

GREAT GARDENS OF PERTHSHIRE, KINROSS, AND THE KINGDOM OF FIFE  
September 5 to 10, 2022



Falkland Palace Gardens, Fife | David Ross Photography

You are invited to join The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA for a five-night tour of the magnificent gardens of Perthshire, Kinross, and the Kingdom of Fife.

We will visit privately owned gardens nurtured by the same families for more than 300 years; gardens created in the last twenty years by gifted gardeners; and important houses and plant collections cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. We will enjoy the beauty of the Highlands and the glorious Fife countryside with its charming coastal villages, rolling hills, and fertile agricultural land.

Highlights of our tour include:

- A tour of Balcaskie's terraced gardens with Toby Anstruther of that ilk, whose family has owned the property since 1698
- VIP access at two National Trust for Scotland gardens designed by Arts and Crafts architect Robert Lorimer
- A visit to Cambo, the home of Sir Peter and Lady Erskine, with its 18th-century walled garden - a plantsman's paradise
- A stop in the picturesque village of Falkland, where Mary Queen of Scots famously played Real Tennis in breeches

**FITNESS LEVEL:** This trip will involve walking for extended periods, sometimes over uneven surfaces.

**ABOUT THE TOUR LEADER:** Paddy Scott followed a successful career in the beverage industry and consulting by becoming chief executive of Scotland's Gardens, a well-known charity which raises funds by organizing the opening of private gardens to the public. He also was one of the founders of Discover Scotland's Gardens, a business dedicated to marketing Scotland's gardens to the world. For the last three years, Paddy has been using his unrivalled knowledge of Scottish gardens to organize tours for garden enthusiasts from around the world.

**TIP:** We encourage participants to arrive in Edinburgh prior to September 5 to explore this UNESCO World Heritage city. Of particular interest may be the Royal Botanic Garden ([www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)) and Edinburgh Castle (<https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/>). There are many hotels in Edinburgh, but they do book quickly. We recommend the Kimpton Charlotte Square (situated in the New Town's most celebrated square, which is the starting point for the tour) or the nearby Waldorf Astoria Caledonian Hotel.

## ITINERARY

### Monday, September 5 | L, R, D EDINBURGH, KINROSS AND PERTSHIRE

Our luxury coach collects participants at the Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel in Edinburgh at 10AM for the journey to Kinross and the private garden at **Dowhill**. This charming garden was created by current owner Mrs. Colin Maitland-Dougall and her husband in the 1980s after they purchased the property. They had acquired a wilderness, which they quickly turned into a magnificent country garden centered on a chain of nine ponds that are surrounded by a wonderful variety of shrubs, perennials, climbers, and ornamental trees. The Good Gardens Guide states that "This is an exceptional garden, perhaps best described as a proper country garden."



After stopping for lunch at Kirklands Hotel in Kinross, we travel to **Pitcurran House**, owned by The Hon. Ranald and Mrs Noel-Paton. The Noel-Patons are good gardeners and good plantsmen, and when they moved to Pitcurran House in 2005 they started to transform an undistinguished garden into something of considerable horticultural interest. The sloping garden is laid out with terraces, borders, and island beds featuring a wide variety of plants, with several specialities coming from the Noel-Patons' former garden. Notable highlights are a wonderful roped rose archway festooned with an array of Blush Noisette, Félicité Perpétué, and Paul's Himalayan Musk; a very fine hydrangea bed



underplanted with geranium; and a selection of cleverly thought out plantings containing a collection of ericaceous shrubs, peonies, primulas and *Smilacina reacemosa*. There is also an orchard with apple and fruit trees.

Leaving Pitcurran House, we drive to the Ballathie Country House Hotel, a privately-owned luxury property on the banks of the river Tay. We gather that evening for welcome drinks and dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *Ballathie Country House Hotel* | <https://www.ballathiehousehotel.com/>

## Tuesday, September 6 | B, L, T, D PERTSHIRE AND FIFE

Following a full Scottish breakfast, we depart via coach for **Blair Castle**, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Atholl. The castle is situated in a wonderful highland setting and surrounded by a historic designed landscape dating back to the 18th century. Within the grounds is the nine-acre Hercules garden, named after the life-size statue of the god that overlooks it. The garden suffered in the post-war years and was even used as a Christmas tree farm. However, in the 1990s it was restored fully to its Georgian glory. A very fine herbaceous border runs along the 275-metre south facing wall. Within the garden there are also landscaped ponds, a folly, a Chinese bridge, an extensive orchard and areas of shrubs and vegetables. Diana's Grove, near the Castle, is a wooded glade containing some of Scotland's champion trees including a Douglas fir of more than sixty metres high.



