TRESCO ABBEY GARDENS AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY - 18 - 22 MAY 2018 (5 DAYS)
FROM: TREGARTHENS HOTEL, ST MARY’S ***
MAX 16 PEOPLE

Brookland have been organising holidays to the Isles of Scilly since 2001 and are delighted to offer a four night/five day short break escorted by our expert tour leader, Dr Katharine Sawyer - resident island guide and archaeologist. 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 UK 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. The 17 acre sub tropical garden is home to thousands of exotic plants from around the world. 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 ensuite accommodation and facilities offer the perfect place to relax after a day's exploration. There are often 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 your free time. 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: Friday 18th May 2018: 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 airport bus transfer takes us to the hotel where we meet our island guide, Katharine Sawyer. Luggage can be taken to our rooms whilst we join Katharine for a gentle walk through Hugh Town to Juliet’s Garden. This delightful cafe, gallery and garden offers stunning views to the “off islands” and St Mary’s Harbour. We can return to the hotel independently or with Katharine. Dinner is included at the hotel in the evening at 1900 hours. If you prefer to eat earlier or later this can be arranged providing we are advised in advance. Please note that Katharine is not resident at the hotel.

Day 2: Saturday 19th May 2018: 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, showy Echiums and 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. Dinner included as previous night.

Day 3: Sunday 20th May 2018: 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 or Katharine will be offering another island walk on St Mary’s if you prefer. She can also 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. We dine in the hotel restaurant during the evening.

Day 4: Monday 21st May 2018: 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. As we arrive we can see 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, an 18th century kelp pit and Obadiah’s Barrow entrance grave. There are fine views across the water to St Mary’s most westerly shoreline. We continue our gentle stroll around the island, stopping at Coastguards Cafe for refreshments and spectacular views. 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. Dinner included in the hotel restaurant.

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**Day 5: Tuesday 22nd May 2018:** After breakfast, we check out of our hotel rooms and will be collected by the local airport transfer buses in time to check in for our appropriate return flights.

**Tregarthen’s Hotel**

Tregarthen’s Hotel  
St Mary’s  
Isles of Scilly  
TR21 0PL  
Tel: 01720 422540  
www.tregarthen’s-hotel.com

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>Description</th>
<th>Cost per person</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If travelling from Penzance via ferry *</td>
<td>£799 (based on 2 people sharing a room)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travelling from Exeter</td>
<td>£999 per person (based on 2 people sharing a room)</td>
<td>On Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travelling from Lands End</td>
<td>£860 per person (based on 2 people sharing a room)</td>
<td>On Application</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travelling from Newquay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single occupancy supplement</td>
<td>£120 (subject to room availability)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-refundable deposit per person</td>
<td>£200 (full balance is due 10 weeks prior to departure – 9th March 2018)</td>
<td>On request</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea/harbour view supplement</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended stays/extra nights/flight amends</td>
<td>On request</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 each evening in the hotel restaurant
- Escorted on the islands by Dr Katharine Sawyer, (Archaeologist and Island Guide)
- The services of a Brookland Travel representative to meet and greet at Exeter Airport
- 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
- Travel to/from and 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. | Various departures
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Departure time from Lands End Airport Friday 18th May 2018 Inbound St Marys to Lands End Airport Tuesday 22nd May 2018 | Various departures
| Scillonian III Ferry departs Penzance on Friday 18th May 2018 | On application
| Scillonian III Ferry departs St Marys on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 | 0915 Arrive 1200
| Flight availability from Exeter Airport on Friday 18th May 2018 | 1630 Arrive 1915
| Flight availability from St Marys to Exeter Airport on Tuesday 22nd May 18 | Scillonian III Ferry departs Penzance on Friday 18th May 2018
| 60 minutes from Exeter to St Marys Isles of Scilly if direct – some Exeter flights may route via Newquay Airport, flight time is 1 hour 20 minutes | 0955 & 1445

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.