







AWARD-WINNING SUMMER & AUTUMN HOLIDAYS



SAVE UP TO \$560pp | \$0 Single Supplement places available

Now's the time to book your 2024 Summer and Autumn holiday!

The days seem to be flying by now, so there's no time to lose if you want to book one of our glorious UK, European and Worldwide holidays, whether to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland or to some of the best gardens in the world.

The following selection of holidays departs from July through to October. They feature our incomparable selection of destinations, from the northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland to the Caribbean island of Grenada, and from His Majesty The King's garden at Highgrove to the Singapore Garden Festival. As always, you will find they include a carefully curated selection of visits and attractions, comfortable hotels with most evening meals included, and of course the services of our friendly and knowledgeable tour managers. They are on hand from start to finish and take care of the smooth running of the trip, leaving you free to sit back and watch the world – our wonderful world of travel – go by.

Please note that, as always, full details of our itineraries (which now include many departures in 2025) can be found on our website.

Best wishes.

Alisen Wilsen
Managing Director











Latest Offers

Summer Special Offer*

If you book selected tours departing before 15 September 2024, you can save up to \$560pp*

2024 Pay in Full Offer**

For tours departing from 15 September - 31 December 2024, if you pay in full at the time of booking you can save up to \$560pp**

*T&Cs: savings applicable are \$210pp off UK tours, \$350pp off European tours and \$560 off Worldwide tours. Offer is valid for tours departing before 15 September 2024.

**T&Cs: For tours departing from 15 September – 31 December 2024 if you pay in full at the time of booking you will save \$210pp off UK tours, \$350pp off European tours and \$560pp off Worldwide tours. Discounts can only be applied at the time of booking. These offers cannot be combined with any other offers – please speak to our Specialist Sales Executives for details. Offers expire on 17 June 2024 but may be withdrawn at any time and are not applicable to Christmas/Festive tours, travel agent bookings or private groups. The prices shown in the following pages include the relevant discount.



All our holidays are fully bonded and financially protected. Holidays with flights included are protected by ATOL and those without flights by ABTOT.





Get in touch with an expert.

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call, Monday to Friday between 9am and 6pm, on:

646-802-1524

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

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

What makes a Brightwater holiday?

Our team of dedicated and passionate travel professionals works tirelessly to provide our quests with the best possible holiday experience.



We've been bringing groups of quests to our home country of Scotland for over three decades now. With this kind of longevity comes a lot of experience, and our time in the travel industry has allowed us to become the No.1 tour operator for holidays to Scotland. Choose us for your next Scottish holiday and see why we're the top choice for this, our most beloved destination.



AWARD-WINNING



PEACE OF MIND



VALUE FOR MONEY



HOLIDAY EXPERTS

- Unique and innovative holidays that are well planned and perfectly paced



TOUR FLEXIBILITY



Whether you're green-fingered or you simply enjoy the peace and serenity that walking around a beautiful garden can bring, there is bound to be a garden holiday for you. Our range is incredibly broad, taking in both public and private gardens at home and abroad and not forgetting those all-important horticultural events such as flower shows and festivals



Travel takes us out of our comfort zones and inspires us to see, taste, and try new things. It constantly challenges us not only to adapt to and explore new surroundings but also to connect with different people and share new and meaningful experiences. While travelling alone can be daunting, with Brightwater Holidays you'll always find companionship and the opportunity to forge new friendships. Join our group tours and discover the joy of shared experiences and lasting connections.



A COMPANIONABI F EXPERIENCE

Our tours are inclusive, informal, and fun, and Brightwater quests are some of the most fascinating people you could ever hope to meet. Travelling with a group of like-minded individuals enriches the experience immeasurably. Friendships form quickly, with many lasting for decades. Guests often reconnect well after their tour has ended and make plans to embark on future adventures together.

FRIENDLY TOLIR MANAGERS

Our Tour Managers are experts in supporting solo travellers on the road. They will, if you wish, sit with you at dinner or on a coffee break, introduce you to other quests and generally make you feel welcome and part of the group.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

We understand that many of our solo travellers feel disadvantaged by high single supplements across the travel industry, including ours. We've listened to your feedback and are pleased to announce that we have negotiated hundreds of places on select 2024 tours with no single supplement. Now, you can embark on your journey without the extra cost.



Whether you choose our five or six day itinerary, our best-selling grand tour takes in all the beauty and diversity of this very special environment with ten different islands and four ferry trips included. Two comfortable hotels ensure that this holiday is as relaxing as possible while at the same time offering great variety and the sense of a true journey of discovery which will live long in the memory. Our odyssey begins as we travel via Glencoe, Fort William and Glenfinnan to Mallaig. From here we take the ferry to Lochboisdale in South Uist and cross the causeway to Benbecula, the 'stepping stone' between the Uists, before visiting the islands of Eriskay, Vatersay and Barra.

A captivating journey follows as we travel 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 main Callanish site will be closed from 1 Sept 2024 until 2025 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead), the tranquil little Norse Mill and the distinctive Black Houses at Gearrange.

Tour Highlights

- The unique airport at Cockleshell Beach
- 5000 year old standing stones
- · The tranquil location of the Norse Mill at Shawbost
- Four scenic ferry crossings

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (*Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow*) for Mallaig, where we take the ferry to Lochboisdale, with dinner served on board. On arrival we continue to our hotel in **Benbecula**, the 'stepping stone' between North and South Uist. (*D*)

Day 2 We drive south, cross the causeway to the island of **Eriskay** and continue by ferry to **Barra**. We will visit **Castlebay** with views of **Kisimul Castle**; watch as the plane lands on the beach which serves as the island's runway, and visit **Vatersay** with its amazing beaches of white sand and turquoise sea. (B, D)



Day 3 We travel north today as we take the ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh on the isle of Harris, visiting St Clement's Church at Rodel before continuing through the mountains to Lewis and our hotel 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 Lews 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. (B, D)

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

Our Stornoway to Benbecula itinerary operates in reverse, with two nights in Stornoway and three nights in Benbecula. *The main Callanish site will be closed from 1 September 2024 until 2025 and we will visit the nearby smaller circles instead.

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED 6-DAY ITINERARY

- ▶ Five nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island / Isle of Benbecula Hotel and three nights at the Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway lone dinner and one breakfast on the ferryl
- Coach travel and all ferry crossings
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON BENBECULA TO STORNOWAY

2024

22 - 27 Sept

\$2.095 \$1,885

STORNOWAY TO BENBECULA

2024

19 - 24 Aug \$2.095

Single Supplement \$350

Tour code: BGTS / BGTB

\$1885

5-DAY ITINERARY

We also offer a five-day itinerary exploring the delights of these charming islands. Highlights include: Cockleshell Beach, the Standing Stones of Callanish*, the Norse Mill at Shawbost and much more.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ► Four nights' dinner, bed & breakfast: two nights at the Dark Island Hotel. Benbecula and two nights at the Caberfeidh Hotel, Stornoway (one dinner and one breakfast on the ferryl
- Coach travel and all ferry crossings
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

30 Sep - 4 Oct \$1,535 \$1,325 Sinale Supplement \$280

Tour code: **BGTO**

Shetland and its Outer Isles

2024 Departures: 3 JUL, 17 AUG



If you want to get away from it all, Shetland is the place to be. As close to Norway as it is to Scotland, Shetland is rugged and remote, with a raw natural beauty, a unique culture and wonderful wildlife. There are over a hundred islands here, only 16 of which are inhabited, each with its own individual character, and our tour offers the opportunity to visit four of them, providing a real taste of the diversity of this amazing archipelago, not to mention the simple pleasure of travelling by boats, both large and small, as the indomitable inhabitants of these islands have done for hundreds of years.

