



brightwater  
holidays



SCENIC SCOTLAND,  
GARDENS &  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
2022 HOLIDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Edition

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT  
Save  
up to **£200**

&

PAY IN FULL AND  
SAVE £100s MORE!









## 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, bringing home a Bronze prize in the Best Small Coach Holiday Company category.

This is the third year running we've enjoyed success at the BTAs, winning Gold in the same category as well as Silver for Best Small Special Interest Company in 2019. We'd like to say thank you to everybody who took the time to vote for us – we can't wait to make more of your holiday dreams come true in the future.



# DIG OUT THAT SUITCASE!

Finally the world is getting back on its feet and what was a distant dream of enjoying a holiday can once again become a reality. As 2022 dawns, hopefully we will be able to travel freely not just within the UK but further afield, and that wonderful world of colourful gardens, scenic splendours and historic marvels will be opened up once more. Of course, we hope that the freedoms we once took for granted will be largely restored but at the same time we recognise certain restrictions may still apply and rest assured we will implement whatever measures are necessary to keep you safe.

With this in mind, we are delighted to unveil our first brochure for 2022, packed full of old favourites as well as a host of brand-new tours and destinations. We have a collection of Grand Tours that we hope will make up for the holidays you've missed recently by giving you the opportunity to enjoy an immersive tour in a range of countries. We have some exciting new far-flung destinations to choose from, including Borneo, Mauritius and Sri Lanka. We have two once-in-a-decade events to enjoy, the re-scheduled Oberammergau Passion Play and the seventh iteration of Floriade in The Netherlands, to which we will be offering a wide range of tours to suit all budgets and tastes. Add to that some new rail-based tours, new arts and gardens tours and an extended range of holidays with no single room supplement and you have one of our most exciting portfolios of tours to date.

2022 will mark our 30th year as a tour operator, which means that when you choose Brightwater you choose experience, professionalism and skill, all of which has been recognised in the awards we have received in recent years. With our team of personable and knowledgeable tour managers, backed by expert support from our office, you're always in safe hands and your happiness is our number one priority.

To help get you started, we have two fantastic special offers available, an early booking offer that could see you save up to £200pp and a chance to enjoy a further discount if you pay for your holiday in full at the time of booking.

I do hope there will be something to tempt you in the following pages and we are so looking forward to you joining us again – it's been far too long!

Best wishes,

**Alison Wilson**  
Managing Director

## Full financial protection

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



# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR FANTASTIC EARLY BIRD OFFERS

Places are limited so it pays to book early!

Save  
up to

£200



EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

£50 under £1000pp  
£100 from £1001 to £2000pp  
£200 from £2001 and up

&

## PAY IN FULL AND SAVE £100s MORE!‡

Pay in full at the time you book and you could save up to £250 per person in addition to your early bird discount. 2022 departures only. Your Travel Advisor will confirm the amount you could save by paying in full.

Terms and conditions apply:

‡Pay in full offer – Pay in full discounts range from £25 to £250 per person and relate to the amount payable after any Refund Credit Notes, Customer Holiday Vouchers and early booking discounts have been applied. Tours departing in 2022 only. If you have already booked your 2022 tour, you can still save by paying in full – please speak to a travel advisor for details. Offer expires on 30th June 2021 but may be withdrawn at any time.

## Keeping you safe on tour

As the world begins to open back up and we prepare for that first tour after what feels like a lifetime of being at home, you're probably wondering how to stay safe on your travels.

We want to reassure you that while the situation continues to improve, we will strive to do everything we can to put your health and wellbeing first while you're in our company, no matter how far you travel.

What does this mean exactly? Well, to start with we have sourced travel insurance that includes specific cover for COVID-19 for your peace of mind, which can be added to your booking for an extra fee should you require it. Call our friendly travel advisors for more information on this.

Then, we also want to remind you that our departures all operate under our industry-leading 11-step action plan.

The steps include free 'travel safe' kits with daily face masks and hand sanitisers that will be sent out to you ahead of your tour, new hygiene protocols for all of our accommodation, and opportunities for social distancing wherever possible.

No tour operator is doing more to preserve your peace of mind and enable you to book and travel with confidence, and you can find out more about our initiative here: [brightwaterholidays.com/keeping-you-safe/](https://brightwaterholidays.com/keeping-you-safe/)

### Insurance with specific cover for COVID-19

To keep you as protected as possible while on our expert-led tours, we have sourced travel insurance that includes specific cover for COVID-19 should you require it. This insurance is available to add to your booking for an extra fee and to find out more, please just get in touch with our friendly Travel Advisors or visit [brightwaterholidays.com/travel-insurance](https://brightwaterholidays.com/travel-insurance) today.





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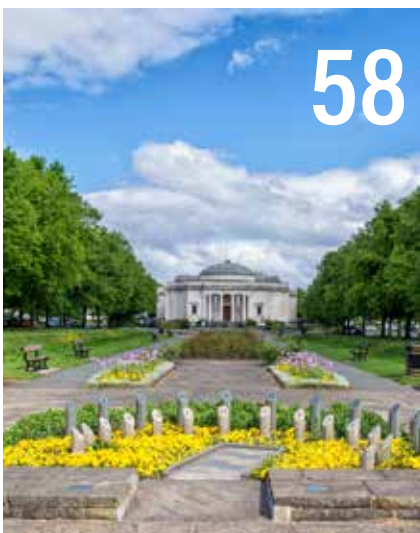


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## How to book

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

Give our friendly sales team a call from Monday to Friday between 9am and 6pm, on **01334 611 816**. 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!



# WHY CHOOSE BRIGHTWATER?



**H**aving been based in picturesque Cupar, Fife's small county town, for almost 30 years, we've seen our fair share of glorious gardens and ancient sites alike. The team here at Brightwater really understands the restorative power of nature and the 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 now that our relationships with the gardeners and staff allow us to treat you – our holiday guests – to special access.

“

The whole trip was a wonderful treat, we would recommend it to anyone.

Guest August 2020, Classic Scottish Steam Break

”

From start to finish, you'll be looked after with the award-winning team here at 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 places in every corner of the world. Our friendly tour managers are always on hand to ensure that your every need is met, our itineraries are designed by an incredibly experienced team and at all times we put you, the guest, first.

## What makes our tours special?

- » Great value for money with coach travel, visits, accommodation and most evening meals included
- » Over 29 years of experience and knowledge
- » Unique and innovative holidays
- » Exclusive access to private gardens and visits
- » No hidden extras
- » Well-planned and perfectly-paced itineraries
- » Friendly and authoritative tour managers
- » Professionally recognised partnerships
- » Welcoming, friendly service from first contact
- » Enjoy peace of mind with financial protection





## 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.



## Personalise your holiday

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



### 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 if required – along with airport parking – for a supplement.



### Extra nights either side

Overnight accommodation in or near our pick-up points, including at 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.

## Back-to-Back Tours

Many of our tours can be linked together with just a night or two in between, in London or Edinburgh for example, to give you an extra-special holiday experience and make the most of your time. If you book two holidays back to back we offer a discount of £50pp and £100pp for three (with a maximum of three nights in between each tour, and subject to a minimum spend of £750 per person per tour). We can assist you with possible combinations and with overnight accommodation between each tour.

## 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 that will 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 of our tours now include portorage (where available), taking the weight off your mind.





Dunrobin Castle



**O**ur 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 and knows the business inside out, and having travelled extensively she also 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.  
”

**S**ince its inception 29 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 can also provide an

experienced Tour Manager, who will ensure the smooth running of the holiday, leaving the group organisers free to relax and just 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 both 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.



Keukenhof



The Paradise Garden © RHS Neil Hepworth

## RHS Garden Bridgewater

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



Coastal Scotland

## Orkney and Shetland

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



Lanhydrock

## Devon and Cornwall

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



Blarney Castle

## Irish Rover

Our north to south tour of 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. A multi-centre trip around Scotland or a 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 tour's cost is entirely 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](mailto:groups@brightwaterholidays.com) to get things started.

If you would like some inspiration, feel free to take a look at our website: [www.brightwaterholidays.com](http://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.



# NEW FOR 2022

## EXPO 2022 FLORIADÉ AMSTERDAM - ALMERE, NL

A new brochure gives us a fantastic opportunity both to bring your valuable feedback to life with new ideas and to finally spend time creating a selection of exciting holidays that we've had waiting in the wings – and our 2022 offering is no exception! With brand new tours on the horizon that can take you all over the UK to some adventure-of-a-lifetime trips to far-flung destinations, we do hope that our new range inspires you to get back out there.



### Floriade & Keukenhof

A once-in-a-decade event that is not to be missed is the Floriade Expo. This horticultural highlight in the Netherlands showcases art, culture and the best in all things gardens. The theme for 2022 is 'Growing Green Cities', which will examine how cities must start finding creative, green and sustainable solutions in order to remain safe, healthy and attractive. We will be offering a huge range of departures with different content throughout the year, beginning with a three day holiday which combines Floriade with the stunning Keukenhof gardens.

**See page 62.**

### Arts & Gardens of Holland

Why not discover the great artistic treasures of the Netherlands alongside your visit to the Floriade Expo? On this holiday, you can do both – and from a comfortable, conveniently located hotel situated in Delft. Discover the Kröller-Müller Museum with its unique fusion of art, architecture and nature, and enjoy a visit to the Vermeer Centre, which showcases the work of some of the best known artists from the Dutch Golden Age. Other highlights on this five-day holiday include the richly endowed Mauritshuis art gallery, the Museum Van Loon and the Royal Delft Factory, home to the distinctive blue china.

**See page 63.**



### Treasures of Holland

If you're a lover of beautiful gardens, look no further than this four-day break. Combine your visit to the all-important Floriade Expo with tours of the gardens of De Wiersse and Het Loo Palace. Choose an April or May departure and this holiday will include a visit to the breathtaking gardens at Keukenhof, where millions of brightly coloured tulips will be in bloom. Departures in other months visit the Museum Van Loon in Amsterdam.

**See page 64.**

### Floriade & Gardens of Holland

At six days in length, this longer itinerary pays visits to two of the best gardens in the Netherlands, namely Mien Ruys and Loozen Gramsbergen, the latter of which was created by Ada Hofman. Other visits on this holiday in addition to Floriade itself include the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the outdoor museum complex at Zaanse Schans, the country house and garden of De Wiersse and Het Loo Palace.

**See page 65.**

### A Dutch Bulbfields Cruise

A riot of colour awaits among the stunning bulbfields of Holland. This five-day cruise holiday aboard the MS Beethoven will take you from the iconic gardens at Keukenhof to Rubens House, and from Museum Van Loon to the 200-year-old botanic garden in Antwerp. There will, of course, be a full-day visit to the Floriade Expo and we will enjoy a welcome cocktail reception onboard our ship to celebrate our arrival on the first day.

**See page 66.**





Angel of the North

# JUST ANNOUNCED

# NEW FOR 2022

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## Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands

If you've always wanted to enjoy a scenic Scottish sojourn by rail, water and land, but couldn't figure out where to start – look no further. This new tour aims to solve this Caledonian conundrum with an itinerary that ticks off the best visual gems while enjoying a variety of transport methods to really get the most out of your trip. Travel the West Highland line to Fort William by train, take a ferry over to Tobermory and the dramatically positioned Duart Castle, and drive through the mystical landscape of Glen Coe. There's also a cruise on Loch Ness and a visit to the much-photographed Eilean Donan Castle included on this memorable seven-day tour.

**See page 39.**

## Walking in Speyside

A real walker's paradise with scenic and often surprising pathways to be discovered, Speyside is the perfect place for a walking holiday. Over five days, there is a visit to the Scottish Dolphin Centre along with beautiful walks that include a circular route from Dufftown - known for its whisky distilling - to Craigellachie and Aberlour. From moor and forest, to farmland and fields, a walking holiday here is a true delight.

**See page 43.**

## Thriplow Daffodil Festival

Join us in the scenic village of Thriplow in Cambridgeshire next spring and marvel at the masses of golden daffodils on display. The village's daffodil festival is not only filled with glorious displays, but also boasts a selection of open gardens to visit along with traditional rural events such as Morris dancing and bell-ringing. In addition to the festival itself, there are visits to the Wimpole Estate, Cambridge University's Botanic Garden and Ickworth House.

**See page 50.**

## Arts and Gardens of the North West

Cities in England's north west are home to incredible museums and galleries, many of which house outstanding works of art from legendary creatives. This four-day tour begins in Stoke, visiting the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, and continues with visits to the Tate Liverpool, Lady Lever Art Gallery, Tatton Park and the Trentham Estate. There will also be a chance to observe Antony Gormley's Crosby beach sculpture, *Another Place*.

**See page 58.**

## Durham Arts and Gardens

Moving on from the north west, we couldn't possibly ignore the north east. Here, you'll find an equally impressive artistic heritage in galleries, museums and houses across County Durham, Northumberland and the city of Newcastle. This four-day trip visits Belsay Hall, Alnwick Garden, Cragside, the Laing Art Gallery, the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, the Shipley Gallery and more, and also visits Antony Gormley's iconic *Angel of the North* sculpture.

**See page 59.**



Daffodils



# JUST ANNOUNCED

# NEW FOR 2022

We are often asked by guests for longer, more wide-ranging tours and given that so many of us have been stuck at home for the last year without a holiday of any kind, this seems like the perfect opportunity to launch a series of just such grand tours. The five epic journeys featured here will provide an in-depth, immersive holiday experience giving you a true taste of what each destination has to offer and a host of unforgettable memories.

## A Grand Tour of the Western and Northern Isles

At 11 days in length, this exciting new itinerary was a great way for us to link together two of our two best-sellers – the Western Isles of Lewis and Harris, Benbecula, the Uists and Barra, and then the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland. The first part of this island odyssey is essentially our Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides and then it's on to the Northern Isles, home to some of the most impressive Neolithic monuments in Europe as well as a green, fertile landscape that sets it apart from other Scottish islands. Including visits to Kisimul Castle, the Standing Stones of Callanish, Maeshowe and Castle Fraser, why not join us on this all-encompassing tour? **See page 18.**

## A Grand Tour of the Gardens of Scotland

Travel from the open spaces of Scotland's far north to the wilds of the west, and from the splendours of the south to the elegance of the east. On this 11-day holiday, visit castles that include Dunrobin and Mey, tour the botanic gardens of Logan and Edinburgh, and discover the quaint private garden of An Cala. Other highlights include the garden at Inverewe, Broughton House, Kailzie Gardens, Ardchattan Priory and the Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden at Dumfries House, among others. **See page 44.**



Sissinghurst



Leverburgh

## A Grand Tour of the Gardens of England

If you've been searching for a circular tour of England's southern half, which visits the region's very best gardens, you're in luck. Visiting one horticultural gem after another, what better way to spend 19 days in the country? While it's hard to select highlights from this extensive and all-encompassing itinerary, we are particularly excited to be able to take you to the heavenly gardens of Hampton Court Castle, Beth Chatto's celebrated garden, the Eden Project in Cornwall, Sissinghurst in Kent and RHS Garden Wisley. For those who wish you can also visit the island of Tresco and the amazing Abbey Garden and extend your holiday with a day at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. **See page 60.**





Isola Bella

## A Grand Tour of Italian Gardens

From the snow-flecked mountains and sparkling lakes of Italy's north to Rome with its classical heritage and Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance, this 15-day itinerary covers a lot of truly beautiful ground. Discover the incomparable gardens of Isola Bella, enjoy an exclusive visit to the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society and enjoy a guided tour of the flower-covered ruins of Ninfa. Moving on, there will be visits to the historic Boboli Gardens, the Giotto frescoes housed within the Scrovegni Chapel and a visit to the

masterpiece that is the Villa Rotonda. This holiday also includes a stylish farewell, in the form of a special dinner personally hosted by the Count and his family at Villa Godi Malinverni – what a way to round it off!

**See page 78.**

## From Normandy to The Netherlands

Travelling in traditional manner by coach and ferry, this 14-day itinerary will take you around northern France, Belgium and The Netherlands in search of their most magical

gardens. From Monet's beloved garden in Giverny to Gaasbeek Castle in Brussels and Ada Hofman's water gardens in Holland, we explore it all over two memorable weeks. Other highlights include the Château de Miromesnil in Normandy, a boat trip around the remarkable Les Hortillonnages in Amiens and the stunning Het Loo Palace, which is situated in Apeldoorn in the Netherlands. You will also be able to admire the masses of roses at Castle Coloma and discover Wespelaar Arboretum, which is considered to be one of the best in the world. A visit to Floriade also features.

**See page 80.**



Giverny



# JUST ANNOUNCED

# NEW FOR 2022

## A Cultural Tour of Malta

How about a chance to spend five sun filled days on the beautiful island of Malta, discovering its history, culture and heritage? Based in a comfortable hotel overlooking the Mediterranean, this holiday includes a full day to explore the myriad delights of Valletta, which include the Barrakka Gardens, Casa Rocca Piccola and St. John's Co-Cathedral. There is also an optional excursion to the neighbouring island of Gozo or half-day tour of Malta's southern half, and there will be a tour of the Palazzo Parisio, described as a miniature Versailles, where we will enjoy a special afternoon tea in opulent surroundings. Other highlights include a visit to the prehistoric site of Hagar Qim and a boat trip on azure waters to visit the Blue Grotto.

**See page 76.**

## The Azores - Its Gardens and Natural Wonders

Standing in the Atlantic at the spot where the tectonic plates of Europe, Africa and North America meet are the nine islands of the Azores archipelago. Home to some 800-plus species of plants and truly staggering natural beauty, our brand new eight-day tour can take you to this emerging destination. From a visit to a pineapple plantation and opportunities to view a lake at the bottom of a steep volcanic crater, this holiday is bound to inspire awe in any guest. Keep an eye out for dazzling blue lakes, bubbling thermal pools and mountaintops cloaked in mist as we travel between sites. There's also an optional whale-watching expedition, which is considered to be one of the Azores' specialist pursuits.

**See page 77.**

## Gardens of Mauritius

Comparable in size to the county of Surrey, the island of Mauritius is blessed with diverse flora and fauna, and is also home to some of the rarest plants and creatures in the world. Witness outstanding conservation work, revel in the delights of white-sand beaches with turquoise waters

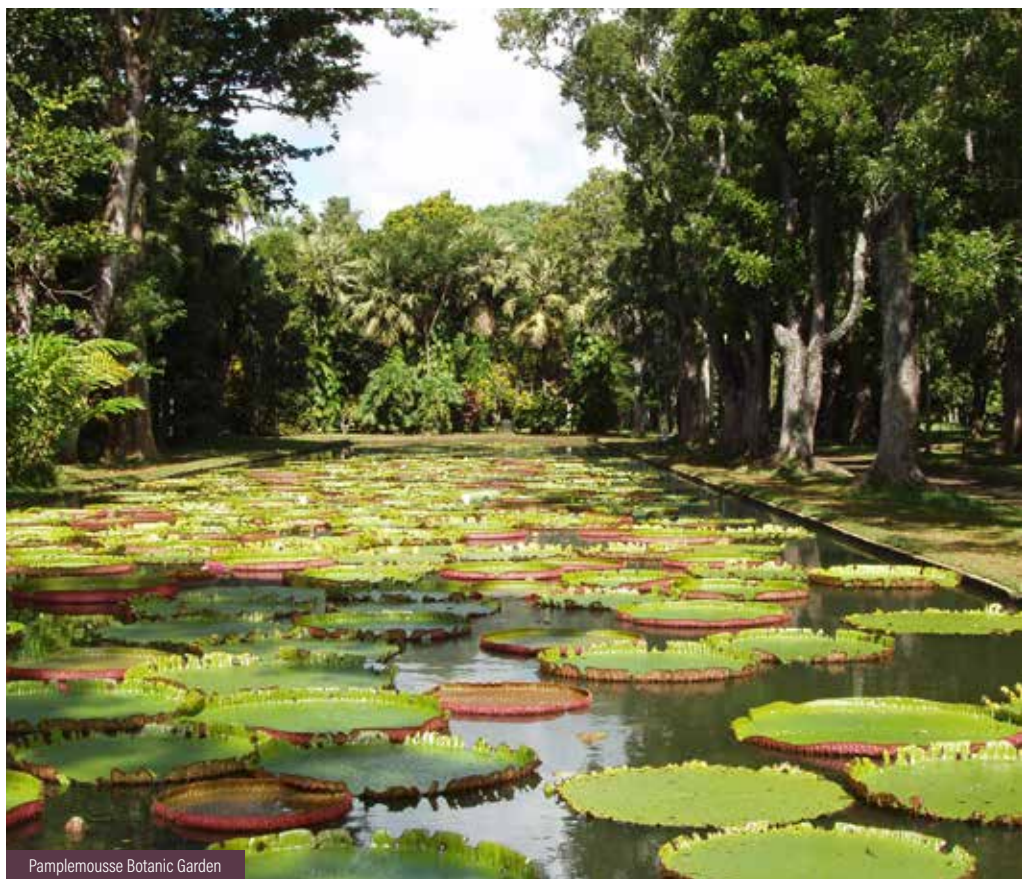


Blue and Green Lakes

and prepare to be amazed by the nature that surrounds you here. As part of this new 12-day itinerary, there are visits to the unique zoo of La Vanille Nature Park, the Exotica Nursery with its huge flowering hibiscus and Pamplemousse Botanic

Garden with its giant waterlilies. There will also be a chance to sample a taste of local rum at Château Labourdonnais and see plants and animals on the verge of extinction at Île aux Aigrettes.

**See page 91.**



Pamplemousse Botanic Garden





Temple of the Tooth

## Rivers and Rainforests of Borneo

This Malaysian island nation is home to an incredible variety of animals and plants, which coexist harmoniously within its rainforests and rivers. Travelling from Kota Kinabalu in the west to Sandakan in the east, you will encounter volcanic hot springs, lush rainforests and fertile river systems as you go. Bathe in the therapeutic waters of Poring Hot Springs, visit the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in time for a feeding session, spend time at the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, take a wildlife cruise on the Kinabatangan River to see rare birds and pygmy elephants, and experience peace at the Puu Jih Shih Buddhist Temple as part of this unforgettable adventure.

**See page 100.**

## Sri Lanka - The Pearl of the Indian Ocean

This exciting new 13-day tour will take you to magical Sri Lanka in search of its sites of spiritual significance, culture, history and heart. Visit a temple said to contain the only surviving relic of Buddha, spend time at a working tea factory and learn about the process as it happens, and hop into a jeep for a safari through the Yala National Park, home to a high density of leopards. This holiday also offers a chance to take a scenic train journey, watch a cultural dance performance and explore the Hakgala Botanical Gardens, which feature plants suited to the cooler climate here. One of the highlights of the tour, however, will undoubtedly be our stay in Sinharaja, the country's last viable area of primary tropical rainforest, where we will have the most wonderful experiences of flora and fauna with which to conclude our circular tour of this glittering island gem.

**See page 102.**



Orangutan



NEW FOR 2022

# A GRAND TOUR OF THE WESTERN & NORTHERN ISLES

11 DAYS FROM  
£2595



Leverburgh

We are often asked about the possibility of combining our popular Scottish island tours so what better way to start than by linking together two of our best-sellers, the Western Isles of Lewis and Harris, Benbecula, the Uists and Barra, and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland. In doing so we bring together two very different cultural and historical landscapes, contrasting the Gaelic-speaking Hebrides with the Norse-influenced archipelagos to the north. Join us on this unique opportunity to sample a whole range of island experiences, from Vatersay in the south to Eshaness in the far north.

The first part of this island odyssey is essentially our Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides, with all the elements that has made this our top-selling island tour, from Kisimul Castle and Cockleshell Beach to the Standing Stones of Callanish and the Blackhouses of Lewis. Returning to the mainland we have an interlude in Aberdeen and a visit to Castle Fraser before taking the overnight ferry to Lerwick and exploring the rugged and breathtaking seascapes of Shetland. Then it's on to Orkney, home to some of the most impressive Neolithic monuments in Europe and a green, fertile landscape that sets it apart from other Scottish islands. After 11 days and countless unique island memories we return home.





St Clement's Church, Rodal



Bishop's Palace, Kirkwall

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick up points and travel to Mallaig in time to catch the early evening ferry to South Uist, continuing to our hotel in Benbecula (in July the first five days operate in reverse). (D)

**Day 2** We depart for Barra, travelling via the little island of **Eriskay**, for a circular tour of the island, including a visit by boat to **Kisimul Castle**, the neighbouring island of **Vatersay** with its blindingly white beaches and **Cockleshell Beach**, the unique tidal airstrip. (B & D)

**Day 3** We take the ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh on Harris and visit **St Clement's Church**, before continuing through an amazing landscape of mountains, lochs and beaches to Stornoway and our hotel. (B & D)

**Day 4** The outstanding sights of Lewis are explored today: the 5,000 year old **Standing Stones of Callanish**, the historic **Black Houses** of Gearannan and the replica **Norse Mill** at Shawbost. (B & D)

**Day 5** We take the ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool and continue to Aberdeen. (B & D)

**Day 6** We spend the morning visiting **Castle Fraser**, one of the grandest of all Scottish baronial tower houses, followed by some free time in Aberdeen, where a visit to the **Maritime Museum** is recommended. Later we enjoy dinner on board the overnight ferry to Lerwick. (B & D)

**Day 7** Our tour of Shetland begins with a visit to the ruined castle at **Scalloway**, built in 1600 by the infamous Earl Patrick Stewart. We then continue north towards the spectacular cliffs of **Eshaness** before transferring to our historic hotel. (B & D)

**Day 8** We explore the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**, where three acres of remains span 3,000 years of history, and the nearby RSPB reserve on **Sumburgh Head**, home to thousands of seabirds. Later we take the evening ferry to Orkney. (B & D)

**Day 9** We spend the day visiting the key archaeological sites of mainland Orkney, beginning with the ancient stone circles of **Brodgar** and **Stenness**. We continue to **Maeshowe**, the finest chambered tomb in Western Europe, built some time before 2,700BC, and the world famous Neolithic monument **Skara Brae**, which gives a unique insight into the lives of Stone Age people. (B & D)

**Day 10** Moving forward in Orkney's timeline there is an opportunity to visit Kirkwall's **St Magnus' Cathedral** and the **Bishop's Palace** before we cross the WWII **Churchill Barriers** and visit the poignant **Italian Chapel**, built on the site of a former POW camp. (B & D)

**Day 11** Our island odyssey draws to a close as we take the short sea crossing back to mainland Scotland and return to our original departure points. (B)

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



Sumburgh, Shetland



Standing Stones of Callanish

## Your Tour Includes

- » 10 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula, two nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway, one night at a hotel in Aberdeen, one night at the Busta House Hotel, Shetland, three nights in a comfortable hotel in Kirkwall, Orkney and one night in a two-berth inside cabin on Serco Northlink Ferries (outside cabins are available for a supplement of £50pp)
- » All visits as outlined, comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**13 May** from **£2595pp**  
**30 July** from **£2595pp**  
 Single Supplement **£595**





Eriskay Harbour © Graham Addison

# A GRAND TOUR OF THE OUTER HEBRIDES

## 6 DAY

6 DAYS FROM  
**£995**

Our extended tour of the Hebrides has proved extremely popular, offering a unique opportunity to travel the length and breadth of the Western Isles, with 10 different islands and a total of 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 on to our hotel in Benbecula. From here, we visit the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay with its fantastic sandy shores and Barra, where our visits range from Kisimul Castle to the unusual airport situated on the beach. A captivating journey follows as we travel by ferry from North Uist and on through the magnificent mountain scenery of Harris, the rolling moorland of Lewis, and on to Stornoway. We continue with visits to the Standing Stones of Callanish, the tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gearrannan.



