

Gardens of North Wales

including the new RHS Bridgewater

3 – 6 June 2022

From £545.00 per person (based on minimum 25 paying guests)

From £585.00 per person (based on minimum 20 paying guests)

Itinerary

Day 1 – Friday 3 June 2022

We depart by coach from our local area and head south stopping at we depart for our visit to the brand new **RHS Garden Bridgewater** at Worsley, to the west of Manchester. This once in a generation project will see the Royal Horticultural Society take inspiration from the heritage of the site and transform it into a world-class garden, while also delivering a programme of community outreach and education activities, volunteering and training. Based on an overall design by leading landscape architect **Tom Stuart-Smith**, highlights will include one of the largest walled gardens in the UK, beautifully landscaped grounds, living plant collections and horticultural trials. (*Underfoot – Mainly flat gravel paths with a few steps*).

We later continue to our comfortable accommodation at the **Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon**. Dating back to the 18th century and frequented by Queen Victoria, the Celtic Royal Hotel is a historic hostelry which today provides comfortable and spacious accommodation in contemporary style. All rooms have private bathrooms and the hotels also boasts a 16-metre swimming pool with Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room. Dinner is served in the evening.

Day 2 – Saturday 4 June 2022

This morning, after breakfast, we travel to the privately-owned garden of **Maenan Hall**, a beautiful property on the slopes of the Conwy Valley, with dramatic views of Snowdonia, set amongst mature hardwoods. Both the upper part, with sweeping lawns, ornamental ponds and retaining walls, and the bluebell carpeted woodland dell contain copious specimen shrubs and trees, many originating at Bodnant. Magnolias, rhododendrons, camellias, pieris, cherries and hydrangeas, amongst many others, make for a breath-taking display. (*Underfoot – Mainly gravel paths with some steps*).



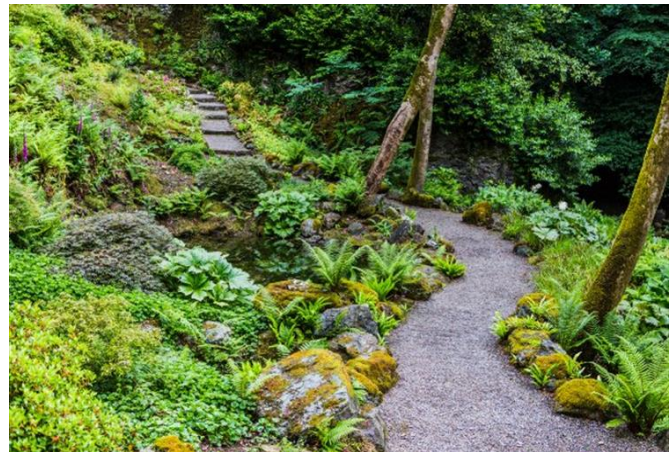
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We will then visit **Bodnant Garden** situated above the River Conwy spanning some 80 acres looking across the valley towards Snowdonia. The garden has two parts – the upper garden around Bodnant Hall, which consists of the terraced gardens and informal lawns, and the lower garden –



known as the “Dell”, formed by the River Hiraethlyn and containing the wild garden. Bodnant has a range of beautiful plants from all over the world, particularly China, North America, Europe and Japan, which are suited to the Welsh climate and soil. Care has been taken to ensure that they enhance each other and contribute to the general beauty of the garden throughout the seasons. At certain times of year if you are very lucky, you are able to see the stunning Laburnum arch in bloom, which has graced many a postcard and calendar. Lunch is available here (not included). (*Underfoot - The paths are pressed gravel, the upper part of the garden is easily accessible for people with wheels, the lower garden however has a number of steps and steep paths*).

Our last visit of the day is to **Plas Cadnant**, a hidden historic garden which is slowly being uncovered – a Welsh ‘Lost Gardens of Heligan’. Three different gardens have been discovered, including an unusual walled garden with curving walls and a pool, a secret valley garden with three waterfalls and a river, and an upper woodland garden with stone outcrops and the remains of a 19th century folly. Work started on restoring the gardens and grounds in 1997, which was a huge undertaking as large areas had not been maintained for over seventy years. In 1998 the area immediately behind the main house became a ‘herb garden’. The following year the sheltered courtyard between the cottages was planted as a garden. Since then large parts of the gardens have undergone a spectacular transformation and have been restored to their former glory. (*Underfoot - There are gravel paths and a number of steps, but the main garden is easily accessible*).



We return to the hotel in time for dinner.

Day 3 – Sunday 5 June 2022

This morning, after breakfast, we visit **Mynydd Heulog**, an 18th century stone cottage set in approximately 1 acre of sloping garden with amazing views over the Lleyn and Cardigan Bay. Gradually being developed over 25 years, the garden is now an eclectic mix of mature trees, shrubs, perennials and exotics. Highlights include arches, statues, bridges, summer house and shepherd's hut. The garden also boasts a raised vegetable garden together with a small copse of various trees and shrubs. (*Underfoot - The gardens are situated on a slope with a mixture of gravel and grass underfoot*).

We then visit **Plas yn Rhiw**, a delightful manor house with ornamental garden and wonderful views. The house is 16th-century with Georgian additions and was rescued from neglect and lovingly restored by the three Keating sisters, who bought it in 1938. The garden contains many beautiful flowering trees and shrubs, with beds framed by box hedges and grass paths. The views across Cardigan Bay are among the most spectacular in Britain. Lunch is available here (not included). (*Underfoot - Most paths are gravel with one or two steps throughout the gardens*).

We later return to Caernarfon where the remaining day is free to relax or explore at leisure. Dinner is served at the hotel in the evening.

Day 4 – Monday 6 June 2022

Following breakfast, we check out of the hotel, and head for **Crûg Farm Plants**, near Caernarfon. Every October Bleddyn Wynn-Jones and his wife Sue trade their home comforts at Crûg for a tent and trekking gear. Travelling to the mountains and forests of Vietnam, Taiwan and Sri Lanka they have collected species of *podophyllum*, *sarcococca* and the evergreen shrub *daphniphyllum*. They used to farm beef but in the 1980s when agriculture looked bleak they looked for an alternative. Starting with planting every type of imaginable vegetable, they progressed to shrubs grown from

cuttings from their parents' gardens, Treborth Botanic Gardens and Plas Newydd. Today they are specialists on a broad spectrum of temperate forest plants - shrubs, exquisite herbaceous perennials, climbers and bulbous plants from Nepal, Korea and Central America. (*Underfoot - There are gravel and a slight slope, no steps in garden except to access the toilets*).



We then continue home, stopping for a final visit at **Dalemmain**, Penrith for lunch (not included). Dalemmain is a medieval Tudor and early Georgian house which has been home to the same family since 1679. On one side of the house a broad gravelled terrace, fringed with shrubs, looks out over the fields. Behind the house a knot of box-edged compartments is filled with artemisias, astilbes, campanulas, penstemons and violas. Beyond this a door leads enticingly to Lob's Wood, where a wild woodland walk follows the banks of the Dacre beck. This is the kind of garden, unpretentious and filled with good plants, which many think of as quintessentially English. (*Underfoot – Paths are gravel and the high garden is accessible to all, there is approx. 10 steps to get to the lower garden*).

We continue to our original departure point where we expect to arrive back at our original departure points in the evening.

Included in the price

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Visits to the gardens of RHS Bridgewater, Bodnant, Plas Cadnant, Maenan Hall, Mynydd Heulog, Plas yn Rhiw, Crug Farm and Dalemmain
- Services of Colin Crosbie as Brightwater Holidays Tour Manager

Not included (per person)

- Single supplement £165.00