Single Supplement

\$455

Tour Highlights

- · Rich wildlife on the Island of Mousa
- 3000 years of archaeological history at Jarlshof
- Muness Castle the most northerly castle in the British Isles
- · The stunning sea cliffs of Noss
- Bobby's bus shelter in Baltasound surely the most famous in the world!

Ancient Stones of the Outer Hebrides

2024 Departures: 6 JUL

7 DAYS FROM \$1,675

\$210

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. In the company of a specialist guide we will tour a succession of sites, from Lewis in the north to Harris in the south. Highlights include the Bosta Iron Age Village, the Callanish Standing Stones and St Clement's Church at Rodel.

Single Supplement

\$245

Tour Highlights

- Bosta Iron Village, the Outer Hebrides' version of Skara Brae
- The remarkable and mysterious standing stones of Callanish
- Glimpses into a not-so-distant past at the Blackhouses of Gearrannan and Arnol
- Echoes of vanished lives at the Genealogy Centre
- The incomparable scenery of the Western Isles



Tour code: **BAOH**

Arran, Scotland in Miniature

2024 Departures: 12 AUG. 9 SEP



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. From our base in Blackwaterfoot, we visit Brodick Castle and its wonderful gardens. we enjoy a circular tour of Arran that passes through Whiting Bay, Lamlash, Corrie and Sannox, and we can look forward to both a tour and a tasting at the Isle of Arran Distillery.

Single Supplement

\$255

Tour Highlights

- Sailing across the Firth of Clyde and watching the mountains of Arran
- · Highly scenic circular tour of the island
- · Distillery tour and tasting
- The incomparable setting and colourful gardens of Brodick Castle
- Optional excursion to Achamore Gardens and the tranquil Isle of Gigha

Tour code: BARR

Orkney and Shetland by Air

2024 Departures: 21 AUG. 9 SEP

5 DAYS FROM \$2,725 SAVING PER PERSON

\$210

You asked and we listened! As it's a long way by road and sea, we have launched this alternative itinerary that explores the glorious and wild Orkney and Shetland Isles, which includes a flight from Aberdeen or Edinburgh to Sumburgh and back from Kirkwall. This makes the journey to the start point of our tour far shorter and avoids us having to take an overnight sailing to Lerwick. Over five memorable days, we will explore lands steeped in history, wildlife and stunning scenery, far from the jostling crowds as we lose ourselves in the haunting beauty of the Orkney and Shetland Isles.

Sinale Supplement

Tour Highlights

- Mousa Broch the best preserved Iron Age tower in existence
- Spectacular sea cliffs at Eshaness
- · Multitudes of seabirds at Sumburgh Head
- · The multi-period settlement of Jarlshof
- Neolithic Orkney a UNESCO World Heritage Centre



Tour code: **BAOS**

Undiscovered Orkney

2024 Departures: **27 AUG**

5 DAYS FROM \$1,885

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

An archipelago of 70 islands, each with their own distinctive charm, Orkney is home to boundless history and natural beauty. Based in Kirkwall, on the mainland, 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. Over the years we have explored almost every nook and cranny of Orkney, yet these beautiful islands contain many more secrets and hidden gems that demand to be discovered.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour Highlights

- Mousa Broch the best preserved Iron Age tower in existence
- · Spectacular sea cliffs at Eshaness
- · Multitudes of seabirds at Sumburgh Head
- · The multi-period settlement of Jarlshof
- Neolithic Orkney a UNESCO World Heritage Centre



Tour code: BUOR

Scenic Journeys of the Highlands and Islands

2024 Departures: 1SEP



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 tour aims to provide the answer to this Caledonian conundrum with an itinerary that ticks off a whole host of visual gems. At the same time it provides a series of relaxing, undemanding journeys: driving through Glen Coe, travelling by train along the West Highland Line, a round trip on the historic Jacobite steam train and cruise along Loch Linnhe, in the shadow of Ben Nevis.

Single Supplement

\$275

Tour Highlights

- · Scenic railway journey from Glasgow to Fort William
- · Stunning views on the Jacobite steam train
- An equally scenic run on the railway line from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh
- Cruises on Loch Ness and Loch Linnhe
- · Funicular railway in the Cairngorms

Tour code: BSIH

Knitting in the Shetland Isles

2024 Departures: **19 SEP**

6 DAYS FROM \$2,095

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

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.

Sinale Supplement

\$525

Tour Highlights

- Three tutored knitting workshops
- Learn from local experts
- Visits to textile galleries, museums and woollen mills
- · See the Nielanell Design Studio at Sandwick
- · Discover Scalloway and its ruined castle



Tour code: BKSH

Mull, Staffa and Iona

2024 Departures: **29 SEP**



The Isle of Mull is a place of tumbling burns, high peaks, dramatic views, and a silent, lonely beauty. We will explore some of the highlights of the island including the multi-coloured buildings that line the waterfront of the island's principal town, Tobermory. We sail on a wildlife cruise that takes us to the Treshnish Isles, and the little island of Staffa, whose natural cathedral of basalt columns is one of the wonders of the west coast. We also visit Duart Castle, the 13th century home of the Chief of Clan MacLean and the sacred isle of Iona.

Single Supplement

\$555

Tour Highlights

- · Sailing out of Oban Bay as the holiday begins
- Wildlife cruise from Tobermory plus the amazing spectacle of Fingal's Cave
- Taking in the view towards Ben Cruachan from the top of the keep at Duart Castle
- Moments of peaceful contemplation at Iona Abbey

Tour code: BMSI

In the Footsteps of the Picts

2024 Departures: 2 AUG

4 DAYS FROM \$905

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



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.

Single Supplement

\$85

Tour Highlights

- · Pictish jewellery and sculpture in the National Museum of Scotland
- · Magnificent Pictish stones at Aberlemno
- St Vigeans Museum of Pictish Sculpture
- · Specially-arranged tour of East Lomond Hillfort

Tour code: BPIC

Scotland's Northern Edge featuring the North Coast 500

2024 Departures: **10 SEP**

\$1,325

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

LOW SINGLE SLIPPI EMENT

On the northern edge of Scotland, where ancient rock meets restless sea, the views are among the most spectacular to be found in the British Isles. Dunnet Head in particular, the most northerly point on the mainland, offers extensive sea views, as do the cliffs at Duncansby Head. Following much of the North Coast 500 route, our tour also takes in John O'Groats and the late Queen Mother's Castle of Mey; the impressive Smoo Cave and the Knockan Crag Geo Park, which tells the story of the unique geology of the area and also provides some of the most stunning views on this highly scenic tour.

Single Supplement

\$130

Tour Highlights

- · The famous Stacks of Duncansby
- · Journey's End signpost at John o'Groats
- · Summer gardens at the Castle of Mey
- The magical Smoo Cave



Tour code: **BSNE**

Historic Houses of the Scottish Borders

2024 Departures: **15 SEP**

4 DAYS FROM \$1,185

SAVING PER PERSON \$210



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 to the sea at Berwick.