Callanish Standing Stones

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** From our pick-up points we head to Mallaig. We catch a ferry to **Lochboisdale**, enjoying dinner on board before continuing to Benbecula. (D)

**Day 2** We head for **Barra**, travelling via Eriskay. Upon arrival, we tour the island and board a boat to **Kisimul Castle**. Next, we visit **Cockleshell Beach** with its unique airport runway and then it's on to **Vatersay**, with its brilliant white beaches. (B & D)

**Day 3** A ferry takes us from Berneray to Leverburgh on the Isle of Harris. Here, we visit **St. Clement's Church** at Rodel and then travel on to **Lewis** and our hotel, located in Stornoway. (B & D)

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

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

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

**The Stornoway to Benbecula itinerary operates in reverse, with two nights in Stornoway and three nights in Benbecula.**

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

## 5 Day version

We also offer a similar 5 day tour staying two nights in Benbecula and two nights in Stornoway on **22 March, 5 April, 20 September and 12 October - 5 days from £695pp.** Please see our website for full details.

## 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

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>3 May</b>        | from <b>£1045pp</b> |
| <b>24 May</b>       | from <b>£995pp</b>  |
| <b>21 June</b>      | from <b>£1175pp</b> |
| <b>23 August</b>    | from <b>£1075pp</b> |
| <b>27 September</b> | from <b>£1075pp</b> |

Stornoway - Benbecula

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>1 July</b>       | from <b>£1075pp</b> |
| <b>14 August</b>    | from <b>£1045pp</b> |
| <b>15 September</b> | from <b>£1045pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£200**





## 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 Garden, where we are free to admire lush rhododendrons and constellations of olearia.

### 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 Garden**, 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

6 DAYS FROM  
**£995**



### Your Tour Includes

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

### Departures & Prices

**8 June** from **£995pp**  
**27 July** from **£1045pp**  
 Single Supplement **£195**





Seascape, Orkney

# HIGHLIGHTS OF ORKNEY & SHETLAND

## THE 'ISLANDS OF THE SIMMER DIM'

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.

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1245**



Neolithic site of Skara Brae

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart for Aberdeen and take the overnight ferry to **Lerwick**. (D)

**Day 2** We leave the ship after breakfast and start our Shetland tour, beginning in **Scalloway** with its ruined castle. We then visit the cliffs of **Eshaness** before continuing to our hotel. (B & D)

**Day 3** Our day starts at the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. We also visit **Sumburgh Head** with its RSPB reserve and enjoy free time in **Lerwick**. (B & D)

**Day 4** A full day tour of Orkney awaits as we visit the stone circles of **Brodgar** and **Stenness**. Next, it's on to the chambered

tomb at **Maeshowe** and fascinating **Skara Brae**, with its 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. Later, we tour the south end of Orkney, crossing the **Churchill Barriers** and visiting the charming **Italian Chapel**, which was built on a former prisoner of war camp. (B & D)

**Day 6** After breakfast, transfer to St. Margaret's Hope and catch the Pentland Ferries sailing to Gills Bay. From here, we return to our pick-up points. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » One night's dinner, bed & breakfast at the Busta House Hotel, Shetland and three nights' bed & breakfast (plus two dinners) at the Kirkwall Hotel, Orkney
- » All ferry crossings, including one night's accommodation in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjaltland on the outward sailing (outside cabins available at a supplement of £50pp)
- » 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

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>9 May</b>        | from <b>£1345pp</b> |
| <b>13 June</b>      | from <b>£1295pp</b> |
| <b>15 August</b>    | from <b>£1295pp</b> |
| <b>19 September</b> | from <b>£1245pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£395**



# SHETLAND

## AND ITS OUTER ISLES

If you want to get away from it all, Shetland is the place to be. There are over 100 islands here, only 16 of which are inhabited, and each has its own distinct character. This tour explores four of them, providing a taste of the diversity of this amazing archipelago. Visit the little island of Mousa, the Shetland Croft Museum and the ancient settlement at Jarlshof, before discovering the northernmost isles of Yell and Unst.

### 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 begin our visits at the **Shetland Croft Museum**, housed in a typical thatched croft house of the 19th century. Next, we explore the outstanding Norse settlement of **Jarlshof**, which has over three acres of remains, including Viking longhouses and medieval farmhouses. This afternoon we visit the little island of **Mousa**, whose 2,000-year-old Iron Age broch is perhaps the best-preserved example in the world. (B & D)

**Day 3** Today we enjoy a full day tour of **Yell** and **Unst**. Travel north through **Tingwall** and **Girlista**, past **Sullom Voe**, before arriving at **Toft** and catching the ferry to **Yell**. On arrival in Unst, visit **Muness Castle**, **Baltasound** and **Saxa Vord Hill**. (B & D)

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

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

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

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1045**



Shetland seascape

SCOTLAND

### Your Tour Includes

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

### Departures & Prices

**10 June** from **£1045pp**  
**8 August** from **£1045pp**

Single Supplement **£275**

# UNDISCOVERED ORKNEY

An archipelago of 70 islands, each with their own distinctive charm, Orkney is home to boundless history and natural beauty. Based in Kirkwall, we will discover the landmarks and landscapes of the North and South Isles. On Westray, we relive Orkney's Viking past; on Mainland, we discover Neolithic Orkney; and on Hoy, we enjoy dramatic scenery as we sail across the Scapa Flow.

### Your Itinerary

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

**Day 2** Today we visit **Westray** and the **Scaun Natural Arch**, where guillemots and fulmars can be spotted. Later, we visit **Westray Heritage Centre** and tour **Noltland Castle**. (B & D)

**Day 3** Tour the island of **Hoy**, visiting the **Dwarfie Stane** and **Rackwick Bay**, once home to composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. We also visit **Lyness Naval Base**, the **Naval Cemetery** and the stone-built **Martello Tower**. (B & D)

**Day 4** Mainland Orkney's archaeological sites of **Maeshowe**, **Skara Brae** and the **Standing Stones of Stenness** are waiting to be explored today, followed by a behind the scenes tour and a warming dram at the **Highland Park Distillery**. (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

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1175**



Skara Brae

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

### 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

**23 June** from **£1175pp**  
**25 August** from **£1175pp**

No Single Supplement



# UP HELLY AA

7 DAY

7 DAYS FROM  
£1395



Up Helly Aa 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 very large, bearded Vikings, resplendent in gleaming chain-mail and winged helmets can be seen carrying a 30ft longship, which is fated to be ceremoniously set alight. As the sky over Lerwick shimmers with heat and light, fireworks explode, brass bands play and the gloom of winter is lifted for another year - this is Up Helly Aa Festival.

## Your Itinerary

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

**Day 2** We depart for **Lerwick**, where we have free time ahead of the unforgettable **Up Helly Aa** festivities. (B & D)

**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**. (B & D)

**Day 4** We set off on a scenic excursion to the north of Shetland featuring the spectacular sea cliffs at **Eshaness**. (B & D)

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

**Day 6** After breakfast on board, we depart on a full day tour of mainland Shetland, including visits to **Scalloway**, the original capital of Shetland and the Prehistoric and Norse Settlement of **Jarlshof**. In the evening, we join the overnight ferry and sail back to Aberdeen. (B & D)

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

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

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

**24 January** from **£1395pp**

Single Supplement - **on request**  
Shetland Hotel Supplement **£250pp**



# ISLAY AND JURA

5 DAYS FROM  
£1095

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.



Port Charlotte, Islay

## Your Itinerary

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

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

**Day 3** Following breakfast, you are free to explore **Islay**. Alternatively, you may wish to join our optional excursion to **Colonsay**,

where we visit the 30-acre woodland garden and Kiloran Bay. (B & D)

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

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

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

## 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

**16 May** from **£1095pp**

**6 June** from **£1095pp**

**11 July** from **£1095pp**

**12 September** from **£1095pp**

Single Supplement **£200**  
Optional excursion - Colonsay **£55pp**



# 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)

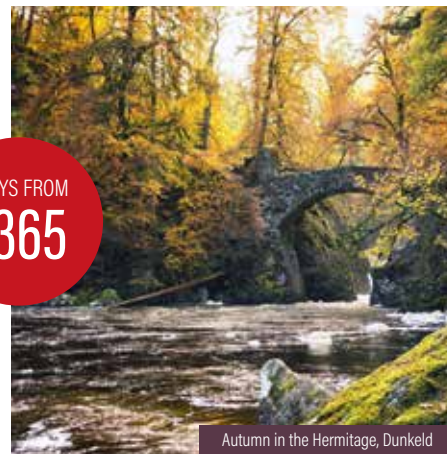
**Day 2** Our first visit is to the geographical heart of Scotland, where stands the **Fortingall Yew**, which has been

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  
**£365**



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**  
Single Supplement **£50**

# 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.

## Your Itinerary

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

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

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

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

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

**Day 6** We return to Aberdeen this morning, where we join our coach and make our way back to our original pick-up points. (B)  
Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1395**



Local colour © Frances Taylor

## Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights’ dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights’ at the Busta Hotel and two nights in two-berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries (outside cabins are available at a supplement of £50pp)
- » Three lunches
- » Three knitting workshops with expert local tutor
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**22 September** from **£1395pp**  
Single Supplement **£350**



# 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 stop at **John O' Groats** the landmark at the "end of the road", we continue to the **Castle of Mey**, former holiday home of the late Queen Mother, and **Dunnet Head**, which boasts some of the most extensive views in northern Scotland. (B & D)

**Day 3** 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 some free time for lunch before we visit the impressive **Smoo Cave** then continue to our hotel in Kinlochbervie. (B & D)

**Day 4** We travel 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)

**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

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>14 June</b>      | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>9 August</b>     | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>10 September</b> | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>4 October</b>    | from <b>£745pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£180**

# SCOTLAND'S EXTREME NORTH-WEST

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

## 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

4 DAYS FROM  
**£495**



Loch Eribol

## 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

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>22 March</b>   | from <b>£495pp</b> |
| <b>19 April</b>   | from <b>£525pp</b> |
| <b>11 October</b> | from <b>£525pp</b> |
| <b>18 October</b> | from <b>£525pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£120**



# ARRAN: 'SCOTLAND IN MINIATURE'

5 DAYS FROM  
**£775**

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.

## 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** We enjoy a circular tour of Arran, passing through **Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Brodick, Corrie** and **Sannox**. On the west coast, we visit **Pirnmill** and **Catacol**, with its cottages known as the '12 Apostles', as well as **Arran Distillery**. 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**, the former home

of the Horlick family. Sir James Horlick came here in 1944 and started to create a woodland garden. The mild climate combined with high levels of rainfall means there is always something 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

## 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

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>25 April</b>     | from <b>£775pp</b> |
| <b>20 June</b>      | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>12 September</b> | from <b>£795pp</b> |

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  
**£625**

## 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

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>24 October</b> | from <b>£625pp</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------|

Single Supplement **£135**



2023 DATES  
COMING SOON



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.

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1495**

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.



Glenfinnan Viaduct



Lord of the Glens

### 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

### 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

### Departures & Prices

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Inverness to Oban                  |                     |
| <b>4 April</b>                     | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| <b>6 October</b>                   | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| Oban to Inverness                  |                     |
| <b>20 April</b>                    | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| <b>1 October</b>                   | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| <b>11 October</b>                  | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| Single Supplement from <b>£900</b> |                     |



2023 DATES  
COMING SOON

SCOTLAND



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**



Neptune's Staircase



Glenfinnan Monument

### Your Itinerary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Day 8** Disembark in Inverness. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

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

### Departures & Prices

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh       |                     |
| <b>25 April</b>                     | from <b>£2395pp</b> |
| <b>9 May</b>                        | from <b>£2395pp</b> |
| Kyle of Lochalsh to Inverness       |                     |
| <b>2 May</b>                        | from <b>£2395pp</b> |
| <b>19 September</b>                 | from <b>£2395pp</b> |
| Single Supplement from <b>£1500</b> |                     |



# INDEPENDENT AND SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAYS

We are very happy to prepare tailor-made packages for individuals, couples or families who may prefer to travel independently. You can travel wherever, whenever and however you want. The following are examples of four typical itineraries, but you are not limited to these destinations - 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 or 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

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

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

**Day 9** Today you will return home.

## THE OUTER HEBRIDES

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

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Drive to Skye and cross this most scenic of islands to Uig, for the ferry to Lochmaddy in North Uist. 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 Rodal, 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, including the 5,000-year-old standing stones at Callanish, the Black Houses at Gearrannan and the recreation of a Norse Mill at Shawbost.



Callanish Stones

6 DAYS FROM  
£695

**Day 5** Further suggested visits in Lewis today include Lewis 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.



# LOCH LOMOND

3 DAYS FROM  
**£140**

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

## Your Itinerary

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

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

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

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



Loch Lomond



Winnock Hotel

SCOTLAND

# MAGICAL ISLAY

4 DAYS FROM  
**£495**

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

## Your Itinerary

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

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

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

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

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



Port Ellen, Islay



Port Askaig Hotel

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





# GARDENS OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

4 DAYS FROM  
£625



Logan Botanic Gardens

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 Head Gardener to the Queen Mother and Curator of RHS Wisley.





Yellow iris at Cally Gardens



Drumlanrig Castle

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** After departing from our pick-up points, we have a guided tour of **Dumfries House**, whose stunning interiors are home to a world-class collection of furniture. We also visit the fantastic **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**. We continue to our hotel in Dumfries. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit **Glenwhan Gardens**, spread out over a windy hilltop with marvellous views of Luce Bay and the Mull of Galloway. Since 1979, a very large, interesting and individual garden has been created that is filled with good plants – almost any gardener will find something unfamiliar here. This afternoon we continue to the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens** at Port Logan. The garden was started by the McDougall family who lived here for 800 years, and since 1969 it has been in the care of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Logan Botanic Garden is beautifully laid out, particularly in the walled garden with its fine terraces and well-planned borders under an avenue of cabbage palms. The climate here is exceptionally mild and several different habitats provide conditions for a huge range of plants. Next door are the gardens of **Logan House**, which were originally part of Logan Botanic Garden. This Victorian woodland garden features champion trees, sweeping lawns, ancient shrubberies, meandering pathways and a majestic monkey puzzle avenue. NB: As the gardens at Logan House are at their best in the early summer, on our August and September departures we will instead visit **Cally Gardens** at Gatehouse of Fleet. (B & D)

**Day 3** Following breakfast this morning, we visit **Broughton House**, a fascinating 18th century house and garden that was home to E. A. Hornel from 1901 until his death in 1933. During his lifetime, he had twice

lived in Japan and his experience there influenced many of his paintings. The garden, which runs down to the estuary of the Dee, also shows the influence of his time in Japan and is always full of colour. After a visit to the plantsman's nursery of **Ellenbank** we continue to the gardens of the **Threave Estate**, which were largely created by students at the School of Horticulture. Mature woodland of beech, conifers and oaks form the background to a large collection of shrub roses, mixed borders, dwarf heathers, peat and rock gardens, a walled kitchen garden and also superbly maintained glasshouses. (B & D)

**Day 4** En route home, we visit the grand Renaissance masterpiece of **Drumlanrig Castle**, surrounded by the 120,000 acre Queensberry Estate. There will also be a stop at **Crawick Multiverse**, a hidden gem nestled in rolling hills, before we return to our original departure points. (B)  
**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



Dumfries House



Crawick Multiverse

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>5 June</b>       | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>12 July</b>      | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>15 August</b>    | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>11 September</b> | from <b>£625pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£150**





# ORKNEY'S GARDEN TRAIL

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1195**



Quoy of Houton

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, but 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’.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points and head north to **Old Allangrange**, 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 garden of the **Auld Post Office**. (B & D)

**Day 3** We take the ferry over to Orkney and begin with visits to **Skara Brae** and the well-stocked Victorian garden at **Kierfold**. (B & D)

**Day 4** We visit two private gardens this morning, the **Community Garden** and **Stenwood**. We later visit 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

**13 July** from **£1195pp**  
**3 August** from **£1195pp**

Single Supplement **£275**



# GARDENS OF THE FAR NORTH

5 DAYS FROM  
**£995**



Dunrobin Castle

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.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick-up points and travel north, stopping en route in **Pitlochry**. We continue on to the gardens of **Cawdor Castle**, near Nairn, immortalised by Shakespeare in *Macbeth*. The magnificent gardens include vast herbaceous borders, a rose garden and a pretty peony walk. (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. Next, we continue to **John O’Groats** and the **Castle of Mey**, the much loved former home of Her Majesty The Queen Mother. (B & D)

**Day 3** After breakfast, we drive through some magnificent mountain scenery to **Dundonnell House Garden** and **Inverewe**, one of the most outstanding gardens in Scotland. (B & D)

**Day 4** The first stop of our day is at **Dunbeath Castle**, where we tour its private gardens. Later, we explore the private gardens at **Langwell**. (B & D)

**Day 5** En route home, we visit the **House of Aigas** and enjoy a lunch prepared from fresh on-site produce. We continue to **Abriachan Gardens** and then return to our pick-up points. (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

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

Single Supplement **£295**





# 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.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**



Dunbeath Castle

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

SCOTLAND

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart for the private garden of **Old Allangrange**, where a beautiful 17th century 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 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** We visit the **Castle of Mey**, former summer home of the late Queen Mother, the private garden of **Auld Post Office** and **Dunbeath Castle**, one of the finest ornamental walled gardens in Scotland. (B & D)

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

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

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>27 June</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>12 July</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |

No Single Supplement



# 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 also see grand gardens set around the castles of Glamis, Gardyne and Edzell, traditional mixed borders at Dunninald and four separate walled gardens at Langley Park.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£565**



Pitmuies

## 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**, before continuing 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, **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**, which is now surrounded by an enchanting garden. We then return to our original departure points. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>13 May</b>    | from <b>£565pp</b> |
| <b>19 August</b> | from <b>£565pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£90**



NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



# 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. Highlights include the grand Culzean Castle and Dumfries House along with smaller but no less impressive properties such as Carnell and Barnweil.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**



Culzean Castle

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We begin in the grand surroundings of **Culzean Castle**. 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. (D)

**Day 2** **Carnell** is our first port of call this morning, a well-known traditional walled garden. 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, or why not 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**. (B & D)

**Day 4** **Dumfries House** is perhaps best known for its world-class collection, but its walled garden is one of the best in Scotland, as is that at **Auchlochan**, with a mass of colour at every turn. 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 Carlton Hotel, Prestwick
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**23 May** from **£595pp**  
**18 July** from **£595pp**

No Single Supplement  
Optional excursion - Arran **£55pp**

# 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 bring the first welcome splashes of colour to the gardens. Come autumn you may well see snow on the hills again but at lower levels the trees have taken on a golden hue while the gardens put on one last display of colour.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£485**



Oban

## 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 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 (or similar)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**28 March** from **£485pp**  
**24 October** from **£515pp**

Single Supplement **£185**  
Optional excursion - Mull **£30pp**





Pictish Stone, Aberlemno



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE PICTS

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

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.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**



Isle of May



St. Andrews Cathedral

### 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. Vigean's 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 we explore **Perth Museum**, viewing its fine displays and collections. (B & D)

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

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

### Your Tour Includes

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

### Departures & Prices

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>18 June</b>     | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>6 August</b>    | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>3 September</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£90**



NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT



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.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£695**

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, which as well as book-lined rooms and an impressive collection of arms and armour has a lovely walled garden adjacent to the house. Perhaps the grandest of all is Floors Castle, the magnificent home of the Duke of Roxburghe, with its commanding views over the Tweed. We round off in style with a lunch served in the authentic Victorian kitchen at Thirlstane Castle, one of the oldest and finest in Scotland.



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. It can be a moving experience to stand in the study where he drew his last breath while taking in the view down to the river. 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 Tontine Hotel, Peebles
- » One lunch
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>25 April</b>     | from <b>£695pp</b> |
| <b>26 June</b>      | from <b>£725pp</b> |
| <b>25 September</b> | from <b>£725pp</b> |

No Single Supplement





Castle Stalker, Loch Linnhe



## SCENIC JOURNEYS OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

The Highlands and Islands of Scotland provide such a wealth of scenic journeys that it can be a daunting prospect to work out how best to take them all in. This new tour aims to provide the answer to this Caledonian conundrum with an itinerary that ticks off a whole host of visual gems while at the same time providing a series of relaxing, undemanding journeys by train, coach and boat.

Our tour begins with one of the most visually stunning rail journeys in Scotland, the West Highland Line to Fort William, with views of Loch Lomond and the wild, open expanse of Rannoch Moor. This is followed by an excursion to the Isle of Mull, with three different ferry crossings involved. We then enjoy a cruise on Loch Linnhe, a drive through the haunting glacial valley of Glen Coe and a round trip on the Jacobite steam train, over the final section of the West Highland Line. Heading north to Inverness, we enjoy possibly the most scenic of all the Scottish railway routes to Kyle of Lochalsh and a visit to iconic Eilean Donan Castle. Finally we take the funicular railway to the top of the magnificent Cairngorms and then it's 'downhill all the way' as we ride the Highland Railway from Aviemore to Glasgow.

7 DAYS FROM  
£1395



Jacobite at Glenfinnan

### Your Itinerary

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

**Day 2** We enjoy a spectacular day of coastal and island scenery as we drive down to Oban and take the ferry to **Mull**. After visits to **Tobermory** and **Duart Castle** we cross by ferry to mountainous Morvern on our way back to Fort William. (B & D)

**Day 3** After a look at the impressive flight of canal locks known as '**Neptune's Staircase**' we enjoy a **cruise** on tranquil Loch Linnhe and a drive through **Glen Coe**, carved out by the last Ice Age, with towering, mist covered mountains on either side. (B & D)

**Day 4** A treat for the senses lies in store as we enjoy the sight, sound and smell of the '**Jacobite**' steam train forging over the Glenfinnan Viaduct to Mallaig. (B & D)

**Day 5** We take a cruise on mysterious **Loch Ness** with views of **Urquhart Castle** and travel to the shores of the Moray Firth to view the resident pod of **dolphins**. (B & D)

**Day 6** Another classic train journey as we take the glorious line from Inverness to **Kyle of Lochalsh** on the west coast, followed by a visit to **Eilean Donan Castle**. (B & D)

**Day 7** We board the **Cairngorm funicular railway** for sweeping views before a final train journey from Aviemore to Glasgow. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

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

### Departures & Prices

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>25 April</b>    | from <b>£1395pp</b> |
| <b>16 May</b>      | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| <b>7 June</b>      | from <b>£1595pp</b> |
| <b>8 September</b> | from <b>£1595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£395**





# HIGHLAND WILDLIFE SAFARI

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

4 DAYS FROM  
**£695**



Bottlenose dolphin

## 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. (D)

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

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

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

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

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

**24 June** from **£695pp**  
**22 July** from **£695pp**

Single Supplement **£90**



# 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, 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, to Portree, the epitome of a colourful Hebridean harbour - with some of the best fish 'n' chips in the country!

6 DAYS FROM  
**£795**



Achmelvich

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from our 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** Today we 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 pick-up 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

**3 June** from **£795pp**  
**29 July** from **£855pp**  
**2 September** from **£825pp**

Single Supplement **£195**





The Jacobite steam train

## A CLASSIC SCOTTISH STEAM BREAK

Steam locomotion has an enduring fascination for many of us and combined with the wonderful scenery of Scotland it becomes utterly irresistible. The Jacobite steam train, from Fort William to Mallaig, is one of the longest steam-hauled rail journeys available in Britain today, an 84-mile round trip through some spectacular scenery that also includes the 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct. A gentler pace is set as we sail 'Doon ra Watter' on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, the PS Waverley\*, still elegantly plying her trade on the Clyde. There can be no better way to enjoy the gentle beauty of the Argyll hills and the Kyles of Bute than from the deck of this grand old lady. We also enjoy a 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 2022 following the same itinerary: one staying at the Arrochar Hotel and one staying at the luxurious Stirling Highland Hotel.

