

# Friends of RBGE

## Tours and Day Visits 2018



Royal  
Botanic Garden  
Edinburgh

Details of the 2018 tours and day trips programme are provided below. The day trips to Kinross, East Lothian and Alnwick Castle and Garden are organised by the Friends of RBGE, and the tours to Crete, Ayrshire and Lanarkshire are organised in conjunction with Brightwater Holidays.

### Springtime in Crete

Crete is a place of unspoilt natural beauty, offering plant lovers an absolute treat in terms of the variety of flora. This two-centred trip will be based in Rethymnon and Heraklion and will include visits to the Botanical Gardens at Skordalou, the Palace of Knossos and the private garden of Princess Alicia di Sirignano. Sabina Knees from RBGE will be the guide on this trip.



### Ayrshire and Lanarkshire

The first stop will be the recently redesigned 200-year-old Walled Garden in Shieldhill, Lanarkshire. From there, we will explore the regenerated Clyde Valley Orchards, including a visit to a private orchard near Crossford. We will then visit Chatelherault, Hamilton, for lunch and an opportunity to tour the lodge and extensive parkland. We then head to the Marine Hotel on the seafront at Troon for three nights. During our time in Ayrshire, we will visit Culzean Castle and Gardens, and the gardens at Burnside, Carnell House, Barnweil, and Blair House. We will also visit Holmes Farm Nursery, where Brian Young has developed a lovely garden showcasing the plants he rears for his nursery. There will be an opportunity here to purchase some plants. On the final day, we will stop at Dumfries House, for a tour of both house and garden and some lunch. Our last stop at New Lanark provides an opportunity to visit the Roof Garden.



## The Gardens of Clackmannanshire and Kinross



The day begins with a visit to the Japanese Garden at Cowden. Established in 1908, and designed by Taki Handa, a female Japanese garden designer, it is due to open to the public after a major restoration project. At the heart of the garden is a large pond, ideal for creating reflections of the surrounding plantings. Enjoy strolling around the three-hectare site, with its spring blooming cherries and rhododendrons, and discover more about the Garden's history and the principles of Japanese garden design from Head Gardener, Kate White. After lunch at the Milk Bar at Powmill, we will visit Arndean. This mature six-hectare



garden includes a woodland walk, a formal herbaceous area, vegetable garden and abundant rhododendrons and azaleas, which will be at their best. Our final stop is the Rumbling Bridge Nursery with its unique collection of rare alpinas and woodland plants.

## The Gardens of East Lothian



The first stop is Blackdykes near North Berwick, situated around a 19th century farmhouse, with rose and herbaceous gardens contained by formal hedges of yew, box and hornbeam. Lunch will be at Archerfield Walled Garden followed by a visit to Bowerhouse in Dunbar in the afternoon. Bowerhouse is set in seven hectares of parkland and includes an orchard and a woodland walk as well as formal gardens with courtyards and water features. We will then head next door to the 18th century walled garden, originally the kitchen garden for Bowerhouse, which contains mature fruit trees and a vegetable garden. Our last visit will be to Dunbar Garden Centre for afternoon tea before heading back to Edinburgh.

## Alnwick Castle and the Alnwick Garden



Alnwick Castle is the second-largest inhabited castle in the UK, home to the Duke of Northumberland's family for over 700 years, and a guided tour of the State Rooms has been arranged for this trip. The group will also visit The Alnwick Garden for a private tour with the Head Gardener, Trevor Jones. The Garden features sculpted foliage built around a water cascade and areas of themed planting, a Labyrinth and the Serpent Garden.

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