



NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



PRESENTS A PATHFINDERS 2027 TOUR

Bonjour, Bretagne!

*The ultimate garden tour of
Brittany, Northwestern France*

From Saint Malo to Nantes.

JULY 5 - JULY 18, 2027



Brittany (or “Bretagne” in French), is a unique region in northwestern France. Situated on a jutting continental arm into the Atlantic, this mountainous and forested land is steeped in its Celtic roots, complete with its own language, Breton, still spoken in many parts today. [Brittany was annexed to France in 1532.] It is a land rich in culture, tradition, and history.

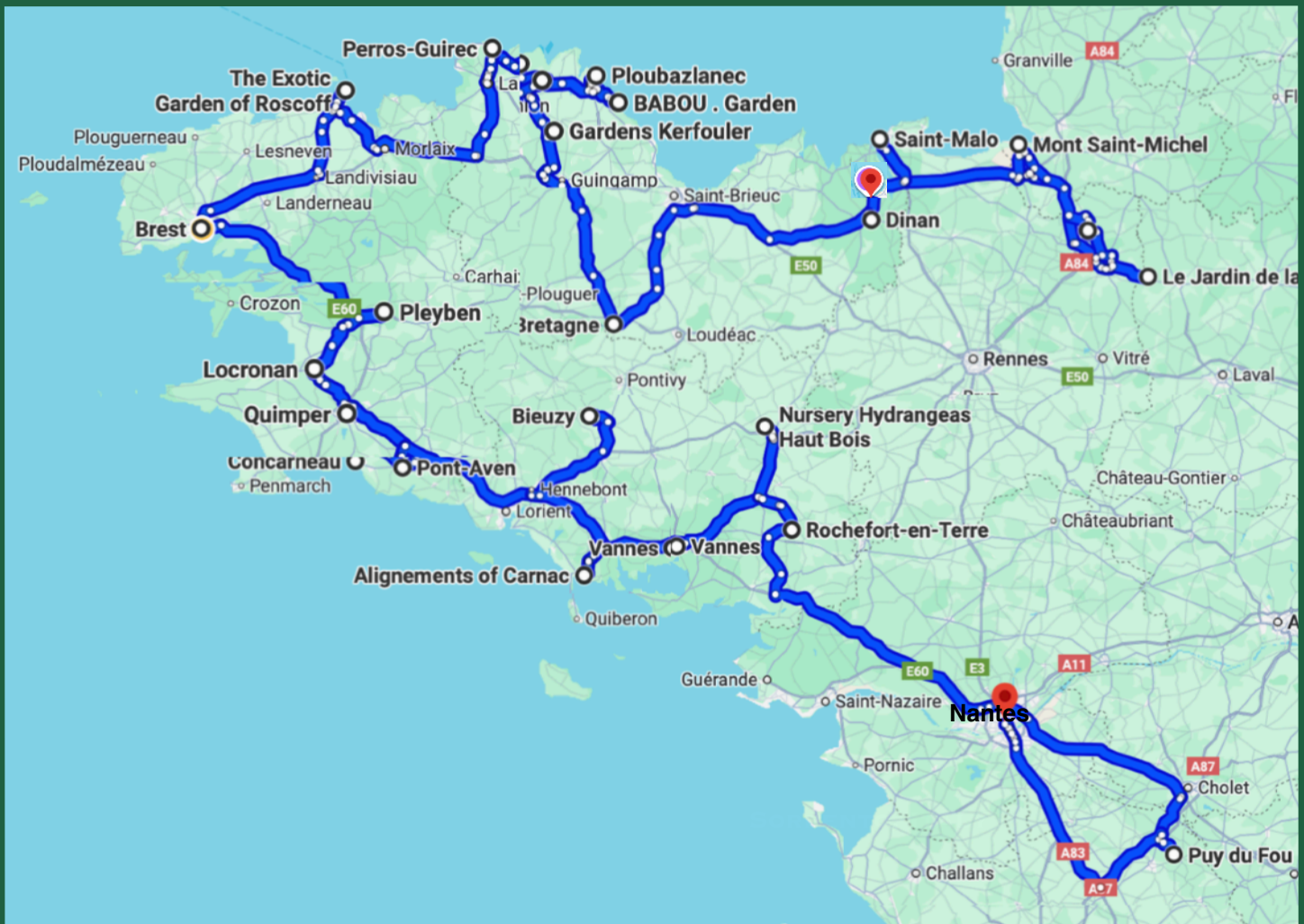
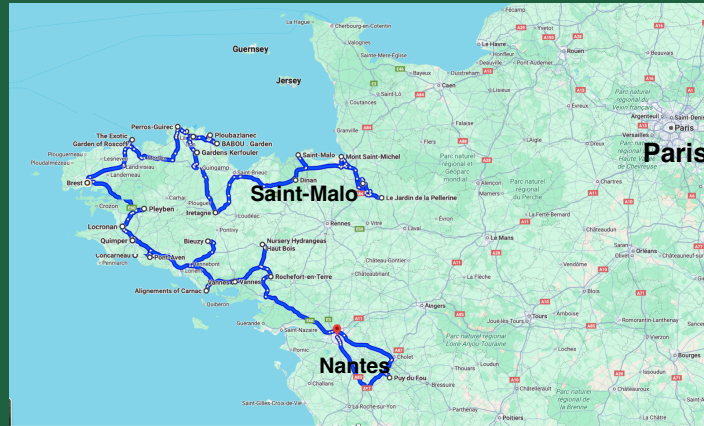
Join us on this extensive tour of Brittany. Not only will we see fine gardens, but we’ll visit prehistoric megalith sites as well as the region’s finest châteaux and medieval fortified towns. We will enjoy the Fêtes Historique in Vannes (during Bastille Day celebrations) and also the Petite Tromeie in Locronan (held every two years). We’ll explore quaint seaside villages along a spectacular coastline and spend an afternoon on the quaint island of Isle de Brehat. A two-day excursion to the ultimate historical theme park of Puy du Fou is sure to be a highlight of this tour! [It should NOT be missed!] This is not only a fabulous garden tour; it is much more. We plunge into all aspects of Bretagne history and culture, too!

