



brightwater
holidays

UK HOLIDAY COLLECTION



FLEXIBLE HOLIDAY BOOKINGS

TRANSFER FOR FREE IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND (2021 HOLIDAYS)



LOOKING FORWARD

The recent news that travel is back on for 2021 was very welcome and we can't wait to do what we love most – take people on holiday!

One of the best parts of any travel experience is the anticipation. We love sitting down with a cup of tea to look at brochures, browsing itineraries and seeing what takes our fancy – and how we've missed it! So now the time has come to finally start turning our holiday dreams into reality, we thought you would appreciate a brochure to help get you on your way.

We understand that while there might still be some reluctance to travel overseas, there is a huge demand for holidays within the British Isles, which is why on the following pages you will find a great selection of our UK and Irish holidays, which have always formed a large part of our programme and have been extended even further.

We are very fortunate that the country we call home boasts incredible landscapes, rich history and fascinating archaeological sites to explore, so we're spoilt for choice when it comes to where to visit next! Choose a memorable tour of Jersey's magnificent gardens, pay a visit to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in its new autumn slot, wander around ancient standing stones in Scotland, go on the trail of literary greats in southern England or take a nostalgic journey by steam. We hope there's a holiday for everyone within this brochure with its wide variety of themes, destinations and methods of travel.

It may also be of interest to know that all bookings for our 2021 holidays are flexible as you have the option to amend your booking up to eight weeks before you depart and, as always, our holidays offer fantastic value for money. Including coach travel, accommodation, meals and visits as per the itinerary and a tour manager, we have it covered! All that's left to say is we hope the year ahead is more adventurous and we can all make up for lost travel time.

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 611 828**. 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.



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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?

- » Flexible booking on all 2021 departures
- » Value for money with coach travel, visits, accommodation and some meals included
- » Over 25 years of experience and knowledge
- » Unique and innovative holidays
- » Exclusive access to private gardens
- » No hidden extras
- » Well-planned and perfectly-paced itineraries
- » Friendly and authoritative tour managers
- » Professionally recognised partnerships
- » Welcoming, friendly service from first contact
- » Enjoy peace of mind with financial protection



Departure points

UK garden tours generally depart from London, with additional pick-ups depending on the route of the coach, while tours in Scotland depart from Glasgow, Edinburgh and Perth, with Dundee, Inverness and Aberdeen sometimes added (see website for full pick-up points for all tours). 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 portorage (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

In November 2020, we were absolutely delighted to learn that Brightwater Holidays had once again picked up an award at the prestigious British Travel Awards, with a Bronze in the Best Small Coach Holiday Company category.

This is the third year running we've enjoyed success at the BTAs, having won Gold in that category and Silver for Best Small Special Interest Company in 2019. 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 and beyond.





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.

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

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 New Zealand.

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.

If required 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.



Senso-ji Temple



Bantry House

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. We can provide a wide range of packages to any specification but examples include a simple three-day trip with a day at Floriade, a five-day Arts and Gardens holiday based in Delft, a Bulbfields cruise including Keukenhof or a six-day tour visiting the best of Holland's gardens.



The Paradise Garden © RHS Neil Hepworth

RHS Garden Bridgewater

Due to open in May 2021, RHS Garden Bridgewater is currently the largest gardening project in Europe. Based on an overall design by Tom Stuart-Smith, it is set to become one of the UK's premier garden attractions.



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.



Keukenhof



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.



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.

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 email **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.

THE BEST OF THE UK

From classic to contemporary, the allure of the classic country garden is seemingly endless and the UK has some of the very best in the world. It is also home to an array of staggering archaeological sites that include ancient standing stones and chambered tombs, along with historic houses filled with stories and landscapes that at first glance will transport you to faraway places.

The sheer diversity of treasures within the UK is precisely why we've put together this brochure of at-home holidays for 2021. Now that travel is finally back on the cards for this year, we know you'll be excited about it and we have considered that you might be wanting to take a trip closer to home first - to dip your toe back in.

The tours featured on this page and the page opposite showcase what we feel to be the best of the UK, and there really is something for every interest.

If you're after a horticultural highlight and a chance to spot celebrities from the gardening world, how about our RHS Chelsea Flower Show holiday?



The Paradise Garden, RHS Bridgewater © RHS Neil Hepworth

Always wanted to go island-hopping in the Outer Hebrides? We have a Grand Tour that can help you tick off nine or ten different islands as part of the same trip!

Dreaming about the golden age of travel? Why not hop aboard the charming Jacobite steam train for a scenic Scottish sojourn that will see you glide over the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct as well as take a spin on the world's first rotating boat lift.

If you want to travel from the north to south of Ireland while visiting memorable gardens and meeting the people who created them, you'll want our popular Irish Rover holiday.

As you can see, every traveller will find something to inspire their next trip among our collection of UK holidays – you won't have to travel far this year to experience something memorable, take our word for it.



Eriskay Harbour © Graham Addison

Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides

If you're looking for a way to explore as much of the magnificent Outer Hebrides as possible on the same holiday, this is the trip for you. Visiting nine or ten different islands, depending on your chosen departure, this six-day itinerary offers a chance to take in all the beauty and diversity of this very special environment. From 5,000-year-old standing stones to the unique airport at Cockleshell Beach, join our Grand Tour and get the most of out this incredible Scottish island chain.



The Jacobite steam train

A Classic Scottish Steam Break

When you think of a ride aboard a steam train in Scotland, do you picture the legendary Glenfinnan Viaduct? Of course! Our Classic Scottish Steam Break does indeed include a chance to cross this iconic monument from the comfort of a heritage steam train, but it will also see you take a spin on the Falkirk Wheel, sail on Loch Katrine and also enjoy a chance to sail on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer - The Waverley. What better way to savour the delights of Scotland than on a nostalgia-filled journey by steam?



Italian Gardens, Trentham Estate

RHS Garden Bridgewater & Gardens of the North West

One of the largest gardening projects in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater finally 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. This once in a generation project saw the Royal Horticultural Society take inspiration from the heritage of the site and transform it into a world-class garden, while also delivering a programme of community outreach and education activities, volunteering and training. During this holiday, we will also visit the gardens of Trentham Estate in Staffordshire, the gardens at Dunham Massey, Arley Hall and Tatton Park, which retain much of their Edwardian character.

Irish Rover

This charming eight-day holiday includes some special highlights, such as a meeting with Helen Dillon, the doyenne of Irish gardeners, at her new private garden in Dublin, at which we are granted privileged access. We will also meet June Blake, a passionate plantswoman who grows a unique mix of bamboos, ornamental grasses and perennials, and her brother Jimi Blake at Hunting Brook, with its fusion of prairie and tropical planting.