After lunch we visit two National Trust for Scotland properties. **The Hermitage** is a magical stretch of Perthshire forest originally designed as a pleasure ground in the 18th century for the Dukes of Atholl. Douglas firs tower over woodland paths leading to the roaring Black Linn Falls, where the River Braan crashes into deep, foaming pools below. Overlooking the waterfall is the picturesque folly known as Ossian's Hall, built in 1757 and decorated with mirrors, sliding panels, and paintings. It has been recently refurbished to recreate the illusions of shock, surprise, and amazement that were the aims of the folly's original design.

**Branklyn** is a charming two-acre hillside garden situated on the edge of Perth and created in the 1920s by John and Dorothy Renton. They were keen gardeners and obtained seed collections from some of the famous plant hunters. One of Branklyn's highlights is the remarkable rock garden, among the finest in Scotland, full of rare and interesting plants including many alpiners. The garden



contains several National Collections of plants including the wonderful *Meconopsis* for which the garden is famous.

Following tea at Branklyn, we travel through Fife to the **Balbirnie House Hotel**, an award-winning luxury country house hotel nestled with 400 acres of parkland between Edinburgh and St Andrews. Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *Balbirnie House Hotel*: <https://balbirnie.co.uk/>

### Wednesday, September 7 | B, L, T, D FIFE

Today we visit two privately owned gardens in Fife, beginning with **Cambo**, the home of Sir Peter and Lady Erskine. Cambo's iconic two-and-a-half acre walled garden dates from the 18th century (the estate has been in the Erskine family for more than

300 years) and is a plantsman's paradise. The Cambo burn, crossed by Victorian bridges, runs through the garden. Herbaceous borders abound and are filled with a variety of plants, many of which are rare. A contemporary cutting garden has been completed recently, illustrating a wide variety of flowers that can be cut for decoration in the house.

Outside the garden walls, Scotland's finest prairie planting is a delight to see. Its flowing grasses and drifts of perennials are inspired by the famous Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf, known in America as the designer of the High Line in New York City. A woodland walk beside the Cambo burn takes us down to the North Sea.



Following lunch at the Cambo stables, we travel to **Balcaskie**, owned by the Anstruther family since 1698. The house and garden were designed as a single planned landscape by William Bruce in the late 17th century. Bruce transformed the original fortified house into a superb Jacobean mansion with magnificent views over terraced gardens and the Firth of Forth to the Bass Rock and



the rolling hills of East Lothian. The large, three-levelled terraces that descend from the house towards the south were inspired by French Baroque gardens. Today the terraced gardens are being restored to their former glory, and this garden is a marvellous example of work in progress as well as a historic designed landscape.

On the terraces there are plantings of various styles including a parterre with roses, herbaceous borders, shrubs, an American garden with its geometric pattern so fashionable in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, fruit and vegetables, and a cutting garden for house flowers. Interesting ornamental statuary is also featured on the terraces.



Our next stop is **Kellie Castle**, which dates from 1360 and was formerly the seat of the Earls of Kellie. It was a deserted ruin with an abandoned garden when the Lorimer family took it over in the 1890s. The architect Robert Lorimer and his son, the sculptor Hew Lorimer, restored both castle and gardens to what they are today. The one-acre walled garden is set out in the 17th-century manner with late Victorian Arts and Craft additions, which were typical of Robert Lorimer. As in traditional Scottish walled gardens, flowers, fruit and vegetables are all grown together. One of the features is the remarkable collection of fruit and vegetables, including twenty four varieties of rhubarb, which are all organically grown. Kellie Castle now belongs to the National Trust for Scotland.

Following tea at Kellie Castle, we return to the Balbirnie House Hotel, where we dine together.

