

SCOTLAND'S FINEST GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES
(EGT5)

Friday 6 July to Friday 13 July 2012

The long tradition of gardening in Scotland has responded to the magnificent landscape, the climate of the West Coast and the contributions of the plant hunters native to Scotland. The results are picturesque gardens surrounding historic castles. Above all these gardens display horticultural excellence in settings both architectural and natural.

This is a two centre study tour based in Edinburgh and Oban (West Coast). Gardens include The Royal Botanical Gardens (Edinburgh), Little Sparta (probably the last great British 20th century garden), Dunmore, Drummond Castle, The Hermitage (Perthshire), Torosay (Isle of Mull) and Inveraray Castle

Friday 6/7 ARRIVALS

Evening Edinburgh Airport. Transfer to University of Edinburgh, Pollock Halls, Chancellors Court. Walk up Arthur's Seat, one of the seven hills of Edinburgh, providing the best views of the castle. Dinner followed by an evening stroll along Prince's Street with the Castle and monuments floodlit.

Saturday 7/7 EDINBURGH

Morning Walk down the Royal Mile from the Castle to Holyrood Palace, taking in the Floral Clock, National Gallery of Scotland and St Giles Cathedral.
Afternoon Exploration of the Royal Botanic Gardens
Evening Free.

Sunday 8/7 LITTLE SPARTA

Morning Depart for Mass (Family Eucharist) at the Rosslyn Chapel.
Afternoon Visit to *Little Sparta*, the late Ian Hamilton Finlay's garden high in the Pentland Hills. Ian Hamilton Finlay's work as poet, artist and landscaper permeates this thought-provoking and evocative garden - probably the last great 20th century garden made in Britain.
Dinner Dinner in Edinburgh

Monday 9/7 DRUMMOND & THE HERMITAGE

- Morning Depart for the Dunmore Pineapple, one of the architectural wonders of Scotland, overlooking the replanted walled vegetable garden of Dunmore House (now demolished).
- Afternoon Drummond Castle Garden. This elevated castle built in 1490 with its 17th century garden was much visited in the late 1700s. In Victorian times the fine formal gardens were revised by Lewis Kennedy, a gardener who had worked at Malmaison continuing Scotland's historic links with France.
- Evening Dunkeld and The Hermitage. Walk up the picturesque River Braan and view this very special example of landscape improvement including the pavilion built by the Duke of Atholl in the 18th century for viewing the cascades and salmon leaping. An important feature in this romantic landscape are the earliest Douglas firs, now among the tallest trees in the UK, planted here in homage to David Douglas who came from Perthshire. Dinner in Perth

Tuesday 10/7 ARGYLLSHIRE AND THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND

- Morning Depart Edinburgh for Oban and the West Coast. Picturesque drive through the Trossachs National Park with the dramatic scenery of Glen Dochart, Glen Lochy and the Pass of Brander. Visit to the Scottish Antique and Arts Centre, Doune.
- Afternoon Arrive at Ardmaddy Castle, home of Minette and Charles Struthers.
- Evening Pub super *Tigh na Truish* by the Bridge Over The Atlantic.

Wednesday 11/7 ARDUAINE & INVERARAY CASTLE

- Morning Free for visiting Ardmaddy Garden Drive to Arduaine, a south facing, woodland garden on the sea. This is horticultural paradise. Created by a retired tea planter it shows the success of Asian plants in the Scottish climate with naturalised cardiocrinums and Himalayan blue poppies.
- Afternoon Drive to Kilmartin in 'The Valley of Ghosts'. This World Heritage prehistoric site includes

Dunadd hill fort and Achnabreck 5,000 year old rock carvings. Drive along Loch Fyne to Inveraray Castle, ancestral home and 18th century castle of the 12th Duke of Argyll and head of the Clan Campbell. A taste of quintessential Scotland.

Evening Dinner Ardmaddy, Caddleton Cottage.

Thursday 12/7 TOROSAY, ISLE OF MULL

Morning Depart for Oban and the ferry for the Isle of Mull.

Afternoon Arrive Craignure and drive to Torosay. This Victorian castle (closed to the public) has a series of terraces with unforgettable Scottish vistas across the Sound of Mull to Glen Coe. The Gulf Stream makes it possible for many tender plants to grow at this latitude. The sculpture walk has 19 figures of gardeners and agricultural workers. A Japanese Garden and woodland 'burnside' area complete this delightful garden..

Evening Dungeon Dinner, Ardmaddy Castle

Friday 13/7 RETURN TO EDINBURGH

Morning Depart Ardmaddy Castle for Edinburgh Airport with a stop in Callander. Edinburgh Airport departures

Manchester Language School reserves the right to change the programme according to the availability of the gardens, personnel and venues listed and substitute appropriate alternatives.