There will be a stop at the dazzling and idiosyncratic garden of Mount Stewart, truly one of the great gardens of the world; we will call in at the Blarney Castle and Gardens, which is perhaps most famous for its stone – which legend tells has the power of conferring eloquence on all who kiss it; and there will be a visit to Malahide Castle, one of the oldest and most historic castles in all of Ireland.

We also visit Castle Ward, Powerscourt, Innacullin, Mount Usher and Rowallane! As you can see, our north to south journey is packed full of gems, yet is relaxed and unhurried, taking in the very best that the beautiful Emerald Isle has to offer.



Mount Stewart



Seascape, Orkney



Local residents, Chipping Camden



RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019

Highlights of Orkney & Shetland

Sail away to lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery, far from the jostling crowds to the haunting beauty of the Orkney and Shetland Isles. If you want to explore both destinations, this multi-island trip is a great way to do just that. Visit the ruined castle in Scalloway, the seacliffs of Eshaness, the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of Jarlshof, the great stone circles of Stenness and Brodgar, and what is considered to be the finest chambered tomb in western Europe – Maeshowe.

Highgrove & the Cotswolds

How about an exclusive visit to Highgrove House, the country home of HRH The Prince of Wales? This holiday offers a rare opportunity to wander among these fascinating gardens, which are cultivated using wholly organic methods. In addition to Highgrove, we will also visit a selection of other wonderful gardens including Hidcote Manor, Kiftsgate Court, Rodmarton Manor and Westonbirt, the National Arboretum. The latter is the most widely known arboretum in the whole of the UK.

RHS Chelsea Flower Show & Classic English Gardens

For the first time in its 108-year history, the RHS Chelsea Flower Show will take place in autumn instead of May, and we can get you there! This ever-popular 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. Other visits include Stourhead, Sissinghurst, Great Dixter, RHS Garden Wisley, Hestercombe and Heale House, near Salisbury.



OUR TOUR MANAGERS

on their 2021 highlights

To enjoy a holiday with Brightwater is to travel alongside some truly wonderful characters – our all important Tour Managers. These personable, experienced and knowledgeable individuals are valued members of the Brightwater family and spending a week or so in their company is often noted as a highlight by guests who have just returned home.

After having spent much of 2020 unable to travel, they can't wait to get back out there and take you on some memorable trips now that holidays will be starting up again.

Our Tour Managers range from a former Head Gardener to HM The Queen Mother to an award-winning garden designer and broadcaster, and we even have a few archaeologists and historians among us!

They take pride in the holidays they lead, sharing facts and stories along the way, and four of our Tour Managers leading 2021 departures told us about the trips they're most looking forward to leading this year.

Peter Yeoman chose to talk about his historical In the Footsteps of the Picts holiday, which goes in search of this mysterious civilisation from Scotland's North. Trevor Edwards shared some thoughts on our popular Irish Rover tour, which showcases some of Ireland's most

glorious gardens. Colin Crosbie has revealed the delights to be found on the island of Jersey, which we visit on our beautiful Gardens of Jersey holiday, and Alastair Walker chose our best-selling Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides, an all-encompassing break that needs no introduction.





ALASTAIR WALKER

Island-hopping through the Outer Hebrides is always a pleasure, and the Grand Tour is a great way to do so. We get around by coach and by Caledonian MacBrayne's ferry service. There are five crossings required, two in large deep-sea ferries to cross the Minch, and then three on much smaller ferries where one really has the opportunity to get on deck, savour the sea breezes, look out for seals and cetaceans, and watch gannets diving for their supper.

Stornoway, the only town of any size, acts as a magnet with the attraction of some of the Lewis Chessmen on display in Lews Castle museum, and Callanish, a Neolithic site in west Lewis, is every bit as spectacular as Stonehenge. Crofting townships survive and the thatched Blackhouse village of Gearrannan affords a peat-tinged glimpse into how our forebears lived until well into the 20th century. Further south, the Uist archipelago is now connected internally by causeways that link the six islands through which we pass. Quite idyllic.



COLIN CROSBIE

I may be biased, but it is my opinion that the British Isles and Channel Islands are home to some of the world's finest, most inspirational and diverse gardens. The gardens of Jersey benefit from the island's unique wonderfully mild and sunny climate. We will see a wide range of plants from quite literally all over the world, which give the gardens an exotic and unique feel. I am looking forward to visiting the garden at Creux Baillot with its incredible plant collection and reacquainting myself with the Japanese garden at Samarès Botanical Garden.

The Eric Young Orchid Foundation, which we will visit as part of this holiday, is a centre of excellence for orchid cultivation and I have always been inspired by their outstanding gold medal-winning displays at RHS Chelsea Flower Shows. This is a trip that will enthral us with its diversity of plants, with the creative and imaginative way they have been used, and – of course – the beautiful sea views for which Jersey is so rightly famous.



TREVOR EDWARDS

The Irish Rover tour is one which I look forward to and enjoy on every occasion. Apart from the many varied gardens experiences, this tour is a great introduction to the island of Ireland and our travels will expose you to the beauty of the unique landscape. Starting in Northern Ireland, we visit many interesting gardens, not least of all being the National Trust's jewel that is Mount Stewart House and Garden. We usually manage to find time to include a coach tour of the City of Belfast, and I love to share the ancient and recent history of the city and the Province of Ulster.

Usually, our final visit in the Dublin area before heading further south is to Mount Usher, one of my favourite Irish gardens and ranked by Monty Don as one of the ten great gardens of the world. The journey to Cork is another scenic delight. The highlights of the southern part of the tour will undoubtedly be our visit to the Inacullin Garden on Garnish Island and to Blarney Castle Gardens.



PETER YEOMAN

The tribes of Scotland north of the Forth were dubbed Picts by the Romans from around 200 AD – painted people, a name maybe based on their tattoos. These peoples developed a common Pictish culture and became Christians, their chief legacy being an incredible body of sophisticated stone sculpture, often expressing messages in a visual language. They helped forge the nation that we now call Scotland. The Picts have been seen as mysterious, although this myth has now been debunked by current archaeological investigations, revealing extraordinary new evidence of Pictish life, beliefs, forts and way of life.

Against this backdrop, I decided that Brightwater guests would enjoy sharing an exploration of the southern Picts' homeland in the rich farmland of Perth and Angus, and so created this tour. Within just a few days, we visit some of their key places, starting with a special curator-led tour of the spectacular Pictish collections in the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW



BRITAIN IN BLOOM – A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE IN 2021

It's no secret that the events of the past year have created garden enthusiasts out of many more of us, with a recent survey revealing that gardening was the second most popular lockdown activity, so you might be interested to know that we have created a selection of brand new itineraries that will showcase the RHS Chelsea Flower Show while also visiting some of England's most splendid gardens.