*Overnight: Balbirnie House Hotel*

## Thursday, September 8 | B, L, T, D FIFE

After a good Scottish breakfast, we depart for a tour of the gardens at **Hill of Tarvit**, a National Trust for Scotland property. In the early 1900s Robert Lorimer, who notably grew up at Kellie Castle, converted a 17th-century house into an Edwardian mansion with every modern convenience for the Dundee industrialist Frederick Sharp. Lorimer also designed and landscaped the gardens and grounds. To the front of the house there are terraced formal lawns with clipped yew hedging on



either side of grand stone stairs and yew buttresses along the lower terrace. The borders are planted with a selection of perennials and there is an interesting sunken rose garden. The semi walled garden is situated to the north of the house with a large sloping lawn, a variety of fine shrubs and trees and a large herbaceous border planted with a good collection of perennials. There is also a heather border.



We next travel to the village of Falkland, which fans of *Outlander* may recognize from that television series. After lunch in town, we will visit **Falkland Palace**, one of Scotland's finest Renaissance palaces. Dating from the early 1500s, Falkland was a Royal hunting lodge frequently used by the Scottish kings and queens and a great favorite of Mary Queen of Scots. Badly burned by Cromwell in the Civil War, the building was partially restored beginning in 1887 by the Marquis of Bute. The garden is one of Scotland's oldest, with records going back to the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century

when there was a fortified castle on the site. The Marquis of Bute restored parts of the garden, but during the war years it was used for growing potatoes as part of the Dig for Victory campaign. In the late 1940s Percy Cane, an eminent garden designer, was called upon to re-create the garden.

Today there is an extensive formal garden featuring a 590-foot long, densely planted herbaceous border and several island beds planted with small trees, shrubs and perennials. There is an interesting physic garden in which herbs that were used for medical remedies are grown, as well as a lily pond and an ancient orchard. The tall stone walls are covered with a variety of climbers including heavily scented roses. Within the garden is the oldest real tennis court in the world dating from 1539. After tea in Falkland, we return for a final dinner and night at the Balbirnie House Hotel.

*Overnight: Balbirnie House Hotel*

## Friday, September 9 | B, L, D FIFE AND EDINBURGH

After checking out of our hotel, we depart for **Balcarres**, the seat of the Earls of Crawford since the 16th century. Today it is one of the finest gardens in central Scotland. In front of the house there is an upper terrace with a balustrade wall created in 1841. This features a fine rose garden containing a wide selection of hybrid teas and floribundas with adjoining lawns, a sundial and a fountain and a wonderful selection of beautifully planted perennial borders. From the balustrade the



formal 19<sup>th</sup>-century garden can be seen on the terrace below with its remarkable parterres of yew and box. Beyond, there is a wonderful view over the Firth of Forth. Amongst the other notable features are some impressive herbaceous plantings enclosed by box anchored by oversized balls and tall rose supports, a glorious spring garden and a woodland garden.

We lunch on our way to **Teasses**. Over the last twenty years, Sir Fraser and Lady Morrison have spearheaded the restoration and development of sixty acres of remarkable parkland and gardens. The result is of considerable interest with the gardens being a mixture of formal and informal areas linked mostly by woodland walks. The restored walled garden features cutting flower borders, peonies, hydrangeas and carefully chosen perennials, along with vegetables, fruit trees and a large greenhouse. There are a number of charming small gardens dedicated to the owner's children. Another noteworthy area is the series of curved borders cleverly planted with blue and purple perennials, backed with roses and grasses.



Departing Fife, we return to Edinburgh where we will have dinner in a private dining room at the Kimpton Charlotte Square, overlooking one of the loveliest private squares in the city, a masterpiece of Adam style.

Overnight: *Kimpton Charlotte Square* | <https://www.kimptoncharlottesquare.com/>

**Saturday, September 10 | B**

### **EDINBURGH AND RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES OR EXTEND YOUR STAY**

Our tour ends with breakfast on Saturday. Return home from Edinburgh airport, which is twenty minutes from the city center.

