

# Scottish Highlands Gardens Tour

**Destinations:** Scottish Highlands & Scotland

**Trip code:** LLGDT-7



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Dramatic backdrops, characterful castles and heaps of variety await on this spectacular tour. Take in the quaint grounds of Druimneil House, relax as you explore the peaceful woodland garden, and marvel at the isolated but beautiful Ardtornish Castle. Elsewhere, the walled garden of Ardmaddy Castle on the Isle of Seil, the endangered coastal garden of Arduaine and the truly magical Himalayan ravine at Crarae provide inspirational sights for flower lovers.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- High-quality Full Board en-suite accommodation and excellent food in our Country House
- The guidance and services of our knowledgeable HF Holidays' leader, ensuring you get the most from your holiday
- All transport to and from gardens on a comfortable, good-quality coach
- All admission costs including those for English Heritage, National Trust, and RHS Gardens. Some venues have stately homes/houses which incur a separate admission fee should you wish to visit - you will need to pay for this yourself.

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## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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- The magical Himalayan ravine at Crarae Garden with its inspirational rhododendron collection and a wide range of other species
- Ardmaddy Castle's walled garden, in its unique setting overlooking the sea shore of Seil Sound
- Arduaine Garden, owned by the National Trust for Scotland and in a delightful sheltered setting in Asknish Bay
- Relax as you explore the peaceful woodlands of Angus Garden

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

You can check-in to your room from 2.30pm onwards. All guests are invited to join us for afternoon tea – we'll introduce your leader and welcome you to your holiday.

### Day 2: Druimneil House And Angus's Garden

You will spend the morning visiting Druimneil House which has a large garden overlooking Loch Linnhe. The garden is made up of many varieties of trees, rhododendrons and woodland shrubs. The owner of the house, Janet Glaisher is the winner of the Diana Macnab Award 2020 and has run Druimneil House as part of Scotland's Garden Scheme for 37 years.

In the afternoon you will be visiting Angus' Garden. Angus' Garden was created by Betty Macdonald out of love for her son who was killed in Cyprus in 1956. The garden was started the following year. Betty Macdonald's vision for the garden was for the creation of a spring flowering garden set within a natural woodland area. It's purpose to be a place for forgiveness and reconciliation. The garden covers approximately nine acres of land and is home to many varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas alongside other flowering shrubs and trees.

### Day 3: Ardtornish Garden And Ard Daraich

In the morning, you will be visiting Ardtornish Garden. The garden has been created out of a rocky hillside and has stunning views south west along Loch Aline to the hills of the Isle of Mull. A lot of the garden is covered by native birch as well as a large range of exotic species, mature groups of larch, firs and pine. At one point there were 12 gardeners and 2 horses employed to maintain the garden.

In the afternoon you will be visiting Ard Daraich, an informal hill garden situated on the shores of Loch Linnhe which is complemented by the hills of Ardgour, which provide a stunning backdrop. The garden boasts a lovely collection of rhododendrons and azaleas, scattered among species of Magnolia, Sorbus, Acer, Populus, Quercus, Larix and Pinus.

### Day 4: Ardmaddy Castle & An Cala Garden

In the morning you will be visiting Ardmaddy Castle Gardens. Set in a spectacular setting, surrounded by mature woodlands, carpeted by bluebells and daffodils in spring, the gardens are complimented by the elevated castle in the background. The gardens are full of magnificent rhododendrons and an increasing collection of rare shrubs and plants. Don't miss the 'clock garden' filled with flowers, fruit and vegetables all grown using labour saving methods and set within dwarf box hedging.

An Cala Garden is currently approaching 'historical status' as it was established in 1930 by Colonel Arthur Murray. He decided along with his wife, the actress Faith Celli, to commission Thomas Mawson to create plans for the 5-acre plot. It took a year and six men create the garden from Mawson's arrangement.

## Day 5: Free Day

You can use our Discovery Point to explore the local area or relax in the wonderful surroundings of our country house.

## Day 6: Ardkinglas Woodland Garden & Crarae

In the morning you will be visiting Ardkinglas Woodland Garden. The garden is situated on the shores of Loch Fyne against a lovely background of mountains and forest. Ardkinglas Estate spans across 4800 hectares. The garden is famous for the mature champion trees which include the "mightiest conifer in Europe"

In the afternoon you will be visiting Crarae Garden. A tranquil woodland garden with Himalayan plants and tumbling waterfalls. Crarae garden boasts to be an exotic Himalayan - style wilderness set in the hills of Argyll. The garden was created in 1912 by Lady Grace Campbell who was the aunt of plant hunter Reginald Farrer, who helped source trees and shrubs from China, Nepal and Tibet for use in the garden.

## Day 7: Ardchattan Priory And Arduaine

In the morning you will be visiting Ardchattan Priory garden. The garden has a natural tranquillity with views over Loch Etive. Shrub walks lead off the main drive and the natural soil and temperate climate allow a wide variety of plants to thrive. The garden includes a huge Cornus Kousa, Eucryphia glutinosa, Hoheria lyalii mingle alongside scented roses and philadelphus.

