

Horticultural Tours

Two Tours Available - linked but independent

England & Wales
May 12-20, 2023

Scotland & Orkney Islands
May 19-27 2023

WITH JOHN KARLIK, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Itinerary: England & Wales

Friday, May 12, 2023 - Depart USA for your flight to London Heathrow Airport.

Saturday, May 13, 2023 - Arrive England and transfer on your own to hotel. Our hotel is two streets from Ealing Common Underground Station providing quick access to central London and Heathrow Airport. This evening there will be a group meeting at the hotel. (D) *Overnight: DoubleTree by Hilton London - Ealing or similar*

Sunday, May 14, 2023 - Depart for the **Royal Horticultural Society's Garden at Wisley**. Wisley is one of the world's great gardens, packed with horticultural inspiration. You will be at the garden most of the day. We'll continue on to Salisbury with dinner at the hotel. (B,D) *Overnight: Mercure White Hart Hotel or similar*

Monday, May 15, 2023 - Today we'll visit Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge and **Painswick Rococo Garden**.

Salisbury Cathedral is still a working church with extraordinary music. The foundation stones of Salisbury Cathedral were laid April 28, 1220 AD. The spire, the tallest in England, stands 404 ft. The Cathedral is also home to the best preserved copy of the Magna Carta, signed 1215 AD. One of the finest examples of gothic architecture, Salisbury was frequently painted by John Constable, an English landscape painter working in the naturalistic tradition in the years around 1800. One of his paintings can be seen in the Huntington Library.

Stonehenge located in ancient Sarum is perhaps the world's most famous prehistoric monument. No one knows with certainty its intended purpose. The evidence puts its earliest construction in the mesolithic period, with additions following, especially the setting of the large upright stones about 2500 BC.

"Overgrown and woody until their restoration began in 1984, **the gardens at Painswick** are a rare survivor of 18th-century rococo design—a combination of formal geometric features with winding woodland paths revealing sudden hidden vistas. Today the vistas, paths, water features and garden structures including a Doric seat, eagle house, and Gothic alcove are restored, together with old-fashioned herbaceous borders and a large kitchen garden." We'll continue on to Cardiff. (B,D) *Overnight: Holiday Inn Cardiff City Centre or similar*



For more information regarding educational aspects of the tour, please contact John Karlik, Ph.D.
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This tour is operated by:
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CA Seller of Travel #1019830-40

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - Today we'll visit three gardens: "**The National Botanic Garden of Wales** is the first national botanic garden to be created in the UK for 200 years. Set in a 568 acre former Regency park, with spectacular views over the surrounding Towy Valley, the Garden is a Millennium landmark scheme dedicated to achieving international significance in horticulture science, education, leisure and the arts. Its centerpiece is Sir Norman Foster's 'Great Glasshouse' – the largest single span glasshouse in the world housing a landscape filled with plants from Southern California, Western Australia, the Mediterranean, and the Canary Islands. There are also several lakes, enabling studies of water life, and one of the largest herbaceous borders in Europe."

Aberglasney - "The so-called 'garden lost in time' is lost no more, thanks to an inspired restoration project, which has breathed life back into this 15th-century 9-acre garden. Of particular note are the extraordinary yew tunnel and formal cloister garden with its parapet walk, giving wonderful views across the garden. Gardener and garden writer Penelope Hobhouse designed the walled upper garden, which has been brilliantly planted with a range of perennials, shrubs, and climbers contained within a framework of evergreen box. There is also a walled kitchen garden, pool garden, gatehouse, and woodland areas."