Single Supplement

\$170

Tour Highlights

- Georgian masterpieces at Mellerstain and Manderston
- Regal connections at Traquair House
- Sir Walter Scott's personal collections at Abbotsford
- The opulence of Floors Castle
- Lunch in the Victorian Kitchen at Thirlstane Castle

Tour code: BHSB

Glasgow's Art Treasures featuring the Burrell Collection

2024 Departures: 13 SEP

4 DAYS FROM \$835

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

NO SINGLE SLIPPI EMENT

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; 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.

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Tour Hiahliahts

- · Explore the newly refurbished Burrell Collection
- · Visit Scotland's oldest public museum
- Discover one delight after another at Kelvingrove
- See world class art (and a Glasgow icon) at the Gallery of Modern Art
- Charles Rennie Mackintosh's design brought to life at the House for an Art Lover



Tour code: BGAT

Scenic Scottish Railways

2024 Departures: 26 IUL. 13 SEP. 4 OCT

4 DAYS FROM \$975

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

LOW SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



The north of Scotland is blessed with some wonderfully scenic railway lines. The challenge of building railways through difficult terrain 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 lonely glens. Highlights on this short break include a visit to the much-photographed Eilean Donan Castle, a ride aboard the Jacobite steam train that takes us over the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct and a rail journey on the Highland Line that provides some magnificent views and takes us over the Drumochter Pass, 1,480 feet above sea level.

Single Supplement

\$130

Tour Highlights

- Iconic views over Loch Shiel from the Glenfinnan Viaduct
- Breathtaking views of the Cuillin mountain range on Skye
- The palm trees of Plockton
- · Scenic banks of the Beauly Firth

A Classic Scottish Steam Break

2024 Departures: 8 AUG. 10 OCT

4 DAYS FROM \$875

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

NO/LOW SINGLE SLIPPI EMENT

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. We also enjoy a taste of steam aboard the newly restored SS Sir Walter Scott on Loch Katrine.

Single Supplement \$125 (Aug) \$0 (Oct)

Tour Highlights

- · Taking a spin on the Falkirk Wheel boat lift
- Stunning views on the Jacobite steam train
- Scenic cruise on the Firth of Clyde aboard the vintage paddle steamer 'Waverley'
- A captivating sailing on Loch Katrine on the steamship Sir Walter Scott



Tour code: **BSTB**

Tour code: BSSR

Scenic Journeys of Argyll and Bute

2024 Departures: 7 SEP



The West Highland Line from Glasgow to Oban is one of the most scenic in Scotland, and unjustly receives less attention than the more famous routes. Here there are many visual delights to enjoy, such as the views over Loch Long and Loch Lomond, the remote Glen Douglas, and the dramatic ruins of Kilchurn Castle. Enjoy the two island gems of little Gigha, home to Achamore Gardens, and the Isle of Bute, where we find one of the most extravagant stately homes in the British Isles.

Single Supplement

\$275

Tour Highlights

- Scenic railway journey from Glasgow to the West Highlands
- · Visit to Achamore Gardens on Gigha
- · Tour of dazzling Mount Stuart
- · Visits to Arduaine and Ardkinglas gardens
- Lunch with a view at Loch Melfort

Tour code: BSAB

Gardens of the Northern Highlands

2024 Departures: 8 IUL

5 DAYS FROM \$1,605 SAVING PER PERSON

\$210

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 expanses of mountain and moorland. Rewards also come in the shape of some enchanting castles and gardens, which we have threaded together to bring out the best of this remote and unspoilt region. Top of the bill is Inverewe, a truly wonderful garden, which involves a journey to the wild beauty of the west coast through some of the most spectacular scenery to be found anywhere in the world. Another highlight is the garden at the Castle of Mey, the much-loved former summer home of the late Queen Mother.

Single Supplement

\$555

Tour Highlights

- The desolate beauty of the Highland landscape
- Inverewe, widely regarded as one of Scotland's greatest gardens
- The holly maze, styled on the Minotaur's labyrinth, at Cawdor Castle
- · The walled gardens of Bighouse Lodge
- Spectacular borders at Langwell



Tour code: **BGNH**

Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway

2024 Departures: 21 IUL. 15 SEP



In the south-western corner of Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway is home to some of the country's most attractive gardens. For many the highlight of our tour is undoubtedly Dumfries House, actually in Ayrshire, which King 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 Scotland. Other highlights include exotic plants at Logan Botanic Gardens, Glenwhan Gardens with its hilltop vistas and Drumlanriq Castle with its extensive gardens and world-class collection of fine art.

Single Supplement

\$225

Tour Highlights

- Stunning interiors and a wonderful walled garden at Dumfries House
- · One of Charles Jencks' distinctive landscapes at Crawick Multiverse
- Plants from around the world in the lush surroundings of Logan Botanic Gardens
- · The tranquil pond at the heart of Glenwhan Gardens
- The treasure trove of fine art that is Drumlanrig Castle

Tour code: BDAG

Somerset's Secret Gardens

2024 Departures: 4 IUL

4 DAYS FROM \$975

SAVING PER PERSON

\$210

One of England's most scenic counties is Somerset, whose lush green pastures, orchards and little villages provide a wonderful backdrop to a most colourful and varied collection of private gardens. Highlights include Bradon Farm, a classic formal garden with good use of structure; Batcombe House, an outstanding plantswoman's garden and Watcombe, a mature Edwardian garden with colour themed, informally planted herbaceous borders. We conclude at the Walled Gardens of Cannington, which our guide, RHS judge and vastly experienced horticulturalist Roy Cheek, helped to create.

Single Supplement

\$275

Tour Highlights

- · Careful planting and structure at Bradon Farm
- Breathtaking views of Wells and the Vale of Avalon at Stoberry
- Soil Association certified ornamental and edible plants at Yeo Valley
- The hidden gem of Cannington Walled Garden
- · Scenic drive through the Quantock Hills



Tour code: **BSSG**

Gardens of Northumberland

2024 Departures: **28 JUL**



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. We visit the gardens of Belsay Hall, which are uniquely set in the quarry that provided the stone to build the house itself; Mindrum, with its large and generous garden and the newer sister garden at Kirky Cottage, where we enjoy a delightful lunch. Newbiggin House, in the pretty village of Blanchland, offers us delightful old fashioned herbaceous borders, while, by way of contrast, the Alnwick Garden gives us a garden for the 21st century.

Single Supplement Tour Highlights

- Visit Mindrum, a garden created with great skill and verve
- Wander Alnwick Garden, one of the world's most ambitious new gardens

\$170

• Marvel at interesting specimens at the Manor House in Whalton with contributions from Jekyll and Lutyens

Tour code: BNBG

Highgrove and the Cotswolds

2024 Departures: 2 AUG

4 DAYS FROM \$975

SAVING PER PERSON



Our tour of the Cotswolds features an exclusive visit, with lunch included, to Highgrove House, the country home of His Majesty The King. This will be a rare opportunity to see these fascinating gardens, which, of course, are cultivated using wholly organic methods. Some of the finest gardens in England are to be found nestled among the green and rolling hills of Gloucestershire. These include the Arts and Crafts house of Rodmarton Manor, whose fine garden comprises a series of 'outdoor rooms'. Hidcote Manor's contrasting garden rooms are one of the most impressive sights in England and Kiftsgate's splendid views are justly famous. We also visit Painswick Rococo Garden.

