695pp**
19 August from **£695pp**
 Single Supplement **£160**

PRIVATE GARDENS OF CORNWALL

Cornwall's gardens are justly famous for their colour and variety, and there are some truly outstanding examples here. Choose between spring when the rhododendrons burst into life or high summer when the hydrangeas run riot.

We start at Lanhydrock, rich in flowering shrubs and trees, before transferring to our base at the nearby Lanhydrock Hotel and Golf Club. We tour Bosvigo, with its bold and imaginative planting and Trewithen, a garden whose reputation amongst connoisseurs has always been of the highest. At Trelissick we find a modern garden which is constantly evolving, with new planting and fresh ideas while at Lamorran House we will discover both Japanese and Italian influences, though the views over Falmouth Bay are typically Cornish. We round off at Marsh Villa, a lovely three-acre garden which is the result of sheer hard work by its owner, and Trebartha, on the edge of Bodmin Moor, where a major landscaping project was undertaken with stunning results.

4 DAYS FROM
£675



Bosvigo Hot Garden



Trewithen

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick up points and head down into Cornwall, where our first visit is to **Lanhydrock Gardens**. The parkland remains one of the finest examples in Cornwall and there is also a formal courtyard garden, beds of modern roses and a woodland garden. We continue to our nearby hotel. (D)

Day 2 Today we visit the privately owned garden of **Bosvigo**, which features beautifully planted enclosures and fastidious colour harmonies, and **Trewithen**, filled with flowering trees and shrubs including camellia and magnolia. (B & D)

Day 3 First up today is **Trelissick**, a modern garden set within a much older estate, with many innovative features and fresh ideas. Over at **Lamorran House** we find an intriguing garden with both Japanese and Italian influences and many water features. (B & D)

Day 4 Our tour concludes with visits to the private gardens of **Marsh Villa**, the result of years of hard work with a magnificent pond at its heart, and **Trebartha**, which was imaginatively re-landscaped and features a pool and cascades, wooded terraces and a walled garden. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Lanhydrock Hotel and Golf Club
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

29 April from **£675pp**
22 July from **£695pp**
 Single Supplement **£150**



Abbey Garden



Mount Stewart

TRESCO'S ABBEY GARDEN

4 DAYS FROM
£995

Truly a sub-tropical paradise, this tiny corner of England has remained unpolluted, unspoilt and unchanged for decades. Treско lies just 28 miles from the Cornish coast yet basks in a balmy climate where spring comes early, autumn stays late and winter hardly exists at all. The wonderful Abbey Garden is home to more than 3,000 species as well as magnificent vistas, colours and scents. There is certainly no other garden like this in the world. In the spring you will see flowers here that are weeks ahead of those on the mainland, summer is a riot of colour while in the autumn the golds, reds and ambers of the seasonal foliage is a sight to behold. Even in winter there are 300 plants in flower in the Abbey Garden and as each day lengthens, more and more exotic flowers appear.

We now offer Treско as an all-year-round, go-as-you please package, where the content and duration can be adjusted to suit your needs. See below for a sample itinerary.



Lulu, Abbey Garden

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Taking the strain out of the long drive to Penzance, we have arranged train transportation from London Paddington. Upon arrival, you transfer to **Land's End** in time for your flight to the **Scillies**. On **St. Mary's**, you take a short boat transfer to **Tresco**. You will enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. (D)

Days 2 & 3 Enjoy a walk around the magnificent **Abbey Garden**. You are then free to explore **Tresco** at leisure, why not discover its ancient castles, beautiful beaches and headland walks, or simply relax in the residents' lounge? Visiting other islands can easily be arranged - Bryher, St

Martin's, St Agnes and St Mary's are nearby, all of which easily connect with each other. Regular boat trips are available to see the sea birds and seals of the western rocks. Time spent here is sure to leave you feeling renewed and revitalised. (B & D)

Day 4 A morning boat will take you to **St. Mary's** for your flight to Land's End. You will be transferred to Penzance for your afternoon train back to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the New Inn, Treско
- » Return flight from Land's End to St Mary's (Exeter or Newquay flights available at a supplement)
- » Return train fare London Paddington/ Penzance (regional connections available on request; £100 reduction for no rail travel) and boat transfers between St Mary's and Treско
- » Entry to Treско's Abbey Garden

Departures & Prices

Available from March to October, four days from £995pp. Single room supplement on request

THE IRISH ROVER

8 DAYS FROM
£1575

Just like the song by Van Morrison, this Irish Rover is wrapped up in glory – the glory of Ireland's finest gardens. We begin at Mount Stewart with its dazzling garden and then move on to romantic Rowallane, as well as to the atmospheric Castle Ward. In Dublin, we meet Helen Dillon for an exclusive look at her new private garden and June Blake, who grows a unique mix of bamboos and ornamental grasses at her nursery and garden.

En route to the cultured city of Cork, we call in at the wild and informal garden of Mount Usher and we also spend time at magical Innacullin and Blarney Castle and Gardens, home to the famous stone that bestows eloquence on all who kiss it.

Our tour manager is popular garden designer, writer & broadcaster **Trevor Edwards**, who has clearly kissed the Blarney Stone more than once...



Blarney Castle



Malahide Castle

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We fly to Belfast and continue to **Mount Stewart**, the dazzling and idiosyncratic gardens that bask in the micro-climate that exists here. (D)

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

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

Day 4 Here in Dublin we are privileged to visit the new private garden of the doyenne

of Irish horticulturalists, **Helen Dillon**, along with two further gardens. (B)

Day 5 Continuing south we visit the plantsman's paradises of **Hunting Brook** and **June Blake's Nursery**, along with **Powerscourt**, Ireland's most famous historic garden. (B)

Day 6 On our way to Cork we call in at **Mount Usher**, a lovely informal garden which dates back to 1850. (B & D)

Day 7 We visit the Italianate masterpiece **Innacullin** and **Blarney Castle**. (B & D)

Day 8 We fly back from Cork. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim; three nights at the Clayton Hotel, Dublin (or similar); and two nights in Co Cork
- » Five dinners
- » Flights from London Gatwick to Belfast, returning from Cork
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

Departures & Prices

4 May from £1575pp
22 August from £1575pp
Single Supplement £495



Highclere Castle



Freshwater Bay

GARDENS

DOWNTON ABBEY AND THE STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND

The hit TV drama “Downton Abbey” transferred to the big screen in September 2019 and proved to be hugely popular among fans of the ongoing saga, featuring the lives and loves of Lord Grantham, his family and their servants. The principal film location for “Downton Abbey” is Highclere Castle in Berkshire, which itself has become one of the most popular destinations in the country. We are delighted to have secured exclusive access to the castle, where we will see many of the state rooms and bedrooms that feature in the show, as well as the fascinating Egyptian Exhibition that tells the story of the Earl of Carnarvon and Howard Carter’s thrilling archaeological discoveries.

Complementing this are visits to some of the outstanding stately homes and picturesque villages in the surrounding area, many of which have themselves featured as film and TV locations.

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Lacock Abbey



River Avon in Bath

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Today we depart from London and visit **Bampton**, the village in Oxfordshire that was used for filming many of the outdoor scenes in “Downton Abbey”. Later, we continue to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 We explore **Basildon Park** near Reading, which was brought back to life in the 1950s after being requisitioned during World War II, and featured as Netherfield Park in the 2005 film version of “Pride and Prejudice”. We then enjoy the highlight of our tour as we visit **Highclere Castle**, instantly recognisable to all “Downton Abbey” fans. We have a tour of the house and its familiar rooms and also view the Egyptian exhibition with its story of thrilling discoveries and a legendary ‘curse’. (B & D)

Day 3 We depart for the picturesque village of **Lacock** which has been used as the location for countless film and TV productions, including “Cranford”, “Wolfman” and the BBC’s 1995 version of “Pride and Prejudice”. We also tour **Lacock Abbey**, used as Hogwarts in “Harry Potter”, as well as the romantic Harold Peto gardens at **Iford Manor** and the city of **Bath**, itself no stranger to film crews. (B & D)

Day 4 We depart for magnificent **Blenheim Palace**, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Finally, we visit **Waddesdon Manor**, which was used to portray the fictional Haxby Park in the second series of “Downton Abbey”. From here, we travel home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

11 July from **£695pp**
5 September from **£695pp**
 Single Supplement **£195**

QUEEN VICTORIA AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Ascending to the throne at just 18, Queen Victoria reigned over an empire, the likes of which will never be seen again. Our tour takes us to locations that played an important part in her life as well as offering the opportunity to visit some of the outstanding attractions on the wonderful Isle of Wight.

The centrepiece must be Osborne House, Queen Victoria’s favourite home, with its beautiful gardens and extravagant Wendy house where the royal children played so happily. Elsewhere on the island we visit Carisbrooke Castle, Godshill and Shanklin Old Village with their picturesque thatched cottages, and the Adgestone Vineyard, one of the biggest producers of English wine. On the mainland, visits include Windsor Castle and Frogmore House (subject to successful application).

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Carisbrooke Castle



Osborne House and Gardens

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and travel the short distance to **Windsor Castle**, the scene of countless royal occasions, most recently the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. We continue by ferry to the **Isle of Wight**. (D)

Day 2 We travel to **Osborne House & Gardens**, which was Queen Victoria’s favourite home. We enjoy a guided tour of the gardens, and after lunch continue with a tour of the house. Later we visit the **Swiss Cottage**, in which Victoria’s nine children loved to play. (B, L & D)

Day 3 We begin at romantic **Carisbrooke Castle** and continue to the **Adgestone Vineyard** for a tour and wine tasting. We move on to **Godshill**, which boasts some of the oldest architecture on the Isle of Wight, and **Shanklin**, where we visit the world-famous gorge. (B & D)

Day 4 Returning by ferry to the mainland, we continue to Windsor to explore **Savill Garden**, one of Britain’s greatest ornamental gardens. Our final visit takes us to **Frogmore House** before we return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Best Western New Holmwood Hotel, Cowes
- » One lunch
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » All coaching and ferry transfers
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

14 August from **£695pp**
22 August from **£695pp**
 Single Supplement **£195**



Walmer Castle Gardens



Mont Orgueil

WALMER CASTLE AND THE CINQUE PORTS

4 DAYS FROM
£595

The historic pleasure gardens at Walmer Castle in Kent have been dramatically brought back to life thanks to a £2.3m restoration project funded by English Heritage, and they form the centrepiece of this new tour, which also visits the 'Cinque Ports' of Hastings, Sandwich, Hythe, Dover and Romney.

We begin at the quintessential English garden of Pashley Manor and continue to Hastings to see William the Conqueror's castle. We visit the Salutation Gardens, near Sandwich, and explore the medieval town before moving on to Walmer.

A trip on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway ticks off two more of our historic ports, and is shortly followed by the fifth as we tour Dover Castle, one of the most impressive of all English fortresses.

A visit to Smallhythe Place, actress Ellen Terry's 16th century cottage and rose garden, rounds off our journey.



Walmer Castle



Pashley Manor

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from our pick-up points and head to **Pashley Manor**, an award-winning garden on the Kent and Sussex border. From here, we visit Hastings and explore its **ruined castle**, built after William the Conqueror's coronation. (D)

Day 2 Today we depart for the **Salutation Gardens**, designed in 1912 by Sir Edwin Lutyens. We also visit the nearby town of Sandwich and then it's on to **Walmer Castle**, where we have a guided tour that will take us through its colourful history. (B & D)

Day 3 We begin at **Dungeness**, the starting point for a ride aboard the **Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway**, hauled by a beautiful 15-inch gauge steam engine. We continue to **Pines Garden** with its many fine features and finally the hugely impressive, 800-year-old **Dover Castle**. (B & D)

Day 4 Our final visit is to **Smallhythe Place**, a half-timbered house and formerly home to the Victorian actress Ellen Terry. From here, the trip ends and we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

10 June from **£595pp**
9 September from **£595pp**
 Single Supplement **£90**

GARDENS OF JERSEY

5 DAYS FROM
£1195

Situated within touching distance of France, the island of Jersey is blessed with wonderfully mild and sunny weather, making it the perfect destination for a summer holiday. It is also home to some splendid gardens that make the most of this favourable climate to produce stunning displays, not to mention the profusion of wildflowers that thrive in the lush green meadows.

Creux Baillot Cottage Garden is set in a tranquil valley and is packed full of unusual plants and elegant features. At the Domain des Vaux, fine trees and shrubs are set around a traditional Jersey farmhouse and at Les Aix we find nut and camellia trees, and borders with old English roses. We also visit the excellent Samarès Botanical Gardens and the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.

Our tour will be escorted throughout by **Colin Crosbie**, formerly Head Gardener to Her Majesty The Queen Mother in Windsor.



Sea Thrift



Samarès Rose Garden

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from Gatwick to Jersey and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel. Our local guide will host a pre-dinner welcome meeting to introduce us to this wonderful island. (D)

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

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

Day 4 We visit the privately owned **Samarès Botanical Garden** this morning and after some free time in Gorey, we head to the **Eric Young Orchid Foundation** followed by **Ransoms Garden Centre**, where we enjoy a cream tea and a chance to pick up some souvenirs. (B & D)

Day 5 After breakfast, we catch our flights back home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Pomme d'Or Hotel, St Helier
- » Return flights from London Gatwick to Jersey
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of Colin Crosbie as tour manager plus a local guide

Departures & Prices

1 September from **£1195pp**
 Single Supplement **£225**
 Optional excursion to Guernsey **£135**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Sizergh Castle

AUTUMN TINTS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

4 DAYS FROM
£695

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

Taking a golden leaf from the books of the area's most famous residents, we will embark upon a scenic tour, paying visits to Beatrix Potter's farmhouse, William Wordsworth's idyllic Dove Cottage, and artist and critic John Ruskin's Brantwood. Further highlights include the 'Arts and Crafts' house of Blackwell, the splendid gardens of Sizergh Castle and Levens Hall.



Dove Cottage



Grasmere

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Our first visit is to **Sizergh Castle**, near Kendal. Originally built in the Middle Ages by the Strickland family, this imposing house at the gateway to the Lake District stands proud in a rich and beautiful garden. We continue to our comfortable hotel. (D)

Day 2 We visit two of William Wordsworth's former homes, **Dove Cottage**, featuring the couch referred to in the poem 'Daffodils', and his final home at **Rydal Mount**, which contains many of his prized possessions. At the Arts & Crafts house of **Blackwell** we will see many original decorative features. (B & D)

Day 3 Tour the delightful 17th century farmhouse where **Beatrix Potter** lived and worked, complete with the little garden that inspired 'Peter Rabbit' as well as the nearby gallery displaying some of her original artwork. Then we visit **Brantwood**, John Ruskin's 'living laboratory' on the shores of Lake Coniston. (B & D)

Day 4 We call in at **Levens Hall**, whose magnificent topiary was created in 1694 by Monsieur Guillaume Beaumont, who trained under Le Nôtre at Versailles. We then return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

31 October from **£695pp**
No Single Supplement



Snowdon Mountain Railway

NEW FOR 2021

SCENIC RAILWAYS OF NORTH WALES

4 DAYS FROM
£795

When the extension of the Welsh Highland Railway from Rhyd-Ddu to Porthmadog was completed it became possible to travel by narrow-gauge railway all the way from Caernarfon to Blaenau-Ffestiniog, a journey of some 40 miles, hauled by the most powerful 2-foot gauge steam locomotives in the world. We start under the walls of an ancient castle, run past streams, lakes and woodland, swing around tight curves and hug the side of the magnificent Aberglaslyn Pass on the way to Porthmadog. There we join up with the historic Ffestiniog Railway and its famously scenic route up to the dramatic slate quarries of Blaenau Ffestiniog.

There are two more wonderfully scenic train journeys to enjoy in this steam-filled tour, a leisurely puff to the top of Snowdon to the newly rebuilt summit restaurant with its breathtaking views and a short but atmospheric run along the Dee Valley from Llangollen. Rail travel from London to North Wales is included, making for a relaxing start and end to our tour.



Caernarfon Castle



Ffestiniog Railway

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by train from London to Crewe, then along the scenic North Wales line to Bangor, continuing by coach to our hotel in historic Caernarfon. (D)

Day 2 Today sees us travel the full length of the **Welsh Highland and Ffestiniog Railways**, hauled by powerful narrow gauge steam locomotives through the glorious landscape of Snowdonia. The Welsh Highland line runs from Caernarfon in a series of impossible bends and zigzags to Porthmadog where the two railways now meet. We then continue along the line of the oldest independent railway company in the world, dating from 1832. (B & D)

Day 3 We venture into the heart of Snowdonia and ascend the peak itself on the **Snowdon Mountain Railway**. Based on Victorian engineering this is the only public rack and pinion railway in the United Kingdom and a truly majestic mountain adventure. The afternoon is free to explore **Caernarfon** at leisure, perhaps visiting the impressive castle, scene of the investiture of the Prince of Wales in 1969. (B & D)

Day 4 We conclude with a nostalgic train journey along the Dee valley on the **Llangollen Railway** before returning to Crewe for our modern-day train back to London or other regional connections. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon
- » Standard class rail travel from London to Bangor and Crewe to London (first class upgrades and regional connections available; £85 reduction for no rail travel)
- » All visits and comfortable coach travel
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

21 May from **£795pp**
1 September from **£795pp**
Single Supplement **£195**

SPECIAL INTEREST



North Yorkshire Moors Railway

STEAM TRAINS OF YORKSHIRE

4 DAYS FROM
£695

The star of Channel 5's 'The Yorkshire Steam Railway', the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, is one of the most popular heritage railways in the country and also one of the longest, travelling through some glorious scenery in a truly authentic recreation of the golden age of steam. We take the train as far as Grosmont and continue to Whitby, where we visit the town's newest attraction, a full-sized replica of Captain James Cook's bark Endeavour.

Our other two steam train experiences are on the Wensleydale Railway, which takes us from Leeming Bar to the terminus at Redmire and back, a round trip of about two and a half hours, full of the evocative sights and sounds of the steam age; and on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, which packs a lot into its relatively short length and is in constant demand as a film and TV location thanks to its wealth of period detail. We conclude with a pilgrimage to the National Railway Museum in York, a mecca for all rail enthusiasts with its unrivalled collection of locomotives, coaches and countless other railway memorabilia.



HMS Endeavour, Whitby



Keighley and Worth Valley Railway

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We take the train north from London Kings Cross to York and transfer to Leeming Bar, the starting point for our first steam experience. One of the more recently founded heritage railways, the **Wensleydale Railway** provides a nostalgic journey full of the evocative sights and sounds of the steam age. (D)

Day 2 Today we enjoy our longest and most scenic rail journey as we take a one way trip on the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway** from Pickering to Grosmont, one of the most authentic steam excursions in the country. We then continue Whitby where we visit a full-size replica of Captain Cook's sailing ship **Endeavour**. (B & D)

Day 3 We depart for Keighley, the starting point for our journey on the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**, a very popular location for period dramas, most notably the 1970 classic *The Railway Children* and more recently the BBC's *Peaky Blinders*. Leaving the train in Haworth we visit the **Brontë Parsonage Museum**, which tells the story of the famous literary sisters Charlotte, Emily and Anne. (B & D)

Day 4 Finally we transfer to York for a visit to the mecca of all rail enthusiasts, the **National Railway Museum**, home to a huge collection of railway memorabilia from tickets and posters to giant locomotives. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrogate
- » Return standard class rail travel from London to York (first class upgrades and regional connections available; £80 reduction for no rail travel) and comfortable coach travel
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

20 June from **£695pp**
3 October from **£695pp**
 Single Supplement **£195**



Lanhydrock

HISTORIC HOUSES OF DEVON & CORNWALL

4 DAYS FROM
£695

The neighbouring counties of Devon and Cornwall offer a rich selection of historic houses across a broad expanse of English history, from medieval times through the Tudor, Georgian and Victorian eras and into the 20th century.

Buckland Abbey is the oldest property in our selection and was once home to one of England's greatest adventurers. Prideaux Place has its origins in the Norman Conquest, though the house we see today dates from the reign of Elizabeth I, and we see another fine Tudor house at Cothele in Devon. Lanhydrock dates back to the 17th century, while the Georgian era is represented by the grand house at Killerton. Castle Drogo has the appearance of a medieval fortress, however it was actually built in the early 20th century by renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens.



Cothele



Buckland Abbey

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head down into Devon, where we begin with a visit to **Castle Drogo**, which has undergone extensive renovation. We continue to our hotel in Cornwall. (D)

Day 2 We visit nearby **Lanhydrock**, a magnificent 17th century house surrounded by 19th century formal terraced gardens. In the afternoon we explore **Prideaux Place**, a charming Elizabethan manor which has been lived in by the same family since its completion in 1592. (B & D)

Day 3 We cross back into Devon as we visit two outstanding historic properties - **Cothele**, a Tudor house with many stories and legends and **Buckland Abbey**, which started life as a peaceful Cistercian monastery in 1278 and was later home to Sir Francis Drake. (B & D)

Day 4 We tour the Georgian house of **Killerton**, with its magnificent collection of 18th to 20th century costumes in period rooms, followed by time to wander among the extensive gardens. Following our visit we return to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Lanhydrock Hotel and Golf Club
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

6 May from **£695pp**
15 July from **£695pp**
 Single Supplement **£150**
 Supplement for non-NT/NTS members **£65pp**

NEW FOR 2021



Athelhampton House

HISTORIC HOUSES OF DORSET

The county of Dorset is a rich repository of historic houses, with many properties recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. Each one has a multitude of stories to tell, some having changed hands many times, others having been home to the same family for centuries. Exquisite furnishings, fine art and a range of architectural styles will be discovered as we tour the houses.

Our guide at Minterne House will be none other than the owner himself, Lord Digby, who will give us a personal insight into the 1,000 year history of the influential families who have lived here, including connections to the Duke of Marlborough and the Churchill dynasty. Other visits include Kingston Lacy, with its fine collection of paintings, and Mapperton, described as “the nation’s finest manor house”.

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Forde Abbey



Kingston Lacy

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Our first visit is to the elegant country mansion of **Kingston Lacy**. The house features grand, beautifully detailed carvings, intimate family souvenirs and strange curiosities such as an ‘I owe you’ note from a king. We continue to our hotel in Bournemouth. (D)

Day 2 We visit **Mapperton**, which was described by Country Life magazine as “the nation’s finest manor house” and is home to some wonderful paintings. In the afternoon we continue to **Forde Abbey**, which has a rich and varied history spanning 900 years. (B & D)

Day 3 A trio of historic properties await today, all close to Dorchester. **Athelhampton House** dates from Tudor times and we visit both **Thomas Hardy’s Birthplace** and his later home at **Max Gate**. (B & D)

Day 4 Our tour concludes with a real treat as we are welcomed at **Minterne House** by owner Lord Digby, who will give us a personal guided tour of the house, providing a fascinating insight into the 1,000-year history of the illustrious families who have lived here. After lunch here, he will guide us round the gardens, adorned with Himalayan shrubs. (B & L)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast at Hotel Royale, Bournemouth
- » One lunch
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

23 April from **£695pp**
3 September from **£695pp**
 Single Supplement **£175**
 Supplement for non-NT/NTS members **£40pp**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Penrhyn Castle

HISTORIC HOUSES OF NORTH WALES

North Wales is home to a tempting range of historic houses, encompassing a broad sweep of Welsh history, from the medieval and Jacobean eras to Victorian times. All have tales to tell, from the life of luxury upstairs to the unending toil of downstairs, from Napoleonic war heroes to things that go bump in the night...

We start at Erddig Hall, one of the most fascinating houses in Britain due to the unusually close relationship that existed between the family and their servants. On Anglesey we find Plas Newydd, famous for its Whistler mural as well as relics from the Battle of Waterloo, and across the Menai Strait lies Penrhyn Castle, typical of the type of house built by wealthy Victorian merchants. Bodhryddan Hall, Aberconwy House and Plas Teg complete a diverse itinerary.

