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## Brookland Travel Heritage and Garden Tours



*Special interest garden tours, cultural holidays and English heritage short breaks in the UK and Europe*

## Discovering the Isles of Scilly



**21/25 June 2010**  
**from St Mary's Hall Hotel \*\*\***  
**The Isles of Scilly**

**Discover the history, geography and ecology of the islands at the same time as admiring beautiful scenery and a much quieter way of life.**



**This exclusive break is limited to 16 people and offers a unique opportunity to explore The Isles of Scilly with an expert guide. The islands are peaceful and these breaks are unhurried; there are few cars and transport between the islands is courtesy of the local boatmen.**

**Highlights will include a visit and tour of the world famous [Tresco Abbey Gardens](#) and the [Valhalla Shipwreck Museum](#) within the gardens.**

Your accommodation is on the main island of St Mary's at **The St Mary's Hall Hotel**. This comfortable hotel is ideally suited for its proximity to local boats, beaches, shops and cafes. It is quietly situated with excellent accommodation so that you can enjoy good food and relax in comfort after exploring these islands by day.

Interesting evening slide shows on archaeology and the history of the islands, their marine and maritime life and other fascinating subjects, take place regularly in a venue just a few minutes walk from the hotel.

The **Isles of Scilly** are situated just 28 miles south-west of Land's End with a rich and fascinating heritage and are designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty. Washed by the warm Gulf Stream, this south-western extremity of Britain is abundant with subtropical plants, lush vegetation and wonderful displays of flowers. Migrating birds seek a temporary sanctuary here, with occasional rarities carried on Atlantic gales from the American continent. Frosts are rare and springtime comes early. English Heritage look after many of the historical sites on the islands including **Cromwell's Castle** on the Island of Tresco.

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### Itinerary at a glance

Day 1 – Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Day 2 - Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Day 3 – Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Day 4 - Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Day 5 – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June
<p>Independent travel to the heliport in Penzance.</p> <p>16.00hrs: Meet your Brookland Travel Representative at the heliport for check-in.</p> <p>Helicopter flight to St Mary's. Short transfer to hotel.</p> <p>19:00: Welcome reception and introduction to the tour with your guide, followed by dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Briefing, followed by a short stroll to the harbour for a boat excursion to Tresco.</p> <p>Visit to Tresco Abbey Gardens with a guided tour on arrival, followed by free time to explore the gardens.</p> <p>Return boat trip to St Mary's.</p> <p>Visit to the museum, followed by free time to explore Hugh Town.</p> <p>Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Join your guide for a boat transfer to the island of St Agnes. Lunch may be taken at the pub on the quayside.</p> <p>After lunch, there is an optional walking tour of the island with your guide.</p> <p>Return boat transfer to St Mary's.</p> <p>Bus tour of the island. Afternoon tea at Juliet's Garden Cafe (included).</p> <p>Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>A day to explore the islands independently or to relax on St Mary's. (Your guide will assist with boat times.)</p> <p>Afternoon: Optional guided walk of the Garrison. Refreshments available at the Star Castle Hotel.</p> <p>Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Check-out of hotel and return to Penzance by helicopter.</p> <p>12.00 noon: Approx. time of arrival in Penzance.</p> <p>Depart at leisure.</p>

### Travel to the Isles of Scilly

**Day 1 / Monday:** The inclusive cost is based on independent travel to Penzance, with secure parking available at the heliport, or if travelling by train to Penzance, you can take a short taxi ride from the station. Your Brookland Travel representative will be waiting to greet you at the heliport before you board a British International helicopter for the 20-minute flight to St Mary's.

The departures are usually mid-late afternoon, allowing plenty of time for travelling to Penzance. The 20-minute flight affords excellent views of the Cornish coastline and Land's End on a clear day. On arrival in St Mary's, a short bus transfer takes you to the hotel for check in and later you meet up with fellow tour members and your guide for a pre-dinner drink followed by dinner in the restaurant.

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### Typical Programme

**Day 2 / Tuesday:** A short briefing will take place after breakfast on the first morning and then we will take a short stroll through Hugh Town to the harbourside to board a boat for the island of **Tresco**. In 1834, the first tenant of this island was Augustus Smith who became Lord Proprietor of the Islands. He helped bring the prosperity to Scilly that is still enjoyed today. He built his home, Tresco Abbey, alongside the ruins of an old priory and created a garden that was to become the world famous garden it is today. Successive generations have carried on with his work and Tresco Abbey Gardens are internationally renowned as one of the finest outdoor gardens of sub-tropical flora and fauna to be found in the northern hemisphere.

There will be a guided tour of the Abbey Gardens before you explore in your own time. Depending on tides it may be necessary to take a gentle stroll to the jetty at New Grimsby for the return boat trip to St Mary's. This will be followed by a visit to the museum and some free time in Hugh Town, St Mary's, prior to dinner in the hotel.

**Day 3 / Wednesday:** On the following day there will be 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, close to the jetty, overlooking **St Mary's** and the adjacent small island of Gugh.

For those who would like to explore **St Agnes**, you can join your guide for stroll around the island; marvel at the flora, fauna and wildlife and to learn about the island's population and buildings including the lighthouse, one of the oldest in the British Isles. At low tide, it is also possible to access the island of Gugh where you can see a leaning menhir, **The Old Man of Gugh**, which is 2.4 metres high.