4 DAYS FROM

**£595**

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

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** 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 then we continue to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** 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 route will take us over the famous **Glenfinnan Viaduct** overlooking

Loch Shiel, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745. (B & D)

**Day 3** Today we sail on the world's last seagoing paddle steamer – **The Waverley\***. We leave the ship at Tighnabruach, where our coach will be waiting to take us back to the hotel. (B & D)

**Day 4** We depart for a cruise on peaceful Loch Katrine on board the **Lady of the Lake**. Loch Katrine serves as Glasgow's water supply and is also one of the most attractive fresh water lochs in Scotland. After our cruise, we tour the **Trossachs** before returning to our original pick-up points. (B)

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

### 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

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>27 June</b>    | from <b>£685pp</b> |
| <b>8 July</b>     | from <b>£685pp</b> |
| <b>4 August</b>   | from <b>£685pp</b> |
| <b>13 October</b> | from <b>£675pp</b> |

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

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>23 June</b>    | from <b>£635pp</b> |
| <b>7 July</b>     | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>21 July</b>    | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>11 August</b>  | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>14 October</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£90**



# 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.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**



Strathspey Railway

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart from our designated 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. (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. (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

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>6 May</b>        | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>29 July</b>      | from <b>£665pp</b> |
| <b>23 September</b> | from <b>£665pp</b> |
| <b>7 October</b>    | from <b>£595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£90**



# CALEDONIAN DAYS

In the days before widespread private car ownership, a day out in Scotland meant getting on a train or boarding a steamer – sometimes both – and for millions of people, the highlight of their year was a trip 'doon ra watter' on the Firth of Clyde or a leisurely train ride to the Highlands. This 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.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**



Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway

## 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 visiting the **Riverside Museum of Transport and Travel** in Glasgow we take the electric train to **Wemyss Bay**, then on to the ferry to Bute and the traditional seaside resort of **Rothsay**, 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. In essence, the railway has changed little since late Victorian times, and many of the original chalet-style station buildings can still be seen. Our return journey by train and coach follows the route of the long-gone but equally scenic **Callander and Oban Railway**. (B & D)

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

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

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>17 June</b>     | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>22 July</b>     | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>2 September</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£90**





# 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, Tarbert, we will set out upon a series of manageable but highly scenic walks, both in Harris and neighbouring Lewis.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart by coach and head to Uig on the Isle of Skye for the ferry to Tarbert on Harris and our hotel. (D)

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

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

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

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

**Day 5** After breakfast we catch the morning ferry and continue to our pick-up points. (B) **Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1075**



Luskentyre, Harris

SCOTLAND

## 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

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2 April</b>                | from <b>£1095pp</b> |
| <b>11 October</b>             | from <b>£1075pp</b> |
| Single Supplement <b>£160</b> |                     |



# 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 designated pick up points and head north. We will break our journey with a gentle walk by the River Braan at **The Hermitage** near Dunkeld before continuing to our hotel in Grantown on Spey. (D)

**Day 2** Our first walk takes us from our base in Grantown to **Nethy Bridge**, a distance of 6 miles, part of the Speyside Way, mostly on old railway trackbed with some forest walks. We will return by coach to our hotel. (B & D)

**Day 3** We follow an offshoot of the Speyside Way today, a circular route that takes us from **Dufftown**, synonymous

with whisky distilling, to **Craigellachie** and **Aberlour**, again following old railway lines, then over moor, forest and farmland back to Dufftown. The total distance is 12 miles but a shorter walk can be arranged. (B & D)

**Day 4** Today our walk of 5 miles takes us from **Fochabers** to **Spey Bay**, using forest roads and tracks beside the ever widening River Spey. In the afternoon we visit the **Scottish Dolphin Centre** with an opportunity to see the Moray Firth dolphins and other wildlife. (B & D)

**Day 5** We depart for home, stopping for a final gentle walk at the **Queen's View**. (B)

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

5 DAYS FROM  
**£695**



Craigellachie

NEW FOR 2022

## Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Craiglynn Hotel, Speyside
- » All walks as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager



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

## Departures & Prices

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>20 May</b>                | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>2 September</b>           | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>21 October</b>            | from <b>£695pp</b> |
| Single Supplement <b>£90</b> |                    |

NEW FOR 2022



# A GRAND TOUR OF THE GARDENS OF SCOTLAND

11 DAYS FROM  
**£2195**



Inverewe Garden

**O**ur Grand Tour of Scotland's finest gardens takes us from the open spaces of the far north to the wilds of the west; from the splendours of the south to the elegance of the east. The range of gardens is equally diverse, from the peace and calm of Malleny Garden in Edinburgh to the windy hilltop and lavish planting of Glenwhan, from the sub-tropical exoticism of Logan Botanic Gardens to the homely and traditional Castle of Mey.

We begin at Branklyn and Cluny gardens in Perthshire before driving along the 'backbone' of Scotland to Inverness. From here we strike out north to the castles Dunrobin and Mey and west to Dundonnell and Inverewe, undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour. Travelling through the Great Glen we savour the peace and quiet of the West Highlands, where the mild, damp climate promotes luxuriant growth in these tranquil gardens. Moving south and west into Dumfries and Galloway we see more lush planting, thanks again to the climate, with exotic plants from around the world flourishing. Then it's on into the softer, more rounded landscapes of the Border country to see two marvellous gardens before we come full circle back to Edinburgh and conclude in the distinguished surroundings of the Royal Botanic Gardens.





Broughton House



Loch Etive

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from our designated pick up points and travel north to our first visit, **Branklyn Gardens**, a haven of peace and colour on the edge of Perth. We continue with a visit to **Cluny House Gardens**, near Aberfeldy, a wonderful woodland garden filled with rare and exotic plants, then on to our hotel in Inverness. (D)

**Day 2** We head for the far north this morning, stopping first at **Dunrobin Castle** with its magnificent formal gardens before continuing to the rather more homely rose gardens of the **Castle of Mey**. (B & D)

**Day 3** A long but rewarding day as we weave our way through the mountains to the west coast, visiting the delightful **Dundonnell House Garden** and the incomparable **Inverewe**, with its jungle of exotic trees and flowering shrubs. (B & D)

**Day 4** We travel along the shores of Loch Ness as we return to the west coast, enjoying superb views of Ben Cruachan and Loch Etive as we visit the tranquil gardens of **Ardchattan Priory**, before continuing to Oban. (B & D)

**Day 5** Travelling south of Oban we visit the exotic garden at **Arduaine**, which has strong echoes of Inverewe, and the quaint private garden of **An Cala**. (B & D)

**Day 6** Two splendid woodland gardens feature today as we head towards Glasgow: **Ardkinglas** with its towering conifers and **Glenarn**, filled with Asiatic shrubs. (B & D)

**Day 7** Continuing southwards, we call in at stunning **Dumfries House** and the **Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden**, one of the best examples of its kind in Scotland. (B & D)

**Day 8** We visit **Glenwhan Gardens**, spread out over a windy hilltop with marvellous views, the slopes lavishly planted with unusual trees and shrubs. We continue to the world-famous **Logan Botanic Gardens**, where the climate is exceptionally mild and nurtures a huge range of outlandish plants. Next door are the gardens of **Logan House**, with champion trees, sweeping lawns and ancient shrubberies. (B & D)

**Day 9** The influence of Japan on the life of artist E A Hornel can readily be seen in the exquisite little garden at **Broughton House**. There is a chance to buy some plants of your own at **Ellenbank** before exploring the manicured gardens of **Threave**. (B & D)

**Day 10** We head into the rolling hills of the Borders, with visits to **Dawyck Botanic Gardens** and its world famous arboretum dating back over 300 years, and historic **Kailzie Gardens**, where all but the hardiest of plants survive. (B & D)

**Day 11** Our final day together begins in the peaceful atmosphere of **Malleny Garden**, where heritage roses give an air of cultivated calm, and ends in the regal surroundings of the **Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh**. (B)

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



Logan Botanic Gardens



Dunrobin Castle

## Your Tour Includes

- » Ten nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at 3- and 4-star hotels: three nights in Inverness, two nights in Oban, one night in the Glasgow area, three nights in Dumfries and one night in Edinburgh
- » Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>12 June</b>                | from <b>£2195pp</b> |
| <b>17 July</b>                | from <b>£2195pp</b> |
| Single Supplement <b>£475</b> |                     |



# GARDENS OF NORTH WALES

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**

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



Bodnant Gardens

## Your Itinerary

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

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

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

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

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

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>27 May</b>    | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>10 June</b>   | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>12 August</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£195**



# GARDENS OF NORTHUMBERLAND

4 DAYS FROM  
**£795**

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. Mindrum was created by a natural artist who then set about creating a new garden at Kirky Cottage, filled with her favourite plants. The innovative Alnwick Garden will be the highlight for many.



Alnwick Garden

## Your Itinerary

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

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

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

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

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

## 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

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>12 June</b>   | from <b>£825pp</b> |
| <b>24 July</b>   | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>21 August</b> | from <b>£795pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£90**





The Paradise Garden, RHS Bridgewater © RHS Neil Hepworth



RHS GARDEN

## BRIDGEWATER

## AND GARDENS OF THE NORTH WEST

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

Based on an overall design by leading landscape architect and Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith, highlights include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural visits.

We will also take the opportunity to visit some of the best gardens in the North West, including an intriguing little private garden.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points and head north west, where we begin with a visit to the gardens of **Trentham Estate** in Staffordshire, where the contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was led by Tom Stuart-Smith. We continue to our hotel in Cheshire. (D)

**Day 2** This morning we travel to the **RHS Garden Bridgewater**, which includes an 11-acre walled garden, a large historic lake and extensive woodland. In the afternoon we visit a nearby **private garden** which in contrast to Bridgewater is much smaller but no less intriguing. (B & D)

**Day 3** After breakfast, we visit **Dunham Massey**, a great plantsman's garden full of native favourites and exotic treasures set around an elegant Georgian mansion. Next, we explore **Tatton Park**, whose gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character. (B & D)

**Day 4** Today we pay a visit to **Arley Hall**, which preserves the atmosphere of a garden kept for its own delight. The pair of herbaceous borders is renowned as one of the great garden sights of England. We return to our original departure points. (B)

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

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**



Italian Gardens, Trentham Estate



Arley Hall

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures &amp; Prices

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>23 April</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>14 May</b>   | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>18 June</b>  | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>6 August</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£120**





Local residents, Chipping Camden



# HIGHGROVE

## AND THE COTSWOLDS

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

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**

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

*Please note, by the very nature of this holiday we are dependent on a successful application for admittance to Highgrove, which will be confirmed in February 2022*



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

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>29 April</b>    | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>20 May</b>      | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>24 June</b>     | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>7 August</b>    | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>2 September</b> | from <b>£625pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£195**



# COLOURS 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!



Grasmere

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT

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## 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

**2 May** from **£775pp**  
**31 October** from **£695pp**

No Single Supplement



# 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, the garden of sentiments and memories created by Sir Roy Strong, and Stockton Bury, where we enjoy a tour and workshop with the head gardener.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£695**



Hampton Court Castle

## 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 Thrupton, 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

**30 May** from **£695pp**  
**15 August** from **£695pp**  
**5 September** from **£695pp**

Single Supplement **£120**

NEW FOR 2022

# THRIPLow

## DAFFODIL FESTIVAL

3 DAYS FROM

£395

Every year the streets of the pretty Cambridgeshire village of Thriplow are lined with masses of daffodils, bringing a welcome splash of colour to the early spring. As well as the displays there are open gardens to explore along with traditional rural events. We also visit the Wimpole Estate, an impressive Georgian mansion set in a landscaped park; Cambridge University Botanic Gardens, where there will be plenty of early spring flowers, and The Rotunda at Ickworth in Suffolk, filled with spectacular paintings and a magnificent collection of Georgian silver.



Daffodils

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart by coach from our pick-up points and travel to the village of Thriplow, a few miles south of Cambridge, where we will visit the **Thriplow Daffodil Festival**. The streets of this pretty village are lined with masses of daffodils, bringing a welcome splash of colour to the early spring. In addition to these glorious displays there are open gardens to explore along with traditional rural events such as Morris dancing, sheep dog and birds of prey displays, heavy horse drey rides and bell ringing, providing a full day's entertainment in charming surroundings. We then continue to our hotel in Cambridge. (D)

**Days 2** This morning we visit the **Wimpole Estate**, at the heart of which lies a mansion with beautiful Georgian interiors. In the gardens the first signs of spring growth will be appearing. There will be more exotic plant life to discover as we visit the excellent **Cambridge University Botanic Garden** this afternoon. (B & D)

**Day 3** Our spring break concludes with a visit to **Ickworth House**, famous for its 100ft high Rotunda. It contains fine paintings and an outstanding collection of Georgian silver. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

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

### Departures & Prices

**20 March** from **£395pp**

Single Supplement **£100**



# 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, many of them privately owned. These include Lanhydrock, with some of the finest parkland in Cornwall, Bosvigo, which features perfectly planted enclosures and thoughtful colour harmonies, and Marsh Villa, the result of years of hard work. Choose between spring when the rhododendrons burst into life or high summer when the hydrangeas run riot.



Lanhydrock Gardens

### 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 **Lamorrn 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

**28 April** from **£695pp**

**21 July** from **£695pp**

Single Supplement **£175**





# 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 have the privilege of visiting **Ravensingham Hall**, the garden of former 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.

## 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 **Ravensingham 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



Place for Plants ©S C Eley

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>27 May</b>   | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>5 August</b> | from <b>£625pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£90**



# THE GARDENS OF KENT & SUSSEX

4 DAYS FROM  
**£795**

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. First-time visitors will be bowled over by the quality and pedigree of these gardens, which capture the essence of the English country 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** 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 with many rare and exotic plants combined with a pinetum, walled and Italian garden. (B & D)

**Day 3** This morning, we are privileged to have an 'early bird' visit to the manicured gardens of **Sissinghurst**. 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. (B & L)

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



Sissinghurst Castle Garden

## 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

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>22 April</b>  | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>27 May</b>    | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>24 June</b>   | from <b>£825pp</b> |
| <b>19 August</b> | from <b>£825pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£195**

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT



# QUEEN VICTORIA

## AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

4 DAYS FROM  
**£795**

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



Freshwater Bay

### Your Itinerary

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

**Day 2** We travel to **Osborne House & Gardens**, which was Queen Victoria's favourite home. We enjoy a guided tour of the **gardens**, and after lunch continue with a guided tour of the **house**. Later we visit the **Swiss Cottage**, the full-sized 'Wendy House' in which Victoria's nine children loved to play, and take the shuttle down to the beach, another favourite haunt of the royal children. (B, L & D)

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

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

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

### Your Tour Includes

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

### Departures & Prices

**14 August** from **£795pp**  
**21 August** from **£795pp**

No Single Supplement



# GARDENS OF SOMERSET AND DORSET

5 DAYS FROM  
**£695**

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. Visits include the wonderful landscape of Stourhead, Kilver Court and East Lambrook, recognised as the 'Home of English Cottage Gardening'.



Stourhead Garden

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from our pick-up points and head for the famous landscape garden at **Stourhead**. (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**, 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

**30 June** from **£695pp**  
**18 August** 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 Inacullin and Blarney Castle and Gardens, home to the famous stone that bestows eloquence on all who kiss it.

Our tour manager for June and August is popular garden designer and broadcaster **Trevor Edwards**, who has clearly kissed the Blarney Stone more than once...

8 DAYS FROM  
£1595



Blarney Castle



Malahide Castle

## Your Itinerary

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

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

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

**Day 4** Here in Dublin we are privileged to have special access to the private garden of the doyenne of Irish horticulturalists, **Helen**

**Dillon**, who who has created a garden that is considered to be one of the gems of the horticultural world. A further two gardens are included today. (B)

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

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

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

**Day 8** We fly back from Cork. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights’ bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim; three nights in Dublin; and two nights in Co Cork
- » Five dinners
- » Flights from London to Belfast, returning from Cork
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- » Services of a horticulturalist as tour manager (Trevor Edwards in June and August)

## Departures & Prices

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>12 May</b>    | from <b>£1595pp</b> |
| <b>16 June</b>   | from <b>£1645pp</b> |
| <b>18 August</b> | from <b>£1645pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£495**





RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019

# THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW AND CLASSIC ENGLISH GARDENS

Our 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.

7 DAYS FROM  
**£1345**

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 Wilton 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 Garden Wisley, Surrey



Sissinghurst

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We start our tour with the **RHS Garden Wisley**, the epitome of horticultural excellence. (D)

**Day 2** 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 3** This morning we enjoy an 'early bird' guided tour of **Sissinghurst**. 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 4** Today we explore **Wilton House** and its gardens before visiting the gardens of

**Stourhead** with its temples, urns and grotto. (B & D)

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

**Day 6** Today we take a trip to **Iford Manor** where we have an exclusive private visit before enjoying some free time in **Bath**. (B & D)

**Day 7** We travel to **Tyntesfield** with its immaculate terraced lawns. We then return to London. (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

**19 May** from **£1345pp**  
Single Supplement **£330**





# 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 an early summer holiday. It is also home to some splendid gardens which make the most of this favourable climate to produce stunning displays, not to mention the profusion of wildflowers that thrive in the lush green meadows.

## Your Itinerary

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

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

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

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

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

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



Samarès Rose Garden

GARDENS

## Your Tour Includes

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

## Departures & Prices

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>18 May</b>                               | from <b>£1195pp</b> |
| <b>31 August</b>                            | from <b>£1255pp</b> |
| Single Supplement <b>£225</b>               |                     |
| Optional excursion - Guernsey <b>£135pp</b> |                     |



# 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 tour, which also visits the 'Cinque Ports' of Hastings, Sandwich, Hythe, Dover and Romney.

## 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



Walmer Castle Gardens

## 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

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>21 April</b>              | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>9 June</b>                | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>1 September</b>           | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| <b>6 October</b>             | from <b>£625pp</b> |
| Single Supplement <b>£90</b> |                    |

# 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. 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

**13 May** from **£395pp**  
**16 September** from **£395pp**

Single Supplement **£60**

# LITERARY TRAILS OF THE WEST COUNTRY

This tour takes us on the trail of further literary greats, but again also features Jane Austen. 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

**20 May** from **£395pp**  
**25 September** from **£395pp**

Single Supplement **£80**





# 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. Further highlights include Craggside, full of innovations at the time it was built, and mighty Alnwick Castle.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£795**



Bamburgh Castle

## 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 1,400 years. Nearby lies the Holy Island of **Lindisfarne**, where we will visit both the 16th century castle, converted to a private house by Lutyens, and the **Priory**, one of the most important centres of early Christianity. (B & D)

**Day 3** This morning we visit **Alnwick Castle**, the historic home of the Duke of Northumberland, described as the 'Windsor of the North' and the second largest inhabited castle in England, along with the neighbouring **Alnwick Garden**. Later we explore **Craggside 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 Blackett and Trevelyn families, all of whom have left their legacy behind. (B)

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

## 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

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>27 April</b>     | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>2 June</b>       | from <b>£825pp</b> |
| <b>15 September</b> | from <b>£825pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£120**

SPECIAL INTEREST



# CASTLES & HOUSES OF LINCOLNSHIRE

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. These include Belton Hall, often cited as the perfect example of an English country house estate; Tattershall House, built to be a statement of power and wealth, and Grimsthorpe Castle, where we enjoy a private tour of this impressive property.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£775**



Grimsthorpe Castle

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

## 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

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>23 April</b>     | from <b>£775pp</b> |
| <b>25 June</b>      | from <b>£775pp</b> |
| <b>30 September</b> | from <b>£775pp</b> |

No Single Supplement

NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT



Liverpool



## ARTS AND GARDENS OF THE NORTH WEST

The great cities of the North West of England are home to a remarkable number of world-class museums and galleries with many outstanding works of art.

Our tour begins in Stoke with a visit to the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, which has always had a strong collection of paintings and ceramics but now also houses many items from the fabulous Staffordshire Hoard. We continue to the Lady Lever Art Gallery in the Wirral, home to an extensive collection of artworks including some pre-Raphaelite favourites, then cross the Mersey to enjoy the contemporary collections of Tate Liverpool. We also take the opportunity to visit some of the best gardens in the North West, such as Tatton Park, whose gardens have developed over 200 years yet retain much of their Edwardian character, and Trentham Estate in Staffordshire, where the contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was led by multiple Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith. We also tour Chester's impressive cathedral and gain a colourful glimpse into the city's ancient past with a visit to the Roman Gardens.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**



Lady Lever Art Gallery



Another Place

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart by coach from our designated departure points and head north to our first visit, the **Potteries Museum and Art Gallery** in Stoke on Trent, where we will see a large number of items from the **Staffordshire Hoard** as well as a fine collection of ceramics. Continue to our hotel in Chester. (D)

**Day 2** We travel to the Wirral this morning and tour the **Lady Lever Art Gallery**, home to a fabulous collection of artworks, including famous pre-Raphaelite paintings. We then take a ferry across the Mersey and walk the short distance to the **Tate Liverpool**, pausing to admire a bronze statue of four Liverpool lads you may just have heard of. The Tate is the largest gallery

of modern and contemporary art outside London. We round off today with a look at **Antony Gormley's** sculpture 'Another Place' on Crosby beach. (B & D)

**Day 3** We visit the House and Gardens at **Tatton Park**. Here we find an outstanding collection of furniture by Gillows of Lancaster, a conservatory by Joseph Paxton and a Japanese Garden. In Chester we tour the impressive **Cathedral** and visit the historic **Roman Gardens**. (B & D)

**Day 4** We finish in the splendid surroundings of the **Trentham Estate** in Staffordshire, where Chelsea Gold Medal winners Tom Stuart-Smith and Piet Oudolf helped revitalise the gardens. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

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

### Departures & Prices

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>8 May</b>        | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>31 July</b>      | from <b>£595pp</b> |
| <b>11 September</b> | from <b>£595pp</b> |

No Single Supplement



NEW FOR 2022



Angel of the North



# DURHAM

## ARTS AND GARDENS

Not to be outdone by the North West, the North East of England boasts an equally impressive artistic heritage, in galleries, museum and houses across County Durham, Northumberland and the city of Newcastle.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£795**

A relaxing train journey takes us north from London, and we begin our tour at the gardens of Belsay Hall in Northumberland, uniquely set in the quarry used to provide stone for the house. Two more fine gardens follow, as we amble round the Alnwick Garden, an innovative contemporary project driven by the passion of the Duchess of Northumberland, and wander through the rock garden at Cragside as well as exploring the house itself, home to a fine collection of British art, furniture and ceramics. In Newcastle we visit a trio of fine galleries while in Durham we see the fascinating Oriental Museum and the well-stocked Botanic Garden. We conclude at the impressive Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle, where we can 'test our eyes' by feasting them on paintings, objets d'art and costume displays.



Cragside



Grand cascade, Alnwick

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from London King's Cross this morning and take the train to Newcastle. From here we continue by coach to **Belsay Hall**, a Grade I listed Manor House that dates back to the 13th century, with enchanting gardens set in the former quarry. We continue to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We travel into Northumberland and visit the **Alnwick Garden**, which the visionary Duchess of Northumberland turned from a forgotten corner to an inspirational contemporary garden. A more traditional garden is found at **Cragside**, which is also home to a notable and extensive collection of British art, furniture and ceramics, amassed by its millionaire owner Lord Armstrong. (B & D)

**Day 3** Today is spent in Newcastle and Gateshead where we visit three galleries: the **Laing Art Gallery**, home to an impressive collection of art and sculpture; the **Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art**, housed in a vast converted mill, and the **Shibley Gallery**, noted for its Dutch and Flemish paintings. We also take a close-up look at Antony Gormley's iconic sculpture '**Angel of the North**'. (B & D)

**Day 4** In our host city of Durham we visit the University's intriguing **Oriental Museum** and bosky **Botanic Garden** before concluding at the **Bowes Museum**, where an eclectic collection is set within a magnificent building. We then return by train from nearby Darlington to London. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Durham Marriott Hotel Royal County
- » Standard class rail travel from London to Newcastle, returning from Darlington (first class upgrades and regional connection available: £100pp discount for no rail)
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>5 May</b>     | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>9 June</b>    | from <b>£795pp</b> |
| <b>11 August</b> | from <b>£795pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£90**

SPECIAL INTEREST



NEW FOR 2022



# A GRAND TOUR OF THE GARDENS OF ENGLAND

19 DAYS FROM  
£3795



Sissinghurst

**I**nspired by an itinerary we arranged for one of our regular private groups from overseas, this circular tour of the southern half of England brings together the very best gardens of the region, with visits to one outstanding horticultural gem after another, covering the widest possible range of styles and content.

In East Anglia we visit favourites such as Beth Chatto's gardens and the wonderful East Ruston Old Vicarage before heading west to Gloucestershire. Highlights here include the quintessentially English Hidcote Manor, 15th century Hampton Court Castle and of course Prince Charles' beloved garden at Highgrove. We move southwards into Devon, where RHS Garden Rosemoor steals the show, and onwards to Cornwall, where the ground-breaking Eden Project is contrasted with traditional woodland gardens, plus a chance to visit the amazing Abbey Garden in the Scilly Isles. Travelling along the south coast we call in at historic Abbotsbury and the distinguished Sir Harold Hillier Garden and Nursery before meandering through Sussex with visits to Leonardslee and Nymans. We savour the classic English gardens of Sissinghurst, Great Dixter and Great Comp before enjoying an exclusive farewell dinner with our travelling companions in the unique surroundings of RHS Garden Wisley.





RHS Wisley Gardens



Hidcote Manor

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from London and begin our tour with a visit to **RHS Hyde Hall**, followed by **Beth Chatto's** celebrated garden near Colchester. (D)

**Day 2** We enjoy the colourful borders of **Raveningham Hall** and the exotic gardens of **East Ruston Old Vicarage**. (B & D)

**Day 3** We travel across country to Gloucester, visiting magnificent **Waddesdon Manor** en route. (B & D)

**Day 4** Two Cotswolds gems today, **Hidcote Manor** and **Kiftsgate Court**. (B & D)

**Day 5** We visit the heavenly Herefordshire gardens of **Hampton Court Castle** and **Stockton Bury**. (B & D)

**Day 6** The Prince of Wales' garden at **Highgrove** is today's highlight, followed by Lutyens-designed **Misarden Park**. (B & D)

**Day 7** We visit Sir Roy Strong's garden of memories **The Laskett** and the private garden of **The Old Rectory**. (B & D)

**Day 8** Travelling south into Devon we call in at the Jekyll and Lutyens masterpiece **Hestercombe** and the Gothic Revival gem **Knights Hayes Court**. (B & D)

**Day 9** We travel into rural Devon to see the wonderful **RHS Garden Rosemoor**, followed by **Castle Hill Gardens**. (B & D)

**Day 10** We move on to Cornwall, taking in visits to **Killerton**, **The Garden House** and **Wildside Nursery** on the way. (B & D)

**Day 11** The innovative **Eden Project** is contrasted with the fine 19th century woodland garden of **Tregrehan**. (B & D)

**Day 12** A free day for those who wish, though you will be tempted by our optional excursion to the unique sub-tropical **Abbey Garden** on the island of **Tresco**. (B & D)

**Day 13** **Caerhayes Castle** and its informal woodlands is followed by the highly regarded garden at **Trewithen**. (B & D)

**Day 14** Southampton is our destination, following a visit to the famous **Abbotsbury Gardens** and **Swannery**. (B & D)

**Day 15** We visit **Exbury**, home to some of the finest trees and shrubs in Europe, and the **Hillier Garden**, arguably the best arboretum and nursery in Britain. (B & D)

**Day 16** Heading for Kent we tour the distinguished gardens of **Leonardslee** and **Nymans**. (B & D)

**Day 17** Two classic gardens feature today, **Sissinghurst** and **Great Dixter**. (B & D)

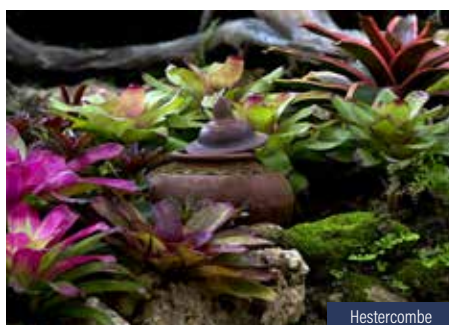
**Day 18** A visit to **Great Comp** is followed by an exclusive tour and farewell dinner at **RHS Garden Wisley**. (B & D)

**Day 19** The tour concludes today, with an optional excursion, in May, of a visit to the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show**. (B)

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



Exbury Gardens



Hestercombe

## Your Tour Includes

- » 18 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at 3- and 4-star hotels: two nights in Norfolk, five nights in Gloucestershire, two nights in Devon, four nights in Cornwall, two nights in Hampshire and three nights in Kent
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**3 May** from **£3795pp**  
**1 August** from **£3795pp**

Single Supplement **£795**  
 Tresco optional **price on request**  
 Chelsea optional **price on request**



NEW FOR 2022

# EXPO 2022 FLORIADÉ AMSTERDAM - ALMERE, NL



Green Living

## FLORIADÉ & KEUKENHOF

Held every ten years at a different venue in The Netherlands, Floriade is one of the premier events of the horticultural world. In 2022 the spotlight falls on Almere, a new city near Amsterdam, where a purpose-built site has been created to provide a 'living laboratory' with inspirational and innovative exhibitions by countries, cities and businesses. There will also be a host of impressive attractions, heaps of art and culture and a unique collection of trees, shrubs and flowers. The theme of this, the seventh iteration of the event, is 'Growing Green Cities'. With the world's urban population expanding to 70%, cities will have to find creative, green and sustainable solutions to remain safe, healthy and attractive and these proposed solutions will be central to the exhibits at the 2022 Expo.

