

# Scotland

13 – 22 May 2025

**\$3725 USD Double, \$4725 USD single**

## Itinerary

### Tuesday 13 May 2025

On arrival at Edinburgh airport we will be met by our coach and guide, Julia Corden.

The first visit will be to David and Stella Rankins Garden in Lasswade a private garden on the outskirts of Edinburgh. This is a plant's person garden as they have travelled to the Himalayas many times in search for new species. We then make the short transfer to the centre of **Edinburgh** to enjoy an **orientation tour**.

Notable sights include the **Castle**, which sits on top of a rocky crag and dominates the city centre skyline; the **Royal Mile**, which leads down the hill from the castle past **St Giles Cathedral** and the controversial **Scottish Parliament building** to the **Palace of Holyroodhouse**, where Mary, Queen of Scots once lived and where King Charles III still stays on his official visits to Edinburgh; **Princes Street**, the main shopping thoroughfare; and the New Town, with its sweeping terraces of elegant Georgian townhouses where notable Scots such as Robert Louis Stephenson once lived.

This evening we will enjoy a welcome dinner at our accommodation in Edinburgh.



### Wednesday 14 May 2025

This morning after breakfast we will travel to the south-west of Scotland to visit **two private gardens**. Our first visit of the day will be to the garden of past Presidents of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, **Drs Ian and Carole Bainbridge**. Their garden is full of treasures including an Alpine house, a woodland garden and a rock garden. The second private garden will be to the President of the Scottish Rock Gardens Club garden at Dalswinton Mill. Colin and Pamela Crosbie's garden was started in about 2018 and is a true Plantsman's Garden with many woodland plants.

Following our visit we continue to our accommodation in **Dumfries**.

Dinner will be served in the evening.

### **Thursday 15 May 2025**

Following breakfast we visit the world- famous **Logan Botanic Garden**, which was started by the McDougall family who lived here for 800 years, and since 1969 it has been in the care of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Logan Botanic Garden is beautifully laid out with a host of spectacular plants, particularly in the walled garden with its fine terraces and well planned borders under an avenue of cabbage palms. The climate here is exceptionally mild due to the Gulf Stream and several different habitats provide conditions for a huge range of plants. Look out for the glass-house and its tropical plants.

We later travel towards **Ayr** where we will visit the private garden of **Burnside**. This young garden was started in 2006 and has a wide range of plants from trees to alpines. Features include a 200 yard woodland border along the burn, herbaceous beds, screes, an ericaceous garden, three alpine houses, a large collection of alpine troughs and a pond.

Following our visit we continue to our accommodation in Ayrshire, where dinner will be served in the evening.

### **Friday 16 May 2025**

This morning following breakfast we will visit **Glenarn**, reputedly one of the best woodland gardens in Scotland. Glenarn was originally planted by the Gibson brothers and filled with rhododendrons and other plants collected by Kingdom-Ward, Ludlow and Sheriff on their expeditions to Tibet and China. The garden had been neglected for many years when Mike and Sue Thornley acquired it in 1983 and they have spent the last twenty years or so gradually restoring it. The mild, damp location supports old plants of *Rhododendron tanastylum*, *arboreum* var. *nigagircum* and *Magnolia rostrata* to name but a few, and all should be at their best at this time of year.

Following our visit we will begin our journey towards Pitlochry with a stop off at Dunblane to visit the **private garden** of another Past President of the Scottish Rock Garden Club.

We continue to our accommodation in **Pitlochry** which is our base for the next three nights.

Dinner will be served in the evening.



### **Saturday 17 May 2025**

Following breakfast we travel to **Cluny House Gardens**, near Aberfeldy. Wandering through this wonderful wild woodland garden we will discover rare and exotic plants from around the world. The gardens feature trees and shrubs from America, New Zealand, Japan, China and Tibet, creating the unique atmosphere of a Himalayan woodland paradise. We'll also see Britain's widest conifer - a giant Wellingtonia, 11 metres in girth and over 130 years old.

This afternoon we will visit a **private garden**.

Dinner will be served at our hotel in the evening.

### **Sunday 18 May 2025**

This morning following breakfast we travel north to Aviemore to visit **Mountain Garden - Cairngorm Mountain**. The garden sits at 650m above sea level and is, we believe, one of the highest tended gardens in the UK. Located just above the Base Station at the Coire Cas car park it is home to some of the rarest plant species in the UK. Much of the original planting work was undertaken by local school children and overseen by the Cairngorm Rangers and since 2006 the garden has benefited greatly by work undertaken by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The garden showcases the plants found in the surrounding mountains and to see similar habitats you would have to travel over two thousand miles north to Arctic Norway.

