AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ISLES OF SCILLY AND Tresco Abbey Gardens
19/23RD SEPTEMBER 2017
FROM: TREGARTHENS HOTEL, ST MARY'S ***
MAX 16 PEOPLE

A four night/five day short break escorted by Dr Katharine Sawyer - Archaeologist and resident island guide. Travel options from Exeter Airport or Lands End Airport or by sea from Penzance on The Scillonian III. Penzance has good rail links from London and other areas.

A Brief Introduction:

An opportunity to "get away from it all" and to explore these beautiful islands with our expert guide. Discover their flora, fauna and wildlife as well as their historical, social and archaeological heritage. Take a boat trip to the “off-islands” of Tresco and St Agnes and tour the world famous Tresco Abbey Garden. A free half day is included for relaxing or for independent exploration - perhaps to one of the other inhabited "off islands" of Bryher or St Martin's. Life is taken at a very gentle pace with few cars on the inhabited “off islands”. Inter-island transport is courtesy of the local boatmen. Just relax and let us do all the organising so that you get the very best from this break.

We stay on St. Mary's, the largest island (population approximately 1,800) and the gateway to the rest of the islands. It covers an area of less than 2.5 square miles. Tregarthen's Hotel is perfectly situated just a short walk from the harbour and white sandy beaches with clear turquoise waters. Unique little shops, restaurants and cafes are just a short stroll away. The hotel's comfortable en-suite accommodation and facilities offer the perfect place to relax after a day’s exploration. We've included some dinners at the hotel, however, with some very good cafes, pubs and restaurants nearby in Hugh Town, there is an opportunity to dine out independently on one evening. Of course you can stay and book a meal at the hotel if you prefer. There are sometimes evening slide shows and talks at the local church hall - on archaeology and the history of the islands, marine and maritime life and other fascinating subjects. English Heritage look after many of the archaeological sites on the islands including Harry's Walls, Bant's Carn entrance grave and Halangy prehistoric settlement and if you are a keen walker, these sites together with a walk around The Garrison Walk are possible options for after dinner walks. The Isles of Scilly Museum showcases a diverse collection including remarkable Romano-British finds discovered on the uninhabited island of Nornour after a storm in 1962, material from wrecks, local art and the extensive maritime history of the islands.

www.brooklandtravel.com  Tel. 0845 1212863 or +44 (0)1305 259467
Typical Programme – Please note the order of the programme may change according to local conditions

Day 1: Tuesday 19th September 2017: Make your way to Exeter Airport, Lands End Airport or Newquay Airport independently. (Penzance Harbour if you are taking the ferry). See Page 4 for flight times from Exeter, there are various flight time options from Lands End and ferry times are also shown.

If you are travelling by car to Exeter, Newquay or Lands End Airport, parking can be purchased in advance, usually at a discount. There is a one hour check in time. The short flights afford superb views of the Cornish coastline on a clear day. On arrival at St Mary’s Airport, Isles of Scilly, a short bus transfer takes us to the hotel where we can check-in to our rooms before dinner (included).

Day 2: Wednesday 20th September 2017: Today we take a boat trip to the second largest island of Tresco for a guided tour of Tresco Abbey Gardens. The north of this island is very wild and rugged, reminiscent of Cornwall, whereas, the south has tropical gardens and white sandy beaches and could be in another hemisphere. These famous gardens are known to botanical enthusiasts the world over and were started in 1834 by Augustus Smith. Tresco was then treeless and windswept but he planted windbreaks and a high wall to provide shelter for rare plants. He also built his home, Tresco Abbey. Seeds and plants were obtained from all over the world courtesy of ships captains calling in to Scilly. Some came from Kew Gardens. There are beautiful Ratas from New Zealand that flower towards the end of June, rare succulents from Mexico, and showy Echiums, the great Borages of Madeira and the Canary Isles. These are just a few of the fascinating botanical treasures to be found within the gardens and of course, there is also an interesting collection of ships figureheads near the southern entrance, most from the numerous ships wrecked around the rocky coasts of Scilly. There is a gift shop and café/restaurant where refreshments and light lunches can be purchased. After visiting the gardens, we explore further on foot to see Middle Down millstone and the Old Blockhouse 16th century fort before reaching New Grimsby for our return by boat to St Mary’s. Enjoy a leisurely evening with dinner included at the hotel. Take a stroll from the hotel into Hugh Town or a walk around the Garrison after dinner. An early dinner can be taken if you wish to participate in a local evening talk or lecture. Dinner is included this evening.

Day 3: Thursday 21st September 2017: Today, we spend a half day exploring the St Mary’s. Our gentle walking tour of St Mary’s includes Old Town, with its own beautiful beach, nature reserve and Old Town Church where Sir Harold Wilson is buried. The rest of the day is free for independent sightseeing and our tour leader will be happy to advise on where to go, boat timetables etc should you wish to take a trip to one of the other “off-islands” of Bryher or St Martin’s. Free evening to dine out or you can stay in the hotel and book a table independently.