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Plas Newydd



Conwy

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We head for Wales, where our first visit will be to **Erddig Hall**, one of the most fascinating houses in Britain, with some stunning state rooms. We continue to our comfortable hotel in the beautifully preserved Victorian seaside town of Llandudno. (D)

Day 2 On either side of the Menai Strait we visit **Plas Newydd**, an elegant house famous for its connections with the Battle of Waterloo and the artist Rex Whistler, and **Penrhyn Castle**, a classic example of a wealthy Victorian merchant’s house. (B & D)

Day 3 We begin today at **Bodhryddan Hall**, one of the few remaining family owned stately homes in Wales. Later we visit **Aberconwy House**, one of the oldest datable medieval merchant houses in Wales, and explore the town of **Conwy** with its famous suspension bridge. (B & D)

Day 4 Our final visit is to **Plas Teg**, one of the most important Jacobean houses in Wales, dating from 1610. A private guided tour is included here, during which we will also learn about some of the paranormal activity that has been observed here. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights’ dinner, bed and breakfast at the Dunoon Hotel, Llandudno
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

29 May from **£695pp**
25 September from **£695pp**
 No Single Supplement
 Supplement for non-NT/NTS members **£55pp**

SPECIAL INTEREST



Grimsthorpe Castle

CASTLES & HOUSES OF LINCOLNSHIRE

4 DAYS FROM
£695

The county of Lincolnshire is littered with historic halls, mansions and castles. From our comfortable base on the outskirts of the cathedral city of Lincoln we tour the county and sample the delights of one fine property after another.

Our first port of call is Belton Hall, often cited as the perfect example of an English country house estate with a fine collection of porcelain and silver. Rising from the flat Lincolnshire fens is Tattershall House, built to be a statement of power and wealth and one of the finest examples of medieval brickwork, while at the foot of the wolds lies Gunby Hall, a homely country house with a fine garden. Doddington Hall also boasts notable gardens as well as a fascinating collection of furniture and other items accumulated over 400 years. Following our visit here, we spend the afternoon in Lincoln itself, visiting both the castle and the cathedral, both oozing with history. We round off in style with a visit to the impressive Grimsthorpe Castle, where we enjoy a private tour of the castle followed by time to explore the intricate gardens, thought to date back to at least 1500.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach for Lincolnshire and our first visit, **Belton House**, often described as the perfect example of an English country house estate, with a fine collection of porcelain and silver. We continue to our hotel in historic Lincoln. (D)

Day 2 Tattershall Castle is our first visit today, a magnificent 15th century castle rising proudly from the Lincolnshire fens. The Great Tower is one of the finest surviving examples of English medieval brickwork. More modest but no less interesting is **Gunby Hall**, a homely country house from 1700 with links to Tennyson, Darwin and Vaughan-Williams. (B & D)

Day 3 We begin with a visit to **Doddington Hall**, which was begun in 1595 by Robert Smythson, one of England's foremost architects of the day, and is a fine example of a late Elizabethan mansion. We then return to Lincoln and visit its two great historic monuments, the Norman **Castle** and the **Cathedral**, arguably the finest Gothic building in Europe. (B & D)

Day 4 We round off in style with a visit to the impressive **Grimsthorpe Castle and Gardens**. Here we enjoy a private tour of the castle, which is an unexpected blend of Tudor and Baroque architecture, with sumptuously decorated interiors. (B)

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



Lincoln



Doddington Hall

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

26 June	from £695pp
1 October	from £695pp
Single Supplement £90	



Bamburgh Castle

CASTLES & HOUSES OF NORTHUMBERLAND

4 DAYS FROM
£795

A visit to the low lying coast and wide open spaces of Northumberland is always a treat, but when it includes a host of historic houses and castles the pleasure is magnified greatly. Perhaps the most impressive of these is Bamburgh Castle, which sprawls over a rocky plateau on the coast, close to the Farne Islands. Late in its long life it was bought by the visionary inventor and philanthropist Lord Armstrong, whose innovative house at Cragside we will also visit.

Further highlights include a trip to the holy island of Lindisfarne and visits to both the castle and priory; a visit to Belsay Hall, built in 19th century Greek revival style from stone carved from its own quarry which was later transformed into a unique garden; and Wallington House, which dates back to 1688 and also boasts a fine garden. Then there is Alnwick Castle, which has been described as the 'Windsor of the North' and is the second-largest inhabited castle in England. For once, we will spend more time in the castle than in the neighbouring garden, but it would be remiss not to visit this most inspiring of projects.

Your Itinerary

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

Day 2 We travel north along the dramatic Northumberland coast to **Bamburgh Castle**, an impressive fortress that has stood here for over 1400 years. Nearby lies the Holy Island of **Lindisfarne**, where we will visit both the 16th century castle, converted to a private house by Lutyens, and the **Priory**, one of the most important centres of early Christianity. (B & D)

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

Day 4 We conclude at **Wallington House** which dates back to 1688 and was home to many generations of the Blackett and Trevelyn families, all of whom have left their legacy behind. (B)

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



Alnwick Castle



Lindisfarne

Your Tour Includes

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

Departures & Prices

2 June	from £795pp
15 September	from £795pp
Single Supplement £120	



Monsal Trail

WALKING IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

5 DAYS FROM
£795

The Peak District of Derbyshire offers some of the finest walking in England, with its distinctive limestone-scarred landscape of rolling hills and wooded dales. Bracing walks in the morning are complemented by stimulating visits in the afternoon, featuring the historic houses and natural wonders of the region.

The first of our walks takes us from Bakewell to Chatsworth House, Derbyshire's jewel in the crown, through wonderful woodland and peaceful pastures with far reaching views to the peaks beyond. The next day we can expect gentle gradients as we walk along the trackbed of a former railway line to Bakewell and beside the River Derwent to Haddon Hall, a romantic and historic property with a lovely rose garden. Our final walk takes us from the village of Eyam, which famously 'self-isolated' during the plague years of the 16th century over heather-covered moors into the deep and sheltered valley of Bretton Clough and an idyllic country pub. In the afternoon, we venture underground at the Blue John Cavern where beautiful blue semi-precious gemstones were once mined.



Haddon Hall



Chatsworth House

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Coach pick-ups are provided at East Midlands Airport and Sheffield Railway Station, or travel independently to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 We transfer by coach to Bakewell then walk from here to **Chatsworth House**. From the Wye valley the walk passes through woods then emerges onto Carlton Pasture with far reaching views toward the 'Edges' for which the Peak District is famed. We then descend a track to see Chatsworth suddenly appear – a golden palace nestling beside the Derwent. After a visit to the house we walk back to Bakewell along ancient tracks and country roads (6.5 miles). (B & D)

Day 3 Transfer by coach to Blackwell Mill, starting point of the **Monsal Trail** to Bakewell, which follows the trackbed of the former Midland Railway line (8.5 miles). We then walk by the River Derwent for a visit to **Haddon Hall**. (B & D)

Day 4 Transfer by coach to the village of **Eyam** which is famous for its history in the days of the great plague in the 17th century. From here we walk over the moors to a pub in an idyllic setting and back to Eyam (7 miles) with far reaching views then visit the **Blue John Cavern**. (B & D)

Day 5 Depart independently or transfer by coach to the station and airport. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Mercure Hotel Kenwood Hall, Sheffield
- » All walks and visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel
- » Services of a professional tour manager



Please note a good degree of mobility is required to make the most of this holiday.

Departures & Prices

12 September from **£795pp**
Single Supplement **£200**



Saint's Way

WALKING IN CORNWALL

5 DAYS FROM
£995

Our Cornish walking experience is based around the 28-mile Saint's Way that runs coast to coast from Padstow to Fowey, continuing along the probable route of early Christian travellers making their way from Ireland to the Continent, which unlocks the atmosphere of the fascinating Celtic past and traditions of the region.

After walking the first section from Padstow to Withiel, we have a relaxing afternoon in the country house garden of Pencarrow before returning to our hotel in Lanhydrock. On the next day, we walk the section from Withiel to Lanivery and in the afternoon we explore the National Trust property that lies close to our hotel, Lanhydrock House and Gardens. After walking the final section of the trail from Lanivery to Fowey and enjoying some free time in this picturesque harbour village we transfer to Marsh Villa, situated in a former tidal creek made famous by Daphne du Maurier's book, *The House on the Strand*.



Pencarrow



Lanhydrock

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Travel independently to our hotel near Lostwithiel. (D)

Day 2 We transfer by coach to **Padstow** on the Atlantic coast, the starting point of the Saint's Way to Fowey. We will walk the first section to Withiel (10 miles), following well-signposted paths and the 'green lanes' so typical of Cornwall. Our coach will meet us at Withiel and transfer us to nearby **Pencarrow**, a 50-acre country house garden that has such diverse features as a Victorian rockery, Italian gardens, an ice house and an Iron Age fort. We then return by coach to the hotel. (B & D)

Day 3 We transfer by coach to Withiel and walk the section to Lanivery, enjoying the peaceful Cornish countryside (10 miles). Our afternoon visit is to the house and gardens of **Lanhydrock**, the perfect spot for a relaxing afternoon. (B & D)

Day 4 Our final walk (8 miles) takes us from Lanivery along the banks of the River Fowey to **Fowey** itself, a picturesque little harbour village. After some free time here we transfer to the nearby gardens of **Marsh Villa**, the result of years of hard work by the enthusiastic owner. (B & D)

Day 5 Depart independently for home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Lanhydrock Hotel and Golf Club
- » All walks and visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel in Cornwall
- » Services of a professional tour manager



Please note a good degree of mobility is required to make the most of this holiday.

Departures & Prices

19 April from **£995pp**
30 August from **£995pp**
28 September from **£995pp**
Single Supplement **£195**



Keukenhof Gardens



Monet's Garden

DUTCH BULBFIELDS

5 DAYS FROM
£1195

Enjoy a riot of colour among the beautiful bulbfields of Holland. For vibrancy, colour and serious charm, nothing quite compares to the sight of millions of flowering bulbs carpeting the fields in a radiant patchwork of colour.

The star of the show must be Keukenhof, one of the biggest and best flower gardens in the world, with seven million bulbs and 800 varieties of tulip creating a kaleidoscope of colour. Here, gardening is not merely a pastime – it's an art, a spectacular series of natural masterpieces. Further highlights include the windmills at Zaanse Schans and the Museum Van Loon, set in a grand canal-side residence in Amsterdam.

On board the MS La Bohème, we will enjoy attentive service, good food and a convivial atmosphere.



MS La Bohème

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from London by Eurostar to Amsterdam, where we join our ship. Prior to dinner there will be a welcome cocktail reception with the crew. (D)

Day 2 We begin with a visit to the **Museum Van Loon**, a magnificent canal-side private residence. This afternoon, we travel north to **Zaanse Schans** to see bulbfields and windmills and tour the various museums. The evening is free to explore or alternatively join our **optional canal cruise** to view this spectacular city at night. (B, L & D)

Day 3 This morning we have a leisurely cruise to **Utrecht**. After lunch on board, we visit **Keukenhof**, one of the most famous gardens in the world. Over seven million bulbs are planted annually, including tulips and daffodils. (B, L & D)

Day 4 We have a leisurely day on board our ship, as we cruise from **Rotterdam** to **Antwerp**. (B, L & D)

Day 5 We disembark and tour the historic centre of Antwerp, with visits to the **Rubens House** and the 200-year-old **Botanic Garden**. Later, we take the train from Antwerp to Brussels and continue via Eurostar to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' full board (including three lunches and wine or beer) on board the MS La Bohème in a main deck cabin (upgrades available at a supplement)
- » Standard class rail travel from London to Amsterdam and Antwerp to London (first class upgrades at a supplement)
- » All visits as outlined in itinerary
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

16 April from £1195pp
Single Cabin Supplement £300

This tour is also available at the same price including air travel between London and Amsterdam. Flights are also available from regional airports at a supplement.

THE GENIUS OF MONET

4 DAYS FROM
£875

Just as the gardens at Giverny inspired Monet, who spent half his life nurturing and enjoying them, they continue to enthral countless visitors 95 years after this legendary artist's death.

Giverny's lovingly restored gardens offer a vivid impression of Monet's favourite subjects. Japanese bridges are festooned with wisteria and draped fronds of willow frame his iconic water lilies. A visit here is a surreal experience – art brought to life right before your eyes, beckoning you in to take a closer look. With so much here to remind us of his breathtaking works, it is only right that we also visit Paris' Orangerie Museum during our tour. The centrepiece here is Monet's series of murals, *Les Nymphéas* – a moving testament to the genius of a painter at the height of his powers. Art and garden lovers rejoice!



Sunflowers, by Claude Monet

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from London by Eurostar and upon arrival in Paris we are met by our comfortable coach. We travel to the charming town of **Chantilly**, in the heart of the Chantilly Forest, where our hotel is set in its own wooded grounds. Later, join our party for a welcome glass of kir before sitting down to dinner. (D)

Day 2 This morning, we transfer to nearby **Senlis**, a market town typical of Picardy, where we can explore the shops or enjoy some pâtisserie. We continue to the **Château de Chantilly**, one of the jewels in the crown of France's cultural heritage, a magnificent edifice surrounded by water. Our visit includes the sumptuously decorated Grands Appartements, dating from the 17th-19th centuries, along with

time to stroll around the extensive formal gardens, designed in part by André le Nôtre. (B & D)

Day 3 The world-famous house and gardens of **Claude Monet** await today. Following our visit, we enjoy free time in **Giverny** and can even visit the church where Monet is buried. (B & D)

Day 4 We travel to Paris today and visit the **Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries**. The highlights of its collection are Monet's two-metre high murals, entitled **Les Nymphéas**. Thereafter, there is time to sightsee at leisure before we catch our Eurostar train back to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the Château de Montvillargenne, Chantilly
- » Return standard class rail travel between London and Paris with Eurostar (first class upgrades available at a supplement)
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

7 May from £895pp
23 July from £875pp
Single Supplement £210



The Northern Lights

ICELAND NORTHERN LIGHTS

Gazing at the northern lights is a bucket-list item for many of us, but aurora borealis aside, Iceland offers a host of attractions quite unlike anywhere else in the world. From geothermal dips to moonlit trips, this tour offers a host of once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

On our tour of Reykjavík, the world's most northerly capital, it becomes clear that even Iceland's man-made efforts have that same air to them — the cavernous and craggy Lutheran church of Hallgrímskirkja, seemingly more suited to a spot in Middle Earth than the North Atlantic; and the parliamentary buildings of Alþingi, thought to be the oldest parliament in the world. Bucket list at the ready...

5 DAYS FROM
£1995



Gullfoss Waterfall



Reykjavík

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Upon arrival in Keflavik, we visit the **Raufarhólsellir Lava Tunnel**, a unique experience exploring the inner workings of a volcanic eruption; **Urriðafoss waterfall** and **Eyrarbakki Village**. (D)

Day 2 Our full-day tour of south Iceland includes **Skogar Folk Museum**, **Skogafoss waterfall** and a walk behind the great **Seljalandsfoss waterfall**. (B & D)

Day 3 **Pingvellir National Park** and the remote **Skalholt** church await, and then it's on to see the mighty waterfall **Gullfoss** and the **Geysir Geothermal Area** where the geyser **Strokkur** erupts at regular intervals. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Discover Reykjavík, visiting its iconic **Hallgrímskirkja** church, the panoramic viewing platform **Perlan** and the **Aurora Reykjavík** centre. Later, we bathe in the geothermal **Laugarvatn Fontana** springs and after dinner in a local restaurant we go in search of the **northern lights**. (B & D)

Day 5 We head for the **Reykjanes Peninsula** today, which lies on one of the world's major tectonic plate boundaries, the **Mid Atlantic Ridge**. Next, we make our way past **Reykjanes Lighthouse** towards **Gunnhver Hot Springs** and on to the fishing town of **Grindavík**. Before we return to the airport and make our way home, we stop at **Kleifarvatn Lake**. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Stracta Hotel, Hella and two nights at the Grand Hotel Reykjavík
- » One lunch
- » Return flights London to Reykjavík
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- » Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

14 November from **£1995pp**
Single Supplement **£300**



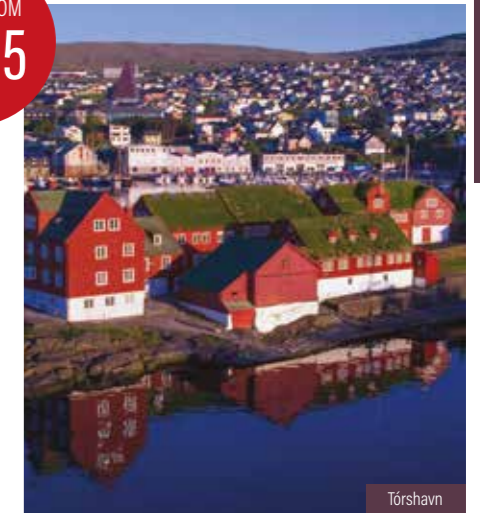
Waterfall by the village of Gásadalur

THE FAROE ISLANDS

5 DAYS FROM
£2195

Just an hour's flight away from Edinburgh, the Faroes tower out of the Atlantic half-way between Shetland and Iceland. In these romantic and dramatic islands, home to just 50,000 people, the weather is as unpredictable and changeable as the scenery. The landscape is green but rugged with steeply sloping hills, long sea-lochs and some of the highest cliffs in all of Europe.

Our tour will give ample opportunity to see the best of these colourful islands, including an authentic and intimate dining experience, where we enjoy delicious homemade food and hear fascinating stories about life on a Faroese farm.



Tórshavn

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from Edinburgh and upon arrival in **Vágar**, we enjoy a short sightseeing tour that includes the famous waterfall **Múlafossur** as well as the villages of **Bøur** and **Gásadalur**. (D)

Day 2 Enjoy a guided walking tour of **Tórshavn**, a unique town from the Middle Ages. After lunch, we visit the **National Museum** before driving to **Kirkjubøur** to see **St Magnus Cathedral** and **St Olavs Church**. Next, we enjoy tea and cake at the 900-year-old **Roykstovan**, the oldest inhabited wooden house in Europe. (B, L & D)

Day 3 Today is free to explore **Tórshavn**. Alternatively, choose from two optional

excursions - a full-day tour to the **Northern Islands** or a half-day tour to **Nólsoy**. This evening we have dinner in **Velbastað** with local farmers for a true Faroese experience. (B & D)

Day 4 Today we enjoy a boat trip to the **Vestmanna Cliffs**. We continue to the northern part of **Eysturoy**, travelling through the village of **Gjógv** and **Gøta** to see the new church. (B, L & D)

Day 5 We check out of our hotel and visit the museum in **Kálvalið** and the church in **Sandavágur**. From here, we transfer to the airport for our flight home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Føroyar, Tórshavn
- » Four dinners and two lunches
- » Return flights from Edinburgh to Vágar
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

8 July from **£2195pp**
2 September from **£2195pp**

Single Supplement **£360**

Optional excursions;
Northern Islands **£175pp**
Nólsoy **£125pp**



Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild



Menton

NEW FOR 2021

GARDENS

GARDENS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA

Menton Lemon Festival & International Rose Festival

Menton's zesty Lemon Festival brings a vibrant burst of colour to our tour of the French Riviera. Exotic gardens, cacti collections and azure seas complete our sparkling itinerary.

At the Clos du Peyronnet we have an exclusive tour, where a passion for exotic plants is reflected in the colour and variety of this fascinating garden. At St. Jean Cap Ferrat, we visit the exquisite gardens of the Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, while a short hop over the border to Italy finds us at the incomparable Hanbury Gardens – arguably the greatest of all the Riviera gardens.

In May 2021 the International Rose Festival in Grasse will take the place of the Lemon Festival. All the other garden visits are included though, but in a different order – please ask for a full itinerary or see our website for full details.

6 DAYS FROM
£1395



Menton Lemon Festival

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London to Nice, where we visit the garden of **Serre de la Madone**. Continue from here to the hotel. (L & D)

Day 2 Visit the **Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild** and then **Jardin Exotique d'Eze**, on the site of a medieval fortress. (B & L)

Day 3 We begin at the private garden of **Clos du Peyronnet** for a guided tour. Next, we go from France to Italy and tour the stunning gardens of **La Mortola**. La Mortola is perhaps the greatest of the Riviera Gardens, in the richness of its collections, the power of its presence and not least in the impact it has had all over the French Riviera. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Our day is spent at the **Lemon Festival in Menton** and our ticket includes a grandstand seat for the parade. (B)

Day 5 We drive to **Cap d'Antibes** for a visit to **Villa Thuret** and then it's on to **La Mouissone** as well as the village of **St Paul de Vence**, which serves as a creative haven even today. (B, L & D)

Day 6 We finish on a high at the **Exotic Gardens of Monte Carlo**. Thereafter, we transfer to the airport and head home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Le Grimaldi in Nice
- » Three dinners and four lunches
- » Return flights from London to Nice
- » All visits as outlined and coach travel
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

Menton Lemon Festival (2022)

17 February from **£1395pp**

24 February from **£1395pp**

Single Supplement **£295**

International Rose Festival (2021)

6 May from **£1595pp**

Single Supplement **£450**

ARTS AND GARDENS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA

With its seas of cobalt and turquoise, and its skies of azure and cerulean blue, it is little wonder that the French Riviera has been the inspiration for countless works of art and a magnet for artists. Set in the warm spring sunshine of April or among the lengthening shadows of sun-kissed September, this new tour combines a spell-binding collection of art and architecture with a few of our favourite gardens, and promises to be a treat for the senses as well as a tonic for the soul.

We visit museums that celebrate the lives and works of Picasso, Matisse and Chagall, see paintings by Rubens in a hill-top church and explore some luxuriant gardens, all while enjoying the special atmosphere of the Côte d'Azur.

6 DAYS FROM
£1395



Claude Monet



St Paul de Vence

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London to Nice and then visit the **Musée des Beaux-Arts**, which houses works by Monet and Sisley.

