

**2025 DEPARTURES  
FEBRUARY - MARCH**

**Still time  
to book an  
early year  
getaway**







Valletta - capital of Malta

There's still time to enjoy an exciting getaway in February and March! Start 2025 in a memorable way and treat yourself to an adventure to some of the world's most incredible gardens.

Our upcoming departures offer the opportunity to explore a fantastic variety of blooming treasures across Europe and beyond, where we learn from expert horticulturalists and enjoy excursions to botanical wonders. There's plenty of choice – look forward to the fragrant Menton Lemon Festival on the French Riviera, discover the balmy gardens of the Caribbean's St Lucia or tick cherry blossom season in Japan off your bucket list. We have options closer to home too, including the rugged landscapes of Scotland's North West and springtime gardens of Cornwall, which burst into life after the long winter.

If that wasn't enough, we also feature unique destinations full of distinctive architecture in Antwerp and Scotland, archaeological secrets in Cyprus and cultural highlights in Malta.

Whether you're looking for botanical beauty or once-in-a-lifetime experiences, our itineraries ensure an unforgettable journey with everything taken care of. So why not secure your place on one of our soon-to-depart adventures and make 2025 the year you explore somewhere new?

I hope this handpicked selection leaves you feeling inspired and we look forward to welcoming you soon on a Brightwater holiday.

Best wishes,

*Alison Wilson*  
Managing Director

## Gardens of the French Riviera - Menton Lemon Festival

6 DAYS from £1,895 | SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £325 | DEPARTING 27 FEBRUARY

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

Menton's zesty Lemon Festival brings a vibrant burst of colour to our tour of the French Riviera. Exotic gardens, cacti collections and azure seas complete our sparkling itinerary. At the Clos du Peyronnet we have an exclusive tour, where a passion for exotic plants is reflected in the colour and variety of this fascinating garden. At St. Jean Cap Ferrat, we visit the exquisite gardens of the Fondation Ephrussi de Rothschild, while a short hop over the border to Italy finds us at the incomparable Hanbury Gardens.



Menton Lemon Festival parade

## Gardens of Saint Lucia

9 DAYS from £4,645 | SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £1,195 | DEPARTING 27 FEBRUARY

 DEPARTURE POINT: London



Rodney Bay

When travelling to the Caribbean you expect sun, sea and beautiful beaches, and while we can promise all of that, this bespoke tour of Saint Lucia takes us much further. Saint Lucia is unique in its natural splendour partially due to its volcanic origin. The soil, rich in minerals, coupled with the equatorial climate, makes it the perfect place for lush vegetation, where all manner of tropical plants flourish. We not only explore some of the island's most notable gardens including the Diamond Botanical Gardens and Marantha Prayer Garden but we also visit one of the island's most famous sustainable farms, the Rabot Estate, where we learn about cocoa growing and processing and craft our very own chocolates. A melting pot of cultures with influences from the Arawak and Carib Indians, then later colonial influences from the French, English and Dutch means today's Saint Lucia has flourished into a truly wonderful place to explore.





Casa Rocca Piccola

## Cultural Malta

**5 DAYS** from £1,245 | **NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**  
**DEPARTING 4 MARCH**

 **DEPARTURE POINT:** London

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 5900 BC. and ruled by a succession of powers, so it is little wonder it presents such a captivating tapestry. Visits include the Barrakka Gardens, Casa Rocca Piccola and the Malta Experience. A full day tour takes us to the Palazzo Parisio where we will have an exclusive afternoon tea in the most opulent surroundings. We also visit Mdina, Ħaġar Qim, Malta's main historic site; and the Blue Grotto, where we enjoy a boat trip.

## Malta's Archaeological Heritage

**7 DAYS** from £1,845 | **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £195**  
**DEPARTING 4 MARCH**

 **DEPARTURE POINT:** London

Malta's diminutive archipelago is by no means any indication of the vast riches it holds — from the Neolithic to now, they are many and varied — a land of golden limestone cliff coasts, lucid seas, beautiful laidback towns and heart-stirring views. During this tour, we venture inside the walled citadel of Mdina, explore the warren of narrow tomb lined passages of St Paul's Catacombs, and take to the waves for a boat trip around the spectacular cliffs and caverns of the famed Blue Grotto. But most startling of all, perhaps, are the mysterious sites left by civilisations with whom we are just starting to get acquainted: the millennia-old Mnajdra Temples and the megaliths of Ħaġar Qim which make for a truly unforgettable archaeological expedition.



Upper Barrakka Gardens



Santiago de Compostela

## Galicia's Camellia Route

**6 DAYS** from £1,495 | **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £195**  
**DEPARTING 12 MARCH**

 **DEPARTURE POINT:** London

With a milder, wetter climate than the rest of Spain, the gardens in Galicia have a luxuriant air, accentuated by the fact that many belong to grand country mansions (pazos). Another happy feature of the climate is that camellias thrive here, and in the spring sunshine they provide welcome splashes of colour, blooming exuberantly in shades of white, pink and red.

We will follow the length of the camellia route, which extends from La Coruña in the north by way of the historic pilgrimage centre of Santiago de Compostela to Vigo in the south. Along the way, we visit a collection of splendid gardens, including the outstanding Castillo de Soutomaior, while enjoying some spring sunshine and the uplifting sight of one of the garden world's favourite flowering plants in full bloom.



Smoo Cave

## Scotland's Extreme North West

**4 DAYS** from £745 | **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £120**  
**DEPARTING 13 & 18 MARCH**

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

The rugged and remote north-west coast of Scotland takes on a majestic character in the early spring as Mother Nature lays on a spectacular display of beauty. The coastal views and landscapes are breathtaking and the warmth of our highland hotel is very welcoming at this time of year. From our base in Kinlochbervie, overlooking the fishing harbour with panoramic views over lochs and hills to the open seas, 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 evening we can enjoy fine food, good company and a fireside dram.