On this tour, one of many variations that we will be offering throughout 2022, our day at Floriade is combined with a visit to Keukenhof, one of Europe's most spectacular gardens, planted with over seven million bulbs. We are based at the 4-star Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel, conveniently located in the centre of Almere, meaning negligible transfer times between the hotel and the site.

3 DAYS FROM  
£455



Keukenhof

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart by coach from London and Gatwick and take the ferry from Dover to Calais, continuing to our comfortable 4-star hotel, conveniently located in the centre of **Almere** and therefore within easy reach of the Floriade site.

**Day 2** Today, we have a full day at **Floriade 2022** in Almere, located on a purpose-built site a short distance from our hotel. With its focus on 'Green Cities of the Future', there are four main themes: Green, Food, Energy and Health. Exhibits will demonstrate how cities can be made more attractive and resilient by creating more parks and vertical gardens; the latest ideas for sufficient, healthy and affordable food; solutions and inventions in the field of sustainable energy;

and how good food, exercise, flowers, plants and trees can help with life in the city. In addition, there will of course be extensive displays of horticultural excellence and we can expect a riot of colour and inventive planting. (B)

**Day 3** We conclude with a visit to the famous gardens of **Keukenhof**, with their masses of tulips and daffodils. Seven million bulbs and 800 varieties of tulip create a kaleidoscope of colour. Later, we return to Calais for our ferry back to Dover and continue on to our original departure points. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Two nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel, Almere (dinner available at a supplement)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**29 April** from **£455pp**  
**3 May** from **£455pp**

Single Supplement **£100**





Oude Canal, Delft

# ARTS AND GARDENS OF HOLLAND

## FEATURING FLORIADE

Another option to attend Floriade 2022 is with our Arts and Gardens tour that also includes visits to some of the great artistic treasures of The Netherlands, such as the Kröller-Müller Museum with its unique combination of nature, art and architecture, the magnificent canal-side residence and garden at the Museum van Loon, the richly endowed Mauritshuis art gallery, the Royal Delft Factory and the Vermeer Centre, showcasing the work of one of the best known artists from the Dutch Golden Age.

5 DAYS FROM  
**£745**

We are based at the 4-star Hampshire Hotel, conveniently located in Delft, a typical Dutch town of tree lined canals, tiny white bridges, pointed gables and small courtyards, and home to the famous blue pottery.



Vermeer Centre, Delft

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart by coach from London and Gatwick via the Dover/Calais ferry to our comfortable 4-star hotel in **Delft**.

**Day 2** We visit the **Kröller-Müller Museum**, which offers a unique combination of nature, art and architecture. We continue to **Amsterdam** where we visit the **Museum Van Loon** a magnificent private residence from the 'Golden Age', whose gardens perfectly complement the house. (B)

**Day 3** We tour the **Royal Delft Factory**, home to the distinctive blue china, before continuing to **The Hague** and the **Mauritshuis**, which showcases the very best of Dutch painting including Rembrandt, Vermeer and Holbein. (B)

**Day 4** Today, we have a full day at **Floriade 2022** in Almere. (B)

**Day 5** We conclude with a visit to the **Vermeer Centre** in Delft, where Johannes Vermeer was born in 1632 and went on to become one of the pre-eminent artists of the Dutch 'Golden Age'. Later, we return to Calais for our ferry back to Dover and continue to our original departure points. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hampshire Hotel, Delft (dinner available at a supplement)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**15 July** from **£745pp**  
**19 August** from **£745pp**

Single Supplement **£200**



NEW FOR 2022



Keukenhof

# TREASURES OF HOLLAND

On this version we take the opportunity to combine our day at Floriade with visits to the gardens of De Wiersse and Het Loo Palace and the Van Loon Museum in Amsterdam. Alternatively, travel in April or May and visit Keukenhof, one of the most famous gardens in the world with its dazzling display of spring colours.

4 DAYS FROM  
**£595**

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart by coach and ferry, Eurostar or air from London (other airports on request) and transfer to our comfortable hotel.

**Day 2** This morning we drive to the country house and garden of **De Wiersse**, described by a leading Dutch newspaper as “the most beautiful garden in the Netherlands”. We then visit **Het Loo Palace**, recognised as one of Europe’s finest formal gardens. (B)

**Day 3** Today, we have a full day at **Floriade 2022** in Almere. (B)

**Day 4** April & May: This morning we visit one of the most famous gardens in the world - **Keukenhof**. This is the bulb grower’s magnificent display of all the different tulip, daffodil and hyacinth varieties.

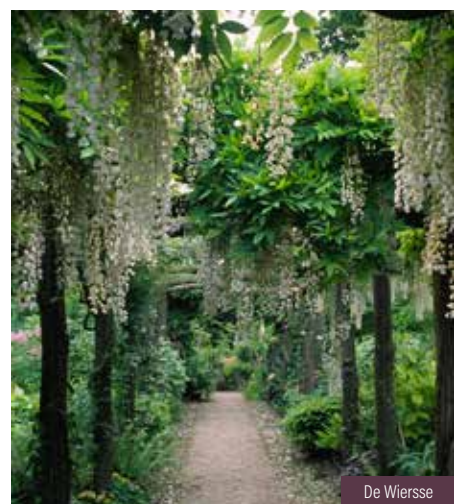
June onwards: We transfer to Amsterdam where we visit the **Museum Van Loon**, a magnificent canal-side private residence from the Dutch ‘Golden Age’, perfectly complemented by a formal garden.

Later, we return by coach and ferry, Eurostar or air to our original departure points. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights’ bed & breakfast at the 4-star Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel, Almere\* (dinner available at a supplement)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel
- » Ferry crossings or rail/air travel
- » Services of a professional tour manager



De Wiersse

## Departures & Prices

### Floriade and Amsterdam by ferry

**10 June** from **£635pp**  
**12 July** from **£595pp**  
**9 August** from **£595pp**

Single Supplement **£150**

### Floriade and Amsterdam by rail/air

**24 May** from **£795pp**  
**5 August** from **£795pp**  
**9 September** from **£795pp**

Single Supplement **£150**

### Floriade and Keukenhof by ferry

**29 April** from **£635pp**  
**5 May** from **£635pp**

Single Supplement **£150**

### Floriade & Keukenhof by rail/air\*

**29 April** from **£795pp**

Single Supplement **£120**

**\*based at the 4-star Fletcher Hotel Restaurant, Amersfoort**

### 6-day Floriade and Keukenhof by overnight ferry from Hull

**28 April** from **£895pp**  
**2 May** from **£895pp**

Single Supplement **£295**





GARDENS

Het Loo



# FLORIADÉ

## AND GARDENS OF HOLLAND

6 DAYS FROM

£995

This longer version of our Floriade tour includes visits to two of the best gardens in The Netherlands. Mien Ruys is a key figure in Dutch gardening and her extensive garden reflects her influence, with 25 different areas, each with a distinct character. The dazzling garden created by Ada Hofman is the largest complex of water gardens in Holland, with no fewer than 30 separate gardens and 50 ponds. The way the water reflects both the planting and the sky is breathtaking. We also visit the beautiful country house garden of De Wiersse, the sumptuous formal gardens of Het Loo and the fascinating outdoor museum complex at Zaanse Schans, complete with its iconic windmills.



Zaanse Schans

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart by coach from London and Gatwick via the Dover/Calais ferry to our comfortable accommodation at the 4-star Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel, Almere, conveniently located close to the Floriade site.

**Day 2** Today, we have a full day at **Floriade 2022** in Almere. (B)

**Day 3** We visit two of Holland's finest gardens today. The first is that of **Mien Ruys**, who dominates the story of 20th century gardening in the Netherlands. The garden contains some 25 different areas, each with a distinct character. Some are dedicated to habitats, the Water Garden and the Sun Border for example; some to specific types of plants like the Mixed Border and Herb Garden and some to special effects. We move on to Loozen Gramsbergen, where we visit the dazzling garden created by **Ada Hofman**. This is the largest, most complex series of water

gardens in Holland, with no fewer than 30 gardens, 50 ponds and 3,000 different types of plants, developed with great vigour and creativity since 1987. The ponds are of differing sizes and reflect both the surrounding plantings and the sky to great effect. (B)

**Day 4** This morning we drive to the country house and garden of **De Wiersse**, described by a leading Dutch newspaper as "the most beautiful garden in the Netherlands". In the afternoon, we visit **Het Loo Palace**, recognised as one of Europe's finest formal gardens. (B)

**Day 5** We travel into Amsterdam today and visit the **Rijksmuseum**. The remainder of the day is free to spend at leisure. (B)

**Day 6** We visit the outdoor museum complex at **Zaanse Schans** before returning to London via Calais/Dover. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Best Western Plus Plaza Hotel, Almere (dinner available at a supplement)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel and ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**24 May** from **£995pp**  
**24 June** from **£995pp**

Single Supplement from **£295**





## FLORIADE AND A DUTCH BULBFIELDS CRUISE

Enjoy a riot of colour among the beautiful bulbfields of Holland. For vibrancy, colour and serious charm, nothing quite compares to the sight of millions of flowering bulbs carpeting the fields in a radiant patchwork of colour.

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1295**

In 2022 we will also include a visit to Floriade - held every ten years at a different venue in The Netherlands, Floriade is one of the premier events of the horticultural world. Hosted by the garden city of Almere, near Amsterdam, this iteration of the event takes the theme of 'Growing Green Cities' and as always promises to deliver an impressive selection of imaginative displays and colourful attractions. Further highlights will be Keukenhof, one of the biggest and best flower gardens in the world, with seven million bulbs and 800 varieties of tulip creating a kaleidoscope of colour. Rubens House, Antwerp botanic garden and the Museum Van Loon, set in a grand canal-side residence in Amsterdam, complete our tour.

On board the MS Beethoven, we will enjoy attentive service, good food and a convivial atmosphere.



### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from London by Eurostar to Brussels then on to Antwerp. On arrival we tour the historic centre with visits to the **Rubens House** and the 200-year-old **Botanic Garden**. We later board our ship, the **MS Beethoven**. Prior to dinner there will be a welcome cocktail reception with the crew. (D)

**Day 2** We have a leisurely day on board our ship, as we cruise from **Antwerp** to **Rotterdam**, crossing the Westerschelde and Oosterschelde, two sheltered inlets off the North Sea. (B, L & D)

**Day 3** This morning we have a leisurely cruise to **Utrecht**. After lunch on board, we visit **Keukenhof**, one of the most famous

gardens in the world. Over seven million bulbs are planted annually, including tulips and daffodils. We later re-join our ship in Amsterdam. Following dinner the evening is free to explore or alternatively join our **optional canal cruise** to view this spectacular city at night. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** After breakfast on board we have a full day at **Floriade 2022** in Almere. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** We begin with a visit to the **Museum Van Loon**, a magnificent canal-side private residence, complemented by fine formal gardens. Later, we take the train from Amsterdam to Brussels and continue via Eurostar to London. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' full board (including three lunches and wine or beer) on board the MS Beethoven in a main deck cabin (upgrades available at a supplement)
- » Standard class rail travel from London to Antwerp and Amsterdam to London (first class upgrades at a supplement)
- » All visits as outlined in itinerary
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**29 April** from **£1295pp**  
Single Supplement **£300**

**This tour is also available at the same price including air travel between London and Amsterdam. Flights are also available from regional airports at a supplement.**





# ARTS AND GARDENS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA

With its seas of cobalt and turquoise, its skies of azure and cerulean blue - and its gardens of every colour under the sun - it is little wonder that the French Riviera has been the inspiration for countless works of art and a magnet for artists. This dazzling tour combines a spell-binding collection of art and architecture with a few of our favourite Riviera gardens.

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1395**



Menton

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly from London to Nice and then visit the **Musée des Beaux-Arts**, which houses works by Monet and Sisley.

**Day 2** In Nice, we visit museums dedicated to the work of **Matisse** and **Chagall**, both set in serene gardens and we also visit the **Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild's** gardens. (B)

**Day 3** We transfer to Menton and visit **Villa E-1027**, a remarkable modernist villa designed by an Irish architect. Next, we visit the garden of **Serre de la Madone** and the private garden of **Clos du Peyronnet** - a real highlight of the tour. (B)

**Day 4** Explore the village of **St Paul de Venice, Grasse** with its Rubens-filled cathedral and **La Mouissone** gardens. (B)

**Day 5** In **Vallauris**, we pay a visit to the **Picasso Museum** and then we tour Nice's **Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art**. (B)

**Day 6** Our final visit is to the **Masséna Museum**, home to Napoleon's death mask. From here, we return to the airport in time for our flight back to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Le Grimaldi in Nice
- » Return scheduled flights from London to Nice
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager (Trevor Edwards in April & September)

## Departures & Prices

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>22 March</b>    | from <b>£1395pp</b> |
| <b>19 April</b>    | from <b>£1395pp</b> |
| <b>6 September</b> | from <b>£1495pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£475**

GARDENS



# SPRING FLOWERS OF CRETE

Everywhere you look on the high mountain plains and along the country roads that wind among them are bright splashes of colour, countless floral treasures just waiting to be discovered. One of the largest islands in the Mediterranean, Crete is a place of great, unspoilt natural beauty, offering the plant lover an absolute treat in terms of the variety of flora to be found, thanks to the island's climate, position, altitude and terrain. Many of the 1,500 flowering plants are endemic.

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1495**



Samaria Gorge

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We fly from London to Chania and transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Tour the **Akrotiri peninsula** with its profusion of flora, followed by time to explore the historic town of Chania. (B)

**Day 3** Explore the **Samaria Gorge** with its stunning views and magnificent wild flowers, including orchids, anemones and tulips. (B)

**Day 4** Transfer to **Rethymnon**, one of Crete's most attractive and unspoilt cities, and visit the **Venetian fort**. (B)

**Day 5** Botanise along the **Geropotamos River**, looking for ranunculus, gladioli and orchids. (B)

**Day 6** A visit to Crete would not be complete without a tour of the magnificent **Palace of Knossos**, one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in Europe. (B)

**Day 7** Travel to the slopes of **Mount Ida** and discover plants in the surrounding area. (B & D)

**Day 8** Transfer to Heraklion for our homeward flight. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast and two dinners: three nights in Chania and four nights in Rethymnon
- » Flights from London to Chania and return from Heraklion; coach travel and all visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of Julia Corden as tour manager



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

## Departures & Prices

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| <b>5 April</b> | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
|----------------|---------------------|

Single Supplement **£250**



# GARDENS AND ARCHITECTURE OF ANDALUCIA

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1495**

Andalucia is unrivalled in Europe for its wealth of history, culture, Moorish architecture and gardens – all set against the backdrop of the snow-capped mountains of the Sierra Nevada. We visit the gardens which complement the adjoining palaces and discover the wild mountain landscapes. A highlight for many will be the wonderful Generalife Gardens in Granada, where patios and terraces are filled with colour and captivating views of the city are framed by archways.



Generalife Gardens

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Arrive in Málaga and transfer to our hotel for our evening meal. (D)

**Day 2** Visit the **Alhambra Palace** and **Generalife Gardens**, Granada's outstanding attraction with a spectacular setting above the city. Later we take a wander through the medieval streets of the Albaicín, catching glimpses of patio gardens. (B)

**Day 3** Head to the **Alpujarra** and **Sierra Nevada** region, paying visits to small villages and enjoying beautiful scenery along the way. (B)

**Day 4** In **Córdoba**, we pay a visit to the **Great Mosque**. (B & D)

**Day 5** Enjoy a guided tour of **Seville** including the cathedral, the Royal Palaces of the Alcázar and the Gardens of Murillo. (B)

**Day 6** Free day in **Seville**. (B)

**Day 7** We visit **Ronda** to see its **Alameda del Tajo Gardens** and the **Palacio de Mondragon**. We return to our hotel later. (B & D)

**Day 8** After breakfast, we head home from Málaga airport. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights in Granada; three nights in Seville; one night in Ronda
- » Three dinners
- » Return flights from London to Málaga
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

## Departures & Prices

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>28 March</b>     | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| <b>9 May</b>        | from <b>£1595pp</b> |
| <b>12 September</b> | from <b>£1595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£325**

# GARDENS OF MALLORCA

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1395**

Away from the busy beach resorts, the Balearic island of Mallorca offers a timeless, verdant landscape of wooded hills, orange groves, sweeping bays and rocky mountains. Dotted around the island is a host of historic gardens whose origins date back hundreds of years, as well as more modern creations, providing a rich range of horticultural delights.



Garden at Son Marroig

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly to Palma from London. (D)

**Day 2** Visit the gardens of **Raixà**, once part of a Moorish estate, and then take a tour of the garden of **Son Marroig**. In the afternoon we take a ride on the vintage narrow gauge **train** that runs along a highly scenic route from Soller to Palma. (B, L & D)

**Day 3** We visit the **Jardines de Alfabia**, which date back to the 14th and 15th centuries. After lunch, we visit the monastery of **Real Cartuja de Valldemosa** with its green bell tower. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Tour of **Palma**, visiting sites that include the Gothic **cathedral** and former

royal residence **Palacio de la Almudaina**. We also see the **Hort del Rei**, the 10th century **Arab Baths** and **Castell de Belver**, a fortified Gothic castle that is now the city's museum. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** We explore the **Albufera Nature Reserve** today and after enjoying lunch in Alcúdia we visit the **Museo Sa Bassa Blanca**, which showcases a collection of modern art exhibitions, set in gardens that include a medieval walled garden with more than 100 varieties of old English roses. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** After breakfast, we transfer to Palma for our return flight back to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel THB Maria Isabel, Playa de Palma
- » Four lunches
- » Return flights from London to Palma
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>22 March</b> | from <b>£1395pp</b> |
| <b>26 April</b> | from <b>£1395pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£325**





Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild



## GARDENS OF THE FRENCH RIVIERA

### Menton Lemon Festival & International Rose Festival

Menton's zesty Lemon Festival brings a vibrant burst of colour to our tour of the French Riviera. Exotic gardens, cacti collections and azure seas complete our sparkling itinerary.

6 DAYS FROM  
**£1395**

At the Clos du Peyronnet we have an exclusive tour, where a passion for exotic plants is reflected in the colour and variety of this fascinating garden. At St. Jean Cap Ferrat, we visit the exquisite gardens of the Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, while a short hop over the border to Italy finds us at the incomparable Hanbury Gardens – arguably the greatest of all the Riviera gardens.

*In May 2022 the International Rose Festival in Grasse will take the place of the Lemon Festival. All the other garden visits are included though, but in a different order – please ask for a full itinerary or see our website for full details.*



### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly from London to Nice, where we visit the garden of **Serre de la Madone**. Continue from here to the hotel. (L & D)

**Day 2** Visit the **Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild** and then **Jardin Exotique d'Eze**, on the site of a medieval fortress. (B & L)

**Day 3** We begin at the private garden of **Clos du Peyronnet** for a guided tour. Next, we go from France to Italy and tour the stunning gardens of **La Mortola**. La Mortola is perhaps the greatest of the Riviera Gardens, in the richness of its collections, the power of its presence and not least in the impact it has had all over the French Riviera. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Our day is spent at the **Lemon Festival in Menton** and our ticket includes a grandstand seat for the parade. (B)

**Day 5** We drive to **Cap d'Antibes** for a visit to **Villa Thuret** and then it's on to **La Mouissone** as well as the village of **St Paul de Venice**, which serves as a creative haven even today. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** We finish on a high at the **Exotic Gardens of Monte Carlo**. Thereafter, we transfer to the airport and head home. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Le Grimaldi in Nice
- » Three dinners and four lunches
- » Return flights from London to Nice
- » All visits as outlined and coach travel
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

Menton Lemon Festival  
**17 February** from **£1395pp**  
**24 February** from **£1395pp**

Single Supplement **£295**

International Rose Festival  
**5 May** from **£1595pp**  
 Single Supplement **£450**





Amiens



# PICARDY

## GARDENS CRUISE

The River Somme, which meanders gently through the countryside of Picardy in north-east France, takes its name from a Celtic word meaning 'tranquillity', and we will discover just why this is so apt as we cruise silently along the waterways of the Somme on board our eco friendly, electrically powered barge. The only noises to be heard will be the gently lapping water, and the sound of fellow guests sipping wine and eating delicious lunches comprised of local produce.

On most canal stretches there are towpaths on which guests are welcome to walk from one lock to the next. As cruising is slow, you can keep up with the boat or even get ahead of it and take pictures, and admire the scenery and wildlife.

We enjoy three half-day cruises during the course of our tour, with the rest of the time spent exploring our host city of Amiens and visiting some of the outstanding gardens of the region. These include the Moulin Ventin, with its host of water features, the unique floating gardens of Les Hortillonages, and Maizicourt, which was recently voted the best garden in Picardy by French TV viewers.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart by coach and take a morning ferry from Dover to Calais. We continue to our hotel in Amiens. (D)

**Day 2** Depart for Picquigny where we board our barge and **cruise** silently along the tranquil waterway that runs alongside the River Somme. In the afternoon we visit the **Château de Long** and its rose gardens. (B, L & D)

**Day 3** Visit the garden of **Moulin Ventin**, which has numerous water features, and the picturesque and colourful gardens of the painter **André van Beek**, who discovered his second passion in gardening. (B & D)

**Day 4** We transfer to Abbeville and **cruise** upstream to Long. In the afternoon visit the **Jardins de Maizicourt**. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** We tour the remarkable floating gardens of **Les Hortillonages** in Amiens, with the afternoon free to explore the city, which is home to the tallest cathedral in France. (B & D)

**Day 6** Transfer to Picquigny then **cruise** upstream to Amiens. The afternoon is free or join our optional excursion to the fascinating underground city of **Naours**. (B, L & D)

**Day 7** Return to London, via the Calais to Dover ferry. (B)

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

7 DAYS FROM  
**£1675**



Somme waterway



Amiens

### Your Tour Includes

- » Six nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Ibis Styles Hotel, Amiens (or similar)
- » Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- » Comfortable coaching throughout
- » Three half-day cruises on the Somme waterway with lunch and wine included
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**8 May** from **£1675pp**  
**5 June** from **£1675pp**

Single Supplement **£360**

Optional excursion - Naours **£20pp**





# THE GENIUS OF MONET

4 DAYS FROM  
**£895**



Monet's Garden

GARDENS

Just as the gardens at Giverny inspired Monet, who spent half his life nurturing and enjoying them, they continue to enthrall countless visitors more than 90 years after this legendary artist's death. A visit here is a surreal experience — art brought to life right before your eyes, beckoning you in to take a closer look. We also visit the Orangerie Museum in Paris, home to Monet's epic series of murals, *Les Nymphéas*. Art and garden lovers rejoice!