Day 2 In Nice, we visit museums dedicated to the work of **Matisse** and **Chagall**, both set in serene gardens and we also visit the **Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild's** gardens. (B)

Day 3 We transfer to Menton and visit **Villa E-1027**, a remarkable modernist villa designed by an Irish architect. Next, we visit the garden of **Serre de la Madone** and the private garden of **Clos du Peyronnet** – a real highlight of the tour. (B)

Day 4 Explore the village of **St Paul de Vence, Grasse** with its Rubens-filled cathedral and **La Mouissone** gardens. (B)

Day 5 In **Vallauris**, we pay a visit to the **Picasso Museum** and then we tour Nice's **Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art**. (B)

Day 6 Our final visit is to the **Masséna Museum**, home to Napoleon's death mask. From here, we return to the airport in time for our flight back to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Le Grimaldi in Nice
- » Return scheduled flights from London to Nice
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager

Departures & Prices

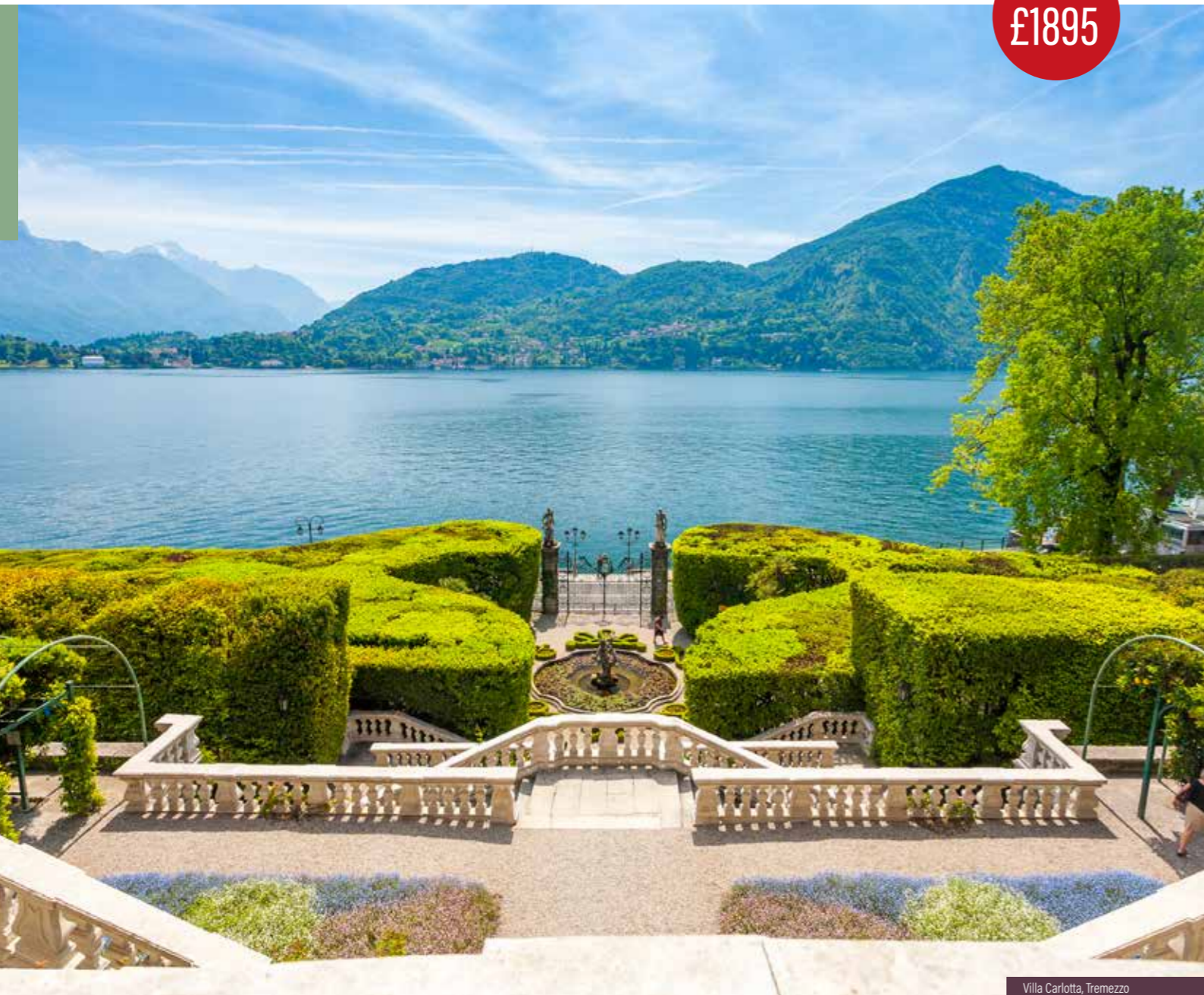
20 April from **£1395pp**

2 September from **£1465pp**

Single Supplement **£450**

VILLAS AND GARDENS OF THE ITALIAN LAKES

8 DAYS FROM
£1895



Villa Carlotta, Tremezzo

The fabulous scenery and warming climate of the northern Italian lakes have attracted eager aristocrats and the wealthy for years. The beguiling beauty of this Mediterranean landscape of colour shows no signs of waning with its scarlet camellias, pink oleanders and cerulean waters. Elegant villas and lush gardens complement the natural landscape of the northern Italian Lakes.

We begin with a treat – visiting the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society, home to a collection of over 500 plants. Nowhere captures the extravagant spirit of the lakeland gardens better than the three Borromean islands we visit: Bella, Pescatori and Madre. They feature sumptuous terraced gardens, flowered terraces, shaded woodland walks and elegant statuary. Other highlights during our stay on Lake Maggiore include a fascinating specialist plant nursery, Villa Taranto and the gardens of Villa Pallavicino, where animals from the villa's own zoo roam the grounds. Azaleas and rhododendrons put on a dazzling display at Villa Carlotta and the impeccably maintained and manicured garden of Villa Balbianello completes our memorable tour.



Borromeo Palace on Isola Bella



Villa Pallavicino

GARDENS

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We fly from London to Milan before transferring to our hotel where lunch will be served. Built in 1870, on the elegant west Piedmont shores of **Lake Maggiore**, the hotel is a fascinating example of Belle Époque architecture. Pallanza's lakefront is one of the finest on Lake Maggiore – a walk along its promenade with the lake and the Borromean Islands on one side and colourful façades, flowered balconies and cafés on the other is a most agreeable experience. Enjoy a welcome drink before our evening meal. (L & D)

Day 2 We start at a leisurely pace with a visit to the gardens of **Villa Taranto**, which flourish with rare botanical examples. In the afternoon we visit a wholesale nursery, **Compagnia Del Lago**, which offers an outstanding selection of plants that are available to mail order. (B & D)

Day 3 Discover the **Borromean Islands** today, starting with a cruise from Stresa to **Isola Bella** to see the baroque palace built from the island's rock and whose gardens were inspired by the 'Hanging Gardens of Babylon'. We continue to **Isola Pescatori** with its narrow cobbled streets and quaint harbour. There is a good choice of restaurants and snack-bars for lunch (not included). Our final visit is to **Isola Madre**, where citrus fruits, crape myrtle, hibiscus, and agaves all flourish. (B & D)

Day 4 We tour the **private Garden** of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**, which since the 1950s has housed a remarkable collection of camellias. We will enjoy lunch here. Later we take a stroll in the idyllic grounds of the 18th century **Villa Pallavicino**, where zoo animals wander freely. Ornate ponds, greenhouses with rare exotic plants, various architectural styles and a charming tiny Swiss-style chalet complete this idyllic spot. (B, L & D)

Day 5 We depart for Como, with a visit en route to the **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni**, the perfect example of a formal Italian garden. The garden was established by Ascanio Mozzoni, a man of great culture who from his travels, including to Rome, brought back ideas for the arrangement of his garden over seven levels. We are privileged to enjoy a guided tour with the owner here. (B & D)

Day 6 A free day to shop and sightsee at leisure or take a boat trip on the lake - a visit to the **Villa Melzi d'Eril** is highly recommended. (B & D)

Day 7 We spend an enchanting day on Lake Como and later, in **Tremezzo**, we have time to enjoy the elegant 18th century **Villa Carlotta**. Around the house the layout is formal with lemon arbours on the terraces and tall camellia hedges while further away from the villa we will discover a relaxed English-style garden in the woodland, dotted with unusual trees. This afternoon we catch the ferry to the **Villa Balbianello**, which sits in a sylvan setting of pine, soaring cypress and oak, with pollarded plane trees, manicured lawns and flowerbeds. (B & D)

Day 8 We return to Milan for our flight. (B)
Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Villa Balbianello



Villa Taranto

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Grand Majestic Hotel on Lake Maggiore and three nights at the 4-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior on Lake Como
- » Two lunches
- » Return flights from London to Milan
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of Italian expert Kate Williamson as tour manager

Departures & Prices

5 May	from £1895pp
23 June	from £1895pp
3 September	from £1895pp
Single Supplement £495	



Ninfa



Isola Bella, Taormina

ROME, NINFA AND CASTEL GANDOLFO

4 DAYS FROM
£1295

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the ancient and beautiful gardens of Ninfa. Equally rare is the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the popes as we visit the gardens of Castel Gandolfo.

The romantic flower-covered ruins at Ninfa, located just to the south of Rome, are as close to gardening perfection as you can get. Scented roses, hydrangeas and jasmines curtain what remains of the walls of medieval buildings, and paths meander beside a crystal-clear river.

The location of our hotel in the centre of Rome allows for free time to explore the Eternal City and we shall also visit the medieval walled town of Viterbo, which in its heyday rivalled Rome itself.



Villa d'Este

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London and fly to **Rome**, where we have a city tour upon arrival. See the **Colosseum, St. Peter's Square and Basilica**, and the **Spanish Steps**. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast we depart for **Viterbo**, where we have a guided tour of this historic town. Nearby, we find the gardens of **Villa Lante**, described as "one of Italy's greatest Renaissance gardens." This study in geometry and symmetry dates back to 1568 when it was designed for Cardinal Gianfrancesco Gambara by the architect Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola. The dominant theme is water, and in front of the palazzina is a central water parterre which is a classic example of late-Renaissance style. (B)

Day 3 The gardens of **Castel Gandolfo** await discovery this morning, the traditional papal residence outside of Rome. In the afternoon, we visit **Ninfa** – named after a mythical nymph and with a curious history. The garden is now deemed by many to be the most beautiful garden in Europe, though for hundreds of years the site lay deserted due to malaria. After the mosquito hazard was removed in 1922, the Duchess of Sermoneta and her son Prince Caetani began to lay out a romantic garden among the village ruins. (B)

Day 4 This morning we visit **Villa d'Este** in Tivoli, the 16th century gardens known for their use of water. Later, we transfer to the airport for our flight back to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' bed & breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Rome
- » Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- » Return scheduled flights between London and Rome
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

11 May	from £1295pp
8 June	from £1295pp
7 September	from £1295pp
Single Supplement £400	

GARDENS AND VILLAS OF SICILY

8 DAYS FROM
£1795

Sicily has become one of Europe's best-loved destinations in recent years and it is truly an island of the senses. As soon as you step onto its warm and fertile shores you'll understand why.

We begin on the slopes of Mount Etna, Europe's highest active volcano, as we visit an elegant garden and then, in Taormina, we see a private garden that boasts spectacular views across the bay. Heading south, we gain an exclusive insight into Sicilian gardening with the head gardener at San Giuliano and visit the private garden of a Sicilian aristocrat. We conclude in Palermo, a melting-pot of architectural styles with both Norman and Arabic influences.



Villa Giulia Garden



Greek Theatre, Taormina

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly to Catania, where we transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Visit **Villa Trinità** on the slopes of **Etna** and then ascend this mighty volcano, admiring the views as we go. (B, L & D)

Day 3 In **Taormina**, tour the private garden of **Casa Cuseni**. (B & D)

Day 4 Visit the **Gardens of Princess Maria Carla Borghese** and take a tour with the head gardener at **San Giuliano**. (B & D)

Day 5 Tour **Gli Aromi Sicily**, where a collection of herbs and spices await our discovery. Free time in **Ragusa** follows. (B, L & D)

Day 6 After lunch at a former **Benedictine monastery**, we transfer to the village of Monreale and visit the **Cathedral and Abbey**, with its 70,000 square feet of mosaics, amazing gold leaf and glass interiors. (B, L & D)

Day 7 Explore the **Botanical Gardens** in Palermo, the garden of **Villa Giulia** and the impressive **Norman Palace**. (B & D)

Day 8 Transfer to Palermo for our return flight to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in Giardini Naxos; two nights in Ragusa; two nights in Palermo
- » Three lunches
- » Return flights London to Sicily
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager and a local guide

Departures & Prices

20 April	from £1795pp
Single Supplement £295	



Tajo Gorge, Ronda



La Seu Cathedral and gardens

GARDENS

GARDENS AND ARCHITECTURE OF ANDALUCIA

Andalucia is unrivalled in Europe for its wealth of history, culture, Moorish architecture and gardens. Perhaps the most famous of all is Granada's Alhambra Palace and Generalife Gardens, with exceptional views towards the old city, the Albaicin and the snow-capped mountains of the Sierra Nevada.

In Córdoba, we visit the Great Mosque and the Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos, with its characteristic terraced pools. We discover Seville and all it has to offer, including the Old Jewish Quarter, Plaza de España and the Gardens of Murillo. Later, we conclude our tour in the dramatically situated town of Ronda.

8 DAYS FROM
£1495



Generalife Gardens



Seville

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive in Málaga and transfer to our hotel for our evening meal. (D)

Day 2 Visit the **Alhambra Palace** and **Generalife Gardens**, Granada's outstanding attraction with a spectacular setting above the city. Later we take a wander through the medieval streets of the Albaicin, catching glimpses of patio gardens. (B)

Day 3 Head to the **Alpujarra** and **Sierra Nevada** region, paying visits to small villages and enjoying beautiful scenery along the way. (B)

Day 4 In Córdoba, we pay a visit to the **Great Mosque**. (B & D)

Day 5 Enjoy a guided tour of **Seville** including the cathedral, the Royal Palaces of the Alcazar and the Gardens of Murillo. (B)

Day 6 Free day in **Seville**. (B)

Day 7 We visit **Ronda** to see its **Alameda del Tajo Gardens** and the **Palacio de Mondragon**. We return to our hotel later. (B & D)

Day 8 After breakfast, we head home from Málaga airport. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights in Granada; three nights in Seville; one night in Ronda
- » Three dinners
- » Return flights from London to Málaga
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

10 May	from £1495pp
13 September	from £1495pp
Single Supplement £295	

GARDENS OF MALLORCA

Away from the busy beach resorts, the Balearic island of Mallorca offers a timeless, verdant landscape of wooded hills, orange groves, sweeping bays and rocky mountains. Dotted around the island is a host of historic gardens whose origins date back hundreds of years, as well as more modern creations, providing a rich range of horticultural delights to be enjoyed in the warm spring sunshine.

These include the gardens at Raixa and Alfabia, both with Moorish origins and later Christian influences, and Son Marroig, a former residence of Archduke Luis Salvador with dramatic views. Elsewhere, we visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, with its peerless location high in the mountains; tour the island's principal city of Palma with its Gothic cathedral and Arab baths; observe the flora and fauna of the Albufera Nature Reserve, and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Soller, a heritage train that runs through spectacular mountain scenery.

6 DAYS FROM
£1395



Garden at Son Marroig



Train at Soller

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly to Palma from London. (D)

Day 2 Visit the gardens of **Raixa**, once part of a Moorish estate, and then take a tour of the garden of **Son Marroig**. In the afternoon we take a ride on the vintage narrow gauge **train** that runs along a highly scenic route from Soller to Palma. (B, L & D)

Day 3 We visit the **Jardines de Alfabia**, which date back to the 14th and 15th centuries. After lunch, we visit the monastery of **Real Cartuja de Valldemosa** with its green bell tower. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Tour of **Palma**, visiting sites that include the Gothic **cathedral** and former royal residence **Palacio de la Almudaina**.

We also see the **Hort del Rei**, the 10th century **Arab Baths** and **Castell de Belver**, a fortified Gothic castle that is now the city's museum. (B, L & D)

Day 5 We explore the **Albufera Nature Reserve** today and after enjoying lunch in Alcúdia we visit the **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca**, which showcases a collection of modern art exhibitions, set in gardens that include a medieval walled garden with more than 100 varieties of old English roses. (B, L & D)

Day 6 After breakfast, we transfer to Palma for our return flight back to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel THB Maria Isabel, Playa de Palma, plus four lunches
- » Return flights from London to Palma
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

23 March	from £1395pp
22 March 2022	from £1395pp
Single Supplement £325	



NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Botanical Gardens

GARDENS OF MADEIRA

8 DAYS FROM
£1395

Set in a bright blue sea, some 400 miles off the coast of Africa, lies the lush, volcanic Portuguese island of Madeira. Its delightful warm climate makes Madeira a sub-tropical paradise, where the vegetation is verdant and rich, and it would not be easy to find a more beautiful spot for a relaxing holiday. It is not surprising that Madeira has long been popular with the British. Its climate of warm summers and winters is just right, and over the years it has become an ideal holiday destination for those seeking peace and relaxation and, as you would expect with a benevolent sub-tropical climate, the island has a remarkable variety of vegetation, fruit and flowers.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London Gatwick to Funchal (many other regional airports available on request). Transfer to our hotel for a welcome dinner. (D)

Day 2 Enjoy a morning visit to the **Quinta do Palheiro**, formerly the Blandy Gardens. The gardens are most famous for their camellias, though there is something here for everyone. (B)

Day 3 Take a gentle half-day walk on the **levadas**, the man-made irrigation channels that wind around the island. This is one of the nicest ways to explore the area. (B)

Day 4 Visit the **Monte Palace Gardens**. (B)

Day 5 Tuck in to Afternoon Tea at the famous **Reid's Palace Hotel**. (B & Afternoon Tea)

Day 6 A free day awaits with the option of a full-day excursion around some of the scenic highlights of the island with lunch included. (B)

Day 7 The entire day is free to explore **Funchal** at our leisure. A farewell dinner is served in the evening. (B & D)

Day 8 Transfer to the airport for our flights home. (B)

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



Levada

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the 5-star Pestana Casino Park Hotel in Funchal
- » Welcome and farewell dinners at the hotel and Afternoon Tea at Reid's Palace Hotel
- » Return flights from London Gatwick to Funchal
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of local expert Joao Camacho as guide

Departures & Prices

1 November from **£1395pp**

No Single Supplement

Optional excursion: Madeira highlights including lunch **£55pp**



NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Wengen

ALPINE FLOWERS OF WENGEN

8 DAYS FROM
£2395

Lying in the Bernese Oberland region in the heart of Switzerland, Wengen, at a height of some 1,274 metres, is ringed by some of Europe's highest and best known mountains including the Eiger and Jungfrau. With breathtaking scenery, rich green alpine meadows and spruce forests below, it is a superb destination for a range of native flora as well as for bird and butterfly spotting opportunities.

Each day we will walk a different route of up to five miles, sometimes taking a mountain railway or cable car to the starting point. With over 300 species growing here, we can expect to discover a profusion of wildflowers with an expert guide on hand to help with identification.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We fly from London to Zürich and continue by train to the car-free resort of Wengen. (D)

Day 2 We take the train to **Kleine Scheidegg** and walk to **Wengernalp**, which offers spectacular views. (B & D)

Day 3 We take the cable car from Wengen to Männlichen and walk to **Kleine Scheidegg**, approaching from the opposite direction to yesterday. (B & D)

Day 4 An exciting cable car ride takes us to the **Schilthorn** with a moderate walk back down. (B & D)

Day 5 Walk from Wengernalp to Slipper Valley, looking for the spectacular **Lady Slipper orchid**. (B & D)

Day 6 Travel by cable car to the glacier village of **Grindelwald** and enjoy a gentle walk in this most scenic part of the **Bernese Oberland**. (B & D)

Day 7 Take the rack railway to Schynige Platte and visit the **Alpine Botanic Garden**, set among a picture-postcard panorama. (B & D)

Day 8 Return by train to Zürich for our flight home to London. (B)

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




Lady Slipper orchid



Alpine flowers

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Bellevue, Wengen
- » Return flights from London to Zürich
- » Return rail transfers between Zürich and Wengen and a 6-day Berner Oberland Rail Pass
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of a professional tour manager

 **Please note a good degree of mobility is required to make the most of this holiday.**

Departures & Prices

22 June from **£2395pp**

No Single Supplement



Amiens

PICARDY GARDENS CRUISE

7 DAYS FROM
£1495

The River Somme, which meanders gently through the countryside of Picardy in north-east France, takes its name from a Celtic word meaning 'tranquillity', and we will discover just why this is so apt as we cruise silently along the waterways of the Somme on board our eco-friendly, electrically powered barge. The only noises to be heard will be the gently lapping water, and the sound of fellow guests sipping wine and eating delicious lunches comprised of local produce.

On most canal stretches there are towpaths on which guests are welcome to walk from one lock to the next. As cruising is slow, you can keep up with the boat or even get ahead of it and take pictures, and admire the scenery and wildlife.

We enjoy three half-day cruises during the course of our tour, with the rest of the time spent exploring our host city of Amiens and visiting some of the outstanding gardens of the region. These include the Moulin Ventin, with its host of water features, the unique floating gardens of Les Hortillonages, and Maizicourt, which was recently voted the best garden in Picardy by French TV viewers.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart by coach and take a morning ferry from Dover to Calais. We continue to our hotel in Amiens. (D)

Day 2 Depart for Picquigny where we board our barge and **cruise** silently along the tranquil waterway that runs alongside the River Somme. In the afternoon we visit the **Château de Long** and its rose gardens. (B, L & D)

Day 3 Visit the garden of **Moulin Ventin**, which has numerous water features, and the picturesque and colourful gardens of the painter **André van Beek**, who discovered his second passion in gardening. (B & D)

Day 4 We transfer to Abbeville and **cruise** upstream to Long. In the afternoon visit the **Jardins de Maizicourt**. (B, L & D)

Day 5 We tour the remarkable floating gardens of **Les Hortillonages** in Amiens, with the afternoon free to explore the city, which is home to the tallest cathedral in France. (B & D)

Day 6 Transfer to Picquigny then **cruise** upstream to Amiens. The afternoon is free or join our optional excursion to the fascinating underground city of **Naours**. (B, L & D)

Day 7 Return to London, via the Calais to Dover ferry. (B)

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



Somme waterway



Amiens

Your Tour Includes

- » Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Campanile Hotel Centre Cathédrale, Amiens (or similar)
- » Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- » Comfortable coaching throughout
- » Three half-day cruises on the Somme waterway with lunch and wine included
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

20 May	from £1495pp
17 June	from £1495pp
Single Supplement £360	



MS Loire Princesse ©CroisiEurope

CASTLES AND GARDENS OF THE LOIRE

The châteaux and gardens of the Loire Valley in France are justly famous for their fairytale architecture and formal splendour. For the first time we are delighted to offer the unique opportunity to tour these iconic sites while enjoying all the pleasures of river cruising. On board the MS Loire Princesse, especially designed for the wide but shallow River Loire and propelled by paddle wheels, we can expect refined French cuisine, with drinks included, along with a personal welcome from Captain and crew. On shore, choose from a range of excursions that will take you to some of the outstanding sites of the Loire. These include the châteaux of Ussé, the inspiration behind 'Sleeping Beauty'; Villandry with its superb formal gardens; and Angers, where a tiny garden and vineyard are concealed within the massive walls. Wine lovers can also enjoy a tour of the Muscadet region.

6 DAYS FROM
£1995



Clisson



Azay-le-Rideau

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by train from London St Pancras for Nantes via Paris. In the evening there is the option of a boat cruise on the **River Erdre**. (D)

Day 2 Cruise from Nantes to St Nazaire. Optional excursion in **Nantes** and to the excellent **Ocean Liner Museum**, which tells the story of French transatlantic liners, and the huge **St Nazaire Shipyard**. (B, L & D)

Day 3 Cruise from St Nazaire this morning. Wine-lovers will enjoy the opportunity of an optional excursion along the **Muscadet Wine Route** to **Clisson**, a charming medieval town. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Cruise to Bouchemaine. Choose from optional excursions to the **Château d'Angers** with its massive walls, tiny vineyard and Apocalypse tapestry or a **wine-tasting** at Brissac. (B, L & D)

Day 5 Cruise to Ancenis. Included is a full-day excursion to the Loire Châteaux of iconic **Azay-le-Rideau**; **Villandry**, with its legendary formal gardens and **Ussé**, inspiration behind the fairy tale *Sleeping Beauty*. (B, L & D)

Day 6 Disembark in Nantes and return by train to London via Paris. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' full board in a main deck cabin on the MS Loire Princesse (cabin upgrades available at a supplement)
- » Standard class rail travel from London to Nantes (first class upgrades available at a supplement)
- » Full programme of both included and optional excursions (at a supplement)
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

2 July	from £1995pp
Single Supplement £600	

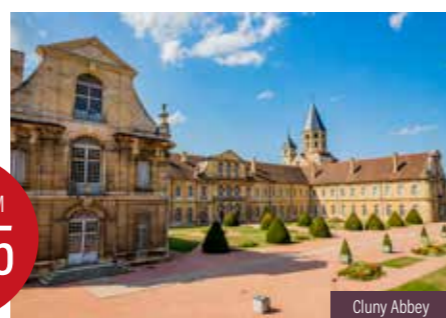


Lyon

LEGENDS OF THE RHÔNE

To cruise the River Rhône in the south-east of France is to follow in the wake of countless travellers over thousands of years, from Romans and Christians to popes and painters. Expect all the refinements of a French river cruiser, with a taste of the cuisine for which Lyon and this part of France is so famous, and a friendly, welcoming crew. A wide range of shore excursions will take us into the countryside and to the great towns and cities of the region. Start in Lyon and discover the narrow passageways so typical of the city or visit the once-great abbey at Cluny. Encounter impressive Roman remains in Vienne and Arles, the latter indelibly linked with Vincent Van Gogh, or marvel at the magnificent Pope's Palace in Avignon. Finally, see the white horses and pink flamingos of the Camargue salt-marshes or enjoy a tasting of wine and other local delicacies in Tournon.

