



Worldwide GARDEN TOURS 2014

Exclusive, Small Group Escorted Tours Visiting
Private and Public Gardens

Italy | The Caribbean | Morocco | Portugal | Madeira | Spain | Turkey | France



Dear Garden Lover,

Our programme of garden tours has come a long way since we launched our first tours to the Madeira Flower Festival in 2003. Their success led us to seek out other enchanting gardens throughout Europe and beyond. In 2013 we added a number of new tours to Spain, Portugal and Italy in particular. The feedback we received from our guests was extremely positive, so for 2014 we will again be offering the same wide range of what we think are the best value garden tours in the world. We always bear in mind that these tours are holidays, so we do try to ensure that there is the right balance of garden visits and free time. We also recognize that you are probably interested in more than just gardens, so we do include visits to places of interest in the area, where possible.

New for 2014 we have added a tour to Turkey. Located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Turkey has a long and interesting history. Its location also means that its gardens and landscapes are extremely varied. It is not widely appreciated that Turkey was also the original home of the tulip. So whilst Holland has copied extensively with its fields of tulips, your holiday in Turkey will take you back in time to where it all began.

So for 2014 we once again look forward to welcoming you on one or more of our holidays.

With best wishes

Peter Moxley

General Manager



LOOK OUT FOR THESE SPECIAL TOURS

We have recruited a number of tour leaders with special knowledge of certain destinations. Suzanne Gaywood MBE, organizer of Grenada at Chelsea and RHS Gold Medal Winner escorts our tours to Grenada. The author of 'Great Gardens of Spain' escorts our tours to Madrid and Andalucia. The author of 'Hidden Gardens of Spain' escorts another Andalucian tour.

In addition to their knowledge, which they will pass on during the tour, these tour leaders help us gain access to gardens that are not generally open to the public. They also design the tours and select restaurants. So you really do obtain an 'insiders' view of the places you are visiting. Their tours are listed below:

Madrid - gardens, palaces and tapas (Pages 18 and 19)

Can there be a better way to get to know Madrid and its gardens? This tour is escorted by the author of 'Great Gardens of Spain', herself a Madrid resident. So she knows the city inside out. This tour was well received when we ran it for the first time in 2013.

Patios and gardens of Seville, Carmona and Cordoba (Pages 22 and 23)

The ultimate Andalucian garden experience escorted by the author of 'The Hidden Gardens of Spain', staying in his own country estate and visiting some of his favourite gardens and restaurants.

Grand Tour of Andalucia (Pages 24 and 25)

The jewels of Andalucia in a single 7 night tour. All of the best of Seville, Cordoba, Ronda and Granada escorted by the author of 'Great Gardens of Spain'. You will stay in memorable hotels throughout, including Alhambra Palace, and eat in authentic local restaurants personally chosen by your guide.

Caribbean flowers and gardens (Pages 8 and 9)

Now in its fourth year, this tour, guided by Suzanne Gaywood MBE, always receives good reviews. Your guide knows and loves Grenada and has close connections with many of the top gardeners on the island. This combination ensures that you will receive a warm Caribbean welcome and enjoy some unique experiences.

These tours are popular so we do recommend that you book early.

Why Choose Individual Holidays?



LONG ESTABLISHED

Our family-owned, independent company was founded in 1993.

The leading garden tours company.

Individual Holidays offers a wide selection of garden tours worldwide.



SMALL GROUPS

The average size of our groups is around 12 and never exceeds 20. So when you join one of our tours you can be assured of personal attention.



KNOWLEDGEABLE PLANNING TEAM

It takes many hours of research and visits to select the gardens for inclusion in our programmes and to ensure that you see the best gardens, flowers and plants at the best times.



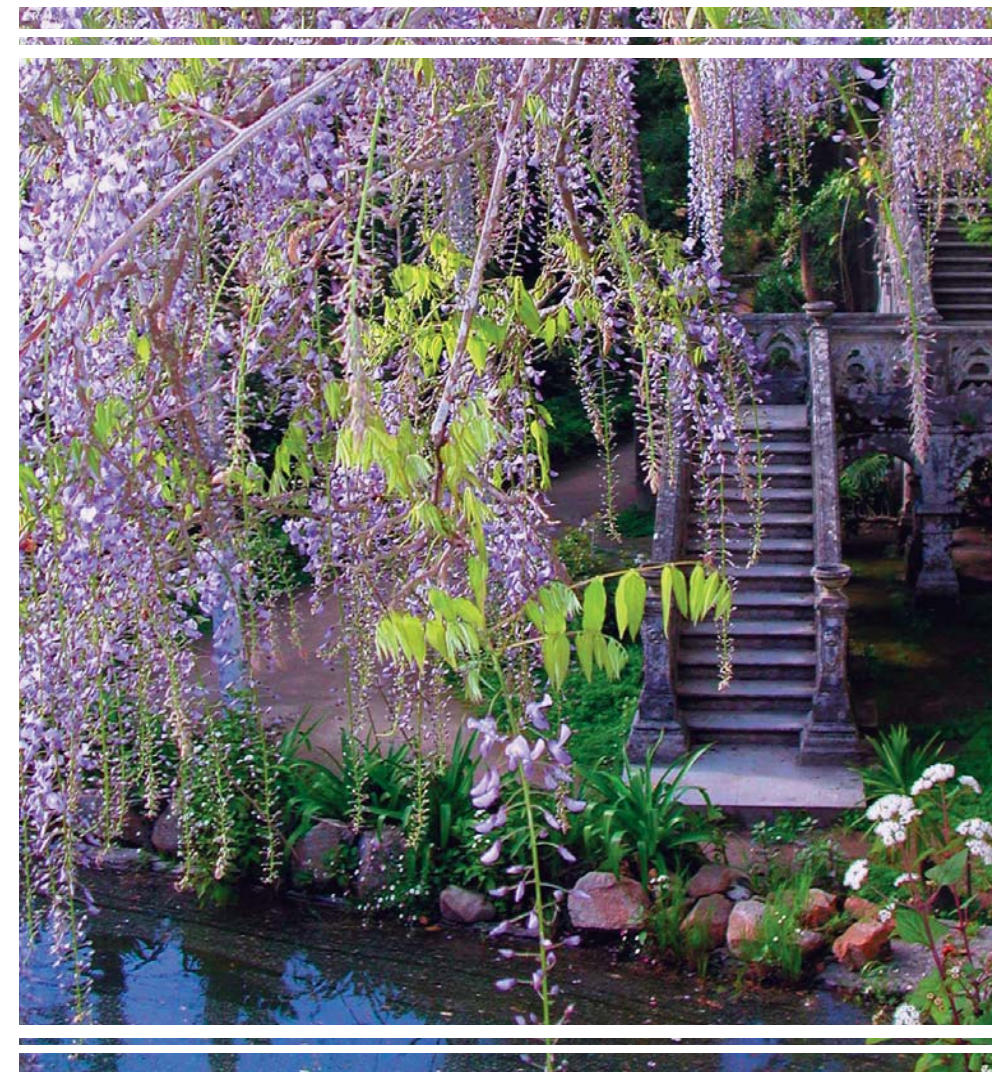
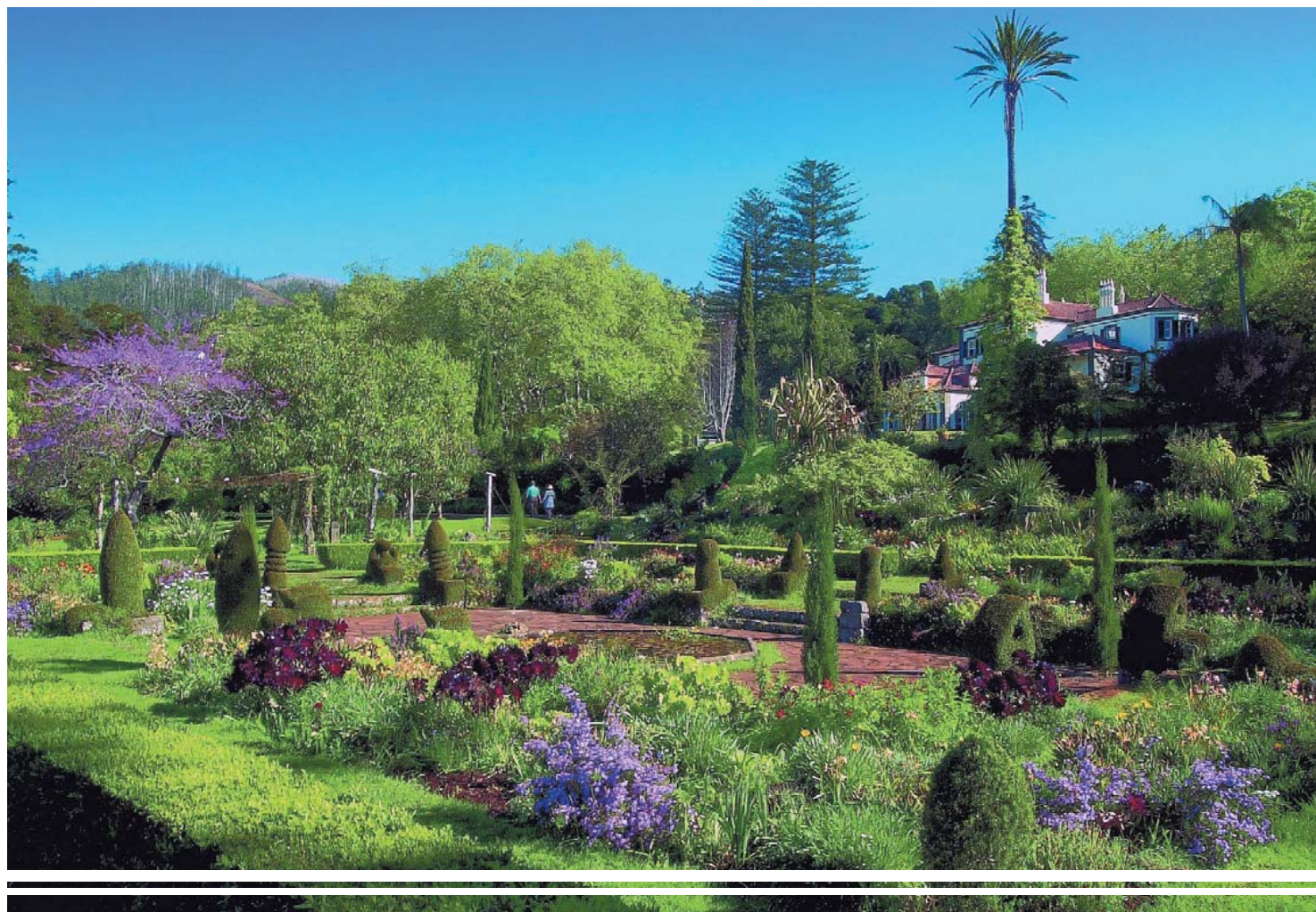
ACCESS TO GARDENS AND PLACES THAT YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REACH ON YOUR OWN

An important element of our tours are private visits to gardens that are not open to the general public.

INCLUSIVE ITINERARIES

As well as flights and accommodation we include all entrance fees and guiding costs. Our itineraries spell out exactly what is included in each tour.





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visiting private and public gardens.

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How to Book:

Reservations

01753 892111

Please refer to our terms and
conditions before making your
booking.

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For your peace of mind ATOL and ABTA Protection

The air holidays in this brochure are ATOL
Protected by the Civil Aviation Authority.
Our ATOL number is 5384.
Our ABTA number is W5293.



Private Group Tours

We are increasingly being asked to put
together tours for groups of friends,
societies or clubs. We can cater for any
size of group, though we do find that
the ones that work best have between
8 and 20 people. We can cater for most
destinations and durations – from a
short city break to a three week tour
to South Africa or Australia. Just tell us
your interests and we pride ourselves on
providing a personalized quotation and
itinerary.

Using our extensive knowledge we
provide access to the best privately
owned gardens, character hotels,
transportation and knowledgeable
guides. We can also organize reservations
at restaurants offering excellent local
cuisine.

