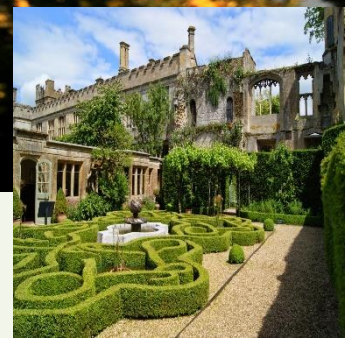
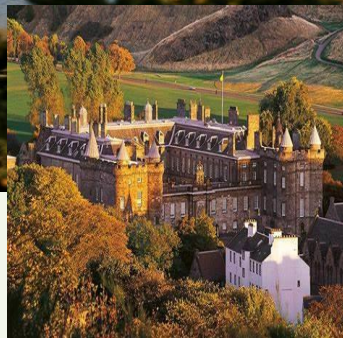


Gardens, Historic Homes & Country Roads of England & Scotland

6 May 2023

22 Day Fully Hosted Small Group Tour





GARDENS, HISTORIC HOMES & COUNTRY ROADS of ENGLAND & SCOTLAND - 6 May 2023

SAT 6 New Zealand to London

Today we meet our fellow travellers at Wellington Airport prior to our onwards flight to London. Our day is spent travelling together with meals on flight.

SUN 7 Welcome to London

On arrival at London Heathrow, you are met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Tonight, you meet your Travel Director for a Welcome Drink.

MON 8 London - Hampshire

After breakfast today, we make our way to the Kent countryside and travel to the pretty village of Westerham where Winston Churchill watches over the neat village green. Here we visit Churchill's residence of Chartwell, before making our way through brilliant yellow and green pastures to Hever Castle, known for its tragic tale of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII. We cross the moat to explore the fortified manor house and stroll through the pretty gardens.

We overnight in a beautifully situated country hotel.

TUE 9 New Forest Excursion & Salisbury

Today we enjoy a scenic drive through the New Forest that brings us to Beaulieu where we visit the Palace House and Abbey ruins, and the collection of cars in the National Motor Museum.

Later we travel to Salisbury, where we see the 13th century cathedral, whose spire is the tallest in the land.

After some free time, we visit nearby Wilton House, one of the finest stately homes in Britain, with state rooms by Inigo Jones containing a world-famous collection of paintings.

WED 10 Compton Acres, Cockington & Seaside Torquay

Today we visit Compton Acres, one of the finest privately-owned gardens in the South with a unique series of stunning tranquil gardens offering spectacular views of Poole Harbour, Brownsea Island, and the Purbeck Hills beyond. We then visit the medieval village of Cockington, with its thatched cob cottages, a pub, blacksmith and horse-drawn transport. Tonight, we stay in the seaside town of Torquay.

Eden Project & Shakespeare's Stratford-Upon-Avon

THU 11 Cook

Today we travel to the small town of Fowey to visit the unique 'Eden Project'. The Eden Project communicates its story in a 'Living Theatre of Plants and People' based in a large crater in which nestles two vast greenhouses (Biomes). These house plants and crops are from the humid tropics and warm temperate regions and act as a backdrop to the temperate landscape. We continue to Stratford-upon-Avon where we visit Shakespeare's birthplace on arrival and then to our hotel

FRI 12 Enchanting Cotswolds

This enchanting day takes us across the beautiful Cotswold hills, a chocolate-box scene of golden stone villages with roses round the door! We visit Blenheim Palace, the greatest building of the English Baroque, residence of the Dukes of Marlborough, and birthplace of Winston Churchill. After exploring the house and gardens we then visit the gardens of Sudeley Castle, former home to another of King Henry VIII's wives, Katherine Parr.

SAT 13 Stratford-Lake District

Today we travel through the orchards of Worcestershire, we head for the border town of Ludlow with its impressive castle ruins. On through the remote Shropshire hills, we pass Wenlock Edge, celebrated in the poetry of A E Housman. Soon we reach historic Ironbridge Gorge, birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Take time to marvel at the 200-year-old Iron Bridge, before the smooth motorway carries us north to the stunning English Lake District.

