

Horticultural Society of Maryland & Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland

Maryland Gardeners

Gardens, Islands, and Castles of Scotland - July 3-15, 2022



Kelpie Sculptures

Tour at A Glance

Price: \$5,125.00 (USD) per person, double occupancy
+\$1,625 (USD) per person, single

Dates: July 3-15, 2022

Included-

- 12 x nights in 4-star hotels
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners
- Coach service to gardens and attractions as mentioned
- Ferries - Oban to Craignure (return), Fionphort to Iona (return)
- Entrances to Iona Abbey, Ardchattan Priory Gardens, Dunrobin Castle, Balmoral Estate, Crathes Castle, V&A Dundee, Dundee Botanic Garden, Branklyn Gardens, Drummond Castle Gardens, Jupiter Artland, Little Sparta, Floors Castle, Carolside Gardens, Shepherd House Garden, Whitburgh House Walled Garden, Broadwoodside Garden, The Alnwick Garden
- Staffa boat trip
- Whisky distillery tour and tasting
- Services of English speaking tour manager throughout (Paricia Blaine)
- Local taxes and service charges for included services
- Porterage of 1 luggage piece (you can bring more than 1)

Day 1: Sunday 3rd July

Included meal: Dinner

Arrive in **Edinburgh**, Scotland's capital city, for afternoon check-in at our hotel located in the center of the city, close to the main train station and the tram running directly to the airport.

Group welcome dinner tonight.

Overnight at **Apex Waterloo Place Hotel**, Edinburgh. (-/-/D)

Day 2: Monday 4th July

Included meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Depart Edinburgh this morning and travel north with a brief stop to see the **Kelpies** horse sculptures, two giant horse heads made from stainless steel plates, the largest equine sculptures in the world.

Continue northwards with a visit to **Glengoyne Whisky Distillery** near Glasgow for a distillery tour/tasting.

The journey north continues along the banks of **Loch Lomond** and the **Trossachs National Park** with a lunch stop in Tyndrum.

Continue via **Glencoe**, a place of breathtaking natural beauty but also the site of an infamous massacre in 1692 between the Campbells and the MacDonalads. Stop at the informative visitor center to learn more about this stunningly beautiful region.

Arrive later this afternoon in Oban, which occupies a scenic location on the Firth of Lorn on Scotland's West Coast.

Overnight at **Oban Bay Hotel**, Oban (B/L/-)

Day 3: Tuesday 5th July

Included meal: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning depart hotel and board the ferry, about a 45 minute ride to the **Isle of Mull**. Transfer by local bus from Craignure across the largest of the Inner Hebridean Islands, Mull, through the moorlands to Fionnphort. Here we will take a sightseeing cruise to see the island of **Staffa**. The small uninhabited island of Staffa is located on Scotland's West coast, 6 miles west of Mull. It was immortalized by the composer John Mendelssohn who after a visit to island in 1829 composed his Hebrides Overture inspired in particular by the astonishing acoustics of Fingal's Cave with its eye-catching hexagonal basalt columns.

The cruise will finish on **Iona**, a small island off the west coast of Scotland where, in 563, Columba founded a Celtic monastery that was very influential in its own times. Iona has been called the entry way of Christianity into Scotland and Northern England. Upon arrival visit **Iona Abbey** and the **Heritage Centre**.

If weather conditions prevent the sightseeing cruise to Staffa, then group will board ferry for a short ride (5-10 minutes) directly to Iona and more time will be spent on the island.

Return to Oban later this afternoon.

Overnight at **Oban Bay Hotel**, Oban (B/-/D)

Day 4: Wednesday 6th July

Included meal: Breakfast

Depart Oban this morning and travel a short distance for a visit to **Ardchattan Priory Gardens**. A garden has existed at Ardchattan for over 700 years, since monks, from a little-known order in Burgundy, first settled there, on the north shore of Loch Etive. Facing south, with spectacular views over Loch Etive, one can look east to Ben Cruachan and west to the hills of Mull - the monks chose their site well.