Returning to St Mary's in the afternoon, this island's social and economic history will be revealed during an island bus tour, after which, there will be an opportunity to take a stroll with your guide to **Bant's Carn Entrance Grave**, the most famous of the Scillonian entrance graves and maintained by English Heritage. Weather permitting, it is also possible to access **Halangy Down Settlement and Field System**, the remains of an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement with a complex of interconnecting stone built houses and a single courtyard house.

Return via the coastal path to **Juliet's Garden Café** where afternoon tea and cakes (included) can be enjoyed as watch the boat activity in and out of the harbour at Hugh Town and to the offshore islands, depending on visibility.

**Day 4 / Thursday:** There are quite a few off-island excursions by boat and many of these are weather dependent. Today you have a choice to break away from the main party so that you can participate in one of the boat trips operating from the jetty at St Mary's.

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If you are hoping to see seals and sea birds, then the **Eastern Isle** circular boat trip may be your choice or you may prefer to visit the island of **St Martins**, an inhabited island with a hotel and a superb local bakery! Walking is the best way to view the prehistoric field

systems, round houses, entrance graves, cairns and the beautiful white sandy beaches. Your guide will assist you with boat departure times and information.

For those who chose to remain on St Mary's or to just take a half day boat trip, there will be an optional afternoon guided walk of the **Garrison**, originally know as The Hugh, on St Mary's. This heavily defended headland provides visible evidence of the main episodes in Scilly's military history from the late 16<sup>th</sup> to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest fortification is Star Castle, which served as a prison as well as a fortress and is now a hotel. The **Star Castle Hotel** is a perfectly unique place to enjoy afternoon tea before returning to the hotel for a relaxing final evening.

**Day 5 / Friday:** Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before checking out of the hotel on the final day for your British International helicopter flight to Penzance.

### Your Tour Leader

Cornish Blue Badge guide, **Maureen Bennett**, is a regular visit to these islands and has led many of our previous tours to the Isles of Scilly. Maureen's interests include gardening, art, history and travelling. Maureen will lead all excursions except for the guided tour of Tresco Abbey Gardens which will be given by an expert from Tresco Estates. She will provide a briefing every morning on the days' activities including optional evening talks, slideshows and activities and how to book these.

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*Tour Costs / Overleaf*

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### Tour Cost

#### Cost Per Person

English Heritage Members:	£775
Single Occupancy Supplement:	No supplement - very limited availability of single rooms
Non-Refundable Deposit:	£150 per person (full balance is due 8 weeks prior to departure)

### Included

- Four nights' accommodation with full English breakfast. Three course dinner with coffee each evening, welcome reception on first evening and introduction to the break
- Return helicopter flight from Penzance to St Mary's
- Morning briefing on the days' activities and guidebook
- Tour of St Mary's by private charter bus
- Professional guide throughout and expert guided tour of Tresco Abbey Gardens
- All inter-island boat transfers (except on Day 4) and site visits
- Transfers to and from the heliport, St Mary's
- Optional Garrison guided walk

### Not Included

- Travel insurance (strongly recommended) – details available on request
- Lunches and refreshments other than those mentioned above
- Car Parking at Penzance Heliport (approximately £6 per day for the heliport secure parking)
- Boat trip or excursions of your choice during free time
- Cost of any evening talks and walks (there is a variety of these on offer locally)

### Notes

#### *Helicopter flight timings (20-minute flight)*

Departure time from Penzance on 21 <sup>st</sup> June:	17.05hrs*
Inbound from St Mary's on 25 <sup>th</sup> June:	11.35hrs

*\* Please allow 60 minutes check-in time (final joining instructions and heliport map will be provided nearer the time)*

- 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. Excursions are subject to weather and tidal conditions.
- 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.
- This tour involves gentle walking and unfortunately is not suitable for anyone with limited mobility.
- Smart attire is advisable for evening dinners in the hotel but otherwise casual clothing is recommended for day excursions to include waterproof and wind proof outer garments and sensible flat shoes suitable for walking.
- Field glasses, shooting sticks, cameras, sunglasses, sunscreen and hats are recommended.

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### Your Accommodation



#### **St Mary's Hall Hotel \*\*\***

Isles of Scilly  
TR21 OJR  
T: 01720 422316  
F: 01720 422252

[www.stmaryshallhotel.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshallhotel.co.uk)

This small intimate hotel was originally a grand house, built by Count Louis Ferrari, an Italian nobleman, in 1938. The entrance hall, lounges and restaurant in the main house offer a high level of comfort and retain some of the original charm and character of the building. The magnificent Italian marble fireplace, the oak panelling in the reception area and the massive galleried staircase with carved gargoyles in the newel posts are just some of the features from the past. Bedrooms are in an adjoining annexe and are all en-suite.

### **How to Book**

You can visit the website and the "Contact Us" page to make a provisional booking. Alternatively, please ring the office between 9.00am-5.00pm (Monday-Friday). A non-refundable deposit of £150 is required at the time of booking, unless you are booking less than 8 weeks before departure. In this case, full payment of the tour is required.

### **Further Information**

If you have any questions about the tour, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Brookland Travel reserves the right to alter the itinerary should it be necessary due to conditions beyond their control. Every effort will be made to maintain the spirit of the theme.*