

Scotland and UK Spring Collection

DISCOVER SPRINGTIME GARDENS AND HISTORIC TREASURES



Save up to £75 per person | £0 single supplement places available

Welcome to our *Scotland & UK* Spring Collection

We invite you to surround yourself with nature and enjoy the great outdoors, explore historical sites, ancient settlements, stunning coastlines, art treasures and the most exquisite gardens in springtime.

The collection includes some of the most exclusive horticultural wonders in the UK, from Colesbourne, considered to be the home of the most beautiful snowdrops in the Cotswolds, to the award-winning Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall. These charming garden breaks are in the company of well-travelled garden experts and feature trips to local historic sites, such as the Rococo Gardens in Painswick.

If art and architecture are of interest, then look no further than Glasgow and Edinburgh and see not only historic landmarks across both cities but also world-renowned art galleries and museums. One highlight is Glasgow's Burrell Collection with 5000-year-old porcelain from China on display and much more in their collection.

In Shetland we discover a historic Viking festival certain to set the calendar on fire...when darkness falls, behold a procession of Norsemen and ships weaving their way through the streets, armed with torches and gleaming brightly in chainmail and winged helmets.

However you choose to spend spring next year, a Brightwater Holiday offers new experiences and enlightenment on a grand scale.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes,
Alison Wilson
Managing Director



"Excellent from start to finish. Alastair, our guide, and Iain, our driver, were excellent and so helpful"
Guest - May 2024

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

"Enjoyable and relaxing. Led by the knowledgeable Colin Crosbie & excellent coach driver Mark"
Guest - May 2024

Your *holiday*, your way

UK tours

Your holiday in the UK starts from the moment you join your easy-to-reach coach pick-up point (as detailed on every tour page). Then simply sit back, relax and let us take care of the driving for you. Full details will be provided of where and when we will pick you up with your holiday confirmation.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to travel at your own pace, you can make your own way and join the tour at the first visit or the hotel, allowing for greater flexibility and choice. A seat will still be reserved for you on the coach for excursions, so you can really make the most of exploring the local area. Please note that if you choose to join your holiday at the hotel then you may miss any en-route visits or tours.



Regional Coach pick-ups

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



Rail departures

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



Airport departures

Although the majority of our flight inclusive tours depart from London, regional departures and domestic connections may be available on request.

Get in touch
with an *expert*

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, on:
01334 804 711

Alternatively, send us an email to:
info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:
www.brightwaterholidays.com

Up Helly Aa - Shetland's Festival of Fire

Up Helly Aa Festival

Shetland is a beguiling place to visit at any time but in the short winter days the islands take on a special character with steely grey seas and dramatic skies. During our stay we will take in the prehistoric and Norse settlement of Jarlshof to the south, and tour as far as the islands of Yell and Unst to the north. Up Helly Aa itself is on the Tuesday, when we will have the day free to enjoy the various events in Lerwick, culminating in the torchlight procession and boat burning ceremony in the evening, the highlight of an unusual and uplifting winter break.



Vikings march through the streets of Lerwick

Discover more...

» A wander through the streets of Lerwick is normally a quiet, peaceful experience, but take a walk there at the end of January and it's quite likely that you will bump into a squad of very large, very bearded Vikings, resplendent in gleaming chain-mail and winged helmets. Later, the Vikings and their fancy-dressed followers fill the narrow streets, their flaming torches illuminating the dark winter skies, their boisterous songs filling the air. A 30-foot Viking longship is carried aloft before it is set alight with a thousand blazing brands. As the sky over Lerwick shimmers with heat and light, fireworks explode, brass bands play and the gloom of winter is lifted for another year. This is Up Helly Aa, the annual winter festival of Shetland, which celebrates the lengthening of the days and the coming of another year, not to mention the chance of a good old knees-up. It's run by Shetlanders for Shetlanders, but that's not to say visitors aren't welcome and the island hospitality will be as warm as ever.



