

Perthshire Gardens



Q Drummond Gardens

Q Cluny House Gardens

Q Perth City

Q The Murray Maze at Scone Palace

Your detailed Perthshire Garden itinerary

Visit Perthshire, known as “Big Tree Country” to discover wonderful gardens bursting with colour and interest all year round. Perthshire boasts some of Scotland’s most spectacular gardens- from landscaped estates to colourful grounds blooming with rare and exotic plants.

Starting from Perth, discover the floral oasis of Branklyn Gardens which is under the care National Trust for Scotland and is home to a collection of rare and unusual plants. Perth city also has a series of three parks on the north bank of the River Tay - Norie-Miller Park, Rodney Gardens and Bellwood Riverside Park which are a backdrop for a collection of flora themed sculptures including three works by David Wilson, which were inspired by the writings of the town planner and botanist Patrick Geddes.

Scone Palace has an exciting and colourful history as one of Scotland’s most important stately homes. It was a Pictish capital, a seat of parliaments and the crowning place of Scottish Kings, including Macbeth and Robert The Bruce. The Palace houses an outstanding collection of antiques, paintings and rare artefacts while the grounds are renowned throughout the world. Try and find your way out of the Murray Star Maze or take specialist garden tour with the Head Gardener.

Just a short drive away, see one of the finest collections of rhododendrons and azaleas, learn of the fascinating world of hybridising at Glendoick Garden, listed as one of Europe’s Top 50 gardens by the Independent on Sunday and enjoy a selection of gifts, Scottish food and drink at the Glendoick Garden Centre and Foodhall.

Delight in Perthshire’s spectacular scenery as you head north towards Pitlochry. Follow in the footsteps of famous Scottish plant hunters as you meander through the exotic Explorers Garden in Pitlochry, where this unique garden celebrates their amazing contribution to the way modern gardens look today. Wander around the sumptuous grounds of Blair Castle which feature a walled garden, a peaceful wooded grove, a ruined kirk, a red deer park and a whimsical gothic folly. Don’t miss Britain’s widest conifer, a magnificent Wellingtonia, at Cluny House, near Aberfeldy and then visit the burn garden of Bolfracks also near Aberfeldy and its stunning views over the Tay Valley.

Finally enjoy a beautiful drive to Crieff, where you’ll find Drummond Gardens, one of Europe’s finest formal garden which has all the characteristics of a courtly, 17th century Scottish Renaissance garden.

Perthshire Gardens

Day 1 – Perth



Branklyn Garden – gardeners and botanists the world over flock to this charming garden, famed for its National Collections of meconopsis, cassiope, lily and rhododendron. A treasure chest of rare and unusual plants from across the globe, highlights include vivid blue Himalayan poppies, species collected by Scottish plant hunters Ludlow and Sherriff, and outstanding collections of alpines, herbaceous and peat garden plants.

T: 0131 458 0204

E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk

www.nts.org.uk/Traveltrade



Scone Palace Gardens – take a gentle stroll around Scone Palace's beautiful gardens and peaceful woodland under the watchful eye of curious peacocks. Wander through the unique Murray Star Maze, designed in the shape of the five pointed star that features in the Murray family crest, the maze comprises of 2000 beech trees. Grounds and Garden highlights tours with the Head Gardener can be arranged.

T: 01738 552300

E: visits@scone-palace.co.uk

www.scone-palace.co.uk



Glendoick Gardens – included in the Independent on Sunday's survey of Europe's Top 50 gardens, Glendoick garden, garden centre, and restaurant boasts a unique collection of plants collected by three generations of the Cox family from their expeditions in China and the Himalayas. Glendoick is on the A90 Perth-Dundee road on the main Scottish road network which joins Edinburgh and Glasgow with Dundee and Aberdeen. Advance group booking required. Gardens open April - May, garden centre and café all year.

T: 01738 860260

E: gardencentre@glendoick.com

www.glendoick.com

Day 2 – Pitlochry - Aberfeldy



Explorers Garden – at Pitlochry Festival Theatre this garden tells the stories of people who risked their lives travelling the globe to find new plants and trees for cultivation. The garden is separated into glades, representing the areas of the world from where plants originated. Sculptures, artworks, specially commissioned buildings and stunning views appear around every corner. Guided tours provide insights into the plants, trees, wildlife, history, art and architecture contained in Explorers. Pre-booking required, with coach pick up and drop off stops.

T: 01796 484626

www.explorersgarden.com



Blair Castle Gardens – the castle grounds feature Hercules garden a magnificent nine acre walled garden of Georgian design and Diana's Grove, peaceful wooded grove with some of Britain's tallest trees. Most of the vegetables on the Tullibardine Restaurant menu are grown in the castle's own Hercules Garden. Free parking for up to 20 coaches is available.

T: 01796 481207

E: bookings@blair-castle.co.uk

www.blair-castle.co.uk



Glunly House Gardens – a secluded and unique woodland garden which overlooks the picturesque Strath Tay valley. The natural appearance of woodland plants regenerating and expanding freely beneath a canopy of rhododendrons, acers, rowans and birches is a thing of beauty. Giant Himalayan lilies, blue poppies, exotic arisaemas, skunk cabbages and copious numbers of candelabra primulas. Don't miss spotting the UK's widest tree. Pre-booking required.

T: 07818 065966

E: wmattingley@btinternet.com

www.clunlyhousegardens.com

Day 3 – Aberfeldy - Crieff



Bolfracks Garden – Bolfracks House has had an ornamental garden since the mid-18th century. The gardens are renowned for their impressive collections of rare and unusual plants and its fabulous views over the Tay valley. With a superb collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, acers, old fashioned roses and an array of herbaceous perennials. Open from 1st of April through to 31st October. Advance coach booking required.

T: 01887 820344

www.bolfracks.com



Drummond Gardens – this formal garden is said to be one of the finest in Europe and is the largest of its type in Scotland. First laid out in the early 17th century and redesigned and terraced in the 19th century, the gardens you see today were replanted in the 1950s, preserving features such as the ancient yew hedges and the copper beech trees planted by Queen Victoria, to commemorate her visit in 1842. Advance coach booking required, themed group visits can also be arranged.

T: 01764 681433

www.drummondcastlegardens.co.uk/group-visits



Scotland's gardens throughout Perthshire – discover a collection of private gardens of horticultural interest of all sizes throughout Scotland and that open to capture the best of their seasonal planting. From snowdrops through to vibrant autumn colour there are many gems to discover and in Perthshire alone there are over 40 gardens who participate. Please contact Scotland's Gardens www.discoverscottishgardens.org to check for specific opening details and for groups arrangements.

www.discoverscottishgardens.org