"The 55-acre **garden at Dyffryn** is currently being restored to full Edwardian glory thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Grade 1 Listed, the gardens boast a series of garden 'rooms', each with their own character, set among sweeping lawns and enclosed by clipped hedges. There is also a croquet lawn, Victorian fernery, wild garden and arboretum, which contains many rare specimen trees, including some of the largest in Britain." (B,D) *Overnight: Holiday Inn Cardiff City Centre or similar*

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - A morning to yourself or an optional Cardiff Castle excursion, on your own. In the afternoon we'll visit the **Westbury Court Garden** before continuing on to Telford. "The rare, walled Dutch-style water garden reflects the 17th century mania for Dutch fashion and is the earliest example of its kind remaining in Britain. Originally laid out between 1696 and 1705, the garden has been restored by the National Trust to its former splendor and includes canals flanked by clipped yews and wall-trained fruit, charming statuary and a parterre of box topiary, with lovely vistas throughout. The gardens also feature a large collection of plants dating from before 1700 and the largest evergreen oak in southern England." We will have a set three course dinner at the hotel. (B,D) *Overnight: BW The Valley Hotel or similar*

Thursday, May 18, 2023 - Today we'll visit two gardens. Medieval **Powis Castle and Garden** - "Powis Castle towers above this spectacular 125-acre terraced garden, set on a steep slope, with views over the Severn Valley. The gardens are famous for their broad hanging terraces, adorned with statuary and interestingly planted with huge clipped yews, which form a perfect backdrop for the colorful herbaceous borders full of tender plants and

flowers. There is also a walled flower garden created on the site of the old kitchen garden, aviary, shrub and woodland walk, and Georgian orangery."

Chirk Castle - "This 14th-century Marcher fortress, close to the Welsh border, has been lived in continuously by the Myddelton family since 1595. It is surrounded by formal gardens with velvet lawns studded with immaculately clipped yew topiary, fine herbaceous borders, a scented rose garden and a mass of roses and climbing plants wreathing the castle walls. A terrace, with views across five counties, leads to a classical pavilion and avenue of lime trees. There is also a shrub garden, well-planted rock garden, thatched 'Hawk House' and surrounding parkland with many mature trees." Dinner tonight will be at the restaurant Forge. (B,D) *Overnight: Hotel Indigo Chester Hotel or similar*

Friday, May 19, 2023 - We'll visit Bodnant Garden & Penrhyn Castle today before traveling by coach to Edinburgh.

Bodnant Garden - "Set in 80 acres on a hillside above the Conwy Valley, with wonderful views of the Snowdonian mountains, Bodnant Gardens feature a series of Italianate terraces and formal lawns on its upper level, with a wooded dell and wild garden below. The wide variety of plants and shrubs guarantees plenty of interest throughout the seasons, with famous displays of camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas in spring and an astonishing 180-foot-long Laburnum Arch, dripping with shimmering cascades of yellow in May/June. There are also colorful summer borders, roses, water lilies and clematis, as well as rich autumn foliage."

Penrhyn Castle - "This enormous 19th century castle was built to impress by the prosperous Pennant family, and the grounds are no exception. The house is set in 45 acres, framed against the stunning backdrop of the Snowdonia mountains, featuring open parkland, woodland, and a wealth of fine trees and exotic shrubs. The fine Victorian walled garden features terraces, arbors, pools and lawns and houses many tropical tender plants including palms. There is also a splendid bog garden with huge gunnera and a giant tree fern." Dinner will be at our Edinburgh hotel. (B,D) *Overnight: Bruntsfield Edinburgh Hotel or similar*

Saturday, May 20, 2023 - Either depart for airport, transfers individually arranged, or continue on with the Scotland Tour. (B)



Optional Activities

Wednesday, May 17 - Cardiff Castle - Explore the Castle at your own pace, enjoy the beautiful grounds, walk the battlements and marvel at some of the most lavishly decorated rooms that you're ever likely to see. With your admission ticket you have access to: The Castle Grounds, Castle Apartments, The Norman Keep, Wartime Tunnels, Firing Line: Cardiff Castle Museum of the Welsh Soldier & Free Audio Guide. Additional tours are also available with Castle Admission. **This is not a group activity so you will pay at the Castle and can decide on extra tours at that time.**



Ready to sign up?