#### **OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION IN EDINBURGH**

Information about a two-night extension in Edinburgh, to include a VIP visit to **Newhailes House**, will be sent to you upon sign-up for this tour.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

5-6 SEPTEMBER (1 night)

**BALLATHIE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL** is a four-star, privately owned country house hotel with extensive grounds on the banks of the river Tay. Located about 9 miles north of Perth, the hotel has 25 bedrooms in the main house (where our group will stay), as well as rooms in the Riverside building and in Sportsman's Lodges. The present house was completed in 1886, and retains its original beauty and many original features. Décor is traditional.

<https://www.ballathiehousehotel.com/>





**RESERVED FOR TOUR PARTICIPANTS:**

Classic standard rooms with spectacular views (shown in the photos). Choice of one Double or two Twin beds.

Upgrade Options (upcharges to be provided upon request):

- Master bedroom with King or two Twin beds
- Four-poster bedroom
- Suite

**6-8 SEPTEMBER (3 nights)**

The **BALBIRNIE HOUSE HOTEL** is a delightful 18th-century Georgian mansion nestled among 400 acres of rolling parkland in Glenrothes, Fife. This four-star, award-winning luxury hotel combines fine food, lovely surroundings, and a real sense of Scottish hospitality. Privately owned, the hotel features 31 rooms that blend period style with modern luxury, as well as two restaurants - The Orangery and Balbirnie Bistro - which highlight seasonal produce and classic dishes.

<https://balbirnie.co.uk/>



## 9 SEPTEMBER (1 night)

### **THE KIMPTON CHARLOTTE SQUARE**

overlooks one of the loveliest private squares in the city. The award-winning hotel consists of seven inter-connecting Georgian townhouses in the heart of the New Town. Each of the rooms has a slightly different design sensibility, yet all have hand-picked art and décor, luxurious furniture and fabrics, and marble baths. All rooms feature the following amenities:

free WiFi, flat screen smart TV, mini fridge with still and sparkling water, signature toiletries, tea and ground locally roasted Fairtrade coffee, laptop safe, bathrobes and a tuck box of treats. A full range of spa treatments is available as well as a pool, sauna, steam room and fully equipped gym.

<https://www.kimptoncharlottesquare.com/>



### RESERVED FOR TOUR PARTICIPANTS:

- Standard rooms (140-280 sq. ft. / 13-26 sq m). Choice of one king or two twin beds. (See photos below.)



Kimpton Charlotte Square upgrade options:

- Superior (205-290 sq. ft. / 19-27 sq. m.) One king or two twin beds, with a more contemporary feel. Add \$35.
- Deluxe King (269-334 sq. ft. / 25-31 sq. m.): One king bed. Add \$85.
- Junior Suite (301-474 sq. ft. / 28-44 sq. m.): One king bed decorated in golden hues and complementary blues; complimentary minibar. Add \$170.

*All room upgrades are subject to availability and confirmation.*



Deluxe King room upgrade



Superior room upgrade



## GREAT GARDENS OF PERTSHIRE, KINROSS, AND THE KINGDOM OF FIFE

### TOUR INFORMATION

**LAND-ONLY TOUR PRICE:** \$3,495 per person, double occupancy \$500 Single Supplement

#### INCLUDED

- 5 nights' accommodation in hotels and rooms as indicated in the program: one night at Ballathie Country House Hotel, three nights at Balbirnie House Hotel, and one night at the Kimpton Charlotte Square; including all city taxes
- Scottish breakfast daily, three tea / coffee breaks, five lunches, one pre-dinner drink reception, and five dinners
- Transportation by private coach throughout
- Entrance fees and donations for all sites featured in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guides
- A year's membership of The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA
- Accompanied throughout by Paddy Scott, co-founder of Discover Scotland's Gardens; and Kirstin Bridier, Executive Director of The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA

#### NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare and/or train fare to and from Scotland
- Airport transfers
- Accommodation on the evening of September 4 (to book on your own)
- Non-group meals, beverages, and activities
- Alcoholic drinks including wine with dinners (to be charged to each guest when ordered each evening)
- Gratuities for drivers
- Items for personal use, including phone and email charges, minibar, and laundry services
- Passport fees, if any
- Payments by credit card incur an additional \$100 charge

#### ITINERARY

Although The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (NTSUSA), and Travel Muse Inc. and its ground operators will make every effort to adhere to the itinerary, on rare occasions it may be necessary to adjust arrangements due to circumstances beyond our control. Should any activities not be available, substitution will be made to the best of our ability and no refund will be made. Any additional costs necessitated by such changes are the responsibility of the tour member. Please note there will be significant walking and standing.