You can choose to travel to any of the
places in this brochure. In addition
through our contacts we are able to
offer tours to as far afield as South
Africa, New Zealand, Australia and
many more destinations closer to home.

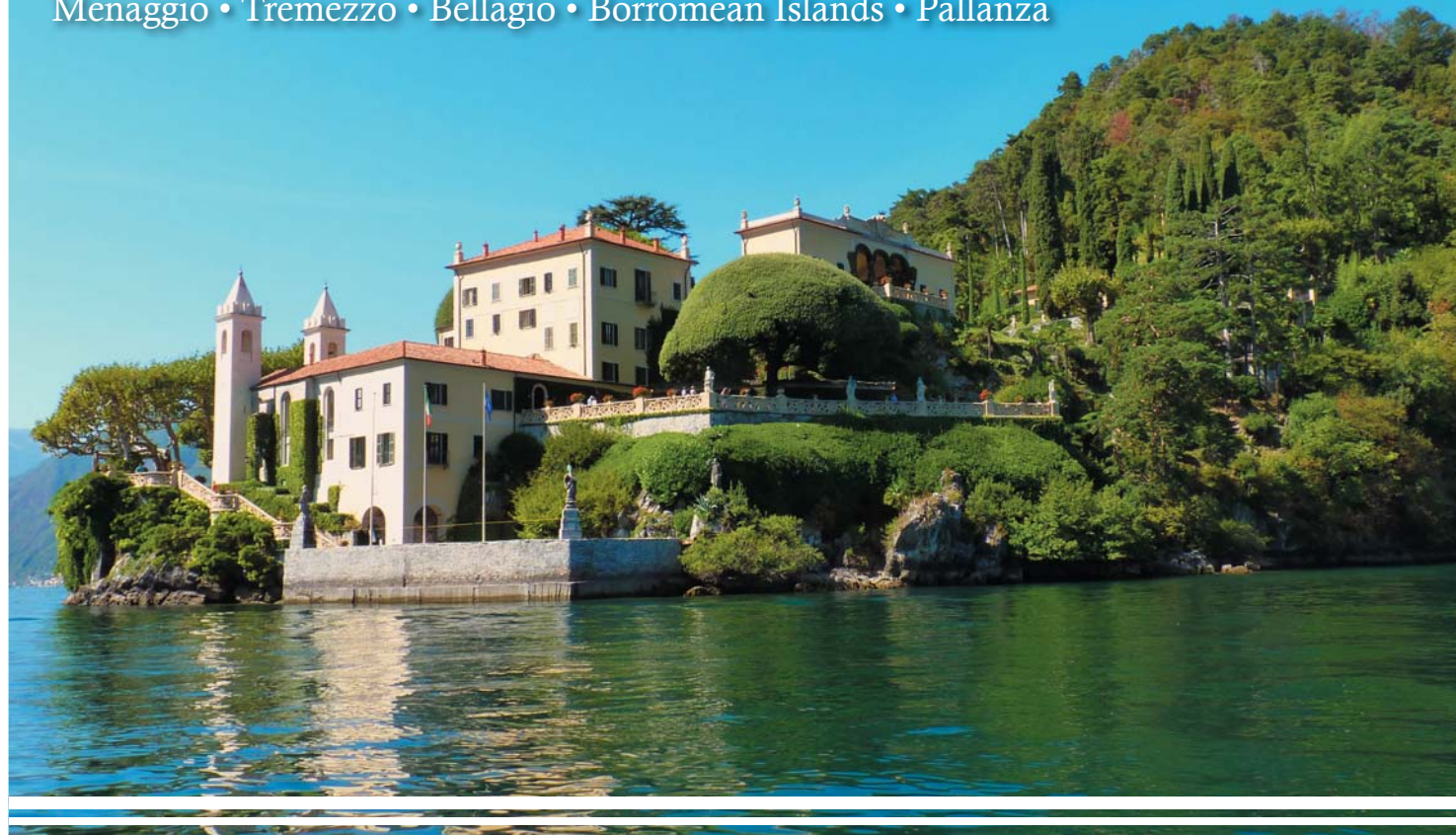
Four destinations that are popular with
groups are the Italian Lakes, Lisbon and
environs, Andalucia and Loire Valley. We
will be pleased to provide a personalized
itinerary to suit your group's interests.

Independent Travel for Garden Lovers

We know that some prefer to travel
independently rather than in a group.
To cater for this need we are able to offer
independent travel to the Italian Lakes.
We have chosen hotels on Lake Maggiore
and Lake Como, where independent
travel is possible. Your holiday
includes 7 nights bed and breakfast
accommodation, private transfers to
and from Milan Malpensa airport and a
seven day pass for the lake ferries. We
also provide an interesting programme
of suggested garden visits with maps
and timetables. You can choose any date
from April to October. Prices for 7 nights
start from £797 per person, based on two
people sharing. We will quote for and
arrange flights from your nearest local
airport when you are ready to book.

Gardens of Lakes Como and Maggiore

Menaggio • Tremezzo • Bellagio • Borromean Islands • Pallanza



The best of Lake Como's and Lake Maggiore's gardens.

TOUR SUMMARY

This tour takes in the most memorable gardens of Lakes Como and Maggiore. In spring the gardens are filled with colour with azaleas and rhododendrons in abundance. Our tours take in visits to public and private gardens set alongside these beautiful lakes.

We spend two nights on Lake Como and three nights on Lake Maggiore. As well as seeing many magnificent gardens there is a chance to enjoy the scenery and visit some of the outstanding palaces and villas built for wealthy owners and of course enjoy the local food and wine.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - THURSDAY

Flights from UK to Milan Malpensa and transfer to the charming town of Menaggio on Lake Como. Welcome dinner in your hotel.

Day 2 - FRIDAY

Morning visit to Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo. Villa Carlotta is built on the hillside above the lake with a staircase descending to a picturesque, sculptured fountain. This villa will delight with its Italian Garden, Hedge Theatre, Rock Garden, Rhododendron Wood, Fern Valley and Bamboo Collection. Lunch - own arrangements. Then to Lenno for a short ferry ride to romantic Villa Balbianello. We visit the gardens bedecked with sculptures and take a guided tour of the villa with its collection of 18th century furniture. Evening at leisure in Menaggio.

Day 3 - SATURDAY

We take a short ferry crossing to Bellagio where we visit Villa Mezli, built as a summer residence, with its landscaped garden fringing the lake with many specimen trees and shrubs. After lunch in a local restaurant (included) there is



time to walk around and enjoy the old town of Bellagio. Then it is time to return to Menaggio for a short coach ride along the shores of Lake Como on the way to Lake Maggiore and our hotel in Baveno. Evening at leisure in Baveno.

Day 4 - SUNDAY

After breakfast we visit the Borromean Islands, taking a ferry to Isola Madre, the largest island of Lake Maggiore, well known for its spectacular flowering plants and luxuriant botanical gardens. Then on to Isola Bella, which looks like a ship with a palace in the bows and a tiered, terraced garden at the stern. We visit the palace and meander through richly varied plants in the garden, including a huge camphor tree more than two hundred years old. Lunch (own arrangements) can be taken on Isola Bella or one of the other islands on the way back to Baveno. Afternoon and evening at leisure in Baveno.

Day 5 - MONDAY

In the morning we visit Castello Montecor and its gardens, shrouded in legend and reputed to grow plants with mysterious powers due to its location on an area with exceptionally powerful

magnetic forces. Whether you believe the myths or not, they provide a fascinating backdrop to this outstandingly beautiful location. We take lunch at Castello Montecor (included) before making our way to Pallanza and Villa Taranto. A real must when in the Italian Lakes. Its 16 hectares are home to over 20,000 plants, 80,000 bulbs and 15,000 border plants - so there is colour and interest at all times of the year. You will have the rest of the day to enjoy this wonderful house and garden before returning to Baveno. Evening at leisure in Baveno.

Day 6 - TUESDAY

On the way to the airport we visit Villa Cicogna-Mozzoni near Varese. A true masterpiece of Renaissance architecture and gardens blending as one. After lunch in Varese (own arrangements) we continue to the airport for return flights to UK.

What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London to Milan. (Flights from your local airport on request.)

5 nights accommodation in 4* hotel in Menaggio on Lake Como and 4* hotel in Baveno on Lake Maggiore on bed and breakfast basis plus two lunches and one dinner.

Knowledgeable local tour leader throughout your stay.

Welcome dinner.

Guided tours of some of the finest gardens on Lake Como Villa Mezli, nestled beside the lake on Bellagio, followed by lunch in a local restaurant.

Visits to Villa Carlotta and Villa Balbianello.

Leisurely ferry rides on Lake Maggiore with guided tours of the enchanting gardens of the Borromean Islands - Isola Madre and Isola Bella.

Guided visit with lunch to Castello Montecor, an ancient castle set in a park with plants, which, legend has it, have mystical powers.

Guided visit to the internationally famous Villa Taranto, with its exceptional collection of plants and trees.

Renaissance jewel - Villa Cicogna-Mozzoni - stunning architecture in harmony with its gardens.

Departures from UK on:

Thursday 24 April 2014,
Wednesday 30th April 2014,
Friday 12 September 2014, and
Friday 26 September 2014.

5 nights from £1449 per person

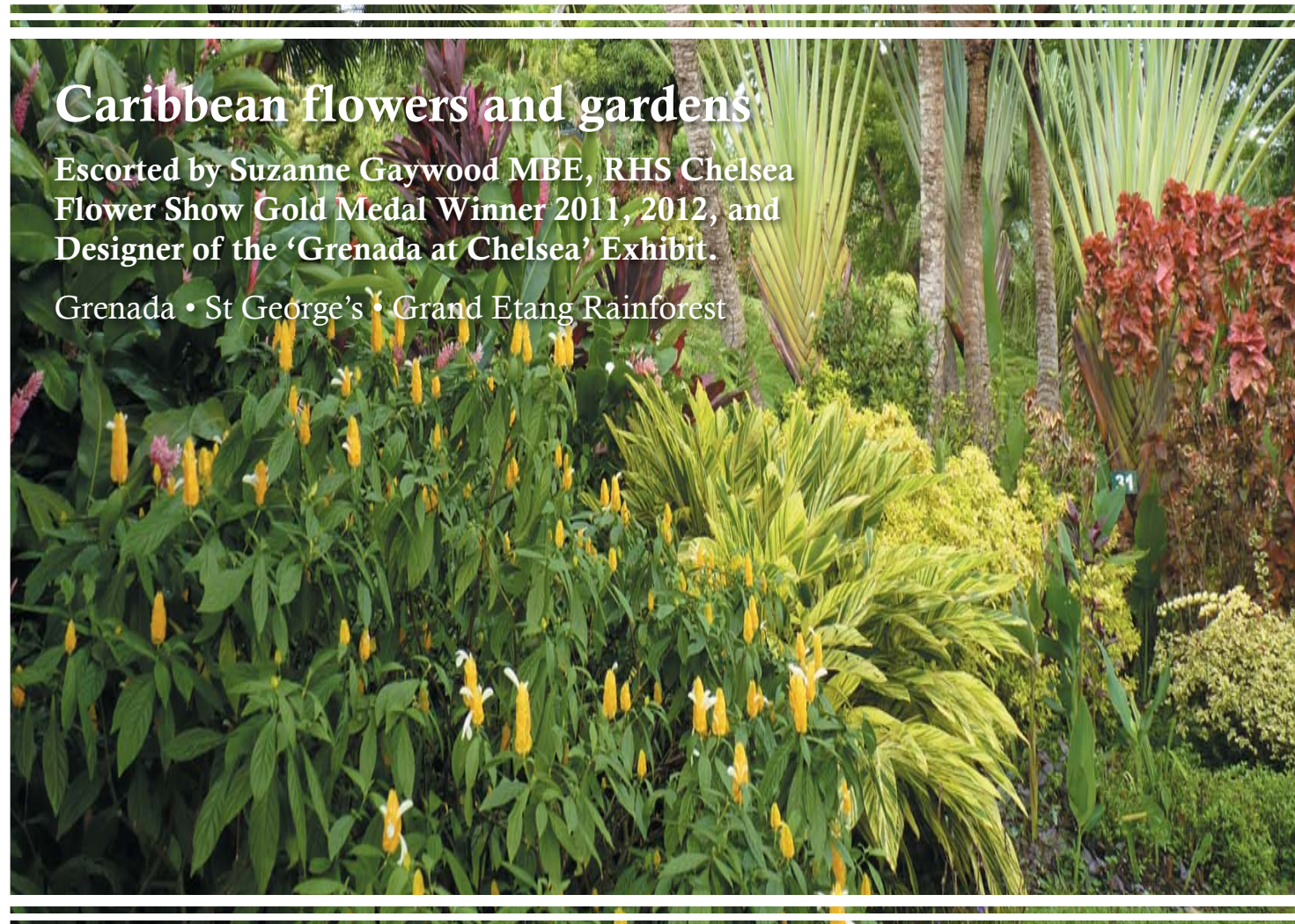
based on two people sharing a room

Tour codes: ICM 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407

Caribbean flowers and gardens

Escorted by Suzanne Gaywood MBE, RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal Winner 2011, 2012, and Designer of the 'Grenada at Chelsea' Exhibit.