We return to our hotel in time for dinner.

### **Monday 19 May 2025**

This morning following breakfast we begin our journey towards Perth where we stop en-route to visit a **private garden**.

Our next visit today is to **Glendoick Gardens**, which boasts a unique collection of plants collected by three generations of the Cox family from their plant-hunting expeditions in China and the Himalayas. There is also a fine collection of Rhododendrons and Azaleas, Primula, Meconopsis, Kalmia and sorbus in the woodland garden, peat garden and nursery.

We will enjoy another **private garden** before checking into our accommodation in Perth, where dinner will be served in the evening.



## **Tuesday 20 May 2025**

This morning after breakfast we will enjoy a visit to **Branklyn Gardens**, a haven of peace and colour. Begun in 1922, on a south-facing slope with acid soil, the garden represents a wonderful collection of small rhododendrons, maples, magnolias and woodland plants. Paths wind along the contours of the land bringing the visitor nose to nose with all kinds of distinguished plants, all beautifully grown.

This afternoon, we travel back towards Edinburgh and visit our last private garden.

Following this, we return to **Edinburgh** where dinner will be served at our hotel in the evening.



## **Wednesday 21 May 2025**

This morning after breakfast we visit the **Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh**, one of the finest botanic gardens in the world. A pleasure for all who visit, the Garden offers fantastic views of the capital's skyline, featuring Edinburgh Castle, and is located just a mile from the city centre. Visitors can discover its fascinating history, which dates back 300 years, learn about its plantings and walk around 70 acres of beautiful landscape.

The world-famous Rock Garden is a particular highlight. James McNab built the first rock garden at Inverleith in 1871 which comprised of numerous small, straight-sided compartments, each planted and distinctly labelled. In 1914 a new Rock Garden was completed using conglomerate rock from the Callander area in Perthshire, and red sandstone from Dumfries. Today there is approximately 5,000 species planted at any one time in the Rock Garden.

Visitors can also enjoy the serenity of the Chinese Hillside or stroll amongst the awe-inspiring Giant Redwood trees in the Woodland Garden. There are also fine artworks to view in the Garden's contemporary art gallery Inverleith House.

This afternoon is **free** to explore Edinburgh at leisure.

This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner at our hotel.

### **Thursday 22 May 2025**

At an agreed time, the group will be transferred back to Edinburgh airport (flights under own arrangement).

### **Included in the price**

- Nine nights' accommodation on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis: three nights in Edinburgh, one night on Dumfries, one night in Ayrshire, three nights in Pitlochry and one night in Perth
- Entry to the gardens detailed in the itinerary
- Services of horticulturalist Julia Corden as tour manager
- Comfortable coaching throughout

### **Not included (per person)**

- Flights
- Insurance

**Our guide Julia Corden:** Julia is a Horticultural Consultant and Botanical/Garden tour manager. She is a NARGS member and has spoken to a number of NARGS chapters. She is a past President of The Scottish Rock Garden Club. Her particular passion is the Blue Poppy of the Himalayas.



# **RHS Chelsea Flower Show & Wisley Garden and Classic English Gardens**

**22 – 24 May 2025**

**\$1460 USD Double, \$1650 USD Single (minimum 12 paying passengers)**

## **Itinerary**

### **Thursday 22 May 2025**

We depart on a morning flight from Edinburgh to London.

We will transfer to RHS Garden Wisley, which is where the Royal Horticultural Society shows the gardening public how it should be done. Here the highest standards of practical horticulture are deployed in the setting of a splendid old site rich in fine trees against a backdrop of other plants, all impeccably labelled. Lunch is available here (not included).

Later we continue to our comfortable hotel. Dinner is served in the evening.

### **Friday 23 May 2025**

After breakfast this morning we depart for our full day visit to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, which holds a rare position as a great British tradition and an exciting source of inspiration and advice. One of the highlights of the show is the collection of over twenty full-sized show gardens. Inside the Great Marquee visitors have their senses ravished by the hundreds of floral displays, many of them incorporating new, rare and unusual plants. Other popular features here include flower arranging, floristry and garden design marquees, courtyard gardens, window boxes and hanging baskets. Lunch is available here (not included).

Dinner is served back at our hotel in the evening.

### **Saturday 24 May 2025**

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport at an agreed time.

### **Included in the price**

- Two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at a hotel in London
- One-way flight Edinburgh to London
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Full day ticket for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- Entrance to RHS Garden Wisley

### **Information Related Registration, Payments, and Cancellation**

You must be a NARGS member to register. If you need to renew your membership or to join the society, please do so via the NARGS website ([www.nargs.org](http://www.nargs.org))