Viking festival

Tour highlights

- » Enjoy the famous Up Helly Aa Festival, one of the most iconic events in the Scottish calendar. As darkness falls, the squads begin to assemble for the torchlight parade and eventually a procession of 1,000 men snakes its way through the streets with flaming brands of paraffin-soaked hessian.
- » Take a full day tour of mainland Shetland, visiting the outstanding Prehistoric and Norse settlement of Jarlshof, where over three acres of remains span 3,000 years since the days of the Stone Age, as well as the RSPB reserve of Sumburgh Head and the original capital of Scalloway.
- » Discover the northern isles of Yell and Unst and head to stunning spots such as Baltasound and Saxa Vord Hill.

4 DAYS from £1,620

DEPARTURE POINTS: Aberdeen, Edinburgh

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Brae Hotel
- ▶ Return flights from Aberdeen (Edinburgh flight supplement £200pp) to Sumburgh
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Visits include: Scalloway, Jarlshof, Sumburgh Head & Up Helly Aa Festival
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

	Early booking offer*	Was	Now
27 - 30 Jan		£1,695	£1,620
Single Supplement			On request

7 DAYS coach package available from £1,595

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

Departing on 25th Jan (£1520 if booked by 31/10) – please see website for more details

Scotland's Extreme North West

Achmelvich Beach

Join us in Scotland's North West, where the coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking and the warmth of our highland hotel is very welcoming. From our base in Kinlochbervie, overlooking the fishing harbour with panoramic views over lochs and hills to the open sea, we seek out some of the gems of the coast such as Oldshoremore, an exquisite beach of white sand, and Smoo Cave at Durness, a huge sea cave with a waterfall and a 'blowhole'. In the evenings, we can enjoy fine food, good company and a fireside dram.



Assynt



Smoo Cave

Discover more...

- » The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the early spring months as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty.
- » Crossing high moorland and secluded straths along the way, there are plenty of Scottish gems to discover such as Tongue, an ancient Scottish settlement with a host of different theories about its history.
- » Elsewhere, the charming village of Lochinver is a delight to explore, with its bustling harbour, lochside location and superb views to the famous mountain of Suilven. Though relatively small in Scottish terms at 2,389ft, Suilven presents a fearsome sight with its seemingly unconquerable summit, which we can expect to be flecked with snow during our visit.

Tour highlights

- » Discover Assynt's extraordinary landscapes of vast, undulating moorland studded with freshwater lochans.
- » Walk along one of the most beautiful beaches in Scotland, Oldshoremore.
- » Admire the stunning surrounding scenery en-route to the Highland village of Durness.
- » Step into other worlds at the Norse settlement of Tongue and the impressive Smoo Cave.
- » Visit the wonderful chocolatier at Cocoa Mountain and have the chance to sample one of the finest hot chocolates in the world.

"Very good, some interesting visits, good accommodation and a very good tour manager."
Guest - March 2024

4 DAYS from £645 | LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

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

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 3-star Kinlochbervie Hotel
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Visits include: Oldshoremore, Cocoa Mountain and Smoo Cave
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

	Early booking offer*	Was	Now
13 - 16 Mar		£695	£645
18 - 21 Mar		£695	£645
8 - 11 Apr		£725	£675
18 - 21 Apr		£725	£675
Single Supplement			£120

Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection



Kelvingrove

Re-opened in March 2022 after an ambitious refurbishment, Glasgow's Burrell Collection allows visitors for the first time to explore all three floors in the building, set out as galleries, visible stores and special exhibition spaces. This incredible collection holds treasures from all over the world, including 5,000-year-old porcelain from China, paintings by renowned French artists including Manet, Cézanne and Degas, and medieval artefacts such as stained glass, armour and tapestries. Our tour includes visits to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where notable works of art from across Britain and Europe are featured alongside a diverse collection of exhibits; the Hunterian, Scotland's oldest public museum, the Gallery of Modern Art located in the centre of Glasgow, Holmwood House and the House for an Art Lover, built in the 1990s to a design by Charles Rennie Mackintosh from 1901.