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from London by Eurostar and upon arrival in Paris we are met by our comfortable coach. We travel to the charming town of **Chantilly**, in the heart of the Chantilly Forest, where our hotel is set in its own wooded grounds. Later, join our party for a welcome glass of kir before sitting down to dinner. (D)

**Day 2** This morning, we transfer to nearby **Senlis**, a market town typical of Picardy, where we can explore the shops or enjoy some pâtisserie. We continue to the **Château de Chantilly**, one of the jewels in the crown of France's cultural heritage, a magnificent edifice surrounded by water. Our visit includes the sumptuously

decorated Grands Appartements, along with time to stroll around the extensive formal gardens, designed in part by André le Nôtre. (B & D)

**Day 3** The famous house and gardens of **Claude Monet** await today, along with free time in **Giverny** where you can visit the church where Monet is buried. (B & D)

**Day 4** We travel to Paris today and visit the **Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries**. The highlights of its collection are Monet's two-metre high murals, entitled **Les Nymphéas**. Thereafter, there is time to sightsee at leisure before we catch our Eurostar train back to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the Château de Montvillargenne, Chantilly
- » Return standard class rail travel between London and Paris with Eurostar (first class upgrades available at a supplement)
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>6 May</b>   | from <b>£975pp</b> |
| <b>22 May</b>  | from <b>£975pp</b> |
| <b>22 July</b> | from <b>£895pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£240**

# GARDENS AND VILLAS OF SICILY

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1895**



Greek Theatre, Taormina

Sicily has become one of Europe's best-loved destinations in recent years and it is truly an island of the senses. As soon as you step onto its warm and fertile shores you'll understand why. Experience its many highlights with us, and be sure to do this unique location justice as our eight-day tour takes in the best this island has to offer.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly to Catania, where we transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Visit **Villa Trinità** on the slopes of **Etna** and then ascend this mighty volcano, admiring the views as we go. (B, L & D)

**Day 3** In **Taormina**, tour the private garden of **Casa Cuseni**. (B & D)

**Day 4** Visit the **Gardens of Princess Maria Carla Borghese** and take a tour with the head gardener at **San Giuliano**. (B & D)

**Day 5** Tour **Gli Aromi Sicily**, where a collection of herbs and spices await our

discovery. Free time in **Ragusa** follows. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** After lunch at a former **Benedictine monastery**, we transfer to the village of Monreale and visit the **Cathedral and Abbey**, with its 70,000 square feet of mosaics, amazing gold leaf and glass interiors. (B, L & D)

**Day 7** Explore the **Botanical Gardens** in Palermo, the garden of **Villa Giulia** and the impressive **Norman Palace**. (B & D)

**Day 8** Transfer to Palermo for our return flight to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: three nights in Giardini Naxos; two nights in Ragusa; two nights in Palermo
- » Three lunches
- » Return flights London to Sicily
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager (Trevor Edwards in March) & local guide

## Departures & Prices

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| <b>22 March</b> | from <b>£1895pp</b> |
| <b>26 April</b> | from <b>£1945pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£295**



# VILLAS AND GARDENS OF THE ITALIAN LAKES

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1995**

The fabulous scenery and warming climate of the northern Italian lakes have attracted eager aristocrats and the wealthy for years. The beguiling beauty of this unique corner of Europe shows no signs of waning with its scarlet camellias, pink oleanders and cerulean waters. Elegant villas and lush gardens complement the natural landscape of the Northern Italian Lakes. Highlights include an exclusive visit to the private garden of the President of the Italian Camellia Society.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Upon arrival in Milan, we transfer to our hotel and enjoy lunch. (L & D)

**Day 2** Visit the gardens of **Villa Taranto**, flourishing with rare botanical examples, and the wholesale nursery, **Compagnia Del Lago**. (B & D)

**Day 3** Discover the famous Borromean Islands as we visit the gardens of **Isola Bella**, explore **Isola Pescatori** and visit **Isola Madre**, where citrus fruits flourish. (B & D)

**Day 4** Tour the private garden of the **President of the Italian Camellia Society**. Later, we visit **Villa Pallavicino**. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** Explore the perfect example of a formal Italian garden at **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni** where we are privileged to enjoy a personal guided tour with the owner. Later we transfer to our hotel in Como. (B & D)

**Day 6** Today is free to explore at your own pace. Take a boat trip on the lake or visit the nearby **Villa Melzi d'Eril**. (B & D)

**Day 7** Spend the day on **Lake Como** as we visit the dazzling **Villa Carlotta** in Tremezzo and enjoy the Arcadian delights of the **Villa Balbianello**. (B & D)

**Day 8** We return to Milan and fly home today. (B)

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



Villa Taranto

## Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: four nights at the 4-star Grand Majestic Hotel on Lake Maggiore and three nights at the 4-star Hotel Barchetta Excelsior on Lake Como
- » Two lunches
- » Return flights from London to Milan
- » Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of Kate Williamson as guide

## Departures & Prices

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>4 May</b>       | from <b>£1995pp</b> |
| <b>22 June</b>     | from <b>£1995pp</b> |
| <b>7 September</b> | from <b>£1995pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£495**



# ROME, NINFA AND CASTEL GANDOLFO

4 DAYS FROM  
**£1295**

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the ancient and beautiful gardens of Ninfa. Equally rare is the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the popes as we visit the gardens of Castel Gandolfo, and we also enjoy the spectacular water features of the Villa Lante and the Villa d'Este.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart from London and fly to **Rome**, where we have a city tour upon arrival. See the **Colosseum**, **St. Peter's Square** and **Basilica** and the **Spanish Steps**. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast we depart for **Viterbo**, where we have a guided tour of this historic town. Nearby, we find the gardens of **Villa Lante**, described as "one of Italy's greatest Renaissance gardens." This study in geometry and symmetry dates back to 1568 when it was designed for Cardinal Gianfrancesco Gambara by the architect Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola. The dominant theme is water, and in front of the palazzine is a central water parterre which is a classic example of late-Renaissance style. (B)

**Day 3** The gardens of **Castel Gandolfo** await discovery this morning, the traditional papal residence outside of Rome. In the afternoon, we visit **Ninfa** – named after a mythical nymph and with a curious history. The garden is now deemed by many to be the most beautiful garden in Europe, though for hundreds of years the site lay deserted due to malaria. After the mosquito hazard was removed in 1922, the Duchess of Sermoneta and her son Prince Caetani began to lay out a romantic garden among the village ruins. (B)

**Day 4** This morning we visit **Villa d'Este** in Tivoli, the 16th century gardens known for their use of water. Later, we transfer to the airport for our flight back to London. (B)

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



Ninfa

## Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' bed & breakfast at a 4-star hotel in Rome
- » Dinner and welcome drink on the first evening
- » Return scheduled flights between London and Rome
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| <b>17 May</b>      | from <b>£1295pp</b> |
| <b>14 June</b>     | from <b>£1295pp</b> |
| <b>6 September</b> | from <b>£1295pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£400**





MS Loire Princesse ©CroisiEurope



## CASTLES AND GARDENS OF THE LOIRE

The châteaux and gardens of the Loire Valley in France are justly famous for their fairy-tale architecture and formal splendour. We are delighted to offer the unique opportunity to tour these iconic sites while enjoying all the pleasures of river cruising. On board the MS Loire Princesse, especially designed for the wide but shallow River Loire and propelled by paddle wheels, we can expect refined French cuisine, with drinks included, along with a personal welcome from Captain and attentive service from the crew. On shore, choose from a range of excursions that will take you to some of the outstanding sites of the Loire such as the historic city of Nantes, the impressive St Nazaire Shipyard and a tasty tour of the Muscadet region. Included in the price is a full day excursion to the châteaux of Ussé, the inspiration behind 'Sleeping Beauty'; Villandry, with its superb formal gardens and Angers, where a tiny garden and vineyard are concealed within the massive walls. Choose between June for long sunny days or September, when the grapes in the vineyards of the Loire are just beginning to ripen.

6 DAYS FROM  
£1995



Clisson



Azay-le-Rideau

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart by train from London St Pancras for Nantes via Paris and transfer to our ship on arrival. Optional boat cruise of the **River Erdre**. (D)

**Day 2** Cruise from Nantes to St Nazaire. In the morning there is an optional guided tour of **Nantes** and in the afternoon we have the option of a guided tour of the vast **St Nazaire Shipyard**. (B, L & D)

**Day 3** We cruise upstream from St Nazaire today and in the afternoon we have the option of joining an excursion along the **Muscadet Wine Route to Clisson**, a charming medieval town. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Our cruise continues along the Loire to Bouchemaine. Choose from optional excursions to the impressive **Château d'Angers** and its Apocalypse tapestry or a **wine-tasting** at Brissac. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** We cruise to Ancenis. Included is a full-day excursion to three of the most famous Loire Châteaux: the small but perfectly formed **Azay-le-Rideau**; **Villandry**, with its legendary formal gardens and **Ussé**, inspiration behind the fairy tale 'Sleeping Beauty'. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** Disembark in Nantes and return by train to London via Paris. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' full board in a main deck cabin on the MV Loire Princesse (Cabin upgrade available at £275pp)
- » Return standard class rail travel from London to Nantes via Paris with coach transfers between stations included
- » Full programme of both included and optional excursions
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**11 June** from **£1995pp**  
**9 September** from **£1995pp**

Single Supplement **£600**



# GARDENS AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF TURKEY

8 DAYS FROM  
£2095

This tour is timed to coincide with the Tulip Festival that takes place in the parks and gardens of the vibrant city of Istanbul. After enjoying this spectacle we tour the Anatolian countryside on our way to the coast, visiting an excellent arboretum, a National Park, which is home to scores of rare plants, and the slopes of Spil Mountain, the origin of the original Manisa tulips. We will also explore some of the peerless archaeological sites found here, such as Assos and Ephesus.



Karaca Arboretum

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart from London on a direct flight to Istanbul and transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** A full day in **Istanbul**, on either side of the Bosphorus, visiting some of the parks and gardens that host the **Tulip Festival**. (B)

**Day 3** Depart for **Assos**, visiting the excellent **Karaca Arboretum** on the way, home to some 7,000 woody plants. (B & D)

**Day 4** We spend the morning exploring the **Kazdagi National Park**, where there are some 900 plant species, some unique to Turkey, before touring the site of **ancient Assos** with its impressive theatre. (B & D)

**Day 5** We break our journey to **Izmir** with some time spent botanising on the slopes of **Spil Mountain**. It was from here that the original Manisa tulips were exported to Europe, sparking the 'Tulip Mania' of the early 17th century. (B & D)

**Day 6** We travel to **Urla** and visit a secluded plantation with a host of unusual plants followed by a tasting of the **local wine**. (B)

**Day 7** Today we visit the hugely impressive archaeological site of **Ephesus** and later we explore the tranquil Greek hillside village of **Şirince**. (B)

**Day 8** Fly from Izmir to London. (B)  
**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

## Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed and breakfast and four dinners: two nights Istanbul, two nights Assos and three nights Izmir
- » Flight from London to Istanbul and Izmir to London
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager plus a local guide

## Departures & Prices

**19 April** from **£2095pp**  
Single Supplement **£495**



# GARDENS OF MARRAKECH

5 DAYS FROM  
£1395

The timeless city of Marrakech, which gave its name to Morocco, has an enduring appeal, with its low rise pink and red buildings set against the magnificent backdrop of the snow-capped Atlas mountains. Its beating heart is the square of Jemaa El Fna, where musicians, story-tellers and snake-charmers act out compelling scenes which have changed little over the centuries. We visit the Agdal and Menara gardens and the fabulous, brightly-coloured gardens of La Majorelle.



La Majorelle Garden

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from London on a direct flight to Marrakech and on arrival transfer to our hotel, located close to the Medina in the heart of the city. (D)

**Day 2** We begin with visits to the palaces of **El Bahia** and **El Badi**, followed by the famous garden of **La Majorelle**, which was made in the 1920s by the French painter Jacques Majorelle and gave its name to a rich shade of blue. After years of neglect, it was taken over by the fashion designer Yves St Laurent and today presents an extraordinary and at times surreal combination of colour, form and light. We also visit the gardens of perfumier **Ben Chaabane**. (B & D)

**Day 3** We visit the tranquil **Menara Gardens**, whose origins lie in the 12th century; the sumptuous palace of **Dar el Basha**; **Le Jardin Secret**, designed by Chelsea Gold Medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith; and the **Artisan Quarter**. We round off today in the teeming square of **Jemaa El Fna**. (B & D)

**Day 4** We head into the Atlas Mountains today and the lush green **Ourika Valley**, where we visit a **saffron plantation**, the aromatic garden **Nectarome**, where we enjoy a succulent lunch, and the contemporary gardens of **Anima**. (B & L)

**Day 5** Today we fly back to London. (B)  
**Inc. meals:** B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

## Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' bed and breakfast, plus three dinners and one lunch, at the 5-star El Saadi Hotel, Marrakech
- » Return flights from London to Marrakech
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**19 April** from **£1395pp**  
**4 October** from **£1395pp**  
Single Supplement **£400**





ICELAND

# NORTHERN LIGHTS

Gazing at the northern lights is a bucket-list item for many of us, but aurora borealis aside, Iceland offers a host of attractions quite unlike anywhere else in the world. From geothermal dips to moonlit trips, this tour offers a host of once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

5 DAYS FROM  
**£1995**



The Northern Lights

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Upon arrival in Keflavik, we visit the **Raufarhólshellir Lava Tunnel**, a unique experience exploring the inner workings of a volcanic eruption; **Urriðafoss waterfall** and **Eyrarbakki Village**. (D)

**Day 2** Our full-day tour of south Iceland includes **Skogar Folk Museum**, **Skogafoss waterfall** and a walk behind the great **Seljalandsfoss waterfall**. (B & D)

**Day 3** **Þingvellir National Park** and the remote **Skalholt** church await, and then it's on to see the mighty waterfall **Gullfoss** and the **Geysir Geothermal Area** where the geyser **Strokkur** erupts at regular intervals. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Discover Reykjavík, visiting its iconic **Hallgrímskirkja** church, the panoramic viewing platform **Perlan** and the **Aurora Reykjavík** centre. Later, we bathe in the geothermal **Laugarvatn Fontana** springs and after dinner in a local restaurant we go in search of the **northern lights**. (B & D)

**Day 5** We head for the **Reykjanes Peninsula** today, which lies on one of the world's major tectonic plate boundaries, the **Mid Atlantic Ridge**. Next, we make our way past **Reykjanes Lighthouse** towards **Gunnhver Hot Springs** and on to the fishing town of **Grindavík**. Before we return to the airport and make our way home, we stop at **Kleifarvatn Lake**. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Stracta Hotel, Hella and two nights at the Grand Hotel Reykjavík
- » One lunch
- » Return flights London to Reykjavík
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- » Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

## Departures & Prices

**13 November** from **£1995pp**  
Single Supplement **£300**

SPECIAL INTEREST



THE

# FAROE ISLANDS

Just an hour's flight away from Edinburgh, the Faroes tower out of the Atlantic half-way between Shetland and Iceland. In these romantic and dramatic islands, home to just 50,000 people, the weather is as unpredictable and changeable as the scenery. The landscape is green but rugged with steeply sloping hills, long sea-lochs and some of the highest cliffs in all of Europe.

5 DAYS FROM  
**£2295**



Waterfall by the village of Gásadalur

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart from Edinburgh and upon arrival in **Vágar**, we enjoy a short sightseeing tour that includes the famous waterfall **Múlafossur** as well as the villages of **Bøur** and **Gásadalur**. (D)

**Day 2** Enjoy a guided walking tour of **Tórshavn**, a unique town from the Middle Ages. After lunch, we visit the **National Museum** before driving to **Kirkjubøur** to see **St Magnus Cathedral** and **St Olavs Church**. Next, we enjoy tea and cake at the 900-year-old **Roykstovan**, the oldest inhabited wooden house in Europe. (B, L & D)

**Day 3** Today is free to explore **Tórshavn**. Alternatively, choose from two optional

excursions - a full-day tour to the **Northern Islands** or a half-day tour to **Nólsoy**. This evening we have dinner in **Velbastað** with local farmers for a true Faroese experience. (B & D)

**Day 4** Today we enjoy a boat trip to the **Vestmanna Cliffs**. We continue to the northern part of **Eysturoy**, travelling through the village of **Gjógv** and **Gøta** to see the new church. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** We check out of our hotel and visit the museum in **Kálvalið** and the church in **Sandavágur**. From here, we transfer to the airport for our flight home. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Føroyar, Tórshavn
- » Four dinners and two lunches
- » Return flights from Edinburgh to Vágar
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

## Departures & Prices

**7 July** from **£2295pp**  
**8 September** from **£2295pp**  
Single Supplement **£400**  
Optional excursions; **Nólsoy £130pp**  
Northern Islands **£175pp**

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



# ALPINE FLOWERS OF WENGEN

8 DAYS FROM  
**£2495**



Wengen

Lying in the Bernese Oberland region in the heart of Switzerland, Wengen, at a height of some 1,274 metres, is ringed by some of Europe's highest and best known mountains including the Eiger and Jungfrau. With breathtaking scenery, rich green alpine meadows and spruce forests below, it is a superb destination for spotting a wide range of native flora. Each day we will walk a different route of up to five miles, often taking a mountain railway or cable car to the starting point.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We fly from London to Zürich and continue by train to the car-free resort of Wengen. (D)

**Day 2** We take the train to **Kleine Scheidegg** and walk to **Wengernalp**, which offers spectacular views. (B & D)

**Day 3** We take the cable car from Wengen to Männlichen and walk to **Kleine Scheidegg**, approaching from the opposite direction to yesterday. (B & D)

**Day 4** An exciting cable car ride takes us to the **Schilthorn** with a moderate walk back down. (B & D)

**Day 5** Walk from Wengernalp to Slipper Valley, looking for the spectacular **Lady Slipper orchid**. (B & D)

**Day 6** Travel by cable car to the glacier village of **Grindelwald** and enjoy a gentle walk in this most scenic part of the **Bernese Oberland**. (B & D)

**Day 7** Take the rack railway to Schynige Platte and visit the **Alpine Botanic Garden**, set among a picture-postcard panorama. (B & D)

**Day 8** Return by train to Zürich for our flight home to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Hotel Bellevue, Wengen
- » Return flights from London to Zürich
- » Return rail transfers between Zürich and Wengen and a 6-day Berner Oberland Rail Pass
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Services of a professional tour manager



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

## Departures & Prices

**30 June** from **£2495pp**  
No single supplement

NEW FOR 2022



# A CULTURAL TOUR OF MALTA

5 DAYS FROM  
**£895**



Grand Harbour, Valletta

Nowhere on earth concentrates as much turbulent past into such a small land mass as Malta, so if you want to learn as much as possible about the complex history and rich cultural heritage of the Mediterranean region in just five days, at a time of year when the weather offers a pleasant winter escape, this is the tour for you! The island has been inhabited since 5,900BC and ruled by a succession of powers, so it is little wonder it presents such a captivating tapestry.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart on our direct flight to Malta and transfer to our comfortable hotel in St Paul's Bay, overlooking the sea. (D)

**Day 2** We spend a full day in **Valletta**, Malta's bustling capital city with its unique combination of architectural styles. We will enjoy views from the **Barrakka Gardens** over the Grand Harbour, admire the art works in **St John's Co-Cathedral**, one of the most spectacular in Europe, and visit the **Casa Rocca Piccola**, which gives an insight to the customs and traditions of the Maltese nobility over the last 400 years. We conclude at the **Malta Experience**, where a state-of-the-art presentation brings 7,000 years of history to life. (B & D)

**Day 3** Today is free to explore the island at your leisure, or join one of two optional excursions, a full day on the peaceful neighbouring island of **Gozo** or a half day touring the southern half of Malta, with visits to **Vittoriosa** and the picturesque village of **Marsaxlokk**. (B & D)

**Day 4** A full day tour takes us to the **Palazzo Parisio**, where we enjoy a splendid afternoon tea in the most opulent surroundings; **Mdina**, Malta's former capital city; **Hagar Qim**, Malta's main prehistoric site and the **Blue Grotto**, where we enjoy a boat trip on the azure waters. (B, AT & D)

**Day 5** We fly back to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star Dolmen Hotel
- » Return flights from London to Malta
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**4 February** from **£895pp**  
**10 March** from **£965pp**  
**12 May** from **£995pp**

Single Supplement **£100**  
Optional excursions;  
Southern Malta **£55pp**; Gozo **£85pp**





# THE AZORES

## ITS GARDENS AND NATURAL WONDERS

The nine islands of the Azores archipelago are a thousand nautical miles from anywhere. They stand in the Atlantic Ocean at the very spot where the tectonic plates for Europe, Africa and North America meet. The islands, built from ancient volcanic eruptions, have lush green scenery, enchanting lakes, picturesque villages and overall a peaceful yet mysterious aura. While these are without question some of the most beautiful islands in the world, they remain an emerging destination.

There are some 800-plus species of plants to be found on the islands, although only 300 of them are endemic. Newcomers include flowering hydrangeas, especially abundant at this time of year, along with roses, agapanthus and cannas. These we will find on our visits to notable gardens, established in the 19th century, while in the countryside we will see hibiscus, tree ferns and rare endemic plants, along with bubbling thermal pools (used as natural cookers), dazzling blue and green lakes and mountain tops clothed in mist. We also offer the opportunity to take part in one of the Azores specialist pursuits – whale watching.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart on a direct flight from London to Ponta Delgada on the island of São Miguel and transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** We begin with an introductory walking tour of flower-filled **Ponta Delgada** and later visit the garden created by **José do Canto**, one of the most knowledgeable gardeners of his time. (B)

**Day 3** We travel east to see the impressive **Fire Lake**, which lies at the bottom of a steep volcanic crater. (B & D)

**Day 4** Our exploration of Ponta Delgada and its gardens continues, followed by a visit to the pineapple plantation at **Quinta Bom Jesus**. (B & D)

**Day 5** Today we travel to the west side of the island to explore **Sete Cidades**, a tranquil village located on the shore of two lakes. Later we drive along roads fringed with a profusion of flowers to **Capelas**. (B & D)

**Day 6** Free day, or join our optional **whale-watching expedition**. (B)

**Day 7** A spectacular day to end our tour, with visits to the volcanic region of **Furnas** and another garden by **José do Canto**, the **Terra Nostra Garden**, where we enjoy the local speciality of **Cozido de Caldeiras**, cooked in the hot springs, and finally the **Gorreana Tea Plantation**. (B & L)

**Day 8** Flight back to London. (B)

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

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1695**



### Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the 4-star Hotel Marina Atlantico, Ponta Delgada
- » Four dinners and one lunch
- » Flights from London to Ponta Delgada
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager and a local guide

### Departures & Prices

**11 June** from **£1695pp**  
Single Supplement **£495**  
Optional excursion;  
Whale Watching **£95pp**



NEW FOR 2022



# A GRAND TOUR OF ITALIAN GARDENS

15 DAYS FROM  
**£4595**



Isola Bella

**A** Grand Tour of Italian gardens is a journey through some of the finest landscapes in Europe, from the sparkling lakes and snow-flecked mountains of the north; to Rome with its unrivalled classical and spiritual heritage; to Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance and finally to Veneto, adorned with sun-kissed vineyards and sumptuous Palladian villas. We will transfer from one centre to another by train, making for a series of relaxed and scenic journeys as the timeless countryside speeds by.

Criss-crossing the lakes of Maggiore and Como, we visit delights such as the terraced gardens of Isola Bella, the zoological garden of Villa Pallavicino and a fascinating private garden. Moving on to the Eternal City, highlights include the Pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo and Ninfa, surely one of the most beautiful gardens in Europe. To Tuscany next and the city which inspired countless artists but which is also home to wonderful gardens such as Corsini, Boboli and Bardini. Thence to Veneto, one of the richest regions of Italy thanks to the wealth generated by the far-reaching city state of Venice. This is reflected in the grand villas of perfectly proportioned Palladian symmetry, surrounded by elegant gardens. Our tour ends in style with a personal tour of the villa and a farewell dinner hosted by the aristocratic Malinverni family.





Villa Rotonda



Ninfa

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart on a direct flight from London to Milan and continue by coach to our hotel on Lake Maggiore. (D)

**Day 2** The Borromean islands are explored today, including the baroque palace and incomparable gardens of **Isola Bella**. (B & D)

**Day 3** We enjoy a specially arranged visit to the **private garden** of the President of the Italian Camellia Society along with the rare exotic plants of **Villa Pallavicino**. (B & D)

**Day 4** We are treated to a personal guided tour of the garden by the owner of the **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni** before transferring to our hotel in Como. (B & D)

**Day 5** The gardens of the villas **Carlotta** and **Balbanello** are explored, with dazzling floral displays and soaring trees. (B & D)

**Day 6** We transfer by coach to Milan then take the train to Rome, a journey time of around 3h30m. (B & D)

**Day 7** A visit to the gardens of the summer papal residence of **Castel Gandolfo** is followed by a guided tour of the romantic, flower-covered ruins of **Ninfa**. (B)

**Day 8** We explore the great Renaissance gardens of **Villa Lante** and the 16th century water-filled gardens of **Villa d'Este**. (B)

**Day 9** A relatively short train ride takes us to Florence, whose timeless skyline is recognisable from countless paintings. We tour the adjacent gardens of **Corsini** and **Prato**. (B & D)

**Day 10** We visit the historic **Boboli Gardens** from 1549, and the even older **Bardini Gardens**, a little-known treasure. (B)

**Day 11** A free day today, and where better to spend it than in **Florence**. A visit to the Uffizi Gallery will be a must for many. (B)

**Day 12** A train journey of less than two hours takes us to **Padua**, where we visit the **Orto Botanico** and gaze in awe at Giotto's frescoes in the **Scrovegni Chapel**. (B & D)

**Day 13** A walking tour around the historic centre of **Vicenza** is followed by a visit to Palladio's masterpiece the **Villa Rotonda**, one of the most recognisable buildings of the Renaissance, where we are privileged to be guided round by the owner Count Valmarana. We then visit the neighbouring **Villa Valmarana** with its masterful frescoes by Tiepolo. (B)

**Day 14** We tour the gardens of the 17th century **Villa Barbarigo** and the private garden of **Le Paradis des Papillons**. We round our tour off in grand style with a private farewell dinner hosted by the Count and his family at the **Villa Godi Malinverni**. (B & D)

**Day 15** Enjoy a final taste of Italian garden elegance at the **Villa Pisani** before our return flight from Venice. (B)

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

**Post-tour extensions in Venice or elsewhere are available on request.**



Florence



Italian style

## Your Tour Includes

- » 14 nights' bed & breakfast at 3- and 4-star hotels: three nights in Verbania, two nights in Como, three nights in Rome, three nights in Florence and three nights in Vicenza
- » Nine dinners
- » Flights from London to Milan and Venice to London
- » Rail journeys from Milan to Rome, Rome to Florence and Florence to Padua
- » Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**10 May** from **£4595pp**  
**13 September** from **£4595pp**

Single Supplement **£995**



NEW FOR 2022



FROM

# NORMANDY TO THE NETHERLANDS

## FEATURING FLORIADE

14 DAYS FROM  
**£2695**



Giverny

**I**n 2019 we had the pleasure of organising a tour of northern France, Belgium and The Netherlands for a private group of garden enthusiasts. Such was the success of this holiday that we decided to offer it to a wider audience and let you enjoy some of the finest gardens in this ever-popular corner of Europe.

There are no airport queues or security checks to endure as we set off in traditional style and take the ferry to Calais. Among the garden highlights here in Normandy and Picardy are Le Bois des Moutiers and Le Vasterival, Monet's garden at Giverny and the remarkable floating gardens of Les Hortillonages in Amiens. Crossing into Belgium we see masses of roses at the Castle of Coloma, the Hemelrijk Garden, whose creators were assisted by Russell Page and the spectacular Herkenrode Garden and Wespelaar Arboretum, considered to be the best in the world. In The Netherlands we visit De Wiersse, which has been described as the most beautiful garden in the country; the fabulous water gardens of Ada Hofman and the extravagantly planted garden of Mien Ruys, who dominates the story of 20th century gardening in Holland. We also take the opportunity to visit the Floriade exhibition at Almere, one more highlight in a tour that is bursting with outstanding horticultural delights.





