



Photo courtesy of Sandra Stallman, Duntreath Castle (private estate)

## ***Scottish Gardens, Highlands and Castles*** ***June 28-July 6, 2012***

*(depart U.S.A. on June 28, overnight flight and arrive Edinburgh June 29)*

The only difficulty with making up a tour of Scotland's gardens is deciding which ones to leave out. Join us as we explore this hidden treasure in the picturesque Scotland. We will visit public and private gardens, while surrounded by the majestic highlands, mysterious Lochs, and historic castles and estates. You will leave with a lasting impression of glorious gardens, fantastic scenery and warm hospitality.

### **For more information, direct inquiries to:**

Mary Kroening

Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.

P.O. Box 39

Rocheport, MO 65279

573-881-6316

Email: [mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](mailto:mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)

[www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](http://www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)

*Hidden Treasures*  
BOTANICAL TOURS

## ***Scottish Gardens, Highlands and Castles***

### ***June 28-July 6, 2012***

### ***Why Scotland ...***

At the time when many Scottish estates were developing their gardens, foreign exploration was also very lucrative for plant collectors. Many Scottish plant collectors were bringing back to Scotland a tremendous wealth of plant material from around the world, a lot of which was from as far as Chile, the Himalayas, New Zealand and Australia. Many of these specimen plants are hundreds of years old, thriving in Scotland, far away from their native habitat. The plant collections throughout Scotland are some of the most magnificent in the United Kingdom with some of the largest and rarest trees located in Scotland.

Scotland's climate is also unique, which makes this a plant lover's haven. The Gulf Stream brings warm water from the tropics to the coastal shoreline of Scotland, providing a temperate to sub tropical environment enabling plants to survive and thrive at the incredible northern latitude of 56 to 59 degrees. This climate also provides ample moisture in which plants thrive. Soils never freeze in the winter, yet the summer temperatures rarely reach beyond 80 degrees.

### ***Itinerary***

#### ***Thursday 28 June 2012***

*Depart from USA – flight under own arrangement. Airfare should be arranged with arrival and departure from Edinburgh, Scotland*

#### ***Friday 29 June 2012***

On arrival at the airport we will be met by our coach and guide and travel north to Perth where we visit **Branklyn Gardens**, a haven of peace and colour. Begun in 1922 on a south-facing slope with acid soil, the garden represents a wonderful collection of small rhododendrons, maples, magnolias and woodland plants. Paths wind along the contours of the land bringing the visitor nose to nose with all kinds of distinguished plants, all beautifully grown.

Lodging: Hilton Dunkeld House Hotel, Dunkeld

Meals included: Dinner

#### ***Saturday 30 June 2012***

After breakfast we travel north via the **Pass of Killiecrankie**, the scene of a major Jacobite battle in 1689, to **Blair Castle**, the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl. The romantic, whitewashed castle is filled with treasures, including a spectacular display of arms and armour which greets the visitor on arrival in the main entrance hall. The extensive collections also include pictures, furniture, porcelain, embroidery, Masonic regalia and family memorabilia. Within the extensive estate surrounding the castle are two notable features. The **Hercules Garden** is a walled enclosure of about 3.5 hectares, recently restored to its original 18<sup>th</sup> century form with landscaped ponds, plantings, fruit trees, vegetables and herbaceous gardens. **Diana's Grove** is a magnificent stand of tall trees including grand fir, Douglas fir, larch and wellingtonia. Lunch is available here (not included).

In the afternoon we visit the private garden at **Auchleeks House**, a classical Georgian house with a large herbaceous walled garden in a beautiful glen setting surrounded by hills and mature trees. Later we return to Pitlochry and visit **Edradour Whisky Distillery**, Scotland's smallest, most picturesque distillery and the last to produce a hand-crafted malt by methods which to other distillers are just a fond memory. We then return to our hotel. This evening is at leisure, with the opportunity to sample some of the local cuisine and atmosphere in the pretty village of Dunkeld.