This 14-day, 13-night tour begins in the northern coastal town of Saint-Malo and concludes in southwestern Brittany in the lovely city of Nantes.



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Approximate route
Begins in Saint Malo; Concludes in Nantes.



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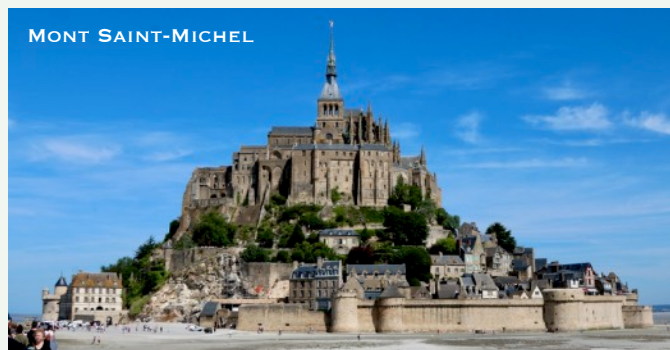
July 5-18, 2027

Day 1 (Monday, July 5) - Saint Malo D

Arrive in **Saint-Malo** and make your way to our tour hotel near the old city center. [Train or air connections are available via Paris and Rennes.]. Your day is at leisure to explore the sights of this quaint city (or to rest after a long flight)! In the evening, join the group at the hotel for our “welcome dinner”. Stay the night in Saint Malo.

Day 2 (Tues., July 6) - Saint Malo B

We begin our first full day of the tour after breakfast. Traveling east almost to the Normandy border, our first stop today is near the fortified, medieval town of Fougères. We visit a small, *private garden* whose owner has a passion for rare plants. Next, we continue to the *Parc Botanique de Haut Bretagne*. Here we find a nearly 50-acre garden park surrounding the 18th century Château Folletière. The garden, in a relaxed style, is organized in 20 themed gardens with plants represented from five continents. In the afternoon, we make our way to the wonderful hilltop abbey/fortress/town of *Mont Saint-Michel*. We make our way past the souvenir shops (for now) and proceed up to the top where we find the cloister and small garden. After touring the abbey, we wander



back down and browse through the shops, perhaps taking afternoon tea while enjoying the cliff-top view. In the late afternoon, we return to our hotel in Saint-Malo where we stay one more night. Dine on our own this evening.

Day 3 (Wed., July 7) - To Perros-Guirec B,D

After breakfast, we say goodbye to Saint-Malo and make our way to **Dinan**, a fabulous town with a medieval central area full of half-timbered houses and cobblestone streets. We have some free time this morning to explore and to find an early lunch. Afterwards, we head to a 5-acre *private garden* with 22-themed areas! The owner, an admirer of the works of English landscape designer, Gertrude Jekyll, has



strived to create a garden in Jekyll’s style but with her own twist. Next, we visit *Les Jardins de Kerfouler*, another private garden with a variety of styles - “modern, artistic, classic, natural, romantic, exuberant, modest, playful, etc.” This garden has received the designation of “Jardin Remarquable” (Remarkable Garden) by the French Ministry of Culture. After our garden visits, we continue to the seaside town of Perros-Guirec where we stay for three nights. Dine as a group this evening at the hotel.