In the afternoon you will visit Arduaine gardens. The garden is full of colour and fragrance showing inspiration of glamorous destinations. The explanation for this is that the garden began in 1898 at a time when there was high interest in foreign travel and an appetite for the exotic. as a result of this, the garden includes plants from all around the world. Ranging from East Asia to South America.

## Day 8: Departure Day

Depart after a leisurely breakfast

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Alltshellach

Situated in a stunning location on the shores of Loch Leven, Alltshellach is a stately Scottish house set amid a rugged landscape. The house is a picture of Highland solidity, with spectacular views of craggy mountains and grassy slopes beyond the loch. This pocket of domesticity lets you admire nature at your leisure though, sipping tea or G&T as you watch clouds scud across the sky. In fact, this one-time home of the Bishop of Argyll & the Isles has been recast as a hiker's hotel, with an air of old-world splendour, excellent accommodation, a generous indoor pool, three lounges and a supremely cosy Highland Bar that's well-stocked with local beer and whisky, all of which is (almost) enough to distract you from the vast vistas over the waters. But it's the great outdoors you're here for and the house is ideally situated for accessing the Mamores, the mountains of Glen Coe and tackling Ben Nevis as well as bagging munros and spotting local wildlife.

## Matchless Country House Accommodation

### Accommodation Info

### Need To Know

### Important Covid-19 Steps We Have Taken For Guest Safety: Please Read

Following the relaxation in government guidance on 19 July, we are continuing to take extra steps to keep our guests leaders, and staff safe in our HF country houses. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

The English, Scottish and Welsh governments are not in sync, so measures in our country houses will vary between the nations. With the relaxation of social distancing in England, from 19 July we will be allowing larger groups to dine and relax in the bar together. However, we will still give guests space e.g. we will seat 6 people at a table where pre-pandemic we may have seated 8. We will ensure our public rooms are well ventilated by opening doors and windows wherever possible. If you have any concerns about distancing, please speak to the House Manager. The government recommendation for England is to wear face coverings in crowded areas. You must wear a face covering by law in public areas in hotels in Scotland. This is mandatory in public spaces; however, face coverings will not be required whilst eating and drinking in the restaurant and bar areas or whilst you are outside our houses. In Wales face coverings will remain a legal requirement indoors, with the exception of hospitality premises.

As a temporary measure, we will not be servicing rooms during a stay. Extra tea, coffee, milk, and toiletries will be made available on request for all guests. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries for the duration of their stay. We will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

Menus for the week will be available in your room on arrival. A self-service breakfast will be served from 7.45am – 9am. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. Evening meals will be table service. A dinner order form will be available in each room for completion. Dinner is served at either 7.15pm or 7.30pm. Please check at the house for details. The bar will be open. We will be offering a table service but guests can also come to the bar to order (depending on local restrictions).

Join our team after dinner on Wednesday evenings for the HF Big Pub Quiz. There will be one other evening of entertainment at the start of the week, which will vary depending on the country house that you are staying at. Our Walk Leaders will also be on hand in the bar or lounge for individual or small group walks talks briefings, which allow guests to talk through the following day's walk options and ask any questions. All of our swimming pools are open, except for Glen Coe, which will not re-open this year. Swimming Pools will be operated in line with maximum capacities.

For more information and to see all the steps taken, [visit our page on how house stays will be adapted](#).

### Rooms

*Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi*

There are 38 comfortable bedrooms, all in the main house, with a range of 'Good', 'Better' and 'Best' options to choose from. Rooms radiate cosiness thanks to little touches – a remedy for even the dreichest day. Those with a view are worth the extra spend, as you'll be overlooking the gardens and loch. The Best rooms include Room 21, a spacious corner room with lovely views of Loch Leven, while Room 23 is a stately showstopper that was once the official Bishop's bedroom, complete with original features and cracking views.

*All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger televisions – upgrade your*

stay for just an extra £15-25 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply

## Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive gardens, heated indoor swimming pool, multi-purpose ballroom, library and board games to borrow

After a day exploring, return to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Stroll the gardens that dip down to the loch. The small peninsula at the bottom of the lawns is called An Dunan and often becomes an island at high tide – look for prehistoric rock art cut into the slabs on its side. Make time too to plunge into the heated indoor swimming pool (currently closed) and do a couple of lengths under the watchful eye of the mountains through the panoramic windows. Inside the house, head for one of the communal areas: you'll have three to choose from and can kick back, relax and catch up with other guests. Later, stop in the Highland Bar for a nip of whisky or a nightcap – the comfy seats make a fine spot for a dram and there's a range of good single malts to choose from that'll have you believing you're living a laird's life.

## Food & Drink

As at all of our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Alltshellach is full of Scottish flavours and focusses on locally sourced and seasonal produce. Once a week the dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when you might be treated to Cullen Skink Soup and a trio of smoked salmon, mackerel pate and steamed mussels with Highland oat cakes, while mains may include Highland game and 'Barlotto', a type of nutty risotto made from barley instead of rice. Finish off with a spoonful of Iron Brew Ice, chocolate and marmalade mouse and Atholl brose, a luxurious blend of honey, whisky and carefully selected herbs for a flavour of the Highlands.

## Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865 or view the accessibility information online for [Alltshellach](#)

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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Our address is: Alltshellach, Onich, Fort William, Invernesshire PH33 6SA  
Tel: [01855 821357](tel:01855821357)

### Group Coach Transfer:

If you are travelling to or from Alltshellach on Saturdays in October 2021 you can join our group coach transfer from Glasgow. Places are limited so booking is essential – please call our Holiday Services Team at least 14 days before your departure date on +44 (0)208 732 1220 or email [holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk) to book your place on the coach.

£48 per person for a return transfer or £30 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey: depart Glasgow Buchanan Street bus station\* at 16.15 or depart Glasgow International Airport at 16.45; arrive Alltshellach 19.00.

Return journey: depart Alltshellach 08.30; arrive Glasgow International Airport at 11.30 or arrive Glasgow Buchanan Street bus station\* at 12.00.

\*Buchanan Street bus station is about 15 minutes' walk from Glasgow Central station (buses available) or 5 minutes' walk from Glasgow Queen Street station.

## By Train:

The nearest station is in Fort William but many guests take the train to Glasgow and take the Scottish Citylink bus from there, or join our group coach transfer to Alltshellach (on Saturdays in October 2021 – see above). For train times and route planning by train visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or phone 03457 48 49 50.

## By Air:

Many guests opt to fly to Glasgow International Airport, then make their way to Glen Coe. From the airport you can take the Citylink bus (see below) or join our group coach transfer to Alltshellach (on Saturdays in October 2021 - see above).

## By Bus:

The journey from either Glasgow Buchanan Street or the airport can be made using the Scottish Citylink bus, numbers 914 or 915. See [www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk) for the timetable. Ask the driver to stop at the north side of Ballachulish Bridge - from here it is a 400 metre walk to Alltshellach.

## By Car:

From Glasgow take the A82 towards Crianlarich. Continue on the A82 towards Fort William. Head for Ballachulish keeping the village on your left. Go straight on at the roundabout over the steel bridge and take the second right B863 to Kinlochleven and the seafood restaurant. Alltshellach is 400 yards further on, on your right.

## Travelling From Overseas

Ideally book a flight to Glasgow Airport (see By Air above).

The next best option is to fly to Manchester Airport, which has a better range of long-haul flights. There are trains from the airport to Glasgow (some direct, others need 1 change). Allow 4 hours to get to Glasgow, from where you will need to transfer to Alltshellach. See [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for train times.

## LOCAL AREA

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Alltshellach is situated beside the shores of Loch Leven. This is a spectacular location with magnificent views of the surrounding mountains.

About two miles away, across the loch is the village of Ballachulish. Here you'll find a post office, food store and bank. A much wider range of facilities can be found in Fort William, about 14 miles to the north.

As the adventure capital of Britain, the Lochaber region is a popular destination for all outdoor enthusiasts. During your stay in Glen Coe you may enjoy visiting the following activities and places of interest:

### Jacobite Steam Train

Ride the [Jacobite Steam Train](#) from Fort William to Mallaig. This stunningly scenic line includes the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct, featured in the Harry Potter films. Steam trains run every day and early booking is recommended.

## Isle Of Mull

Reached by car ferry from Oban, or Lochaline, [Mull](#) is one of the most popular Scottish islands. You could visit the colourful harbour at Tobermory or the abbey on Iona.

## Isle Of Lismore

The peaceful [Isle of Lismore](#) is ideal for a relaxed exploration. You can hire bikes at Port Appin, about 30 minutes' drive south of Alltshellach, then take the short ferry crossing to the island.

## Oban

The bustling harbour town of Oban, about 45 minutes' drive south of Alltshellach, is a popular destination. There's always plenty of activity around the harbour and it's well worth the walk up to McCaig's Tower, a remarkable folly built in the style of a Roman amphitheatre, with commanding views over the town.

## Eilean Donan Castle

Nearly 80 miles drive north from Alltshellach is this romantic and much photographed [Scottish lochside castle](#). Located on a small island just offshore, the castle is isolated by the sea at high tide, only accessible via a stone bridge.

## Ice Factor

Try your hand at ice climbing on the [indoor wall](#) at nearby Kinlochleven.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

As you'll be walking around the gardens please bring solid, comfortable footwear for rough, wet or uneven terrain in gardens, and clothes for the great British weather! Please also expect to spend most of the day on your feet exploring the gardens you visit.

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### **BACS PAYMENTS**

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

### **MANAGE MY BOOKINGS**

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

### **YOUR FINAL BALANCE**

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

### **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

### **PEACE OF MIND**

#### **ATOL:**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

#### **MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

### **TRIP NOTE VALIDITY**

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.



The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

## PRICE GUARANTEE

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We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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