Grenada • St George's • Grand Etang Rainforest



How better to see Grenada and The Caribbean than accompanied by a local? She will take you to see many of her friends' gardens and make you really feel at home.

TOUR SUMMARY

This is more than a garden tour. Individual Holidays' Specialist Tour Leader knows and loves Grenada. She has been responsible for designing and coordinating the award winning 'Grenada at Chelsea' exhibit for 15 years and knows many of the gardens' owners personally. You will be treated to experiences that money cannot buy - such as breakfast in a private Caribbean garden in the company of the owner, drinks in a stunning landscaped garden and afternoon tea overlooking the Caribbean in another special garden. Our special departures give guests the chance to experience some of the glorious public and private gardens of Grenada. Orchids, anthuriums, heliconias and many more tropical plants, as well as spices, will be at their best and in full bloom. As well as the gardens, the tour will also give you a chance to see many parts of the island of Grenada. - rainforest covered mountains, fertile valleys and fine sandy beaches. Known as the 'Spice Island' for its production of spices, the island is also home to a fantastic range of tropical and subtropical exotic plants, encouraged by the perfect year round climate and rich, volcanic soil. Our itineraries include visits to places of cultural and historic interest - picturesque capital St George's, Grenada's chocolate factory and the River Antoine Rum Distillery.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - THURSDAY

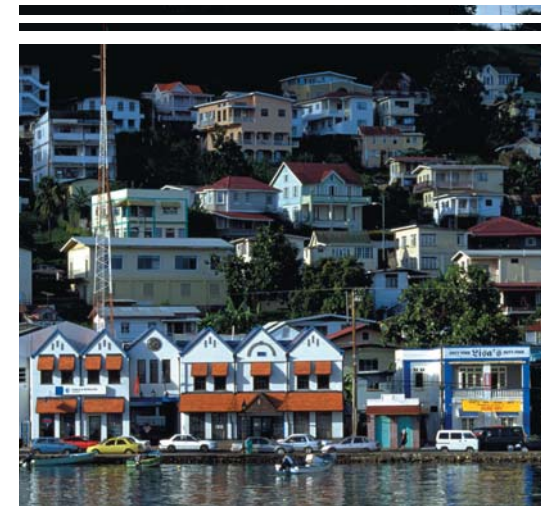
Morning flight from London Gatwick to Grenada. Transfer to Blue Horizons Garden Resort. Evening welcome briefing with Anne Campbell and Suzanne Gaywood MBE, before dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 2 - FRIDAY

Morning orientation tour of historic St. George's and its picturesque harbour, historic sites of Fort George (1706), bustling local market (1791) and Grenada National Museum. Late afternoon tour of Hyde Park Garden with panoramic views of St George's and the south of the island as the sun sets.

Day 3 - SATURDAY

Morning visits to The Bay Gardens, whose owner Albert St Bernard is a member of the Chelsea team, and Sunnyside Garden, a 5 acre breathtakingly beautiful garden, with coy ponds, an orchard and an excellent variety of palms, orchids, hibiscus, and bromeliads. Optional afternoon visit to De LaGrenade's Spice Garden.



Day 4 - SUNDAY

Day at leisure with choice of optional tours. Evening presentation on 'Chelsea and the Gardens of Grenada' by Suzanne Gaywood MBE followed by optional Cultural Evening with meal.

Day 5 - MONDAY

Morning visit and breakfast with the owners of Smithy's Garden, a mile from historic Fort Frederick (1779-1791). Continue on to Jessamine Eden Garden, whose enthusiastic owner will welcome you to her beautiful, landscaped garden, where she also keeps bees. Afternoon visit to Westerhall Point, the home and garden of Mrs Sonia Beatson where you will enjoy late afternoon tea.

Day 6 - TUESDAY

Morning tour into Grenada's lush interior and over 300 acres of Grand Etang Rainforest, then on to Balthazar Estate. This estate has diversified from traditional crops to the commercial production of cut flowers. Enjoy a Plantation lunch at Belmont Estate with time to explore and visit the nearby Grenada Chocolate Factory and 200 years old River Antoine Water Powered Rum Distillery to learn how white rum is produced.



Day 7 - WEDNESDAY

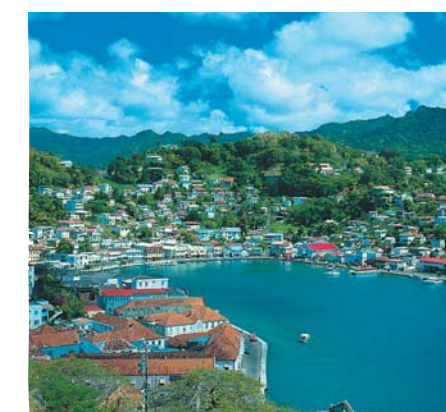
Day at leisure with optional tours before a farewell group dinner in a top Grenada restaurant.

Day 8 - THURSDAY

Morning at leisure before afternoon departure for overnight flight back to UK.

Day 9 - FRIDAY

Arrive London Gatwick.



What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London. (Flights from other airports on request.)

7 nights accommodation in a deluxe suite at Blue Horizons Garden Resort on bed and breakfast basis plus one lunch, one afternoon tea and two dinners (as described below).

Specialist tour leader. Suzanne Gaywood MBE, RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal Winner 2011, 2012.

Welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Guided tour of the capital of Grenada, St George's.

Private visit and drinks at Hyde Park Garden, accompanied by the owner.

Visits to Bay Gardens, DeLaGrenade's Spice Gardens, Sunnyside Gardens.

Private visit to Smithy's Garden, including breakfast with the owner.

Afternoon tea at Westerhall Point.

Visit to Grand Etang Rainforest.

Visit Belmont Estate and Chocolate Factory with lunch at the plantation.

Visit to River Antoine Rum Distillery.

Farewell dinner in local restaurant.

Departures from UK on Thursdays 20 and 27 November 2014

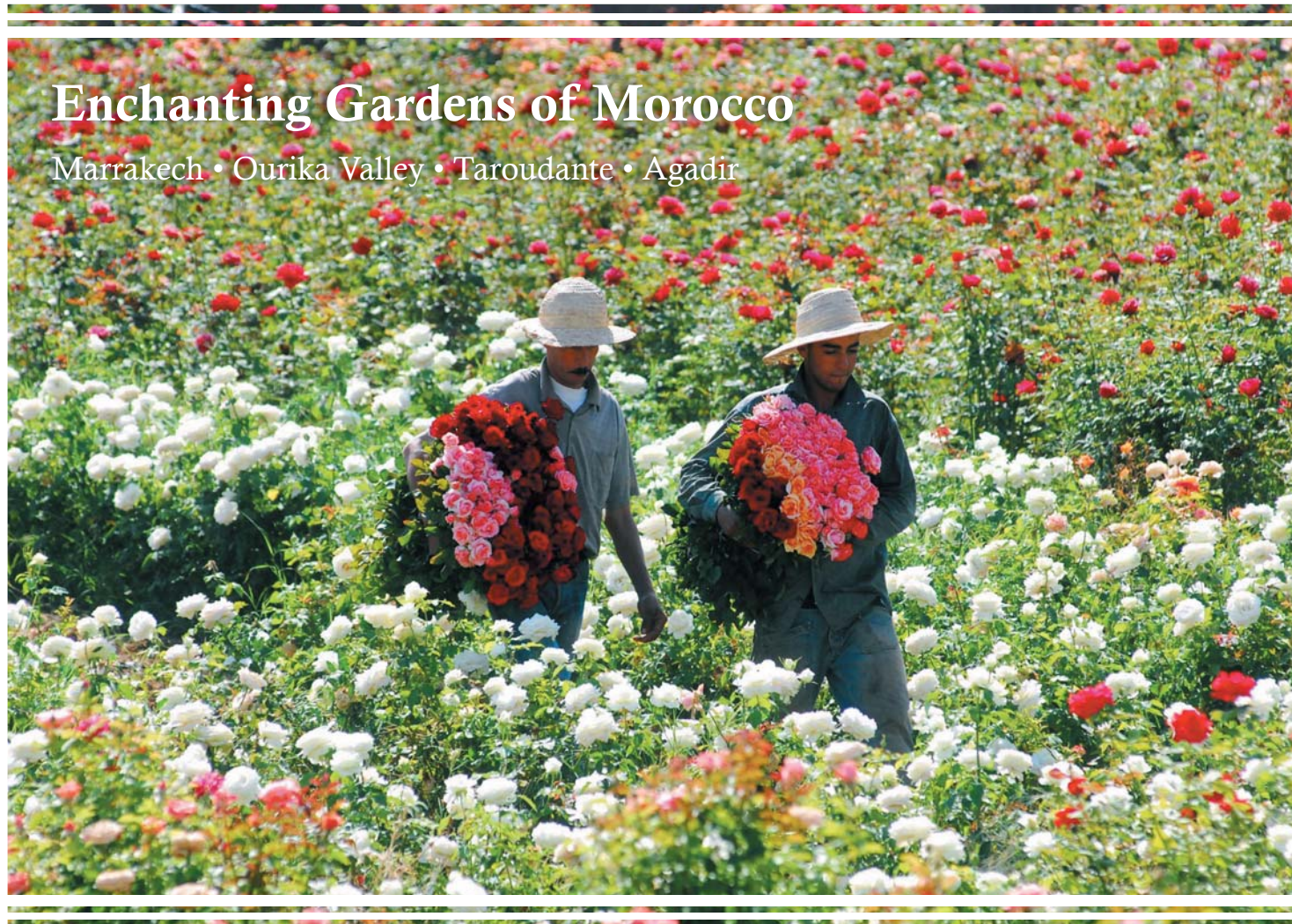
7 nights from £1,879 per person

based on two people sharing a room.

Tour codes: GCF 1417, 1418

Enchanting Gardens of Morocco

Marrakech • Ourika Valley • Taroudante • Agadir



Experience the delights of exotic North Africa combined with visits to stunningly different gardens. Including Majorelle Gardens once owned by Yves St. Laurent and in Taroudante, a hotel set in over 15 acres of inspirational gardens.

TOUR SUMMARY

The delights of exotic Morocco form a backdrop to two of the most special gardens we have discovered on our travels.

In Marrakech a doorway on a side road leads to one of the city's hidden wonders, Majorelle Garden. An amazing botanical garden. The vision of French artist Jacques Majorelle and bought by Yves Saint Laurent in 1980. At its heart a vivid blue building surrounded by cacti and plants suited to Morocco.



In Taroudante, 50 miles south of Agadir, our chosen hotel, Dar Al Hossoun, is set in extensive olive groves and a unique array of 'dry' gardens. Once described as 'Kew Garden's Desert Conservatory with the roof off' the gardens are truly unique. Wandering through the interconnected courtyards you come across a new garden at every turn.

EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - WEDNESDAY

Flights from UK to Marrakech and transfer to 5* Jardins De La Medina Hotel, centrally located in the old part of the city. Welcome dinner.

Day 2 - THURSDAY

Today we explore Marrakech. After breakfast we take a walking tour of the central area and El Badi Palace. After lunch in a local restaurant (included) we visit Majorelle Garden and the Palm Groves. Majorelle is hidden off a side street. Once you pass through its gate you are transported into a stunning botanical garden, the vision of French artist Jacques Majorelle, which was bought by Yves Saint Laurent in 1980. Dinner in local restaurant in Marrakech.

Day 3 - FRIDAY

Visit to Ourika Valley and its bio-aromatic gardens followed by a drive through the picturesque Atlas Mountains to La Roseraie, known for its production of rose petals. You will enjoy a barbecue lunch in a local restaurant. After lunch we visit Beldi Country Club. Only a few miles from the centre of the Pink City, the



Beldi feels a million miles away from the dust and chaos of the medina. Among rose gardens, olive groves and a vegetable patch lies this 27-room hotel built in the Berber rammed earth style. We then visit La Maison Arabe followed by the luxury 5* Hotel La Mamounia, where we take a mint tea and visit its gardens, en route back to Marrakech. Dinner in local restaurant in Marrakech.

Day 4 - SATURDAY

After breakfast we leave Marrakech for Taroudante by private minibus. The journey takes about 3 1/2 hours. We stop for lunch (own arrangements) and arrive at Dar Al Hossoun in Taoudante in time for check in and relaxation before dinner in the hotel. Dinner at Dar Al Hossoun.

Day 5 - SUNDAY

Breakfast in hotel. Guided tour of Dar Al Hossoun gardens with the owner, taking in the Sunken Garden and rose field. We then visit the palm groves of Tiout, where we take lunch (included). After lunch we visit an argan oil workshop before returning to the hotel for dinner. Dinner at Dar Al Hossoun.



Day 6 - MONDAY

Today we gain an insight into life in Morocco when we visit private houses and their gardens in Taroudante. We take tea in a traditional riad with its courtyard garden, before returning for lunch at Dar Al Hossoun. Then time to visit several gardens near the hotel. There is time at leisure before dinner in the hotel. Dinner at Dar Al Hossoun.

Day 7 - TUESDAY

After breakfast we depart for Agadir airport for return flights to UK.



What is included...

Flights from London to Marrakech, return from Agadir.

6 nights accommodation: Jardins de la Medina (3 nights) in Marrakech and Dar Al Hossoun (3 nights) in Taroudante on bed and breakfast basis, plus six dinners and four lunches.

Knowledgeable tour leader throughout.

Welcome and farewell dinners at the hotel.

Guided walking tour of Marrakech.

Guided tour of Majorelle Garden.

Visit to Ourika Valley with drive through Atlas Mountains, visiting La Roseraie.

Private transfer to Taroudante by minibus.

Guided tour of Dar Al Hossoun gardens.

Garden visits in Taroudante.

Departures from UK on Wednesdays 19 March and 2 April 2014.

6 nights from £1,539 per person

based on two people sharing a room.

Tour codes: MEM1419, 1420

Lisbon Region – tiles, gardens and landscapes

Lisbon • Belem • Sintra



The attractive parks and gardens of Lisbon and Sintra plus the attractions and sights of the charming city of Lisbon.

TOUR SUMMARY

Lisbon is a charming place to visit. Its central area has retained much of its character, with narrow streets and old buildings alongside modern additions.

Our tour is based in Lisbon and combines visits to gardens with visits to places of more general architectural and historic interest. From our base in Lisbon we visit public and private gardens in nearby Sintra and the Arrabida National Park. In Lisbon we take a walking tour of old Lisbon and visit UNESCO World Heritage sites. Our chosen hotel is centrally located, so you can explore Lisbon's many attractions further during your time at leisure.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - MONDAY

Flights from UK to Lisbon with private transfer to Lisboa Plaza 4* hotel located in central Lisbon. In the afternoon you meet your guide for a walking tour of the old quarters of Lisbon from Rossio to Chiado. In Chiado you move among atmospheric cafes and enticing book, fashion and design stores as well as historic sights such as the church of San Roque with its custom made chapel of marble and semi precious stones. We stop off at Sao Pedro de Alcantara with its urban hanging garden and panoramic views over the seven hills on which Lisbon is built. Welcome dinner in hotel in Lisbon.

Day 2 - TUESDAY

Portugal is famous for its explorers and this morning we visit the area of Belem where we visit the most significant monuments from that era - Monastery de Jeronimos and Torre de Belem - both UNESCO World Heritage Sites dating back to 16th Century. We take lunch in a restaurant set in the greenery of 17th Century Royal Botanical Gardens. In the



afternoon we continue to Real Quinta Caxais and the Marques de Pombal Palace. Evening at leisure in Lisbon.

Day 3 - WEDNESDAY

Today we travel to nearby Sintra. There is time to explore this historic town at your own pace as well as visit Pena Park and Seteais Gardens before lunch in a local restaurant. In the afternoon we visit a private local garden before returning to Lisbon. Evening at leisure in Lisbon.

Day 4 - THURSDAY

We visit the scenic Arrabida National Park, Quinta da Bacalhao and a recently

restored private garden at Quinta das Machadas. Lunch (own arrangements) before returning to Lisbon. Afternoon at leisure. Farewell dinner in hotel.

Day 5 - FRIDAY

Breakfast in hotel before visits to Quinta dos Azulejos and Palacio da Fronteira and its gardens. Transfer to airport and return flights to UK.



What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London to Lisbon. (Flights from other airports on request).

4 nights accommodation at 4* boutique Hotel Lisboa Plaza on bed and breakfast basis, two dinners and one lunch.

Knowledgeable tour leader Throughout your itinerary.

Guided walking tour of old Lisbon visiting the Chiado district, the Jesuit church of Sao Roque, Sao Pedro de Alcantara from where the seven hills of Lisbon can all be seen.

Welcome dinner at the hotel.

Guided tour of Belem and UNESCO World Heritage Sites Jeronimos Monastery and Torre de Belem with lunch in a restaurant set in the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Visits to Real Quinta Caxais and Marques de Pombal Palace.

Visit to Sintra with its Pena Park and Seteais gardens.

Visit to Quinta da Piedade private garden.

Visit to Arrabida National Park, Quinta da Bacalhao and visit to recently restored private garden at Quinta das Machadas.

Farewell dinner in hotel.

Visit Quinta dos Azulejos and Palacio da Fronteira and gardens.

Departures from UK on Monday 23 June 2014.

4 nights from £899 per person

based on two people sharing a room.

Tour code: PLB1407

Camellias and historic gardens of Northern Portugal

Porto • Braga • Guimaraes • Amarante



Discover the lesser known gardens of Porto and Northern Portugal with their delight in the use of topiary and water features to complement their planting schemes. Our tour is also timed to coincide with the camellia season.

TOUR SUMMARY

This tour explores the gardens, cities and towns of Northern Portugal. Porto, best known for its Port wine, is a picturesque city with a UNESCO heritage cathedral as well as some enchanting private gardens.

Our tour also visits the beautiful northern towns of Braga and Guimaraes, where you will have time to meander through the streets as well as visit nearby, local manor houses and their private gardens.

The timing of our tour has been selected to coincide with the camellia season in this region of Portugal with its ideal climate for them.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - TUESDAY

Flights from UK to Porto and private transfer to hotel located in the central pedestrianised area of Santa Catarina. The hotel's central position makes it ideal for exploring the attractions of Porto, Portugal's second largest city. In the afternoon you meet your guide for a walking tour of this fascinating city with a history dating back to the 4th century and the Roman occupation of the Iberian Peninsula. Its charming old quarters are filled with cafes and shops. The Baixa quarter has broad avenues lined with banks and outdoor cafes, as well as a covered daily market. Not to be missed is the UNESCO world heritage site, the Cathedral, Ribeira, San Francisco Church and Clerigos Tower. Welcome dinner in hotel.

Day 2 - WEDNESDAY

After breakfast we visit Serralves Park with its wonderful museum, mansion and grounds. We continue on and visit two private gardens Casa Villar d'Allen, with its stunning array of camellias and Quinta do Alao, a garden dating back to



17th century with many diverse plants and sculptures. Lunch own arrangements. Afternoon and evening at leisure in Porto.

Day 3 - THURSDAY

We visit Quinta da Avelada, famous for its 'green' wine production and then on to Casa de Campo where we visit the private garden and enjoy lunch. After lunch visit two private gardens - Casa de Souto, a manor house set in a picturesque camellia garden, and Casa da Gandarela, with its lake, sculptured hedges, bushes and camellias. En route to Porto stop off at the charming town of Amarante. Evening at leisure in Porto.

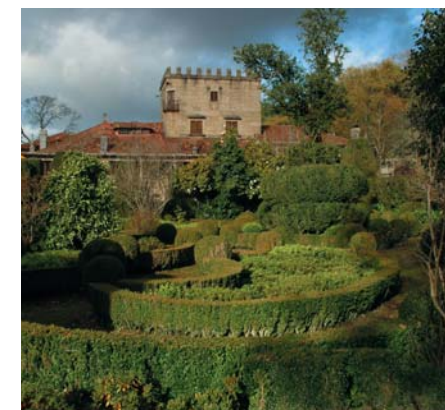
Day 4 - FRIDAY

After breakfast leave for the historic city of Braga where there is a chance to explore its well preserved streets as well as visit the hilltop Cathedral Bom Jesus with its panoramic views across the countryside. Then on to Guimaraes with its gently winding cobbled streets, alleyways and squares. Portugal's first king made Guimaraes his capital in the 12th century. Visitors today can still get a feel for what life must have been like those many centuries ago in this interesting medieval town. On the

outskirts of Guimaraes we take in a visit to Paco Sao Cipriano. Set amid 120 acres of gardens, orchards and vineyards this 15th Century house is located on the old pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela. Farewell dinner in hotel.

Day 5 - SATURDAY

Breakfast in hotel. Morning at leisure for shopping or visits to the wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia. Transfer to the airport before return flights to UK.



What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London. (Flights from other airports on request).

4 nights accommodation at Grande Hotel do Porto on bed and breakfast basis, two dinners and one lunch.

Knowledgeable tour leader throughout your itinerary.

Guided walking tour of historic Porto visiting UNESCO site cathedral, Ribeira, San Francisco Church and Clerigos Tower.

Welcome dinner at the hotel.

Visit to Serralves Park.

Private garden visits to Casa Villar d'Allen and Quinta do Alao.

Visit to Quinta da Avelada.

Visit to Casa de Campo private garden including lunch.

Visit to private gardens Casa de Souto and Casa da Gandarela.

Explore the charming town of Amarante.

Visit to Braga with its Bom Jesus Cathedral followed by a stop in the medieval town of Guimaraes and visit to private garden Paco Sao Cipriano.

Farewell dinner at the hotel.

Departing from UK on Tuesday 25 March 2014.

4 nights from £849 per person

based on two people sharing a room

Tour code: PPN1408

Madeira Flower Festival and Gardens of Funchal

Madeira • Funchal • Santana • Machico



A perennial favourite, the Madeira Flower Festival attracts visitors to see the magnificent displays of flowers. Not to be missed are the Botanical Gardens with thousands of imported plants thriving in the temperate climate

TOUR SUMMARY

If your interests are in flowers, walking or just relaxing in friendly, unhurried surroundings then Madeira is a perfect choice. Madeira is known as 'The Garden Isle' with innumerable gardens and parks to visit including the Botanical Garden, home to over 2,000 plants from Madeira, the Azores, Canaries and Cape Verde and a Tree Garden with trees from as far away as the Himalayas and the Tropics.