Gallery of Modern Art

Discover more...

- » Spot one of Glasgow's iconic landmarks outside the Gallery of Modern Art, the cheekily crowned equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington.
- » The Hunterian Museum is part of the University of Glasgow, founded in 1807, making it Scotland's oldest public museum. There is so much to discover here, including the Mackintosh Collection.
- » Explore the Burrell Collection, voted Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2023.



Charles Rennie Mackintosh's House for an Art Lover

Tour highlights

- » The Gallery of Modern Art housed in an impressive neo-classical building in Royal Exchange Square.
- » Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and the Hunterian Museum.
- » The Burrell Collection and Holmwood House, the most elaborate residential villa designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson.
- » House for an Art Lover, whose origins lie drawings prepared by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1901.

"I expect to have a good holiday when I travel with Brightwater and I was not disappointed."

Guest - March 2024

4 DAYS from £645 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

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

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Best Western Garfield House Hotel, Glasgow
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Visits include: The Burrell Collection, Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, House for an Art Lover and the Gallery of Modern Art
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Early booking offer*	Was	Now
21 - 24 Mar	£695	£645

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh



Glasgow

Lying just 45 miles apart, Scotland's two largest cities enjoy a healthy rivalry and are often contrasted with each other. In terms of their architecture, Glasgow's city centre is predominantly Victorian, with vast edifices built on a grand scale to reflect its status as the 'Second City of the Empire'. In contrast, Edinburgh is most noted for its Georgian architecture, in particular the elegant terraces and wide streets of the New Town, though it also boasts a historic Old Town. Visits in Edinburgh include the 500-year-old Gladstone's Land, the controversial Scottish Parliament building and the fascinating Georgian House, while in Glasgow we have a private guided tour of the impressive City Chambers, visit the humble Tenement House and discover the city's social history at the People's Palace.



Edinburgh



Royal Mile Edinburgh

Discover more...

- » We visit St. Giles' Cathedral, the scene of Her Majesty The Queen's lying-in-state and later the 'Scottish Coronation' of His Majesty The King.
- » Discover The Georgian House, restored to reflect the lives of those who lived and worked there in the late 18th and early 19th century.
- » See the neo-classical design of the National Gallery of Scotland, which helped to transform Edinburgh into the so-called 'Athens of the North'.
- » Explore the Glasgow City Chambers, a grand edifice completed in 1888 and a symbol of Glasgow's wealth.

Tour highlights

- » Edinburgh with a tour of the Old Town, the historic area either side of the Royal Mile that runs from Edinburgh Castle down to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Gladstone's Land and St Giles' Cathedral.
- » Tour of the Scottish Parliament building.
- » Palace of Holyroodhouse, where we explore the 14 historic and state apartments and the manicured gardens.
- » Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland
- » Private guided tour of the Glasgow City Chambers.
- » Afternoon tea at Mackintosh at the Willow.

4 DAYS from £845 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, Edinburgh

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the Best Western Garfield House Hotel, Glasgow
- ▶ One afternoon tea
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Visits include: Palace of Holyroodhouse, The Tenement House and Gladstone's Land
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Early booking offer*	Was	Now
28 - 31 Mar	£895	£845

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



Charlotte Square

Snowdrop Gardens of the Cotswolds



Snowdrops

The Cotswolds are home to some of the best gardens for snowdrops in the British Isles, so this winter break will be of great appeal not just to ardent galanthophiles but to anyone who enjoys the uplifting sight that says spring is not too far away. Colesbourne is considered to be the greatest snowdrop garden of them all and for many will be the highlight of the tour, but there are many other outstanding displays to be enjoyed. These include Newark Park, Cerney House, Painswick Rococo Garden and the gardens of the famous 'Arts and Crafts' house of Rodmarton Manor, where we find a staggering 150 different varieties of snowdrop.



