



MARTIN RANDALL TRAVEL

ART • ARCHITECTURE • GASTRONOMY • ARCHAEOLOGY • HISTORY • MUSIC • LITERATURE

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For immediate release

Garden tours in bloom

Gardens of the Bay of Naples

With Ischia, Capri and the Amalfi Coast

19–26 April 2020

The volcanoes of this enchanting region provide not only the dramatic settings but also the fertile soil for pleasure gardens of great beauty. This tour takes you along one of Europe's loveliest coastlines as you visit the private gardens of La Mortella on Ischia, Lord Grimthorpe's vast garden at Villa Cimbrone in Ravello and Axel Munthe's visionary residence on Capri. One lunch is in a private villa, another on a family-owned estate of lemon groves. Led by Steven Desmond, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture and expert on historic gardens.

Prices from £3,320 pp (two sharing) includes return LGW flights, travel by private coach, accommodation, most meals with drinks, the talks by the lecturer as well as all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/gardens-of-the-bay-of-naples

Japanese Gardens

Tokyo, Kyoto, Hikone, Nara & Kanazawa

7–18 May & 5–16 November 2020

Japanese gardens have always evoked the country's magnificent natural landscapes; and on this extensive twelve-day tour the most serene and beautiful examples are explored. From an unbroken tradition of horticulture stretching back 1,600 years; the palace gardens of Tokyo, the Zen Buddhist rock gardens of Kyoto and the samurai gardens of Kanazawa are all considered. A choice of departures set to coincide with the flourishing blossoms of spring or the vibrant colours of autumn, adds an extra dimension to the pleasure. So, too, does the chance to explore other aspects of Japanese culture in both Tokyo and Kyoto.

Prices from £6,720 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, high-speed internal rail travel, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer as well as all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/japanese-gardens

Gardens of Sintra

Bussaco, Lisbon and the Portuguese Riviera

18–23 May 2020

A small range of granite hills, jutting into the Atlantic, the Sierra de Sintra luxuriates in an extraordinarily balmy climate – and everyone from Roman colonists to 18-century diamond merchants have created gardens there. This six-day tour considers the region's many verdant Romantic visions; including Sir Francis Cook's Monserrate (once described as the world's largest greenhouse) and Ferdinand Saxe-Coburg's evocation of the Black Forest at the Pena Palace. Led by Dr Gerald Luckhurst, author of '*Sintra: A Landscape with Villas*'.

Prices from £2,830 pp in two sharing) includes return LGW flights, accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer as well as all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/gardens-of-sintra

Great French Gardens

Historic & contemporary, among the world's finest

10–19 June 2020

A selection of the finest and most famous gardens in France, this ten-day tour takes in a leisurely exploration of sixteen gardens from Versailles to Rouen. The French speciality of formal gardens, championed by Baroque garden designer André Le Nôtre and Achille Duchêne, is seen against the reaction to overbearing formality manifest in Marie Antoinette's faux-rustic Hameau. For floral abundance it would be hard to do better than among the poppies and water lilies at Monet's garden at Giverny and the contemporary Jardin Plume outside Rouen.

Prices from £3,820 pp (two sharing) includes return travel by Eurostar from London St Pancras, accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer as well as all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/great-french-gardens

Gardens of Cheshire & Shropshire

Traditional and modern design in England's finest gardens

19–24 July 2020

The RHS Tatton Park Flower Show forms the heart of this 6-day itinerary, where a full day is spent, between explorations of many fine English gardens across the two counties. Half-timbered houses provide distinctive backdrops to both restored traditional gardens (Adlington Hall) and modern plantings (Wollerton Old Hall); Biddulph Grange is classically Victorian and Trentham Estates' Italian garden and 'Capability' Brown landscape is revived with modern updates by Tom Stuart-Smith and Piet Oudolf.

Prices from £1,980 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer as well as all admissions, taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/gardens-cheshire-shropshire

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For further information please contact [Liz Brown](#) or [Lucy Stickling](#) on 020 3948 9743.

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Notes to editors:

Martin Randall Travel is the leading specialist in cultural tours, organising a unique series of all-inclusive music festivals and around 300 small-group tours every year in the UK, continental Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, India, China, Japan, the Americas and Australasia.

All aspects of our cultural tours have been carefully researched, tried and arranged by members of MRT staff, including the most authentic restaurants and comfortable hotels. There are no hidden extras. The price covers nearly everything, including wine with meals and all tips. We do not levy surcharges for fuel or for any other reason.

Martin Randall Travel has won numerous awards, most recently *Best Special Interest Holiday Company* (2019) at the British Travel Awards.