



American Horticultural Society
Travel Study Program

GARDENS OF SOUTHERN SCOTLAND

May 16 – 25, 2017

WITH AHS HOST J. DEAN NORTON AND
TOUR LEADER VERITY SMITH OF SPECIALTOURS





Announcing the American
Horticultural Society
Travel Study Program

American Horticultural Society
7931 East Boulevard Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308
www.ahsgardening.org/travel

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A FEW HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR GARDENS OF SOUTHERN SCOTLAND TOUR:

- Explore renowned gardens including the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the Garden of Cosmic Speculation.
- Visit Abbotsford House, the restored home of Sir Walter Scott, with gardens he designed.
- Enjoy a reception on board the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, one of the most famous ships in the world and former home to Her Majesty The Queen.
- Gain special access to properties and private gardens that are inaccessible to the general public or have limited public access.

OUR TOP-RATED ACCOMMODATIONS:

- The Blythswood Square hotel in Glasgow, is a 5-star spa hotel overlooking beautiful gardens and one of the most elegant and chic properties in this culturally rich city.
- The Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian, affectionately known as “The Caley,” sits in the shadow of the Edinburgh Castle and is just a two-minute walk from the designer stores and fashionable bars of George Street.
- The Roxburghe Hotel in Roxburghshire, set in the beautiful Scottish Borders region, boasts a championship golf course and is also noted for its personal touches.

This is an exclusive opportunity with many memorable experiences awaiting us. Look inside for more details...

Please refer to the enclosed reservation form for pricing and instructions to reserve your place on this AHS Travel Study Program tour. For more information about AHS Travel Study Program tours, please contact development@ahsgardening.org or (703) 768-5700, ext. 127. Information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.

Designed with the connoisseur of garden travel in mind, the American Horticultural Society Travel Study Program offers an exceptional itinerary that includes many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation benefits the work of the American Horticultural Society and furthers our vision of “*Making America a Nation of Gardeners, A Land of Gardens.*”



Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to present "Gardens of Southern Scotland," May 16-25, 2017. This exceptional Travel Study tour promises to be an extremely rewarding experience. We will visit both public landmarks that are world renowned as well as private gardens for which the owners have kindly and exclusively opened their gates for the American Horticultural Society.

Scotland has a long history of horticultural beauty and appreciation, as witnessed by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, founded in 1670, which we will visit. In addition to its spectacular setting and scenery, it's one of the finest botanic gardens in the world and home to one of the world's largest collections of plants.

I'm thrilled that J. Dean Norton will be accompanying you on this tour. In addition to being Director of Horticulture for George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, Dean is a longtime AHS member and an ardent supporter of our work at River Farm. With a degree in plant sciences from Clemson University, Dean is one of the most passionate and personable horticulturists you will ever meet.

Our tour leader for "Gardens of Southern Scotland" will be Specialtours' Verity Smith. Verity studied history of art at Bristol University and has a particular interest in architecture. Her enthusiasm for travel started at age 16 and hasn't abated yet, taking every opportunity to explore the world. Verity led our successful AHS trip to Gloucestershire and the Chelsea Flower Show in 2014. You will be sure to appreciate her gracious hospitality and attention to detail.

Exceptional accommodations are a signature of our AHS Travel Study programs and this trip is no exception. Our first and last nights will be spent at the award-winning Blythswood Square hotel. This 5-star spa hotel in Glasgow commands one side of the square overlooking, as luck would have it, beautiful gardens. Our Edinburgh stay is at the Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian, which has embodied the very best in Scottish hospitality for over a hundred years. Going from the city to the country, our travels will take us to Roxburgh Hotel in Roxburghshire, set in the beautiful Scottish Borders.

