

Gardens of Fife, Perthshire & Angus

9 – 12 September 2024

From £719.00 per person (based on minimum 20 paying guests)

From £679.00 per person (based on minimum 25 paying guests)

Itinerary

Day 1 – Monday 9 September 2024

We depart by coach from our local area and head east stopping at Crieff. After an opportunity for lunch (not included), we will visit the splendid formal gardens of **Drummond Castle**. They were first laid out in the early 17th century and re-designed and terraced in the early 19th century. The gardens we see today were replanted during the 1950s preserving such features as the ancient yew hedges and the copper beech trees planted by Queen Victoria to commemorate her visit in 1842. The garden was principally the work of Lewis Kennedy of Vineyard Nursery in Hammersmith, who supplied plants to many of Britain's finest gardens. We will see the famous sundial and the white Italian statuary.



We continue to our comfortable accommodation at the 3-star **Best Western Woodlands Hotel**, near Dundee. The hotel features an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna and steam room. Dinner is served in the evening.

Day 2 – Tuesday 10 September 2024

Following breakfast, we travel to **Glamis Castle**, which has been the ancestral home of the Earls of Strathmore for over 600 years and was the childhood home of the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. We will enjoy a guided tour of the Castle before exploring the garden. The Walled Garden grows fruit and vegetables which are used in the Castle Kitchen Restaurant; the Italian Garden was laid out in 1910 by Countess Cecilia, mother to the late HM Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother; follow the Macbeth Trail in the Pinetum looking out for seven sculptures carved from Oak, Douglas and Noble Fir trees, all depicting a major scene from the play. Lunch is available here (not included).

We continue to the garden at **Pitmuies House**, near Forfar. The flower garden is situated behind the house, where in an old walled garden, lavishly planted borders are planned to maintain their flowering interest over a very long season. Colour schemes are fastidiously chosen here - a double border, for example, seen from the drawing room has a scheme of blue, cream, white and yellow to go with the colours of the room. Beyond the walled gardens a riverside walk leads past a castellated dovecote through an old woodland of marvellous beeches and oaks under-planted with ornamental shrubs – look out for the beautiful *Acer griseum*.

We return to our hotel where dinner is served this evening.

Day 3 – Wednesday 11 September 2024

Today following breakfast, we visit **Falkland Palace**, a renaissance gem adored by Mary Queen of Scots. The lavish castle, was the former Pleasure Palace of Edward IV and James V and, still today, there are many pleasures to be found both out and inside the castle walls. The physic garden makes an unusual place to fix any of the bury heads from the whisky experience yesterday, with a collection of renaissance-era herbal remedies. Fans of 'Outlander' will recognise the square outside the Palace as the location for 'Inverness' in the opening episode. Lunch is available here (not included).



We continue to **Teasses Garden**, situated on the Teasses Estate near St Andrews, which have been developed since 2000 by the present owners. Covering 60-acres, there is a walled garden with colourful borders, formal gardens with autumn colour and decorative woodlands. **Please note there is a 3-4 minute walk from the coach drop off point to the gardens.**

We travel to nearby **St Andrews**, where we will visit the **Botanic Gardens**. Throughout the 18-acre garden you will see examples of some of Fife's most dynamic habitats and plants from around the world, with research experiments investigating how plants compete, invade and support each other, and how communities assemble in response to their environment. There is lots to see including a rock garden, pond, and pinetum. The garden is home to lots of wildlife too with red squirrels and a great variety of birds and insects.

Dinner is served at our hotel in the evening.

Day 4 – Thursday 12 September 2024

After breakfast, we check out of our hotel. Our final visit is to NTS's **Branklyn Garden**, a haven of peace and colour on the outskirts of Perth. Begun in 1922, on a south-facing slope with acid soil, the garden represents a wonderful collection of woodland plants along the winding paths. A popular area is the Chinese Hillside which provides a showcase to the historic and contemporary Chinese plant collections, with the largest collection of Chinese-origin plants in cultivation. Other highlights include the world-famous Rock Garden, a new Centenary Alpine Crevice Garden and the Scottish Heath Garden with its native wonders. It also holds several National Collections of plants, including *Meconopsis* and *Cassiope*.

We then begin our journey home, stopping en-route for lunch (not included), where we expect to arrive late afternoon.

Included in the price

- Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Best Western Woodlands Hotel, Broughty Ferry
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Visits to the gardens of Drummond Castle, Branklyn, Teasses, Pitmuies and St Andrews Botanic, visits to the palace/castle and gardens of Falkland and Glamis
- Guided tours of the Castle at Glamis
- Services of Colin Crosbie as Brightwater Holidays Tour Manager

Not included (per person)

- Single supplement £135.00