The garden has a natural tranquility and what you see today has been largely developed over the last 110 years by three generations of the same family. There are herbaceous borders, roses, a rockery, ornamental trees and a wildflower garden, to mention just some of the highlights.

Continue north to Fort William where a stop will be made for lunch.

This afternoon proceed along the **Great Glen** and the shores of **Loch Ness** with some sightseeing stops.

Overnight at **Kingsmills Hotel**, Inverness (B/-/-)

Day 5: Thursday 7th July

Included meal: Breakfast

Today depart for a visit to **Dunrobin Castle**, the most northerly of Scotland's great houses and the largest in the Northern Highlands with 189 rooms. Dunrobin Castle is also one of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses dating back to the early 1300s, home to the Earls, and later the Dukes of Sutherland.

The gardens were laid out in 1850 by the architect Sir Charles Barry, who was responsible for the Victorian extension to the Castle and who also designed the Houses of Parliament.

Inspiration came from the Palace of Versailles in Paris, and they have changed little in the 150 years since they were planted, although new plants are constantly being introduced. Despite its northerly location, the sheltered gardens are able to support a surprising range of plants, including at the foot of the steps leading to the garden a huge clump of *Gunnera manicata*, a native rhubarb of South America that has eight-foot leaves!

Return to Inverness with the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at **Kingsmills Hotel**, Inverness (B/-/-)

Day 6: Friday 8th July

Included meal: Breakfast, Dinner

Depart hotel this morning and travel into the heart of the **Cairngorms National Park**.

There will be a visit to **Balmoral**, the main holiday home of the royal family in Scotland since the 19th century when it was purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert.

The gardens, which were started under the supervision of Prince Albert, have been expanded and improved by successive members of the Royal Family. Between 1923 and 1925, Queen Mary devised the charming garden, with a semi-circular wall of rocks surrounding a fountain. The formal gardens, covering some three acres, also contain a range of Victorian glasshouses and the conservatory, which displays flowering pot plants throughout the year.

Continue this afternoon to **Crathes Castle**, standing against a backdrop of rolling hills and set within its own glorious gardens. Crathes Castle is every inch the classic Scottish tower house. Built in the 16th century, it is an intricate maze of turrets, towers, oak panels, and painted ceilings, many of which survive beautifully to this day.

Inside you'll find a labyrinth of cultural history, from family portraits to fine antique furniture. The walled garden is a wonderful jungle of history, split into eight sections that encompass every green delight imaginable, a sculpted topiary, soft herbaceous colors, and modern exotic blooms. The massive yew hedges are thought to have been planted as early as 1702.

Continue to Aberdeen for your overnight stay.
Overnight at **Jurys Aberdeen** (B/-/D)

Day 7: Saturday 9th July

Included meals: Breakfast

Depart Aberdeen this morning for a visit to **Dunnottar Castle**. This dramatic and evocative ruined cliff top fortress was the home of the Earls Marischal, once one of the most powerful families in Scotland.

Steeped in history, this romantic and haunting ruin is a photographer's paradise, a history lover's dream and an iconic tourist destination for visitors the world over.

Continue south to Dundee. On arrival, visit the new **V&A museum**. This eye-catching building, designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, is home to the first ever dedicated design museum in Scotland, displaying the best of Scottish creativity as well as world class international design.

Continue to **Dundee Botanic Garden** and enjoy its wide range of plants, with fine collections of conifers and broad-leaved trees and shrubs, tropical and temperate glasshouses, water garden and herb garden. Located in 9.5 hectares of south-facing, gently sloping land near the banks of the River Tay, the Garden features many species of indigenous British plants as well as representative collections of important plants from all the continents of the world.

Check in to your hotel later this afternoon.