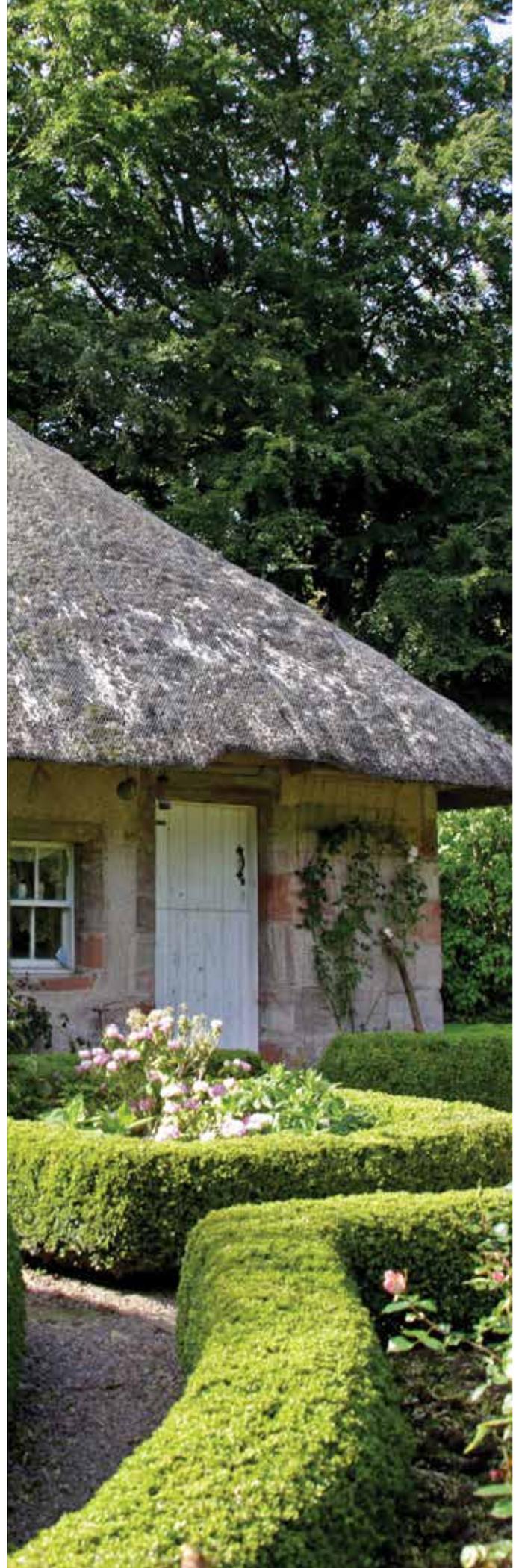
Don't miss out on the once-in-a-lifetime experiences that await us on this tour. Space is limited and our Travel Study programs often sell out quickly, so early reservations are strongly advised. A convenient reservations form is enclosed in this brochure.

We look forward to welcoming you to Scotland next May.

Most sincerely,



Tom Underwood
Executive Director



GARDENS OF SOUTHERN SCOTLAND

WITH AHS HOST J. DEAN NORTON AND
TOUR LEADER VERITY SMITH OF SPECIALTOURS



Join AHS Host J. Dean Norton and tour leader Verity Smith for this once-in-a-lifetime garden travel experience.

Itinerary Highlights

MONDAY, MAY 15 – TRAVEL DAY, DEPART THE U.S. FOR GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

TUESDAY, MAY 16 – GLASGOW (D)

We arrive at Glasgow Airport and transfer by private coach to the Blythswood Square hotel for two nights. Once everyone has arrived, we'll be treated to a guided tour of Glasgow – in Celtic it means, quite appropriately, “dear green place” – including the city's Botanic Gardens, to orient us and whet our appetite for the journey ahead. Our day will include an introductory lecture by garden expert and author Amanda Herries and we'll dine at the hotel.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 – GLASGOW (B, L)

What better way to begin our adventure than with a Scottish castle? Joined by Amanda Herries we visit Drumlanrig Castle, a 40-acre palatial estate featuring primroses such as *Primula bulleyana* and *Primula pulverulenta* that can grow up to five feet tall. In a wonderful touch, the shrubs and trees are underplanted with a variety of perennials and spring blooming bulbs. We'll stop for lunch at the Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms, a family-run hotel and restaurant. Next we plan to visit the Garden of Cosmic Speculation, a 30-acre sculpture garden created by landscape architect and theorist Charles Jenck. The garden is not rich in plants, but its unique and stunning sculptures and landscaping are inspired by scientific and mathematical themes such as black holes and fractals. The private grounds are only open to the public on one day each year, but our group will have the distinct pleasure of exclusive access. To close out this eventful day, we'll return to the hotel for dinner independently.

