

# Ayrshire & Lanarkshire 2018



Royal  
Botanic Garden  
Edinburgh

**Friends of the Royal Botanic  
Gardens Edinburgh**  
**June 19<sup>th</sup> – June 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**From £745 per person**



## Itinerary

### Day 1

We depart by coach this morning from our local pickup points. We will head west to Lanarkshire where our first garden visit will be to **The Walled Garden, Shieldhill**. This 200 year old walled garden has been completely redesigned in 2014/15. A young garden in terms of planting – but already, it has a rill, perennial borders, rose garden, raised beds for fruit and vegetables, a green-house adjacent to the original potting shed. Surrounding the walled garden is a woodland walk which includes a wildlife pond which is slowly evolving! Mid-morning refreshments will be provided before setting off to visit a private orchard in the Clyde Valley.



The Clyde Valley orchards are an important part of the Lanarkshire landscape. They have seen the development of new varieties of fruit, been the source of new foods, drinks, songs and stories, and provided an income for many small and large local businesses.

They have changed dramatically from their early monastic beginnings to become Scotland's leading commercial fruit producing area in the 19th century. Since then, the markets for local fruit have slowly declined and today the orchards are in danger of being lost from our countryside. We will hear about the Clyde Valley Orchard Group and the work they are doing to regenerate the orchards in this part of Scotland.

Following a guided walk around the orchard, we will then have an approximately 20 minute journey to **Chatelherault**, near Hamilton. Chatelherault was built in 1732 as the hunting lodge and summer house for the Duke of Hamilton. Designed by the famous Scottish Architect William Adam, it now serves as a magnificent gateway to a beautiful Country Park.

The restored building is now a visitor centre with display gallery and exhibitions on the area's history, wildlife and also the story of Chatelherault itself. Following lunch in the restaurant (included), we will have a short talk about the Clyde Valley Orchards in the auditorium. There will also be a short video presentation about the history of Chatelherault prior to a guided tour of the Duke's private Banqueting Room, apartments and formal gardens. There will also be an opportunity to walk through the stunning gorge along the River Avon and through ancient woodland, which is home to a wide range of wildlife including roe deer, badgers, otters, kingfishers and more.

We will then continue to our comfortable accommodation in



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the Marine Hotel, Troon where dinner will be served in the evening.

## **Day 2**

After breakfast, we depart for a visit to **Culzean Castle** which stands on the brink of 150ft cliffs that drop sheer into the Firth of Clyde. Regarded by many as one of the finest examples of the architect's art in Scotland. Today the castle forms the focal point of Culzean Country Park. Culzean Castle and Country Park together comprise one of the most popular visitor destinations in Scotland, and one of the most rewarding and varied. The origins of Culzean Castle (which is pronounced *cull-ane*) probably date back to the late 1300s with the building here of a stone tower house. This was referred to in the 1400s as the *House of Cove* or *Coif Castle*, both thought to be references to the caves in the cliffs below the castle. Culzean was designated as Scotland's first country park in 1969. Their aim for the surrounding landscape was to create a picturesque and dramatic setting for the castle: and without a shadow of a



doubt, they succeeded. The tour group will be split into two groups. One group will visit the Castle, the other the Gardens before enjoying lunch. After lunch the groups will swap over. We will also have some time for some leisurely walks in the grounds



Mid-afternoon, we will make our way to our next garden visit **Burnside** at Drongan. This young six and a half acre garden was started in 2006. There is a wide range of plants from trees to alpiners. Features include a 200 yard woodland border along the burn, herbaceous beds, screes, an ericaceous garden, three alpine houses, a collection of alpine troughs and a pond. The informal arboretum is underplanted with groups of daffodils, camassia and fritillaries. There is also an extensive collection of pelargoniums and streptocarpus.

After our visit, we will return to the hotel where dinner will be served in the evening. Brian Young from Holmes Farm plants will join us and give a short talk about Holmes Farm which we will be visiting on Day 3.

## **Day 3**

After breakfast, we will depart for our first visit of the day, **Carnell Garden**. This lovely ten acre garden has featured in Beechgrove Garden, Country Life, The Good Gardens Guide and in Suki Urquhart's book The Scottish Gardener. This well known traditional walled garden is backed by a 100 yard long herbaceous border, facing a rock and water garden with gazebo and Burmese statues. Lawns, mature hedges, specimen trees and the Lime Avenue planted to commemorate the Battle of Dettingen in 1743, enhance the setting overlooked by the Peel Tower



We will then move on to **Barnweil Garden**, where tea & coffee will be served. Begun in 1972 this garden has evolved and developed ever since. With pure clay soil and being on the north side of the hill are two of the challenges and wind has also been a problem, but solved by planting beech hedging and shelter belts. The lawn on the south side of the early 19th Century house is enclosed by herbaceous borders, giving way to shrub roses and then the woodland garden where the golden borders (a particular favorite as it always seems sunny even on a grey day) and a planting of meconopsis and Primula japonica 'Postford White' are two of the sights amongst azaleas and species and hybrid rhododendrons. The north side has formal borders framing the view from the house to Craigie Castle and (on a clear day) Ben Lomond, with modern shrub rose borders on each side being a recent addition.



We travel a short distance to **Blair House** where lunch will be provided. Blair is a 'Sleeping Beauty' of a garden which is being lovingly restored. There is an atmosphere of a grand 19th century park with masses of changes in mood: sweeping vistas, magnificent trees, shady promenades, and secret groves - everything that is typical of the period. Walks on the estate will include access to the private gardens. Lunch will be provided

Our final visit of the afternoon is **Holmes Farm Nursery** a true plantsman's garden created by a confirmed plantaholic. An ever evolving selection of perennials, bulbs, alpines and shrubs. Meandering paths guide the eye through plantings predominantly herbaceous, with small trees and shrubs. The garden opening will hopefully be timed for peak bloom of some of the 400 iris in the garden. Some areas of the garden are currently undergoing a partial replant and redesign. There is a plant nursery with a wide selection of plant treasures from the garden and a gift shop and gallery too!

We will then return to the hotel where dinner will be served in the evening.

#### **Day 4**

After breakfast, we depart for a visit at Dumfries House, near Cumnock in Ayrshire. Its stunning interiors are home to a world-class collection of furniture by Thomas Chippendale and many late 18th century cabinet makers, which recently featured on the BBC's Antiques Roadshow. Both the house and the gardens are listed as significant aspects of Scottish heritage. There will be guided tours of the house and gardens. We will enjoy lunch between tours.



Our final visit of the day will be to the Roof Garden at New Lanark where there will be an opportunity to have a comfort break before heading back to Edinburgh.

Following our visit we return to our original departure points.

#### **Included in the price**

- 3 night's dinner bed and breakfast at a comfortable 4\* accommodation in the Troon area. All rooms have private facilities.
- 4 lunches
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Visits to The Walled Garden, Shieldhill, Clyde Valley Orchards, Chatelherault, Culzean Castle, Burnside, Carnell Garden, Barnweil Garden, Blair House, Holmes Farm Nursery Dumfries House and New Lanark (to be confirmed)

#### **Not included (per person) e.g.**

- Single occupancy supplement           £160
- Insurance   2018 prices TBA