Overnight at **Hotel Indigo**, Dundee (B/-/-)

Day 8: Sunday 10th July

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Leaving Dundee we continue south to **Branklyn Garden** near Perth. This two-acre **National Trust Garden** overlooks Perth and contains an impressive collection of rare and unusual plants.

Continue afterwards to **Drummond Castle Gardens**, one of Europe's and Scotland's most important and impressive formal gardens. Located in Perthshire near Crieff, the gardens were first laid out in 1630 by the 2nd Earl of Perth. The formal gardens that you see today were replanted in the 1950s but preserve many of the original features - the ancient yew hedges and the remaining beech tree planted by Queen Victoria, commemorating her visit in 1842.

Continue to nearby venue for lunch.

This afternoon proceed to Edinburgh and check in to city center hotel.

Overnight at **Apex Waterloo Place Hotel**, Edinburgh (B/L/-)

Day 9: Monday 11th July

Included meal: Breakfast

Today depart for the Scottish Borders for a visit to **Floors Castle**, home of the Innes-Ker family since it was built for the 1st Duke of Roxburghe exactly 300 years ago in 1721. It is the largest inhabited house in Scotland and opened to the public in 1977. It remains one of the most iconic pieces of Scottish architecture.

Just a short walk from the Castle you will find the spectacular **Victorian Walled Garden** with glasshouses, herbaceous borders and a formal Millennium Garden.

This afternoon, continue to **Carolside House & Gardens**, featuring a late 18th century mansion set in beautiful parkland, flanked by wooded hills, nestling in a bend of the River Leader - a romantic and beautiful garden open in the summer to the public.

The garden has been cultivated for over 200 years and today it is best known for its soft and delicate herbaceous planting, striking Delphinium beds and subtle color schemes. Sweeping lawns lead to an oval walled garden where a Historical Collection of ancient roses is housed.

Overnight at **Apex Waterloo Place Hotel**, Edinburgh (B/-/-)

Day 10 Tuesday 12th July

Included meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Depart hotel and travel the short distance to Inveresk, near Musselburgh, for a visit to **Shepherd House Garden**. Built in the late 17th century, Shepherd House has been Charles and Ann Fraser's home since 1957. Since then, the garden has gone from being a children's playground to be recognized as one of the best small gardens in Scotland.

Shepherd House is a very personal garden of around one acre, designed by its owners. There was no overall plan, so the garden has evolved in stages over the years. Many ideas have been borrowed from other gardens and all has been drawn together with an artist's appreciation of color, texture and form, which makes it feel larger than one acre.

Lunch at Jupiter Lea Inn.

This afternoon, continue to **Whitburgh House Gardens**. This contemporary, stylish one acre walled garden, 700 feet above sea level, is a lively forward-looking and unexpected gem. The solidity and

graphic quality of clipped foliage act as a foil for the many perennials, grasses, annuals, fruit and vegetables. A spiral path leads through an acre of white birches. There are also a variety of ponds and fine sculptures spread around the garden.

Overnight at **Apex Waterloo Place Hotel**, Edinburgh (B/L/-)

Day 11: Wednesday 13th July

Included meal: Breakfast

Depart Edinburgh and head south, crossing the border into Northumberland for a visit to **Alnwick Garden**, one of the world's most exciting contemporary gardens. Created by the Duchess of Northumberland, it includes the country's largest collection of European plants, the shooting jets of the Grand Cascade, interactive water sculptures, the infamous **Poison Garden** and one of the world's largest wooden tree houses.

This afternoon, continue to **Broadwoodside** garden near Gifford. Noted as "one of Scotland's finest contemporary gardens," this private garden is planted in and around a rescued farm site. The garden at **Broadwoodside** was started with a blank canvas in 2000 and continues to develop. Everything has been planted and maintained by Guy Donaldson, the gardener who has lived and worked there from the start.