Trip Highlights

- ◇ WESTERHAM - Churchill's residence of Chartwell
- ◇ EDINBRIDGE - Hever Castle, Home of Anne of Boelyn
- ◇ BEAULIEU – Palace House
- ◇ BEAULIEU - National Motor Museum
- ◇ SALISBURY – Wilton House
- ◇ DEVON - Village of Cockington
- ◇ POOLE - Crompton Acres
- ◇ FOWEY - Eden Project
- ◇ WOODSTOCK – Blenheim Palace
- ◇ WINCHCOMBE – Sudeley Castle
- ◇ SHROPESHIRE – Ironbridge Gorge
- ◇ EDINBURGH - Palace of Holyroodhouse
- ◇ BLAIR ATTHOL - Blair Castle and Gardens
- ◇ CULLODEN - Culloden Moor & Culloden Visitor Centre
- ◇ WICK - Old Pulteney Distillery & Wick Heritage Museum
- ◇ SKARA BRAE Prehistoric Village
- ◇ KYLE OF LOCHALSH - Eilean Donan Castle
- ◇ ABBOTSFORD - Abbotsford House
- ◇ BRAMPTON - Hadrian's Wall
- ◇ HARROGATE - Gardens of Harrogate
- ◇ YORK – Castle Howard and York Minister
- ◇ WARWICK - Warwick Castle
- ◇ LONDON - Chelsea Flower Show

GARDENS, HISTORIC HOMES & COUNTRY ROADS of ENGLAND & SCOTLAND

Celebrate the colours and vibrancy of spring on our gardens, historic homes and country roads tour through the England and Scotland, visiting fabulous gardens, along with majestic homes, castles and lakes. From south to west, then north we cover it all on this fabulous tour, discovering all things country-side England, before crossing the border into dramatic Scotland.

Our arrival into Scotland – the land of legends and romance, we travel from the great city of Edinburgh to the dramatic mountains and misty lochs of the Highlands. Exploring the charming, cobbled streets of St. Andrews and taking afternoon tea at Blair Castle—the historic home of the Atholl family for over seven centuries are sure to delight. We pass Britain's northernmost point at John O'Groats before boarding our ferry to the Orkney Islands and the Over the Sea to Skye, considered the most beautiful island of the Inner Hebrides. Onwards through the highlands we continue and overnight in Glencoe before arriving into the southern city of Glasgow, known these days for its arts, culture and cuisine.

Heading back south over the border and towards the east we venture via historic Hadrian's Walls before arriving into the beautiful city of York and spending two nights in lovely in the spa town of Harrogate. Our final journey south has us visiting Cambridge before arriving back into London, to attend what is sure to be a tour highlight, the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show, with our full day pass allowing plenty of time to visit the gardens in your own leisurely pace.

SUN 14 Wonders of the Lake District

(B) (D)

Today we take the whole day to relax and explore the Lake District - a scenic wonderland of rugged mountains and tranquil waters, and an inspiration to a host of English poets. We visit Wordsworth's grave in the small churchyard at Grasmere, then admire the vast expanse of Windermere, largest of the lakes. Perhaps even take a cruise on its peaceful waters before we return to our hotel.

MON 15 Lake District, Southern Lowlands & Edinburgh

(B)

This morning we cross the Cumbrian Mountains and the Scottish border at Gretna - for years the destination of eloping English lovers. We have some free time for shopping before enjoying the contrasting beauty of the Southern Lowlands enroute to Edinburgh. Here we discover the wonders of the plant kingdom in the Botanical Gardens which form a remarkable haven of tranquility within the city, as well as being a world-renowned centre for botanical science.

TUE 16 Edinburgh

(B)

Today we join a Local Expert to see the highlights of the city. In the Old Town, see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the Queen. Drive along Princess Street to the ornate Scott Memorial, then see the 18th century New Town with its neoclassical Georgian facades. Venture up the Royal Mile to visit Edinburgh Castle, home of Mons Meg, the Stone of Destiny and Scotland's Crown Jewels. The rest of the day is yours at leisure; why not visit the art treasures in the National Gallery?





WED 17 To St. Andrews and the Highland Capital of Inverness (B) (D)

This morning we cross the Firth of Forth into Fife and journey to St. Andrews, passing the Old Course, home of golf since creation in the 15th century. Enjoy free time to explore. Perhaps stroll to West Sands Beach where the famous 'Chariots of Fire' scene was filmed. Alternatively, wander to St. Andrews University where the love story of Kate Middleton meeting her Prince Charming began. Cross the Tay and journey to the charming Victorian resort town of Pitlochry, famous for its salmon run. Continue via Blair Atholl and pass the Grampian Mountains on the way to the sparkling Spey Valley. Stop at Blair Castle and Gardens, which has been home to the Atholl family for over seven centuries. Tour the magnificent ballroom and learn about the history of the estate. During your visit relish a delicious cream tea. Continue to Inverness, where your luxury hotel is set within four acres of manicured grounds.

THU 18 Culloden, Loch Ness and onto Thurso (B) (D)

Leaving Inverness today we visit Culloden Moor, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was crushed in 1746. Visit the Culloden Visitor Centre before continuing along the shores of Loch Ness. Keep your eyes peeled for the legendary monster! Next, follow the rugged coast north to the fishing port of Wick. Explore Wick with Insight Choice. Choose to visit the Old Pulteney Distillery to taste a wee dram of its award-winning whiskeys. Alternatively, join a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience with a visit to the highly rated Wick Heritage Museum and hear about the past of this once thriving fishing community.