Madeira Flower Festival. For a weekend the streets of Funchal are transformed and Funchal is in carnival mood. There are parades through the streets in traditional costumes, flower carpets adorn the streets, shop windows are decorated and traditional music is performed. There are also flower exhibitions, classical music concerts and a number of variety shows. All in all this is a weekend not to be missed. In 2014 the Flower Festival will take place on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May.



Madeira holidays on other dates - from £499 for 7 nights - ask for a quotation.

EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - THURSDAY

Flights from your chosen airport to Madeira, where you will be met and taken to the centrally located Quinta Bela Sao Tiago, our specially selected hotel in Funchal. This small friendly hotel is centrally located in one of the most picturesque parts of Funchal with its narrow streets and historic buildings. Originally built as a family home over 100 years ago, the Quinta has recently been sympathetically extended. Evening at leisure.

Day 2 - FRIDAY

After breakfast you will be taken on a guided tour of the Botanical Garden. Set on the hillside above Funchal, the garden offers wonderful panoramic views of Funchal below. The Botanical Garden is home to more than 2,000 plants from Madeira and other Atlantic islands including the Azores, Canaries and Cape Verde. There is also a Tree Garden with plants from areas as far away as the Himalayas and the Tropics and a Loiro Park, with some of the world's most exotic and rare birds. After lunch (own arrangements) you will have free



time to discover more of the attractions of Funchal. Evening at leisure.

Day 3 - SATURDAY

The Flower Festival starts in earnest today. It is an easy walk from your hotel to central Funchal and the many flowers. A new addition in recent years has been the so-called 'Wall of Hope' - a wall where children place their flowers symbolising the hope for a better and more peaceful world. During the day you are free to enjoy the attractions of the Flower Festival. Evening at leisure.

Day 4 - SUNDAY

Sunday is the day when the parades take place. Beautifully decorated carriages and floats pass through the streets of Funchal. We provide our guests with tickets for the grandstands so that you can enjoy the parades in comfort from good vantage points. Evening at leisure.

Day 5 - MONDAY

After breakfast we take you on a visit to an orchid garden or farm. During the Flower Festival you will have seen thousands of orchids already. This tour will take you to locations where these delicate plants are cultivated. You may even choose to buy a specimen or two to

bring home with you. Afternoon and evening at leisure to explore Funchal.

Day 6 - TUESDAY

Full day Madeira island tour, taking in the island's dramatic interior, Santana with its famous thatched roofs, vineyards, the equally dramatic East coast and the old capital of Machico. A typical 3 course lunch at Quinta do Furão is included. Evening at leisure.

Day 7 - WEDNESDAY

After breakfast you depart for a guided tour of Palheiro Gardens. Palheiro is an old estate on the outskirts of Funchal. Its gardens have been carefully tended over many years and are home to a wide range of plants. We return to Funchal for lunch (own arrangements) with the afternoon free. In the evening we have a Madeira wine tasting at historic Blandy's Lodge in Funchal. Madeira wine has been produced by the Blandy's family for centuries. You will be given a guided tour of their lodge, explanations of the four main types of Madeira wine and a chance to taste them. Evening at leisure.

Day 8 - THURSDAY

After breakfast it is time for transfers to the airport for return flights to the UK.

What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London. (Flights from other airports on request.)

5 or 7 night accommodation on bed and breakfast basis plus one lunch (on 7 night holidays).

Knowledgeable guides.

Guided tour of Botanical Gardens.

Flower Festival.

Tickets for seating at the Flower Festival parade on Sunday.

Private visit to an orchid garden or farm.

In addition on 7 night holidays:

Full day Madeira island tour, taking in the island's dramatic interior, Santana with its famous thatched roofs, vineyards, the equally dramatic East coast and the old capital of Machico. A typical 3 course lunch at Quinta do Furão is included.

Guided tour of Palheiro Gardens.

Madeira wine tasting at historic Blandy's Lodge.

Departures from UK on Thursday 1 May 2014:

5 nights from £649 per person Tour code: MFF 1409

Departures from UK on Thursday 1 May 2014:

7 nights from £879 per person Tour code: MFF 1410

Prices are based on two people sharing a room.

Madrid - gardens, palaces and tapas

Madrid • La Granja • Segovia



This exclusive, small group tour, is an excellent way to find out about the gardens, history and food of Madrid from a resident.

Escorted by the author of 'Great Gardens of Spain'

TOUR SUMMARY

This exclusive small group tour (maximum 16 people) is a unique experience with visits to a number of parks and gardens as well as exclusive access to private gardens, often hosted by the owner. You will visit some of the most famous, beautiful and influential gardens of Spain, some of which are normally closed to visitors.

The tour leader is well versed in the history, culture, people and food of Spain in general and Madrid in particular. You will get a true local perspective, seeing far more than a 'normal tourist'.



Example Itinerary

Day 1 - THURSDAY

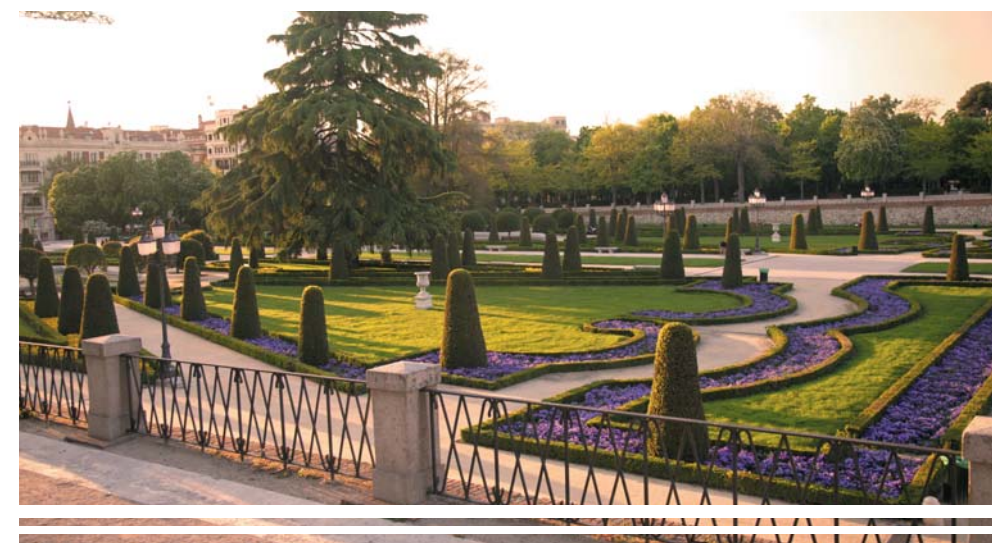
Flights from your chosen airport to Madrid and transfer to your centrally located hotel. Evening at leisure.

Day 2 - FRIDAY

A pre-lunch walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid. During our walk we will receive a brief introduction to the history of Madrid, its architecture, gardens and city planning. We end our tour at the Royal Palace with its impressive views of Casa del Campo and the adjoining Sabatini Gardens and Plaza Oriente. Lunch (included) is at an authentic Madrid restaurant specializing in fresh, organic Spanish vegetables. After lunch we transfer to the El Retiro for a short guided tour of one of the most emblematic of the historical parks of Madrid. Evening at leisure.

Day 3 - SATURDAY

In the morning we head to Madrid's Botanical Garden for a guided tour with free time to stroll around. We then proceed to the vertical garden of Caixa Forum created by Patric Blanc. Afterwards we make our way to one



of the most interesting private gardens in the outskirts of Madrid, where we will be received by the owner who will take us around and offer us a delicious home cooked three-course lunch. This is followed by a visit to the little-known, 18th century gem of a garden of the Quinta del Duque de Arco. Evening at leisure.

Day 4 - SUNDAY

Depart for La Granja, an incredible royal hideaway in the mountains north of Madrid. La Granja was arguably the most important court residence in Spain throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The 1,500 acre palace gardens are one of the best examples of European eighteenth century garden design. There is time to explore the vast grounds or visit the interiors of the palace. Lunch (included) at a authentic country restaurant. Then on to Segovia to visit another private garden created by the acclaimed landscaper, Leandro Silva. Afterwards in the town centre we look at the impressive façade of the Alcázar and the aqueduct followed by a visit to the very exclusive garden of the Palacio de Lozoya, owned by the Marchioness of Lozoya. We will stroll

around her beautiful garden with its impressive views sipping a refreshing sangria. Evening at leisure.

Day 5 - MONDAY

Morning at leisure. Departure from the hotel to the historic garden of El Capricho for a guided tour. Then continue to El Arverjal for a tour and talk followed by lunch (included). Then we will finish the day visiting the nearby private garden created by the Marchioness of Casa Valdés (author of Gardens of Spain). The garden was created in 1945 in a particularly arid terrain subject to extreme temperatures. It became a triumph in tempering the environment and a landmark in the development of modern Spanish gardens. In the evening we enjoy a farewell meal (included).

Day 6 - TUESDAY

Return flight to the UK

What is included...

Return flights from London to Madrid. (Other airports on request.)

5 nights accommodation in 4* hotel on bed and breakfast basis plus four lunches and one dinner.

Expert tour leader - author of 'Great Gardens of Spain'.

Guided tour of the historic centre of Madrid with its public parks and gardens.

Guided tour of the Botanical Gardens of Madrid.

Private Madrid garden visit with lunch.

Visit to the historic city of Segovia with visit to a private garden.

Visits to gardens and palaces of Quinta del Duque de Arco, El Caprichio and La Granja.

Private visit to the garden created by Marchioness of Casa Valdes (author of 'Gardens of Spain').

Lunches in specially selected, typical Spanish restaurants, where you will be able to sample the best of traditional Spanish cuisine.

Farewell dinner in a specially selected Madrid restaurant.

Departures from UK on Thursdays 5 June 2014 and 6 November 2014.

5 nights from £1149 per person

based on two people sharing a room

Tour codes SMG 1411, 1412

Galicia - camellias and more

Santiago de Compostela • Cambados • Pontevedra



A must for Camellia lovers, see them at their best in natural settings and at a Camellia festival. Marvel at the rugged beauty of Santiago de Compostela and enjoy local wine and cuisine.

TOUR SUMMARY

This is the tour for camellia lovers with visits to public and private gardens at the height of their season. Camellia lovers come from all parts of the world to enjoy the delights of this north western corner of Spain where growing conditions are ideal.

Our tour is based in the dramatic city of Santiago de Compostela and includes a walking tour to see the outstanding architecture as well as enjoy the local food and wine.

From our base we visit some of the exceptional public and private gardens in the surrounding area.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1

Flights from UK to La Coruna and transfer to hotel in Santiago de Compostela. Evening meal in the hotel (included in price).

Day 2

Enjoy a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Santiago de Compostela seeing the famous cathedral and other architectural gems and court yards. Lunch at leisure. In the afternoon we visit the enchanting Pazo de Oca with its inventive water features. Evening at leisure.

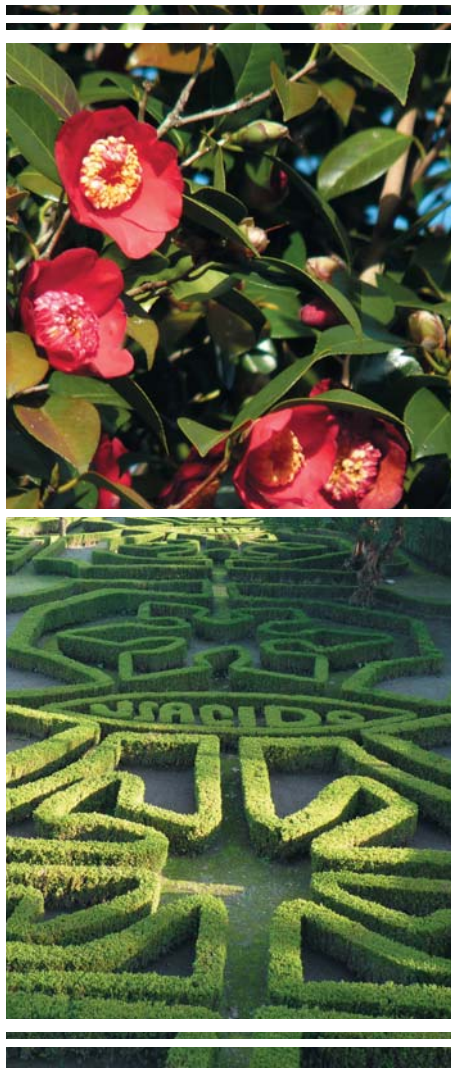
Day 3

We travel to Cambados where we visit Pazo Quinteiro da Cruz, with its magnificent collection of camellias and enjoy a wine tasting of the famous Albarino wine and a manor house visit. After lunch (included in price) we visit Pazo da Saleta, formerly a work of passion for the keen gardener, Robert Gimson. The Pazo is devoted to camellias. Evening at leisure.