If you're looking for a way to tie in a day at Chelsea with a longer holiday that centres around visits to wonderful gardens, our new collection is bound to have something for you. Colin Crosbie, one of our Tour Managers who will lead our brand new Behind-the-Scenes holiday, thinks that the 2021 iteration will be one for the books thanks to its surprising season-swap from spring to autumn. He says:

"The RHS Chelsea Flower Show is without doubt the world's greatest flower show. This year will be truly unique with it being held in September rather than May. I'm sure we will see a different range of plants being used in the displays. Chelsea may never again happen at this time of year, making it a once in a lifetime opportunity and one which I am so looking forward to."

The mental and physical health benefits of gardening have been under the spotlight over the past twelve months, with research suggesting that they are plentiful – so much so that the event's theme for 2021 is all about how plants have a positive impact on our wellbeing. If this sounds like something that appeals to you, why not take a look at the holidays we have on offer for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year.

As you can imagine, we can't wait to get back out there into gardens that are not our own – to marvel at something beautiful and to make new memories on a long-awaited holiday – and we hope that you'll join us.

New for 2021

In addition to the show gardens, shopping and dining experiences for which Chelsea is so renowned, this year's very special autumn edition will have a theme close to many of our hearts.

More and more of us have sought solace in our gardens in response to the challenging events of the past year and we have also embraced the restorative powers of nature, concepts that will be showcased at the 2021 RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The event will celebrate and explore the positive impact that plants have on our wellbeing.

There will also be a brand new category called 'Sanctuary Gardens', which includes a horticultural tribute to the NHS, a 'Nordic Heritage Seaside' show garden and a garden inspired by 'the Calm of Bangkok'.



Keeping You Safe

The event will take place during a year that continues to see our world recover from a pandemic, so extra measures will be put in place to ensure your safety.

It may also reassure you to know that we will operate all of our Chelsea holidays under our 11-step action plan. We will update our websites with relevant information as the event approaches.



A Historic Season-Swap

For the very first time in its 108-year history, the world-famous RHS Chelsea Flower Show will take place in the autumn due to the pandemic. Not only is the timing of the 2021 Chelsea Flower Show unique, now taking place between the 21st and 26th September, it is also expected to inspire wonderful new autumnal displays. Seasonal highlights will include Salvias, Asters, Dahlias, grasses, fruit and, of course, the humble vegetable. Its location won't be changing, however, and it will continue to be held at London's Royal Hospital Chelsea, unmoved since 1913.

There have been a few events throughout the flower show's history that are noteworthy and these include being cancelled for the duration of World War One along with stopping from 1939 to 1947 because of World War Two. In 1932, the show was hit with such aggressive rain that a summer house display fell to pieces and the very first iteration of the event, which took place in 1804, was actually called 'The Great Spring Show'.

One of our Tour Managers, Trevor Edwards, is particularly excited by the change of date, telling us: "I have visited the RHS Chelsea Flower Show for more years than I can remember. For those who have never visited the world's best-known flower show, prepare yourself for an experience of a lifetime! For those who have experienced the excitement of the show during the normal May date, like me, you will be looking forward to enjoying the changes and seeing how the show will differ during its new September date!"

Embrace Modern and Old

Many of the gardens visited as part of our Chelsea Flower Show holidays will shine a spotlight on the evolution of English gardens throughout the ages. At the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, you will come face-to-face with cutting edge garden design and tradition-challenging ideas, but take a walk around the beautiful grounds of Sissinghurst in Kent and you'll encounter a classic slice of horticultural history.

Maximise Your Time Away

All of our RHS Chelsea Flower Show holidays include a full day at the event, but they also pack in other visits to enable you to get the most out of your holiday. Each day of the itinerary will include a stop at a garden or two, so it's up to you to decide what kind of experience you would like to have. For something a little special, we have a Behind-the-Scenes break; if you're a fan of classic English country gardens, we have an itinerary dedicated to the cream of the crop and for art enthusiasts, there's our new Arts & Gardens of London holiday. Keen to discover a green-fingered side to England's capital? We have a holiday for that, too!

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 Gearrannan. Our return route takes us by ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool.



Callanish Standing Stones



Lews Castle

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 **Lews 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 4 July, 1 August and 5 September, 2 nights in Stornoway and 3 nights in Benbecula, from £1095pp.

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



Traditional fishing boat

5 Day Package

We also offer a shorter version of the Grand Tour which begins with a scenic drive via Fort William, Glenfinnan and Mallaig, before taking the ferry to Lochboisdale in South Uist. We spend two nights in Benbecula and two nights in Stornoway.

Departures & Prices

18 July	from £845pp
10 August	from £795pp
12 August	from £795pp
21 September	from £895pp
5 October	from £695pp
12 October	from £695pp
5 April 2022	from £725pp

Single Supplement **£160**

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

24 August	from £1145pp
3 May 2022	from £995pp
21 June 2022	from £1095pp

Single Supplement **£200**

GRAND TOUR OF THE INNER HEBRIDES

7 DAYS FROM
£1675



Isle of Iona

Complementing our Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (see pages 14-15), 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

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 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

10 June	from £1725pp
1 July	from £1695pp
5 August	from £1675pp
2 September	from £1745pp

Single Supplement **£325**

HIGHLIGHTS OF ORKNEY & SHETLAND

THE 'ISLANDS OF THE SIMMER DIM'

6 DAYS FROM

£1295



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

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 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 from £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

7 June	from £1395pp
2 August	from £1395pp
7 August	from £1295pp
20 September	from £1295pp
9 May 2022	from £1295pp
13 June 2022	from £1295pp
Single Supplement from £375	



Skara Brae

UNDISCOVERED ORKNEY

5 DAYS FROM
£995

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.



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 **Noltland 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 £1025pp
23 June 2022	from £1095pp
25 August 2022	from £1095pp
Single Supplement £200	



Shetland seascape.

SHETLAND

AND ITS OUTER ISLES

5 DAYS FROM
£1045

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 Jarlishof, 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.



Lerwick



Jarlishof

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 **Jarlishof**, 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 at a supplement from £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 £1095pp
10 June 2022	from £1045pp
8 August 2022	from £1045pp
Single Supplement £325	

UP HELLY AA

SHETLAND'S FIRE FESTIVAL

Wander through the streets of Lerwick at the end of January and it's likely to be nothing short of a unique experience. Squads of bearded Vikings kitted out in chainmail and winged helmets can be seen carrying a 30ft longship, which is fated to be ceremoniously set alight. This is Up Helly Aa, the annual winter festival of Shetland – it's run by Shetlanders for Shetlanders, but visitors are always welcome.



7 DAYS FROM
£1345

Up Helly Aa festival

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Travel to Aberdeen for the overnight ferry to Lerwick.

Day 2 After breakfast on board, we depart for **Lerwick**, where we have some free time ahead of the unforgettable **Up Helly Aa** festivities.