Today there will be some further garden visits located just outside of Edinburgh
Overnight at **Apex Waterloo Place Hotel**, Edinburgh (B/-/-)

Day 12: Thursday 14th July

Included meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Your first visit this morning is to **Jupiter Artland**, a contemporary sculpture park and art gallery outside Edinburgh. Set in over 100 acres of woodland and meadows within the grounds of **Bonnington House**, a 17th Century Jacobean Manor House, **Jupiter Artland** is home to an expansive collection of site-specific artworks.

This afternoon, continue to **Little Sparta** in Dunsyre. Hailed as a combination of "avant-garden experiment, Scottish whimsy and English landscape tradition," this garden developed by the late Ian Hamilton Findlay and his wife, is filled with unique elements relating to art and poetry.

Farewell dinner tonight in local city center restaurant.

Overnight at **Apex Waterloo Place Hotel**, Edinburgh (B/L/D)

Day 13: Friday 15th July

Included meals: Breakfast

Depart for airport.

Other Information

Payments: Tour deposits and payments may be made by Visa/Master Card. Credit card payments are subject to a 3% processing fee. Payments may also be paid through TransferWise online. A \$50 contribution each to the Federated Garden Clubs of MD

and Horticultural Society of MD, both tax exempt charitable organizations, are included in the price. Your contribution may be tax deductible.

Tour Organizer: A current Director of Federated Garden Clubs of MD, Claire Jones has planned garden trips to England, Wales, Portugal, and Scotland, and is an avid garden traveler with a library of over 100,000 images of gardens around the world. A photographer, landscape designer, and garden blogger at TheGardenDiaries, Claire loves to travel anywhere there are gardens and interesting sights. Contact Claire at jonesb1@comcast.net or 443-927-6285.

Tour Company

The travel company providing this tour is Pathfinders / STITA Tours of Cheltenham, UK. Claire Jones acts only as your contact with Pathfinders / STITA.

Additional Information

Please contact Claire Jones at jonesb1@comcast.net or 443-927-6285 with any questions regarding this tour.

This is a non-smoking tour. No smoking is permitted on the coach, group activities, or meals. Each participant is required to fill out and sign the attached tour conditions within 30 days of acceptance.

Special Requests

Tour members are requested to inform us at the time of booking of any special medical, dietary, or other requests. We will do our best to accommodate all requests but cannot guarantee that such requests will be met.

Baggage

Porterage of one piece of luggage per person is included in the tour. As space is often limited, we strongly suggest that you limit luggage to one suitcase and one 'carry on' size bag.

Not Included

- Personal Expenses
- Gratuities to drivers or tour guide
- Airfare
- Meals not listed
- Travel Insurance (Highly recommended)
- Tour members may skip garden visits to do their own sightseeing, except during days when the group transfers to a new hotel.

Price

The tour is set at a minimum of 15 and maximum of 26 participants. Prices are in British Pounds with U.S. Estimates (Aug 2021) based on conversion rate of 1 BP=\$1.38

Double Room (sharing)

US per person \$5,125.00

Single Room

US \$1625.00 Additional

Scotland Trip

July 3 – 15, 2022

Co-Sponsored by Horticultural Society of MD & Federated Garden Clubs of MD

Travel Information Form

Personal Information	
Full Traveler name Must match passport	
E-mail	
Passport Issuing Authority	
Passport Number	
Passport Expiration Date	
Street address w/city, state, and zip	
Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number	
Type of Room Requested	
If Double, provide name of roommate	
Cell and home phone number	
How Did You Hear About This Tour?	

To Reserve a Space, a \$200 Deposit made out to Claire Jones is required, which will be refunded to you at the start of the trip. If you cancel, the deposit will be retained, unless another participant is found to take your place. Mail deposit to Claire Jones, 4 Bellclare Cir, Sparks, MD 21152

Airfare is not included in the price of this tour. Each participant will need to make their own airline reservation to arrive in Edinburgh. If you want to arrive earlier and/or leave later, arrangements can be made with Pathfinders to stay extra nights. Please *Do Not* make your airline reservations until you are notified by email that the tour will proceed.

