

Scotland's Finest Castles and Gardens 1st - 8th September 2024 (7 nights)



This spectacular tour explores the very best castles and gardens in Scotland, as well as following some of its most scenic driving routes through the Scottish Borders and Highlands. Expect majestic castles, beautiful planting schemes, private gardens and the vibrancy of Edinburgh.

Sunday 1st September

We meet at the **Doubletree by Hilton Edinburgh Airport Hotel** in the late morning. From here we board our coach for our 4-hour, scenic journey to **Inverness**. We will make a stop for lunch (independent) at the **House of Bruar** with its excellent shops and restaurants. Later, we check in to the **5-star Ness Walk Hotel, Inverness**. We have dinner in the hotel (included).



Monday 2nd September

Today our first visit is to **Logie House and Steading** – an extensive estate originating from the 17th century with a vast array of herbaceous plants. We have free time in the Steading with its café for lunch (independent), eclectic shops and art gallery before meeting the owner for a tour of the gardens.

In the afternoon we continue to the majestic 14th century **Cawdor Castle** which was built as a private fortress by the Thanes of Cawdor and is famed for its connections with Shakespeare's Macbeth. We have a guided tour of the castle and time to explore the gardens before enjoying a private dinner in the castle restaurant (included).



Tuesday 3rd September

We have a very beautiful drive today, westwards across the Highlands to **Inverewe Garden**, a lush garden full of unusual and wonderful plants which thrive thanks to the warmth of the Gulf Stream. We have lunch at Inverewe (independent).

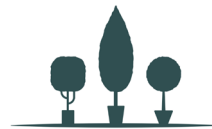
We continue to **Durnamuck Garden**, a private coastal plantsman's garden on Little Loch Broom with stunning views. We meet the owners to hear how they developed this unique space and visit a second nearby private garden that they manage. Afterwards, we return to Inverness for dinner (included) in the hotel.



Wednesday 4th September

We begin with a **private garden located in a magnificent Highland glen**. We have a tour of the gardens with the owner followed by lunch (included). This glorious garden is full of shrubs, herbaceous plants, specimen trees, sculptures and spectacular views down the Findhorn River.

In the afternoon we visit **one of Scotland's most exclusive castles** to see its magnificent walled garden. Afternoon Tea in the garden house is included. We return to the hotel where your evening is at leisure (dinner independent).



Thursday 5th September

After checking out of our hotel, we make our way to Inverness station to take the scenic train journey to **Perth**. There is time for lunch (independent) on the train. The coach will meet us in Perth and take us to the impressive **Drummond Castle** gardens. We will enjoy a tour of these majestic gardens, originally laid out in 1630. This formal garden is said to be one of the finest in Europe and the largest of its type in Scotland.

In the late afternoon we check in to the **4-star Radisson Blu Hotel** located on the Royal Mile, Edinburgh. Dinner is in the hotel (included).

Friday 6th September

Today we begin with a scenic drive through the beautiful Scottish Borders to **Abbotsford**, the former home of the 19th century novelist and poet, Sir Walter Scott. We have a tour of the house and garden then drive into the borders town of **Melrose** for lunch (independent).

In the afternoon, we see a **beautifully designed and planted private, contemporary garden** developed around a farmstead which was rescued from dereliction. We meet the owner of this splendid garden that displays excellent structure, imaginative use of objects and eye-catching planting. Dinner is at a restaurant in Edinburgh (included).

Saturday 7th September

We begin our day with a tour of **Jupiter Artland**. This private collection of sculptures and land forms is situated in a 100-acre parkland surrounding a Jacobean manor house. The 35 site-specific works include pieces by Andy Goldsworthy, Ian Hamilton Finlay and Charles Jencks. Lunch is included at Jupiter Artland.

Our second stop of the day is at a **private estate** which has one of the best contemporary walled gardens in the UK. This stunning one-acre garden will be at its peak in early September with bold colours and innovative design. We return to Edinburgh in the afternoon and your evening is at leisure (dinner independent).

Sunday 8th September

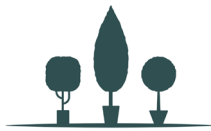
After check out, we walk up The Royal Mile to the majestic **Edinburgh Castle**, a historic fortress which dominates the skyline of the city. We make a visit to the Castle, then have drinks on the terrace of our private dining room with views over the city and castle. Afternoon Tea (included) is served in the Gatehouse Suite of Edinburgh Castle. We return to the hotel to wave goodbye for your onward journeys.

[Full details of tour joining and departure can be found on our website.](#)

Note: Our tour starts and ends in Edinburgh. We can assist with travel planning.



Photo credits: Edinburgh skyline, Jupiter Artland & Urquart Castle on Loch Ness ©VisitScotland; ©Abbotsford ©Durnamuck/GardensIllustrated.



OUR HOTELS

Our hotels are 4 and 5-star and selected for their high standards of comfort and service. All rooms are ensuite and offer free wifi access.

Ness Walk Hotel, Inverness (4 nights)

Ness Walk is a luxury hotel in Inverness with stunning 5-star accommodation and sumptuous dining in the Torrish Restaurant. In a central, yet tranquil location on the banks of the River Ness, the interiors reflect the seasonal landscape with a flow of soft colours and textiles.



The Radisson Blu Hotel, Edinburgh (3 nights)

This comfortable and well appointed hotel is designed to blend into the surrounding medieval architecture with its own 16th century-style façade. The hotel is situated in the very heart of the 'Old Town' and offers all modern facilities within, including an indoor pool. The hotel is conveniently located for local restaurants, museums, shops and Edinburgh Castle.



TOUR PRICE:

All tours are priced in GBP£

£5,100 price per person (sharing twin or double room)

£750 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

Prices include:

- 7 nights' accommodation at 4 and 5-star hotels with en-suite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 5 dinners.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
- Train travel between Inverness and Perth on day five of the tour.
- An information pack with detailed booklet about the gardens we will be visiting.
- Services of your Sisley tour director throughout.
- All tour gratuities (driver, tour director and hotels).

Prices exclude:

- Airfares.
- Travel to and from Edinburgh at the start and end of the tour.
- Passport and/or visa fees if applicable.
- Meals not included in the tour, drinks, laundry, and telephone calls.

Tour payment:

A 10% non-refundable deposit is required to secure your place(s) on the tour. Your balance payment is due 120 days prior to the tour departure.

BOOK YOUR TOUR

To book your place(s) please complete our online booking form at

www.sisley.co.uk/booking-form/

As soon as we receive your booking form, we will confirm availability on the tour of your choice and arrange collection of your deposit which secures your booking.

There are three ways to pay for your tour and you will be asked on the booking form which you prefer:

With our travel partner in North America:

You can book your tour in USD\$ or CAD\$ by credit/debit card, check or bank transfer with our partners at DHTour – a London and UK specialist travel agent who can assist with all aspects of your trip.

With Sisley Garden Tours:

All clients are welcome to book a tour directly with us. We can accept payment in GBP£ by bank transfer or by credit/ debit card.

With your own travel agent:

We are happy to work with your preferred travel agent. Just provide us with their contact details on the booking form and we will take care of the rest.

Booking terms & conditions:

Full details of our booking terms & conditions can be found at www.sisley.co.uk/terms-and-conditions.

Please see the **Frequently Asked Questions** section on our website for further information.

www.sisley.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/