Day 3 We set off for the northerly isles of **Yell** and **Unst**, travelling through **Girlsta** and **Tingwall**, and enjoying the views from **Saxa Vord Hill**.

Day 4 We set off on a scenic excursion to the north of Shetland, featuring the spectacular cliffs at **Eshaness**.

Day 5 We depart on another scenic excursion that takes us to **Walls** and the headland at **Sandness**, overlooking the island of Papa Stour.

Day 6 We enjoy a full-day tour of mainland Shetland, including a visit to **Scalloway**, the original capital of Shetland; the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof** and the windswept cliffs at **Sumburgh Head**. In the evening, we board the ferry and sail overnight back to Aberdeen.

Day 7 Disembark in Aberdeen and return to our drop-off points.

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Six nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: two nights on the overnight ferry and four nights at Busta House or Brae Hotel
- » Comfortable coaching
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

24 January 2022 from **£1345pp**

Single Supplement **On request**

Shetland Hotel supplement **£240pp**

KNITTING IN THE SHETLAND ISLES

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



6 DAYS FROM
£1445

Local colour © Frances Taylor

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

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 at a supplement of £40pp)
- » 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**



Jarlshof

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.

6 DAYS FROM
£1245



Mousa Broch

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. (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

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/Hjaltdland on the outward sailing (outside cabins available at a supplement from £40pp)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

Departures & Prices

31 May	from £1245pp
12 July	from £1495pp
23 August	from £1495pp
25 April 2022	from £1295pp

Single Supplement from **£375**



Pictish Stone, Aberlemno

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. Vigens 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 **Forteviot**, the royal centre of Pictish kings, and finally 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
1 October	from £575pp
18 June 2022	from £595pp
6 August 2022	from £595pp
3 September 2022	from £595pp

Single Supplement **£90**



Standing Stones of Callanish

ANCIENT STONES OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES

In about 1800 BC, at around the time that the Middle Kingdom of Ancient Egypt was flourishing, an equally vigorous civilisation was leaving its mark on the far-flung islands of the Outer Hebrides. 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.

5 DAYS FROM
£695



Luskentyre, Harris



Gairrannan Black House Village

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We 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. (D)

Day 2 This morning we visit the **Bosta Iron Age Village**, stone structures from the 7th - 8th century which were uncovered thanks to a period of heavy storms, in much the same way that Skara Brae on Orkney came to light. 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; **St Columba's Ui Church**, one of the most important archaeological sites on Lewis, and finally **Lews Castle**. (B & D)

Day 3 We travel south to Harris, where we visit **St Clement's Church**, whose tombs are among the most spectacular in Scotland; the **Genealogy Centre** at Northton and the ancient standing stone known as **Clach Mhic Leoid**. (B & D)

Day 4 Today our visits include the exceptionally well preserved **Carloway Broch**; the **Black Houses** at Gairrannan and Arnol, the recreated **Norse Mill** at Shawbost 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

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Cabarfeidh Hotel, 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

3 October from **£695pp**
12 June 2022 from **£895pp**
 Single Supplement **£160**



Port Charlotte, Islay

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.



Bowmore distillery



Inveraray

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and catch the ferry from Kennacraig to Port Askaig, Islay. Upon arrival we check in at 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

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

7 June	from £1045pp
12 July	from £1045pp
13 September	from £1095pp
4 October	from £995pp
Single Supplement £200	
Optional excursion - Colonsay £55pp	



Duart Castle

MULL, STAFFA & IONA

4 DAYS FROM
£875

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.



Puffin



Fionnphort, Isle of Mull

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 (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

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

18 June from **£895pp**
13 August from **£875pp**
10 September from **£875pp**

Single Supplement **£195**

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.

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 time for lunch before we visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** then 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

John O'Groats

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 £845pp
29 September	from £795pp

Single Supplement **£180**

AUTUMN TINTS OF PERTHSHIRE

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 towering specimens and visit three historic trees: the parent Larch, the Birnam Oak and the Fortingall Yew. Further visits include The Hermitage, a wild 'tree garden'; the wonderful woodland garden at Cluny House and Diana's Grove at Blair Castle, perhaps the best 'big tree' experience in the country.

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 Shakespeare's '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 originally planted by the Dukes of Atholl 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 the glorious profusion of trees at **Faskally Forest**, we continue to the **Pass of Killiecrankie**, which offers a splendid walk beside the River Garry, then travel north to **Blair Castle** to visit Diana's Grove, an outstanding 'big tree' experience. (B)

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



3 DAYS FROM
£345

Autumn in the Hermitage, Dunkeld

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
11 October 2022	from £365pp

Single Supplement **£50**

SPRING AND AUTUMN IN THE WEST HIGHLANDS

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 autumn and you may well still see snow on the hills 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 returns.



4 DAYS FROM
£485

SCOTLAND

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, Ardkinglas 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

25 October	from £495pp
28 March 2022	from £485pp
24 October 2022	from £515pp
Single Supplement from £175	
Optional excursion - Mull from £40pp	

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.



4 DAYS FROM
£495

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

4 October	from £495pp
18 October	from £495pp
22 March 2022	from £495pp
19 April 2022	from £525pp
11 October 2022	from £525pp
18 October 2022	from £525pp
Single Supplement £120	

NEW FOR 2021



Achmelvich

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	

ARRAN:

'SCOTLAND IN MINIATURE'

As you board the ferry at Ardrossan, you see the distinctive silhouette of Goat Fell 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. For a taste of a true Hebridean gem, we also offer an excursion to the little island of Gigha.

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



Brodick Castle

5 DAYS FROM
£685

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

21 June from **£685pp**

12 July from **£695pp**

13 September from **£725pp**

Single Supplement **£180**

Optional excursion - Gigha **£55pp**

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 are based for three nights at the comfortable Best Western Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot on the western shore, overlooking Kilbrannan Sound.

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 overlooking the Firth of Clyde, well protected from westerly winds. 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



Goatfell

4 DAYS FROM
£495

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**



Gairloch

STORNOWAY AND THE SUMMER ISLES

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.

6 DAYS FROM
£895



Inverewe Garden

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head north to our comfortable hotel in Gairloch. (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). On the way back to our hotel we call in at **Inverewe Gardens**, unquestionably one of the most outstanding gardens in the country. The climate promotes luxurious growth and Inverewe is a veritable jungle of mature exotic trees laced with winding walks, giving sudden glimpses of shimmering water through the foliage. (B & D)

Day 3 We catch the little ferry to **Handa Island**. Look out for masses of seabirds, a profusion of wildflowers and the remains of an abandoned village. (B & D)

Day 4 This morning we catch the morning ferry to Stornoway. On arrival we visit the **Lewis Castle and Museum** and the historic **St Columba's Ui Church**. (B & D)

Day 5 We travel to the west coast of Lewis for visits to the 5,000-year-old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, the **Black Houses** at Gearrannan, the exceptionally well preserved **Carloway Broch** and the **Norse Mill** at Shawbost. (B & D)

Day 6 Catch the morning ferry to Uig on **Skye** and return to our 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 the Caladh Inn, Stornoway (Cabarfeidh Hotel in October)
- » 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
8 June 2022	from £995pp
27 July 2022	from £1045pp

Single Supplement **£195**

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 two 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

9 DAYS FROM
£1095

SCOTLAND

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 Return home.