Galanthus Atkinsii

Discover more...

- » In February, snowdrops at their best, with enchanting woodland carpeted in the little white blooms. We visit several iconic spots, such as Painswick Rococo Gardens, which boasts approximately 5 million snowdrops and 15 different species. It's said to be the spiritual home of the tall, honey-scented Galanthus 'Atkinsii', while other varieties include the double form, Galanthus Nivalis Flore Pleno.
- » Another highlight is Colesbourne Gardens, the premier location to see this charming and uplifting flower in bloom. Over 300 varieties adorn 10 acres of private gardens and woodlands, mixing with hellebores, cyclamen and early flowering shrubs – it really is a sight to behold.



Painswick Rococo


Tour highlights

- » Newark Park, a secluded country estate upon the Cotswolds escarpment, with carpets of snowdrops over the gardens and estate.
- » Colesbourne Gardens, considered to be England's greatest snowdrop garden, with over three hundred varieties of this spectacular harbinger of spring on show.
- » Stroud's Museum in the Park, with its impressive display of snowdrops and Painswick Rococo Garden, home to one of the country's largest naturalistic plantings of snowdrops.
- » The gardens of the 'Arts and Crafts' house of Rodmarton Manor, with the spectacle of 150 different species and varieties of snowdrops.

"Very good. The description of the tour was very accurate. The driver and guide were excellent."

Guest - February 2024

4 DAYS from £695 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

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

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the 4-star Holiday Inn Gloucester-Cheltenham
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Visits include: Newark Park, Colesbourne Gardens, Painswick Rococo Garden and Cerney House
- Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Early booking offer*	Was	Now
7 - 10 Feb	£745	£695

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Spring Gardens of Cornwall



Lost Gardens of Heligan

Spring comes early in Cornwall, as trees, shrubs and bulbs bring life and colour back to the gardens. The near neighbours of Trebah and Glendurgan illustrate this perfectly, with the great Asiatic shrubs of rhododendron, magnolia and camellia all featuring rich blossom. The award-winning Lost Gardens of Heligan continue to fascinate, while over at the Eden Project things have come a long way since that disused chalk pit was transformed into a futuristic microcosm of botanical diversity. Our tour is bookended with visits to two top-class National Trust properties at Knightshayes Court and Killerton.



Glendurgan



Eden Project

Discover more...

- » This time of year sees the reawakening of Heligan's fabulous collection of historic shrubs, including their notable camellias and rhododendrons.
- » Huge plant conservatories which celebrate the world's eco-systems can be seen at the Eden Project, from the Mediterranean microclimate to an indoor rainforest.
- » Knightshayes Court features a water lily pool, topiary, specimen trees, rare shrubs, seasonal colour and an impressive Victorian kitchen garden.
- » Expect outstanding spring displays of magnolias and camellias at Glendurgan. Look out for the 19th-century hedge maze too, originally built by the owners to entertain their 12 children.
- » Countless trees and shrubs thrive in the gardens of Killerton, including rhododendrons and magnolias which should be coming into full bloom.

Tour highlights

- » Knightshayes Court, whose garden features a water lily pool, topiary, specimen trees and an impressive Victorian kitchen garden.
- » The Eden Project, with its huge controlled environment plant conservatories and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, the scene of the largest garden restoration project in Europe, showcasing shrubs, including camellias and rhododendrons.
- » Trebah, a wild and colourful Cornish garden and Glendurgan, a place of great beauty and tranquillity with outstanding spring displays of magnolias and camellias, as well as a hedge maze, originally built by the owners in the 1830s.
- » The house and gardens of Killerton, set on a wooded hillside with remains of an Iron Age Hill fort on top, surrounded by rhododendrons and magnolias in full bloom.