8 DAYS FROM
£2095



Cluny Abbey



Flamingos in the Camargue

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from London St Pancras by train via Paris to Lyon. (D)

Day 2 Join our optional excursion, a guided tour of **Lyon**, where we will discover its famous "traboules", the passageways that are typical of the city. Cruise to **Mâcon**. (B, L & D)

Day 3 We have included an excursion to the abbey ruins in **Cluny**, once the largest church in Christendom. An afternoon cruise to **Vienne** follows. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Optional guided tour of **Vienne**, home to some notable Roman monuments and Romanesque churches. (B, L & D)

Day 5 Optional excursions to **Arles**, famous for its Roman remains and Van Gogh connections, and the **Camargue**, where we can expect to see white horses and pink flamingos. (B, L & D)

Day 6 Optional guided tour of **Avignon**, including the magnificent Pope's Palace and the famous truncated bridge. Cruise to **Viviers** with a guided tour included here. (B, L & D)

Day 7 Cruise to **Tournon** with the option of a guided tour here, including a **wine tasting**. (B, L & D)

Day 8 Return by train to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' full board in a main deck cabin on the MS Rhône Princess (upper deck cabin - £210pp)
- » Standard class rail travel from London to Lyon (first class upgrades available at a supplement). Full range of both included and optional excursions (at a supplement)
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

11 August from **£2095pp**
Single Supplement **£595**



Samarina Gorge

SPRING FLOWERS OF CRETE

Everywhere you look on the high mountain plains and along the country roads that wind among them are bright splashes of colour – countless floral treasures just waiting to be discovered. One of the largest islands in the Mediterranean, Crete is a place of great, unspoilt natural beauty, offering the plant lover an absolute treat in terms of the variety of flora to be found, thanks to the island's climate, position, altitude and terrain. Many of the 1,500 flowering plants here are endemic.

From our chosen two centres, we have the opportunity to explore a good deal of the island. Limestone mountains ascend to over 2,462m and stretch for some 240km forming the island's backbone. Our daily excursions feature a wide range of botanical habitats along with some very interesting archaeological sites. Among the highlights are the Samaria Gorge with breathtaking views and a magnificent assortment of wildflowers, and Mount Ida, birthplace of Zeus, upon whose slopes we will happily botanise in the warm spring sunshine.

8 DAYS FROM
£1495



Geropotamos River



Venetian Fort

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We fly from London to Chania and transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Tour the **Akrotiri peninsula** with its profusion of flora, followed by time to explore the historic town of **Chania**. (B)

Day 3 Explore the **Samaria Gorge** with its stunning views and magnificent wild flowers, including orchids, anemones and tulips. (B)

Day 4 Transfer to **Rethymnon**, one of Crete's most attractive and unspoilt cities, and visit the **Venetian fort**. (B)

Day 5 Botanise along the **Geropotamos River**, looking for ranunculus, gladioli and orchids. (B)

Day 6 A visit to Crete would not be complete without a tour of the magnificent **Palace of Knossos**, one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in Europe. (B)


Day 7 Travel to the slopes of **Mount Ida** and discover plants in the surrounding area. (B & D)

Day 8 Transfer to Heraklion for our homeward flight. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast and two dinners: three nights Chania and four nights Rethymnon
- » Flights from London to Chania and return from Heraklion; coach travel and all visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of plant expert Julia Corden as tour manager

 **Please note a good degree of mobility is required to make the most of this holiday.**

Departures & Prices

12 April from **£1495pp**
5 April 2022 from **£1495pp**
Single Supplement **£250**



Karaca Arboretum

GARDENS AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF TURKEY

Tulip mania swept through Holland in the early 17th century when Manisa tulips were exported from Turkey to Europe. The price of tulip bulbs rose to extraordinary levels before crashing dramatically. A form of tulip mania continues in Turkey today, but only in terms of the vast numbers of tulips in the parks and gardens of the vibrant city of Istanbul.

After enjoying this spectacle we tour the Anatolian countryside on our way to the coast, visiting an excellent arboretum, a National Park, which is home to scores of rare plants, and the slopes of Spil Mountain, the origin of those Manisa tulips. We will also explore some of the peerless archaeological sites found here in Anatolia, such as Assos, with its impressive theatre, and Ephesus, the largest classical city to have been excavated. Our tours will be led by **Colin Crosbie**, former curator of RHS Wisley, who has a wide knowledge of the native Turkish plants, along with a local guide specialising in the history and archaeology of the region.

8 DAYS FROM
£1895



Ephesus



The Bosphorus

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London on a direct flight to Istanbul and transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 A full day in **Istanbul**, on either side of the Bosphorus, visiting some of the parks and gardens that host the **Tulip Festival**. (B)

Day 3 Depart for **Assos**, visiting the excellent **Karaca Arboretum** on the way. (B & D)

Day 4 We spend the morning exploring the **Kazdagi National Park**, home to some 900 plant species, before touring the site of **ancient Assos**. (B & D)

Day 5 We break our journey to **Izmir** with some time spent botanising on the slopes of **Spil Mountain**. (B & D)

Day 6 We travel to **Urla** and visit a secluded plantation with a host of unusual plants followed by a tasting of the **local wine**. (B)

Day 7 Today we visit the hugely impressive archaeological site of **Ephesus** and later we explore the tranquil Greek hillside village of **Şirince**. (B)

Day 8 Fly from Izmir to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed and breakfast and four dinners: two nights Istanbul, two nights Assos and three nights Izmir
- » Flight from London to Istanbul and Izmir to London
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of Colin Crosbie as tour manager plus a local guide

Departures & Prices

20 April from **£1895pp**
19 April 2022 from **£1895pp**
 Single Supplement **£495**



La Majorelle Garden

GARDENS OF MARRAKECH

The timeless city of Marrakech, which gave its name to Morocco, has an enduring appeal, with its low rise pink and red buildings set against the magnificent backdrop of the snow-capped Atlas mountains. Its beating heart is the square of Jemaa El Fna, where musicians, story-tellers and snake-charmers act out compelling scenes that have changed little over the centuries. Other attractions in this most alluring of North African cities include El Bahia Palace, with its sunlit courtyards, planted with cypress, orange trees and jasmine, and El Badi Palace, a vast, ruinous site with a lingering sense of grandeur.

We also visit the Agdal and Menara gardens and the fabulous, brightly coloured gardens of La Majorelle. Escaping the bustle of the city we drive to the Ourika Valley in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains.

5 DAYS FROM
£1395



Saadian pavilion, Menara gardens



Jemaa El Fna

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from London on a direct flight to Marrakech and on arrival transfer to our hotel, located close to the Medina in the heart of the city. (D)

Day 2 We begin with visits to the palaces of **El Bahia** and **El Badi**, followed by the famous garden of **La Majorelle**, which was made in the 1920s by the French painter Jacques Majorelle and gave its name to a rich shade of blue. After years of neglect, it was taken over by the fashion designer Yves St Laurent and today presents an extraordinary and at times surreal combination of colour, form and light. We also visit the gardens of perfumier **Ben Chaabane**. (B & D)

Day 3 We visit the tranquil **Menara Gardens**, whose origins lie in the 12th century; the sumptuous palace of **Dar el Basha**; **Le Jardin Secret**, designed by Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith; and the **Artisan Quarter**. We round off today in the teeming square of **Jemaa El Fna**. (B & D)

Day 4 We head into the Atlas Mountains today and the lush green **Ourika Valley**, where we visit a **saffron plantation**, the aromatic garden **Nectarome**, where we enjoy a succulent lunch, and the contemporary gardens of **Anima**. (B & L)

Day 5 Today we fly back to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' bed and breakfast, plus three dinners and one lunch, at the 5-star El Saadi Hotel, Marrakech
- » Return flights from London to Marrakech
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

17 April from **£1395pp**
5 October from **£1395pp**
 Single Supplement **£400**

ARCHAEOLOGY OF DENMARK AND SWEDEN

8 DAYS FROM
£1925



Frederiksberg Palace

The neighbouring Nordic nations of Sweden and Denmark offer a host of archaeological and historical sites, from Neolithic megaliths to Viking forts, from fairytale castles to a magnificent royal warship.

We begin in Uppsala in Sweden, with visits to the archaeological sites at Gamla Uppsala and Anundshög and Baroque Skokloster Castle, and in Stockholm we visit the excellent Historical Museum and impressive Vasa Museum. A relaxing rail journey takes us to Malmö in the south of Sweden, where we tour the Österlen region before crossing the Öresund Bridge to Copenhagen. We have a day touring in the Danish capital, including Rosenborg Castle, then transfer to Aarhus in mainland Denmark, where we visit the Moesgård Viking Museum and the Viking Castle at Fyrkat, learning about the real story behind those notorious Norsemen. We also meet some former inhabitants of the region, the amazingly well-preserved remains of a man and woman who died here around 350BC.



Rosenborg Castle



Vasa Museum, Stockholm

ARCHAEOLOGY

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We fly from London to Stockholm. On arrival we transfer by coach to Uppsala and visit the archaeological site at **Gamla Uppsala**, a legendary royal burial site, before transferring to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Today we depart by coach for a visit to the archaeological site at **Anundshög Castle** near Västerås. We continue to **Skokloster Castle** near Sigtuna, considered to be one of the great castles of Baroque Europe. Built between 1654 and 1676, Skokloster is a monument to the Swedish Age of Greatness – a period of expansion and prosperity in the middle of the 17th century when Sweden expanded to become one of the major powers in Europe. (B)

Day 3 This morning we depart for Stockholm where we visit the **Vasa Museum**, home to a magnificent 17th century warship salvaged from Stockholm Harbour, and the **Swedish History Museum** before we take a late afternoon train to the city of Malmö in Skåne, the southernmost province of Sweden. A light meal is served on board. (B & LM)

Day 4 This morning we take a tour of Österlen and visit the megaliths known as **Ales Stenar**. This afternoon we cross the strait to Denmark via the **Öresund Bridge** to our hotel in Copenhagen. (B & D)

Day 5 We tour Copenhagen with visits to the former royal residence of **Rosenborg Slot**; the **National Museum of Denmark**, which chronicles 14,000 years of Danish history; and **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**, an art museum built around the personal collection of the founding family of Carlsberg Breweries, including sublime pieces both ancient and modern. We also enjoy a city tour. (B)

Day 6 After breakfast we depart for a visit to **Frederiksborg Slot** in Hillerød, the largest Renaissance palace in Scandinavia. We then head for Aarhus in Jutland, travelling by way of the impressive **Great Belt Bridge**, to our hotel for the evening where we have dinner. (B & D)

Day 7 This morning we visit the **Viking Museum**, located on the spot where the Vikings founded Aarhus some 1,200 years ago. Thereafter, we depart for a visit to **Fyrkat**, thought to be the oldest of Denmark's Viking ring castles before continuing to the **Silkeborg Museum**, home of the astonishing bog bodies. We return to our hotel in Aarhus for an evening at leisure. (B)

Day 8 After breakfast we depart for visit to the archaeological site at **Jelling**, which is inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as an outstanding example of the Pagan nordic culture. Thereafter we continue to Copenhagen airport in time to check in for our flight back to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: B'fast, LM: Light Meal, D: Dinner



Ales Stenar



Skokloster Castle

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast in 3 and 4-star hotels: two nights Uppsala, one night Malmö, two nights Copenhagen and two nights Aarhus
- » Three dinners and one light meal on board the train
- » Return flights from London to Stockholm and Copenhagen to London
- » Standard class rail journey from Stockholm to Malmö
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

Departures & Prices

5 July from £1945pp
6 September from £1925pp
 Single Supplement £495



Rila Monastery



Amphitheatre at Butrint

BULGARIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

9 DAYS FROM
£1595

Following a golden age of archaeology, Bulgaria is now one of the culturally richest countries in Europe. Hidden in the hills and forests are some of the oldest Neolithic settlements, Thracian tombs and exuberantly painted medieval churches. On this tour, we visit a wide range of locations, four of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

These are the famous Rila Monastery, set high in the mountains; Boyana Church with its outstanding frescoes; the Horseman rock relief at Madara; and the historic town of Nessebar, beautifully preserved with over 80 churches.



Fresco of Jesus in the Rila Monastery



Madara Horseman

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Upon arrival in Sofia, visit the **National Museum of History** and **Boyana Church**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (D)

Day 2 Explore the **Arena di Serdica** ruins, the **Underground Museum**, **Nicopolis ad Istrum** and the fortress of **Tsarvets**. (B & D)

Day 3 See the **Madara Horseman** and the **Mosaics Museum** in Devnya. We then take a walking tour of **Varna**. (B & D)

Day 4 **Roman baths** and the **Aladja Rock Monastery** await discovery today. (B & D)

Day 5 Tour Nessebar's interesting **Neolithic Dwellings Museum**. (B & D)

Day 6 A busy day of sightseeing awaits as we visit Stara Zagora's **Goliama Kosmatka Thracian tomb** and **Roman Forum**. (B & D)

Day 7 We explore **Plovdiv** today, Bulgaria's second-largest city. Thracians and Greeks settled here, but it is the Roman legacy that dominates as we will see when we visit the **Amphitheatre**, **Stadium** and the exhibition of **Roman Mosaics**. (B & D)

Day 8 We devote our day to the famous **Rila Monastery**, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B)

Day 9 Transfer to the airport for our return flight home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Eight nights' bed & breakfast in 3 and 4-star hotels: two nights in Sofia, one night in Veliko Tarnovo, two nights in Varna, one night in Kazanlak and two nights in Plovdiv
- » Seven dinners
- » Return flights from London to Sofia
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

11 May	from £1595pp
5 October	from £1645pp
Single Supplement	£225

ALBANIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

8 DAYS FROM
£1395

In archaeological terms, Albania offers some of the best sites in Europe with a host of Classical cities that were once on a par with those in Greece and Italy. Having emerged from almost five decades of communism, it is slowly opening its doors to the world once again, and behind those doors are truly fascinating historic wonders.

These include Durrës on the Adriatic coast, one of the largest amphitheatres in the Balkans; Apollonia, the second-largest Greek colony in Albania; the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Butrint, which dates from the 7th century BC; and the remote mountain city of Byllis. We also visit the fascinating National Historical Museum, the triumphant Tirana Mosaic and Skanderbeg Square in the vibrant capital of Tirana.



Berat



Temple ruins in ancient Apollonia

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London to Tirana and transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Enjoy a walking tour of **Tirana** today, which includes visits to the **Mosque of Et'hem Bej**, **Skanderbeg Castle** and the **National Historical Museum**. (B & D)

Day 3 Drive to the **Bay of Vlora**, see **Llamani beach** and the **Springs of Borshi** before moving on to Saranda. (B & D)

Day 4 Spend the day at the fascinating UNESCO-listed site of **Butrint**, which in its long history has been both a Greek and a Roman colony. We also visit **Lekuresi Castle** before dinner. (B & D)

Day 5 We travel to the town of **Gjirokaštër** and explore its **Castle Museum**. Later we tour the **Archaeological Park** and the **Ethnographic Museum**. (B & D)

Day 6 We visit the 4th century AD ruins of **Byllis**, tour the **Cobo Winery** and continue to the mountain town of **Berat**. (B & D)

Day 7 We spend the day in **Berat**. The lower city was once the exclusive preserve of the Muslims while the Christians held the citadel and we will see both mosques and Byzantine churches. (B & D)

Day 8 We explore the sites of **Apollonia** and **Durrës** before flying home. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights in Tirana, two nights in Saranda, one night in Gjirokaštër and two nights in Berat
- » Return flights from London to Tirana
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

4 May	from £1395pp
12 October	from £1395pp
Single Supplement	£195



Mystras



Palace of Knossos

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PELOPONNESE

8 DAYS FROM
£1495



Nafplion



Monemvasia

The Peloponnese is a place of timeless beauty. From the 3,000-year-old relics at Mycenae and the Classical ruins of Epidaurus to the Byzantine churches of Monemvasia, the whole region reeks of history. The Greeks and the Spartans fought out the Peloponnesian war here, to be followed in turn by the Romans, Goths, Slavs, Franks, Turks and Venetians.

Highlights include the Lion's Gate at Mycenae, the most ancient piece of monumental sculpture in Europe; the 4th century BC Temple of Apollo Maleatis and the theatre with its awe-inspiring acoustics at Epidaurus; the church of Agia Sophia in the Fort City of Monemvasia; the fascinating dead city of Mystras, a beautiful but somewhat melancholic place; and also the amazingly well-preserved site at Messene.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Today we arrive in Athens and transfer to our hotel in Nafplion. (D)

Day 2 Visit **Mycenae**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Greece. (B)

Day 3 We visit the **Archaeological Museum** in Nafplion and explore **Tiryns** with its Cyclopean wall and **Epidaurus** where we visit the famous theatre. (B)

Day 4 Travel south through **Arcadia** via Argos and Tripoli to Sparta. (B & D)

Day 5 Discover the Byzantine fort city of **Monemvasia**, a wonderful time capsule where history unfolds before you. (B)

Day 6 Explore the fascinating dead city of **Mystras**. (B)

Day 7 We visit the UNESCO-listed and impressively well-preserved archaeological site of **Messene** and its attendant museum. (B & D)

Day 8 We make our way back home today, returning to the airport in Athens for our flight. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights in Nafplion and four nights in Sparta
- » Three dinners
- » Return flights London to Athens
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

Departures & Prices

26 April from **£1495pp**
4 October from **£1495pp**
 Single Supplement **£295**

CRETE ARCHAEOLOGY

8 DAYS FROM
£1595



Spinalonga

Crete was home to one of the earliest European civilisations, the Minoans, who roamed these hills some 4,000 years ago. Their legacy can be seen all over the island, in particular at the legendary Palace of Knossos, the centre of the Minoan civilisation in Europe, with a level of technology and facilities that are quite staggering considering its antiquity.

From this distant starting point we journey through time, from the Hellenic-Roman era to the periods of Turkish and Venetian domination, as illustrated by archaeological remains and buildings, which remain in use to this day.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London to Heraklion and enjoy dinner at our hotel upon arrival. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the **Archaeological Museum**. In the afternoon, we explore the mighty **Palace of Knossos**, the centre of the Bronze Age Minoan civilisation, which leaves the visitor breathless with wonder at the technology and facilities of that period. (B)

Day 3 We board a boat and visit **Spinalonga**, a former leper colony. Later, we enjoy some free time in charming **Agios Nikolaos**. (B)

Day 4 **Gortyn**, **Phaistos** and **Zaros** are ours to explore today. (B)

Day 5 Enjoy a walking tour of **Rethymnon**, which is a mixture of Venetian and Turkish influences. Later, we travel to **Chania**, a city of exceptional beauty with a rich cultural heritage, and explore its historic centre and Venetian harbour. (B)

Day 6 We have free time to explore the local area, or alternatively join our optional excursion to the **Arkadi Monastery** and **Eleutherna Museum** including lunch. (B)

Day 7 Today, we visit the Minoan cemetery of **Armeni** and Byzantine monuments in the picturesque Amari valley. (B & D)

Day 8 We catch our return flight home to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Atrion Hotel, Heraklion and four nights at the 4-star Bio Hotel in Rethymnon
- » One dinner in the hotel and a farewell dinner (with wine) in a local taverna
- » Return flights from London to Heraklion
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (Peter Yeoman in April)

Departures & Prices

20 April from **£1595pp**
14 October from **£1595pp**
 Single Supplement **£280**
 Optional excursion -
 Arkadi Monastery **£95pp**



Cathedral of Saint John in Valletta



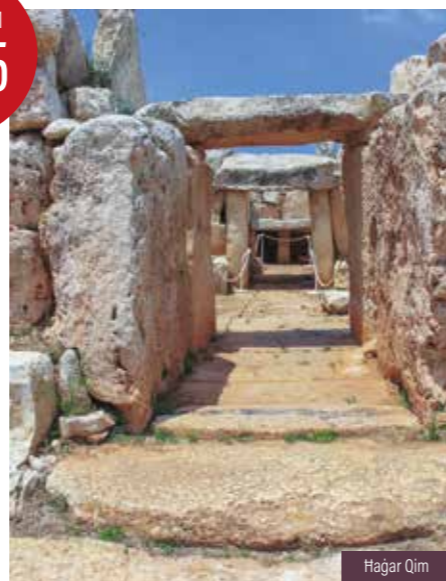
Bom Jesus do Monte

MALTA'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

7 DAYS FROM
£1395

Malta's diminutive archipelago is by no means an indication of the vast riches it holds – from the Neolithic to the present day, they are many and varied. Arriving in Malta, with its golden limestone cliff coasts, lucid seas and heart-stirring views, you may think that you've already seen all there is to see, but peek beneath the surface and you'll be sure to find more.

Venture inside the walled citadel of Mdina, explore the warren of tomb-lined passages in St. Paul's Catacombs, and take to the sea for a boat trip around the spectacular Blue Grotto. Most startling of all are the mysterious sites left by civilisations with whom we are just starting to get acquainted, such as the ancient Mnajdra Temples and the megaliths of Haġar Qim.



Haġar Qim

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly into Malta and transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 Explore Valletta, Malta's capital city. We explore the **Upper Barrakka Gardens**, the **Grand Master's Palace** and the **Archaeological Museum**. (B & D)

Day 3 Explore **Mosta Church** and the walled citadel of **Mdina**. Later, we visit the **Skorba Temples**, the **Museum of Roman Antiquities** and **St. Paul's Catacombs**. (B & D)

Day 4 Visit **Haġar Qim** and the **Mnajdra Temples**. We then take a boat trip to the stunning **Blue Grotto** and the **Dingli Cliffs**. (B & D)

Day 5 Today is free to spend at leisure or there is an optional excursion to the neighbouring island of **Gozo**, which has archaeological wonders of its own. (B & D)

Day 6 Tour the fishing village of **Marsaxlokk**, the **Tarxien Temples** and the world-renowned **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum**. This truly unique site enjoys an individual listing on the UNESCO World Heritage list. (B & D)

Day 7 Transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Six nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star Dolmen Hotel, St. Paul's Bay
- » Return flights from London to Malta
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

4 May	from £1495pp
9 November	from £1395pp
8 March 2022	from £1395pp
Single Supplement £195	
Optional excursion - Gozo £85pp	

PORTUGUESE ARCHAEOLOGY

9 DAYS FROM
£1895

With the roar of the Atlantic Ocean and the tranquillity of the Iberian hillsides as our constant companions, we will travel through time stopping off at megalithic standing stones, Iron Age settlements, Roman ruins and medieval plazas. We will also enjoy a whole host of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Évora, Sintra and Guimarães.

Other highlights include the Almendres Stone Circle from the Megalithic age, the Gothic masterpiece of Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, the Roman settlement at Conimbriga, the Iron Age hilltown of Citânia de Briteiros, and Castelo de Pena, one of the seven wonders of Portugal.