#### TOUR COSTS

Prices are based on a minimum of 15 paying participants. Should the number of passengers fall below 15, certain program inclusions may be deleted. All amounts quoted with respect to

charges for the tour and travel services are based upon rates in effect as of August 13, 2021. At the time of final payment, NTSUSA reserves the right to add any increased amounts arising from changes in taxes and from changes instituted by suppliers or caused by market conditions. All local/government taxes on hotels, meals, and services are included, in addition to normal gratuities to porters, waiters, and local guides. Rates are based on group participation, and there can be no refund for services or portions of the tour not taken. It is also understood and agreed that all excursions are optional, and refunds cannot be made to tour members who do not participate or complete the tour for any reason.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **AIR TRAVEL**

The tour cost excludes airfare. For assistance with flights, contact Meg MacDonald at 617-480-0250 or [meg@travelmuse.net](mailto:meg@travelmuse.net).

### **TRIP INSURANCE**

The tour cost excludes trip Insurance, which covers for trip cancellation and Interruption, baggage delays, emergency medical expenses, and medical evacuation expenses. Upon receipt of your deposit, Information about purchasing trip insurance will be sent to you.

Please note that, In most situations, standard Medicare will not pay for healthcare or medical supplies outside the US. Please check with your health Insurance provider should you wish to purchase health coverage outside the US through a Medigap plan or other supplemental health plan.

### **AIRPORT / TRAIN TRANSFERS**

The tour cost excludes transfers to and from Kimpton Charlotte Square in Edinburgh at the beginning and end of the tour.

### **HOTELS AND SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

The hotels are four- or five-star properties, based on two persons sharing a queen or king bedroom or twin bedded room with private bath and/or shower. The right is reserved to substitute hotels when necessary. Although Travel Muse will endeavor to arrange for congenial travel companions, this cannot be guaranteed, and a single supplement will be charged when necessary.

### **PHONE OR EMAIL**

For questions, please contact Kirstin Bridier (Executive Director, The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA) at 617-227-7500 / [kbridier@ntsusa.org](mailto:kbridier@ntsusa.org).

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- First deposit of \$1,000 per person is encouraged on or before November 22, 2021
- Balance is due on or before July 6, 2022

*Payment by credit card will incur a \$100 surcharge. Registration cannot be accepted until the Terms and Conditions have been read, and you sign and return the Waiver of Liability provided on the Registration Form.*

### CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be made in writing to [kbridier@ntsusa.org](mailto:kbridier@ntsusa.org). The cancellation fee covers administrative and operational costs and any penalties assessed by suppliers.

Cancellation fees are per person, as follows:

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| • Cancellations received prior to July 6, 2022  | \$500           |
| • Cancellations received on or after July 6, 2022<br>and up until the day of departure: | Total tour cost |

The cancellation fee will be waived or refunded if we can fill your place on the tour.

Travel insurance is the best way to protect your tour Investment. Information will be sent to you upon receipt of your deposit.

### SPECIAL NOTES REGARDING COVID-19

- Under guidelines for Americans traveling to Scotland as of October 4, 2021, fully vaccinated travellers are able to benefit from quarantine-free travel. They will need to complete a passenger locator form, take a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of departure from the U.S. to Scotland, and take a COVID-19 PCR test within two days of arriving in Scotland. (See <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-international-travel-quarantine/pages/red-amber-and-green-list-countries/>.)
- Guidelines are subject to change; we will provide an update 64 days prior to the tour (March 7, 2022).
- A Supplemental Release Regarding COVID-19 requires your signature in order to complete your tour registration.
- In the event the tour needs to be cancelled due to acts of God or government authorities, natural disasters, pandemics, or other emergencies, monies will be fully refunded.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** As of February 2022, our tour operator Meg MacDonald of Travel Muse, has transitioned to an online reservation system. Please visit <https://tri.ps/pUBWf> to complete your registration including acceptance of the tour’s Terms and Conditions, Release from Liability, and Supplemental Release Regarding COVID-19.