Château de Miromesnil



Les Hortillonages, Amiens

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We depart by coach for Dover and take the ferry to Calais and continue to our accommodation in Dieppe. (D)

**Day 2** We begin with visits to three of the best gardens in Normandy, **Le Bois des Moutiers**, influenced in part by Gertude Jekyll, **Le Vasterival**, created by a Norwegian princess and plantswoman, and the **Château de Miromesnil**. (B)

**Day 3** Monet's famous old garden at **Giverny** is contrasted with contemporary planting at the **Jardin Plume**. (B)

**Day 4** Heading to Amiens we visit 17th century **Château de Bosmelet** and the unusual **Jardins Agapanthe**. (B & D)

**Day 5** We take a boat trip around the remarkable **Les Hortillonages** in Amiens followed by an optional excursion to the underground city of **Naours**. (B)

**Day 6** Transfer to Brussels today, visiting **Gaasbeek Castle**, **Park Groenenberg** and the rose garden at the **Castle of Coloma** en route. (B & D)

**Day 7** We visit the spectacular **Herkenrode Garden** and **Westpelaar Arboretum** this morning, followed by **Kruidtuin**, the oldest botanical garden in Belgium. (B)

**Day 8** Leaving Brussels we tour the **Kalmthout Arboretum**, filled with rare and endangered species, and the extensively planted **Hemelrijk Garden**. (B & D)

**Day 9** We visit the historic and beautifully kept country garden of **De Wiersse** and the **Kröller-Müller Museum**, which offers a unique combination of nature, art and architecture. (B)

**Day 10** Enjoy a full day visit to **Floriade**, a once-in-a decade event that brings together garden designers and horticulturalists from all over the world, creating a colourful spectacle with thought-provoking themes. (B)

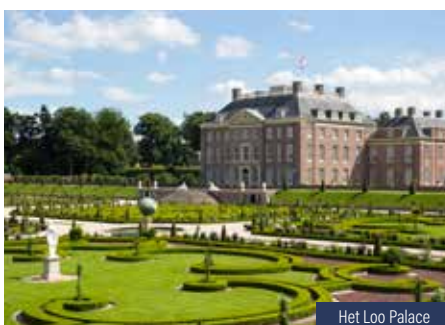
**Day 11** We travel close to the German Border today as we visit two outstanding gardens. **Mien Ruys**, a hugely influential figure, has created a sumptuous garden of 25 different and distinct areas, while **Ada Hofman** has built a dazzling series of water gardens, the largest in Holland. (B)

**Day 12** This morning we visit **Het Loo Palace**, with one of Europe's finest formal gardens, before transferring to Amsterdam and the **Museum van Loon**, whose formal gardens perfectly complement the Classical style of the house. (B)

**Day 13** After an early breakfast we depart for a visit to one of the world's biggest **flower auctions** at Aalsmeer. This is followed by visits to the nursery at **Boskoop** and the garden of plant expert **Harry van de Laar**. (B & D)

**Day 14** Return home via Calais-Dover. (B)

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



Het Loo Palace



Gaasbeek Castle

## Your Tour Includes

- » 13 nights' bed & breakfast: three nights in Dieppe, two nights in Amiens, two nights in Brussels and six nights in Amersfoort
- » Five dinners
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel and all ferry crossings
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**9 May** from **£2695pp**  
**7 July** from **£2695pp**

Single Supplement **£775**

Optional excursion; Naours **£20pp**





©Passion Play Oberammergau 2020

# OBERAMMERGAU

## AND THE AUSTRIAN TYROL - 2022

**O**berammergau is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to witness one of the most powerful, dramatic spectacles in Europe – an epic portrayal of the Passion of Christ as performed by a cast of over 2,000 local residents. It is sadly ironic that an event that first took place after the village was spared the ravages of the Plague was cancelled in 2021 due to a modern-day pandemic, but the good news is that it has been rescheduled for 2022.

Before the play, we enjoy some of the delights of neighbouring Austria, beginning with a visit to Salzburg, where you can choose between a Mozart or 'The Sound of Music' themed excursion. Moving west to the Tyrol, we enjoy a trip on the Zillertal Steam Railway and lunch in a mountain-top restaurant, a guided tour of the beautiful old town of Innsbruck and a stroll down the famous Maria Theresien Strasse, before paying a visit to the vaulted halls of Tratzberg Castle.

6 DAYS FROM  
**£2195**



Salzburg



©Passion Play Oberammergau 2020

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly from London to Munich and transfer to Salzburg. (D)

**Day 2** Today we explore vibrant **Salzburg**, but there are two ways to do so. Choose between an included **Mozart**-themed excursion, including a visit to his birthplace and museum, or for a supplement of £30pp, a longer tour based around **'The Sound of Music'**, featuring many of the locations from this much-loved film. Later, we transfer to our hotel in the Ziller valley. (B & D)

**Day 3** We ride the historic **Zillertal Steam Railway** to the chic ski resort of **Mayrhofen**. For lunch, we're treated to a highly scenic journey by cable car to our mountainside restaurant. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Visit **Innsbruck** with a guided tour of the beautiful old town, stopping at Emperor Maximilian I's **'Golden Roof'**. We continue with a visit to **Tratzberg Castle**, which has connections with the once mighty Habsburg dynasty. (B & D)

**Day 5** Bid farewell to Austria today and travel to Bavaria, where we have free time in the village of **Garmisch Partenkirchen**. Later on, we will sit down to experience the phenomenal **Passion Play**. The performance includes a three-hour break during which dinner is served. (B & D)

**Day 6** After breakfast, we make our way back to Munich and fly home. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: one night in Salzburg, three nights in the Zillertal and one at a hotel in the Oberammergau area
- » One lunch
- » Return flights London to Munich
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Ticket for the Passion Play (includes dinner and drinks in the intermission)
- » Services of a professional tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**11 May** from **£2245pp**  
**10 August** from **£2195pp**  
 Single Supplement **£295**  
 Sound of Music tour supplement **£30**





Meersburg

# OBERAMMERGAU AND LAKE CONSTANCE - 2022

On this holiday, the preamble to the Passion Play is a four-night stay on the shores of Lake Constance, whose sparkling waters form an ever-present backdrop to our touring. From our base at a comfortable, family-run hotel in Bregenz on the Austrian shore of the lake, we visit a selection of outstanding gardens and impressive palaces.

The highlight has to be Insel Mainau, one of the most splendid garden sites in Europe. Getting there is half the fun as we cruise at a leisurely pace along the lake, and once there we have a dazzling array of gardens, parks and buildings to explore. Elsewhere we visit a couple of hugely impressive Baroque palaces, from whose gardens we can gaze down upon the bustling lake and a richly decorated monastery in an idyllic setting. On our way to Bregenz we call in at the unmissable fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein and on the final leg of our journey we end on a suitably spiritual note at the Pilgrimage Church of Wies, a Rococo masterpiece.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly from London to Munich and depart for a visit to the iconic fairytale castle of **Neuschwanstein**. We then continue to our hotel in Bregenz on the shores of Lake Constance. (D)

**Day 2** Depart for a visit to **Tettwang New Palace**, one of the most beautiful palaces in the region. Later we visit **Wangen im Allgäu**, where we see typical half-timbered buildings and some little gardens. (B & D)

**Day 3** We take the lake steamer from Bregenz to **Insel Mainau**, one of the finest garden experiences in Europe. (B & D)

**Day 4** We return to the northern shore of the lake for our visit to **Meersburg New**

**Palace** with its richly decorated rooms. A little way inland is the **Salem Monastery and Palace**, one of the most culturally important sites of the region. (B & D)

**Day 5** We head to Oberammergau for the performance of the **Passion Play**. (B & D)

**Day 6** We break our journey back to Munich Airport with a visit to the **Pilgrimage Church of Wies**, an exuberant masterpiece of Bavarian Rococo and a UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site. (B)

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

6 DAYS FROM  
**£2195**



Wies Church



©Passion Play Oberammergau 2022

## Your Tour Includes

- » Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: four at the 4-star Hotel Schwärzler in Bregenz; one at a hotel in the Oberammergau area
- » Return flights London to Munich
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Ticket for the Passion Play (includes dinner and drinks in the intermission)
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

**23 August** from **£2195pp**  
Single Supplement **£295**





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.

### 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

6 DAYS FROM  
£1295



Mousa Broch

### Your Tour Includes

- » One night's dinner, bed & breakfast at 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 two dinners and one night's accommodation in two berth inside cabins on Serco Northlink Ferries MV Hrossey/Hjaltland on the outward sailing (outside cabins available at a supplement of £50pp)
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**25 April** from **£1295pp**  
**11 July** from **£1375pp**  
**29 August** from **£1375pp**

Single Supplement **£395**





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  
**£845**



Luskentyre, Harris



Gearrannan Black House Village

### Your Itinerary

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

**Day 2** We cross to the island of Great Bernera, where we visit **Bosta Iron Age Village**. From here we travel to the 5,000 year old **Standing Stones of Callanish**. In the afternoon we visit **St Columba's Ui Church** and **Lews Castle**. (B & D)

**Day 3** Following breakfast we travel south to Harris, which in contrast to the rolling moorland of Lewis is more mountainous and fringed by superb white sandy beaches. Here we visit **St Clement's Church** at Rodel, whose tombs are among the most spectacular in Scotland, followed by the

**Genealogy Centre** at Northton, a chance to learn how island communities have evolved over the centuries. We continue to the ancient standing stone known as **Clach Mhic Leoid**, which overlooks the island of Taransay. (B & D)

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

**Day 5** We take the early morning ferry from Stornoway to Ullapool then continue our homeward journey. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Cabarfeidh Hotel (Caladh Inn in September), 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

**12 June** from **£895pp**  
**11 September** from **£845pp**

Single Supplement **£160**





Frederiksborg Palace



## ARCHAEOLOGY OF DENMARK AND SWEDEN

The neighbouring Nordic nations of Sweden and Denmark offer a host of archaeological and historical sites, from Neolithic megaliths to Viking forts, from fairytale castles to a magnificent royal warship.

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1995**

We begin in Uppsala in Sweden, with visits to the archaeological sites at Gamla Uppsala and Anundshög and Baroque Skokloster Castle, and in Stockholm we visit the excellent Historical Museum and impressive Vasa Museum. A relaxing rail journey takes us to Malmö in the south of Sweden, where we tour the Österlen region before crossing the Öresund Bridge to Copenhagen. We have a day touring in the Danish capital, including Rosenborg Castle, then transfer to Aarhus in mainland Denmark, where we visit the Moesgård Viking Museum and the Viking Castle at Fyrkat, learning about the real story behind those notorious Norsemen. We also meet some former inhabitants of the region, the amazingly well-preserved remains of a man and woman who died here around 350BC.



Ales Stenar

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly from London to Stockholm and visit the archaeological site **Gamla Uppsala** with its three Royal Mounds before transferring to our hotel for the night. (D)

**Day 2** Today we visit the archaeological site at **Anundshög**, Sweden's largest burial mound and then **Skokloster Castle**, one of the great castles of Baroque Europe. (B)

**Day 3** We visit the **Vasa Museum** with its impressive model of the ill-fated warship and the **Swedish History Museum** in Stockholm before we take an afternoon train to the city of **Malmö**. (B & LM)

**Day 4** We explore the ancient megaliths of **Ales Stenar** today before crossing the

Öresund Bridge to Denmark and continuing to our hotel in Copenhagen. (B & D)

**Day 5** Visit **Copenhagen's** historic sites and museums, including **Rosenborg Slot**, the **National Museum of Denmark** and the **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**. (B)

**Day 6** We tour **Frederiksborg Slot** then cross another impressive bridge as we travel on to **Aarhus** in Jutland. (B & D)

**Day 7** We see the astonishingly well preserved 'Bog Bodies' at **Silkeborg Museum** and the Viking site of **Fyrkat**. (B)

**Day 8** After a visit to UNESCO-listed **Jelling**, we fly home. (B)

**Inc. meals:** B: B'fast, LM: Light Meal, D: Dinner

### Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast in 3- and 4-star hotels: two nights Uppsala, one night Malmö, two nights Copenhagen and two nights Aarhus
- » Three dinners and one light meal on board the train
- » Return flights from London to Stockholm and Copenhagen to London
- » Standard class rail journey from Stockholm to Malmö
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

### Departures & Prices

**4 July** from **£1995pp**  
**5 September** from **£2095pp**  
 Single Supplement **£495**





# ALBANIAN

## ARCHAEOLOGY

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1595**



Amphitheatre at Butrint

ARCHAEOLOGY

Having emerged from almost five troubling decades of Communism, Albania is opening its doors to the world. Behind those doors lies a range of wonders, from ancient Greco-Roman theatres to archaeological parks. Among the outstanding sites is UNESCO-listed Butrint, which contains layer upon layer of archaeology and history, from Greek and Roman to Byzantine and Venetian.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly from London to Tirana and transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Enjoy a walking tour of **Tirana** today, which includes visits to the **Mosque of Et'hem Bej**, **Skanderbeg Castle** and the **National Historical Museum**. (B & D)

**Day 3** Drive to the **Bay of Vlora**, see **Llamani beach** and the **Springs of Borshi** before moving on to Saranda. (B & D)

**Day 4** Spend the day at the fascinating UNESCO-listed site of **Butrint**, which in its long history has been both a Greek and a Roman colony. We also visit **Lekuresi Castle** before dinner. (B & D)

**Day 5** We travel to the town of **Gjirokastër** and explore its **Castle Museum**. Later we tour the **Archaeological Park** and the **Ethnographic Museum**. (B & D)

**Day 6** We visit the 4th century AD ruins of **Byllis**, tour the **Cobo Winery** and continue to the mountain town of **Berat**. (B & D)

**Day 7** We spend the day in **Berat**. The lower city was once the exclusive preserve of the Muslims while the Christians held the citadel and we will see both mosques and Byzantine churches. (B & D)

**Day 8** We explore the sites of **Apollonia** and **Durrës** before flying home. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights in Tirana, two nights in Saranda, one night in Gjirokastër and two nights in Berat
- » Return flights from London to Tirana
- » Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (Peter Yeoman in April and October) and local guides

### Departures & Prices

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>5 April</b>    | from <b>£1595pp</b> |
| <b>3 May</b>      | from <b>£1595pp</b> |
| <b>11 October</b> | from <b>£1595pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£225**



# ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PELOPONNESE

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1495**



Mystras

The Peloponnese is a place of timeless beauty. From the 3,000 year old relics at Mycenae to the classical ruins of Epidauros and the Byzantine churches of Monemvasia, the whole region reeks of history. The Greeks and the Spartans fought out the Peloponnesian war here, to be followed in turn by Romans, Goths and Slavs; Franks, Turks and Venetians. Nowadays the atmosphere is one of peace and tranquillity, but the connection with the past is inescapable and ever present.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Today we arrive in Athens and transfer to our hotel in **Nafplion**. (D)

**Day 2** Visit **Mycenae**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Greece. (B)

**Day 3** We visit the **Archaeological Museum** in Nafplion and explore **Tiryns** with its Cyclopean wall and **Epidauros** where we visit the famous theatre. (B)

**Day 4** Travel south through **Arcadia** via Argos and Tripoli to Sparta. (B & D)

**Day 5** Discover the Byzantine fort city of **Monemvasia**, a wonderful time capsule where history unfolds before you. (B)

**Day 6** Explore the fascinating dead city of **Mystras**, which casts its silent gaze over modern Sparta. A unique atmosphere pervades this somewhat melancholic but beautiful site. (B)

**Day 7** We visit the UNESCO-listed and impressively well-preserved archaeological site of **Messene**, dating back to 369BC, and its attendant museum. In the afternoon we transfer to the coastal town of Kalamata and visit the **Archaeological Museum of Messenia**. (B & D)

**Day 8** We make our way back home today, returning to the airport in Athens for our flight. (B)

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

### Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights in Nafplion and four nights in Sparta
- » Three dinners
- » Return flights London to Athens
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager

### Departures & Prices

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>25 April</b>  | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| <b>3 October</b> | from <b>£1495pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£295**



# BULGARIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

9 DAYS FROM  
**£1695**



Rila Monastery

For decades after the Second World War Bulgaria lay firmly behind the Iron Curtain and had little contact with the outside world, but in classical times it prospered through trade with the Near East and was richly endowed with fine cities and monuments. Hidden in hills and forests are some of the oldest Neolithic settlements, Thracian tombs and exuberantly painted Medieval churches. We visit no fewer than four UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Rila Monastery.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Upon arrival in Sofia, visit the **National Museum of History** and **Boyana Church**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (D)

**Day 2** Explore the **Arena di Serdica** ruins, the **Underground Museum**, **Nicopolis ad Istrum** and the fortress of **Tsarvets**. (B & D)

**Day 3** See the **Madara Horseman** and the **Mosaics Museum** in Devnya. We then take a walking tour of **Varna**. (B & D)

**Day 4** **Roman baths** and the **Aladja Rock Monastery** await discovery today. (B & D)

**Day 5** Tour Nessebar's interesting **Neolithic Dwellings Museum**. (B & D)

**Day 6** A busy day of sightseeing awaits as we visit Stara Zagora's **Goliama Kosmatka Thracian tomb** and **Roman Forum**. (B & D)

**Day 7** We explore **Plovdiv** today, Bulgaria's second-largest city. Thracians and Greeks settled here, but it is the Roman legacy that dominates as we will see when we visit the **Amphitheatre**, **Stadium** and the exhibition of **Roman Mosaics**. (B & D)

**Day 8** We devote our day to the famous **Rila Monastery**, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B)

**Day 9** Transfer to the airport for our return flight home. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Eight nights' bed & breakfast in 3- and 4-star hotels: two nights in Sofia, one night in Veliko Tarnovo, two nights in Varna, one night in Kazanluk and two nights in Plovdiv
- » Seven dinners
- » Return flights from London to Sofia
- » Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (Clive Warsop in October) and local guides

## Departures & Prices

**10 May** from **£1695pp**  
**4 October** from **£1695pp**  
Single Supplement **£240**



# CRETE ARCHAEOLOGY

8 DAYS FROM  
**£1695**



Palace of Knossos

With a rich tapestry of archaeological treasures, sleepy villages and lively towns all set in a Homeric landscape of mountains, gorges and flower strewn pastures, the Greek island of Crete is an unforgettable destination.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly from London to Heraklion and enjoy dinner at our hotel upon arrival. (D)

**Day 2** After breakfast, we visit the **Archaeological Museum**. In the afternoon, we explore the mighty **Palace of Knossos**, the centre of the Bronze Age Minoan civilisation, which leaves the visitor breathless with wonder at the technology and facilities of that period. (B)

**Day 3** We board a boat and visit **Spinalonga**, a former leper colony. Later, we enjoy some free time in charming **Agios Nikolaos**. (B)

**Day 4** **Gortyn**, **Phaistos** and **Zaros** are ours to explore today. (B)

**Day 5** Enjoy a walking tour of **Rethymnon**, which is a mixture of Venetian and Turkish influences. Later, we travel to **Chania**, a city of exceptional beauty with a rich cultural heritage, and explore its historic centre and Venetian harbour. (B)

**Day 6** We have free time to explore the local area, or alternatively join our optional excursion to the **Arkadi Monastery** and **Eleutherna Museum** including lunch. (B)

**Day 7** Today, we visit the Minoan cemetery of **Armeni** and Byzantine monuments in the picturesque Amari valley. (B & D)

**Day 8** We catch our return flight home to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 3-star Atrion Hotel, Heraklion and four nights at the 4-star Bio Hotel in Rethymnon
- » One dinner in the hotel and a farewell dinner (with wine) in a local taverna
- » Return flights from London to Heraklion
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (Peter Yeoman in April)

## Departures & Prices

**26 April** from **£1695pp**  
**11 October** from **£1695pp**  
Single Supplement **£295**  
Optional excursion – Arkadi Monastery **£95pp**





# MALTA'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

7 DAYS FROM  
**£1395**



Cathedral of Saint John in Valletta

ARCHAEOLOGY

From the Neolithic to the present day, Malta is home to an array of riches. Venture inside the walled citadel of Mdina, explore the narrow tomb-lined passages of St. Paul's catacombs and take a boat to the spectacular Blue Grotto. One of the most unusual visits is the Hal Safflieni Hypogeum, a truly unique and rather mysterious site which dates back to 3,600BC and enjoys an individual listing on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly into Malta and transfer to our hotel. (D)

**Day 2** Explore Valletta, Malta's capital city. We explore the **Upper Barrakka Gardens**, the **Grand Master's Palace** and the **Archaeological Museum**. (B & D)

**Day 3** Explore **Mosta Church** and the walled citadel of **Mdina**. Later, we visit the **Skorba Temples**, the **Museum of Roman Antiquities** and **St. Paul's Catacombs**. (B & D)

**Day 4** Visit **Haġar Qim** and the **Mnajdra Temples**. We then take a boat trip to the stunning **Blue Grotto** and the **Dingli Cliffs**. (B & D)

**Day 5** Today is free to spend at leisure or there is an optional excursion to the neighbouring island of **Gozo**, which has archaeological wonders of its own. (B & D)

**Day 6** Tour the fishing village of **Marsaxlokk**, the **Tarxien Temples** and the world-renowned **Hal Safflieni Hypogeum**. This truly unique site enjoys an individual listing on the UNESCO World Heritage list. (B & D)

**Day 7** Transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Six nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the 4-star Dolmen Hotel, St. Paul's Bay
- » Return flights from London to Malta
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a professional tour manager

## Departures & Prices

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| <b>8 March</b>    | from <b>£1395pp</b> |
| <b>3 May</b>      | from <b>£1495pp</b> |
| <b>8 November</b> | from <b>£1395pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£195**

Optional excursion – Gozo **£85pp**



# PORTUGUESE ARCHAEOLOGY

9 DAYS FROM  
**£1995**



Placeholder

With the roar of the Atlantic Ocean and the tranquillity of the Iberian hillsides as our constant companions, we will travel through time stopping off at Megalithic standing stones, Iron Age settlements, Roman ruins and Medieval plazas. We will enjoy a host of UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the ancient city of Évora; Sintra, a magical town in which exotically coloured palaces rise up from the dewy forests and Guimarães, an immaculately preserved medieval town.

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly to Lisbon and enjoy a tour of the city. (D)

**Day 2** We travel to **Évora** to visit the **Almendres Stone Circle Menhir** and the **Anta Grande do Zambujeiro**. (B)

**Day 3** Visit the **Museu Caloste Gulbenkian** and the **Mosteiro dos Jerónimos**, a Manueline monastery. (B)

**Day 4** We visit the **Palácio Nacional de Sintra**, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and the best preserved medieval royal palace in Portugal, and the **Castelo de Pena**. (B)

**Day 5** We tour the **Mosteiro de Batalha** and the Roman city of **Conimbriga**. (B & D)

**Day 6** Enjoy the **Buçaco Forest** and be treated to a wine-tasting in Porto. (B & D)

**Day 7** A free day to explore **Porto**, or join our optional excursion – a boat trip on the **River Douro**. (B)

**Day 8** Visit **Bom Jesus Do Monte**, **Citania de Briteiros** and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Guimarães**. (B)

**Day 9** We transfer to the airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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

## Your Tour Includes

- » Eight nights' bed & breakfast: four nights at the Marriott Hotel, Lisbon; one night at the Tryp Hotel, Coimbra and three nights at the Holiday Inn Porto Gaia
- » Three dinners
- » Flights from London to Lisbon and Porto to London
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of an archaeological expert as tour manager (Clive Warsop in April)

## Departures & Prices

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>3 April</b>   | from <b>£1995pp</b> |
| <b>2 October</b> | from <b>£1995pp</b> |

Single Supplement **£495**

Optional excursion - Douro **£125pp**



Zebu cart and baobabs



## FLORA AND FAUNA OF MADAGASCAR

Madagascar, the world's fourth-largest island, is like a gigantic ark sailing ever so slowly across the Indian Ocean, having broken free from the African continent some 160 million years ago. The national parks and private reserves that feature on this tour are among the finest in the world.

On the botanical side, we can expect to see a huge range of fascinating trees and plants, none more curious than the baobab, which look like giant tubers that have been pulled from the earth and thrust back in with the roots uppermost, hence the name 'Upside Down Tree'. Among the other highlights are spiny bush plants including the unique cactus-like didiereaceae; strange triangulated palms, bloated pachypodiums and carnivorous pitcher plants; tree ferns, aloes and euphorbias.

Think of Madagascar and you think of lemurs – and, for many, these endearing primates will top a star-studded cast list of wildlife. As well as the familiar ring tailed lemur, we hope to see Sanford's brown lemur, nocturnal mouse lemur and indri indri with their unique, haunting call.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1/2** We depart on an overnight flight to Antananarivo (Tana). (IF & D)

**Day 3** We fly north to Diego Suarez and walk the **Three Bays**. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Discover the flora and fauna, lakes, rivers and waterfalls of the **Montagne d'Ambre National Park**. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** Visit the **Montagne des Français** to see the locally endemic dry-country flora then fly back to Tana. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** Today we fly south to Fort Dauphin and transfer to the **Berenty Private Reserve**, which protects this unique 'spiny desert' habitat, home to strange triangulated palm trees. (B, L & D)

**Day 7** A fascinating day as we explore **Berenty** with its numerous lemurs and sifakas in the surrounding forest. (B, L & D)

**Day 8/9** Overnight in Fort Dauphin then fly to Tana. (B, L & D)

**Day 10/11** Transfer to **Vakona Forest Lodge** and explore the lush rainforest of the **Andasibe-Mantadia National Park**, home to an array of lemurs, birds and reptiles. (B, L & D)

**Day 12** Discover the forest reserve of **Analamazaotra**, including a nocturnal visit to see the smallest frog, lemur and chameleon species. (B, L & D)

**Day 13/14/15** Return to Tana for overnight stay then overnight flight home. (B, L, D & IF)

15 DAYS FROM  
**£5695**



Sunbathing Sifakas

### Your Tour Includes

- » 12 nights' full board: four nights at the Hotel du Louvre, Antananarivo; two nights at the Mantasaly Resort, Diego Suarez; two nights at the Berenty Lodge; one night at the Hotel La Croix du Sud, Fort Dauphin; three nights at the Lemurs Lodge (all hotels subject to change). Please note that picnic lunches are provided on days when we are away from the lodge or hotel
- » Return flights from London Heathrow to Antananarivo and four internal flights
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » All land transfers in appropriate vehicles for the road conditions
- » Services of horticulturalist Tony Russell as tour manager and local guides

### Departures & Prices

**1 November** from **£5695pp**  
Single Supplement **£780**

**Inc. meals:** IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner



NEW FOR 2022



Pamplemousse Botanic Garden

GARDENS



# GARDENS OF MAURITIUS

The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius is only the size of the county of Surrey, yet it is blessed with a rich and diverse flora and fauna, and is home to some of the rarest plants and creatures in the world. Caressed by a benign climate and light but regular rainfall, virgin forests and coastal lands provide ideal habitats for myriad species, many of them unique to the island – of the 1,000 or so plants indigenous to Mauritius, about 300 are totally unique. In the mountain reserve at Le Petrin, for example, we will find many endemic plants such as the starfish-like yellow *Roussea* and the scarlet-belled *Trochetia*, all set among dainty ferns and mosses. Elsewhere our exploration will reveal trees that will be the last of their kind in existence; giant waterlilies, colourful *Cannas* and *Heliconias* and numerous palm avenues and tropical trees. We will witness outstanding conservation work with almost extinct plants and animals and there will also be plenty of time to enjoy the facilities of our resort hotel, the white sandy beaches and turquoise waters, and soak up the local culture, with its unique combination of European, Indian and African influences.

