

Scotland's Glorious West Coast Gardens May 9 to May 14, 2022



Arduaine Garden, Argyll

You are invited to join The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA for five nights on the stunning west coast of Scotland.

We will visit private and National Trust for Scotland gardens in Ayrshire, Argyll, and the Isle of Arran, experiencing the region's wild and rocky coastlines, grand houses and castles, spectacular countryside, and dramatic mountain vistas.

Our tour takes place at peak season for some of the greatest collections of rhododendrons in the world and features:

- A ferry ride to [Brodict Castle](#), with its 18th-century walled garden and 74 acres of specimen plants and woodland walks
- Exclusive tours of private gardens at [Ardmaddy Castle](#), with its remarkable 60-foot hydrangea, and [An Cala](#), designed by Thomas Mawson in the early 1930s
- A guided walk through [Arduaine](#), a 20-acre coastal garden with a world-famous plant collection and glorious views to the Sound of Jura and the ocean beyond

- A visit to the gardens of [Inveraray Castle](#), one of the most important designed landscapes in Scotland
- Stays at luxury hotels and country houses, including [Dumfries House](#) and [Loch Melfort Hotel](#), once home to the creators of Arduaine
- An optional postlude in Glasgow, home of iconic designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh
- All under the guidance of Scottish garden expert Paddy Scott, with special access to the National Trust for Scotland's garden team



Inveraray Castle, courtesy of VisitScotland

The west of Scotland is famous for its rugged coast and beautiful gardens. Buffeted by Atlantic gales, but warmed by the Gulf Stream, the designed landscapes feature a remarkable mix of tender and exotic plants as well as natives.

The tour will be of particular interest to rhododendron lovers and dendrologists. It will take us through landscapes of extraordinary natural beauty and few roads, necessitating hotel changes but offering an unforgettable experience of this remote and captivating corner of Scotland.

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 May 9 to explore this UNESCO World Heritage city. Of particular interest may be the Royal Botanic Garden (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, May 9 | L, T, R, D EDINBURGH / CUMNOCK (AYRSHIRE)

Our luxury coach will collect participants at the Kimpton Charlotte Square Hotel in Edinburgh at 11AM for the two-hour journey to **Dumfries House** in Ayrshire. The estate and its contents were saved from neglect and auction in 2007 when a consortium headed by HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay,

purchased it on behalf of the nation with the intention to restore the estate to become self-sufficient and regenerate the local economy. We will check in for one night at **Dumfries House Lodge**, a former farm building that has been beautifully renovated to create 22 individually styled rooms. After a light lunch we will take a guided tour of the recently restored gardens and grounds of **Dumfries House**, including the five-acre Queen Elizabeth Walled Garden, which is approached by an elegant 18th-century bridge, and a recently restored arboretum. The latter has over 500 specimens of trees and shrubs. On our return to the Lodge, tea and coffee will be served, after which there will be time to relax. In the evening enjoy drinks in the Hall at Dumfries House prior to a guided tour of this magnificent Palladian manor designed and built between 1754 and 1759 by acclaimed architects John and Robert Adam. Among many treasures it contains the finest collection of Chippendale furniture in the world, bought by the Earl of Dumfries from Chippendale's own workshop. Dinner in the Library follows.

Overnight Dumfries House Lodge

www.dumfries-house.org.uk



Photos courtesy of Dumfries House

Tuesday, May 10 | B, L, D

CUMNOCK / ISLE OF ARRAN / TARBERT (ARGYLL)

Following a full Scottish breakfast, we depart by coach for Ardrossan harbor to take the ferry to Brodick on the Isle of Arran (known as "Scotland in miniature"), which takes just under an hour. We arrive at **Brodick Castle**, ancient seat of the Dukes of Hamilton, in time for lunch at the café prior to a guided tour of the gardens with Tim Keyworth, the National Trust for Scotland's Gardens and Designed Landscapes Manager, Ayrshire and Arran. The planting of the gardens reflects the mild climate enjoyed on Arran thanks to the North American drift and their sheltered position within Brodick Bay. Plant hunters collected material from around the world to be propagated at Brodick, including three

National Collections of Rhododendrons. Other highlights are the 18th-century walled garden, a Bavarian summer house built for the German-born Duchess of Hamilton, who came to Brodick in 1843, and a Silver Garden with contemporary sculpture inspired by the castle's extensive silver collection.