Single Supplement

\$275

Tour Highlights

- · Weaving through the magical meadows of Highgrove
- · Exclusive Lunch at Highgrove
- · Arts and Crafts style at Rodmarton Manor
- Discovering the secret gardens at Hidcote
- · Rococo buildings and woodland walks at Painswick

Tour code: BHGC

RHS Garden Bridgewater & Gardens of the North West

2024 Departures: 3 AUG

4 DAYS FROM \$765

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

Known for being one of the largest and most ambitious gardening projects in Europe, RHS Garden Bridgewater was created by leading landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith. Highlights include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials. We also take the opportunity to visit some of the best gardens in the region, including Trentham Estate, where the contemporary revival of the famous Italian Gardens was also led by Tom Stuart-Smith; the plantsman's garden at Dunham Massey and Arley Hall, whose double herbaceous border is one of the great garden sights of England.

Single Supplement

\$170

Tour Highlights

- Special visit to RHS Garden Bridgewater, the newest addition to the RHS stable
- · Italian style at Trentham Estate
- Special access to a privately-owned garden
- Dunham Massey and Tatton Park, two of the foremost gardens in Cheshire
- Arley Hall's famous double herbaceous borders



Tour code: **BBNW**

The Gardens of Kent and Sussex

2024 Departures: 16 AUG. 27 SEP



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. Even if you have visited some of these properties before, such is their allure that you can return again and again, iust as you would re-read your favourite novel. First-time visitors will be bowled over by the quality and pedigree of these gardens, which capture the essence of the English country garden. Visits include Great Comp, Lullingstone Castle and its World Garden of Plants, Nymans Garden, the Sussex Prairie Garden, Sissinghurst, Great Dixter and RHS Garden Wisley.

Single Supplement

\$275

Tour Highlights

- Lullingstone Castle's innovative World Garden of Plants
- · Outstanding plant collections at Nymans
- · The magnificently manicured gardens of Sissinghurst

Tour code: **BKSG**

Castles and Houses of Northumberland

2024 Departures: 1 SEP

4 DAYS FROM \$1,045 SAVING PER PERSON \$210

A visit to the low lying coast and wide open spaces of Northumberland is always a treat but when it includes a host of historic houses and castles the pleasure is magnified greatly. Perhaps the most impressive of these is Bamburgh Castle, which sprawls over a rocky plateau on the coast, close to the Farne Islands. Late in its long life it was bought by the visionary inventor and philanthropist Lord Armstrong, whose innovative house at Cragside we will also visit. Further highlights include a trip to the holy island of Lindisfarne; a visit to Belsay Hall, built in 19th century Greek revival style, and Alnwick Castle, the second largest inhabited castle in England.

Single Supplement

\$170

Tour Highlights

- Unique experience at Belsay Hall visit the house then the garden built in the quarry that provided the stone for the house
- Bamburgh Castle, one of the most impressive fortresses in the land
- In the footsteps of Harry Potter at Alnwick Castle
- · Remarkable innovations at Craqside



Tour code: BCHN

Stately Homes and Seaside Castles of Norfolk

2024 Departures: 1SEP



Our historical tour of Norfolk takes us through verdant rolling countryside to many of the fine stately homes including Sandringham, the much-loved retreat of the British monarchy, where we enjoy an afternoon tea followed by a private guided tour. Other highlights include the 500-year-old Oxburgh Hall; Blickling Estate, a stunning Jacobean mansion; a trip on the North Norfolk Heritage Railway and Wolterton Park, set in classic English parkland. We round off the tour with a visit to Lady Walpole at her ancestral family home, the charming, moated manor of Mannington Hall, where we enjoy a guided tour and lunch.

Tour Highlights

- Afternoon Tea with Sparkling wine and guided evening tour of Sandringham
- · House and Gardens tour at Wolterton with refreshments in the Saloon
- Journey on the North Norfolk Railway
- Private afternoon access to the gardens & grounds at Hindringham Hall
- Tour with Lady Walpole at Mannington Hall with Lunch
- House tour with the owner at Hoveton Hall with refreshments
- · Visits to Oxburgh Hall, Holkham Hall, Castle Rising and Blickling Estate

Tour code: BPCN

Coastal Castles & Magnificent Mansions of Dorset

2024 Departures: 5 SEP

5 DAYS FROM \$1,605 SAVING PER PERSON \$210

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

We wind our way through the stunning Surrey countryside, the rolling downs of Hampshire and the New Forest National Park to discover the coastal castles and magnificent mansions of Dorset. We visit Deans Court, the ancestral home of William and Ali Hanham, whose family has lived here for nearly 500 years. We also have a private guided tour of Highcliffe Castle, visit the opulent Kingston Lacy, as well as the Russell-Cotes House and Gallery. We enjoy a nostalgic journey on the heritage Swanage Railway and have the chance to explore the ruins of Corfe Castle. Our tour is rounded off with a delightful lunch at historic Athelhampton.

Tour Highlights

- Guided tour of Highcliffe Castle with refreshments
- 'Story of the Victorian Villa' tour at Russell Cotes House & Gallery
- Guided tour of Portland Castle, guide book and tea or coffee with cake
- · Guided tour of Athelhampton Hall with light lunch, tea or coffee and glass of
- Visits to Deans Court, Kingston Lacy, Sherborne Castle and Corfe Castle



Tour code: BCMD

Colours of the Lake District

2024 Departures: **29 SEP**

4 DAYS FROM \$1,115

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT



It's easy to see why so many celebrated literary figures chose to call the Lake District home - this part of the country is simply spectacular. By far the UK's most popular national park, the Lake District was given UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2017 and its spellbinding landscape of rolling mountains and sprawling lakes is sure to inspire even the most uncreative soul! Taking a leaf from the books of the area's most famous residents, we will embark upon a scenic, story-filled tour, paying visits to Beatrix Potter's 17th century farmhouse known as Hill Top, William Wordsworth's idyllic Dove Cottage and artist and critic John Ruskin's Brantwood.

Tour Highlights

- The couch upon which Wordsworth lay 'in vacant or in pensive mood' at Dove Cottage
- · John Ruskin's 'Living Laboratory' at Brantwood
- · Arts & Crafts style and stunning lake views at Blackwell
- Beatrix Potter's original paintings and sketches
- · The Gardens of Sizergh and Levens Hall

Tour code: BATI

Northumberland, Hadrian's Wall, Holy Island and Alnwick Castle

2024 Departures: **29 SEP**

5 DAYS FROM \$625

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

This break to Northumberland explores the best the region has to offer. Home to rugged hills, spectacular seascapes, ancient castles, rolling moorland and bustling cities this corner of Northeast England has something for everyone. On this captivating break we explore the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle, the second largest inhabited castle in England and the university city of Durham, home to a wide array of historical buildings including the Norman Castle and the Romanesque Cathedral. We also explore Hadrian's Wall, one of Britain's most significant Roman sites, as well as Chester's Fort, one of the best-preserved Roman cavalry forts and Vindolanda, a Roman auxiliary fort.

Single Supplement

\$170

Tour Highlights

- · Full day exploring the city of Durham
- Explore Holy Island of Lindisfarne
- Visit Alnwick Castle
- Visit to Hadrian's Wall, Vindolanda and Chester's Fort



Tour code: **BENB**

Gardens of Jersey

2024 Departures: 4 SEP

5 DAYS FROM \$2,095 SAVING PER PERSON \$210



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. Highlights include Creux Baillot Cottage Garden, packed full of unusual plants and elegant features, the Domain des Vaux, where fine trees and shrubs are set around a traditional Jersey farmhouse, the excellent Samarès Botanical Gardens and the Eric Young Orchid Foundation.

