Scotland: Gardens, Castles & Golf
September 21 – 30, 2013

We have a great adventure planned for you next fall as Peter Olin escorts his specially designed tour to Scotland – a destination he has often talked about visiting to see the stunning scenery and wonderful gardens located all across the country. In addition to the fantastic gardens found in Scotland, two additional images come to mind when envisioning the country: the national beverage – Scotch whiskey – and the national game – golf. We’re including a tour of one of Scotland’s finest distilleries on our trip as well as a chance for golfers to play some of Scotland’s finest courses.

Peter has selected a number of intriguing gardens in Scotland for us to visit, featuring older formal gardens, restored gardens and gardens built to enhance the beauty of the castles and manor houses. We’ve scheduled a leisurely tour encompassing over a dozen great gardens, including three of the four gardens which are considered a part of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh – Logan, Dawyck and Edinburgh Botanical Gardens.

Our journey begins in Ayrshire, in southwest Scotland, where we spend two nights while visiting Greenbank Garden in Glasgow, the Glasgow Botanic Garden and both Logan Botanic Garden and Castle Kennedy Gardens. From Glasgow we travel north, and of course, no visit to Scotland would be complete without a cruise on Loch Ness to learn more of the rich lore and history of one of Scotland’s most famous inhabitants, Nessie, said to be roaming the depths of the Loch. We’ll spend two nights in Inverness, and from there we visit the world-famous Inverewe Garden, on the sea at the northwest corner of Scotland. From Inverness we travel through Speyside, where many well-known Scotch distilleries are located, and of course, we have to stop at one just for a wee drop before arriving in Aberdeen, the garden city of Scotland. In this area we visit Pitmedden Garden and Museum of Farming Life, along with Crathes Castle, described as one of the most superb castles in Scotland.

En route to Edinburgh we visit Drummond Castle and Garden. We stay in Edinburgh for three nights to end our tour, and we’ll visit Edinburgh Castle, the Botanical Garden, and travel through the Border country south of Edinburgh to visit lovely gardens such as Dawyck Botanical Garden, Priorwood Garden and Dr. Neil’s Garden, Edinburgh’s own “secret garden”.

And we can’t forget the other portion of our tour, as we are offering the golfers in the group a chance to challenge some Scottish courses during our journey. If you would rather golf than garden, we’ll be visiting three distinct golfing regions where you can find a course to your liking.

This is another spectacular tour designed by Peter Olin. And if you make your reservation and deposit by January 15, you can save $100 off the price of the tour as well!

Tour Price: $3,395 land only
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT--$3,295 if you book by January 15
Tour cost is exclusive of airfare, airline taxes and fuel surcharges.
Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement $650 extra.
TOUR ITINERARY

Saturday, Sept. 21
Depart on your overnight flight from U.S. to Glasgow

Sunday, Sept. 22
Upon arrival in Glasgow, we start our tour with a visit to the Glasgow Botanic Garden, followed by a visit to Greenbank Garden, a lovely introduction to the gardens of Scotland. After our visits here we board our coach for transfer to our hotel in Ayrshire, south and west of Glasgow. En route we’ll stop for lunch. Dinner is included at our hotel this evening.

Monday, Sept. 23
Today we’ll visit Logan Botanical Garden. The southerly location and the warming effect of the Gulf Stream allow Logan Botanic Garden to enjoy an exceptionally mild climate. However the wind plays a factor in this garden, and as a result, broad woodland shelter belts are planted, without which the garden could not exist in its current form. Logan has over 1800 different species of plants, shrubs and trees, including yews dating back to the early 18th century. We return to our hotel this evening for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, Sept. 24
This morning we depart Ayrshire and head north. We’ll visit Hill House and Garden (Charles Rennie Mackintosh designed house and recently restored garden). We’ll make a quick stop for lunch (on own) and then continue to Fort Augustus, where we board our ship for a cruise on Loch Ness to our next stop in Inverness. Dinner and overnight in Inverness.

Wednesday, Sept. 25
We have a full day tour planned today at Inverewe Garden. Helped by the ameliorating effect of the Gulf Stream this world famous garden, on a promontory of Loch Ewe, was first started in 1862. We’ll have lunch at the garden, and following lunch we’ll stop to visit Corrieshalloch Gorge and the Falls of Measach. Looking down from the suspension bridge one wonders how a small “burn” made such a deep gash. Return to Inverness for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, Sept. 26
We depart Inverness for Aberdeen. On the way, we stop at Glen Grant distillery in the Speyside region to learn about Scotch whiskey and have a “wee dram”, if you wish. You’ll be able to visit the lovely gardens there as well. We then continue on towards Aberdeen, making a stop at Baxter’s Highland Village for a bit of shopping and lunch (on own) before traveling to Pitmedden Garden and Museum of Farming Life near Aberdeen. Pitmedden is an extravagant property. The heart of the garden is the formal walled garden originally laid out in 1673 by Sir Alexander Seton. We continue to our hotel in Aberdeen for dinner and overnight.

Friday, Sept. 27
After leaving Aberdeen we stop at nearby Crathes Castle, a stunning structure and well worth a visit. The grounds comprise nearly 600 acres, with walled gardens, and a large variety of plants, shrubs and trees, including yews dating back to the early 1700s. The beautiful pink exterior and fairy-tale turrets are common features of castles in Aberdeenshire, but at Crathes they are combined with a remarkably well preserved original interior and wonderful gardens. In a word, Crathes Castle and its gardens are indescribable, and you have to experience it to comprehend its beauty. Following our visit here we journey southward, stopping for lunch in Braemar (included). After lunch we’ll continue south through Glen Shee and stop to visit Drummond Castle Garden, near Crieff. We’ll continue on to Edinburgh where we check in to our hotel. Dinner is on own tonight.