Day 4

This morning we travel to Rubianes to visit Pazo Rubianes, built in the style of a French Mansion with award winning camellias. Afterwards we travel on to Pontevedra to visit the old city with its romantic squares and its Museo Provincial. Lunch in Pontevedra (included in price). (Wednesday 12 March 2014 departure includes a visit to International Camellia Festival in Vigo with lunch). After lunch we spend time in Parque Botanico Soutomaior, part of an historic property with a castle dating back to the 12th century. The botanic garden has hundreds of camellias belonging to about 25 species as well as specimen trees including ancient sequoias,



araucarias, chamaecyparis, azaleas and oaks. Return to Santiago for evening at leisure.

Day 5

Visits to Pazo Marinan, with its parterre and camellias dating back many years, and Betanzos to view its medieval architecture. Lunch in La Coruna (included in price) and walking tour. Return for a farewell dinner in Santiago de Compostela (included in price).

Day 6 - TUESDAY

Breakfast in hotel and return flights to UK.



What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London (Flights from other airports on request).

5 nights accommodation in 4* Hotel Compostela on bed and breakfast basis plus 3 lunches and 2 dinners.

Knowledgeable tour leader throughout your itinerary.

Welcome dinner at the hotel.

Guided tour of the incomparable World Heritage Site of Santiago de Compostela visiting the cathedral, the old market and hidden courtyards.

Private visit to Pazo de Oca.

Visit to Cambados with an Albariño wine tasting and lunch at a local restaurant.

Private visit to Pazo de Saleta and Pazo Quinteiro de Cruz accompanied by the owner.

Visit to Pazo Rubianes, Pontevedra and Parque Soutomaior, with its six hectares of camellias.

Visit the International Camellia Exhibition in Vigo to see worldclass camellias bred for show (Wednesday 12 March departure only) followed by lunch.

Visit Pazo de Marinan.

Guided tour of medieval Betanzos and bustling La Coruña with lunch.

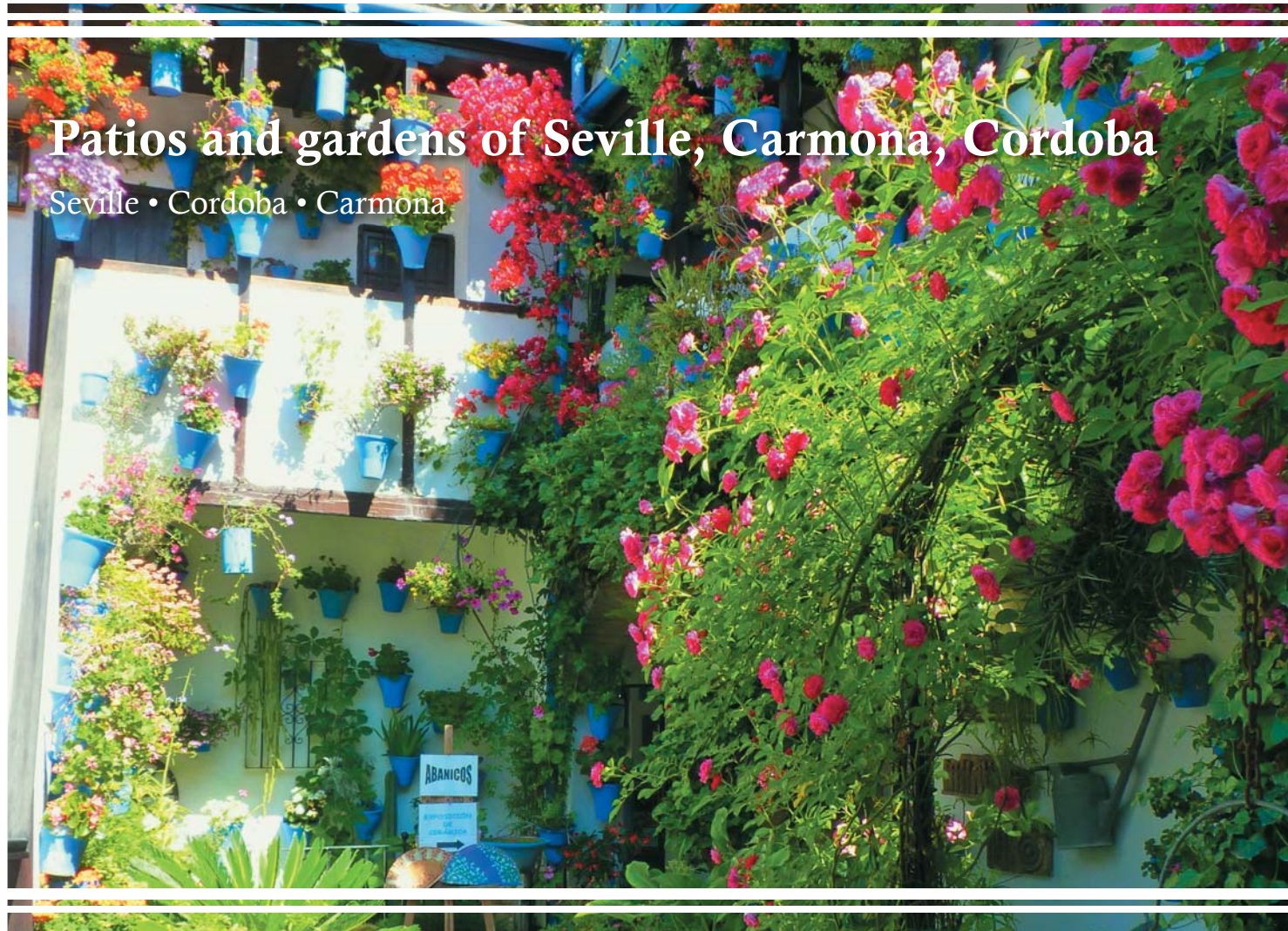
Farewell dinner in a local restaurant serving Galician specialty foods.

Departures from UK on Thursday 6 March, and Wednesdays 12 and 19 March 2014.

5 nights from £849 per person

based on two people sharing a room.

Tour codes: SGC1401, 1402, 1403



Patos and gardens of Seville, Carmona, Cordoba

Seville • Cordoba • Carmona

The ultimate Andalucian garden experience...
Accompanied by author of 'Hidden Gardens of Spain' and
staying in his character country house.

TOUR SUMMARY

This tour has been designed with the author of 'Hidden Gardens of Spain'. He escorts the tour and participants stay at his country house in Carmona.

The gardens he has selected are ones that he knows and loves from years researching for his books. The private gardens and patios of Seville, Cordoba and Carmona are rarely open to the public. Our guide has arranged for exclusive access to some of the most colourful and attractive ones. In addition he will take you to places that you could not visit on your own including a private stately home (with lunch). You will lunch in some of his favourite restaurants. You really will be treated to a local's perspective of Andalusia.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - WEDNESDAY

Flights from UK to Seville where you will be met by your tour leader, author of 'Hidden Gardens of Spain' and transferred to El Triguero, his country house where you will stay for the duration of the tour. After refreshments your tour leader will take the group for a walking tour through the Estate, talking about the history and the natural flora of El Triguero and his work and contributions to the landscape. After lunch we take a walking tour of the nearby old city of Carmona, including a visit to a private palace and its patios and garden. There will be time to take coffee on the panoramic terrace of Pedro the Cruel's Alcazar – now a Parador - before returning back to El Triguero. Dinner at El Triguero

Day 2 - THURSDAY

After breakfast we make for Los Alcázares de Sevilla and lunch in a private stately home. In the afternoon we visit Parque de María Luisa, an exquisite garden lovingly cared for by its owner. Then back to El Triguero for dinner.

Day 3 - FRIDAY



Today we visit Cordoba, famous for its small, private courtyard gardens, many rarely opened to the public. We will see the impressive cathedral, Mezquita de Córdoba and Palacio de Viana before lunch. We take lunch at a local speciality restaurant - Bodegas Campos. After lunch we visit some of the best patios. The gardens that can be created in such small spaces are truly amazing. We return to El Triguero for dinner.

Day 4 - SATURDAY

Palma del Río is our destination today, where we visit a private garden. Then we will lunch at the Palacio Portocarrero. In the afternoon we move on for more beautiful discoveries to Moratalla, a country house with landscaped gardens originally designed by Forestier, the famous French landscape designer. On our return we share a farewell dinner at El Triguero.

Day 5 - SUNDAY

Return flights to UK.



What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London to Seville. (Flights from your local airport on request.)

4 nights accommodation in a character country house in Carmona with all meals included (breakfasts, lunches and dinners).

Escorted by author of Hidden Gardens of Spain.

Walking tour of El Triguero estate by the owner and tour guide.

Walking tour of the old city of Carmona with private visit to an aristocratic palace.

Guided tour of the famous Alcazares gardens in Seville.

Visit to Parque de Maria and private gardens in Seville.

Lunch in a private stately home.

Visit Mezquita de Córdoba and Palacio de Viana in Cordoba.

Lunch in typical Andalusian bodega.

Visits to patio gardens and walking tour of Cordoba.

Visit to the Andalusian town of Palma del Río and an attractive private garden.

Visit to Moratalla, a country house with landscaped gardens designed by Forestier.

Farewell dinner at El Triguero.