Left: Brodick Castle, Isle of Arran; Right: View from Brodick Castle gardens, courtesy of VisitScotland

From Brodick we drive around the beautiful Arran coast to Lochranza to catch the 30-minute ferry to Cloanaig on the mainland, and then to nearby **Stonefield Castle**, set on 60 acres on the Kintyre peninsula with panoramic views over Loch Fyne. Check in to this comfortable establishment for one night. Time to relax and stroll the gardens on your own, to appreciate a west coast woodland estate landscape of rhododendrons and magnolias. Dinner in the hotel this evening.

Overnight Stonefield Castle Hotel

www.bespokehotels.com/stonefieldcastle

Wednesday, May 11 | B, L, T, D TARBERT / ARDUAINE (ARGYLL)

After a hearty Scottish breakfast, we will depart for nearby **Baravalla** for a guided tour of this private coastal woodland garden created by two well-known Scottish plant hunters from plants and seeds brought back to Scotland from Nepal, China, India and elsewhere. Lunch will take place in the attractive coastal town of Tarbert on the way to **Arduaine**, where we will check in to the neighboring **Loch Melfort Hotel** for two nights. This hotel was built as a home for James Arthur Campbell and his wife Ethel, who created Arduaine. It is situated beautifully by the coast with extraordinary views out to sea and the islands.

We will spend the afternoon touring Arduaine with its head gardener and Simon Jones, the National Trust for Scotland's Garden Manager, West Coast and Glasgow. Arduaine, created at the end of the



*Top: Arduaine Garden
Bottom: Arduaine, overlooking the Sound of Jura*

19th century, is known internationally for its magnificent collection of rhododendrons, magnolias, camellias, and azaleas. Return to our hotel for tea and time to rest before dinner at the hotel this evening.

Overnight Loch Melfort Hotel

www.lochmelfort.co.uk



Left: Arduaine Garden

Right: Bluebells flowering at Arduaine Garden

Thursday, May 12 | B, L, T, D

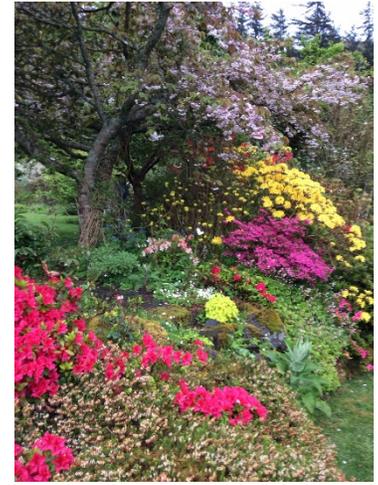
ARDUAINE / ISLE OF SEIL / ARDUAINE

Today we will visit privately owned gardens on the Isle of Seil, beginning at **Arduaine Castle**, a scenic drive of about a half hour. Our tour of the gardens will be led by the owner, who has invited us for a light lunch at the Castle. The formal walled garden was created on the site of a barracks dating back to the 1745 Jacobite rebellion. The clock garden features cutting flowers, fruit, and vegetables grown with labor-saving formality; a woodland walk beyond features a remarkable hydrangea climbing to 60 feet.