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 Mallaig and take the evening ferry to Lochboisdale in South 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 Gèarrannan and the recreation of a Norse Mill at Shawbost.



Callanish Stones

6 DAYS FROM
£695

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.

Please note: these are sample itineraries, hotels and prices only (based on B&B) - all tours are tailored to your exact requirements.



Tobermory

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

1 October from **£1495pp**

11 October from **£1495pp**

Single Supplement from **£900**



Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness

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



Glenfinnan Monument



Neptune's Staircase

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 May & June 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	



Quoy of Houton

ORKNEY'S GARDEN TRAIL

6 DAYS FROM
£1175

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.



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
13 July 2022	from £1195pp
3 August 2022	from £1195pp
Single Supplement from £250	



Logan Botanic Gardens

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 £675pp
15 September	from £645pp
Single Supplement £180	



Dunrobin Castle

GARDENS OF THE FAR NORTH

5 DAYS FROM
£995

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.



Inverewe



Castle of Mey

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

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
26 June 2022	from £995pp
10 July 2022	from £995pp

Single Supplement from **£280**



Dunbeath Castle

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)

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
27 June 2022	from £575pp
12 July 2022	from £575pp
Single Supplement £150	

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

NEW FOR 2021

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 visit splendid gardens at the castles of Edzell, Gardyne and Glamis as well as a selection of more homely private gardens.

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

4 DAYS FROM
£545



Pitmuies

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

20 August	from £545pp
13 May 2022	from £565pp
19 August 2022	from £565pp
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 privately owned gardens such as Burnside and Barnweil.

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, alternatively join 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 furniture 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

4 DAYS FROM
£545



Culzean Castle

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
23 May 2022	from £575pp
18 July 2022	from £575pp
Single Supplement £135	
Optional excursion - Arran from £50	



Bottlenose dolphin

HIGHLAND WILDLIFE SAFARI

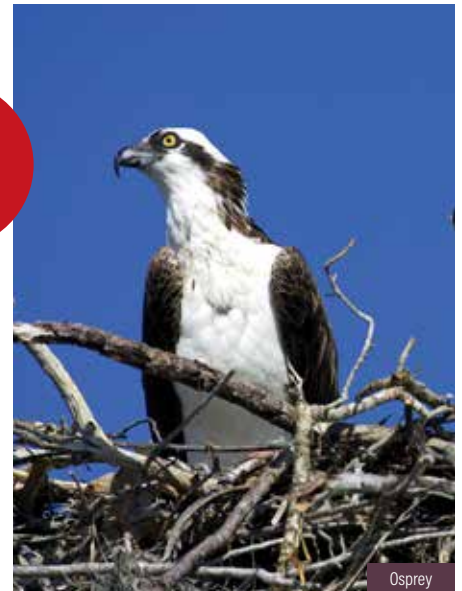
Scotland's natural environment is second to none with a more diverse range of habitats than almost any other country of comparable size.

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 grown here on 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 Craiglynn 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
24 June 2022	from £695pp
22 July 2022	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

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 Tighnabruach 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 £725pp
19 August	from £695pp
16 October	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

24 June	from £665pp
8 July	from £595pp
15 July	from £595pp
22 July	from £665pp
5 August	from £595pp
26 August	from £595pp
14 October	from £625pp
23 June 2022	from £635pp
Single Supplement £90	



Strathspey Railway

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, first on the Strathspey Railway and then on The Jacobite, which 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 Craiglynne Hotel, Speyside
- » All excursions and visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

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

NEW FOR 2021



Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway

SCOTLAND

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.

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

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Maid of the Loch

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

3 July	from £645pp
1 September	from £595pp
11 September	from £645pp
17 June 2022	from £595pp
22 July 2022	from £625pp
2 September 2022	from £595pp

Single Supplement **£90**

CHRISTMAS IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

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.

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 (not included). (B & D)

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

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



Christmas in Moffat

4 DAYS FROM
£595

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**

CHRISTMAS IN STIRLING

NEW FOR 2021

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. 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 spa and leisure facilities.

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



Traditional Christmas dinner

4 DAYS FROM
£595

Your Tour Includes

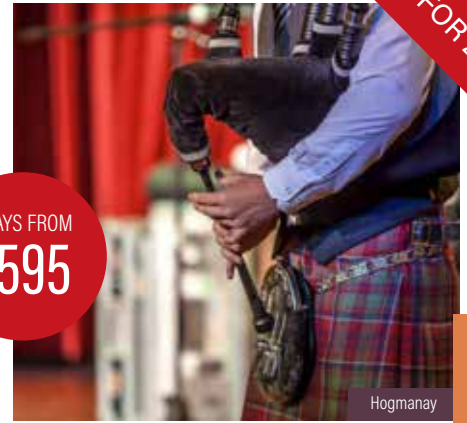
- » Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Stirling Highland Hotel
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel including scenic tour of The Trossachs
- » Services of a professional tour manager

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, before the celebrations begin with a glass of fizz followed by a four-course Hogmanay dinner and live music, 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 and historic Hadrian’s Wall.



4 DAYS FROM
£595

SCOTLAND

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 bookshops, and returning via Newton Stewart and New Galloway. The celebrations begin with a glass of Woodland Fizz followed by a four-course dinner and 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**

CHRISTMAS IN KENT

The friendly staff of the comfortable Donnington Manor Hotel in Sevenoaks, Kent, are ready and waiting to bring Christmas to you on a plate. From the moment you arrive, welcomed by a warming drink, until the time you check out, replete and refreshed, the staff will ensure your every need is catered for, with an endless selection of snacks, meals, drinks and festive cheer. Enjoy a candlelit dinner on Christmas Eve, mulled wine plus turkey and all the trimmings on Christmas Day and a coach excursion to Canterbury on Boxing Day.