12 DAYS FROM  
**£2995**



Mountains of Mauritius



Giant Tortoise, La Vanille

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1/2** We depart on our overnight flight from London to Mauritius. The arrival day is free to relax in the hotel. (IF & D)

**Day 3** Our exploration of the island begins with a guided tour of **La Vanille Nature Park**, a unique zoo, beautifully landscaped with tropical plants. Later we visit the **Domaine de Saint Aubin**. (B & D)

**Day 4** A short boat trip takes us to the nature reserve of **P'Île aux Aigrettes**, where we will see plants and animals on the verge of extinction. Later we visit a well-stocked **nursery** and enjoy afternoon tea. (B, AT & D)

**Day 5** After exploring the reserve of **Gros Cailloux** we visit the capital Port Louis and its **Natural History Museum** (look out for the dodo) and the **old Company Garden**, filled with banyans and flamboyants. (B & D)

**Day 6/7** A free day followed by visits to **Curepipe Botanical Garden, Le Petrin Nature Reserve, Ebony Forest** and the **Seven Coloured Earth**. (B & D)

**Day 8** We tour the **Black River Gorges National Park**, home to rare trees and exotic birds. We also visit the **Plaine Champagne** and the **Grand Bassin**. (B & D)

**Day 9** We see giant waterlilies and other botanical wonders at **Pamplemousse Botanic Garden** and enjoy a taste of local rum at the **Château Labourdonnais**. (B & D)

**Day 10** We visit the **Exotica Nursery** with its huge flowering hibiscus and the garden at **Eureka House**. (B & D)

**Day 11/12** We depart on our overnight flight back to London. (B & IF)

## Your Tour Includes

- » Nine nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Anelia Resort and Spa
- » Return flights from London to Mauritius
- » Coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of a professional tour manager (Colin Crosbie in November 2022)

## Departures & Prices

**14 November** from **£2995pp**  
**29 March 2023** from **£3095pp**  
**15 November 2023** from **£3095pp**  
 Single Supplement **£495**

**Inc. meals:** IF: In flight B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, AT: Afternoon tea D: Dinner





Milford Sound

# NEW ZEALAND

For us in the United Kingdom, visiting New Zealand is rather like entering a parallel universe. On the surface, everything appears familiar, but look more closely and you notice subtle differences which tell you that you are, in fact, a long way from home. There are parts of New Zealand that could be anywhere in the British Isles, an illusion that is strengthened by the abundance of familiar place names and by the plants that were imported by the early settlers to make them feel more at home. Yet where in Britain can you find bubbling mud pools and gushing geysers, majestic fjords and glittering glaciers, huge tree ferns and penguin colonies? Travel in January with **Trevor Edwards** for summer sun or in October with **Mike Nelhams** for the springtime Taranaki and Marlborough garden festivals (see website for itineraries).

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1/2/3** Overnight flight to Singapore with a stopover to include the **Gardens by the Bay**. Fly to Auckland on the evening of Day 3. (IF & B)

**Day 4** Travel to Auckland hotel with a stop at **Auckland Regional Botanic Garden**. (D)

**Day 5** Visit **Ayrlies** then **Hamilton Gardens** then travel to **Rotorua**. This evening we visit **Tamaki Maori Village** for a **hangi dinner**. (B & D)

**Day 6** We head south to visit **Tikorangi, The Jury Garden**. (B & D)

**Day 7** Sightseeing tour of **New Plymouth**, featuring the gardens and beaches. (B)

**Day 8** Transfer to Wellington with a visit to **Paloma Gardens** en route. (B & D)

**Day 9** Sightseeing tour of **Wellington**. (B)

**Day 10** Board the **Interislander Ferry** to **Picton**. Later we visit **Wither Hills Vineyards**. (B & D)

**Day 11** Today we visit **Upton Oaks, Woodend Gardens, Bhudevi Garden** and **Welton House**. (B & D)

**Day 12** Morning at leisure. In the afternoon we board the **Coastal Pacific train** to **Kaikoura**. (B & D)

**Day 13** Visit **Flaxmere Garden** before heading to **Christchurch Botanic Gardens**. (B & L)

**Day 14** Today's visits include **Ohinetahi, Akaunui Historic House and Gardens** and **Trott's Gardens**. (B & L)

**Day 15** A day for spectacular sights as we travel to **Lake Tekapo** and follow the Kaweru Gorge road to **Queenstown**. (B & D)

**Day 16** Day at leisure in **Queenstown**. (B)

**Day 17** A most rewarding day as we travel through breathtaking mountain scenery to **Milford Sound** for a cruise in this spectacular fjord, an undoubted highlight of the tour. (B, L & D)

**Day 18** Visit **Chantecler Garden** and **Gibbston Valley Winery**. Evening cruise across **Lake Wakatipu**. (B & D)

**Day 19/20** Return flight arriving day 20. (B & IF)

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

20 DAYS FROM  
**£6995**



Wellington



Christchurch Botanic Gardens

## Your Tour Includes

- » 16 nights' bed & breakfast: one night in Singapore; one night Auckland; one night Rotorua; two nights New Plymouth; two nights Wellington; two nights Blenheim; one night Kaikoura; two nights Christchurch; four nights Queenstown
- » 11 dinners and two lunches
- » Return flights from London to Auckland (with stopover in Singapore on the outbound flight) and an internal flight from Queenstown to Auckland
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a horticulturist as tour manager (Trevor Edwards in January 2022 and Mike Nelhams in October)

## Departures & Prices

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>9 January</b>               | from <b>£6995pp</b> |
| <b>24 October</b>              | from <b>£6995pp</b> |
| <b>15 January 2023</b>         | from <b>£6995pp</b> |
| Single Supplement <b>£1675</b> |                     |





A protea in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens



## SOUTH AFRICA'S GARDEN ROUTE

**M**aking a long-overdue return to our programme, South Africa's Garden Route winds its way for some 200km between richly forested mountains and a crinkle-cut coastline dotted with beautiful beaches and empty bays. Vividly coloured wildflowers delight the eye at every turn and progress tends to be leisurely, as one stunning photo opportunity after another presents itself. Visits include the Wilderness National Park, the sea cliffs at Knysna and the famous suspension bridge at Tsitsikamma.

Also returning from the wilderness to grace our tour are the Drakensberg Mountains, where we do some gentle botanising and can visit neighbouring Lesotho. We also visit Pietermaritzburg, known as the City of Flowers, and delightful Durban, home to some splendid gardens.

### Your Itinerary

**Days 1/2** Fly overnight to Cape Town, arriving on Day 2. Visit the **Old Company Garden** before dinner. (IF & D)

**Day 3** We explore the trails on top of **Table Mountain**, reached by cable car, and then pay a visit to **Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden**. (B)

**Day 4** We visit **Babylonstoren** and the **Stellenbosch Botanical Garden**. (B)

**Day 5** Today we visit the **Helderberg Nature Reserve** and the **Vergelegen Wine Estate**. (B)

**Day 6** Enjoy an optional whale watching trip this morning before visiting the **Fernkloof Nature Reserve**. (B)

**Day 7** Setting out on the Garden route, we head to **Mossel Bay** and visit the **Diaz Complex Museum**. (B)

**Day 8** Full day touring the **Wilderness National Park**. (B)

**Day 9** Continue along the Garden Route to **Tsitsikamma National Park**. (B)

**Day 10** Fly to Durban and drive up into the **Drakensberg Mountains**. (B & D)

**Day 11** Enjoy a leisurely **botanical walk** in the hotel. (B & D)

**Day 12** Optional excursion to **Lesotho**. (B & D)

**Day 13** Visit the **Kwa-Zulu Natal Botanical Garden** en route to Durban. (B)

**Day 14** Full day in **Durban**. (B & L)

**Day 15** Return flight to London. (B & IF)

15 DAYS FROM  
**£3995**



Table Mountain

### Your Tour Includes

- » 13 nights' accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis: three nights at the Premier Hotel, Cape Town; two nights at the Windsor Hotel, Hermanus; two nights at the Wilderness Hotel, Wilderness; one night at the Kelway Hotel, Port Elizabeth; three nights at the Drakensberg Gardens Hotel and two nights at the Garden Court Marine Parade, Durban (all hotels subject to change)
- » Four dinners and one lunch
- » Flights from London Heathrow to Cape Town; Port Elizabeth to Durban and Durban to London Heathrow
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a tour manager (Colin Crosbie on 27 Sept) and local guides

### Departures & Prices

**13 September** from **£3995pp**  
**27 September** from **£3995pp**  
**26 September 2023** from **£4095pp**  
 Single Supplement from **£650**  
 Optional excursion - Whale Watching **£85pp** | Lesotho **£90pp**

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





Tiger's Nest



# BHUTAN

## AND NEPAL

**C**radled in the folds of the Himalayas, Bhutan is an isolated kingdom with a unique cultural heritage that dates directly back to the mid-17th century, closely bound with the Buddhist religion. It is only in the last few decades that foreigners have been allowed to visit and the country remains unspoiled by commercial tourism. The scenery is spell-binding, with deep, wooded valleys rising to towering snow-capped peaks, and villages and monasteries that cling precariously to the hillsides.

Our tour is centred around the Jambay Lhakhang Drup Festival, a remarkable event marked with a host of colourful ritual dances. As fascinating as the dances themselves are the activities of the local people who flock to the festival from far and wide, dressed in their finest clothes. In addition to this, our itinerary includes excursions and gentle hikes, which take us to the most scenic areas and the best of the attractions, including the remarkable Tiger's Nest Monastery. We also take the opportunity to spend a couple of days in Kathmandu in Nepal on the outward journey, a chance to become acclimatised to the altitude in the Himalayas.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1/2** Overnight flight to Kathmandu, Nepal and transfer to our hotel. (F & D)

**Day 3** Guided tour of the principal sights of **Kathmandu**, including the **Godavari Botanical Garden**. (B & D)

**Day 4** Enjoy a spectacular flight above the Himalayas to Paro in **Bhutan** and then transfer to **Thimphu**. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** Explore the sights of **Thimphu** including the 17th century **Trashichhoe Dzong** and take a scenic walk to the **Tango Monastery**. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** Drive to **Dochu La** and visit the **Royal Botanical Park**. Later we explore the fascinating **Phobjikha Valley**. (B, L & D)

**Day 7/8** Drive from Gangtey to Bumthang, where we spend a full day at the **Jambay Lhakhang Drup Festival**. (B, L & D)

**Day 9/10** Drive to **Punakha** and explore the sights of this former capital city, such as the hallowed **Dzong** and the temple of **Chimi Lhakhang**, linked with fertility. (B, L & D)

**Day 11** Transfer to **Paro** with visits to some impressive dzongs (watchtowers) on the way. (B, L & D)

**Day 12** Hike from Paro to **Taksang**, the spectacular 'Tiger's Nest'. (B, L & D)

**Day 13** Flight back to **Kathmandu**. (B & D)

**Day 14** Flight back to London. (B & IF)

14 DAYS FROM  
**£5395**



Thimphu



Durbar Square

### Your Tour Includes

- » Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast in Kathmandu and nine nights' full board in Bhutan
- » Return flights from London to Kathmandu and Kathmandu to Paro
- » Comfortable coaching and all visits as outlined
- » Services of Julia Corden as tour manager and local guides



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

### Departures & Prices

**3 November** from **£5395pp**  
Single Supplement **£495**

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





Golden Pavilion

## SEASONAL GARDENS OF JAPAN

Surround yourself with the splendours of the Far East with an itinerary of rare gardens, bamboo forests, ancient temples, golden Buddhas and, of course, the majestic Mount Fuji.

Experience the otherworldliness of this mystical country on a garden tour unlike any other. Travel aboard the iconic bullet train, visit the historic town of Omihachiman, take a cruise beneath Mount Fuji's snow-capped peaks on Lake Ashi, and embark upon an optional excursion to Hiroshima and its Peace Memorial Park.

Many of the country's most notable gardens, which evolved from simple, gravel covered forest clearings, are situated in and around Kyoto, Japan's former capital, and we enjoy three full days exploring both public and private gardens in this area. We have included a variety of different natural styles in order to bring this tour to life, from landscape gardens and stroll gardens to pond-and-island spaces. A popular addition to this tour is dinner with a maiko – an apprentice geisha – in traditional costume. Tradition, stories and natural beauty await.

### Your Itinerary

**Days 1/2** Fly to Osaka and visit the **Imperial Palace** on arrival. (IF & D)

**Day 3** Visit **Ginkaku-ji, Hakusasonso, Kyoto Botanical Garden** and **Bamboo Forest Path**. (B)

**Day 4** Visit the ancient temple of **Ishiyamadera** in Otsu and the historic town of **Omihachiman**. (B)

**Day 5** Free time in **Kyoto** or join our optional excursion to **Hiroshima**. (B)

**Day 6** Visit gardens and temples today, followed by **dinner with a maiko**. (B & D)

**Day 7** We explore Nara today followed by an evening visit to **Kodai-ji Temple**. (B & L)

**Day 8** Discover the **Heian Shrine** and **Nanzen-ji Temple**. Bullet train to **Tokyo**. (B)

**Day 9** Visit the **Great Buddha** followed by the **Hase Kannon Temple** and **Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine**. (B & L)

**Day 10** Cruise on **Lake Ashi** with view of **Mount Fuji** from the boat. (B & L)

**Day 11** See the **Kyu Furukawa** and **Mukojima Hyakkaen** gardens and **Shunkaen's Bonsai Museum**. (B)

**Day 12** Visit **Hamarikyu Garden, Sensoji Temple** and **Imperial Palace Gardens**. (B & D)

**Day 13** Flight to London. (B & IF)

13 DAYS FROM  
**£4995**



Cherry blossom at Hamarikyu Gardens



Senso-ji Temple

### Your Tour Includes

- » 11 nights' bed & breakfast; six nights at the ANA Hotel, Kyoto and five nights at the Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa, Tokyo (or similar)
- » Dinner and welcome drink on first evening, a dinner with a maiko, three lunches and a farewell dinner
- » Flight from London Heathrow to Osaka, returning from Tokyo
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of a horticulturalist as tour manager (Colin Crosbie in March, Trevor Edwards in November) plus local guides

### Departures & Prices

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>30 March</b>                              | from <b>£4995pp</b> |
| <b>13 April</b>                              | from <b>£4995pp</b> |
| <b>9 November</b>                            | from <b>£4995pp</b> |
| Single Supplement <b>£1500</b>               |                     |
| Optional excursion - Hiroshima <b>£395pp</b> |                     |

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





St. George harbour

# GRENADA

## GARDENS OF THE SPICE ISLAND

Lying at the southern end of the Lesser Antilles, the little island of Grenada offers a typical slice of Caribbean life, flavoured with spice and full of colour. With a lush, mountainous interior and a coastline fringed with silky-smooth beaches, it is home to some wonderful privately-owned gardens, which we have threaded together like a richly-flavoured kebab of delicious horticultural morsels.

Given that Grenada won its 15th gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2019, it's reasonable to assume that people here know a thing or two about gardening, and we can expect some real treats as we visit a host of gardens.

We are based at the Blue Horizons Garden Resort, set back 300 yards from Grand Anse Beach, which provides accommodation in self-contained one-bedroom units offering both comfort and privacy. The grounds are extensive and merit a guided tour in their own right, as well as a bird-watching tour.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Fly from London to Grenada, where welcome drinks and dinner are served on arrival. (IF & D)

**Day 2** We begin our holiday with an introduction to our hotel's gardens and grounds. (B)

**Day 3** Today gets off to a fabulous start with an exploration of the island, with visits to a trio of **private gardens**. (B & AT)

**Day 4** Tour the gardens of **Mount Edgecombe** followed by a gentle trail filled with botanical wonders at **Belmont Estate** and a tour and tasting at the **River Antoine Rum Distillery**. (B & L)

**Day 5** Our day starts at **Smithy's Garden**, where we enjoy a relaxed Grenadian breakfast, before touring the garden. At **Balthazar Estate** we will see giant heliconia, musa and ginger. (B)

**Day 6** Visit the beautiful **Sunny Side Garden**. The afternoon sees us at **Palm Tree Gardens**, where two acres are filled with thousands of flowering plants. (B)

**Day 7** Our last full day is free to relax or join our optional cruise. (B & D)

**Day 8 & 9** After a morning in the capital town **St George** we transfer to the airport for our return flight. (B & IF)

9 DAYS FROM  
**£2895**



Trevor Edwards and local guide



Local Spices

### Your Tour Includes

- » Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the Blue Horizons Garden Resort
- » Two dinners, one lunch, one afternoon tea, and welcome and farewell drinks
- » Return flights from London to Grenada
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager and local guides

### Departures & Prices

**14 May** from **£2895pp**  
**1 October** from **£2895pp**  
 Single Supplement **£455**  
 Optional excursion - Cruise **£120pp**

**Inc. meals:** IF: In-flight, B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner





Arenal Volcano

## GARDENS OF COSTA RICA

The term biodiversity may have been coined with Costa Rica in mind, such is the range of different species within its pristine, tropical forests. Throw in some spectacular scenery and resplendently laid-back citizens, and you have all the makings of a life-affirming holiday experience. From sub-tropical wildlife to amazing endemic plants, we explore it all.

13 DAYS FROM  
**£3995**



Hummingbird

We visit a broad range of gardens, both public and private, such as the Else Kientzler Botanical Gardens with its world-class collection of plants. In such a beautiful setting, we also spend ample time admiring the spectacular natural features of the country. Lake Arenal is Costa Rica's largest body of fresh water, and was enlarged to three times its original size when a hydroelectric dam was built here. At the Monteverde Cloud Reserve we will see some of the 100 mammals, 400 bird species and more than 2,500 varieties of plants that thrive here, including, if we are lucky, the famously elusive resplendent quetzal.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** We fly from London to San José, arriving in time for dinner. (IF & D)

**Day 2** After breakfast, we visit the stunning **Else Kientzler Botanical Garden** as well as a **private garden**. (B & L)

**Day 3** Today we visit the **Ark Herb Garden**, one of Central America's largest collections of plants, and **La Paz Waterfall Gardens**. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Visit La Tirimbina **organic cacao plantation** and the **Organic Paradise Tour**. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** Explore a medicinal garden at the majestic **Arenal Volcano**. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** A full day at the **Caño Negro Wildlife Refuge** and Arenal's hot springs. (B & L)

**Day 7** After a **boat trip** on Lake Arenal, Costa Rica's largest body of fresh water, we head to **Monteverde**. (B, L & D)

**Day 8** Tour the **Monteverde Cloud Reserve** and visit an **Orchid Garden**. This evening, there is the opportunity to dine at the Tree House restaurant (not included). (B & L)

**Day 9** En route to Manuel Antonio we visit the world's largest **butterfly garden**. (B & L)

**Day 10** Explore the **Manuel Antonio National Park** before touring the **Rainforest Spices Plantation**. (B & L)

**Day 11** Today we tour La Garita's **Orchid Garden** en route to San José. (B, L & D)

**Days 12/13** We catch our return flight, arriving in London on Day 13. (B & IF)



Monteverde

### Your Tour Includes

- » 11 nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the Bougainvillea Hotel, Heredia (or similar); two nights at La Quinta, Sarapiquí (or similar), two nights in the Arenal area, two nights in Monteverde, two nights in Manuel Antonio
- » Six dinners and ten lunches
- » Return flights from London to San José
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of plant expert Julia Corden as tour manager and a local guide

### Departures & Prices

**28 January** from **£3995pp**  
 🦋 **28 January 2023** from **£4195pp**  
 Single Supplement **£995**

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





Aerial Tram

## SOUTHERN COSTA RICA

Introduced by popular demand, this holiday complements our successful tour of the country's northern parts. It discovers the southern regions, an unexplored and rugged wilderness, where the amenities are more basic, but the where one can experience an alternative to the hustle and bustle of the more popular tourist destinations.

We start at the Lankester Garden, which has a world-class collection of nearly a thousand varieties of orchids. We continue to the Wilson Botanical Garden, a world renowned botanical garden with over 700 species of palm trees alone, and thence to a mountain lodge in the cloud forest where we enjoy a fascinating wildlife walk and a visit to a particularly lush garden filled with stately trees and exquisite orchids. Our tour ends on a high with a jaw-dropping (though perfectly secure) ride on the Pacific Aerial Tram, a chance to view the 'hanging gardens' of the rainforest from the lofty perspective of the animals and birds that live there.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1** Depart from London on our flight to San José and transfer to our hotel. (IF & D)

**Day 2** Visit the **Lankester Garden** with its world class collection of orchids, then move on to **Cerro de la Muerte**. (B, L & D)

**Day 3** Enjoy a walking tour of the **tropical cloud forest**. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Transfer to the **Wilson Botanical Garden**, established by Robert and Catherine Wilson in 1963 since when it has become internationally famous. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** A full day exploring the **Wilson Botanical Garden** and its huge collection of plants awaits. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** We head south to Esquinas in the untouched wilderness of the Golfito region and in the afternoon we take a **wildlife walk** on the forest trails. (B, L & D)

**Day 7** We visit the lush botanical garden of **Casa Orquideas** near Golfito, with huge trees and beautiful orchids. (B, L & D)

**Day 8** We break our journey back to San José with a thrilling ride on the **Pacific Aerial Tram**, which provides a bird's eye view of the hanging gardens of the transitional tropical rainforest. (B, L & D)

**Days 9/10** Transfer to the airport for our overnight flight back to London. (B & IF)

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

10 DAYS FROM  
**£3295**



Treefrog



Lankester Garden Orchid

### Your Tour Includes

- » Eight nights' dinner, bed and breakfast: two nights at the Bougainvillea Hotel, San José; two nights at Trogan Lodge; two nights at the Wilson Botanical Garden; two nights at Esquinas Lodge
- » Seven lunches
- » Return flights from London to San José
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits as outlined
- » Services of plant expert Julia Corden as tour manager and a local guide

### Departures & Prices

**8 February** from **£3295pp**  
**8 February 2023** from **£3395pp**  
 Single Supplement **£450**





El Calafate



## LANDSCAPES AND FLORA OF PATAGONIA

Patagonia takes its name from Patagón, the name used by the explorer Magellan to describe the native tribes of the region, whom his expedition thought to be giants, and early maps and charts of the New World often referred to Patagonia as 'Land of the Giants'. While the indigenous people were of above average height they were certainly not giants, yet this description of the region remains accurate. The reason lies in the massive mountains that rise from the plains of Patagonia, jagged, snow-flecked peaks that pierce the sky in an unforgettable display of natural wonder.

Elsewhere, we will see glittering glaciers and azure lakes, verdant forests and colourful shrubs, and a host of rare and endemic flowers, as we embark on a series of walks among the mountains. Highlights include El Calafate Mountain Park, named for the ubiquitous shrub with yellow leaves and purple berries; the Moreno Glacier, the third largest glacial area in the world; the mountain of Lom del Pliegue Tumbado and of course the Torres del Paine National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that will provide some of the most spectacular mountain vistas you will ever see.

### Your Itinerary

**Day 1/2** Overnight flight to Buenos Aires and continue on a connecting flight to **El Calafate**. (IF & D)

**Day 3** Drive to **El Calafate Mountain Park** and walk up to the meseta, followed by a drive to **El Chaltén** at the foot of the Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre massif. (B, L & D)

**Day 4** Hike in the **Torre Valley**, enjoying a series of stunning views over the glacial valley and lagoon. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** Walk on the **Rio Blanco Trail** which offers spectacular views. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** Hike on the mountain **Lona del Pliegue Tumbado**. (B, L & D)

**Day 7** Visit **Moreno Glacier**, the third largest glacial area in the world. (B, L & D)

**Day 8** Drive to **Torres del Paine National Park**, just over the border in Chile. (B, L & D)

**Day 9** Full day excursion to **Torres del Paine National Park**. (B, L & D)

**Day 10** Boat trip across **Lake Grey** and then walk to **Lodge Paine Grande**. Another boat ride takes up to **Pudeto**. (B, L & D)

**Day 11** Drive to airport for internal flight to Buenos Aires where we stay overnight. (B & L)

**Day 12/13** Arrive in London. (B & IF)

13 DAYS FROM  
**£6995**



Lake Grey



Notro

### Your Tour Includes

- » Ten nights' bed and breakfast: three nights El Calafate, three nights El Chaltén, one night Torres del Paine, two nights Lago Grey, one night Buenos Aires
- » Nine dinners and nine packed lunches
- » Return flights from London to El Calafate via Buenos Aires
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Comfortable coach travel throughout
- » Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager plus a local guide



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

### Departures & Prices

**29 November** from **£6995pp**  
Single Supplement **£800**

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

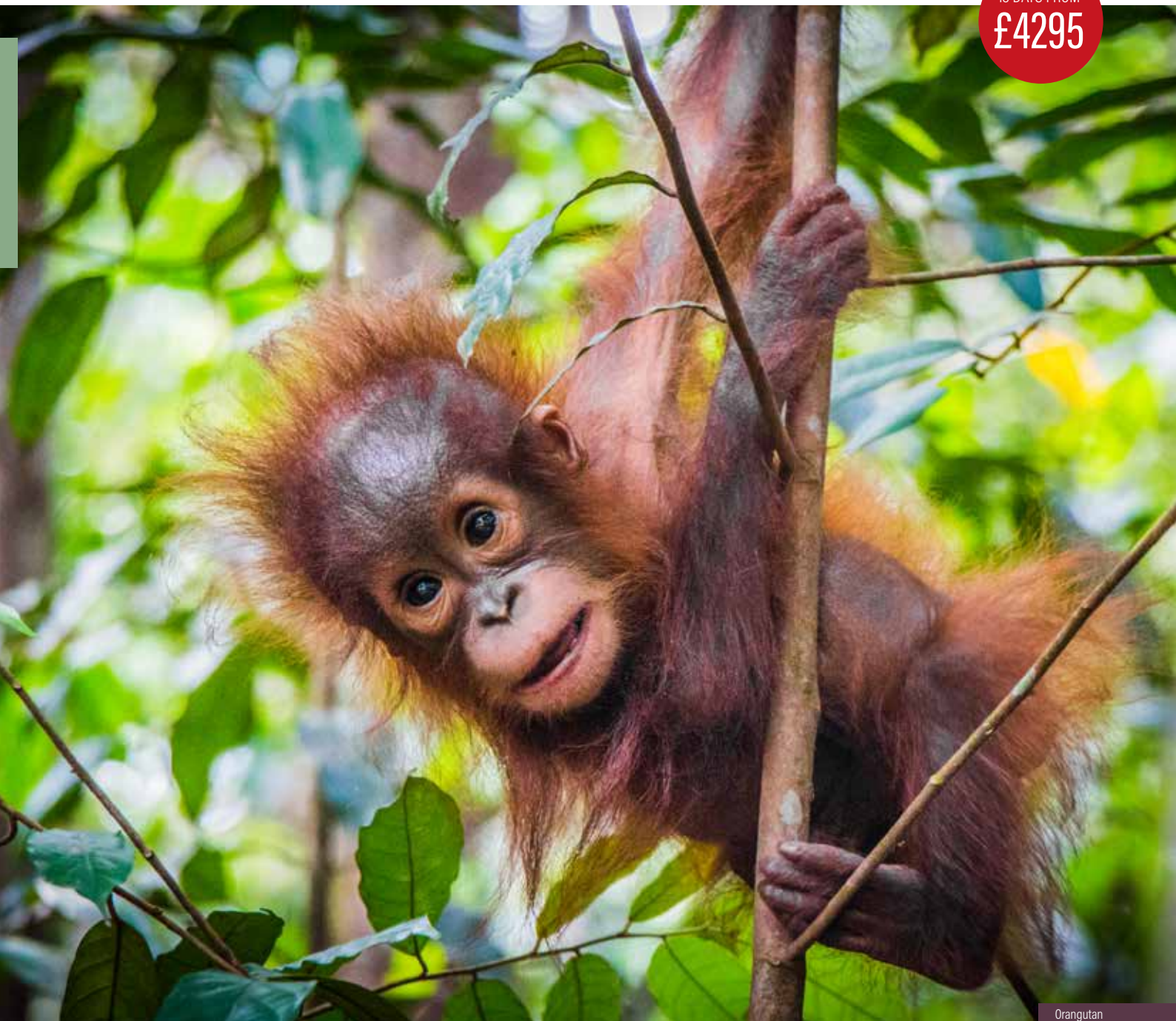


NEW FOR 2022



# RIVERS AND RAINFORESTS OF BORNEO

13 DAYS FROM  
£4295



Orangutan

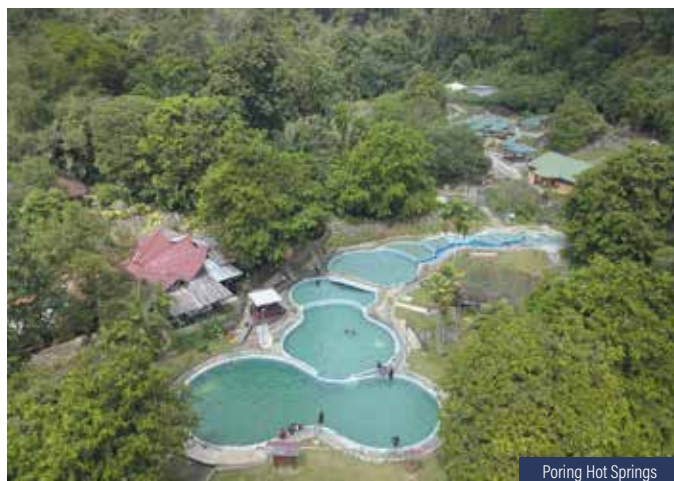
The Malaysian island nation of Borneo offers a unique range of plants and animals in the pristine habitats of its rainforests and rivers. Our tour offers two opportunities to see flowering Rafflesia, a bizarre plant found only in south-east Asia that has no leaves, roots or stems and can weigh up to 10kg. We also come face to face with Orangutan, Borneo's iconic 'man of the forest', and Sun Bears, the smallest and most arboreal of all bears, both endangered species that are the subject of rehabilitation and conservation schemes - there is an opportunity to adopt and support a Sun Bear should you wish.