Departure from UK on
Wednesday 7 May 2014

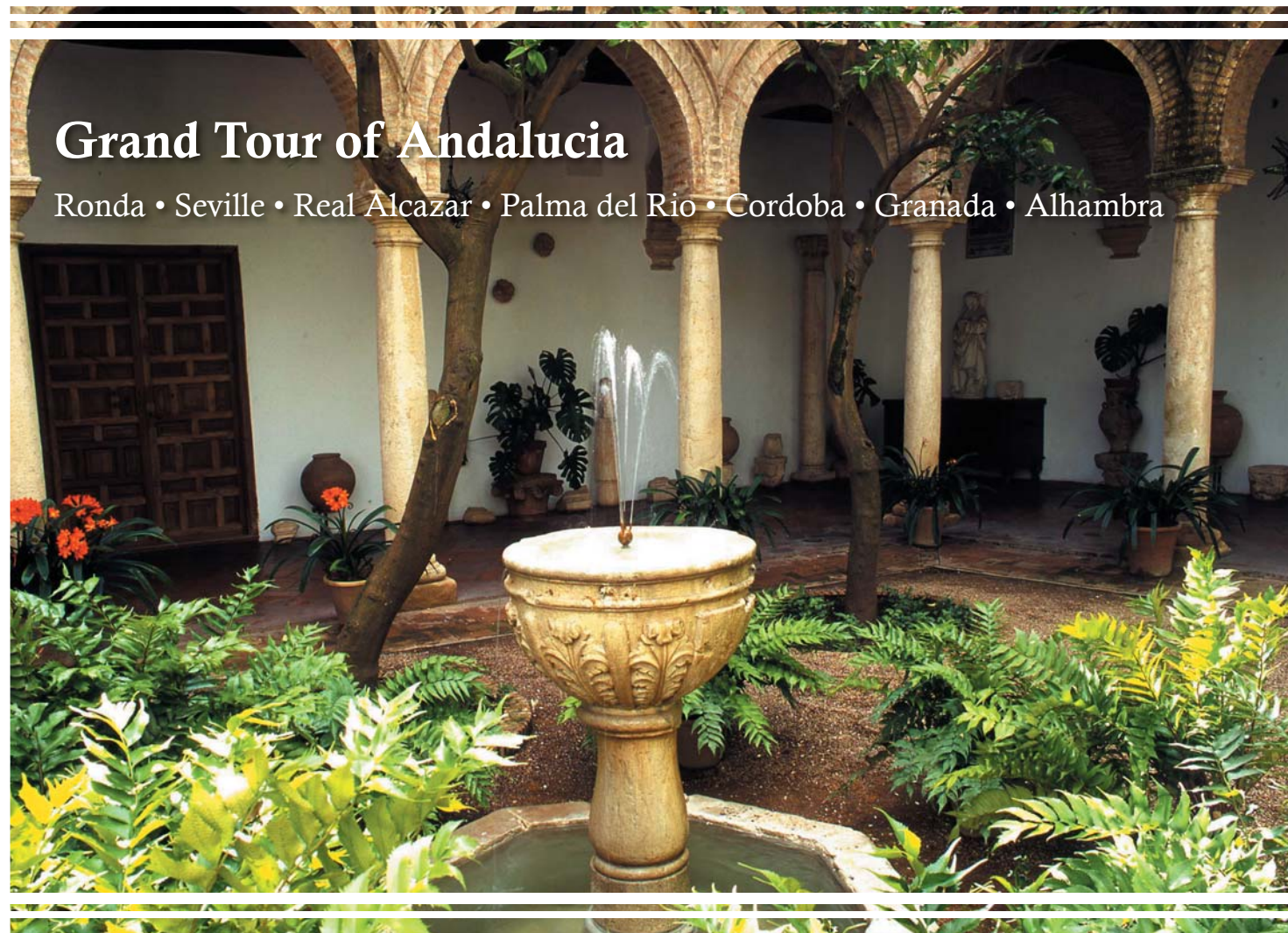
4 nights from £1299
per person

based on two people sharing a room.

Tour code: SAP 1413

Grand Tour of Andalucia

Ronda • Seville • Real Alcazar • Palma del Rio • Cordoba • Granada • Alhambra



This tour is for those who really want to get to know Andalucia - its best gardens, its culture, its people and its food. The tour has been designed for us and will be escorted by the author of 'Great Gardens of Spain'

TOUR SUMMARY

This is the tour for those wanting to get to know Andalucia and its gardens. Our tour visits Ronda (1 night), a spectacular town perched above a gorge, Seville (2 nights) with Real Alcazar and more, Palma del Rio (1 night), a typical, small Andalusian town, Cordoba (1 night) where you see patio gardens and Cathedral and Granada (2 nights), with Alhambra.

The author of 'Great Gardens of Spain' personally designed the itinerary and selected the gardens and restaurants that we visit. She will escort the tour sharing her knowledge and introducing you to her friends and acquaintances. There are a number of private visits to gardens not generally open to the public. Overnight stays are in specially selected character, 4 star Andalusian hotels.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - TUESDAY

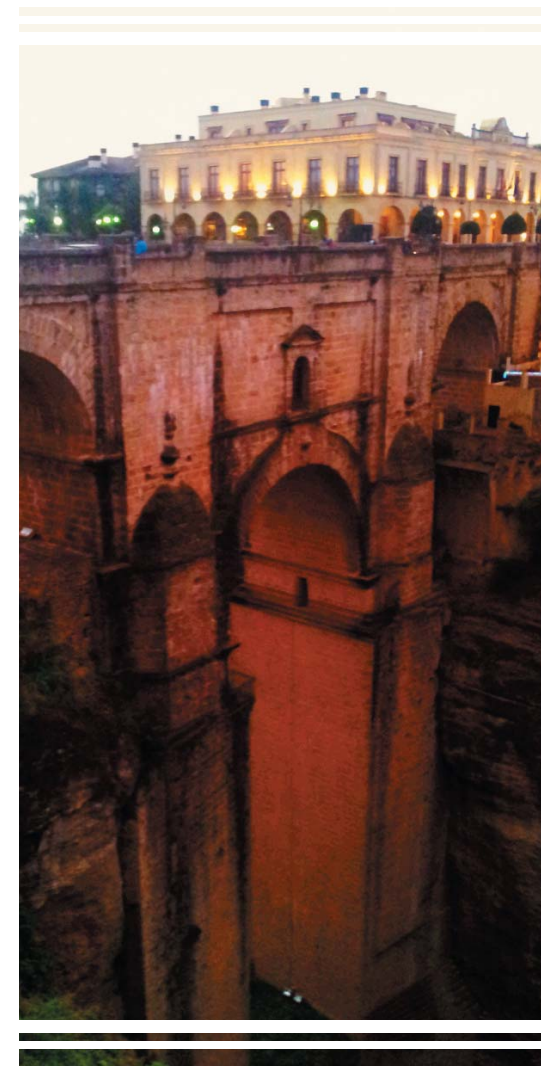
Flights from UK to Málaga. You will be met and taken to our first garden, owned by a well known Spanish family where you will be served light refreshments. After lunch (included) we set off for Ronda, visiting another private garden en route. Spend the night (with welcome dinner) in Ronda staying in the dramatically located Parador.

Day 2 - WEDNESDAY

We visit the gardens of Casa del Rey Moro (featured in Great Gardens of Spain) as well as a private visit to the enchanting garden of a Palace. There is free time for you to explore Ronda further. After lunch in the parador (included) we continue to Seville where we stay at Hotel Casas de la Juderia. Evening at leisure in Seville.

Day 3 - THURSDAY

We spend the day in Seville. In the morning we visit a 12th century sunken garden, enjoy a private visit to the Palace of Duenas and its gardens and then to the Parque de Maria Luisa where we will see the gardens and constructions for the IberoAmerican Exhibition of 1929,



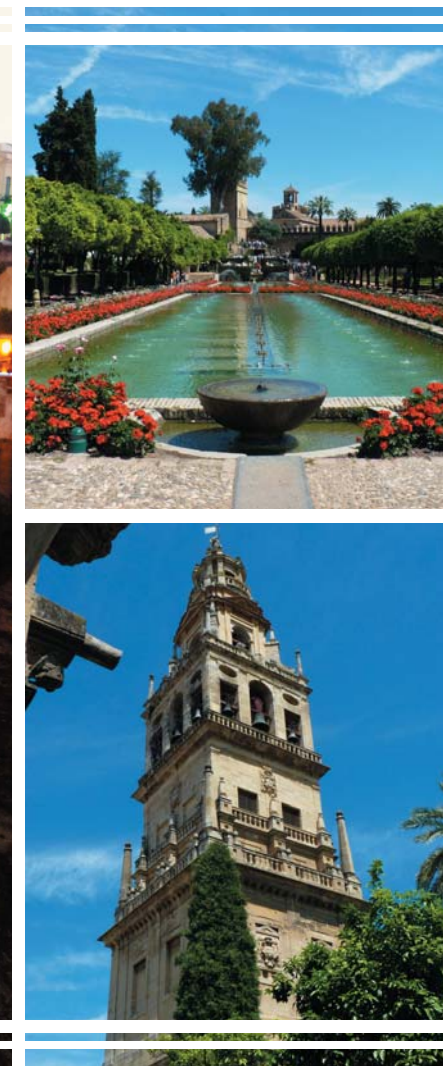
including the spectacular Plaza de Espana. We then visit another private garden, Casa Palacio, where we will also take lunch (included). After lunch you are free to explore Seville at your leisure. Evening at leisure in Seville.

Day 4- FRIDAY

Our day starts with a visit to Real Alcazar, the oldest royal palace in Europe still in use. We spend the morning visiting the house and then the gardens. After lunch (included) we head off towards Palma del Rio, a small country town about 40 km from Carmona. We spend the night at Hotel Monasterio de San Francisco, a monastery now converted into a hotel with splendid gardens. In the evening we visit another palace, an architectural gem restored by its current owner. The owner will escort us through the enchanting gardens surrounded by Moorish walls, show us her spectacular painting studio and introduce us to Spanish aristocratic life. We return to the hotel for dinner in the impressive surroundings of what was once the refectory of the monastery.

Day 5 - SATURDAY

We drive to Córdoba, which takes about an hour, where we visit magical patio gardens before lunch (included) in



arguably the best local restaurant in town. An afternoon free to explore more of Cordoba before a spectacular night time visit to Mosque-Cathedral. Overnight at Hotel Casas de la Juderia.

Day 6 - SUNDAY

In the morning we drive to Granada and check in at the Alhambra Palace Hotel, right next door to the famous palace, and take a light lunch (included). In the afternoon we take a guided tour of the incomparable Alhambra y Generalife gardens admiring the exceptional skill and imagination of the Moorish craftsmen. Evening at leisure in Granada.

Day 7 - MONDAY

In the morning we take in some beautiful carmens, small patio gardens hidden from the outside streets, and walk through the cobbled streets of Granada. After lunch (own arrangements) you are free to explore before a farewell dinner in a restaurant with stunning views of the Alhambra. Overnight at Alhambra Palace Hotel in Granada.

Day 8 - TUESDAY

Depart for Malaga and one last garden before return flights to UK.

What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London to Malaga. (Flights from your local airport on request.)

7 nights accommodation in specially selected historic, character 4* hotels on bed and breakfast basis plus 6 lunches and 3 dinners.

1 night in Ronda, 2 nights in Seville, 1 night in Palma del Rio, 1 night in Cordoba, 2 nights in Granada.

Escorted by author of Great Gardens of Spain.

Guided tours of some of the finest gardens of Andalucia including the most famous - Los Alcazares in Seville and Alhambra in Granada.

Visits to private gardens near Malaga.

Welcome dinner in typical local restaurant.

Visit gardens and private visit to palace and garden in Ronda.

Visit 12th Century sunken garden, private visit to a palace and Real Alcazar in Seville.

Overnight stay in converted monastery in Palma del Rio with a visit to its gardens as well as private palace visit.

Cordoba experiences include visit to patio gardens, lunch in famous local restaurant and evening visit to Mosque-Cathedral followed by an overnight stay in historic Hotel Casas de la Juderia.

In Granada - stay at Alhambra Palace Hotel, guided tour of Alhambra palace and gardens, visit charming, bijoux patio garden, private mansion visit.

Farewell dinner in local restaurant with panoramic views of Granada and Alhambra.

Departures from UK on Tuesday 22 April 2014

7 nights from £2499 per person

based on two people sharing a room.

Tour code: SAG 1414

Barcelona, Costa Brava Gardens and the Girona Flower Festival

Barcelona • Girona • Cadaques



Barcelona and Gaudi’s park, coastal Mediterranean gardens including Salvador Dali’s and the Girona Flower Festival, which will fascinate lovers of flowers and flower arranging.

TOUR SUMMARY

The tour takes in the fascinating gardens of Barcelona, including Gaudi’s Parque Guel, and Salvador Dali’s garden in Cadaques. In addition you visit dramatic Mediterranean coastal gardens with plants adapted to the conditions on the rugged coastline.

We also visit the Girona Flower Festival. Every year this medieval city is transformed for a short period into a giant, open air floral art gallery. Whole streets are bedecked with flowers and flower sculptures on a grand scale. There are some truly amazing sights.



Choose a 3 night visit to take in just the Girona Flower Festival or stay 5 nights and spend time in Barcelona as well. An example itinerary is shown for the 5 night/ 6 day holiday. The 3 night/ 4 day holiday follows the same itinerary until Day 4 when guests return to UK.

EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - SUNDAY

Flights from UK to Barcelona where you will be met by our tour leader and transfer to your hotel in central Girona, which is within walking distance of all major sights. Welcome dinner in hotel.

Day 2 - MONDAY

Today we visit the Girona Flower Festival. This annual event is an amazing testimony to the artistic nature of the Catalan people. The streets of Girona are transformed with carpets of flowers and flower sculptures. A spectacle unlike any other we have seen. Then after lunch in a local restaurant, specializing in local delicacies, we visit another masterpiece – Salvador Dali’s fantastic house and garden at Cadaques, where we see how this famous artist turned his talents to his own garden. Return to hotel for dinner.