## Spring Gardens of Cornwall

**4 DAYS** from £795 | **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £150**  
**DEPARTING 17 MARCH**

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

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.



Lost Gardens of Heligan



Garden at Son Marroig

## Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca

**6 DAYS** from £1,645 | **SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £395**  
**DEPARTING 18 MARCH**

 **DEPARTURE POINT:** London

Away from the busy beach resorts, the Balearic island of Mallorca offers a timeless, verdant landscape of wooded hills and orange groves, sweeping bays and rocky mountains. Dotted around the island is a host of historic gardens whose origins date back hundreds of years, as well as more modern creations, providing a rich range of horticultural delights to be enjoyed in the warm sunshine. These include the gardens at Raixa and Alfaiba, both with Moorish origins and later Christian influences, and Son Marroig, a former residence of Archduke Luis Salvador with dramatic views.

Elsewhere we visit the monastery of Real Cartuja de Valldemosa, with its peerless location high in the mountains; tour the island's principal city of Palma with its Gothic cathedral and Arab baths and take an exhilarating ride on the Tren de Soller, a heritage train that runs through spectacular mountain scenery.





Villa Giulia

## Gardens and Villas of Sicily

8 DAYS from £2,495 | SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £395  
DEPARTING 18 MARCH

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

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 on to its warm and fertile shores you'll understand why. Our eight-day tour takes in the best that the island has to offer, with a strong emphasis on gardens, which is what sets this holiday apart from other Sicilian offerings. We begin on the slopes of Mount Etna, Europe's highest active volcano, as we visit an elegant garden which thrives on the fertile soil here and then ascend the mountain itself, observing the change from lush groves to stark, desert landscapes. In Taormina we visit a private garden which boasts spectacular views across the bay before exploring the Greco-Roman remains of the city itself. Heading south we gain an exclusive insight into Sicilian gardening with a member of the team at Villasmundo and visit the private garden of a Sicilian aristocrat. A treat for the senses awaits at Gli Aroma Sicily as we discover an extensive selection of herbs and spices and we also enjoy lunch at a monastery high in the mountains. We conclude in Palermo, a melting-pot of architectural styles with both Norman and Arabic influences.

## Portugal - Route of the Almond Blossom

8 DAYS from £2,595 | SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £395  
DEPARTING 19 MARCH

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

This tour travels through the Douro Valley taking in the stunning almond blossom vistas which are comparable with the more famous cherry blossoms in Japan - but a lot closer to home. Spend some time exploring the vibrant city of Porto with its UNESCO World Heritage Centre - the Ribeira district is home to colourful houses, narrow cobbled streets and a surfeit of Portuguese charm. Departing from the city we enjoy a scenic train ride through the Douro Valley with its spectacular vistas and ranks of flowering almond trees. Our destination is Vila Nova de Foz Côa, whose almond trees bloom with delicate pink and white flowers, a magnificent sight to behold. We also visit some of the Douro Valley's notable Manor Houses including Casa Mateus and Casa do Campo as well as some of the area's fascinating gardens.



Almond trees, Douro Valley



Gallery of Modern Art

## Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

4 DAYS from £845 | SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £275  
DEPARTING 21 MARCH

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

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.

## The Archaeology of Ancient Cyprus

8 DAYS from £2,095 | SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £325 | DEPARTING 25 MARCH

 DEPARTURE POINT: London

The Mediterranean Island of Cyprus has a rich Prehistoric, Classical and Medieval past. In recent years research has shown that the earliest occupation of the island dates back over 10,000 years, and over these millennia the Cypriot people have developed their own distinctive artefacts, buildings, art and culture. At this time of year, Cyprus lends itself perfectly as an escape from the cooler weather at home, while providing the opportunity to explore the sites in the comfort of mild spring weather rather than the heat of the summer.

Among the highlights are three UNESCO World Heritage sites, Khirokitia and the Archaeological Park and Tomb of the Kings at Paphos, along with a host of other fascinating sites, including the very spot where the newborn goddess Aphrodite came ashore in her shell, a popular subject for classical painters.



Tomb of the Kings

## Seasonal Gardens of Japan

13 DAYS from £6,995 | SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £1,250 | DEPARTING 24 MARCH

 DEPARTURE POINT: London



Mount Fuji

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. 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. Travel in March where we hope to see the stunning cherry blossom.



# The Art & Architecture of Antwerp

5 DAYS from £1,495 | NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT  
DEPARTING 27 MARCH

 DEPARTURE POINT: London St Pancras International

A gem in the Flanders region of Belgium, famed for its medieval streets and renaissance monuments, Antwerp is home to thousands of paintings by the Old Masters, housed in some of the most famous museums in the world. Our tour explores some of the wonderful architecture to be found in the city, including the Cathedral of Our Lady which is still unfinished although construction began in 1351, and the impressive Centraal Station which has been voted the most beautiful in the world on several occasions. We are joined by local guides as we explore the art collections of Antwerp's best museums, including the KMSKA – Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Snijders & Rockox Huis and the Plantin-Moretus Museum. We also have a visit to the newly re-opened Rubens House Experience and Gardens.



Cathedral of Our Lady

# The Architecture of Glasgow and Edinburgh

4 DAYS from £945 | SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £275 | DEPARTING 28 MARCH

 PICK-UP POINTS: Glasgow, 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 and visit the humble Tenement House.

Get in touch with an *expert*

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday  
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