



American Friends of the Botanic Foundation

Scottish Gardens Tour

Saturday 31st May – Saturday 7th June 2025



LOYD & TOWNSEND ROSE

EXCEPTIONAL CASTLE EXPERIENCES

Whitburgh Gardens

Visits to private gardens, with the owners as our hosts, in the Scottish Borders.

Saturday 31st May – Wednesday 4th June

- For the first four nights you will stay in Gilmerton House, a magnificent Robert Adam Grade A listed Georgian mansion, or Leuchie Walled Garden, an exceptional example of Mid-Century architecture nestled within a 5-acre traditional walled garden.
- Highlights of the Southern half of the tour will include a visit to Dovecot Studio and then on to Penicuik House, an original grand Palladian home which has been in the Clerk family since 1654. Here you will enjoy a guided walk around the designed landscape, drinks in the garden and dinner with the Botanic Foundation Board of Trustees, hosted by Sir Robert and Lady Clerk.
- A tour of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh with Simon Milne, Regius Keeper, as our host. It will include a private visit to the Herbarium, which houses approximately three million specimens, representing half to two thirds of the world's flora. Dr Olwyn Grace will be our guide.
- A visit to the magnificent gardens at Carolside in the Scottish Borders where you will also be hosted for lunch by Anthony and Rose Foyle. After lunch you will visit nearby Mertoun House and Gardens, the family home of the Dukes of Sutherland.



On to the Highlands

Wednesday 4th June

- The drive north is by motorway to Perth and passes Scone Palace on the road to Blairgowrie.
- We will take advantage of this by stopping off for a personal tour of the Gardens at Scone Palace with The Countess of Mansfield and the Head Gardener, Brian Cunningham. The Scone Palace Pinetum is of international interest and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh supports the team at Scone Palace with its management.
- Lunch with Alan and Sue Warner at Strone House, Bridge of Cally. The house is at the meeting point of the two Glens, Glenshee and Stathardle. It is a really beautiful setting, and Alan and Sue have created a charming garden around the house.
- We will arrive at Candacraig Castle, a baronial mansion house in the heart of Cairngorm National Park, which will be exclusively ours for the remainder of your stay.



Glorious Royal Deeside

Thursday 5th June to Saturday 7th June

- We will be welcomed to Balmoral Castle, the summer home of His Majesty The King, by Richard Gledson, Estates Director. Head of Gardens, Kirsty Wilson, BBC television presenter and graduate of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, will give us a guided tour of the Gardens at Balmoral and Birkhall.
- A visit to Craigievar Castle will be followed by afternoon tea and an Art Tour of the contemporary art collection at the newly restored landmark hotel, the Fife Arms in Braemar. The hotel was renovated by Hauser & Wirth, International Art Dealers.
- The tour will culminate with a traditional Scottish Ceilidh (Scottish country dancing) on the final night. It will be a fitting celebration to close our Scottish fling.

Saturday 7th June

- Depending on onward travel, guests may choose to return to Edinburgh Airport or the City of Edinburgh.



Balmoral Castle



Inchnabobart



Birkhall Gardens

Scottish Gardens Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Saturday 31st May

Morning: Arrive at Gilmerton House for 12pm
Afternoon: Lunch at Gilmerton House followed by tour of Dovecot Studios
Evening: Garden tour, drinks and dinner at Penicuik House

Day 2: Sunday 1st June

Morning: Private tour at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Afternoon: Lunch at the Botanic Gardens followed by a private tour of Portmore Gardens
Evening: Dinner at Gilmerton House

Day 3: Monday 2nd June

Morning: Carolside Gardens private garden tour
Afternoon: Lunch at Carolside followed by garden tour at Mertoun House & Afternoon Tea
Evening: BBQ at Leuchie Walled Garden

Day 4: Tuesday 3rd June

Morning: Broadwoodside private garden tour
Afternoon: Lunch & garden tour at Whitburgh House
Evening: Dinner at Gilmerton House

Day 5: Wednesday 4th June

Morning: Depart Gilmerton House & Leuchie Walled Garden. Private tour of Scone Palace Gardens
Afternoon: Lunch and private garden tour at Strone
Evening: Dinner at Candacraig Castle

Day 6: Thursday 5th June

Morning: Private tour of Balmoral Castle Gardens
Afternoon: Lunch in the King's private hunting lodge, Inchnabobart, followed by a private tour of Birkhall gardens
Evening: Dinner at Candacraig Castle

Day 7: Friday 6th June

Morning: Private tour of Craigievar Castle
Afternoon: Picnic in the castle grounds followed by Art Tour & Afternoon Tea at The Fife Arms
Evening: Dinner and Ceilidh at Candacraig Castle

Day 8: Saturday 7th June

Morning: Depart Candacraig Castle for onward travel to Edinburgh Airport or Edinburgh City Centre



Scottish Gardens Tour

For more information please contact:

Mary Emerson

Email: memerson@rbge.org.uk

Telephone: +1 (203) 979-7967

Lorna Stoddart

Email: lstoddart@rbge.org.uk

Telephone: +44 7713 786 231

Jonathan Townsend-Rose

Email: Jonathan@ltrcastles.com

Telephone: +44 7771 768 704

*the schedule may be subject to change