Day 3 - TUESDAY

We take time to visit gardens including Santa Clotilde and Marimurta and another close by. During the day we make time for lunch in a local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner at local restaurant.



Day 4 - WEDNESDAY

We travel to Barcelona. Once there we take a leisurely tour of the iconic Parc Guell designed by Gaudi. Evening at leisure in Barcelona.

Day 5 - THURSDAY

After breakfast we spend time visiting some of the other memorable gardens of Barcelona—Laberinto de Horta and Montjuic. We have lunch in a local restaurant before taking in other famous sights including the amazing Sagrada Familia Cathedral, another Gaudi masterpiece, started in 1882 and due to be finally completed by around 2026. Farewell dinner in Barcelona.



What is included...

Return scheduled flights from London to Barcelona. (Flights from your local airport on request.)

5 nights accommodation in specially selected 4* hotels on bed and breakfast basis plus 3 lunches and 4 dinners.

2 nights in Barcelona, 3 nights in a central hotel in Girona.

Escorted by knowledgeable tour guide.

Welcome dinner in hotel.

Visit to the Girona Flower Festival with its unique mixture of flowers and sculpture on a grand scale.

Guided tour of Salvador Dali’s fascinating garden in Cadaques.

Dinner in hotel in Girona.

Guided visits to two of the finest gardens of Catalunya - Santa Clotilde and Marimurta.

Lunch and dinner in typical Catalan restaurants.

For 5 night holidays transfer to Barcelona
Visit Gaudi’s creation - Parque Guel – a fascinating mix of sculpture and landscaping.

Visit other memorable gardens of Barcelona - Laberinto de Horta and Montjuic – with lunch in local restaurant.

Visit to Sagrada Familia – Gaudi’s monumental cathedral, started in 1882 and due to be finally completed by around 2026.

A farewell dinner in a specially selected Catalan restaurant in Barcelona.

Departure from UK on Sunday 11 May 2014: 5 nights from £1369 per person

based on two people sharing a room.
Tour code: SGF1415

**Girona Flower Festival
Special Weekend Departure from UK on Sunday 11 May 2014: 3 nights from £949 per person**

Based on two people sharing a room
Tour code: SGF1416

Grand Tour - history and gardens of Turkey

Antalya • Fethiye • Kusadasi • Ephesus • Assos • Istanbul



Turkey, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, has a rich history with sights not to be missed. This tour also takes in sights of interest for garden lovers including the birthplace of tulips.

TOUR SUMMARY

Turkey has a long and fascinating history. Less well known are its horticultural connections. We all know about the tulips in Amsterdam and Holland, but few people realize that these bulbs originally came from Turkey.

This tour takes in stunning historical sights such as Ephesus and Aspendos. It spends 3 nights in Istanbul where you will visit the Blue Mosque, Topkapi and more. In addition the interest of garden lovers is catered for with visits to the home of the tulip, historic gardens in Istanbul and fine parks and landscapes throughout.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1 - TUESDAY

Flights from UK to Antalya where our guide will meet you at the airport and accompany you to your hotel where you will have a welcome dinner.

Day 2 - WEDNESDAY

A full day tour of the area including visits to Koprulu Canyon National Park, with its famous Mediterranean Cyprus trees, and Aspendos, one of the best preserved Roman theatres in the world. We then return to our hotel for dinner.

Day 3 - THURSDAY

Today we drive west to Gulluk Mountain National Park (Termessos) with forests and many varieties of typical Mediterranean plants and Ciglikara, famous for its Cedars. We continue on our route where we will see wild spring flowering crocuses. Overnight in Fethiye with dinner in the hotel.

Day 4 - FRIDAY

Our botanic destination today is the unique Dilek Peninsula National Park where we will discover a wide range of plants from Anatolia, Black Sea and the



Mediterranean. Indigenous species to be seen include Sweet Chestnut, Phoenician Juniper, Kermes Oak and cypresses. This area has also been designated as a European Biogenetic Reserve. Overnight in Kusadasi with dinner in the hotel.

Day 5 - SATURDAY

Today's excursion takes us to Ephesus, the largest ancient city ever uncovered. Once with a population of around 300,000 people, it has an enormous amphitheatre, which can still hold 24,000 spectators. As you walk down the marble covered streets, see gymnasiums, bath houses, public latrines, the library of Celsus and the Temple of Artemis you can imagine what life was like in those times. We continue to the House of Virgin Mary, where she is believed to have spent her last few days and Sirince Village with its peach, grape and olive gardens. We stay overnight in Kusadasi with dinner in the hotel.

Day 6 - SUNDAY

Spil National Park, famous for its Manisa Tulips, which gave their name to a period of the Ottoman Empire. Turkey is where tulips originally grew before being taken to other parts of Europe. We then drive

to Pergamum once ruled by Alexander the Great. Pergamum was famous for its parchment paper and had a library containing 200,000 books. The remains of a splendid Acropolis with the Altar of Zeus can still be seen as well as an amphitheatre with seating for 10,000. We spend the night in Assos with dinner in the hotel.

Day 7 - MONDAY

Today we travel to Istanbul. On the way we explore Hayrettin Karaca Arboretum, near Yalova. Established in 1980, on the site of an apple and pear orchard, Turkey's premier arboretum contains some 7,000 woody plants bulbs, and a large collection of herbaceous plants. It won an award for International Dendrology. We spend the night in Istanbul with dinner in the hotel.

Day 8 - TUESDAY

We spend the morning visiting Nezahat Gokyigit Botanic Garden, an unexpected oasis amongst the towering high-rise blocks and motorways that surround it. To date, more than 50,000 trees and shrubs have been planted in this 50-hectare park, which aspires to establish the largest collection of oaks in the world. Then drive back to European side to have lunch and to continue to explore Emirgan Park housing the Tulip Festivals in April each year and Sabanci Museum that used to be home of Sabanci Family, one of the two richest families in Turkey. You will wonder at the fine and calligraphic art, religious and state documents, paintings of the Ottoman era as well as the garden, overlooking the Bosphorus. We spend the night in Istanbul.

Day 9 - WEDNESDAY

Today's included excursions are unique Blue Mosque whose interior walls are covered with 20,000 blue Iznik tiles and magnificent Topkapi Palace, once home to the great Sultans, filled with treasures and antiquities including twelve thousand pieces of fine Chinese porcelain. After lunch at Konyali Restaurant in the garden of Topkapi Palace, famous for its Ottoman food, we explore the Hippodrome and domed Basilica of St. Sophia. Constructed in 326 by Constantine the Great, it has been a cathedral, a mosque, and now a museum. In the afternoon explore Bulbous Plants Park in front of Yedikule City Walls. We spend the night in Istanbul.

Day 10 - THURSDAY

Transfer to the airport for return flights to UK.

What is included...

Return flights from London to Turkey. (Flights from your local area on request.)

9 nights accommodation in specially selected hotels on bed and breakfast basis plus two lunches and seven dinners.

Escorted by knowledgeable local guide.

Guided visit to Koprulu National Park and Aspendos Roman theatre

Guided tour of Gulluk Mountain National Park with its forests and Mediterranean plants.

Visit Dilek Peninsula an area of natural beauty set aside as a Biogenic Reserve.

Whilst staying in Kusadasi take a guided tour of Ephesus, the largest ancient city ever uncovered and House of Virgin Mary.

Visit Spil National Park, home of Manisa Tulips, which where all of the tulips of Europe originated and Pergamum, famous for parchment paper and its library which is said to have contained 200,000 books.

Enjoy the famous sights of Istanbul – Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome and Basilica of St. Sophia.

Discover Istanbul's 'natural side' – its Botanic Garden, Emirgan Park, home to annual tulip festivals, the garden of Sabanci Museum and Bulbous Plants Park in front of Yedikule City Walls.

Departure from UK on Tuesday 1 April 2014

9 nights from £1899 per person

based on two people sharing a room.

Tour codes: TOT 1416



Chateaux and gardens of the Loire

Amboise •Loire

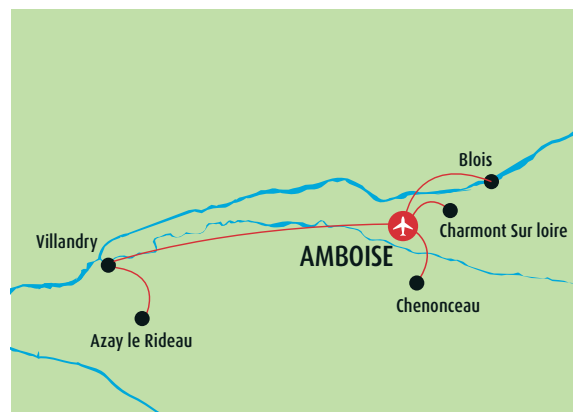
The Loire Valley is famous for its chateaux and natural beauty (UNESCO World Heritage Site) its parks and gardens. Visit some of the best as well as the world famous Chaumont sur Loire Garden Festival.

TOUR SUMMARY

The chateaux and gardens of the Loire region of France have all been built on such a grand scale that they are bound to impress. Each of the chateaux has its own personality and we have selected four of the most memorable and also different for our tour. We allow a half day to visit each one so that you can enjoy the surroundings at a gentle pace.

Our tour includes a visit to the internationally recognized Chaumont sur Loire Garden Festival. This event takes place every year and is known for its innovative garden designs – with over twenty typically being displayed.

Any visit to France would not be complete without sampling the cuisine. We have included two dinners and three lunches in selected local restaurants in our tour.



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

Day 1

Flights or train to Tours and then on to Amboise where we stay in a comfortable 3* hotel. Welcome dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 2

Today we visit the Chaumont sur Loire Garden Festival. Here you will see over twenty innovative garden designs. Even though the designs change every year, you can be sure of some stunning examples of creativity. After lunch we make our way to Chateau de Beauregard with its intriguing Garden of Portraits designed by landscape architect Gilles Clément. Evening at leisure in Amboise.

Day 3

In the morning we visit Chateau de Chenonceau. No visit to the Loire would be complete without seeing this remarkable chateau and its beautiful gardens, which are kept fresh by replacing 130,000 plants during the summer. We take a leisurely lunch in a local restaurant



before returning to the hotel. Evening at leisure in Amboise.

Day 4

After breakfast leave for Chateau de Villandry with its geometrically designed Renaissance gardens. Another chateau not to be missed. After lunch at a local restaurant we visit Chateau de la Chatonniere. Its gardens, surrounding the historic chateau, were only started in 1980's. Nevertheless they have already received acclaim for the mix of Italian design and English planting, which creates a more rounded look than the geometric shapes seen elsewhere. Farewell dinner in Amboise.



Day 5

After breakfast we leave for the return journey to UK.

What is included...

Return flights/ train from London to Tours. (Flights / trains from your local area on request.)

4 nights accommodation in a specially selected 3* hotel in Amboise on bed and breakfast basis plus three lunches and two dinners.

Escorted by knowledgeable local guide.

Welcome dinner in local restaurant in Amboise.

Guided visit to Chaumont sur Loire International Garden Festival, home to innovative and creative garden design.

Lunch in local restaurant.

Guided tour of Chateau de Beauregard with its fascinating garden designed by landscape architect Gilles Clément.

Guided tour of the beautiful Chateau de Chenonceau and gardens with its extensive collection of plants.

Lunch in local restaurant.

Guided tour of Chateau de Villandry and its geometrically designed gardens.

Lunch in local restaurant.

Guided tour of Chateau de la Chatonniere with its recently created, impressive gardens.

Farewell dinner in local restaurant in Amboise.

Departures from UK on Thursday 8 May 2014, Sunday 1 June 2014, Thursday 11 September 2014

4 nights from £999 per person

based on two people sharing a room.

Tour codes: FLC1421, 1422, 1423



Individual Holidays

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