Single Supplement

Tour Highlights

- · Enthusiastic owners show off their private gardens
- Diverse styles and exotic plants at Samarès Botanical Gardens
- Chelsea gold medal-winning quality at Eric Young Orchid Foundation
- Marvellous sea views and wildflower meadows.
- Explore Jersey's attractions or take a trip to Guernsey

Tour code: BJER

Gardens of Guernsey and Sark

2024 Departures: **12 SEP**

5 DAYS FROM \$2,060 SAVING PER PERSON \$210

The island of Guernsey, just 20 miles off the coast of France, flourishes in the warmth of late summer and is home to some wonderful gardens. On our first day here we visit the Guernsey Millennium Tapestry which provides a colourful introduction to the island's history, followed by Castle Cornet where a profusion of plants nestles within the ancient walls, a large town garden with good planting in St. Peter Port as well as a small private garden. Further highlights on Guernsey include Saumarez Park and the Guernsey Folk and Costume Museum, the workshop of a local jewellers and Candie Gardens, a Victorian gem with sweeping views over St Peter Port.

Single Supplement

\$555

Tour Highlights

- An interesting range of private gardens in Guernsey
- 1000 years of history at the Millennium Tapestry
- The garden of La Seigneurie and wildflower meadows on Sark
- · The Guernsey Folk and Costume Museum



Tour code: BGYS

Grand Gardens of Anglesey & Snowdonia

2024 Departures: 5 AUG



Set among glorious scenery with its dramatic views of Snowdonia, North Wales is home to outstanding gardens. One of the best is Plas Cadnant, which 25 years ago was an abandoned wilderness of ivy and decrepit fruit trees. It has since emerged as a gem of a garden full of interest. Further highlights include Maenen Hall, the sumptuous Bodnant Garden and the eccentric Italianate village of Portmeirion. Our tour is led by local resident and expert horticulturalist Tony Russell.

Single Supplement

\$275

Tour Highlights

- The film-set surroundings of Portmeirion
- Bodnant's wide range of exotic plants
- · The stately gardens at Powis Castle in the Welsh Marches
- The majestic mountains of Snowdonia, an ever-changing backdrop
- Comfortable hotel in historic Caernarfon.

Tour code: BNWA

The Irish Rover

8 DAYS FROM \$2,795

SAVING PER PERSON \$210

Just like the Van Morrison song, this Irish Rover is wrapped up in glory – the glory of some of Ireland's finest gardens. A rich feast of horticultural excellence awaits, with memorable and bequiling gardens, enthusiastic and skilful owners and an ever-changing backdrop of lush green hills, fertile fields and glittering seascapes. Our north to south journey is packed full of gems yet relaxed and unhurried, taking in the very best that the Emerald Isle has to offer. Highlights include the dazzling and idiosyncratic garden of Mount Stewart, romantic Rowallane, sumptuous Powerscourt and the Italianate gem of Ilnacullin. Horticulturalist Trevor Edwards is our quide.

Tour Highlights

- Huge collection of plants at Mount Congreve
- Exploring the extensive and enchanting gardens of Mount Stewart
- Rowallane's mysterious approach and mixed borders
- · The historic island gardens of Ilnacullin
- · Historic castle and botanic garden at Malahide

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, 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 Today we visit plantsman Jimi Blake's garden Hunting Brook, which is home to Ireland's largest collection of ornamental grasses with over 200 different species and cultivars. We continue to Jimi's sister's garden at June Blake's Nursery, in which she grows a unique mix of bamboos, ornamental grasses and perennials. Later, we visit Russborough, featuring both a woodland and a walled garden, which has been restored in recent years. (B)

Day 5 Visit the gardens of Kilruddery, among the oldest in Ireland and the perfect



destination for leisurely walks, along with **Powerscourt**, Ireland's most famous historic aarden. (B)

Day 6 On our way to Cork we call in at Mount Usher, a lovely informal garden which dates back to 1850, and Mount Congreye, home to one of the largest collections of plants in the world. The majestic gardens comprise seventy acres of intensively planted woodland, a four-acre walled garden and ten miles of walkways. (B, D)

Day 7 This morning we take the ferry to Garinish Island to visit Ilnacullin, surely one of the highlights of our visit to Ireland, with its Italianate folly overlooking a sunken garden. We continue to Blarney Castle and Gardens, perhaps most famous for its eloquenceconferring stone but which also has a lovely garden. (B, D)

Day 8 We transfer to Cork airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast: two nights at the 4-star Dunadry Hotel, Co Antrim: three nights at a 3-star hotel in Dublin; and two nights at the 3-star Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel, Cork (hotels subject to change)
- Five dinners

- Flights from London to Belfast, returning from Cork
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

| 2024 | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 8 - 15 Aug | \$3,005 | \$2,795 |
| Sinale Supplement | | \$694 |

The Genius of Monet

4 DAYS FROM \$1,290 \$350

Just as the gardens at Giverny inspired Monet, who spent half his life nurturing and enjoying them, they continue to enthrall visitors more than 90 years after his death. The restored gardens give a vivid impression of Monet's favourite subjects. The perfect complement to Giverny is the Orangerie Museum in Paris. The centrepiece of this outstanding collection is Monet's breathtaking series of two-metre high murals, Les Nymphéas, which provide a moving testament to the genius of the painter. Besides Giverny, we visit the Château de Chantilly, with its collection of fine art and its gardens designed by Le Nôtre, and also the market town of Senlis.

Tour Highlights

- The incomparable gardens of Giverny, maintained as Monet would have wished
- The Orangerie Museum and Les Nymphéas impressionism at its most impressive
- The sumptuously decorated Grands Appartements and the Galeries de Peintures of the Château de Chantilly
- Comfortable rail travel aboard Eurostar

Day 1 We depart from London St Pancras International on the morning Eurostar service through the Channel Tunnel to Paris Gare du Nord. On arrival we will be met by our comfortable local coach and travel to our hotel, the Château de Montvillargenne, set in its own wooded grounds just outside Chantilly. In the evening once you have settled into your room join our party for a welcome glass of Kir in the bar before dinner. (D)

Day 2 This morning we transfer to nearby **Senlis**, a pleasant market town typical of Picardy, where we will have some free time to wander round the shops or perhaps enjoy some pâtisserie. In the afternoon we will visit the **Château de Chantilly**, a magnificent structure which stands on a rock surrounded by water. Our visit will include the sumptuously decorated Grands Appartements, dating from the 17th-19th centuries. We will return to the hotel in time for dinner. (B, D)

Day 3 This morning, following breakfast, we depart for **Giverny** and the world famous



house and gardens of **Claude Monet**. Our early start today will ensure an early arrival at Giverny - a time when the gardens are at their most tranquil. Both the house and gardens have been lovingly and accurately restored - one would believe that the family have just gone out to walk in the garden. Following our visit we will enjoy free time in Giverny along with an opportunity to visit the little church where Monet is buried. (*B, D*)

Day 4 We the travel to Paris for a visit to the Musée de l'Orangerie des Tuileries. The highlight of the museum's impressive collection is undoubtedly the series of 2-metre high murals entitled Les Nymphéas, a sequence of impressions such as clouds, reflections and sunsets which Claude Monet installed between 1914 and 1918, when he was at the height of his extraordinary powers. Thereafter you will have free time to shop and sightsee at your leisure. Later, we return to the Gare du Nord for our Eurostar train back to London. (β)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ► Three nights' dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast at the Château de Montvillargenne, Chantilly
- Return standard class rail travel between London and Paris with Eurostar
- Comfortable coach travel
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

202415 - 18 Jul **\$1,640** \$1,290
Single Supplement \$415

Archaeology of Denmark & Sweden

8 DAYS FROM \$3,290 SAVING PER PERSON \$350

The neighbouring Nordic nations of Sweden and Denmark offer a host of archaeological and historical sites, from Neolithic megaliths to Viking forts, from fairytale castles to a magnificent royal warship. We visit the archaeological sites at Gamla Uppsala, Anundshög and Baroque Skokloster Castle, and 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 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.