FRI 19 A Day in the Orkney Islands (B) (D)

Today we start the day by driving to the most northern point of the British mainland, John O'Groats. We then board the ferry to the beautiful Orkney Islands where the countryside is breathtakingly majestic, and the tranquility supports a quieter pace of life. Here the hardy locals say they live 'below the wind and above the water.' Your Local Expert accompanies you as you visit the 5,000-year-old village of Skara Brae, the mysterious Ring of Brodgar, Kirkwall and the small chapel built by Italian prisoners during World War II.

SAT 20 Over the Sea to Skye (B) (D)

After breakfast we travel through stunning, pristine landscapes along the northern coast with its white sandy beaches, and further inland to misty valleys and glens, lochs and rushing waters. Then it's 'Over the Sea to Skye,' the largest and most beautiful island of the Inner Hebrides. On the way to Broadford, hear romantic tales of how young Flora MacDonald helped rescue Bonnie Prince Charlie and see the dramatic Cuillin Hills.

SUN 21 Through the Scottish Highlands to Glencoe (B) (D)

Explore this wild and beautiful island on your own, before crossing to the Kyle of Lochalsh. Stop for a photo at remote Eilean Donan Castle, which under a clear sky offers a perfect reflection in its loch. Move on to the WWII Commando Memorial where there is a fine view of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain.

Enjoy spectacular scenery enroute to the Valley of Glencoe. Join a ranger for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, learn about the protection of this rare ecosystem and the important work reintroducing lost indigenous species to its flora and fauna.

In the evening, enjoy market-fresh Scottish ingredients and wine, as you get together with your newfound friends for a sumptuous Celebration Dinner. Don't be surprised if, by the end of the evening, you're 'Toasting to the Lassies' or singing 'Auld Lang Syne'.





MON 22 Along the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond to Glasgow (B) (D)

Today we spend time around peaceful Loch Lomond, 'Queen of Scottish Lochs' according to Sir Walter Scott and the largest in Great Britain. Perhaps experience the beauty and tranquility of the loch with an optional cruise before continuing to Glasgow? An orientation drive through the city will show you the grand public buildings, including George Square and St. Mungo's Cathedral. Then the rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

TUE 23 Depart Glasgow: Border Region, Hadrian's Wall & Gardens of Harrogate (B) (D)

Leaving Glasgow we travel through the Borders region to Abbotsford House, the 19th-century estate of Sir Walter Scott. A large turreted mansion which now serves as a museum for the Scottish memorabilia and artifacts collected throughout his lifetime.

We then head south, past Jedburgh Abbey, and over the border to visit Hadrian's Wall. Our destination today is the town of Harrogate, a well-known spa since the 16th century and famous for its gardens. Tonight, we enjoy a highlight dinner in a typical local inn.

WED 24 Fortified York & Castle Howard (B) (D)

After breakfast, we make the short journey to the walled city of York. Here we see the huge Minster, Britain's largest medieval cathedral, and explore the maze of narrow streets including the Shambles. This afternoon we visit the fabulous 18th century Castle Howard, with its tapestries and costume museum, before returning to our hotel in Harrogate



THU 25 Warwick Castle onto London (B)

Today we travel south to visit Warwick Castle, with its magnificent medieval towers and ramparts. The chilling dungeon contrasts with the splendour of the State Rooms and baronial Great Hall. Now we continue to London and back to our hotel for our 2-night stay.

FRI 26 World-famous Chelsea Flower Show (B) (D)

Today our highlight excursion takes us to the Chelsea Flower Show. Our full day ticket allows us to see the gardens at a leisurely pace. Visitors come from all over the world to see the crème de la crème of garden design, and horticulture on show, and take ideas back to enhance their own gardens. We are transferred back to our hotel in London after the show. Our time in England is about to come to an end.

This evening we will celebrate new friendships with an end of tour dinner.

SAT 27 Farewell London – Flight to New Zealand (B)

This morning our memorable tour comes to an end. We are transferred to the airport for our onward flight.





GARDENS, HISTORIC HOMES & COUNTRY ROADS OF ENGLAND & SCOTLAND

22 Day Tour Includes

YOURTours home pick up (T&C's apply)

Fully hosted from NZ with a YOURTours Host

All flights, including domestic flights in NZ and arrival and departure transfers
(T&C's apply) - Flight upgrade price available upon request.

Premium and Boutique Accommodation

All excursions and activities as per itinerary

Meals as per itinerary & Gratuities

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