4 DAYS FROM
£795

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach from London and Gatwick and travel to our hotel in Sevenoaks, Kent, the 4-star Donnington Manor Hotel. The hotel is a fusion of British heritage and contemporary style, beautifully offset by touches of European flair in the restaurant. Artwork peppers the walls and gardens and all the while there is careful attention to detail and a personalized approach to hospitality. We are welcomed on arrival with a festive afternoon tea and later a Christmas Cocktail Reception. In the evening we enjoy a candlelit dinner in the traditional and stately Manor Restaurant. Should you wish, you can attend Midnight Mass at a local church, with warm mince pies served up on your return. (D)

Day 2 A day of festive feasting begins with breakfast, followed by coffee and pastries, then a four-course lunch with turkey and all the trimmings, a spot of afternoon tea with cake and finally a few choice items from the Chef’s buffet. Well, it’s Christmas! (B, L & D)

Day 3 After a leisurely morning and lunch in the hotel, join our complimentary optional excursion into the Kent countryside and to the historic city of **Canterbury**. (B & D)

Day 4 After a final leisurely breakfast we return to our original drop-off points. (B)

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Donnington Manor Hotel
- » Christmas and Boxing Day lunches
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

24 December from **£795pp**
Single Supplement **£175**

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



Abbey Garden

TRESCO'S ABBHEY GARDEN

4 DAYS FROM
£995

Truly a sub-tropical paradise, this tiny corner of England has remained unpolluted, unspoilt and unchanged for decades. Tresco 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 Tresco 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, Tresco
- » 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 Tresco
- » Entry to Tresco's Abbey Garden

Departures & Prices

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



Portmeirion

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 Bronanw**, 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	

NEW FOR 2021



National Botanic Garden of Wales

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**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

GARDENS



Alnwick Garden

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 large and generous 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 £875pp
22 August	from £845pp
No Single Supplement	

NEW FOR 2021

RHS GARDEN **BRIDGEWATER** AND GARDENS OF THE NORTH WEST

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Italian Gardens, Trentham Estate

Currently the largest gardening project in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater is due to open to the public in May 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.



Tatton Park



Arley Hall

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 has seen 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)



The Paradise Garden © RHS Mark Waugh

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

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 £625pp
1 September	from £595pp
8 October	from £595pp
Single Supplement £120	



Local residents, Chipping Camden

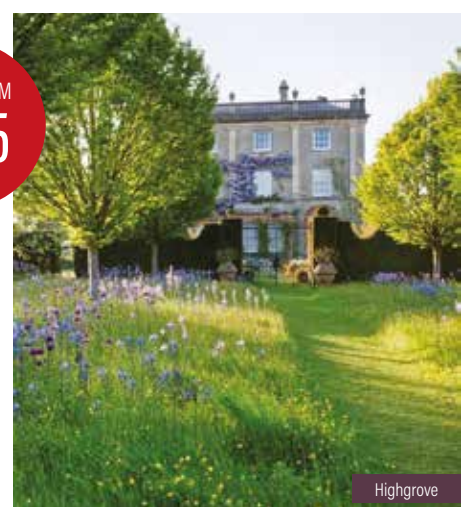
HIGHGROVE AND THE COTSWOLDS

4 DAYS FROM
£595

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 due course.



Highgrove

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

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

25 June	from £645pp
8 August	from £595pp
22 August	from £595pp
3 September	from £595pp
24 September	from £595pp
29 April 2022	from £595pp
20 May 2022	from £625pp
24 June 2022	from £625pp
7 August 2022	from £625pp
2 September 2022	from £625pp
Single Supplement from £175	



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**
Single Supplement **£75**



Hampton Court Castle

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.

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Hampton Court Garden



The Laskett

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

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

16 August from **£695pp**

1 September from **£695pp**

Single Supplement **£120**



Lanhydrock Gardens

PRIVATE GARDENS OF CORNWALL

4 DAYS FROM
£695

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.



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

22 July from £695pp

28 April 2022 from £695pp

Single Supplement £150



Beth Chatto Garden

PRIVATE GARDENS OF EAST ANGLIA

4 DAYS FROM
£595

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.



Raveningham Hall



Place for Plants ©S C Eley

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

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
27 May 2022	from £595pp
5 August 2022	from £625pp
Single Supplement £90	



Sissinghurst Castle Garden

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

25 June	from £825pp
20 August	from £825pp
22 October	from £765pp
22 April 2022	from £795pp
27 May 2022	from £795pp
Single Supplement £195	



Highclere Castle

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**



Stourhead Garden

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
30 June 2022	from £695pp
18 August 2022	from £695pp
Single Supplement £160	



Mount Stewart

THE IRISH ROVER

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...

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

8 DAYS FROM
£1575



Blarney Castle



Malahide Castle

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 Luton 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

8 August from **£1575pp**
22 August from **£1595pp**
 Single Supplement **£495**



RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019

THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW AND CLASSIC ENGLISH GARDENS

7 DAYS FROM
£1295

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

Revel in the delights of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, wander around the unmissable gardens of RHS Garden Wisley, and discover the history of glorious Sissinghurst in Kent. We then head west, breaking our journey at the beautiful gardens of Heale House near Salisbury and finally on to Henry Hoare's famous landscape garden of Stourhead. From our hotel in the West Country, we stop to visit the ancient Bishop's Palace in Wells, the Harold Peto-designed garden at Iford Manor, and we also have some time in the town of Bath, famous for its Roman baths and its rows of elegant Georgian terraces.



RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We start our tour with a visit to the **RHS Garden Wisley**, where we enjoy a guided tour. This outdoor space is home to glasshouses, an arboretum and many glorious gardens. (D)

Day 2 Today we begin at **Sissinghurst**, where we are treated to an exclusive guided tour before the garden opens to the public. The history here is rich and fascinating, and the gardens themselves are simply stunning. We continue to another classic English Garden, **Great Dixter**. (B & D)

Day 3 We devote our entire day to the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**, a great British tradition and exciting source of inspiration and advice. (B & D)

Day 4 This morning we explore the gardens of **Heale House**, just north of Salisbury

(replaced by **Wilton House** in May 2022). Later, we depart for a visit to the garden at **Stourhead**. Temples, urns, a grotto and a wealth of trees all contribute to the special atmosphere of this celebrated landscape garden. (B & D)

Day 5 We visit **The Bishop's Palace** in Wells, a stunning medieval building. Later we explore **Hestercombe**, one of Gertrude Jekyll's greatest masterpieces. (B & D)

Day 6 We take a trip to **Iford Manor** this morning where we have an exclusive private visit before enjoying some free time in the elegant city of **Bath**. (B & D)

Day 7 We travel to **Tyntesfield** with its immaculate terraced lawns before returning to our original departure points. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Holiday Inn Farnborough (or similar) and three nights at the 3-star Walnut Tree Hotel, North Petherton, Somerset (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

23 September from **£1295pp**

19 May 2022 from **£1295pp**

Single Supplement **£330**



RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019

THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

WITH COLIN CROSBIE

3 DAYS FROM
£695

This unique, specially arranged tour is led throughout by **Colin Crosbie**, who will give us personally guided tours of RHS Garden Wisley, of which he is a former Curator, and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, with which he has been involved for many years and has visited 28 times.