Tour Highlights

- The Royal Mounds at Gamla Uppsala, Sweden's oldest national symbols
- Skokloster Castle, one of the great castles of Baroque Europe
- The hugely impressive but ill-fated warship Vasa
- The Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, probably the best art museum in Denmark
- · On the trail of Vikings in Aarhus and Fyrkat
- Coming face to face with people who died more than 2,300 years ago

Day 1 We fly from London to Stockholm, where we visit the archaeological site of Gamla **Uppsala** with its three Royal Mounds. (D)

Day 2 Today we visit the archaeological site at Anundshög, 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 whose collections comprise archaeological artefacts and ecclesiastical art. We take a late afternoon train to the southern city of Malmö. (B, LM)

Day 4 The ancient megaliths of Ales Stenar before crossing the Öresund Bridge. (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**, the largest Renaissance Palace in Scandanavia. (B, D)

Day 7 Today we visit the Viking Museum, the Viking site of Fyrkat and then the astonishingly well preserved 'Bog Bodies' at Silkeborg Museum. (B)

Day 8 We visit the archaeological site of Jelling, a UNESCO World Heritage Site before transfering to Copenhagen airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, LM: Light meal, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ 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
- ▶ Flights from London to Stockholm and Copenhagen to London

- Standard class rail journey from Stockholm to Malmö
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of archaeological expert Clive Warsop as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

2 - 9 Sep \$3.640 \$3,290 Single Supplement \$695

Tour code: BDSA

Gardens and Architecture of Andalucia

8 DAYS FROM \$2,095

SAVING PER PERSON \$350

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. A highlight for many will be the wonderful Generalife Gardens in Granada, where patios and terraces are filled with colour. Moving on to Córdoba we will visit the Great Mosque, one of the most ancient gardened sites in the world, and continue to the vibrant city of Seville, where visits include the Cathedral and the Maria-Luisa Park, Our tour concludes in the dramatically situated town of Ronda with its Moorish courtyards.

Tour Highlights

- Pinnacle of Moorish architecture, the Alhambra Palace
- Dramatic views of the rugged Sierra Nevada mountain range
- Mesmerising multi-arched columns of Córdoba's Great Mosque
- Centuries old orange trees of Seville
- The historic Puente Nuevo bridge which spans the El Tajo gorge in Ronda

Day 1 Depart on an early morning flight from the UK. On arrival in Málaga we travel to our hotel in **Granada**. A welcome drink followed by dinner will be served in the evening. (D)

Day 2 We visit the famous Alhambra Palace with its Generalife Gardens, which has one of the most spectacular sites in the world, and later we wander through the Albaicín. (B)

Day 3 We depart on an all day excursion into the Alpujarra and Sierra Nevada region, visiting some of the local villages and enjoying the mountain scenery and flora. (B)

Day 4 We depart for Córdoba, where we visit the Great Mosque with its Orange Grove, which must be one of the wonders of the world. We continue to our hotel in Seville. (B. D.)

Day 5 The whole day is spent in Seville, with visits to the Maria-Luisa Park, the Plaza de España, the Gardens of Murillo and Seville's majestic Cathedral. (B)



Day 6 Today is free to explore Seville at leisure. (B)

Day 7 We head for **Ronda**, a spectacular town rising dramatically amid a ring of dark, angular mountains set above the gorges of the River Tajo. We visit the Alameda del Tajo Gardens and the Palacio de Mondragon. (B, D)

Day 8 Transfer to the airport at Málaga in time for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, LM: Light meal, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights at the 4-star Hotel Santos Saray in Granada: three nights at the 3-star Hotel Macarena in Seville: one night at the 3-star Hotel R. Polo in Ronda (or similar)
- Return flights from London to Málaga
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager & local guides

Three dinners

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024 9 - 16 Sep \$2,445 \$2,095 Single Supplement \$555

Tour code: BANG

Rome, Ninfa and Castel Gandolfo

4 DAYS FROM \$1,745

SAVING PER PERSON \$350

Open by special arrangement, we are delighted to offer this rare opportunity to visit the beautiful gardens of Ninfa. The romantic flower covered ruins are as close to gardening perfection as you can get. Scented roses, hydrangeas and jasmines curtain what remains of the walls of medieval buildings and paths meander beside a crystal-clear river. We also have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Popes as we explore the gardens of Castel Gandolfo. We also visit Villa Lante, a study in geometry and symmetry, and tour the 16th century gardens at Villa D'Este, romantically overgrown with tall pines, evergreen oaks and cedars.

Tour Highlights

- Enjoy exclusive access to the beautiful and ancient gardens of Ninfa
- Wander Castel Gandolfo, the Papal residence
- Explore the streets of Rome at your leisure
- Visits to Villa d'Este and Villa Lante
- Guided tour of Viterbo

Day 1 We fly from London to Rome, where upon arrival we have a short city tour. Rome has a justified claim as one of the world's greatest cities, combining the magnificence of the Renaissance with the vibrancy and excitement of a thriving city. We 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. We'll see a number of grand palaces and a host of old churches which are enclosed by an intact set of medieval walls. 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 or mannerist style. A later addition is the ornate French-style parterre de broderie, with intricate shapes in clipped box set against a ground cover of reddish gravel. (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. At least 10,000 plants were collected and planting has continued ever since, giving Ninfa an entrancing beauty. (B)

Day 4 This morning we visit Villa d'Este in Tivoli, the 16th century gardens known for their use of water. From the upper terrace, the valley seems to be full of sparkling spray and the senses are confused by the continual sound of cascading water. Amble along the Path of One Hundred Fountains to the remains of the miniature Rometta, Later, we transfer to Rome airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

| 2024 | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| 3 - 6 Sep | \$2,095 | \$1,745 |
| Sinale Supplement | | \$590 |

Tour code: BRNI

Palladian Villas of Veneto

5 DAYS FROM \$2,200 SAVING PER PERSON \$350

Join us as we discover no fewer than five glorious villas on our tour. The first on our list is one of the most recognisable buildings of the Renaissance - the palladian masterpiece, Villa Rotonda. The UNESCO World Heritage Site was designed for elegant entertainment, and is lavishly decorated with stucco and frescoes. We are honoured to be shown round by the owner himself. Count Valmarana. Others featured on this stunning itinerary include Villa Pisani, Villa Barbarigo and Villa Valmarana, where family members give us a personal tour and host dinner. We also have a special farewell dinner, hosted by old Italian nobility - the Godi Malinverni family.