THURSDAY, MAY 18 – TO EDINBURGH (B, L, D)

With luggage packed, we leave for Dumfries House, an 18th century estate. Its five-acre walled garden is one of the largest in Scotland. In 2007, no less than HRH the Prince of Wales headed a consortium to buy Dumfries House and open it to the public. The

investment was well worth it – it's one of relatively few Palladian houses still displaying the original 18th century furniture, including pieces commissioned from Thomas Chippendale. After an early lunch in the Dumfries House, we continue to Edinburgh to unpack for our four-night stay at the historic Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian. This afternoon features a special treat in the form of a reception on board the Royal Yacht *Britannia*, one of the most famous ships in the world. Before being “retired” to its berth in Edinburgh, it was home to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family for more than 40 years. During that period it sailed over a million miles while hosting state visits, official receptions, and royal honeymoons and holidays. We'll disembark for dinner at a restaurant near the hotel.

FRIDAY, MAY 19 – EDINBURGH (B, L)

Our morning begins with the gardens of Cambo near St Andrew's in Fife. This historic estate was first occupied by John De Cambo who may have received the property as a royal land grant in the 12th or 13th century. Cambo has a Victorian walled garden, ornamental potager, woodland garden, and naturalistic plantings. Lunchtime finds us at a private castle, taking time to admire its collection of early Italian paintings and view its formal and woodland gardens. The day continues with a visit to Wemyss Castle, where we'll be personally hosted by the owner – Charlotte Wemyss, who has implemented completely new plantings with an emphasis on clematis, roses, and a variety of ornamental trees. The 15-acre woodland garden offers a springtime display of pink fawn lilies (*Erythronium revolutum*), native to the west coast of North America. Other bulbous plants include scillas, chinodoxas, bluebells and daffodils. Viewing this garden brings to mind these words by Scotland's best-known poet, Robert Burns: “The snowdrop and primrose our woodlands adorn, and violets bathe in the wet o' the morn.” We return to Edinburgh where we will dine on our own. We have many options to choose from, as Edinburgh is home to more restaurants per capita than anywhere else in the U.K.

SATURDAY, MAY 20 – EDINBURGH (B, L)

Our spectacular day begins at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh – located just one mile from the city center. Founded in 1670, its 70 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds contain one of the world's largest and most renowned plant collections. We'll see the largest collection of wild-origin Chinese plants outside China; the world-famous Rock Garden, home to more than 5,000 alpine plants; and, the stunning 550-foot herbaceous border, backed by a century-old beech hedge. At the northeast corner of the garden stands the magnificent Victorian Temperate Palm House – the tallest of its kind in Britain. We catch our breath in time to visit a large private garden in the city center, followed by lunch with the owners. This hidden garden of an arts and crafts villa is a showcase for flowering shrubs and tulips. In the afternoon we have the option to visit the National Galleries of Scotland. This collaborative comprises collections from the early Renaissance to the end of the 19th century, including works by masters from da Vinci, Botticelli and Rembrandt to van Gogh, Cézanne and Monet. The rest of the afternoon is at our leisure and we're free to dine at one of the many fine restaurants in Edinburgh.