Day 4: Friday 22nd September 2017: After breakfast join our guide and stroll to the harbour for a boat excursion to the nearby island of St Agnes, inhabited by less than 100 people. Lunch can be taken at the island’s only pub “The Turks Head”, which is close to the jetty overlooking St Mary’s and the adjacent small island of Gugh. At low tide, it is possible to access the island of Gugh where you can see a leaning menhir, which is 2.4 metres high – The Old Man of Gugh. Also, an 18th century kelp pit and Obadiah’s Barrow entrance grave. During our walk around St Agnes we visit the church, Troytown Maze and see the 17th century lighthouse. At the end of the day we return to the St Mary’s by local boat and return to the hotel. We dine at the hotel this evening (included)

Day 5: Saturday 23rd September 2017: Breakfast then check out of rooms ready for transfers to the airport or to the harbour for departure from Scilly.

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Overlooking the azure waters of St Mary’s Harbour and enjoying stunning panoramic vistas of the islands of Tresco, Bryher, Samson and St Martin’s, Tregarthen’s Hotel boasts the best views of any Isles of Scilly hotel.

All of the bedrooms and bathrooms have been recently refurbished and the stylish rooms, complete with crisp white bed linen and fluffy bath robes, have been individually designed to make the most of the unique clarity of light on the islands. Each of the thirty-three bedrooms offers tea/coffee making facilities, trouser press, direct dial telephone and hair dryer. Ironing and drying facilities are available within the hotel, with a laundry service on request.

**Tour Cost:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost per person</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£765 *</td>
<td>if travelling from Penzance via ferry</td>
<td>(based on 2 people sharing a room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>£965 per person</td>
<td>travelling from Exeter</td>
<td>(based on 2 people sharing a room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>£840 per person</td>
<td>travelling from Lands End</td>
<td>(based on 2 people sharing a room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>On Application</td>
<td>travelling from Newquay</td>
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<tr>
<td>£140</td>
<td>Single occupancy of a double room supplement</td>
<td>(subject to room availability)</td>
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<tr>
<td>£200</td>
<td>Non-refundable deposit per person</td>
<td>(full balance is due 10 weeks prior to departure – 18th July 2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>On request</td>
<td>Sea/harbour view supplement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>On request</td>
<td>Extended stays/extra nights/flight amends</td>
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**Included:**

- Return Skybus flight from either Exeter, Lands End or Newquay as per costs above (or ferry travel option)
- Four night’s en-suite accommodation with full English breakfast.
- Three course dinner with coffee on three evenings
- Two and a half days led by Dr Katharine Sawyer, (Archaeologist and Island Guide)
- The services of a Brookland Travel representative
- Two inter-island boat transfers
- Guided tour of Tresco Abbey Gardens and all visits per itinerary
- Transfers to and from the hotel to the airport at St Mary’s, Isles of Scilly
- Porterage

**Not Included:**

- Lunches and refreshments although suitable stops are made each day
- One dinner (free evening to dine out or stay at the hotel and purchase dinner independently)
- Car Parking at Lands End Airport, Exeter or Penzance
- Boat trip or excursions other than those mentioned in the programme
- Cost of any evening talks and walks (there is a variety of these on offer locally)
Flight details:

Flight time from Lands End is 15-20 minutes. Please allow a minimum of 60 minute check in time. Photo ID or Passport required.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Departure time from Lands End Airport Tuesday 19th September 2017</th>
<th>Inbound St Marys to Lands End Airport Saturday 23rd September 2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Various departures</td>
<td>Various departures</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On application</td>
<td>On application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scillonian III Ferry departs Penzance on Tuesday 19th September 2017</td>
<td>0915 Arrive 1200</td>
<td>1630 Arrive 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scillonian III Ferry departs St Marys on Saturday 23rd December 2017</td>
<td>0915 Arrive 1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flight availability from Exeter Airport on Tuesday 19th September 2017</td>
<td>1145 &amp; 1615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flight availability from St Marys to Exeter Airport on Sat 23rd Sept 2017</td>
<td>1145 &amp; 1615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Changes to the programme:
Off-island excursions are dependent on local tides and decisions relating to weather conditions are made by the boat skipper/captain. Therefore the order of the excursions and visits may not follow the published programme. In addition, if you prefer to break away from the main party at any time of the tour or opt out of any of the activities you just need to inform your host/guide.

Suitability:
Unfortunately this programme is not suitable for anyone with mobility problems. The walking is not strenuous, however, we will cover up to 5 miles per day and this will involve uneven surfaces and steps.

Recommended clothing and personal equipment:
Smart/casual attire is advisable for evening dinners in the hotel but otherwise casual clothing is recommended for day excursions to include waterproof and windproof outer garments and sensible flat shoes suitable for walking. Field glasses, shooting sticks, cameras, sunscreen, sunglasses and hats are recommended.

Travelling by ferry:
The Scillonian III passenger ferry sails between Penzance and the Isles of Scilly on a daily basis taking as little as 2 hours and 40 minutes to 3 hours (tidal and weather dependent). However, please bear in mind that you may need accommodation in Penzance the night before and possibly the night of return as check in is 1 hour prior to travel.

Travel Insurance:
As the Isles of Scilly is an off-shore destination, it is advisable to take out holiday insurance to protect against delays due to weather and other eventualities. Travel to the Isles of Scilly can occasionally be delayed by bad weather and other eventualities
Visit https://www.islesofscilly-travel.co.uk/plan-your-trip/travel-insurance/ for Isles of Scilly specific insurance or call 01736 334220.

Skybus Aircraft:
De Havilland Twin Otter = maximum 17 seats, cruise speed 166mph (146 knots) and Norman Britten Islander = maximum 8 seats. Cruise speed 143 mph (125 knots)
All flight times subject to availability at the time of booking and alternative times may be available.