Lodging: Hilton Dunkeld House Hotel, Dunkeld

Meals included: Breakfast

#### ***Sunday 1 July 2012***

This morning, following breakfast, we follow the River Tay towards Aberfeldy, where we find two fine private gardens. We begin at **Cluny House**, a wonderful, wild woodland garden which is reckoned to be one of the best in the county. Here we will experience the

grandeur of one of Britain's widest trees, the complex leaf variation of the Japanese maple, the beauty of the American trillium and the diversity of Asiatic primulas.

After some free time and an opportunity for lunch (not included) in **Aberfeldy**, we return to Pitlochry later in the afternoon. Here we visit the **Scottish Plant Hunters' Garden**. This important new 'national landmark' garden enjoys panoramic views and pays tribute to over 120 plant collectors of Scottish descent. Here the collectors, the plants and the countries in which they were collected are reunited in the different garden areas. These collector and country of origin themes constantly recur and intertwine all through the garden in an innovative and imaginative way. More than just a garden, it also combines dramatic and visual arts to provide an entertaining and informative journey around the world.

Lodging: Hilton Dunkeld House Hotel, Dunkeld

Meals included: Breakfast

### **Monday 2 July 2012**

After we check out of the hotel and travel south through the 'Sma' Glen' to **Drummond Castle**, Scotland's most important formal gardens. A mile-long beech lined avenue leads to a formidable ridge-top tower house, and as we enter through the woven iron portcullis to the terraces we find a magnificent Italianate parterre celebrating the saltire, and the famous sundial by John Milne, master mason to Charles I. First laid out in the early 17th century by John Drummond, 2nd Earl of Perth, the gardens we see today were renewed in the 1950s by Phyllis Astor, Countess of Ancaster. A strong north to south axis runs through the garden, down the impressive flight of steps to the sundial, through the classical archway and kitchen garden beyond, cutting a swathe through woodland before rising to the top of the opposing hillside. This idea of drawing the countryside into the garden is essentially French; however, Drummond is an eclectic garden and also rooted firmly in the Italian style with its fountains, terracing, urns and statuary.

From here we continue to **Duntreath Castle**, in the Strathblane Hills to the north of Glasgow, where we visit the private garden of Sir Archibald and Lady Edmonstone. These extensive gardens feature mature and new plantings, with a landscaped lake, water and bog gardens, a formal garden, rhododendrons and a woodland walk. We then travel via Inveraray and Loch Fyne to our accommodation at **Stonefield Castle Hotel**. This 19th chateau-style hotel stands in 60 acres of beautiful woodland gardens containing some fine rhododendrons and other exotic shrubs and offers every comfort while retaining the charm and dignity of the original building. The view from the restaurant over Loch Fyne is simply spectacular - dinner will be served here in the evening.

Lodging: Stonefield Castle Hotel, Inveraray

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

### **Tuesday 3 July 2011**

Following breakfast we head north to Loch Melfort to visit the National Trust for Scotland's garden at **Arduaine**. The garden here was started in 1897 by James Arthur Campbell, a tea planter, and a friend of Osgood MacKenzie, the maker of Inverewe. It is a splendid site, full of the most magnificent plants. It is most rewarding to keep going to the viewpoint which gives an exquisite panorama of the calm waters of Loch Melfort below. Lunch is available at the adjacent Loch Melfort Hotel (not included).

As there is much to see at Arduaine we will spend some further time here after lunch and later in the afternoon we will visit the small private garden of **An Cala** on the Isle of Seil. This is a quaint but charming garden very much on a domestic scale, which relies for its impact on its situation looking out to the sea with the islands of Luing, Scarba, Mull and the Garvellachs in the distance.

Lodging: Stonefield Castle Hotel, Inveraray

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

### **Wednesday 4 July 2011**

Following breakfast this morning we transfer to Tayinloan in time to catch the mid morning ferry to **Gigha**, a small and beautiful island lying just off the Kintyre peninsula. Here, Sir James Horlick (of bedtime drink fame) came in 1944 and started to make a woodland garden. His new plantings were protected by evergreens and old broad-leaved trees. At **Achamore Gardens** rhododendrons reign supreme, constituting one of the best collections in Scotland. Lunch facilities will be available at the comfortable Gigha Hotel (not included). We will return to the mainland on the late afternoon ferry and continue to our hotel where dinner is served in the evening. A beautiful and memorable way to spend Independence Day!

