

# A Garden Lovers' Tour of Ireland's Coast and Country 22nd June - 30th June 2025 (8 nights)









Where the Gulf Stream finds Europe, there is a verdant island, bursting with the most incredible collection of gardens. Our luxurious tour, staying at three 5-star hotels, features the very best Irish gardens - from the intimate private sanctuaries of Ireland's best gardeners, to the grand estates of the past and their plant hunting collections. Explore the wild, rugged coastline of the south-west, enjoy the lush green landscapes and meet the world's best story tellers.

# Sunday 22nd June

After our morning pick-up at Dublin Airport, we make our way south-west, stopping en-route at the Cashel Palace Hotel. From here we make a short visit to the **Rock of Cashel** before returning to the hotel for lunch (included) with views over the Rock of Cashel. We arrive, late afternoon, at the **5-star Sheen** Falls Lodge, situated on the beautiful Kenmare Bay. Dinner at the hotel (included).

## Monday 23rd June

We begin today by taking a small boat to **Garinish Island**, sometimes known as **Ilnacullin**. The garden island of 37 acres was designed by Harold Peto, acclaimed architect and garden designer. Next we visit **Derreen Garden** on the spectacular Beara Peninsula. Here we will have lunch (included) and enjoy a tour of the gardens. This woodland garden was laid out 150 years ago with subtropical plants from around the world and has incomparable views of the sea and mountains. We return to the hotel for dinner (included).

#### **Tuesday 24th June**

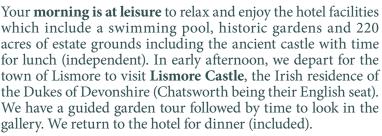
Today, we explore a magnificent corner of The Ring of Kerry. We spend the morning visiting Gearha House in the Blackwater Valley. The garden, which contains many unusual plants and shrubs, stretches into the native bog to a newly planted arboretum. We have lunch (included) nearby. In the afternoon we explore a private, 4-acre contemporary garden, whose artist gardener, has created this enchanting place over the past 25 years. We return to the hotel where your evening is at leisure (dinner independent).

# Wednesday 25th June

After check out, we have some free time in the charming town of **Kenmare** with its excellent shops, galleries, museums and even a pre-historic stone circle! There is time for lunch (independent). In the afternoon, we visit the world-famous **Blarney Castle**, where we will have a tour of the gardens which have been significantly developed over recent years.

We then travel to the **5-star Castlemartyr Resort** set in 220 acres of beautiful countryside to the east of Cork. We check in late afternoon and have dinner in the hotel (included).





# Friday 27th June

After check out, we travel to Thomastown to visit a private garden, surrounding a historic cottage orné dating from the 1790s. We meet the owner who will show us around the delightful gardens and provide lunch (included). Our next destination is a small but exquisite and exuberant garden, Patthana. Again, we meet the very knowledgeable owner to learn about the garden's creation. In the late afternoon, we check into the **5-star Powerscourt Hotel** overlooking the Wicklow Mountains. Your evening is at leisure (dinner independent).

# Saturday 28th June

Today is yours to enjoy at leisure in the hotel and to stroll across to Powerscourt Gardens - a sublime blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statuary and ornamental lakes (entry included). If you wish to join a tour of the gardens, we have arranged for a guide to show us around. There is time for lunch (independent) and to explore the lovely shops and café at Powerscourt. In the afternoon there will be the opportunity to taste some Irish whiskey at **Powerscourt Distillery**. We then drive into the Wicklow Mountains to a **traditional Irish pub** for dinner (included).

## Sunday 29th June

We begin today with a visit to Jimi Blake's famous garden, **Hunting Brook**. We will explore this fascinating, exuberant garden which has one of Ireland's largest private collections of plants. We stop for lunch nearby (included). Afterwards, we head 'next door' to see Jimi's sister at the delightful and contemporary June Blake's Garden – a rare fusion of inspired design and painterly planting. We tour the garden with June. Dinner at the hotel (included).

## Monday 30th June

After check out we make our final garden visit to **Ardán** Garden on the Howth Peninsula, north of Dublin. This is a dynamic, contemporary and ever-evolving garden which includes an eclectic botanical collection, artistically arranged. We end with lunch together (included) in Howth before dropping off at Dublin Airport in the late afternoon.

Full details of tour joining and departure can be found on our website.

**Note:** Some garden visits await final confirmation at the time of publication.









Photo credits: @TourismIreland/ChrisHill; @Blarney Castle; ©ArdanGarden ©June Blake; ©Jimi Blake; ©Lismore Garden.



#### **OUR HOTELS**

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

## Sheen Falls Lodge, Kenmare Bay (3 nights)

Set amidst 300 acres of magnificent woodland and waterfalls, Sheen Falls Lodge is a luxurious 5-star hotel on the Wild Atlantic Way. All the rooms are elegant and spacious, with striking views. The health club boasts an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room and gym.

## Castlemartyr Resort, Cork (2 nights)

This impressive 5-star hotel consists of a grand 17th century country manor house that sits adjacent to the ruins of an 800-year-old castle. It is steeped in history but the grounds and buildings have been tastefully updated and restored. There is a spa and extensive leisure facilities.

### Powerscourt Hotel, Wicklow (3 nights)

Set amidst one of the country's most scenic and historic estates on the edge of the Wicklow Mountains, Powerscourt Hotel is a 5-star, 200 room hotel with Palladian-style architecture and luxury amenities. Views from the hotel are towards the Sugarloaf Mountain.







#### **TOUR PRICE:**

All tours are priced in GBP£

£6,250 price per person (sharing twin or double room) £950 single supplement (solo occupancy of a double room)

#### Prices include:

- 8 nights' accommodation at 5-star hotels with ensuite facilities.
- Breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 6 dinners.
- Assistance with luggage at the hotels.
- All garden visits including tours with garden owners and head gardeners.
- Deluxe coach travel with professional driver.
- Transfers to and from the hotel and Dublin Airport at the start and end 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.
- 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.

# **Travel Insurance and Booking Terms & Conditions:**

It is mandatory for all overseas visitors to Ireland to have travel insurance before joining our tour. Full details of our booking terms & conditions can be found at <a href="www.sisley.co.uk/terms-and-conditions">www.sisley.co.uk/terms-and-conditions</a>.

Please see the **Frequently Asked Questions** section on our website for further information. www.sisley.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/