[Click Here for the Online Booking Link](#)

Things to Do In Edinburgh

For those on the England & Wales itinerary, we suggest you do the following Saturday, May 20.

Royal Botanic Garden - A mile from the Edinburgh city center, the **Royal Botanic Garden** is one of the world's finest, covering 70 acres, with views of the city skyline. Glasshouses contain plants from ten climate zones, and a Chinese hillside contains 16,000 plants around a wild water ravine. There are also peat and woodland gardens, and herbaceous borders. Note the display of coal formation during the Carboniferous period.



National Museum - The National Museum's mission is to preserve, interpret and make accessible for all, the past and present of Scotland, other nations and cultures, and the natural world. Galleries include Art, Design & Fashion, Natural World, Science & Technology, Scottish History & Archaeology and World Cultures. There's something for everyone!



Scotland (Northern Highlands) & Orkney Islands

Itinerary

In Scotland we see the results of episodes of volcanism over very long periods of time, as well as the opening and closing of oceans as Scotland itself migrated north. Sedimentary rocks came and went; Scotland is a geologist's paradise. (Let us recommend Con Gillen's *Geology and Landscapes of Scotland* as background reading.) We plan to visit not only gardens, but examples of Scotland's extraordinary geology and truly mysterious prehistoric ruins in the far north and west.

Friday, May 19, 2023 - Scotland only group - depart from USA

Saturday, May 20, 2023 - [Scotland only group - Arrival day, transfer on your own to hotel & check in.] We recommend visiting the Royal Botanic Garden and the National Museum, both easily accessible, or a day of leisure to adjust to jet lag or explore Edinburgh on your own. (B) *Overnight: Bruntsfield Edinburgh Hotel or similar*

Sunday, May 21, 2023 - We will travel north to Inverness. En route we will visit Crathes Castle. Lunch will be on your own at the Courtyard Cafe at Crathes. After lunch we'll continue on our journey north.

Crathes Castle and Gardens are outstanding. The walled gardens surrounding the turreted baronial castle are divided into eight sections, including a rose garden, pool and fountain garden, red garden, yellow garden, and white garden. Yew hedges date to 1702. The herbaceous borders are at their height in June. A wild garden is also present along with six miles of trails. The castle interior provides a look at life in past centuries. Dinner is included at the resort. (B,D) *Overnight: Macdonald Aviemore Resort or similar*

Monday, May 22, 2023 - Early departure for the Gill's Bay Ferry Terminal - we will ferry to the Orkney Islands to visit the Ring of Brodgar Prehistoric Stone Circle. **The Ring of Brodgar** is an outstanding neolithic artifact with function still debated. Dinner arranged by the hotel is included. (B,D) *Overnight: Kirkwall Hotel or similar*

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 - After breakfast we'll visit the Skara Brae Prehistoric Village. Perhaps the most famous archeological site in northern Scotland, **the prehistoric village at Skara Brae** is judged to be 5000 years old; that is, constructed around 3000 BC. We will see the 5,000-year-old house with its stone furniture. It may be a bit stiff to the touch, but very durable. Dinner will be at the hotel. (B,D) *Overnight: Kirkwall Hotel or similar*

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 - After breakfast we'll take the ferry and travel to Duncansby Head Lighthouse (viewpoint only), Corrieshallock Gorge National Nature Reserve and **Inverewe Garden**.

Corrieshallock Gorge, near Ullapool, was formed from rushing glacial meltwater. Judged to be the best example

of a rock gorge in Scotland, it is more than 1 km long and 10 m wide, with a drop of 60 m at the Falls of Measach. Dinner at the hotel is included (B,D) *Overnight: BW Palace Hotel & Spa or similar*

Thursday, May 25, 2023 - Today we'll visit Dunvegan Castle & Gardens on the Isle of Skye.

