



7 nights from 925GBP -26 May 2018 – one departure

Holiday overview

Dramatic backdrops, characterful castles and heaps of variety await on this spectacular Scottish Highlands garden tour. Take in the quaint grounds of Druimneil House, relax as you explore Angus' peaceful woodland garden and marvel at the isolated but beautiful Ardtornish Castle. Elsewhere, the walled garden of Ardmaddy Castle on the Isle of Seil, the endangered coastal garden of Arduaine and the truly magical Himalayan ravine at Crarae provide inspirational sights for flower-lovers.

Holiday Highlights:

- Explore a range of gardens in the beautiful Scottish Highlands
- The glen garden of Crarae's wonderful shrub collections of rhododendrons and wide range of other species
- Ardmaddy Castle in its unique setting overlooking the sea shore of Seil Sound
- Arduaine garden, owned by the National Trust for Scotland and in a delightful sheltered setting in Asknish Bay

Great reasons to join us:

- High quality Full Board en-suite accommodation and excellent food in our Country House
- The guidance and services of our knowledgeable leader, ensuring you get the most from your holiday
- All transport to and from gardens on a comfortable, good-quality mini-coach with PA system
- All garden admissions costs (please note this does not include entrance to stately homes/houses, for which there is a separate admission fee)

Your Leader

Sally Smith



Sally Smith has over 20 years experience working in the horticulture sector in varied roles from a college lecturer, a researcher for the BBC at RHS Chelsea Flower show, to being a gardening advisor at Garden Organic Ryton. She is passionate about all plants whether ornamental, humble vegetables or wild flowers and loves to share this knowledge when visiting gardens. Sally believes every plant has a story to tell when put into the context of the place in which it is growing, linking plants to the garden's history and the people who garden there past and present. Sa

Itinerary

Arrival day

You can check-in to your room from 2.30pm onwards. All guests are invited to join us for afternoon tea – we'll introduce your leader and welcome you to your holiday.

Daily programme

You'll spend a lot of time on your feet: there'll be up to 5 miles during the course of the day, around the gardens. In the evenings there will be a mixed programme of activities. On some evenings there will be a dedicated activity based around your holiday's theme; on others, you can join in with the general social activities taking place in the Country House or relax in the bar with new-found friends.

On 7 night holidays there is one free day where you can relax in the Country House or explore the local area independently. Our Discovery Points are ready to help you make the most out of your stay - there are plenty of maps and a selection of the best tried and tested walking and cycling routes to use, as well as local weather forecasts and public transport options too – plus those all important personal insights on things to spot, places to stop, and things to do along the way.

Druimneil House and Angus's Garden

Start your garden exploration with Druimneil, overlooking Loch Lhinne, which contains a fine range of rhododendrons, shrubs and trees. Then it's on to Inverawe Fisheries and Country Park, for lunch, walks and maybe some salmon. Next is Angus's Garden, a 9-acre woodland garden created in 1957 by Betty Macdonald in memory of her son Angus. The garden is set in magnificent scenery, with stunning views towards Ben Cruachan and Glen Etive, and offers peaceful walks and interesting plants.

Ardtornish Castle and Ard Daraich

We cross to Morvern, the most isolated part of Argyll, to visit Ardtornish Castle. On a windswept position overlooking Mull, the soil is stony, acidic and wet. Despite this, the garden is beautifully designed, originally to be seen from the sea. After lunch on the beautiful Morvern peninsula, renowned for the variety of bird life, flora and wildlife, we visit Ard Darich, a 7-acre hill garden with rare rhododendrons, camellias, acers, trees and shrubs.

Armaddy Castle

The walled garden of historic Armaddy Castle used to be barracks, dating back to the 1745 rebellion. Previously also a market garden, a rhododendron enthusiast has hybridised many varieties, and recently, water and woodland gardens have been developed. The An Cala gardens are now closed. After lunch there's time for an optional stroll exploring the gardens at the Country House.

Ardkinglas Woodland Garden and Crarae

We travel through amazing scenery including the Arrochar Alps on our way to Ardkinglas Woodland Garden, famous for champion trees and the tallest tree in Britain. The many red squirrels add interest to the walks. After lunch at the Cairndow Tree Shop we head to Crarae. Run by the National Trust, the planting is centred round a gorge and simulates a Himalayan valley.

Ardchatton Priory and Arduaine

The fascinating Ardchatton Priory is steeped in history with a garden lovingly tended by a wonderful character, old George. He has a cacti collection not to be missed, as well as a sorbus and wildflower garden, roses and shrubs. Then we visit Arduaine. This wonderful, endangered coastal garden forms a horticultural tour around the temperate world. The collection includes blue Tibetan poppies, giant Himalayan lilies and Chatham Island forget-me-nots.

Departure day

Depart after a leisurely breakfast

Every effort is made to adhere to this itinerary; however there may be circumstances beyond our control which could lead to a change in the programme. Wednesday: Bryan's Ground & Preen Manor

For more information or to make a booking please contact:



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