Our journey takes us from the capital Kota Kinabalu in the west to Sandakan in the east, travelling through mountainous terrain with volcanic hot springs, lush rainforests and fertile river systems. Boardwalks and canopy walkways provide easy access to natural habitats and the chance to see a wide range of plants, birds and animals. On the Kinabatangan River we offer no fewer than four river cruises, in the early morning, day time and at night, allowing the opportunity to see a vast range of wildlife. We also see colourful markets and Buddhist temples, giving an insight into the human aspect as well as the wildlife. Our tour ends in style with a couple of nights at a luxurious resort, where you may easily be tempted to extend your stay.





Gomantong Caves



Poring Hot Springs

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1/2** We depart from London on our overnight flight via Kuala Lumpur to Borneo's capital Kota Kinabalu. The arrival day is free to relax after our long flight before enjoying a seafood dinner. (IF & D)

**Day 3** We depart for a stroll along the boardwalk that runs through the mangroves of the **Kota Kinabalu Wetlands**, a unique ecosystem where land meets sea. Later we explore some of the sights of the capital city before dinner on the waterfront. (B & D)

**Day 4** We begin our exploration of the interior in the **Kinabalu Park**, home to around 6,000 plants species and 430 bird and mammal species. Later we take a walk in the **botanical gardens** and learn about the vast array of flora. (B, L & D)

**Day 5** Today we enjoy a bird's eye view of the tropical rainforest from the canopy walkway at **Poring Hot Springs**, where there will also be an opportunity to bathe in the therapeutic waters. Later we hope to see huge **rafflesia** in full bloom. (B, L & D)

**Day 6** We start the day with a cup of tea - at a local factory where raw tea leaves are processed and packed for export. Later we enjoy one of the highlights of the tour, a visit to the **Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre**, in time for the feeding session with these gentle but endangered apes. (B, L & D)

**Day 7** This morning we visit the outstanding **Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre** which offers the chance to observe these beautiful animals at close quarters. We then visit the **Rainforest Discovery Centre** and its canopy walkways, from which it is possible to spot over 250 bird species and possibly wild orangutan. (B, L & D)

**Day 8** This morning we explore the **Gomantong Caves**, home to around two million bats. Later we enjoy a wildlife cruise on the **Kinabatangan River**, a chance to see rare bird species and pygmy elephant. (B, L & D)

**Day 9** We return to the river for an early morning **cruise** and there will be further cruises in the afternoon and after dark, when the night creatures emerge. (B, L & D)

**Day 10** Travel overland to **Sandakan** and its bustling central market and visit the **Puu Jih Shih Buddhist Temple** with magnificent views over the bay. Later we fly back to Kota Kinabalu and transfer to our 5-star resort hotel by the beach. (B, L & D)

**Day 11** This morning we visit **Orchid De Villa**, with a collection of over 300 species of endemic orchids, before driving into the highlands for another opportunity to see the unique and remarkable **rafflesia** flowers in their natural habitat. (B, L & D)

**Day 12/13** We have a leisurely day relaxing at our resort hotel before transferring to the airport for our overnight flight back to London. (B & IF)

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



Rasa Ria Resort



Rafflesia

## Your Tour Includes

- » Ten nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Jesselton Hotel, Kota Kinabalu; two nights at the Kinabalu Pine Resort; two nights at the Sepilok Nature Resort; two nights at the Bilit Rainforest Lodge and two nights at the Shangri La Rasa Ria Resort and Spa
- » Eight lunches
- » Return flights from London to Kota Kinabalu
- » Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- » Services of a professional tour manager (Colin Crosbie in 2022) and a local guide

## Departures & Prices

**25 October** from **£4295pp**  
**21 March 2023** from **£4295pp**  
**24 October 2023** from **£4395pp**

Single Supplement **£675**

NEW FOR 2022



# SRI LANKA

## THE PEARL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

13 DAYS FROM  
**£3195**



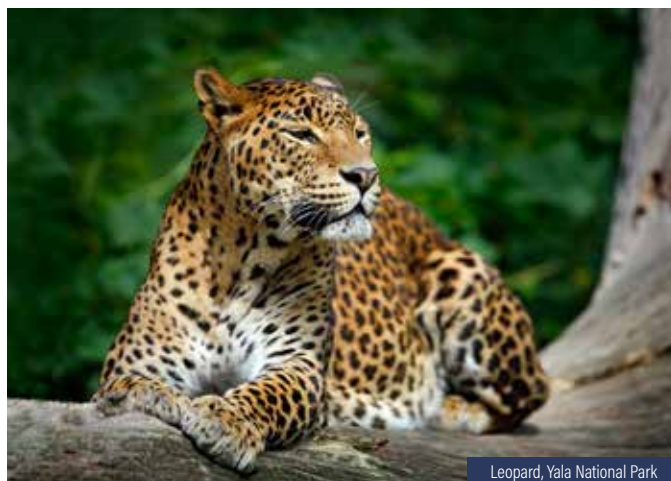
Temple of the Tooth

Like a pearl earring set in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka is a perfect jewel of an island, with a wonderfully warm climate and a rich and varied culture. It is also home to lush vegetation, colourful flora, amazing wildlife and a stunning collection of gardens. Our itinerary has been designed to lead you through the horticultural highlights of this beautiful island, with national parks, spice gardens and verdant gardens to discover. Combined with some of the cultural highlights and relaxed way of life, it should be as refreshing as a cup of finest Ceylon tea. We begin in Kandy where we visit a spice garden and the splendid Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya, both of which will give us an insight into the spectacular flora that thrives here. We then move into the cooler hill country and visit the garden at Hakgala and tour the outstanding nature reserve at Horton Plains. Another fine reserve awaits us at the Yala National Park where we go on safari and see elephants, bears and monkeys; tropical birds and fragile butterflies. A couple of days on the beach, in the south west near Galle, follows along with visits to Bevis Bawa's famous Brief Gardens and Lunuganga Estate. One of the highlights of the tour will be our stay in Sinharaja, the country's last viable area of primary tropical rainforest where we will have the most wonderful experiences of flora and fauna with which to conclude our circular tour of this glittering island gem. Horticulturist **Tony Russell** will be our expert guide.





Nuwara Eliya



Leopard, Yala National Park

## Your Itinerary

**Day 1/2** We fly overnight from London to Colombo. On arrival we transfer to our hotel with the rest of the day free to relax. (IF & D)

**Day 3** Our tour begins in earnest as we head for Kandy, breaking our journey with a visit to the **Matale Spice Garden**, and on arrival we visit the **Temple of the Tooth**, which contains the only surviving relic of Buddha. In the evening we will enjoy a **cultural dance performance**. (B)

**Day 4** This morning we visit the superb **Peradeniya Botanic Garden**, with a lush and varied collection of plants, including over 300 species of orchid. (B)

**Day 5** We enjoy a scenic train journey today as we transfer to **Nuwara Eliya**, which lies at the heart of the tea industry. We visit a working **tea factory** and learn all about the process of making tea, including a tasting of the finished product - perhaps the most memorable cup of tea you will ever have! (B)

**Day 6** After a guided tour of the fine hotel gardens, we depart for **Horton Plains**, the only National Park in Sri Lanka, where visitors can walk in the jungle to observe wildlife. There is a huge range of animals to be seen, including monkeys, deer, wild boar and cats, including the elusive leopard, and a bewildering array of jungle birds. Later this afternoon we will visit the **Hakgala Botanical Gardens**, which feature plants suited to the cooler climate here. (B)

**Day 7** We depart for the **Yala National Park** and take a jeep safari through the park, which has habitats ranging from plains and parklands to dense jungle and lagoons, and consequently fosters a wide range of animal and bird species, including a high density of leopards. (B & D)

**Day 8** Today we continue round the southern coast of Sri Lanka to the major city of **Galle**, where we have a panoramic guided tour of its sights and sounds. (B)

**Day 9** We visit the **Lunuganga Estate**, country home of renowned Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa. Later we visit the nearby **Brief Gardens**, created by Geoffrey's elder brother Bevis on a former rubber plantation, with an eclectic mix of gardening styles. (B)

**Day 10** We transfer to **Sinharaja**, the country's last viable area of primary rainforest, filled with rare, endemic trees and a wide range of flora and fauna. We will stay two nights at the Rainforest Eco Lodge, designed to have minimum impact on the environment. (B & D)

**Day 11** All day guided excursion within the **Sinharaja National Park**. (B & D)

**Day 12** We return to **Colombo** for some last minute shopping and sightseeing or enjoying the facilities of our beach-side hotel. (B & D)

**Day 13** Flight back to London. (B & IF)

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



Brief Garden



Horton Plains

## Your Tour Includes

- » 11 nights' bed & breakfast: one night in Negombo, two nights in Kandy, two nights in Nuwara Eliya, one night in Yala National Park, two nights in Galle, two nights in the Sinharaja Rainforest and one night in Colombo
- » Five dinners
- » Return flights from London to Colombo
- » All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- » Air-conditioned coach travel
- » Services of horticulturist Tony Russell as tour manager and a local guide

## Departures & Prices

**13 October** from **£3195pp**  
Single Supplement **£880**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## JANUARY

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| New Zealand        | 9 Jan  |
| Up Helly Aa 7-days | 24 Jan |
| Costa Rica - North | 28 Jan |

## FEBRUARY

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Cultural Malta                            | 4 Feb  |
| Southern Costa Rica                       | 8 Feb  |
| French Riviera with Menton Lemon Festival | 17 Feb |
| French Riviera with Menton Lemon Festival | 24 Feb |

## MARCH

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Malta's Archaeological Heritage             | 8 Mar  |
| Cultural Malta                              | 10 Mar |
| Thriplow Daffodil Festival                  | 20 Mar |
| A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days | 22 Mar |
| Gardens and Villas of Sicily                | 22 Mar |
| Gardens of Mallorca                         | 22 Mar |
| French Riviera Arts and Gardens             | 22 Mar |
| Scotland's Extreme North West               | 22 Mar |
| Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia       | 28 Mar |
| Spring & Autumn Western Highlands           | 28 Mar |
| Seasonal Gardens of Japan                   | 30 Mar |

## APRIL

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Walking in the Outer Hebrides               | 2 Apr  |
| Portuguese Archaeology                      | 3 Apr  |
| Lord of the Glens - 6 days                  | 4 Apr  |
| A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days | 5 Apr  |
| Albania Archaeology                         | 5 Apr  |
| Spring Flowers of Crete                     | 5 Apr  |
| Seasonal Gardens of Japan                   | 13 Apr |
| French Riviera Arts & Gardens               | 19 Apr |
| Gardens of Marrakech                        | 19 Apr |
| Scotland's Extreme North West               | 19 Apr |
| Gardens & Archaeology of Turkey             | 19 Apr |
| Lord of the Glens - 6 days                  | 20 Apr |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Walmer Castle                                  | 21 Apr |
| Gardens of Kent & Sussex                       | 22 Apr |
| RHS Garden Bridgewater                         | 23 Apr |
| An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland | 25 Apr |
| Archaeology of the Peloponnese                 | 25 Apr |
| Arran, Scotland in Miniature                   | 25 Apr |
| Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders        | 25 Apr |
| Lord of the Glens - 8 days                     | 25 Apr |
| Scenic Journeys of the Highlands & Islands     | 25 Apr |
| Walking in Cornwall                            | 25 Apr |
| Crete Archaeology                              | 26 Apr |

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Gardens and Villas of Sicily       | 26 Apr |
| Gardens of Mallorca                | 26 Apr |
| Castles & Houses of Northumberland | 27 Apr |
| Private Gardens of Cornwall        | 28 Apr |
| Treasures of Holland               | 28 Apr |
| Floriade and the Dutch Bulbfields  | 29 Apr |
| Floriade & Keukenhof               | 29 Apr |
| Highgrove and the Cotswolds        | 29 Apr |
| Treasures of Holland               | 29 Apr |

## MAY

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Colours of the Lake District           | 2 May |
| Lord of the Glens - 8 days             | 2 May |
| Treasures of Holland                   | 2 May |
| Albania Archaeology                    | 3 May |
| Floriade & Keukenhof                   | 3 May |
| Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S) | 3 May |
| Grand Tour of England                  | 3 May |
| Malta's Archaeological Heritage        | 3 May |
| Villas & Gardens of the Italian Lakes  | 4 May |
| Arts & Gardens of Durham               | 5 May |
| French Riviera - Rose festival         | 5 May |
| Treasures of Holland                   | 5 May |
| The Genius of Monet                    | 6 May |
| Scenic Scottish Railways               | 6 May |
| Arts & Gardens of the North West       | 8 May |
| Picardy Gardens cruise                 | 8 May |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia        | 9 May  |
| From Normandy to the Netherlands             | 9 May  |
| Highlights of Orkney & Shetland              | 9 May  |
| Lord of the Glens - 8 days                   | 9 May  |
| Bulgarian Archaeology                        | 10 May |
| Grand Tour of Italian Gardens                | 10 May |
| Oberammergau & the Austrian Tyrol            | 11 May |
| Irish Rover                                  | 12 May |
| Cultural Malta                               | 12 May |
| Best of Angus                                | 13 May |
| Grand Tour of the Western and Northern Isles | 13 May |
| Literary Trails of the South Coast           | 13 May |
| Grenada                                      | 14 May |
| RHS Garden Bridgewater                       | 14 May |
| Islay and Jura                               | 16 May |
| Scenic Journeys of the Highlands & Islands   | 16 May |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Rome, Ninfa & Castel Gandolfo                           | 17 May |
| Gardens of Jersey                                       | 18 May |
| The RHS Chelsea Flower show and Classic English Gardens | 19 May |
| Highgrove and the Cotswolds                             | 20 May |
| Literary Trails of the West Country                     | 20 May |
| Walking in Speyside                                     | 20 May |
| The Genius of Monet                                     | 22 May |
| Best of Ayrshire  | 23 May |
| Floriade and Gardens of Holland                         | 24 May |
| Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S)                  | 24 May |
| Treasures of Holland                                    | 24 May |
| Private Gardens of East Anglia                          | 27 May |
| Gardens of Kent & Sussex                                | 27 May |
| Gardens of North Wales                                  | 27 May |
| Private Gardens of Herefordshire                        | 30 May |



## JUNE

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Castles & Houses of Northumberland           | 2 Jun  |
| Highland Explorer                            | 3 Jun  |
| Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway             | 5 Jun  |
| Picardy Gardens cruise                       | 5 Jun  |
| Islay and Jura                               | 6 Jun  |
| Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands | 7 Jun  |
| Stornoway and the Summer Isles               | 8 Jun  |
| Arts & Gardens of Durham                     | 9 Jun  |
| Walmer Castle                                | 9 Jun  |
| Gardens of North Wales                       | 10 Jun |
| Shetland and its Outer Isles                 | 10 Jun |
| Treasures of Holland                         | 10 Jun |
| The Azores                                   | 11 Jun |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Castles & Gardens of the Loire         | 11 Jun |
| Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides   | 12 Jun |
| Grand Tour Scotland                    | 12 Jun |
| Gardens of Northumberland              | 12 Jun |
| Highlights of Orkney & Shetland        | 13 Jun |
| Rome, Ninfa & Castel Gandolfo          | 14 Jun |
| Scotland's Northern Edge               | 14 Jun |
| Irish Rover                            | 16 Jun |
| Caledonian Days                        | 17 Jun |
| In the Footsteps of the Picts          | 18 Jun |
| RHS Garden Bridgewater                 | 18 Jun |
| Arran, Scotland in Miniature           | 20 Jun |
| Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S) | 21 Jun |
| Villas & Gardens of the Italian Lakes  | 22 Jun |

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| A Classic Scottish Steam Break            | 23 Jun |
| Undiscovered Orkney                       | 23 Jun |
| Floriade and Gardens of Holland           | 24 Jun |
| Gardens of Kent & Sussex                  | 24 Jun |
| Highgrove and the Cotswolds               | 24 Jun |
| Highland Wildlife Safari                  | 24 Jun |
| Castles and Houses of Lincolnshire        | 25 Jun |
| Gardens of the Far North                  | 26 Jun |
| Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders   | 26 Jun |
| Private Gardens of Caithness & Sutherland | 27 Jun |
| Steam Stirling Highland                   | 27 Jun |
| Gardens of Somerset & Dorset              | 30 Jun |
| Alpine Flowers of Wengen                  | 30 Jun |

## JULY

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (S-B)         | 1 Jul  |
| Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden                | 4 Jul  |
| A Classic Scottish Steam Break                 | 7 Jul  |
| Faroe Islands                                  | 7 Jul  |
| From Normandy to the Netherlands               | 7 Jul  |
| Steam Stirling Highland                        | 8 Jul  |
| Gardens of the Far North                       | 10 Jul |
| An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland | 11 Jul |
| Islay and Jura                                 | 11 Jul |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway             | 12 Jul |
| Private Gardens of Caithness & Sutherland    | 12 Jul |
| Treasures of Holland                         | 12 Jul |
| Orkney's Garden Trail                        | 13 Jul |
| Arts & Gardens of Holland Featuring Floriade | 15 Jul |
| Grand Tour Scotland                          | 17 Jul |
| Best of Ayrshire                             | 18 Jul |
| A Classic Scottish Steam Break               | 21 Jul |
| Private Gardens of Cornwall                  | 21 Jul |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Caledonian Days                              | 22 Jul |
| Highland Wildlife Safari                     | 22 Jul |
| The Genius of Monet                          | 22 Jul |
| Gardens of Northumberland                    | 24 Jul |
| Stornoway and Summer Isles                   | 27 Jul |
| Highland Explorer                            | 29 Jul |
| Scenic Scottish Railways                     | 29 Jul |
| Grand Tour of the Western and Northern Isles | 30 Jul |
| Arts & Gardens of the North West             | 31 Jul |

## AUGUST

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Grand Tour of England          | 1 Aug |
| Orkney's Garden Trail          | 3 Aug |
| Steam Stirling Highland        | 4 Aug |
| Private Gardens of East Anglia | 5 Aug |
| Treasures of Holland           | 5 Aug |
| In the Footsteps of the Picts  | 6 Aug |
| RHS Garden Bridgewater         | 6 Aug |
| Highgrove and the Cotswolds    | 7 Aug |
| Shetland and its Outer Isles   | 8 Aug |
| Scotland's Northern Edge       | 9 Aug |
| Treasures of Holland           | 9 Aug |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Oberammergau & the Austrian Tyrol      | 10 Aug |
| A Classic Scottish Steam Break         | 11 Aug |
| Arts & Gardens of Durham               | 11 Aug |
| Gardens of North Wales                 | 12 Aug |
| Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (S-B) | 14 Aug |
| Queen Victoria and the Isle of Wight   | 14 Aug |
| Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway       | 15 Aug |
| Private Gardens of Herefordshire       | 15 Aug |
| Highlights of Orkney & Shetland        | 15 Aug |
| Irish Rover                            | 18 Aug |
| Gardens of Somerset & Dorset           | 18 Aug |

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Arts & Gardens of Holland Featuring Floriade   | 19 Aug |
| Best of Angus                                  | 19 Aug |
| Gardens of Kent & Sussex                       | 19 Aug |
| Queen Victoria and the Isle of Wight           | 21 Aug |
| Gardens of Northumberland                      | 21 Aug |
| Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S)         | 23 Aug |
| Oberammergau & Lake Constance                  | 23 Aug |
| Undiscovered Orkney                            | 25 Aug |
| An Archaeologist's View of Orkney and Shetland | 29 Aug |
| Gardens of Jersey                              | 31 Aug |

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## SEPTEMBER

|  |       |  |        |   |        |
|--|-------|--|--------|---|--------|
| Walmer Castle                                | 1 Sep | Faroe Islands                          | 8 Sep  | Castles & Houses of Northumberland          | 15 Sep |
| Caledonian Days                              | 2 Sep | Castles & Gardens of the Loire         | 9 Sep  | Literary Trails of the South Coast          | 16 Sep |
| Highgrove and the Cotswolds                  | 2 Sep | Treasures of Holland                   | 9 Sep  | Highlights of Orkney & Shetland             | 19 Sep |
| Highland Explorer                            | 2 Sep | Scotland's Northern Edge               | 10 Sep | Lord of the Glens - 8 days                  | 19 Sep |
| Walking in Speyside                          | 2 Sep | Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides   | 11 Sep | A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days | 20 Sep |
| In the Footsteps of the Picts                | 3 Sep | Arts & Gardens of the North West       | 11 Sep | Knitting in Shetland                        | 22 Sep |
| Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden              | 5 Sep | Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway       | 11 Sep | Scenic Scottish Railways                    | 23 Sep |
| Private Gardens of Herefordshire             | 5 Sep | Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia  | 12 Sep | Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders     | 25 Sep |
| Walking in Cornwall                          | 5 Sep | Arran, Scotland in Miniature           | 12 Sep | Literary Trails of the West Country         | 25 Sep |
| French Riviera Arts & Gardens                | 6 Sep | Islay and Jura                         | 12 Sep | Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (B-S)      | 27 Sep |
| Rome, Ninfa & Castel Gandolfo                | 6 Sep | Grand Tour of Italian Gardens          | 13 Sep | South Africa's Garden route                 | 27 Sep |
| Villas & Gardens of the Italian Lakes        | 7 Sep | South Africa's Garden route            | 13 Sep | Castles and Houses of Lincolnshire          | 30 Sep |
| Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands | 8 Sep | Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides (S-B) | 15 Sep |   |        |

## OCTOBER

|                                |       |   |        |  |        |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|--------|--|--------|
| Grenada                        | 1 Oct | Scenic Scottish Railways                    | 7 Oct  | Scotland's Extreme North West              | 18 Oct |
| Lord of the Glens - 6 days     | 1 Oct | Albania Archaeology                         | 11 Oct | Walking in Speyside                        | 21 Oct |
| Walking in the Outer Hebrides  | 1 Oct | Autumn Tints of Perthshire                  | 11 Oct | Arran Autumn Tints                         | 24 Oct |
| Portuguese Archaeology         | 2 Oct | Crete Archaeology                           | 11 Oct | New Zealand                                | 24 Oct |
| Archaeology of the Peloponnese | 3 Oct | Lord of the Glens - 6 days                  | 11 Oct | Scenic Journeys of the Highlands & Islands | 24 Oct |
| Bulgarian Archaeology          | 4 Oct | Scotland's Extreme North West               | 11 Oct | Spring & Aut Western Highlands             | 24 Oct |
| Gardens of Marrakech           | 4 Oct | A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days | 12 Oct | Borneo                                     | 25 Oct |
| Scotland's Northern Edge       | 4 Oct | Sri Lanka                                   | 13 Oct | Colours of the Lake District               | 31 Oct |
| Lord of the Glens - 6 days     | 6 Oct | Steam Stirling Highland                     | 13 Oct |  |        |
| Walmer Castle                  | 6 Oct | A Classic Scottish Steam Break              | 14 Oct |  |        |

## NOVEMBER

|                                 |       |                           |        |                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Flora and Fauna of Madagascar   | 1 Nov | Seasonal Gardens of Japan | 9 Nov  | Landscapes & Flora of Patagonia | 29 Nov |
| Bhutan & Nepal                  | 3 Nov | Iceland's Northern Lights | 13 Nov |                                 |        |
| Malta's Archaeological Heritage | 8 Nov | Gardens of Mauritius      | 14 Nov |                                 |        |

## JANUARY 2023

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| New Zealand        | 15 Jan |
| Costa Rica - North | 28 Jan |

## FEBRUARY 2023

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Southern Costa Rica | 8 Feb |
|---------------------|-------|

## MARCH 2023

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Rivers & Rainforests of Borneo | 21 Mar |
| Gardens of Mauritius           | 29 Mar |

## SEPTEMBER 2023

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| South Africa's Garden route | 26 Sep |
|-----------------------------|--------|

## OCTOBER 2023

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Rivers & Rainforests of Borneo | 24 Oct |
|--------------------------------|--------|

## NOVEMBER 2023

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Gardens of Mauritius | 15 Nov |
|----------------------|--------|



# 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 fares 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:

**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](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.

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