Arduaine Castle, courtesy of Mrs Charles Struthers

In the afternoon we will visit **An Cala**, where the owner will show us around her lovingly restored 1930s-designed garden. We return to the Loch Melfort Hotel for tea and time to relax. Dinner at the hotel tonight.
Overnight Loch Melfort Hotel



Left & Right: An Cala, courtesy of Mrs Thomas Downie

Friday, May 13 | B, L, D
ARDUAINE / CRARAE / INVERARAY / GLASGOW

Leaving the Loch Melfort Hotel, we will drive about an hour through beautiful countryside and coastlines to **Crarae**. Our tour of this spectacular woodland garden will be led by its head gardener. Crarae, a property of the National Trust for Scotland, gives the impression of a Himalayan gorge, with towering conifers providing shelter to an extraordinary collection of rhododendrons and a variety of tender shrubs. Crarae holds the National Collection of Southern Beech and is the most northerly collection of its type in the UK.



Left & Right: Crarae courtesy of Heart of Argyll Tourism

We continue on to **Inveraray Castle**, seat of the Dukes of Argyll, a short distance away. After lunch in the Old Kitchen, we will be given a guided tour of the gardens by the head gardener. The sixteen-acre garden comprises formal lawns and flowerbeds as well as park and woodland, forming one of the most important designed landscapes in Scotland.



Departing Inveraray, we head to **Glasgow**, where we will stay at the five-star **Blythswood Square Hotel**, situated close by the city center in the former Scottish Royal Automobile Club. There will be time to relax before a **farewell dinner** in the hotel.

Overnight *Blythswood Square Hotel*
www.kimptonblythswoodsquare.com

Image courtesy of Inveraray Castle

Saturday, May 14 | B

GLASGOW / RETURN TO THE U.S. OR EXTEND YOUR STAY

Our tour ends with breakfast on Saturday. Return home from Glasgow Airport or Edinburgh, which is just over an hour away.

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION IN GLASGOW

Information about a two-night extension in Glasgow to include VIP visits to **Hill House** and other National Trust for Scotland properties will be sent to you upon sign-up for this tour.

SCOTLAND'S GLORIOUS WEST COAST GARDENS

TOUR INFORMATION

LAND-ONLY TOUR PRICE: \$3,495 per person, double occupancy \$450 Single Supplement

INCLUDED

- 5 nights' accommodation in hotels and rooms as indicated in the program: one night at Dumfries House Lodge, one night at Stonefield Castle Hotel, two nights at Loch Melfort Hotel, and one night at Blythswood Square Hotel; including all city taxes
- Scottish breakfast daily, three tea / coffee breaks, five lunches, one pre-dinner drink reception, and five dinners
- WiFi at all hotels
- 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 May 8 (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.

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 March 11, 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. 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 March 11, 2022 | \$500 |
| • Cancellations received on or after March 11, 2022
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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

AIR TRAVEL

The tour cost excludes airfare. For assistance with flights, contact Meg MacDonald at 617-480-0250 or 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 the meet-up point in Edinburgh and from Blythswood Square Hotel in Glasgow at the end of the tour.

HOTELS AND SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The hotels are four- or five-star properties, based on two persons sharing a queen bed (or twin-bedded room at all hotels except Dumfries House Lodge) with private bath and/or shower. Note that Dumfries House Lodge has rooms only with a queen bed; therefore, anyone who wishes to share a room with two beds for nights other than the first night of the program will be assigned to a single room at no supplemental cost. 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.

ROOM UPGRADES

Dumfries House Lodge	No upgrade options
Stonefiels Castle	Principal Rooms with views over Loch Fyne and Barmore Island. These rooms are larger and offer oversize beds, one of which is 4-poster; all have spacious seating areas and large bathrooms with shower. Only four available.
Loch Melfort Hotel	No upgrade options
Blythswood Square Hotel	Deluxe, and Deluxe with Garden View; both are larger (40 sq m / 430 sf) than the Superior Rooms (29 sq m / 312 sf)

See hotel websites for room descriptions and photos. For upcharges and availability, please contact Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse Inc, at meg@travelmuse.net.

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.

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/7R713> to complete your registration including acceptance of the tour's Terms and Conditions, Release from Liability, and Supplemental Release Regarding COVID-19.