Tour Highlights

- Guided tour of Villa Rotonda with Count Valmarana
- A tour of historic Vicenza, known as la città di Palladio
- The gardens of Villa Barbarigo, the most complete historical garden in Europe
- Giambattista Tiepolo's grand frescoes at Villa Valmarana
- Famous mazes at Villa Pisani

Day 1 We fly from London to Venice and visit the grand gardens of the Villa Pisani. The high walls here enclose an impressive array of greenhouses, where prize-winning camelias were once grown. From here, we transfer to our hotel. (D)

Day 2 We are joined by a local guide for a walking tour of Vicenza's historic city centre, including the wonderful **Teatro Olimpico**. We continue to **Villa Rotonda**, where we have a personal guided tour with the aristocratic owner. From here, we visit the Villa Valmarana and enjoy a personally guided tour followed by dinner in a room adorned with Tiepolo's frescoes. The Villa's surroundings are designed to suit different tastes and functional needs, ranging from an Italian garden with dovecote and the well, the walk through the hornbeam and the pagoda in the woods. (B, D)

Day 3 We start at the Villa Barbarigo, surrounded by an exceptional example of Baroque gardens. One of the most striking features is a series of ascending pools decorated with



statues and fountain. Next, we'll have a photo opportunity outside Villa Vescovi in the Euganean Hills. Dating from 1535, this was the summer retreat of the Bishops of Padua. Later, we explore **Le Paradis des Papillons**, a wonderful garden which is a haven for butterflies and birds. (B, D)

Day 4 After breakfast, we explore the Villa Barbaro, with its secret garden behind the villa. In the evening we visit the lustrous Villa Godi Malinverni, where we have a gala dinner, hosted by the aristocratic owners. (B, D)

Day 5 We head for Padua and visit the Orto Botanico (Botanic Garden) followed by the **Scrovegni Chapel**, with its exquisite Giotto frescoes, before we transfer to Venice airport for our return flight to London. (B)

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' bed and breakfast in the 4-star Sweet Hotel in Schiavon for similarl
- Four dinners

- Return flights London to Venice
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

17 - 21 Sep \$2.550 \$2,200 Single Supplement \$275

Tour code: **BVEN**

Archaeology of the Peloponnese

8 DAYS FROM \$1,990

SAVING PER PERSON \$350

A place of timeless beauty, the Peloponnese is home to 3,000-year-old relics at Mycenae, classical ruins at Epidaurus and Byzantine churches at Monemyasia - the whole region is rich with 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, with battles won and civilisations lost, is inescapable.

Tour Highlights

- Venetian and neoclassical architecture in Nafolion
- · The Lion Gate at Mycenae
- · The dead city of Mistras
- · A time capsule at Monemvasia
- The impressively well-preserved and unspoilt site of Messene

Day 1 We depart from London to Athens and upon arrival we transfer to our hotel in Nafplion, a charming Venetian port. (D)

Day 2 After breakfast, we visit Mycenae, one of the most important archaeological sites in Greece and the centre of the Mycenaen culture. (B)

Day 3 Discover the Archaeological Museum of Nafplion and Tiryns with its Cyclopean walls praised by Homer. We later visit **Epidaurus**, touring its famous theatre in the atmospheric forest setting. (B)

Day 4 From Nafplion, we head south via Argos, considered to be the oldest city in the world, with an imposing though neglected theatre, and Tripoli, where we will stop for lunch (not included), before continuing to our comfortable hotel in Sparta. (B, D)

Day 5 We 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 6 Today we visit the UNESCO-listed archaeological site of ancient Messene and the coastal town of Kalamata. Here, we explore the Archaeological Museum of Messenia. (B. DI

Day 7 This morning we visit the Fort City of Monemvasia, a wonderful time capsule where history unfolds before you, along the narrow-cobbled lanes that wind among Byzantine churches and red-tiled houses. (B)

Day 8 After breakfast, we transfer to Athens airport for our return flight to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Seven nights' bed & breakfast: three nights in Nafplion, two nights in Sparta, two nights Gythion; three dinners
- Return flights from London to Athens
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of an officially accredited local quide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

30 Sep - 7 Oct \$2,340 \$1,990 Single Supplement \$415

Tour code: BPEL

South Africa's Garden Route

16 DAYS FROM \$5,455 SAVING PER PERSON \$560

South Africa's stunning 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.





Tour Highlights

- Table Mountain and Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
- · Masses of wildflowers along the Garden Route
- · Whale watching at Hermanus
- · Botanising in the Drakensberg Mountains
- Optional day trip into the independent kingdom of Lesotho

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 13 nights' accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis: three nights at the Signature Lux by ONOMO, Cape Town; two nights at the Windsor Hotel, Hermanus; two nights at the Wilderness Hotel Wilderness one night at the Paxton 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 to Cape Town; Port Elizabeth to Durban and Durban to London
- ► London pre-flight Executive lounge
- ► Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Colin Crosbie as tour manager and local quides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

25 Sep - 8 Oct \$6,015 Single Supplement

\$5,455

Optional Excursions: Lesotho

Whale watching

Tour code: BSAG

\$140

\$120



The Singapore Garden Festival takes place every two years and is among the top flower and garden shows on the international calendar. It was the first event to bring together top international award-winning landscape and garden designers, florists and horticulturalists from around the world, who are invited to the Festival to work alongside Singapore's own talented horticulturalists. Singapore's geographic location makes the Festival an ideal platform to showcase horticultural and gardening products and services from the northern and southern hemispheres, including Asia and New World nations. A colourful and stimulating experience with a truly international flavour, the Festival is a treat for the senses. Other highlights include the spectacular Gardens by the Bay, whose illuminated Supertrees have gained iconic status, and afternoon tea at Raffles, the famous Singaporean institution.

Tour Highlights

- · Full day at the Singapore Garden Festival
- Stunning views from the Marina Bay Sands observation platform
- · Relaxing river cruise
- Chinese and Japanese gardens
- · Singapore's friendly, multicultural ambience

Day 1 We depart from London Heathrow on our overnight flight to Singapore. (IF)

Day 2 Upon arrival in Singapore we will be met and taken to our 4-star city centre hotel. In the afternoon we depart on a city sightseeing tour of Singapore, which includes visits to **Chinatown** and **Little India**. Later we return to our hotel to freshen up before we transfer to a local restaurant for our welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3 This morning we visit Singapore Botanical Garden, which was founded in 1859 and showcases the best and most spectacular of tropical flora, set in a stunning verdant landscape. Entrance to the **national orchid garden** is also included. In the afternoon we tour the Colonial District, where we will see the Cricket Club, Parliament House, the Supreme Court and the City Hall. We then visit the Marina Bay Sands, a landmark hotel and leisure complex, with a distinctive rooftop garden known as the Skypark, 57 stories above the ground. The views over the city are spectacular and include the Gardens by the Bay and Supertree Grove, the capsules of the Singapore Flyer and the orange-tiled roofs of the shophouses that line the Singapore River. We continue with a visit to the Merlion Park, home to the Merlion statue, half fish and half lion, another of Singapore's iconic sights. Finally today we enjoy a cruise along the **Singapore River**. (B, D)

Day 4 We visit Singapore's iconic horticultural attraction, Gardens by the Bay. Spanning 101 hectares, this award-winning venue houses over 250,000 rare plants in an innovative and imaginative way. There are obvious similarities to our own Eden Project, in particular the huge domed conservatories, but other features are strikingly unique, such as the impressive Supertrees. In the afternoon we visit the **Cloud Forest**, a mysterious botanical world veiled in mist, with breath-taking mountain views surrounded by diverse vegetation and hidden floral gems. After dinner in a local restaurant we return to the Gardens by the Bay for the evening performance of the Rhapsody light and sound show at the Supertree Grove Gardens, a truly spectacular event. At night the Supertrees can be seen to full effect as they are brilliantly illuminated in an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour, complemented by a garden rhapsody of well-known music from the movies. (B, D)