"Overall holiday experience was fantastic - the journey was beautiful from start to finish"

Guest - March 2024

4 DAYS from £695

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

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the comfortable Pentire Hotel, Newquay
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Visits include: Knightshayes, Lost Gardens of Heligan, Trebah and Glendurgan
- Services of an expert tour manager

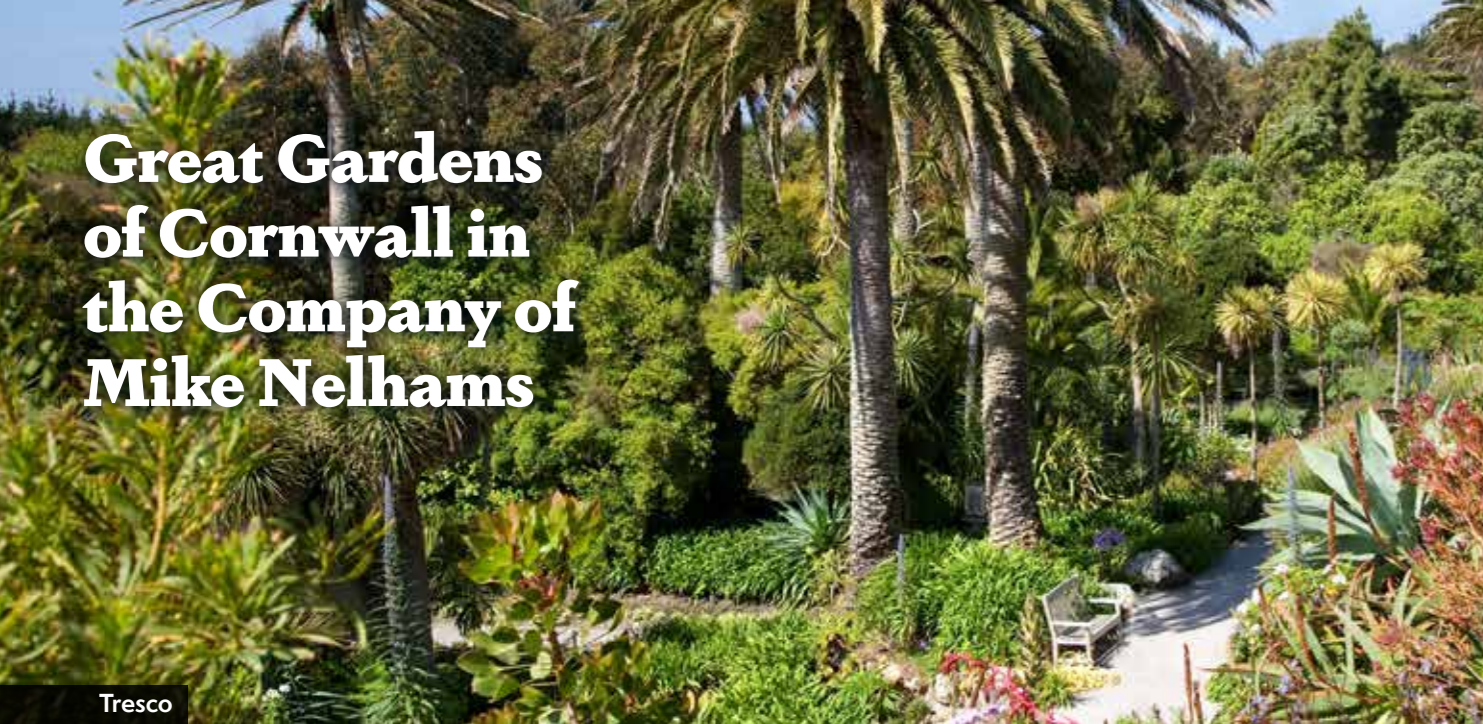
DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Early booking offer*	Was	Now
17 - 20 Mar	£745	£695

Single Supplement

£150

Great Gardens of Cornwall in the Company of Mike Nelhams



Tresco



YOUR TOUR MANAGER
MIKE NELHAMS

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

With the help of Mike Nelhams, we have created this very special tour of Cornwall, featuring not only spectacular gardens but also the personalities behind them.