Lodging: Stonefield Castle Hotel, Inveraray

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

### **Thursday 5 July 2012**

After breakfast this morning we check out of the Stonefield Hotel and depart for a visit to **Crarae Gardens**, recently rescued by the National Trust for Scotland. Crarae has a marvellous site in a precipitous glen on the north west bank of Loch Fyne. At the very centre of it lies the glen, a romantic wooded ravine, stuffed like a good plum pudding with plenty of rich fruit; the great Asiatic flowering shrubs - azaleas, camellias and magnolias.

Following this, our final visit, we continue via the 'Rest and Be Thankful' and Loch Lomond to Edinburgh, where overnight accommodation has been arranged.

Lodging: Edinburgh Hotel to be determined

Meals included: Breakfast

### **Friday 6 July 2012**

After breakfast we depart for Edinburgh Airport for onward flight connections to the USA (under own arrangement). Optional extensions can easily be arranged upon request. The world's largest flower show, RHS Hampton Court Flower Show, is an optional excursion into London that can easily be arranged.

### ***Included in the price***

- Seven nights hotel accommodations on bed and breakfast basis
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Entrance to all venues as stated on the itinerary
- Porterage of luggage at all hotels

As the owner of Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, I pride myself on custom designed tours where I include visits to a variety of gardens and venues that offer something for each and every one of my travelers. As a retired University of Missouri Horticulture Faculty member, I also can determine quality gardens and which gardens are good to visit during the appropriate time of year. I value my repeat clients - who repeat often as they know I strive to be attentive to every minute detail of a tour, as well as attentive to each and every client. Nothing about my tours are "cookbook". I find unique lodging whenever possible that reflects the beauty and culture of the region being visited. And my group sizes are always small - I prefer a maximum of 9 to 15 travelers. The companies that can offer cheaper tours typically take much higher numbers ... but this is something I am not willing to compromise to get my prices to match. I offer a unique, quaint travel experience where the itineraries are fully inclusive of all daily activities. There is a saying in the travel business - "you get what you pay for" and I try hard to honor this statement!!

### ***Tour Price***

Based upon currency conversion of 1 Great Britain Pound to 1.65 US Dollar. Price will be amended upward if currency fluctuates drastically upwards.

Land Price Per Person in Double	\$2,695 (airfare from USA to UK not included)
Single Supplement	\$495

Final payment is due 90 days prior to trip departure. A full refund will be given up to 90 days prior to the departure date, minus a \$250 administrative fee. There are no refunds within 90 days of trip departure as all invoices have been paid in full at this time on a non-refundable group rate basis.

**Registration Form**  
**Scottish Gardens, Highlands and Castles**  
June 28-July 6, 2012

**Passenger Information**

Please record information exactly as it appears on your passport and attach a copy to this registration form. Passport photocopy may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport.

Name as on passport \_\_\_\_\_ Name as on passport \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Passport # \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passport Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home and or cell) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mark your preferred travel arrangements**

I will make my own airline reservation/arrangements to and from Edinburgh, Scotland

I would like Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours to arrange airline reservations from \_\_\_\_\_ airport and bill me accordingly

**Scotland Tour Price Per Person Double Occupancy (\$2,695)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Single Occupancy Supplement\*\* (\$495)** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* (We cannot guarantee a roommate, and if none available, you will be responsible for single supplement)

**Payment Information** (deposit \$1,000 per person)

If paying by check: make payable to Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check no. \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by credit card (we can accept only VISA or MasterCard)

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be charged \_\_\_\_\_ Three-digit security code from back of the card \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*We will assess an additional 3% surcharge to process payments by credit cards

**Mail this form and direct inquiries to:**

Mary Kroening  
Hidden Treasures Botanical Tours, L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 39  
Rocheport, MO 65279  
573-881-6316  
Email: [mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](mailto:mary@hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)  
[www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com](http://www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com)