Saturday, Sept. 28
Today we visit Dawyck Botanic Garden. Dawyck is one of the gardens that comprise the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh (Logan was another one as well). The garden has 60 acres on hilly slopes on the south bank of the River Tweed. This garden is about as far from the sea as you can get in Scotland, and together with its altitude give the garden a climate much colder than most of the country. It is one of the finest Arboretums in the world, the result of over 300 years of tree cultivation. The garden has magnificent collections of flowering shrubs and plants as well. From there we journey to Melrose, where we have lunch. Afterwards, you have a choice of entrance to either Priorwood Garden or Melrose Abbey (or a speedy look at both!). We finish our tour today with a stop at Dr. Neil’s award winning Garden, described by some as one of the most remarkable gardens in Scotland today. This secluded “secret” garden has an astonishing series of colorful terraces, the planting being mostly conifers, heathers and alpines with primulas, magnolias, rhododendrons, azaleas and many other shrubs. Return to our hotel in Edinburgh for dinner (on own) and overnight.

Sunday, Sept. 29
This morning we’ll have a guided walking tour of Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile, visiting one of Scotland’s most famous castles overlooking the city center of Edinburgh. We’ll have lunch in the city before we transfer to the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh. We’ll spend a good part of the afternoon at the garden before returning to our hotel for overnight. We’ll dine together tonight and enjoy a pleasant “Scottish Evening”, highlighting Scottish music, dancing and lore, along with a typical Scottish dinner.

Monday, Sept. 30
This morning after breakfast we’ll transfer to the Glasgow Airport for return flights home.

B = Breakfast;  L = Lunch;  D = Dinner

This outstanding value includes:

- 8 nights deluxe hotel accommodation
- Buffet Breakfast daily
- Five dinners
- Scottish night dinner/entertainment in Edinburgh
- Six lunches
- Sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary
- Scottish Blue Badge Guide throughout tour
- Pre-departure information
- All taxes and service charges while on tour
- Escorted by Peter Olin

Not included in the tour

- Airfare from home city to Glasgow
- Airline departure taxes and fees
- Gratuities to driver and guide
- Personal expenditures—laundry, phone, etc.
- Items not specifically mentioned as included.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Deposit due with booking: $500 per person
Final payment due: April 1, 2013

Tour Cost: (land only)
$3,395 per person, double occupancy
$3,295 if booked and on deposit by January 15, 2013
$650 additional, single supplement

Travel insurance is recommended for all tours. Please contact Glad To Travel for rates and information.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS TOUR
With enough travelers from one destination we can offer group air space for this tour. However you are free to arrange your own air flights, but please contact Glad To Travel to discuss your arrival and departure times in Glasgow to ensure your transfer between the airport and the hotel as a group. If you would like assistance in making your air arrangements, please contact Glad To Travel and we will help you with this detail.

To register for this tour, contact Jim Glad at:
Glad to Travel
(612) 724-1915
e-mail: gladtotravel@earthlink.net
www.gladtotravel.com

Special Note for those wishing to golf in Scotland
For the avid golfer, the end all of golf destinations is Scotland. As a part of our tour package offering, we can assist golfers who may want to play one or several rounds of golf at some of the finest courses in Scotland. If you would rather golf than tour on one or several days on this tour, our tour operator in Scotland can make arrangements for you depending on the day. You may have a specific course that you wish to play, so let us help you with that wish. Club rentals are available, and caddies may be required at one or more of the courses. Contact Jim at Glad To Travel for more information.

OUR HOTELS
Carlton Hotel – Prestwick, Ayrshire
The Carlton Hotel has 39 non-smoking bedrooms, all with a modern contemporary finish, spread over two floors. The hotel has stylish rooms with free Wi-Fi, and a bar and restaurant. The vibrant Logans Bar Restaurant serves meals and has an outdoor terrace. The Barony Carvery is well known locally for excellent food. There is free wi-fi in the hotel.

Drumrossie Hotel – Inverness (or similar—hotel on waitlist)
Set in 9 acres of private parkland, in the heart of the Highlands, with spectacular views over the Moray Firth, the hotel is only a 10 minute walk from the center of Inverness. All bedrooms have a bathroom with a bathtub, a shower and a hair dryer. Decorated with warm colors, their facilities include tea/coffee, bathrobes and slippers. At the hotel’s award-winning restaurant, the Grill Room, the best meats, the freshest fish and vegetables go into preparing the meals. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel.

Ardoe House Hotel – Aberdeen
The hotel offers 109 comfortable and well-equipped individually decorated guestrooms. Room facilities include coffee/tea maker, direct-dial phone and voice mail. Iron/ironing boards as well as trouser press are supplied in the rooms. Bathroom amenities include complimentary toiletries, hair dryer, makeup/shaving mirror and shower/tub combination. Satellite TV is available in every room. The hotel has Internet access and high-speed wi-fi (fee extra). The Ardoe House Hotel and Spa is a smoke-free property. There is an indoor swimming pool as well as sauna, steam room, on site spa services, full-service health spa, and spa tub.

Apex International Hotel – Edinburgh
This luxury hotel near Edinburgh Castle is in the heart of the city’s historic Grassmarket. A rooftop restaurant with two AA Rosettes affords guests incredible views of the castle. The hotel is right in the center of Edinburgh’s historical past, with the hustle and bustle of the Grassmarket at your doorstep. The backdrop of the magnificent Castle and the cobbled streets of the Royal Mile are just a short stroll from the hotel. There are 169 stunning luxury bedrooms, a rooftop restaurant and the Metro Bar, for informal dining or a relaxed drink overlooking Edinburgh’s famous Grassmarket. Free Wi-fi is available at the hotel.