

Friends of RBGE



Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh

Tours and Day Visits 2017

Details of the 2017 tours and day trips programme are provided below. Day trips to the gardens of Fife on 31 May and Angus on 5 July are organised by the Friends of RBGE and the tour to Orkney is organised in conjunction with Brightwater Holidays. There will also be a tour to the Cape area of South Africa from 12–26 September for the Friends of RBGE.

Orkney and the north of Scotland

Sunday 16 July – Thursday 20 July 2017

We travel by coach from Edinburgh and break the journey with a visit to the gardens of Cawdor Castle near Nairn with their vast herbaceous borders, a rose garden, peony walk and a kitchen garden. We then continue to Scrabster for the evening ferry to Stromness and onto the Kirkwall Hotel, home for the next three nights. The tour will include visits to Melsetter House on the island of Hoy, a private home overlooking the bay of Longhope; The Quoy of Houton, an historic walled garden which was completely restored by Caroline Critchlow in 2008; and Marengo Garden, Orkney's first community garden in South Ronaldsay. Other attractions on the tour include Skara Brae; the garden of Kierfold packed with geraniums, grasses, euphorbia and irises; the beautiful Italian Chapel; and the great stone circles of Brodgar and Stenness.

Travelling back by ferry from St Margaret's Hope to Gills Bay, there will be visits to The Castle of Mey and Dunbeath Castle. The final night is spent in



Italian Chapel

Inverness with stops the next day at the Hercules Garden at Blair Castle and the House of Bruar before the return journey to Edinburgh.

The gardens of Fife

Wednesday 31 May 2017 **SOLD OUT** Extra date – 7 June 2017

The day begins with a visit to Wemyss Castle with its wonderful clematis collection. Charlotte Wemyss has more than 100 types of clematis: deep pink, pure white and fragrant varieties climb wildly across the six acre walled garden making a visit here an unforgettable experience. After coffee at Blacketside Farm Shop we proceed to June Baxter's renowned town garden in the centre of St Andrews for a personal tour. The site dates back to c. 1150, the garden in medieval long rig, with orchard, clematis and many flowering shrubs. The different styles of planting complement the range of plants used.

After lunch at St Andrew's Farmhouse Cheese Company we visit Balcarres House Gardens, near Leven, for an informative guided tour of its formal garden and woodland with tea in the Steadings.

The gardens of Angus

Wednesday 5 July 2017

The first stop on this trip is The House of Pitmuies near Forfar, well known for its beautiful walled gardens. There are collections of old fashioned roses and lovely herbaceous borders of massed delphiniums. After lunch we travel on to The Gallery Garden, Montrose. The redesign and replanting of this historic garden has preserved and extended its traditional framework of holly, privet and box. The themed gardens include a fine collection of old roses, yellow and blue floral borders, the fountain in the formal white garden and recently established gold garden and hot border.

Our last visit will be to Newtonmill House by Edzell – a superb 18th century Laird's property set in the peaceful Angus countryside. This charming house overlooks a beautiful formal walled garden with long herbaceous borders, rose and peony beds and an abundance of fruit and vegetables.

Booking forms are available from the Membership Office on **0131 552 5339** or **members@rbge.org.uk** (please specify the tours or day visits that interest you).

www.rbge.org.uk/whats-on/members-events