Guided by Colin Crosbie

Colin's extensive horticultural knowledge and experience coupled with his good humour have established him as one of Brightwater's most popular guides.

After an exclusive private dinner at Wisley, Colin will also give us a talk revealing the secrets of what goes on behind the scenes at the world's most famous flower show, as well as anecdotes from his time both at Wisley and as a former Head Gardener to HM The Queen Mother in Windsor, where our short tour ends.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Travel independently to the hotel. At an agreed time we depart by coach for the **RHS Garden Wisley**, where our guide, Colin Crosbie, will give us a personal guided tour. Once the site has closed to the public we will enjoy private access to the garden, before enjoying an exclusive three-course dinner with wine. Following dinner, Colin will give us a talk encompassing his experiences as Curator of Wisley and before that as Head Gardener to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, before moving on to the subject of the Chelsea Flower Show. (D)



RHS Wisley

Day 2 Today we depart for our full day visit to the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** where we enjoy a personal tour with Colin who will give us a unique insight into the hidden secrets of Chelsea. (B & D)



RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019

Day 3 Our final visit is to the **Savill Garden** at Windsor, where once again Colin will accompany the group. (B)

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

Your Tour Includes

- » Two nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Bailey's Hotel, South Kensington
- » One dinner with wine at the hotel and one private dinner with wine at RHS Garden Wisley
- » Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel
- » Services of Colin Crosbie as tour manager and guide

Departures & Prices

22 September from **£745pp**
24 September from **£695pp**
 Single Supplement **£170**



RHS Chelsea Flower Show

ARTS AND GARDENS OF LONDON & THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

This new tour combines the colour, prestige and excitement of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with a stimulating blend of some of London's finest gardens, art galleries and historic houses.

5 DAYS FROM
£1075



Guided by Trevor Edwards

Horticulturalist, garden design consultant and broadcaster Trevor Edwards, is one of our busiest and most popular tour managers and has led many garden tours around the world.

These include the National Gallery, home to countless art treasures; Eltham Palace, which marries medieval gardens with Art Deco style; Syon Park, one of the last great houses of London with a wealth of art and Hampton Court Palace, one of London's must-see attractions.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 Travel independently to London and in the afternoon visit **The National Gallery**, which houses an encyclopaedic collection of over 2,300 paintings. (D)

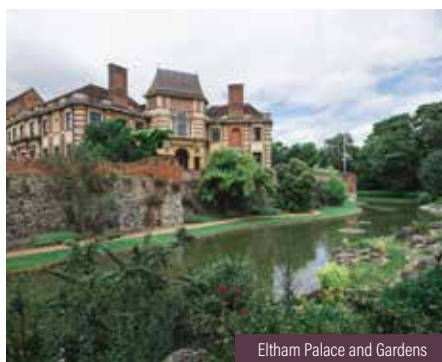
Day 2 We begin today at **Eltham Palace and Gardens**, whose exquisite 1930s Art Deco entrance hall will be familiar to many, as it is frequently used as a location for film and TV productions. This afternoon we visit the **Garden Museum** in Lambeth Palace Road. (B & D)

Day 3 We begin at **Tate Britain** before visiting **Syon House**, one of the last great houses of London, which has been in the family of the present owner, the Duke of Northumberland, for over 400 years. (B & D)

Day 4 We spend the full day at the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**. (B & D)

Day 5 Our final visit is to **Hampton Court Palace and Gardens** before the group disperses. (B)

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



Eltham Palace and Gardens



Hampton Court Palace

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star DoubleTree by Hilton London Chelsea
- » Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel
- » Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

Departures & Prices

21 September from **£1075pp**
Single Supplement **£300**



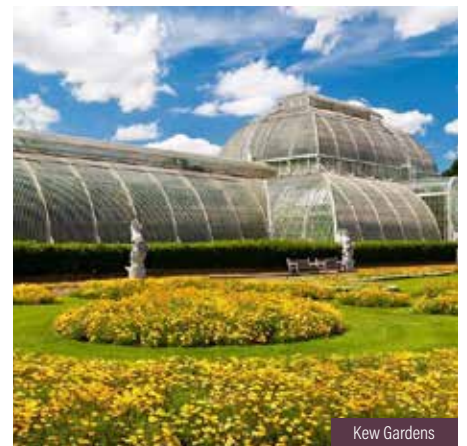
RHS Chelsea Garden

THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW AND GARDENS OF LONDON

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

Nowhere is this excellence more apparent than in the perfectly manicured surroundings of RHS Garden Wisley, where our tour begins. After a full day at Chelsea our tour continues with visits to the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, with its iconic pagoda, and Ham House, an unusually complete survivor from the 17th century. Chiswick House dates from the following century and features Italianate gardens filled with temples, while at the venerable Chelsea Physic garden we learn all about medicinal plants. Our tour ends on a high at the Sky Garden.

4 DAYS FROM
£695



Kew Gardens

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We transfer to **RHS Garden Wisley**, which is where the Royal Horticultural Society shows the gardening public how it should be done. A guided tour is included here. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast this morning we depart for our full day visit to the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**. (B & D)

Day 3 Today we visit the **Royal Botanic Garden** at Kew, which is now a World Heritage Site and boasts a unique collection of plants from all over the world. We later visit **Ham House and Garden** in Richmond. One of a series of grand houses and palaces alongside the River Thames, Ham House is an unusually complete survivor of the 17th century. (B & D)

Day 4 Our first stop today is to **Chiswick House**, whose grand gardens were inspired by ancient Rome and feature temples, statues and obelisks. We continue to the **Chelsea Physic Garden**, which is London's oldest botanical garden and contains around 5,000 different medicinal plants which have changed the world. It is hoped we will also visit the **Sky Garden**, a unique rooftop garden which offers panoramic views over London before returning to our original departure points. (B)

Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Holiday Inn Brentford Lock (or similar)
- » Full-day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

24 September from **£695pp**
Single Supplement **£120**

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



Mont Orgueil

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 1 September 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** and 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 a tour manager (Colin Crosbie on 1 Sept) plus a local guide

Departures & Prices

1 September from **£1195pp**

15 September from **£1195pp**

Single Supplement **£225**

Optional excursion - Guernsey **£135**



Walmer Castle Gardens

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**

LITERARY TRAILS OF THE SOUTH COAST

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, from Jane Austen to Charles Dickens, Virginia Woolf and Rudyard Kipling.

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



Jane Austen's House

3 DAYS FROM
£395

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

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

SPECIAL INTEREST

LITERARY TRAILS OF THE WEST COUNTRY

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. Following a day in Bath with its strong Austen associations, we travel down into Devon on the trail of the most celebrated crime writer of them all, Dame Agatha Christie, and conclude in Thomas Hardy's beloved Dorset.

