



MARTIN RANDALL TRAVEL

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

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For immediate release

Garden tours in bloom

*From the traditions of Japan to the
modern landscapes of the Dutch Wave*

Japanese Gardens

Tokyo, Kyoto, Hikone, Nara & Kanazawa

9–20 May 2019, 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 vibrant colours of autumn or the flourishing blossoms of spring, adds an extra dimension to the pleasure. So, too, does the chance to explore other aspects of Japanese culture in both Tokyo and Kyoto. Led by Kristina Taylor (May 2019 & 2020) or Yoko Kawaguchi (November 2020).

Prices from £6,220 pp in 2019 and £6,720 pp in 2020 (two sharing) includes high-speed internal rail travel, accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

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

Danish Castles & Gardens

North Sealand & the Danish Riviera

1–7 July 2019

This seven-day tour of North Sealand offers not only privileged access to some of Denmark's greatest royal houses but the unique opportunity to meet some of the head gardeners responsible for their impressive grounds. The itinerary takes in Copenhagen and Elsinore, and the 'Danish Riviera' in between, with visits to castles such as Fredensborg, the most popular current royal residence. On a boat excursion to Sweden, visit Sofiero Palace, which for more than a century was one of the Swedish Royal family's country mansions. Led by art and garden historian, Dr Margrethe Floryan, curator at the Thorvaldsen Museum.

Prices from £3,140 per person (two sharing). Includes return LHR flights, accommodation, travel by private coach and boat, most meals with drinks, the talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

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

[Gardens & Landscapes of the Dutch Wave](#)

Piet Oudolf & Modern Garden Design

7–12 September 2019

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the Netherlands has been at the forefront of a new direction in planting design. This six-day tour investigates the origins of this Dutch Wave, and celebrates the effect, with privileged access to private gardens and meetings with leading designers. Ornamental grasses and perennials are central to the naturalistic planting schemes, and this departure is timed to see them at their September best – with Piet Oudolf's private garden at Hummelo and Lianne's Prairie Garden at de Wilp among the highlights. Led by garden designer and broadcaster, Amanda Patton, who has created Show Gardens at Chelsea and Hampton Court.

Prices from £2,310 pp (two sharing) includes return LHR flights, accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call 020 8742 3355 or visit www.martinrandall.com/gardens-landscapes-dutch-wave

[Gardens & Villas of the Veneto](#)

Renaissance to recent in & around Padua, Verona & Vicenza

14–20 April 2020

A landscape of contrasts, the villas and gardens that sprung up between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries across the Veneto are as diverse in their styling as they are in flora. During this seven-day tour many private estates are visited by special arrangement, from a carefully curated selection of the most interesting and beautiful gardens. Includes a visit to the historic Botanic Garden of Padua, founded in 1545 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Led by garden designer and broadcaster, Amanda Patton, who has created Show Gardens at Chelsea and Hampton Court.

Prices from £2,610 pp (two sharing) includes return LGW flights, accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, 1 wine tasting, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

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

[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 has 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 £2,710 pp in 2019 and £2,830 pp in 2020 (two sharing) includes return LGW flights, accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer and 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. Led by horticultural historian Steven Desmond.

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, 1 wine tasting, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

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

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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* (2018) at the British Travel Awards.