The Isle of Skye, in the Inner Hebrides, is famous for its spectacular and varied rock forms and types. Those include lava flows, sedimentary rocks, and intrusive igneous rocks forming the Cuillin Hills of 30 peaks 1000 m high and Red Hills.

Dunvegan Castle and Gardens is the seat of the MacLeod Clan and sits amid the 42,000 acre MacLeod estate on the Island of Skye. In addition to souvenirs one might expect at a garden gift shop, all three gifts shops offer MacLeod of MacLeod single malt Scotch whiskey. (B) *Overnight: The Great Western, Oban or similar*

Friday, May 26, 2023 - Today we will see Arduaine Garden and Crarae Garden before settling in to our hotel in Edinburgh for our last night.

Arduaine Garden is found south slope of the Arduaine peninsula on the west coast, south of Oban, with something to see every day of the year. Its design has been influenced by Osgood Mackenzie of Inverewe, and its restoration is a testimony to 20 years' hard labour by the Wright brothers. **Crarae Garden** features a rippling burn, waterfalls and cliffs. Like the other gardens, Gulf Stream influence has greatly increased the range of plants that can be grown. We'll drive on to Edinburgh for a farewell dinner. (B,D) *Overnight: The Bruntsfield Edinburgh Hotel or similar*

Saturday, May 27, 2023 - Depart for home. Transfers individually arranged. (B)



TERMS & CONDITIONS

Price reflects a discount for cash. **Credit Card fees apply.**

The **Tour prices do NOT include** flights, meals unless specifically designated, and as you would expect, wine, liquors, telephone calls, other items of a personal nature, beverages and food other than the table d'hôte menu or any expense items not specifically mentioned as well as insurance.

Price Includes:

- Hotel and meals as noted.
- Entrance Fees per itinerary
- Driver Gratuities
- Air-conditioned Coach/Vehicle

Pricing is based on a number of participants and will scale with final number. Please do not make air reservations until notified that an operating minimum is reached.

[Please deposit as soon as possible so that we can determine if there is support to move forward.](#)

DEPOSIT/FINAL PAYMENT & CANCELLATION:

FOR BOTH TOURS:

- **Deposit for each tour per person: \$300**
- **2 Equal Payments: February 10 & March 10**

Deposits are refundable until operating minimum is reached. After operating minimum is reached all funds become non-refundable as received.

All hotels & services are subject to availability.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The program itinerary and pricing are subject to change. A full terms and conditions statement is provided when you make your booking. This will include our standard terms covering [Health Considerations](#), [Travel Insurance](#), [Responsibilities of Traveler and Tour Arranger](#), [Travelers with Disability](#), [California Seller of Travel required disclosure statements](#).

TRAVEL INSURANCE: **Insurance will be offered at the time of deposit. It is not included in the price.**

RESPONSIBILITY: Travel Gallery, Inc., acts only as an agent for the passenger in coordinating tour services with other companies including transportation, sightseeing, accommodations, and tickets. Travel Gallery, Inc., assumes no liability for any bag damage, property loss, personal injury, expense or death occasioned by any act, omission or default of any supplier providing tour services or of acts of God, strikes or any event beyond the control of TG. **The tour participant, by submission of payment, agrees to all of terms and conditions in their entirety as provided. Full responsibility statement is provided in the terms for the program.**

Ready to sign up for one or both tours?

[Click Here for the Online Booking Link](#)

Wales garden descriptions are taken from *The Gardens Guide* produced by VisitBritain, c. British Tourist Authority, 2006.

Horticulture Tours

England & Wales

includes 7 hotel nights with daily breakfast and five dinners

Scotland (Northern Highlands) & Orkney Islands

includes 7 hotel nights with daily breakfast and 6 dinners

Tour costs are per person (twin sharing)

# participants	England & Wales	Scotland & Orkney Islands
30	\$2121	\$2023
25	\$2199	\$2117
19	\$2285	\$2223
15	\$2433	\$2399
11		\$2699
Single Add	\$837	\$765