Porto

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly to Lisbon and enjoy a tour of the city. (D)

Day 2 We travel to **Évora** to visit the **Almendres Stone Circle Menhir** and the **Anta Grande do Zambujeiro**. (B)

Day 3 Visit the **Museu Caloste Gulbenkian** and the **Mosteiro dos Jerónimos**, a Manueline monastery. (B)

Day 4 We visit the **Palácio Nacional de Sintra**, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and the best preserved medieval royal palace in Portugal, and the **Castelo de Pena**. (B)

Day 5 We tour the **Mosteiro de Batalha** and the Roman city of **Conimbriga**. (B & D)

Day 6 Enjoy the **Buçaco Forest** and be treated to **wine-tasting** in Porto. (B & D)

Day 7 A free day to explore **Porto**, or join our optional excursion – a boat trip on the **River Douro**. (B)

Day 8 Visit **Bom Jesus Do Monte**, **Citania de Briteiros** and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Guimarães**. (B)

Day 9 We transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Eight nights' bed & breakfast: four nights at the Marriott Hotel, Lisbon; one night at the Tryp Hotel, Coimbra and three nights at the Holiday Inn Porto Gaia
- » Three dinners
- » Flights from London to Lisbon and Porto to London
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

Departures & Prices

20 April	from £1895pp
14 October	from £1895pp
Single Supplement £495	
Optional excursion - Douro River £125pp	

ONCE EVERY 10 YEARS



©Passion Play Oberammergau 2020

OBERAMMERGAU AND THE AUSTRIAN TYROL - 2022

6 DAYS FROM
£2195

Oberammergau is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to witness one of the most powerful, dramatic spectacles in Europe – an epic portrayal of the Passion of Christ as performed by a cast of over 2,000 local residents. It is sadly ironic that an event that first took place after the village was spared the ravages of the Plague should have been cancelled due to a modern-day pandemic, but the good news is that it has been rescheduled for 2022. We will be offering a range of packages, the following being just one example.

Before the play, we enjoy some of the delights of neighbouring Austria, beginning with a visit to Salzburg, where you can choose between a Mozart or 'The Sound of Music' themed excursion. Moving west to the Tyrol, we enjoy a trip on the Zillertal Steam Railway and lunch in a mountain-top restaurant, a guided tour of the beautiful old town of Innsbruck and a stroll down the famous Maria Theresien Strasse, before paying a visit to the vaulted halls of Tratzberg Castle.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London to Munich and transfer to Salzburg. (D)

Day 2 Today we explore vibrant **Salzburg**, but there are two ways to do so. Choose between an included **Mozart**-themed excursion, including a visit to his birthplace and museum, or for a supplement of £30pp, a longer tour based around **'The Sound of Music'**, featuring many of the locations from this much-loved film. Later, we transfer to our hotel in the Ziller valley. (B & D)

Day 3 We ride the historic **Zillertal Steam Railway** to the chic ski resort of **Mayrhofen**. For lunch, we're treated to a highly scenic journey by cable car to our

mountainside restaurant. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Visit **Innsbruck** with a guided tour of the beautiful old town, stopping at Emperor Maximilian I's **'Golden Roof'**. We continue with a visit to **Tratzberg Castle**, which has connections with the once mighty Habsburg dynasty. (B & D)

Day 5 Bid farewell to Austria today and travel to Bavaria, where we have free time in the village of **Garmisch Partenkirchen**. Later on, we will sit down to experience the phenomenal **Passion Play**. The performance includes a three-hour break during which dinner is served. (B & D)

Day 6 After breakfast, we make our way back to Munich and fly home. (B)

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



Salzburg



©Passion Play Oberammergau 2020

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: one night in Salzburg, three nights in the Zillertal and one at a hotel in the Oberammergau area
- » One lunch
- » Return flights London to Munich
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Ticket for the Passion Play (includes dinner and drinks in the intermission)
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

11 May 2022 from **£2195pp**

10 August 2022 from **£2195pp**

Single Supplement **£295**

Sound of Music Supplement **£30pp**



Meersburg

OBERAMMERGAU AND LAKE CONSTANCE - 2022

6 DAYS FROM
£2195

On this holiday, the preamble to the Passion Play is a four-night stay on the shores of Lake Constance, whose sparkling waters form an ever-present backdrop to our touring. From our base at a comfortable, family-run hotel in Bregenz on the Austrian shore of the lake, we visit a selection of outstanding gardens and impressive palaces.

The highlight has to be Insel Mainau, one of the most splendid garden sites in Europe. Getting there is half the fun as we cruise at a leisurely pace along the lake, and once there we have a dazzling array of gardens, parks and buildings to explore. Elsewhere we visit a couple of hugely impressive Baroque palaces, from whose gardens we can gaze down upon the bustling lake and a richly decorated monastery in an idyllic setting. On our way to Bregenz we call in at the unmissable fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein and on the final leg of our journey we end on a suitably spiritual note at the Pilgrimage Church of Wies, a Rococo masterpiece.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Fly from London to Munich and depart for a visit to the iconic fairytale castle of **Neuschwanstein**. We then continue to our hotel in Bregenz on the shores of Lake Constance. (D)

Day 2 Depart for a visit to **Tettng New Palace**, one of the most beautiful palaces in the region. Later we visit **Wangen im Allgäu**, where we see typical half-timbered buildings and some little gardens. (B & D)

Day 3 We take the lake steamer from Bregenz to **Insel Mainau**, one of the finest garden experiences in Europe. (B & D)

Day 4 We return to the northern shore of the lake for our visit to **Meersburg New Palace** with its richly decorated rooms. A little way inland is the **Salem Monastery and Palace**, one of the most culturally important sites of the region. (B & D)

Day 5 We head to Oberammergau for the performance of the **Passion Play**. (B & D)

Day 6 We break our journey back to Munich Airport with a visit to the **Pilgrimage Church of Wies**, an exuberant masterpiece of Bavarian Rococo and a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site. (B)

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



Wies Church



©Passion Play Oberammergau 2022

Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: four at the 4-star Hotel Schwärzler in Bregenz; one at a hotel in the Oberammergau area
- » Return flights London to Munich
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Ticket for the Passion Play (includes dinner and drinks in the intermission)
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

23 August 2022 from **£2195pp**

Single Supplement **£295**

SPECIAL INTEREST



3 DAYS FROM
£455

Green Living

Held every 10 years at a different venue in The Netherlands, Floriade is one of the premier events of the horticultural world. In 2022 the spotlight falls on Almere, near Amsterdam, where a purpose-built site has been created to provide a 'living laboratory', hosting inspirational and innovative exhibitions by countries, cities and businesses alike. There will also be a wealth of impressive attractions, heaps of art and culture, and a unique collection of trees, shrubs and flowers. The theme of this, the seventh iteration of the event, is 'Growing Green Cities'. With the world's urban population expanding to 70%, cities will have to find creative, green and sustainable solutions to remain safe, healthy and attractive, and these proposed solutions will be central to the exhibits at the 2022 Expo.

In addition to our full day here, we will visit some of the many outstanding gardens that Holland has to offer - see facing page for just three examples of the itineraries we will be offering.



De Wiersse



Museum Van Loon

GARDENS

Your Itinerary

Floriade & Keukenhof

Day 1 We depart by coach from London and Gatwick and take the ferry from Dover to Calais, continuing to our comfortable 4-star hotel, conveniently located in the centre of **Almere**.

Day 2 Today, we have a full day at **Floriade 2022** in Almere, located on a purpose-built site a short distance from our hotel. With its focus on 'Green Cities of the Future', there are four main themes: Green, Food, Energy and Health. Exhibits will demonstrate how cities can be made more attractive and resilient by creating more parks and vertical gardens; the latest ideas for sufficient, healthy and affordable food; solutions and inventions in the field of sustainable energy; and how good food, exercise, flowers, plants and trees can help with life in the city. In addition, there will of course be extensive displays of horticultural excellence and we can expect a riot of colour and inventive planting.

Day 3 We conclude with a visit to the famous gardens of **Keukenhof**, with their masses of tulips and daffodils. Seven million bulbs and 800 varieties of tulip create a kaleidoscope of colour.

Later, we return to Calais for our ferry back to Dover and continue on to our original departure points.

Treasures of Holland

Day 1 Depart by coach from London and Gatwick via the Dover/Calais ferry to our comfortable 4-star hotel in **Almere**.

Day 2 This morning we drive to the country house and garden of **De Wiersse**, described by a leading Dutch newspaper as "the most beautiful garden in the Netherlands". In the afternoon, we visit **Het Loo Palace**, recognised as one of Europe's finest formal gardens.

Day 3 Today, we have a full day at **Floriade 2022** in Almere.

Day 4 We transfer to Amsterdam where we visit the **Museum Van Loon**, a magnificent canal-side private residence from the Dutch 'Golden Age', perfectly complemented by a formal garden. In April and May we will instead visit the famous gardens of **Keukenhof**. Later, we return to Calais for our ferry back to Dover and continue to our original departure points.



Keukenhof Gardens

Arts & Gardens of Holland

Day 1 Depart by coach from London and Gatwick via the Dover/Calais ferry to our comfortable 4-star hotel in **Delft**.

Day 2 We visit the **Kröller-Müller Museum**, which offers a unique combination of nature, art and architecture. We continue to **Amsterdam** where we visit the **Museum Van Loon**.

Day 3 We tour the **Royal Delft Factory**, home to the distinctive blue china, before continuing to **The Hague** and the **Mauritshuis**, which showcases the very best of Dutch painting including Rembrandt, Vermeer and Holbein.

Day 4 Today, we have a full day at **Floriade 2022** in Almere.

Day 5 We conclude with a visit to the **Vermeer Centre** in Delft, where Johannes Vermeer was born in 1632 and went on to become one of the pre-eminent artists of the Dutch 'Golden Age'.

Later, we return to Calais for our ferry back to Dover and continue to our original departure points.

Departures & Prices

29 April 2022 from **£455pp**
3 May 2022 from **£455pp**
 Single Supplement **£100**

Departures & Prices

12 July 2022 from **£595pp**
9 August 2022 from **£595pp**
 Single Supplement **£120**

Departures & Prices

15 July 2022 from **£745pp**
19 August 2022 from **£745pp**
 Single Supplement **£200**

All packages above include bed & breakfast with dinner at a supplement. Further dates and other packages are available, travelling by coach and ferry from London, by overnight ferry from Scotland and the North, by rail from London and by air from throughout the UK.

GRENADA

GARDENS OF THE SPICE ISLAND

9 DAYS FROM
£2895



St. George harbour

Lying at the southern end of the Lesser Antilles, the little island of Grenada offers a typical slice of Caribbean life, flavoured with spice and full of colour. With a lush, mountainous interior and a coastline fringed with silky-smooth beaches, it is home to some wonderful privately-owned gardens, which we have threaded together like a richly-flavoured kebab of delicious horticultural morsels.

Given that Grenada won its 15th gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2019, it's reasonable to assume that people here know a thing or two about gardening, and we can expect some real treats as we visit a host of gardens, accompanied by our tour manager, **Trevor Edwards**.

Highlights include breakfast with the owner at Smithy's Garden, a gentle walk among the botanical wonders of an historic plantation, and a tour and tasting at a rum distillery.

We are based at the Blue Horizon Garden Resort, set back 300 yards from Grand Anse Beach, which provides accommodation in self-contained one-bedroom units offering both comfort and privacy. The grounds are extensive and merit a guided tour in their own right, as well as a bird-watching tour.



Grenada's prize-winning display at Chelsea Flower Show 2019



Trevor Edwards and local guide

GARDENS

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We take a flight from London to Grenada, where welcome drinks and dinner are waiting for us on arrival. (IF & D)

Day 2 We ease ourselves into the tour with a gentle day at the hotel, beginning with an **introductory tour** of the 6¼-acre manicured gardens. In the afternoon, we explore the hotel grounds once again, this time on the lookout for some of the 27 species of **birds** that frequent the gardens, led by another enthusiastic member of staff. Binoculars will be provided to us by the hotel. (B)

Day 3 We begin our exploration of the island with a visit to the private garden of **Gemrose Eden**, where we are welcomed and given a tour by the owner, whose enthusiasm for her plants is infectious. This small garden is steep, but well landscaped with reasonably good paths and steps. We continue to the private garden of **Hyde Park**, where we are again led around by the owner. The garden was laid out by the landscape designer Chris Baksh to optimise the wonderful views. After our tour we will enjoy a cooling drink on the veranda and take in those views. In the afternoon we visit the historic **Tower Garden**, a 100-year-old private home in well-established gardens nestled in the hills of St. Paul's, in the south-east of the island. Afternoon tea is included here. (B & AT)

Day 4 Following breakfast, a full-day island tour awaits, beginning at **Mount Edgecombe** where we will follow a fascinating botanical trail through the grounds. A drive along roads that wind through the verdant hills of the interior takes us to **Belmont Estate**, where a delicious buffet lunch is served. In the afternoon, we visit the **River Antoine Rum Distillery** for a tour that explains the

process of turning raw cane sugar into the iconic Caribbean spirit, followed by a tasting of the finished product. (B & L)

Day 5 Returning to the garden trail this morning, we begin with a relaxed and delicious Grenadian breakfast at **Smithy's Garden** with the owner. We will then tour the gently sloping garden, which is noted for its wild and natural feel, and be entertained by the resident birds. We continue via the **Annandale Waterfall**, where the rock walls are covered in soft ferns, and the **Grand Etang Rainforest**, where, if we are lucky, we may see the mona monkey, which was brought to Grenada from Africa during the Slave Trade era. We conclude today with a visit to the **Balthazar Estate**, where we will see giant heliconia, musa, ginger, and many more tropical plants, and where we can learn about the introduction of nutmeg to the island in 1843, a key moment in Grenadian history. (B)

Day 6 After breakfast we depart for **Sunny Side Garden**, a breathtakingly beautiful garden five acres in size, with koi ponds, an orchard and an excellent variety of palms, orchids, hibiscus and bromeliads – many of which feature in Grenada's award-winning RHS Chelsea displays. The afternoon finds us at **Palm Tree Gardens**, a botanical garden with two acres of flowering trees and plants of many varieties, not to mention some resident tortoises and turtles. (B)

Day 7 Today is free to lounge by the pool or explore independently. Alternatively, join our optional excursion – a **full day cruise** aboard a traditionally-built wooden sloop of the type that used to trade up and down the Caribbean chain. In the evening, we enjoy drinks and a farewell dinner at our hotel. (B & D)

Day 8 After breakfast, we have free time for some last-minute shopping before we transfer to the airport in time for our return flight to London. (B & IF)

Day 9 Today we arrive in London. (IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner



Local Spices

Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the Blue Horizon Garden Resort
- » Two dinners, one lunch, one afternoon tea, and welcome and farewell drinks
- » Return flights from London to Grenada
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

15 May	from £2895pp
2 October	from £2895pp
Single Supplement £455	
Optional excursion - Cruise £120pp	



Arenal Volcano



Punta Leona

GARDENS OF COSTA RICA

13 DAYS FROM
£3995

The term biodiversity may have been coined with Costa Rica in mind, such is the range of different species within its pristine, tropical forests. Throw in some spectacular scenery and resplendently laid-back citizens, and you have all the makings of a life-affirming holiday experience. From sub-tropical wildlife to amazing endemic plants, we explore it all.

Visit a broad range of gardens both public and private, such as the Else Kientzler Botanical Gardens with its world-class collection of plants. In such a beautiful setting, we also spend ample time admiring the spectacular natural features of the country. Lake Arenal is Costa Rica's largest body of fresh water, and was enlarged to three times its original size when a hydroelectric dam was built here. At the Monteverde Cloud Reserve we will see some of the 100 mammals, 400 bird species and more than 2,500 varieties of plants that thrive here, including, if we are lucky, the famously elusive resplendent quetzal.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We fly from London to San José, arriving in time for dinner. (IF & D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit the stunning **Else Kientzler Botanical Garden** as well as a **private garden**. (B & L)

Day 3 Today we visit **La Paz Waterfall Gardens**. Later, it's on to the world's largest **butterfly garden**. (B, L & D)

Day 4 Visit La Tirimbina **organic cacao plantation** and learn about pineapple farming at the **Organic Paradise Tour**. (B, L & D)

Day 5 Explore a medicinal garden at the majestic **Arenal Volcano**. (B, L & D)

Day 6 A full day awaits at the **Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge**, where we can expect to see a diverse range of flora. Later we enjoy Arenal's hot springs. (B & L)

Day 7 After a **boat trip** on Lake Arenal, Costa Rica's largest body of fresh water, we head to **Monteverde**. (B, L & D)

Day 8 Wander around **orchid and butterfly gardens** today. This evening, there is the opportunity to dine at the Tree House restaurant (not included). (B & L)

Day 9 Tour the **Monteverde Cloud Reserve**, with its complex ecosystem and vast array of flora and fauna. (B & L)

Day 10 Explore the **Manuel Antonio National Park** before touring the **Rainforest Spices Plantation**. (B & L)

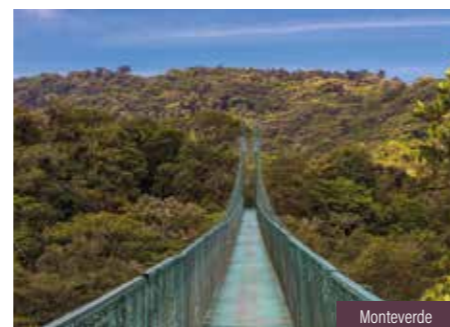
Day 11 Today we tour La Garita's **Orchid Garden** en route to San José. (B, L & D)

Days 12/13 We catch our return flight, arriving in London on Day 13. (B & IF)

Inc. meals: If: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Waterfall Gardens of La Paz



Monteverde

Your Tour Includes

- » 11 nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the Bougainvillea Hotel, Heredia (or similar); two nights at La Quinta, Sarapiquí (or similar), two nights in the Arenal area, two nights in Monteverde, two nights in Manuel Antonio
- » Six dinners and ten lunches
- » Return flights from London to San José
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of plant expert Julia Corden as tour manager and a local guide

Departures & Prices

28 January 2022 from **£3995pp**
Single Supplement **£995**

SOUTHERN COSTA RICA

10 DAYS FROM
£3295

Introduced by popular demand, this holiday complements our successful tour of the country's northern parts. It discovers the southern regions, an unexplored and rugged wilderness, where the amenities are more basic, but the where one can experience an alternative to the hustle and bustle of the more popular tourist destinations.

We start at the Lankester Garden, which has a world-class collection of nearly a thousand varieties of orchids. We continue to a mountain lodge in the cloud forest where we enjoy a fascinating wildlife walk, then move on to the Wilson Botanical Garden. We conclude with a visit to the Central Pacific region, where we enjoy a unique farm-to-table tour featuring the local cuisine, as well as an opportunity to take a fascinating night forest walk on the trails around the lodge.

Our two Costa Rica tours are led by **Julia Corden**, plant expert and President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.



Treefrog



Lankester Garden Orchid

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London on our flight to San José and transfer to our hotel. (IF & D)

Day 2 Visit the **Lankester Garden** with its world-class collection of orchids, then move on to **Cerro de la Muerte**. (B, L & D)

Day 3 Enjoy a walking tour of the **tropical cloud forest**. (B, L & D)

Day 4 We transfer to Esquinas and in the afternoon we take a **wildlife walk** on the forest trails. (B, L & D)

Day 5 Transfer to the **Wilson Botanical Garden**. (B, L & D)

Day 6 A full day exploring the **Wilson Botanical Garden** and its huge collection of plants awaits. (B, L & D)

Day 7 We head for the Central Pacific region, where we enjoy a unique **farm to table** experience and later a **night forest wildlife walk**. (B, L & D)

Day 8 The morning is free to enjoy a paddle or swim in the ocean before heading back to San José. (B, L & D)

Days 9/10 Transfer to the airport for our overnight flight back to London. (B & IF)

Inc. meals: If: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

Your Tour Includes

- » Eight nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: two nights at the Bougainvillea Hotel, San Jose; two nights at Trogan Lodge; two nights at the Wilson Botanical Garden; two nights at Esquinas Lodge
- » Seven lunches
- » Return flights from London to San José
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of plant expert Julia Corden as tour manager and a local guide

Departures & Prices

8 February 2022 from **£3295pp**
Single Supplement **£450**

SEASONAL GARDENS OF JAPAN

13 DAYS FROM
£4995



Golden Pavilion

Surround yourself with the splendours of the Far East with an itinerary of rare gardens, bamboo forests, ancient temples, golden Buddhas and, of course, the majestic Mount Fuji.

Experience the otherworldliness of this mystical country on a garden tour unlike any other. Travel aboard the iconic bullet train, visit the historic town of Omihachiman, take a cruise beneath Mount Fuji's snow-capped peaks on Lake Ashi, and embark upon an optional excursion to Hiroshima and its Peace Memorial Park.

Many of the country's most notable gardens, which evolved from simple, gravel-covered forest clearings, are situated in and around Kyoto, Japan's former capital, and we enjoy three full days exploring both public and private gardens in this area. We have included a variety of different natural styles in order to bring this tour to life, from landscape gardens and stroll gardens to pond-and-island spaces. A recent and popular addition to this tour is dinner with a maiko – an apprentice geisha – in traditional costume. Tradition, stories and natural beauty await.



The Bamboo Forest



Cherry blossom at Hamarikyū Gardens

GARDENS

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London on an overnight flight to Kansai International Airport, Osaka. (IF)

Day 2 Upon arrival in Osaka, we transfer to Kyoto to visit the gardens of the **Imperial Palace**, which feature broad gravel paths and attractive weeping cherry trees, and then we transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 3 After breakfast we discover the dry landscape garden at **Ginkaku-ji** and the private garden of **Hakusasonsou**. We continue to **Kyoto Botanical Garden**, home to over 120,000 plants, and the **Bamboo Forest Path**, a strange and atmospheric forest of dense bamboo. (B)

Day 4 We enjoy a full-day excursion to the **Prefecture of Shiga**, beginning in Otsu where we visit the ancient temple of **Ishiyamadera**. We continue to the historic town of **Omihachiman** and the Hachimanbori Canal. In the old merchants' area, we explore **Nishikawake House**, a former residence of a wealthy merchant family before we return to Kyoto. (B)

Day 5 Today we explore Kyoto at leisure. Alternatively, join our optional excursion by train to **Hiroshima** and the **Peace Memorial Park**. (B)

Day 6 We start at the **Daisen-in Temple**, before visiting two more dry landscape gardens, **Zuiho-in** and **Ryogen-in**. Next, we tour the stunning **Kinkaku-ji Temple** and end at **Ryoan-ji Temple**. This evening we have a special dinner with a **maiko**, and we learn all about the history of this practice and its customs. (B & D)

Day 7 We head to **Nara** and explore the **Kasuga Grand Shrine**, one of Japan's most important Shinto shrines. Afterwards, we tour the **Todai-ji Temple**, home to the world's largest bronze statue of Buddha.