Tregothnan



Tresco

Discover more...

- » At the Lost Gardens of Heligan, we take a guided tour with Alasdair Moore, Head of Gardens. There is plenty to see, with this time of year seeing the reawakening of camellias and rhododendrons, plus the fragrance of wild garlic in the air from April.
- » The Abbey Garden is one of the country's most stunning gardens, with the exceptionally mild climate allowing a range of exotic, sub-tropical plants to thrive, such as the blue-hued Canary Island Echium and the South African Protea Neriifolia.
- » Tregothnan is a must-visit in spring, where rare plants have been cultivated for over 700 years by the same family. This is also where Britain's first home-grown tea was created!

Tour highlights

- » Visit the Lost Gardens of Heligan, where we hope to be welcomed by Sir Tim Smit, who restored the gardens to their former glory.
- » Enjoy lunch at Caerhays Castle before a guided tour of the gardens with one of the Williams family, the owners of the fortress since the mid-19th century.
- » Take a helicopter flight to Tresco, where a personal guided tour of the Abbey Garden awaits.
- » Explore the privately-owned garden of Lamorran House with its Italian and Japanese influences.
- » Sample delicious tea at Tregothan Tea Plantation with Managing Director Jonathan Jones.

5 DAYS from £2,020

DEPARTURE POINT: London Paddington

- ▶ Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4-star Alverton Hotel, Truro
- ▶ Two lunches
- ▶ Return standard class rail travel between London and Truro (regional rail connections and upgrades can also be arranged at a supplement; £100pp discount for no rail travel)
- ▶ Return helicopter flight to the Scilly Isles
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Visits include: Lost Gardens of Heligan, Caerhays Castle, Tresco's Abbey garden and Tregothnan Estate
- ▶ Services of horticulturalist Mike Nelhams as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Early booking offer*	Was	Now
17 - 21 Mar	£2,095	£2,020
24 - 28 Mar	£2,095	£2,020
15 - 19 Apr	£2,145	£2,070
Single Supplement		£295

The Mary Rose: A Tudor Tale



© Mary Rose

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



Hampton Court



Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Discover more...

- » Find out more about the famous Mary Rose, with a visit and exclusive talk. The ship was, for many years, Henry VIII's favourite warship as it was fast, well-armed and successful. The raising of the Mary Rose and her subsequent restoration was a remarkable achievement, while the collection of some 19,700 genuine Tudor artefacts is unparalleled and provides an invaluable insight into 16th century life.
- » We explore Anne of Cleves House. The fourth wife of Henry VIII was given her house at the end of her short-lived marriage, although she never lived there. Nevertheless, it provides great insight into the Tudor period with well-preserved interiors including a Tudor kitchen, a parlour and a bedroom complete with four poster bed.
- » Enter The Vyne, visited by Henry VIII on at least three occasions and later home to the Chute family for more than 350 years.

Tour highlights

- » Hampton Court Palace, one of Henry VIII's most favoured residences.
- » Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard, home to the Mary Rose, with exclusive expert talk on the relationship between the ship and Henry VIII.
- » Anne of Cleves House.
- » The 11th century Arundel Castle.
- » The Vyne, originally built as a great Tudor 'power house'.

4 DAYS from £845 | **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

PICK-UP POINTS: London

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed breakfast at the 4-star Norton Park Hotel, Spa and Manor House, Winchester
- ▶ Comfortable coach travel throughout
- ▶ Visits include: Hampton Court Palace, the Historic Dockyard, Portsmouth, Anne of Cleves House and Arundel Castle
- ▶ Services of an expert tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

Early booking offer*	Was	Now
28 - 31 Mar	£895	£845
NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT		



Arundel Castle



**Get in touch
with an *expert***

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday
between 9am and 5pm, on:

01334 804 711

Alternatively, send us an email to:

info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:

www.brightwaterholidays.com

PART OF THE SPECIALIST JOURNEYS GROUP OF TOUR OPERATORS