SUNDAY, MAY 21 – EDINBURGH (B, L)

Another unique setting awaits us this morning with our visit to Little Sparta, the garden of the late poet, writer, and artist Ian Hamilton Finlay, and his wife, Sue. This five-acre private garden is a showcase for Finlay's concept of fusing horticultural elements with works of art, which he described as "garden poems." The garden includes nearly 300 of Finlay's artworks, many of which were created in collaboration with other artists and craftsmen. Next, we're treated to lunch on arrival in the café at Jupiter Artland, a privately-owned sculpture garden whose owners were influenced by Little Sparta. Jupiter Artland is yet another setting of a different breed, sporting sculptures and installations by leading contemporary artists. We return to the city center to have dinner independently.

MONDAY, MAY 22 – TO KELSO (B, L, D)

It's on to the countryside as we leave with luggage for fertile East Lothian, highlighted by a visit to the gardens of Stobshiel House. The owner will take us on a tour of her grounds, which feature a walled garden dating from 1882, roses and lavender beds, herbaceous plants, a shrubbery with rhododendrons, azaleas and bulbs, a water garden, and a woodland garden featuring poppies (*Meconopsis* spp.) and primroses. We will have lunch close by. Next on our agenda is a private garden, designed by the owner around the courtyard of an old "steading" (farmstead). We move on to visit a privately owned walled garden near the North Sea coast. This four-acre garden dates from 1750 and features a range of unusual trees and shrubs and an ornamental vegetable garden. Our day winds down as we arrive at the Roxburghe Hotel in Heiton by Kelso, Roxburghshire, a majestic property on the banks of the River Tweed where we will stay for two nights. This evening we dine together in The Conservatory at the hotel.

TUESDAY, MAY 23 – KELSO (B, L, D)

This morning, we head to the Scottish Borders and visit Portmore, near Peebles. We'll tour the ornamental vegetable garden, rose garden, large walled garden, and Victorian glass house. The last contains fruit trees, roses, geraniums, pelargoniums, and a wide variety of tender plants. A nice surprise is the Italianate grotto, as is the water garden with shrubs and poppies (*Meconopsis* spp.). We will continue on to the Stobo Valley, where we'll enjoy an informal lunch at the privately owned Home Farm. After lunch, we're off to the Stobo Japanese Water Garden, which will offer a dramatic contrast in design compared with the other gardens we will be visiting in Scotland. In the afternoon, we'll explore the Dawyck Botanic Garden, which is a regional affiliate of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Considered a world-class arboretum, Dawyck features an amazing tree collection, including conifers that date back to the 17th century. Our timing should be good to see the color-saturated Azalea Terrace at its peak bloom and enjoy photo ops from the garden's famous Dutch Bridge. We will conclude the day by having dinner together at the hotel.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 – TO GLASGOW (B, L, D)

We depart the hotel with luggage in tow for an exclusive private tour of Mellerstain, 200 acres of magnificent parkland laid out by Sir Reginald Blomfield in 1909. He created a series of three Italian-style terraces leading to a sweeping lawn, which descends to a lake. The parterres are planted with a variety of rose species, mixed herbaceous borders, and shrubs. We'll continue to enjoy a private lunch at Carolside. Rose lovers will be in paradise at this late 18th century mansion, which is home to a National Collection of immaculately maintained pre-1900 Gallica roses. The garden's owners will guide us through this historically important collection, and the tour's not complete

without visiting the secret garden, walled garden, and winter garden. Since no visit to southern Scotland would be complete without a stop at the home of the legendary Scottish novelist and poet, Sir Walter Scott, our final visit will be to Abbotsford House, where Scott lived for the last 20 years of his life. Scott designed and built the gardens around this picturesque mansion, and although many changes have enhanced the property in the ensuing years, the current gardens are still fundamentally Sir Walter's work. We depart Abbotsford House and continue on to Glasgow to stay at the Blythswood Square hotel. The last day of our tour will conclude with farewell drinks and dinner together at the hotel.

THURSDAY, MAY 25 - DEPART FOR U.S. (B)

We leave with luggage for Glasgow Airport and head for home.

While no revisions of this itinerary are anticipated, the AHS and its travel partners reserve the right to make changes, with or without notice that may become necessary.