Next, we enjoy Nara Park where thousands of tame deer run free. Later, we enjoy an evening visit at the **Kodai-ji Temple**. (B & L)

Day 8 This morning we visit the **Heian Shrine**, a rare example of a pond garden in the grounds of a Shinto shrine. We move onto the **Nanzen-ji Temple Complex**, a quintessential Zen temple, before travelling to **Tokyo** by bullet train. (B)

Day 9 We take a coach to the seaside town of **Kamakura** to visit the **Great Buddha**. After lunch, we continue to the simple and elegant **Hase Kannon Temple**. Our next stop is to the **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine**, one of the biggest attractions in Kamakura and dedicated to the God of War. (B & L)

Day 10 **Hakone** and **Mount Fuji** are our tour stops for today. We begin with a visit to **Onshi Hakone Park**, an area of forested mountains and deep ravines. After lunch, we take a cruise on **Lake Ashi**, the principal attraction of Hakone. Views from here are amazing and on the way back, we can take photos of Mount Fuji. (B & L)

Day 11 After breakfast, we see the garden of **Kyu-Furukawa**. A waterfall and large stone lanterns heighten the serene atmosphere in the garden. Later, we tour **Mukojima Hyakkaen Garden** and visit **Shunkanen's Bonsai Museum**. (B)

Day 12 Today we begin at **Hamarikyū Garden**, a place of tranquillity in the heart of Tokyo. We then take a cruise on the Sumida River, visit **Senso-ji Temple**, browse the stalls at **Nakamise-dori** and continue on to **Rikugien Garden**. We see the **Imperial Palace East Gardens** before sitting down to our farewell dinner. (B & D)

Day 13 We transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B & IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Senso-ji Temple

Your Tour Includes

- » 11 nights' bed & breakfast; six nights at the ANA Hotel, Kyoto and five nights at the Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa, Tokyo (or similar)
- » Dinner and welcome drink on first evening, a dinner with a maiko, three lunches and a farewell dinner
- » Flight from London Heathrow to Osaka, returning from Tokyo
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a horticulturalist as tour manager (Colin Crosbie in March, Trevor Edwards in November) plus local guides

Departures & Prices

30 March from **£4995pp**

10 November from **£4995pp**

30 March 2022 from **£4995pp**

Single Supplement **£1500**

Optional excursion - Hiroshima **£395pp**

NEW ZEALAND

20 DAYS FROM
£6995



Milford Sound

For us in the United Kingdom, visiting New Zealand is rather like entering a parallel universe. On the surface, everything appears familiar, but look more closely and you notice subtle differences – an unusual plant, an outlandish insect or a brightly coloured bird – which tell you that you are, in fact, a long way from home. There are parts of New Zealand that could be anywhere in the British Isles, from a Hampshire country garden to a Highland glen, an illusion that is strengthened by the abundance of familiar place names and by the plants that were imported by the early settlers to make them feel more at home. Yet where in Britain can you find bubbling mud pools and gushing geysers, majestic fjords and glittering glaciers, huge tree ferns and penguin colonies? In addition to viewing some of these natural wonders, we will be taking a closer look at the flora of the country, both in its natural habitat and in a cross-section of some of the many wonderful private and public gardens with which New Zealand is blessed.

Our October tour is timed to coincide with the spring Garden Festivals in Taranaki and Marlborough. In January 2022, these are replaced with visits to private gardens in New Plymouth and Christchurch, and this departure will be led by **Trevor Edwards** - please ask for a separate itinerary.



Christchurch Botanic Gardens



Wellington

Your Itinerary

Days 1, 2 & 3 Depart from London on our overnight flight to Singapore, where we enjoy a stopover that includes a visit to the spectacular **Gardens by the Bay**. Fly from Singapore to Auckland in New Zealand on evening of Day 3. (IF & B)

Day 4 On arrival, we depart for our Auckland hotel with a stop en route at **Eden Garden**. (IF & D)

Day 5 Visit **Ayrlies**, one of the most celebrated gardens in New Zealand. From Auckland we break our journey in Hamilton with a visit to the impressive **Hamilton Gardens**. We continue to the thermal wonderland of **Rotorua**, the Sulphur City. This evening we visit **Tamaki Maori Village** for a cultural experience and **hangi dinner**. (B & D)

Day 6 This morning, we head south through the small towns of Piopio and Mokau to the fertile Taranaki region and visit **Tikorangi, The Jury Garden**. (B & D)

Days 7 & 8 Over the next two days, we take in some of the gardens featured in this year's **Taranaki Garden Festival**. (B & D; B)

Day 9 Leaving New Plymouth after breakfast, we will travel to **Wellington**, New Zealand's capital city. En route we visit the outstanding **Paloma Gardens** at Wanganui. (B & D)

Day 10 Start this morning with an informative **sightseeing tour of Wellington** and then visit **Otari Native Botanic Garden** and **Wilton's Bush Reserve, Zealandia** and the **Karori Sanctuary**. On our return to the city, we visit the **Museum of New Zealand (Te Papa Tongarewa)**. (B)

Day 11 This morning we board the **Interislander Ferry** and cross **Cook Strait** to **Picton** in the South Island. Later, we

visit the sumptuous tasting room and cellar at **Wither Hills Vineyards** for a hosted wine-tasting. (B & D)

Day 12 Today we enjoy a full day at the **Marlborough Garden festival** including some private gardens. (B & L)

Day 13 We enjoy another **festival garden tour** featuring thoughtfully designed smaller gardens and later we visit the **Aviation Heritage Museum**. (B & D)

Day 14 Depart for **Christchurch** and enjoy the sights of the 'Garden City', including a visit to the **Christchurch Botanic Gardens**. (B & D)

Day 15 This morning, we travel out to Governors Bay to visit **Ohinetahi** before travelling to **Akaunui Historic House and Gardens**. As we return to Christchurch, we stop on the way to visit **Trott's Gardens**. (B & L)

Day 16 A day for spectacular sights. We travel through Geraldine and Fairlie, over Burke's Pass into the vast Mackenzie Basin to the magnificent blue waters of **Lake Tekapo**. (B & D)

Day 17 This morning we visit **Chantecler Garden** and **Gibbston Valley Winery**. This evening we take a cruise across **Lake Wakatipu** on the steamer **TSS Earnslaw** to Walter Peak Station, where we enjoy a delicious dinner at the Colonel's Homestead. (B & D)

Day 18 We enjoy one of the undoubted highlights of our tour as we depart for **Milford Sound**. (B, L & D)

Day 19 Sadly, our tour of New Zealand comes to an end today as we transfer to Queenstown Airport for our flight to Auckland and onward connection to London. (B & IF)

Day 20 Arrive back in London. (IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Hamilton Gardens

Your Tour Includes

- » 16 nights' bed & breakfast: one night in Singapore; one night Auckland; one night Rotorua; three nights New Plymouth; two nights Wellington; two nights Blenheim; one night Kaikoura; two nights Christchurch; three nights Queenstown
- » 11 dinners and three lunches (2021); 11 dinners and two lunches (2022)
- » Return flights from London to Auckland (with stopover in Singapore on the outbound flight) and an internal flight from Queenstown to Auckland
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager (Trevor Edwards in January) and local guides

Departures & Prices

25 October from **£6995pp**

9 January 2022 from **£6995pp**

Single Supplement **£1675**

FLORA AND FAUNA OF MADAGASCAR



GARDENS

15 DAYS FROM
£5295



Zebu cart and baobabs



Ring-tailed lemur



Golden mantella

Your Itinerary

Days 1 & 2 Fly to Antananarivo (usually known as Tana) from London, arriving on Day 2. Our local guide will meet us at the airport and we transfer to our hotel. (IF & D)

Day 3 Catch a flight to Diego Suarez/ Antsiranana. Upon arrival, stroll along the **Three Bays**, see the lighthouse and the French military installations. We also pay a visit to the village of **Ramena**. (B, L & D)

Day 4 An excursion to **Montagne d'Ambre National Park** awaits, where rivers, lakes and waterfalls can be admired. (B, L & D)

Day 5 Today we visit **Montagne des Français** to see dry-country flora and baobab trees. Near the top, on Pic des Orchidées, the comet orchid should be in flower. Later, we fly back to Tana. (B, L & D)

Day 6 Fly to **Fort Dauphin** and travel to **Berenty Private Reserve**, a private gallery forest that protects 'spiny desert' habitat. Here we can see the strange triangulated palm. (B, L & D)

Day 7 Berenty Reserve, with its lemurs, fruit bats and vast bird species, awaits again today. See pachypodiums, moringas and tamarind trees. (B, L & D)

Day 8 After lunch we travel back to **Fort Dauphin**, with stops en route to see localised and rare flora. If luck is on our side, we will see endemic pitcher-plants. (B, L & D)

Day 9 We fly to Tana and transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay. (B, L & D)

Day 10 We depart for **Andasibe** on road No.2, travelling through the forests of **Angavo**, with a stop en route at a unique farm that is home to a wide variety of chameleons and other reptiles. (B, L & D)

Day 11 After breakfast, we spend the day exploring the lush rainforest of the

Andasibe-Mantadia National Park. Wildlife includes lemurs, rainforest birds and reptiles such as the giant, emerald green Parson's chameleon. In the afternoon we visit the **Vakona Reserve**, where a canoe trip will bring us into close contact with different species of lemurs. (B, L & D)

Day 12 Trek through the forest reserve of **Analamazaotra** and visit the local association, which works to protect lemurs by encouraging reforestation, with the opportunity to help plant native trees. Tonight, we enjoy a **nocturnal visit** to see the smallest frog, lemur and chameleon species of the rainforest. (B, L & D)

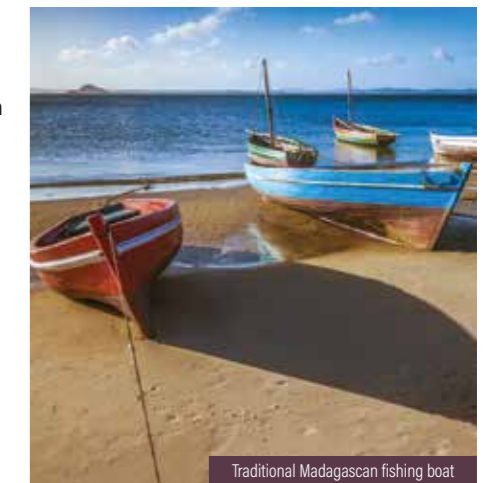
Day 13 We return to Tana. (B, L & D)

Days 14 & 15 Visit the nursery of the late **Alfred Razafindratsira** before our flight to London, where we arrive on Day 15. (B, L, D & IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Antananarivo



Traditional Madagascan fishing boat

Your Tour Includes

- » 12 nights' full board: four nights at the Hotel du Louvre, Antananarivo; two nights at the Mantasaly Resort, Diego Suarez; two nights at the Berenty Lodge; one night at the Hotel La Croix du Sud, Fort Dauphin; three nights at the Lemurs Lodge (all hotels subject to change). Please note that picnic lunches are provided on days when we are away from the lodge or hotel
- » Return flights from London Heathrow to Antananarivo and four internal flights
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » All land transfers in appropriate vehicles for the road conditions
- » Services of Tony Russell as tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

3 November from **£5295pp**
Single Supplement **£780**

Madagascar, the world's fourth-largest island, is like a gigantic ark sailing ever so slowly across the Indian Ocean, having broken free from the African continent some 160 million years ago. The national parks and private reserves that feature on this tour are among the finest in the world.

On the botanical side, we can expect to see a huge range of fascinating trees and plants, none more curious than the baobab, which look like giant tubers that have been pulled from the earth and thrust back in with the roots uppermost, hence the name 'Upside Down Tree'. Among the other highlights are spiny bush plants including the unique cactus-like didiereaceae; strange triangulated palms, bloated pachypodiums and carnivorous pitcher plants; tree ferns, aloes and euphorbias. We will also see a host of orchids, including the famous comet orchid, and our expert guide **Tony Russell** will be in his element here.

Think of Madagascar and you think of lemurs – and, for many, these endearing primates will top a star-studded cast list of wildlife. As well as the familiar ring-tailed lemur, we hope to see Sanford's brown lemur, nocturnal mouse lemur and indri indri with their unique, haunting call. Other creatures that may cross our path include geckos, chameleons and a wonderful selection of rare birds.

SOUTH AFRICA'S GARDEN ROUTE

15 DAYS FROM
£3995



Babylonstoren Garden

Making a long-overdue return to our programme, South Africa's Garden Route winds its way for some 200km between richly forested mountains and a crinkle-cut coastline dotted with beautiful beaches and empty bays. Vividly coloured wildflowers delight the eye at every turn and progress tends to be leisurely, as one stunning photo opportunity after another presents itself. Visits include the Wilderness National Park, the sea cliffs at Knysna and the famous suspension bridge at Tsitsikamma.

Also returning from the wilderness to grace our tour are the Drakensberg Mountains, where we do some gentle botanising and can visit neighbouring Lesotho. We also visit Pietermaritzburg, known as the City of Flowers, and delightful Durban, home to some splendid gardens.

Of course, we could not visit South Africa without spending some time in the Cape, where we enjoy crisp white wines, discover rare botanical treasures at the gardens of Kirstenbosch and Stellenbosch, and potter among the proteas on Table Mountain. **Colin Crosbie** (21 Sept) and **Mike Nelhams** (28 Sept) will be our expert guides to these natural floral wonders.



Sani Pass, Lesotho



A protea in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens

GARDENS

Your Itinerary

Days 1 & 2 We fly overnight from London to Cape Town, arriving on Day 2. We visit the **Old Company Garden** before transferring to our hotel. (IF & D)

Day 3 Explore the many trails on top of **Table Mountain**, which we ascend by cable car, before touring the great **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden**. (B)

Day 4 We depart for a visit to **Babylonstoren**, one of the best preserved werfs (farm yards) in the Cape Dutch tradition. In the afternoon we visit **Stellenbosch Botanical Garden**, the oldest university garden in South Africa, featuring an enormous variety of plants from across the globe – this is a real highlight for any plant-lover. (B)

Day 5 After breakfast we check out of the hotel and visit the **Helderberg Nature Reserve**, where we will have the chance to have a final look at some of South Africa's diverse flora in the mountain fynbos. We then visit the **Vergelegen Wine Estate**. We continue to our hotel in Hermanus, a lovely little town that forms the centre of the Whale Route. (B)

Day 6 We offer the option of a boat trip to spot whales and other marine life. After lunch we head inland to the **Fernkloof Nature Reserve**, which covers 1,800 hectares. (B)

Day 7 After breakfast we check out of the hotel and set out on the Garden Route, driving over Shaw's Pass to **Caledon** and on to **Swellendam**, **Riverdale** and finally **Mossel Bay**, where we visit the **Dias Complex Museum**. (B)

Day 8 Today we set out for a full-day walking tour with a local guide in the **Wilderness National Park**. The wildlife is varied and includes the Knysna seahorse,

pansy shell, pied kingfisher, Knysna lourie, grey heron and little egret. (B)

Day 9 We continue along the Garden Route via Knysna, where we will see the cliffs either side of a notoriously dangerous sea channel, and the harbour town of Plettenberg Bay to the **Tsitsikamma National Park**, home to a stomach-churning but spectacular suspension bridge. (B)

Day 10 Transfer to Port Elizabeth for our morning flight to Durban and onward journey to the **Southern Drakensberg**, where we stay for the next three nights. (B & D)

Day 11 Following breakfast we will have a leisurely **botanical walk** within the immediate vicinity of the hotel, giving us an introduction to the native flora. (B & D)

Day 12 Today is free to relax or there's a chance to join our optional excursion to the nearby kingdom of **Lesotho**. (B & D)

Day 13 We leave Drakensberg today and begin our journey back to Durban, which we will break with a visit to the **Kwa-Zulu Natal Botanical Garden in Pietermaritzburg**. (B)

Day 14 Visit three gardens in Durban: the **Japanese Gardens**, **Makaranga Garden Lodge** and the **Botanical Gardens**. (B & L)

Day 15 We transfer to Durban airport for our return flight back to London. (B & IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Table Mountain

Your Tour Includes

- » 13 nights' accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis: three nights at the Premier Hotel, Cape Town; two nights at the Windsor Hotel, Hermanus; two nights at the Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness; one night at the Kelway Hotel, Port Elizabeth; three nights at the Drakensberg Gardens Hotel and two nights at the Garden Court Marine Parade, Durban (all hotels subject to change)
- » Four dinners and one lunch
- » Flights from London Heathrow to Cape Town; Port Elizabeth to Durban and Durban to London Heathrow
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of Colin Crosbie or Mike Nelhams (Curator of Abbey Gardens, Tresco) as tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

21 September from **£3995pp**

28 September from **£3995pp**

Single Supplement **£650**

Optional excursion - Whale Watching **£85pp** | Lesotho **£90pp**

BHUTAN AND NEPAL

14 DAYS FROM
£5395



Tiger's Nest

Cradled in the folds of the Himalayas, Bhutan is an isolated kingdom with a unique cultural heritage that dates directly back to the mid-17th century, closely bound with the Buddhist religion. It is only in the last few decades that foreigners have been allowed to visit and the country remains unspoiled by commercial tourism. The scenery is spell-binding, with deep, wooded valleys rising to towering snow-capped peaks, and villages and monasteries that cling precariously to the hillsides.

Our tour is centred around the Jambay Lhakhang Festival, a remarkable event with colourful ritual dances. In addition to this, our itinerary includes excursions and gentle hikes, which take us to the most scenic areas and the best of the attractions, including the remarkable Tiger's Nest Monastery. We also take the opportunity to spend a couple of days in Kathmandu in Nepal on the outward journey, a chance to become acclimatised to the altitude in the Himalayas.

The tour will be led by **Julia Corden**, President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, who has visited Bhutan several times.



Thimphu



Durbar Square

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London on an overnight flight to Kathmandu, Nepal. (IF)

Day 2 On arrival in Kathmandu, we transfer to our hotel. (IF & D)

Day 3 Depart on a guided tour of some of the principal sights of **Kathmandu**, including **Durbar Square**, the house of the living goddess **Kumari** and the '**Monkey Temple**', one of the holiest and largest ancient stupa in the Buddhist world. (B & D)

Day 4 We fly from Kathmandu to Paro in **Bhutan**, which, if the weather is clear, will offer some spectacular sights of the Himalayas. Transfer to **Thimphu**, a most unusual capital city. (B, L & D)

Day 5 We spend today exploring the sights of **Thimphu**, including a scenic walk to the **Tango Monastery**, a picturesque three-storey tower from the 12th century. (B, L & D)

Day 6 Drive to the pass at **Dochu La** with spectacular views of the Himalayas and visit the **Royal Botanical Park**. (B, L & D)

Day 7 Drive to **Bumthang**, stopping on the way for a visit to **Tongsa Dzong**, typical of the distinctive type of Bhutanese fortress or watchtower, which is a masterpiece of architecture with a maze of courtyards, passageways and 23 temples.

We continue to Bumthang which is a combination of four valleys – Chumey, Choekhor, Tang and Ura with altitude varying from 2,600m to 4,000m. (B, L & D)

Day 8 We will spend the day at the **Jambay Lhakhang Drup Festival**, watching the many ritual dances and enjoying the elaborate costumes of not only the dancers, but the locals who flock to the festival from far and wide. (B, L & D)

Day 9 Drive down to **Punakha**, a former capital of Bhutan. Blessed with a temperate climate and owing to its natural drainage from the Pho Chhu (male) and Mo Chhu (female) rivers, the fertile valley produces abundant crops and fruit. (B, L & D)

Day 10 We spend the day exploring Punakha, including a visit to the **Dzong**, which has a hallowed place in Bhutanese history. We conclude at **Chimi Lhakhang**, situated on a hillock in the centre of the valley. It is widely believed that if couples wanting to have children pray at this temple, they are usually blessed with a child very soon. (B, L & D)

Day 11 Transfer to **Paro**, with visits to three impressive dzongs on the way. Due to their strategic position as watchtowers, they offer splendid views of the surrounding mountains. (B, L & D)

Day 12 Walking boots are donned today as we hike from Paro to the famous cliff hermitage **Taktsang**, the 'Tiger's Nest'. After visiting the temple, we will climb higher still to enjoy the incomparable peacefulness of this unique place of contemplation and meditation. We will descend through pristine forests of oaks and rhododendrons. (B, L & D)




Jambay Lhakhang Temple

Day 13 Transfer to the airport in Paro for our flight back to Kathmandu as we bid farewell to the legendary 'Dragon Kingdom'. Overnight in Kathmandu. (B & D)

Day 14 Transfer to the airport in Kathmandu for our flight back to London, arriving later the same day. (B & IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

 Please note a good level of walking ability is required to get the most out of this holiday.

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast in Kathmandu and nine nights' full board in Bhutan
- » Return flights from London to Kathmandu and Kathmandu to Paro
- » Comfortable coaching and all visits as outlined
- » Services of Julia Corden as tour manager and local guides

Departures & Prices

15 October from **£5395pp**
Single Supplement **£495**

FLOWERS AND FLAVOURS OF COLOMBIA



14 DAYS FROM
£3995

Colombia offers a dazzling array of lush landscapes, colourful cities and natural wonders, all bathed in the benign warmth of the tropics. We will see wonderful flowers but we will also experience rich flavours, with typical lunches and, of course, the most flavoursome of coffees.

We begin in the capital Bogotá, closely associated with Simon Bolivar, the revered military leader who led Colombia and other neighbouring states to independence from the Spanish Empire. It is also home to the largest botanical garden in Colombia, with a diverse range of flora including a wide variety of Amazonian flowers and a notable collection of orchids. After visiting a National Park of bewildering biodiversity we move on to Pereira in the heart of the Colombian Coffee Region for a taste sensation. We see more orchids, birds and butterflies before we move on to Medellín, a once notorious city that now revels in its soubriquet of the 'City of Eternal Spring'. A highlight here will be a visit to a 'silletera', where extravagant wreaths of flowers are created and displayed. Our tour concludes in Cartagena, a colourful colonial city where the Spaniards once fought off attacks by the English. We also explore a nearby fishing village and observe a wide range of flora and fauna, so typical of this extravagantly endowed country.



Medellín



Orchids

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We fly from London to Bogotá and on arrival transfer to our hotel in the city centre. (IF)

Day 2 We visit the **Botanical Garden**, the largest in Colombia, which is home to a diverse range of flora including a wide variety of Amazonian flowers and a notable collection of orchids. Later we tour the historic sights of the city. (B & D)

Day 3 A full day in the **Chicaque National Park**, a humid, cloud-forest environment of great biodiversity, including 630 different plants and 200 bird species. (B, L & D)

Day 4 We take a flight to **Pereira** and in the afternoon depart on an excursion to a typical **coffee plantation**. After learning about the process of coffee production we will enjoy a tasting of two types of coffee and of course a cup of the finished product - perhaps the best you've ever tasted! (B & D)

Day 5 Transfer to the **Finca La Romelia**, where we will see a large selection of orchids and other native plants. (B & D)

Day 6 Today we transfer to the municipality of **Calarca**, home to a spectacular **butterfly vivarium** and a beautiful natural forest with a huge biodiversity - over 600 species of plants, 70 species of birds and 2,000 species of butterflies. (B & D)

Day 7 We enjoy a day on the road, travelling through mountainous, richly forested countryside to **Medellín**. (B & D)

Day 8 We spend today exploring the '**City of Eternal Spring**' as Medellín is known, due to the pleasantly warm climate that prevails all year round. (B & D)

Day 9 Today we will find out all about the **Silleteros**, local people who grow and sell flowers, usually made up into extravagant wreaths and other displays known as **silletas**. We enjoy a typical lunch of the region today. (B, L & D)

Day 10 We transfer to the airport at Medellín for our internal flight to **Cartagena** and on arrival transfer to our hotel, where the remainder of the day will be free to relax. (B & D)

Day 11 We tour the colonial city of **Cartagena**, including a visit to the 17th century **Castillo de San Felipe de Barajas**. In the afternoon we visit the nature reserve of **La Ciénaga**. Upon arrival, we will be greeted with a welcome drink before taking part in various activities, such as fishing, hiking to the Iguanas Bridge and observing the local flora and fauna or taking a train ride round the reserve. (B & D)

Day 12 Relax in the hotel or join an optional excursion to the 'pink sea' at **Galerazamba**, a naturally occurring phenomenon caused by a micro-organism. (B & D)

Days 13/14 Flight back to London from Cartagena via Bogotá, arriving on Day 14. (B & IF)

Inc. meals: If: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Silleteros Parade



Cartagena de Indias



Coffee Culture

Your Tour Includes

- » 12 nights' bed and breakfast: three nights Bogotá, three nights Pereira, three nights Medellín, three nights Cartagena
- » Two lunches
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Flights from London to Bogotá and Cartagena to London
- » Services of a professional tour manager and a local guide

Departures & Prices

15 February 2022 from **£3995pp**

Single Supplement **£600**

Optional excursion: Galerazamba **£45pp**

LANDSCAPES AND FLORA OF PATAGONIA

13 DAYS FROM
£6995



El Calafate

Patagonia takes its name from Patagón, the name used by the explorer Magellan to describe the native tribes of the region, whom his expedition thought to be giants, and early maps and charts of the New World often referred to Patagonia as 'Land of the Giants'. While the indigenous people were of above average height they were certainly not giants, yet this description of the region remains accurate. The reason lies in the massive mountains that rise from the plains of Patagonia, jagged, snow-flecked peaks that pierce the sky in an unforgettable display of natural wonder.