Important Dates: 10% Due by February 1, 2022 to Pathfinders (Elise) at 877-753-6386- Toll free number, +5 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. Final Payment Due by May 15, 2022 to Pathfinders at 877-753-6386.

Travel Protection Insurance is highly recommended and is not provided under this agreement. Cancel for any Reason (CAFR) travel insurance should be considered – it was of great benefit for those that had non-refundable airfare for trips cancelled due to travel restrictions in 2020.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The travel company providing this tour is Pathfinders/STITA Tours of Cheltenham, UK (“Pathfinders”). The person organizing this tour is Claire Jones. She is not an agent or employee of Pathfinders; she acts only as your contact with Pathfinders. By placing your deposit for this tour, you agree that you have read and agree to these Terms and Conditions. You further agree that this is a release of any claim that you may have against Pathfinders, as well as Claire Jones, Claire Jones Landscapes LLC (collectively “Claire Jones”), and tour co-sponsor organizations (Horticultural Society of Maryland and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland), arising out of this tour.

TOUR PRICE: Published tour prices are based upon current exchange rates, tariffs and taxes. Fluctuations in these rates may result in a price adjustment, without prior notice. Once the price for the tour is paid in full, the price will not be adjusted due to any later change in exchange rates, tariffs or taxes.

No refunds will be granted for any accommodations, services or events which are not used, or which are canceled.

DEPOSIT: Tour reservations are processed in the order received. You will be notified if your reservation has been accepted. A deposit of \$200 is required to secure your reservation. It will be refunded to you when your tour commences. It will be refunded to you if the minimum number of participants is not met. It will be refunded to you if you cancel from a tour, and your spot is filled from a waiting list. In all other cases, your deposit is non-refundable.

CANCELLATIONS: Each tour will proceed if the minimum of 15 reservations has been met. If not met, the tour may be canceled. Should a tour move forward without filling to

the minimum, there will be a price increase. You will be advised of the increase and may reconsider your application. **Please do not book any nonrefundable airfare until your tour has been confirmed.**

Tours may be canceled if natural disasters, pandemics, terrorism, or any other circumstance makes it unsafe for travel. Neither Pathfinders nor Claire Jones or the tour co-sponsors shall be responsible for refunds to you for a canceled tour. For that reason, you should consider purchasing travel or cancellation insurance.

CHANGES TO ITINERARY: Pathfinders and Claire Jones strive to operate according to their published itinerary. Unforeseen circumstances may require adjustments to that itinerary. We may make changes, without penalty, to the published itinerary, which are necessary for the comfort, convenience, and safety of tour participants.

MEDICAL ISSUES: Tour participants must be physically and mentally fit, and able to participate and cooperate with other tour members and the tour escort. At times, this tour is moderately physically demanding, involving walking several miles over the day, getting in and out of a bus, traveling over cobblestones, and moving luggage. You acknowledge that you are fit to participate in this tour, and you do so at your own risk.

RISKS & HAZARDS: You agree that you are willing to accept the risks and uncertainty involved in taking a trip such as this, including transportation, terrorism, war, theft, illness, acts of government, pandemics, forces of nature, animal misbehavior, and damage to person or property. Cancellation of a tour from such a risk is not refundable. You accept and assume full responsibility for any and all risks from this tour.

DISPUTES: Any dispute concerning this trip shall be resolved by binding arbitration, submitted to and decided under the rules and procedures promulgated by the American Arbitration Association, with each party paying an equal share of the costs of such arbitration. Any in-person hearing shall be held in the State of Maryland.

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS

I agree to the Terms and Conditions set forth above. I assume all of the risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury, illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I may incur in connection with this tour. I hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless Pathfinders, its employees, officers, and agents, Claire Jones and Claire Jones Landscapes LLC, as well as tour co-sponsors Horticultural Society of Maryland and Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, from any and all claims, including claims of negligence, from any injury, damages or loss due to my participation in and travel to and from this tour.

Participant signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____