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



Royal Crescent, Bath

3 DAYS FROM
£395

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

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

HISTORIC HOUSES OF DEVON & CORNWALL

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; Prideaux Place has its origins in the Norman Conquest, and we see a fine Tudor house at Cothele. Lanhydrock dates back to the 17th century, the Georgian era is represented by Killerton and Castle Drogo brings us into the 20th century.



Lanhydrock

4 DAYS FROM
£695

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 - **Cotehele**, 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 this 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

15 July from **£695pp**

Single Supplement **£150**

Supplement for non-NT/NTS members **£65pp**

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. Highlights include Erddig Hall, one of the most fascinating houses in Britain due to the unusually close relationship between family and servants; Plas Newydd, famous for its Whistler mural as well as relics from the Battle of Waterloo, and Plas Teg, one of the most important Jacobean houses in Wales.



Penrhyn Castle

4 DAYS FROM
£695

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

25 September from **£695pp**

No Single Supplement

Supplement for non-NT/NTS members **£55pp**

NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT



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, His Lordship 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 the Hotel Royale, Bournemouth
- » One lunch
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

Departures & Prices

3 September from **£695pp**
Single Supplement **£175**
Supplement for non-NT/NTS members **£40pp**

NEW FOR 2021



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 traditional late summer residence of Balmoral Castle is the most modern property we visit, though no less fascinating, and we conclude at glorious Crathes 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

4 DAYS FROM
£595



Fyvie Castle

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

6 June	from £595pp
18 July	from £595pp
3 October	from £595pp
Single Supplement £150	
Non-NT supplement £100pp	

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SPECIAL INTEREST



Abbotsford House

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

27 June from **£735pp**

22 October from **£695pp**

No Single Supplement

NEW FOR 2021



Bamburgh Castle

CASTLES & HOUSES OF NORTHUMBERLAND

A visit to the low lying coast and wide open spaces of Northumberland is always a treat, but when it includes a host of historic houses and castles the pleasure is magnified greatly. Perhaps the most impressive of these is Bamburgh Castle, which sprawls over a rocky plateau on the coast, close to the Farne Islands. 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 Grimms' 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 Blckett and Trevelyn families, all of whom have left their legacy behind. (B)

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

4 DAYS FROM
£795



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	



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.



Lincoln



Doddington Hall

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

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**

NEW FOR 2021

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, a walk round the antiquities of Lewis and a circuit that starts and finishes in Tarbert itself, with stunning coastal views.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart by coach for 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**, with stunning coastal views (11.5 miles). A shorter walk can also be arranged. (B, L & D)

Day 5 We take the 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

Luskentyre, Harris

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

23 July	from £1075pp
21 October	from £995pp
2 April 2022	from £1095pp
Single Supplement £160	

NEW FOR 2021

WALKING IN SPEYSIDE

Speyside is a walker's paradise, with a network of pathways, many of them on abandoned railway lines with gentle gradients, criss-crossing this rich, fertile landscape of rolling hills and wooded glens. The River Spey lies at its heart and will be our constant companion as we enjoy three easy walks that eventually lead us to the sea on the Moray coast. The October departure promises to be especially spectacular with a riotous display of autumn colours to brighten our days.

Your Itinerary

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points and head up the A9, breaking our journey with a gentle riverside walk at **The Hermitage** in Dunkeld, before continuing to our comfortable hotel in Speyside. (D)

Day 2 Our first walk takes us along the **Speyside Way** from Grantown to Nethy Bridge, mostly on the trackbed of the old Strathspey Railway (6 miles). (B & D)

Day 3 We enjoy a circular walk today, an off-shoot of the Speyside Way, initially following another section of the former Strathspey Railway from **Dufftown** to **Craigellachie**, where we take a slight detour to admire Thomas Telford's impressive bridge. Continuing to **Aberlour**

we then loop back through forest and over moorland to Dufftown (12.5 miles). Those who would prefer a shorter walk can finish at Aberlour. (B & D)

Day 4 Picking up the Speyside Way once again we walk beside the ever-widening River Spey from **Fochabers** to its mouth at **Spey Bay** (5 miles). In the afternoon we will visit the **Scottish Dolphin Centre** here, an opportunity to view the famous Moray Firth pod of dolphins. (B & D)

Day 5 We leave Speyside this morning and enjoy a gentle 'warm down' walk along a forest trail before enjoying the marvellous **Queen's View** over Loch Tummel. We return to our original departure points. (B)

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



5 DAYS FROM
£695

Craigellachie

Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Craiglynn Hotel, Grantown on Spey
- » All visits and walks 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

18 October	from £695pp
20 May 2022	from £795pp
2 September 2022	from £795pp
Single Supplement £90	

WALKING IN CORNWALL

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. Next day, we walk from Withiel to Lanivery then explore Lanhydrock House and Gardens and after walking the final section of the trail we unwind at Marsh Villa.



Pencarrow

5 DAYS FROM
£995

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

30 August from **£995pp**

28 September from **£995pp**

Single Supplement **£195**

SPECIAL INTEREST

WALKING IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

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. These include grand Chatsworth House and the more homely Haddon Hall, the village of Eyam with its idyllic setting and the sparkling Blue John Cavern.



Monsal Trail

5 DAYS FROM
£795

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 peaceful 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**

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

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: £100 for holidays without flights, £200 for UK/Europe holidays with flights, 10% for long-haul holidays.

US Guests: \$135 for holidays without flights, \$270 for UK/Europe holidays with flights, 10% for long-haul holidays.

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.

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: deposit and any invoiced flight or hotel costs | **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

- a) Your specific passport and visa requirements, and other immigration requirements including, inoculations and health certificates are your responsibility and you should confirm these for all countries to, or through which you are intending to travel and cover all costs for this. Requirements should be checked well in advance of travel and we do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements.
- b) Essential information for British citizens (only), including health, passport and visa requirements along with up to date Foreign Office travel, safety and security advice can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>. We also strongly recommend that you sign up for the latest email updates as travel and safety information can change at any point without notice.
- c) If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non-British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the Embassy or Consulate of the country or countries to, or through which, you are intending to travel and consult the relevant authority for the latest travel and safety advice for the destinations you are visiting.
- d) We recommend that you consult your doctor well in advance of travel for the latest advice on inoculations and health certificates. You can also obtain the latest health information ahead of travel by visiting the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) website <https://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk>.

8. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Our holidays are not designed for party members to undertake special projects or research whether in connection with study, employment or otherwise. We cannot accept any liability for any losses or damages arising out of such use or planned use nor for any loss or damage which has special financial consequences. Please note if you do intend to use one of our holidays for such purposes you should obtain adequate insurance in respect of it and any special equipment you decide to bring with you on such holidays.

9. HOLIDAY PARTICIPATION

It is a condition of participation on our holidays that you agree to accept the authority and decisions of our employees, tour leaders and agents 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.



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