Elsewhere, we will see glittering glaciers and azure lakes, verdant forests and colourful shrubs, and a host of rare and endemic flowers, as we embark on a series of walks among the mountains. Highlights include El Calafate Mountain Park, named for the ubiquitous shrub with yellow leaves and purple berries; the Moreno Glacier, the third largest glacial area in the world; the mountain of Lom del Pliegue Tumbado and of course the Torres del Paine National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that will provide some of the most spectacular mountain vistas you will ever see. Alpine plant expert **Julia Corden** leads this tour.



Lake Grey



Calafate flower

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from London on an overnight flight to the Argentinian capital Buenos Aires and continue on a connecting flight to **El Calafate** in Patagonia. (IF)

Day 2 On arrival at the airport in El Calafate we will be met and transferred to our hotel in the town, which takes its name from the Calafate, a little bush with yellow flowers and dark blue berries that is very common in Patagonia. (IF & D)

Day 3 This morning we drive to **El Calafate Mountain Park**, from where we walk up to the meseta known as **Balcones de El Calafate** to see our first native plants, which will include Notro with its beautiful red flowers and the aforementioned Calafate. We then drive to El Chaltén at the foot of the Fitz Roy & Cerro Torre massif. (B, PL & D)

Day 4 Today we will enjoy a hike in the **Torre Valley**, which starts as a glacial valley in the Laguna Torre before reaching the town as a fluvial valley. After an hour or so of walking, we will reach the first viewpoint over the glacial part of the valley. Depending on conditions, we will go on to reach the lagoon, a natural viewpoint over the ice-mushroom-covered spires of the Cerro Torre massif. (B, PL & D)

Day 5 We walk on the **Rio Blanco Trail**, which offers spectacular views, with valleys cloaked in verdant forests of Southern Beech, Lenga and Nirre, more Calafate, yellow orchids and other dainty flowers. (B, PL & D)

Day 6 Today we will enjoy a hike on the mountain **Loma del Pliegue Tumbado**, which offers some of the best views over the mountains, glaciers and lakes of the region as well as further botanising opportunities. (B, PL & D)

Day 7 We visit one of the great natural wonders of the world, the **Moreno Glacier**, which is the third largest glacial area in the world. The road leads to a series of catwalks on the edge of the glacier offering great photo opportunities, while the roar of the chunks of ice falling inside the glacier or into the lake, not to mention the sheer scale of the place, will make this day a very special and unique experience. (B, PL & D)

Day 8 We drive to **Torres del Paine National Park**, which lies just over the border in Chile. Approaching the park, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we will see the various mountains that give the area its distinctive and unique appearance: Paine Grande, the Horns, Admiral Nieto and the Towers. As we drive through the vast steppes we will take the opportunity to look for some of the great array of plants endemic to this dry region of Patagonia. (B, PL & D)

Day 9 Enjoy a full-day excursion to **Torres del Paine National Park**, where we can expect to find a very interesting array of plant species, all set against a stunning backdrop of mountains and lakes. (B, PL & D)




Notro

Day 10 Today we take a boat trip across **Lake Grey** and from here we walk to **Lodge Paine Grande**, offering some of the most impressive sights of the park, botanising on the way. Another boat ride takes us to **Pudeto** and from there we drive back to our hotel, what a truly spectacular day. (B, PL & D)

Day 11 Drive to El Calafate Airport for our internal flight to Buenos Aires where we stay overnight. (B & PL)

Days 12/13 We fly overnight from Buenos Aires to London. (B & IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, PL: Packed Lunch, D: Dinner

 Please note a good level of walking ability is required to get the most out of this holiday.

Your Tour Includes

- » Ten nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: three nights El Calafate, three nights El Chaltén, one night Torres del Paine, two nights Lago Grey, one night Buenos Aires
- » Nine packed lunches
- » Return flights from London to El Calafate via Buenos Aires
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of Julia Corden as tour manager plus a local guide

Departures & Prices

30 November from **£6995pp**
Single Supplement **£800**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Scotland's Extreme North West	22 Mar
Gardens of Mallorca	23 Mar
Spring and Autumn in the West Highlands	29 Mar
Seasonal Gardens of Japan	30 Mar
Walking in the Outer Hebrides	30 Mar

APRIL

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days	6 Apr
Walking in the Outer Hebrides	6 Apr
Spring Flowers of Crete	12 Apr
Dutch Bulbfields	16 Apr
Gardens of Marrakech	17 Apr
Scotland's Extreme North West	19 Apr
Walking Cornwall	19 Apr
Crete Archaeology	20 Apr
Arts & Gardens of the French Riviera	20 Apr
Gardens and Villas of Sicily	20 Apr
Gardens and Archaeology of Turkey	20 Apr
Portuguese Archaeology	20 Apr
Gardens of Kent & Sussex	23 Apr
Highgrove and the Cotswolds	23 Apr
Historic Houses of Dorset	23 Apr
Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders	25 Apr
An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland	26 Apr
Archaeology of the Peloponnese	26 Apr
Arran, Scotland in Miniature	26 Apr
Historic Houses - Aberdeenshire	28 Apr
Private Gardens of Cornwall	29 Apr



Standing Stones of Callanish

MAY

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland	3 May
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S)	4 May
Albanian Archaeology	4 May
Malta's Archaeological Heritage	4 May
Irish Rover	4 May
Ancient stones of the Outer Hebrides	5 May
Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes	5 May
A Grand Tour of the Inner Hebrides	6 May
French Riviera - Rose Festival	6 May
Historic Houses - Devon & Cornwall	6 May
Scenic Scottish Railways	7 May
The Genius of Monet	7 May
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (S-B)	9 May
Gardens and Architecture of Andalusia	10 May
Bulgarian Archaeology	11 May
Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo	11 May
Best of Angus Gardens	14 May
Grenada: Gardens of the Spice Island	15 May
The RHS Chelsea Flower Show and Classic English Gardens	16 May

JUNE

Gardens of West Wales	1 Jun
Speyside's Whisky Trail	1 Jun
Castles & Houses of Northumberland	2 Jun
Gardens of North Wales	4 Jun
Highgrove and the Cotswolds	4 Jun
Highland Explorer: Skye and the Far North	4 Jun
In the Footsteps of Gertrude Jekyll	5 Jun
Caledonian Days	6 Jun
Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway	6 Jun
Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire	6 Jun
Highlights of Orkney & Shetland	7 Jun
Islay and Jura	7 Jun
Private Gardens of Herefordshire	7 Jun
Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo	8 Jun
A Grand Tour of the Inner Hebrides	10 Jun
Gardens of Derbyshire	10 Jun
Walmer Castle and the Cinque Ports	10 Jun
Gardens of Northumberland	13 Jun
Scotland's Northern Edge	15 Jun

Highlights of Orkney and Shetland	17 May
Islay and Jura	17 May
Literary Trails of the West Country	18 May
Picardy Gardens Cruise	20 May
Highgrove and the Cotswolds	21 May
Literary Trails of the South Coast	21 May
Private Gardens of the Scottish Borders	21 May
Scenic Railways of North Wales	21 May
Mull Wildlife	22 May
Mull, Staffa and Iona	22 May
Arran, Scotland in Miniature	24 May
Best of Ayrshire Gardens	24 May
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days	25 May
Gardens of Kent & Sussex	28 May
Private Gardens of East Anglia	28 May
Historic Houses - North Wales	29 May
An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland	31 May

Picardy Gardens Cruise	17 Jun
In the Footsteps of the Picts	18 Jun
Mull, Staffa and Iona	18 Jun
RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West	18 Jun
Steam Trains of Yorkshire	20 Jun
Arran, Scotland in Miniature	21 Jun
A Classic Scottish Steam Break	21 Jun
Shetland and its Outer Isles	21 Jun
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S)	22 Jun
Alpine Flowers of Wengen	22 Jun
Coll and Tiree	22 Jun
Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes	23 Jun
A Classic Scottish Steam Break	24 Jun
Undiscovered Orkney	24 Jun
Gardens of Kent & Sussex	25 Jun
Highgrove and the Cotswolds	25 Jun
Highland Wildlife Safari	25 Jun
Castles and Houses of Lincolnshire	26 Jun
Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders	27 Jun

JULY

A Classic Scottish Steam Break - Stirling Highland Hotel	1 Jul
A Grand Tour of the Inner Hebrides	1 Jul
Gardens of Somerset & Dorset	1 Jul
Castles and Gardens of the Loire Cruise	2 Jul
Caledonian Days	3 Jul
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (S-B)	4 Jul
Gardens of the Far North	4 Jul
Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden	5 Jul
Private Gardens of Caithness & Sutherland	5 Jul
A Classic Scottish Steam Break	8 Jul
The Faroe Islands	8 Jul
Scotland's Northern Edge	9 Jul
Downton Abbey and the Stately Homes of England	11 Jul

AUGUST

A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (S-B)	1 Aug
Highlights of Orkney and Shetland	2 Aug
Coll and Tiree	3 Aug
A Classic Scottish Steam Break	5 Aug
A Grand Tour of the Inner Hebrides	5 Aug
In the Footsteps of the Picts	6 Aug
RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West	6 Aug
Highgrove and the Cotswolds	8 Aug
Scotland's Northern Edge	10 Aug
Legends of the Rhone Cruise	11 Aug

SEPTEMBER

Caledonian Days	1 Sep
Gardens of Jersey	1 Sep
Private Gardens of Herefordshire	1 Sep
RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West	1 Sep
Scenic Railways of North Wales	1 Sep
A Grand Tour of the Inner Hebrides	2 Sep
Arts & Gardens of the French Riviera	2 Sep
The Faroe Islands	2 Sep
Highgrove and the Cotswolds	3 Sep
Highland Explorer: Skye and the Far North	3 Sep
Historic Houses of Dorset	3 Sep
In the Footsteps of the Picts	3 Sep
Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes	3 Sep
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (S-B)	5 Sep

An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland	12 Jul
Arran, Scotland in Miniature	12 Jul
Islay and Jura	12 Jul
Private Gardens of Caithness & Sutherland	12 Jul
Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway	14 Jul
Orkney's Garden Trail	14 Jul
A Classic Scottish Steam Break	15 Jul
Historic Houses - Devon & Cornwall	15 Jul
Gardens of North Wales	16 Jul
RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West	16 Jul
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days	18 Jul
Gardens of the Far North	18 Jul
Historic Houses - Aberdeenshire	18 Jul
Coll and Tiree	20 Jul

A Classic Scottish Steam Break	12 Aug
Gardens of North Wales	13 Aug
Mull, Staffa and Iona	13 Aug
Queen Victoria & the Isle of Wight	14 Aug
Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway	15 Aug
Scotland's Northern Edge	15 Aug
Private Gardens of Herefordshire	16 Aug
A Classic Scottish Steam Break - Stirling Highland Hotel	19 Aug
Gardens of Somerset & Dorset	19 Aug
Best of Angus Gardens	20 Aug
Gardens of Kent & Sussex	20 Aug
Private Gardens of East Anglia	20 Aug

Stornoway and the Summer Isles	20 Jul
Gardens of Cheshire and RHS Flower Show Tatton Park	21 Jul
A Classic Scottish Steam Break	22 Jul
Private Gardens of Cornwall	22 Jul
Gardens of Northumberland	23 Jul
Highland Wildlife Safari	23 Jul
In the Footsteps of the Picts	23 Jul
Private Gardens of the Scottish Borders	23 Jul
The Genius of Monet	23 Jul
Walking in the Outer Hebrides	23 Jul
Best of Ayrshire Gardens	26 Jul
Shetland and its Outer Isles	26 Jul
Scenic Scottish Railways	27 Jul
Orkney's Garden Trail	28 Jul
Highland Explorer: Skye and the Far North	30 Jul

Gardens of Northumberland	22 Aug
Highgrove and the Cotswolds	22 Aug
Queen Victoria & the Isle of Wight	22 Aug
Irish Rover	22 Aug
An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland	23 Aug
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S)	24 Aug
A Classic Scottish Steam Break	26 Aug
Speyside's Whisky Trail	28 Aug
Shetland and its Outer Isles	29 Aug
Undiscovered Orkney	30 Aug
Walking Cornwall	30 Aug

Castles & Houses of Northumberland	15 Sep
Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway	15 Sep
Literary Trails of the South	17 Sep
Highlights of Orkney and Shetland	20 Sep
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days	21 Sep
South Africa's Garden Route	21 Sep
Highgrove and the Cotswolds	24 Sep
Knitting in Shetland	24 Sep
Scenic Scottish Railways	24 Sep
Historic Houses - North Wales	25 Sep
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S)	28 Sep
Walking in Cornwall	28 Sep
South Africa's Garden Route	28 Sep
Scotland's Northern Edge	29 Sep

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

OCTOBER

Castles and Houses of Lincolnshire	1 Oct	Albanian Archaeology	12 Oct
Grenada: Gardens of the Spice Island	2 Oct	A Classic Scottish Steam Break	14 Oct
Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides	3 Oct	Crete Archaeology	14 Oct
Historic Houses of Aberdeenshire	3 Oct	Portuguese Archaeology	14 Oct
Steam Trains of Yorkshire	3 Oct	Stornoway and the Summer Isles	14 Oct
Islay and Jura	4 Oct	Bhutan and Nepal	15 Oct
Scotland's Extreme North West	4 Oct	Autumn Tints of Arran	18 Oct
Archaeology of the Peloponnese	4 Oct	Scotland's Extreme North West	18 Oct
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days	5 Oct	Autumn Tints of Perthshire	18 Oct
Bulgarian Archaeology	5 Oct	Walking in the Outer Hebrides	21 Oct
Gardens of Marrakech	5 Oct	Gardens of Kent & Sussex	22 Oct
Scenic Scottish Railways	8 Oct	Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders	22 Oct
RHS Garden Bridgewater and Gardens of the North West	8 Oct	Autumn Tints of Arran	25 Oct
Autumn Tints of Perthshire	11 Oct	New Zealand	25 Oct
A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days	12 Oct	Spring and Autumn in the West Highlands	25 Oct
		Autumn Tints of the Lake District	31 Oct

NOVEMBER

Gardens of Madeira	1 Nov	Seasonal Gardens of Japan	10 Nov
Flora and Fauna of Madagascar	3 Nov	Iceland Northern Lights	14 Nov
Malta's Archaeological Heritage	9 Nov	Landscapes and Flora of Patagonia	30 Nov

DECEMBER

Christmas in the Scottish Borders	24 Dec	A Scottish Hogmanay	30 Dec
Christmas in Stirling	24 Dec		



Christchurch Botanic Gardens

JANUARY 2022

Gardens of New Zealand	9 Jan
Up Helly Aa - 7 day	22 Jan
Up Helly Aa - 5 day	23 Jan
Gardens of Costa Rica	28 Jan

FEBRUARY 2022

Southern Costa Rica	8 Feb
Flowers and Flavours of Colombia	15 Feb
French Riviera - Menton Lemon Festival	17 Feb
French Riviera - Menton Lemon Festival	24 Feb

MARCH 2022

Malta's Archaeological Heritage	8 Mar
Mallorca	22 Mar
Spring & Autumn in the West Highlands	28 Mar
Seasonal Gardens of Japan	30 Mar

APRIL 2022

Spring Flowers of Crete	5 Apr
Gardens and Archaeology of Turkey	19 Apr
Floriade & Keukenhof	29 Apr

MAY 2022

Oberammergau and the Austrian Tyrol	11 May
Floriade & Keukenhof	3 May

JULY 2022

Treasures of Holland	12 Jul
Arts and Gardens of Holland	15 Jul

AUGUST 2022

Treasures of Holland	9 Aug
Oberammergau and the Austrian Tyrol	10 Aug
Arts and Gardens of Holland	19 Aug
Oberammergau and Lake Constance	23 Aug

Your package holiday booking is with Brightwater Holidays, Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.

Telephone: 01334 237046.

These Booking Conditions set out the terms on which you contract with us and this contract is made on the terms of these booking conditions, which are governed by Scottish Law, and the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts. If you reside in England or Northern Ireland you may choose the applicable law and jurisdiction if you wish to do so.

In these booking conditions, "you" and "your" includes all persons named on the booking (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date). "We," "us" and "our" means Brightwater Holidays. Brightwater Holidays is a subsidiary of Specialist Tours Limited (company number 08395250). Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you. All references in these booking conditions to "holiday," "booking," "contract" or "arrangements" mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated.

KEY POINTS

You enter into a booking with us when we issue our booking confirmation/invoice. If you then cancel, there will be cancellation charges. Initially as a minimum this may only be a deposit, but can go up to 100%.

In certain circumstances you may be able to make changes to your booking however charges will apply. We can change and cancel your booking. We'll pay you compensation in certain circumstances.

It is a condition of booking that all travellers are covered by comprehensive travel insurance.

We are responsible to you for providing your holiday but there are legal limits.

Brightwater Holidays holds ATOL number 4498 issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. For all other packages, The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

1. BOOKING

All information provided in the brochure/website is, to the best of our knowledge or belief, correct at the time of publication. We will advise you of any changes that are fundamental to the contract, or which we believe will affect your enjoyment of the holiday. Please advise us if there is any requirement, which you believe is fundamental to your holiday so that we can give you the latest information at time of booking.

When you ask us to proceed with a booking you will be required to make a (minimum) deposit payment which will vary dependent on the specific holiday you are booking. This will be advised at the time of booking and confirmed in your booking confirmation. It may also be necessary to collect payment at the time of booking for other (non-refundable) costs e.g. flight tickets, transfers etc. In the case of bookings made after the balance due date, we will require full payment for the holiday.

You must be at least 18 years old to make a booking and you guarantee that you have the authority to accept, and do accept, these terms and conditions for all members of the party (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date), and in particular payment for all the persons on the booking. We reserve the right in our absolute discretion to refuse to accept any booking without necessarily specifying a reason.

A contract is made when we accept your booking and issue our written booking confirmation/invoice. If we cannot accept or confirm the booking, any money paid will be promptly refunded. On receipt of the booking confirmation/invoice it is important to check the details and if there is any inaccuracy this must be notified to us immediately. It may not be possible to make changes or corrections later, or additional costs may be incurred which we will have to pass on to you.

Many of our holidays are based on specially negotiated airfares booked in a specific airline booking class. At the time of booking if these fares are not available, we will endeavour to secure an alternative air fare and advise you of any additional cost. Please note that most special air fares are non-refundable and non-changeable.

2. PAYMENT

We hold your deposit (and any additional payment required at the time of booking) towards the full cost of the holiday. The balance must be received by us no later than the final payment due date shown on your booking confirmation/invoice, as appropriate to your holiday. If you do not pay the full cost within the time specified we may treat your holiday as cancelled by you in which case the cancellation charges shown in point 4 - Cancellation by You, will apply.

Deposit Payments:

UK Guests: Two-tier deposits: £50 payable initially, with a balance of £50 for holidays without flights, £150 for UK/Europe holidays with flights, or the difference between £50 and 10% of the holiday price for long-haul holidays payable by 28 February 2021. After this date our standard deposit payments will apply.

US Guests: Two-tier deposits: \$70 payable initially, with a balance of \$70 for holidays without flights, \$200 for UK/Europe holidays with flights, or the difference between \$70 and 10% of the holiday price for long-haul holidays payable by 28 February 2021. After this date our standard deposit payments will apply.

Deposit for all Lord of the Glens cruises is 35% of the total price. You must pay the balance in full ten weeks prior to departure (twenty weeks for cruises) unless otherwise stipulated.

Flexible balance payment dates: As part of our Covid-19 policy, we will never take a balance payment from you if we know that a tour is unlikely to go ahead as a result of Covid-19 presence or restrictions. In those circumstances, we will flex the balance payment date later until we are confident that the tour can be safely operated.

Ways to Pay - we accept payment by Visa, MasterCard, cheque or bank transfer for which no levy is charged by us. Your bank or credit card provider may charge an additional financial processing charge and we cannot be responsible for any such charges. (Please note: if you are paying from an overseas bank account you have to accept all bank charges). A surcharge of 2.5% will be applied for card payments made with cards registered in countries outside the EEA and the USA.

3. YOUR HOLIDAY PRICE

a) Prior to booking you will receive a verbal quote based on your specific holiday requirements and travel dates.

b) We reserve the right to notify you of any alteration in the advertised or quoted price and any changes in holiday arrangements before accepting your booking.

Note: We make every effort to ensure that the most up to date and correct prices are shown on our website. We operate a pricing policy which means that the earlier you book the cheaper the holiday will be. Our very best prices are reserved for those who book early. We also commit that we will not offer the same holiday at a lower price to anyone that has booked after you (or we will refund you the difference between your price and the price they pay). If you do not wish to accept the corrected and actual price of the holiday, we will cancel the booking and provide a full refund of any monies you have already paid. Alternatively, you may amend your booking or select an alternative holiday at the applicable and correct price.

c) Subject to these conditions, once we have confirmed your booking, the price is fully guaranteed and will not be subject to any additional 'surcharges', which means any increase due to changes in the price of the carriage of passengers resulting from changes to the cost of fuel or other power sources, the level of taxes or fees imposed by third parties, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at port and airports or exchange rates.

d) Prices in our brochures and/or on our website are calculated on rates of exchange linked to those available to us; either based on rates previously secured or our view of currency exchange rates applicable at the time payments are due.

e) From time to time we offer discounts and special offers on the price of the holiday. Please note that only one discount or special offer can be applied to any holiday at one time and multiple discounts cannot be applied.



To book your Brightwater holiday, call our travel experts today: 01334 237046

Single, Double, Twin Bedded Rooms

Single supplements are payable for sole occupancy of a room. A single room does not guarantee the provision of a double or twin room, and in some instances may be smaller. A 'double' bed is often two single beds pushed together, sometimes with double bed base linen (although it is not unusual for single duvets to be provided in some hotels for doubles).

4. CANCELLATION & VARIATION BY YOU

Cancellation by You:

If you or any member of your party wish to cancel your holiday, or if you fail to pay the full cost of the holiday within the specified time you will be liable, as a minimum, to pay the charges detailed below up to the point of cancellation, in addition to any non-refundable items*. Or in the case of failure to pay, at the date that we deem your booking to have been cancelled. Written notification from the person who made the booking must be received at our offices. The cancellation charge will be calculated according to the date this is received, or the date upon which your cancellation is treated as occurring because of non-payment.

*Non-refundable holiday costs charged including upgraded air tickets, hotel upgrades, extensions, extra nights, transfers etc., will be charged at 100% and the charges shown below will then apply to the remainder of the holiday cost and any amendment charges are not refundable. Additional accommodation costs for reduced occupancy or other components, may be payable in the event that one or more passengers cancels but where remaining passengers still wish to travel.

Group Bookings - cancellation charges will apply to any guests in the group who may wish to cancel in the unlikely event of cancellation by the lead passenger.

Note: If your cancellation falls within the provisions of your travel insurance policy you may be able to make a claim which must be made direct to your insurance company.