Day 5 Today is given over to the Singapore Garden Festival, where we will enjoy viewing the garden displays and orchid extravaganza as well as attending talks and demonstrations. (B. DI

Day 6 This morning we visit Singapore's Chinese and Japanese Gardens, known as the **lurong Gardens**. The Chinese Garden is modelled along the northern Chinese imperial style of architecture and landscaping, while the Japanese Garden takes its inspiration from the Muromachi period of 1392 to 1568 and the Azuchi–Momovama period of 1568 to 1615. We return to the hotel to freshen up and change into the requisite smart-casual attire for Afternoon Tea at Raffles Hotel. Established by Armenian hoteliers in 1887, the hotel is named after Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, the founder of the original trading station and has become an unmissable part of the city's heritage. (B, AT)

Day 7 We begin today with a visit to Hort Park, a series of botanical and horticultural parks and gardens in the southwestern corner of Singapore, connected by elevated walkways and bridges. The afternoon is free to shop and sightsee at leisure, or join our optional excursion to **Sentosa Island**, the extensive park that lies just off the main island and is accessed by cable car. Admission is included to all the major attractions, including the Aquarium, Madame Tussauds, Images of Singapore and the 4D Adventureland Ride. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 8 After checking out of the hotel we have time for one more visit, the Fort Canning **Spice Garden**. Here we will discover the trees and plants that produce many familiar spices such as nutmeg and cloves, on a site that was originally Singapore's first Botanical and Experimental Garden, started in 1822 by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles. Following our visit we transfer to the airport for our overnight flight back to London. (B)

Day 9 We arrive in London this morning, where the group will disperse. (IF)

Inc. meals: IF: In flight, B: Breakfast, AT: Afternoon Tea, D: Dinner



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Six nights' bed and breakfast at the 4-star Orchard Rendezvous Hotel. Singapore (or similar), plus five dinners and one afternoon tea at Raffles Hotel
- ▶ Return flights from London to Singapore
- London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Comfortable coach travel and all visits
- Services of Mike Nelhams as tour manager and a local guide

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

5 - 11 Aug \$5,455 \$4,895

Single Supplement

Optional Excursion: Sentosa Island \$245

Tour code: BSIN

Gardens and Wildlife of Western Canada

10 DAYS FROM \$5,050

SAVING PER PERSON \$560

Spectacular scenery and a warm, friendly welcome await us in Vancouver, a city which owes its vibrancy and cosmopolitan flavour to the diverse cultural background of its inhabitants. Set amidst majestic mountains and surrounded by blue Pacific waters, Vancouver's gentle climate keeps the city green year-round and makes it the perfect backdrop for many outstanding gardens. We will be privileged to visit some of the finest gardens in Vancouver and Victoria. Our journey also includes the opportunity to enjoy a whale watching trip, and, if we're lucky, we'll catch a glimpse of orca, grey, humpback and minke whales. From the resort of Tofino, we embark on a bear watching boat tour along the calm coastal waters and we'll explore the Naa'Waya'Sum Gardens (formerly known as Tofino Botanical Gardens) spread over 12 hectares of gardens, forest and shoreline.





Tour Highlights

- · Visits to the Van Dusen Botanical Garden, Dr Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden & the UBC Botanical Garden
- Vancouver city tour including Vancouver Lookout and the Capilano Suspension Bridge
- Butchart Gardens, Milner Garden and Woodland, Naa'Waya'Sum Botanical Gardens and the Hatley Estate visits on Victoria Island
- A bear watching trip to spot black bears, as British Columbia is home to around one-quarter of all black bears in Canada

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Eight nights' bed and breakfast in 3-star hotels: four nights Vancouver, two nights Victoria & two nights Ucluelet
- One dinner
- Return flights from London to Vancouver

- London pre-flight Executive lounge
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager and local guides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

13 - 21 Sep \$5.610 \$5,050 Single Supplement \$1550

Optional Excursion: Whale watching \$125

Tour code: **BGWC**

Grenada -Gardens of the Spice Island

9 DAYS FROM \$3,390 SAVING PER PERSON \$560

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 the President's Choice Award at the 2024 Chelsea Flower Show, 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 onebedroom 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.





Tour Highlights

- · Special access to privately-owned gardens
- · Tours of historic estates and a rum distillery
- Breakfast with the owner at one of the gardens
- Comfortable resort hotel offering comfort and privacy
- · Caribbean sunshine, warmth and friendly hospitality

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Seven nights' bed & breakfast at the Blue Horizons Garden Resort in a superior garden view studio
- ▶ Two dinners, one lunch, one afternoon tea, welcome and farewell drinks
- Return flights from London to Grenada

- ▶ London pre-flight Executive lounge access
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Trevor Edwards as tour manager and local quides

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON 2024

28 Sep - 5 Oct \$3.950 \$3,390 Single Supplement

Deluxe One Bedroom Garden View **Room Supplement** from \$80 Deluxe One Bedroom Partial Ocean View Room Supplement from \$135 Optional Excursion: Cruise \$170

Tour code: BGRE

Additional October & November departures available

| Gardens and Architecture of Mallorca | Autumn Tints of Arran |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 - 6 Oct 2024 | 16 - 19 Oct 2024 |
| Gardens of Marrakech | Scotland's Extreme North West |
| 2 - 6 Oct 2024 | 22 - 25 Oct 2024 |
| Scenic Scottish Railways | Flora and Fauna of Madagascar |
| 4 - 7 Oct 2024 | 3 - 17 Nov 2024 |
| A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides - 5 days | Cultural Malta |
| 6 - 10 Oct 2024 | 5 - 9 Nov 2024 |
| A Grand Tour of the Outer Hebrides 6 days (B S) | Malta's Archaeological Heritage |
| 6 - 11 Oct 2024 | 5 - 11 Nov 2024 |
| Villas and Gardens of the Italian Lakes | Gardens of Barbados |
| 6 - 13 Oct 2024 | 6 - 14 Nov 2024 |
| Discover the Durrell's Corfu with Lee Durrell | Seasonal Gardens of Japan |
| 7 - 11 Oct 2024 | 6 - 18 Nov 2024 |
| Albanian Archaeology | Gardens and Temples of Ancient Egypt |
| 8 - 15 Oct 2024 | 7 - 18 Nov 2024 |
| Crete Archaeology | Gardens of Mauritius |
| 8 - 15 Oct 2024 | 12 - 23 Nov 2024 |
| Nova Scotia in the Fall | Iceland's Northern Lights |
| 8 - 16 Oct 2024 | 17 - 21 Nov 2024 |
| Scotland's Extreme North West | Gardens of Cost Rica |
| 8 - 11 Oct 2024 | 19 Nov - 1 Dec 2024 |
| A Classic Scottish Steam Break | Chile & Falkland Islands |
| 10 - 13 Oct 2024 | 30 Nov - 16 Dec 2024 |
| The Mary Rose - A Tudor Tale | |
| 11 - 14 Oct 2024 | |
| Gardens and Palaces of India | |

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15 - 28 Oct 2024

Portuguese Archaeology 15 - 23 Oct 2024

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