Cancellation Charges - if you cancel your holiday:

In order to compensate our expenditure, we charge a cancellation fee according to the following scale:

2021 Tours: Up to 56 days: no cancellation charge | **55-41 days:** 35% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **40-29 days:** 55% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **28-8 days:** 75% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **7-0 days:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs

2022 Tours: Up to 70 days: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **69-41 days:** 35% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **40-29 days:** 55% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **28-8 days:** 75% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **7-0 days:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs

Lord of the Glens: Up to 113 days: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **112-0 days:** 100% and any invoiced flight or hotel costs

Covid-19 cancellation: We strongly recommend insurance cover for pre-departure cancellation and return from tour in the event of Covid-19 symptoms. However, if you are not able to claim for pre-tour cancellation for Covid-19, we will endeavour to limit cancellation charges to cover only those service costs which we are unable to recover.

The cancellation charges will apply from the day we receive confirmation. You may make a claim on your Holiday Insurance if the reason for the cancellation falls within the terms of the insurance policy.

We will observe travel advice provided by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Should circumstances dictate, we may have to cancel your booking if the performance of your holiday, or the carriage of passengers to your destination is significantly affected by unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. In such circumstances, we will arrange for your booking to be cancelled and for you to receive a full refund.

Variation by You:

Booking alterations: If, after our booking confirmation/invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, for example your chosen departure date or accommodation, we will do our utmost to make these changes (subject to agreement by our suppliers) but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes to be made must be received at our offices. This can be by phone, or in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking. You will be asked to pay an administration charge starting from £50 per person in addition to any associated costs of the changes imposed by our suppliers and any extra arrangements, these costs are non-refundable. Quotes normally have a 24 hour time frame before they expire and the price is therefore subject to change. You should be aware that these costs could increase as the departure dates becomes closer and you should contact us as soon as possible. Additional fees may be charged, depending on the cost and work caused to us by the requested change.

Booking transfer to another person: You can transfer your existing booking to another person suggested by you (subject to agreement by our suppliers).* Notice must be received at our offices, by phone, by email or by letter, from the person who made the booking at least 25 days before departure. The replacement traveller must satisfy and fulfil any conditions that apply to the holiday, and all costs of the original booking, and both you and the new traveller are responsible for paying all costs we incur before the transfer can be made by us. The cost of the transfer will consist of both an administration charge of £50 and any costs which our suppliers impose.

* If you are unable to travel, you may wish to check whether cover is provided for your cancellation within the terms of your travel insurance policy as this may incur less cost to you.

Note: Certain travel arrangements may not be transferrable after a reservation has been made, for example, some airlines may require payment of 100% cancellation charges and the cost of a new ticket for ANY variation that is made, and changes to other arrangements may incur a cancellation charge of up to 100%.

Booking transfer to an alternative holiday: It may be possible at our discretion for you to transfer to another holiday, however this is subject to availability and time frame of departure. You must transfer within 24 hours of notifying Brightwater Holidays and the new departure must be within 1 year of notification. A payment of an administration fee of £50 per person, any associated costs of the change imposed by our suppliers and any extra arrangements (ie flight/room upgrades) will be payable by you.

While on holiday: If you decide to cut short your holiday for your own reasons, or not stay at accommodation that has been booked for you, take any pre-booked meals, excursions or other holiday components, then we are unable to offer you any refund or cover any costs. Depending on the circumstances, your travel insurance may offer cover for such curtailment, so we suggest that you check the conditions and requirements of your policy.

5. CANCELLATION & VARIATION BY US

We start planning the holidays we offer many months in advance. Occasionally, we have to make changes to and correct errors and other details both before and after bookings have been confirmed or cancel confirmed bookings, events or activities. Holidays to remote and in some cases, underdeveloped parts of the world carry the risk that parts of the holiday may be subject to alterations beyond our control, sometimes at short notice. Whilst we always endeavour to avoid changes and cancellations, we must reserve the right to do so.

Cancellation by Us:

We reserve the right to cancel your booking. We will not cancel your confirmed booking after the final 'balance due' payment date, except for unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances (see point 6) or failure by you to pay the final balance of your holiday.

Minimum Numbers - some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to enable us to operate them. If the minimum number of bookings required for a particular holiday or flight have not been received, we are entitled to cancel it and will notify you prior to the final 'balance due' payment date. Please note that in such cases we are not able to accept responsibility for any costs you may have incurred, including costs of other travel arrangements made in association with the cancelled holiday, unless booked through Brightwater Holidays.

We are happy to give you an indication at any time of the current number of passengers booked on a trip, but this should not be taken as any guarantee whether the holiday will or will not go ahead as booking numbers can fluctuate. There may be certain circumstances when a holiday may operate with less than the minimum number than the advertised group size.

If your holiday is cancelled you can either have a refund of all monies paid or accept an alternative holiday of comparable standard from us if we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value).

In the event a refund is paid to you, we will compensate you for reasonable, non-refundable costs (eg flight tickets) which you have incurred, to be mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis.

Cancellation as a result of Global Travel Disruption

If it becomes necessary to cancel your tour as a result of global travel disruption, we reserve the right to refund the cost of your tour in the form of credit for a limited amount of time, to be used against any other tour in the Specialist Journeys portfolio. If you do not use this credit within that time, a refund would be payable. This change to the standard booking conditions would only apply if approved by the UK Government and enshrined in the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations (PTRs) as an emergency measure to support tour operators in extraordinary circumstances such as the 2020 Covid-19 outbreak. The exact credit terms and timeframe would be defined by the PTRs.

Variation by Us:

It is a term of your booking that we are able to make changes to any aspect of your booking. If the change is insignificant, we will ensure that you are notified about it. Examples of insignificant changes include a change of airline or aircraft type, alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, change of airports and/or local connecting transport, Tour Manager and changes to supplementary arrangements such as site visit, or change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard.

Occasionally, we may have to make a significant change. If we are constrained by circumstances beyond our control to alter significantly any of the main characteristics of the travel services that make up your package, you will have rights set out below.

- We will contact you and you will have the choice of accepting the change or having a refund of all monies paid. You can also accept an alternative holiday, where we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of lower value) or purchase an alternative holiday subject to availability and applicable cost. We will tell you the procedure for making your choice. Please read any notification of changes carefully and respond promptly as if you do not respond to us within the timescale given, your booking may be cancelled.

- If you choose to accept a refund, we will compensate you for reasonable, non-refundable costs (eg flight tickets) which you have incurred, to be mutually agreed on a case-by-case basis.

Very rarely, we may be forced by 'circumstances beyond our control' (see point 6) to change or terminate your holiday after departure but before the scheduled end of your time away. This is extremely rare, if this situation does occur, we regret we will be unable to make any refunds (unless we obtain these from our suppliers), pay you any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result.

We do not control the day to day management of your accommodation, and in exceptional cases it is possible that we may be advised that the reserved accommodation has been overbooked. If this happens before your departure or on arrival in a location, we will endeavour to provide accommodation of at least the same standard in the same area. If only accommodation of a lower standard is available we will refund the difference of the holiday price between the accommodation booked and that available, and will pay up to £50 per person for any inconvenience.

6. CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation, reimburse expenses, or cover losses where the performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by, or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense of any nature as a result of 'circumstances beyond our control'. In these booking conditions, 'circumstances beyond our control' means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events may include actual or threatened war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity and its consequences (including suspected terrorist activity and all action taken during any "terror alert"), industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, epidemics and pandemics, unavoidable technical problems with transport, airport or airspace closures, as well as other air traffic management decisions (that may result in long or overnight delays or cancellations), fire, concert/event changes or cancellation and all similar events outside our control. This list is not exhaustive. BREXIT – at this current time and until negotiations are completed and full details known, it is not possible to foresee any impact, changes or restrictions there may be on flight operations between the EU and the UK or the effect this may have on booked holiday arrangements.

Group based holidays and activities - worldwide weather patterns are becoming ever more erratic and unpredictable. If it is not possible to operate certain excursions for this reason, we will endeavour to offer alternatives if this is possible. Such circumstances are totally beyond our control and you therefore should proceed with your booking on this basis.

Public Holidays, Sporting & Local Events - in addition to public holidays, many countries host other national or international events or there may be local festivals, which may impact on local/tourist services or travel arrangements, including the reduction or closure of facilities, route diversions etc. during your visit. We have no control over these events, and as dates and details of arrangements are often changeable year on year, it is not possible for us to guarantee to forewarn you of specific details that may be relevant to your holiday, or accept any responsibility for disruption that may be caused. During public holidays, shops, restaurants and tourist attractions may also be closed.

Third-Party Information & Websites - your booking is based on the information supplied to you by Brightwater Holidays. We understand you may conduct additional research into your holiday through other third parties and associated websites, but as we have no control over such information this does not form any basis of our contract with you.

Wi-Fi - where the provision of Wi-Fi may be indicated in a property description, no guarantee is given or implied that it will be operative during your holiday and its availability is outside our control. Some properties may charge for this service and the areas where it is available may be limited and not necessarily available in guest rooms. In all cases, no compensation or refund will be paid in the event that it is not available for whatever reason.

Dietary Requests & Allergies - even nowadays, in some destinations, basic well-known dietary requirements (such as vegetarian, gluten free etc.) are often misunderstood and seldom catered for adequately, despite the best intentions and assurances from hoteliers and restaurateurs. While we are happy to pass on any such requests, we cannot guarantee choice or availability - especially with any airline meal options. We cannot accept detailed lists of specific dietary or food preparation requests and are unable to accept any other requests (eg. personal preferences) that are not for medical or religious reasons. Note: Whilst on holiday it is your responsibility to double check and reconfirm any allergy or dietary requirements directly with the various holiday suppliers.

Other Hotel Guests - it is not unusual for hotels or other accommodation to receive group bookings (sometimes with large numbers) from guests participating in conventions and conferences or other gatherings. At certain times of the year, there may be an influx of groups such as students on organised educational visits (popular during school holidays), associations or clubs. This may result in hotel facilities being much busier than usual or additional demands on hotel staff and services, but we are unable to accept any responsibility for any inconvenience caused by such groups or their activities.

Guides - we reserve the right to substitute any named guide, guest lecturer or other escort with an alternative qualified person and this will not be deemed as any significant change to your arrangements.

7. FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH TRAVEL ADVICE, HEALTH, VISAS & DOCUMENTS

- Your specific passport and visa requirements, and other immigration requirements including, inoculations and health certificates are your responsibility and you should confirm these for all countries to, or through which you are intending to travel and cover all costs for this. Requirements should be checked well in advance of travel and we do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements.

- Essential information for British citizens (only), including health, passport and visa requirements along with up to date Foreign Office travel, safety and security advice can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>. We also strongly recommend that you sign up for the latest email updates as travel and safety information can change at any point without notice.

- If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non-British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the Embassy or Consulate of the country or countries to, or through which, you are intending to travel and consult the relevant authority for the latest travel and safety advice for the destinations you are visiting.

- We recommend that you consult your doctor well in advance of travel for the latest advice on inoculations and health certificates. You can also obtain the latest health information ahead of travel by visiting the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNac) website <https://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk>.

8. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Our holidays are not designed for party members to undertake special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise. We cannot accept any liability for any losses or damages arising out of such use or planned use nor for any loss or damage which has special financial consequences. Please note if you do intend to use one of our holidays for such purposes you should obtain adequate insurance in respect of it and any special equipment you decide to bring with you on such holidays.

9. HOLIDAY PARTICIPATION

It is a condition of participation on our holidays that you agree to accept the authority and decisions of our employees, tour leaders and agents whilst on holiday with us. If in the opinion of such a person your health or conduct at any time, before or after departure, appears likely to endanger the safe, comfortable or happy progress of a holiday, you may be excluded from all or part of the holiday and/or we may terminate your holiday, and any additional costs incurred by you as a result of such exclusion will be your responsibility. In the case of ill health, we may make such arrangements as we see fit and recover any resulting costs from you.

Note: While there are no age limits or health requirements on our holidays, please note that for certain destinations, for example the smaller Scottish islands or some botanical tours, a degree of mobility is required to get the most out of the holiday, for example getting in and out of boats, ascending/descending steps and standing for a degree of time.

10. OUR LIABILITY TO YOU

We make every effort to ensure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to provide as part of our contract with you are delivered with reasonable skill and care. It is the laws and regulations of the country in which the services are actually provided which apply to your holiday arrangements and not those of the UK or your home country and any resulting complaint or claim will be judged on this basis. If the particular services which gave rise to the claim or complaint complied with local laws and regulations applicable to those services at the time, the services will be treated as being properly provided. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care have not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers). Also bear in mind that standards of, for example, safety, hygiene, and quality may vary and services and transport your holiday involves may differ to the stringent standards we are accustomed to in the UK or your home country. Including for example, the absence of seatbelts on coaches contracted outside the UK as this is not always a legal requirement elsewhere.

Certain holidays involve risks and hazards of travel to and in remote and/or uninhabited areas where injury, illness, death, delay, or unanticipated events may occur as a result of forces of nature, wildlife and adverse weather conditions. Medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible in some parts, and the medical facilities that do exist could be of inferior quality compared to what is available at home. In remote regions risks may include but are not limited to: mechanical breakdown of expedition vehicle(s); becoming stranded in remote and/or uninhabited areas; being subjected to rugged terrain and a harsh climate; encounters with wild animals, insects and pests, and the possibility of illness, injury or death there-from; the uncontrollable and unpredictable behaviour of wild animals in their natural habitat; the possibility of not seeing certain animals; and dangerous weather and climate conditions.

You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. If any of the travel services included in your package are not performed in accordance with the contract, or improperly performed, by us or the travel service suppliers, and this has affected the enjoyment of your travel arrangements, you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. We will not be liable where any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services is due to: you or another member of your party; or a third party unconnected with the provision of the travel services in the package and is unforeseeable or unavoidable.

Our liability, except in cases involving death, injury or illness, shall be limited to a maximum of three times the cost of your travel arrangements (excluding amendment charges). Our liability (if we are found liable to you on any basis) will also be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to:

- a) The contractual terms of the companies that provide the travel services that made up your package.

These terms are incorporated into this booking contract; and

- b) Any relevant international convention, for example the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of and conditions under which compensation can be claimed for death, injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage (there are strict Conditions of Carriage obligations for making claims for missing or damaged baggage that must be followed). We are regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of the extent of or the conditions under which compensation is to be paid under these or any conventions.

You can ask for copies of the travel service contractual terms, or the international conventions, from Brightwater Holidays.

Where a carrier or hotelier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim.

Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights – see point 11 below.

If it is impossible to ensure your return as scheduled due to unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, we will bear the cost of necessary accommodation, if possible, of equivalent category, for a maximum of three nights if this is not provided by your airline, in accordance with Regulation 261/2004. The limit doesn't apply to persons with reduced mobility and any person accompanying them, pregnant women and unaccompanied minors, or persons in need of specific medical assistance, provided that you notified us of these needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday.

Note: this entire clause does not apply to any services which do not form part of your contract with us i.e. 'own arrangements'. This includes for example, any additional services, including excursions, that you organise independently, or services which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where these are not organised by us as part of our contract with you. We recommend that sufficient and appropriate insurance is taken out. In addition, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any description (1) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (2) which did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees, or where we are responsible for them, our suppliers or (3) arises out of use of our services for special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise or (4) is connected with any business.

We further advise you, and you agree that in the event of any claim against us, that such claim shall be governed by Scottish Law and Jurisdiction shall lie in any Court of Competent Jurisdiction in the United Kingdom and you further acknowledge these requirements and waive any objection(s) thereto.

11. TRAVEL DELAYS & CARRIAGE BY AIR

Should delays due to weather conditions disrupt your itinerary, additional costs may be incurred and these would be the responsibility of you, the client. You will be assisted by the airlines in accordance with the airlines' policy on delay. We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in point 6 of these booking conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board a flight on time).

Under EU law (Regulation 261/2004) you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at EU airports and will also be available from airlines. However reimbursement in such cases will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday cost from us. Your right to a refund and/or compensation from us is set out in these booking conditions. If any payments to you are due from us, any payment made to you by the airline will be deducted from this amount. You are required to make any claim under this regulation directly with the airline, but if your airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the Civil Aviation Authority on 0207 453 6424 <https://www.caa.co.uk>.

Where long flight delays result in lost holiday time, we are unable to offer any refunds for unused accommodation or other services as reimbursement will not be made by our suppliers in these circumstances, and hotel rooms are held for delayed arrivals and not re-let. We strongly recommend you have adequate insurance provisions in place to fully cover such eventualities.

We are unable to guarantee that all parties will be seated together. With some airlines it is possible to request, or in some cases, reserve certain preferred seats on the aircraft (most airlines will make an additional charge for this). We are happy to assist with this but this is an additional service over and above your contractual arrangement for 'carriage by air' with the airline. Airlines reserve the right to make changes to any specific seat numbers for operational or safety reasons either before, or on the day of departure and you will be notified of any such change upon check-in. Where applicable, any additional charge made for pre-booking specific seats, will be refunded.

In accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005 Article 9, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a "Community list" which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban within the EU. The Community list is available for inspection at https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air_ban_en.

In accordance with EU Regulations we are required to advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to an operating ban as above as a result of which we/the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative, the provisions of point 5, "Cancellation and Variation by us" will apply.

We are not always in a position at the time of booking to confirm the flight timings, which will be used in connection with your flight. The flight timings shown in our brochure, on our website and/or detailed on your booking confirmation/invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration. Flight timings are outside our control. They are set by airlines and are subject to various factors including air traffic control restrictions, weather conditions, potential technical problems and the ability of passengers to check in on time. Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct and up to date flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been despatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions. We advise that you keep check on your flights departure information on the day of departure in case of any late flight changes.

In accordance with EU legislation, we are required to draw your attention to restrictions concerning the import of food items which cannot be brought into the EU (including the UK), from outside the EU. For details please see <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/food/personal-imports/> or contact this office.

12. INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking with us that you and all members of your party obtain travel insurance for all overseas holidays and we strongly recommend insurance cover for all other holidays and that you do not travel against medical advice. The cost of repatriation, medical and other treatment overseas can be high and we are unable to assist in meeting those costs. You should organise it immediately when you book to ensure you have cover against possible cancellation charges, medical treatment and repatriation. Should you have your travel insurance in place we will need to know the details of your policy four weeks before departure at the latest. Brightwater Holidays are authorised to provide travel insurance and we are happy to discuss this when you book. It is a requirement of booking that you provide us with an emergency contact number while you are on holiday stating your relationship (e.g. family member, neighbour, workplace). This is purely for your benefit in the unlikely event of you becoming ill or incapacitated on a holiday.

- We also need to mention - If you choose to take our insurance we ask that you read all sections of the policy document fully. There is a 14 day cooling off period in which you can return the policy for a full refund if it does not meet with your requirements.

13. SPECIAL REQUESTS & MEDICAL CONDITIONS / DISABILITIES

If you or any member of your party have any special requests, you must advise us at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your booking confirmation/invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. For your own protection, you should obtain confirmation in writing that a special request will be provided (where it is possible to give this) where it is important to you.

We regret we cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as "standard" bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), you must tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops or worsens after your booking has been confirmed.

Brightwater Holidays cannot provide individual assistance with boarding coaches or other forms of transport, baggage handling, walking or other personal requirements, etc. and guests should be confident that they can do these tasks unaided. We are happy to give advice and assistance with the choice of your holiday which will be dependent upon the nature of any disability. Our brochures also give a simple guide per holiday regarding how active the holiday is. In order to ensure your enjoyment of the holiday, we ask all clients to provide full details of any disability or special requirements at the time of booking. Some suppliers such as airlines and cruise lines may request certification from your GP to confirm that you are fit to travel. We regret that we cannot be held liable for any costs you may incur as a result.

You are urged to contact our Sales department for further information if you have any difficulty in walking or mobility problems and they will be pleased to advise you on the suitability of any particular holiday.

14. CLIENT BEHAVIOUR

When you book a holiday with Brightwater Holidays you accept responsibility for the proper conduct of you and your party. Brightwater Holidays reserves the right in its reasonable discretion to terminate the holiday of any member of your party whose conduct is disruptive or detrimental to the enjoyment of other clients, or whose conduct may prejudice the reputation of Brightwater Holidays with our suppliers or hotel owners. In that situation Brightwater Holidays shall have no further responsibility or liability to you. The departure of a coach, ship, train, plane or other modes of transport will be not be delayed for passengers who are not on board by the stated boarding time.

15. COMPLAINTS & ASSISTANCE ON HOLIDAY

If you have any reason to be unhappy with any element of your holiday, we would ask you first to bring this to the attention of the person in charge of the relevant service, on the spot. If this is not possible please either contact our local representative or our UK office, using the number provided with your travel documents. It is essential that you do this to enable us to try and put matters right where possible. If a problem remains unresolved during your holiday you should make a complaint which must be received at our offices within 28 days of the completion of your holiday giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. This can be in writing, either by email or letter from the person who made the booking. We will reply to you within 28 days of receipt of your complaint. Please keep your complaint concise and to the point. If you fail to follow the requirement to report your complaint while on holiday we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify it and this may affect your rights under this booking.

If you're in difficulty whilst on holiday and ask us to help, we will provide appropriate assistance, in particular by providing information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance; and helping you to find alternative arrangements and any necessary phone calls/emails. You must pay any costs we incur, if the difficulty is your fault.

The terms of this contract are exclusively governed by Scottish Law and the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts.

16. PROTECTING YOUR MONEY

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays.

1. Flight inclusive holidays: we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the CAA (ATOL No. 4498) which provides for your protection in the event of Brightwater Holidays Ltd insolvency. The price of your air holiday packages includes the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL scheme as explained below.
2. Holidays without flights arranged by us: The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Brightwater Holidays Ltd, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:
 - a) non-flight packages and
 - b) flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the EU, which are sold to customers outside of the EU.

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if you are abroad. Please note that bookings made outside the EU are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Brightwater Holidays Ltd.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call the ABTOT 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2018/9780111168479/contents>

17. DATA PROTECTION

To process your booking and to ensure that your travel arrangements run smoothly and meet your requirements we need to use the information you provide (such as name, address, passport information, email address, mobile number, any special needs/dietary requirements, etc.).

Any such personal data that you provide will be held securely and for the purpose you have provided it, in accordance with both the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679.

We take full responsibility for ensuring that proper security measures are in place to protect your information. We must pass the information on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements such as airlines, hotels, transport companies, etc. We will not however, pass any information on to any person not responsible for part of your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. In making a booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons only.

We may need to disclose personal data to a third party within countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) for the purpose of providing your holiday. Controls on data protection in your destination may not be as stringent as in the UK. In addition, your data may be disclosed to regulatory bodies or public authorities such as customs or immigration for the purposes of monitoring and/or enforcing compliance with any regulatory rules/codes.

We will only send you information about special offers, brochures, new holidays and competitions if you have 'opted in' to receive news from Brightwater Holidays Ltd. If you do not wish to receive this information, you can use the 'unsubscribe' function at the bottom of any email communication or just let us know.

For full details of how we may use your personal information and your rights in relation to your personal information, please see our Privacy Policy on our website: <https://www.brightwaterholidays.com/cookies-privacy-policy>. By booking online, or over the phone, you are stating that you have read and agreed to our Privacy Policy.

We are Brightwater Holiday Ltd, registered limited company no: SC137295.

Registered Office: Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife, Scotland KY15 4HS.



Achieve life-changing feats in ancient destinations



Our sister company, Dream Challenges, takes their adventures to remote parts of the world only accessible by foot or bicycle. Getting fit and gaining unparalleled insight into local cultures, they can take you trekking across the ancient Jordan Desert or riding from Ho Chi Minh City to the ancient Angkor Wat.

For more information please visit:

www.dream-challenges.com

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