Day 4 (Thurs., July 8) - Perros-Guirec B

Today is filled with more interesting visits! Not far from our hotel, we make a photo stop at *Castel Meur*, famous for its situation between two huge rocks jutting out to sea. It is quite the interesting spot! We then continue to *Le Jardin du Pelinec*, also awarded the “Jardin Remarquable” designation (in 2012). Open to us by special appointment. This is a private garden that flows right down to the bay and rocks. The palette of plants is especially wide; the garden seldom experiences a hard frost! Here we find a collection of over 2000 plant species from all over the world — many of them from the southern hemisphere thriving in the mild coastal climate of Brittany. Next, we catch a ferry to the Small French island



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of Brehat, the *Ile de Brehat*. We find a nice place for lunch (on our own) and then set out to explore this “garden” island. Note: an interesting aspect of this part of the coast is the wide range of tides - among the highest and lowest in Europe. Before we return to our hotel in Perros-Guirec, we have one more lovely private garden to visit back on the French mainland. *Le Jardin de Babou*, named after the owner’s cat, is an intimate well-designed garden showing a reflection of the owner’s eye for beauty (and some quirkiness, too). This was a favorite garden on the HPSO 2017 and 2019 Brittany tours. Finally, we return to our hotel. Dine on our own this evening either at the hotel or at a fine seafront restaurant in town.

Day 5 (Fri., July 9) - Perros Guirec B

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we head out to see two outstanding gardens. Situated near the town of Treguier, we first visit the *Jardin Botanique du Kestellic*. This is a stunning 15-acre garden on the banks of the Jaudy river. In the afternoon, we visit the amazing garden of *Kerdalo* - a masterpiece of good planting, design, and collection of both hardy and semi-tropical plants. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore Perros-Guirec on our own.

Day 6 (Sat., July 10) - Brest B,D

We say goodbye to the *Cotes d’Armor* region of Brittany and head towards the *Finister* (land’s end) region. On our way, we visit the *Jardin Exotique de Roscoff*, a garden of about 37 years old and containing over 3500 different species of plants! We are surely to see some plants that are new to us! Afterwards, we continue to the city of Brest. The afternoon is free to explore this dynamic city. Perhaps, we visit

Oceanopolis or do some shopping in the Saint-Luc and Place de la Liberté areas. Our afternoon is our own until we re-group for dinner. Stay the night in Brest.

Day 7 (Sun., July 11) - Locronan-Quimper B,L

After a hearty breakfast, we check out of our hotel to make our way south. Before leaving Brest, we visit the *Jardin du Conservatoire botanique national de Brest* and the *Vallon du Stang-Alar*. We explore the botanical gardens and its glass houses and wander along the trails of the adjacent valley where endangered plants thrive among the native vegetation. Afterwards, we head to Pleyben for a group lunch, to explore the town, and to especially visit the *Michel Chatillon* chocolate factory/shop! [There is nothing better than gourmet French chocolate!!] Our day has been wonderful, but perhaps the best is next. In the afternoon, we head to *Locronan*, one of the prettiest villages in Brittany. We are here to see the *Petite Troménie* — a procession held every two years on the second Sunday of July. Villagers from surrounding towns, each with their own traditional costumes and banners, descend upon Locronan in this spectacular (and quite moving) religious procession. After witnessing this remarkable event, we continue south until we reach Quimper where we stay the next two nights. Dine on our own this evening.



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Day 8 (Mon., July 12) - Quimper

B

Today is a much more relaxing day. We begin with free time to wander among the old medieval city center streets of Quimper. Late morning, we visit *Un jardin à Landrévarzec*. This is a lovely, and very floral, city garden just 10 minutes from the city center. Afterwards, we make an excursion to the fortified, seaside town of *Concarneau* with its small town center completely surrounded by stone walls. The enclosed town is filled with shops, restaurants, a small park, a fish museum, and old ships. Adding to the ambience are multitudes of geraniums hanging from balconies and window boxes. We enter through the fortress gate and proceed to the center where we can find amazing seafood restaurants for lunch (on our own) and wonderful boutique shops. In the late afternoon, we return to our hotel in Quimper. Dine on our own this evening. Stay one more night.



Day 9 (Tues., July 15) - Vannes

B

Once again, we leave one region of Brittany, *Finister*, and move to another, *Morbihan*. After breakfast, we depart Quimper and return to the southern coast (heading east). Our first stop is *Pont Aven* for a morning stroll in this town best known for its association with the painter, Paul Gauguin. With flowers planted along paths and canals, it is a nice place to stretch our legs and perhaps grab a croissant for a “second breakfast”. We then continue our drive along the coast before cutting inland to Bieuzy-les-Eaux to visit another *private garden*. In the afternoon, we reach *Carnac* where we encounter the largest grouping of prehistoric megaliths - *standing stones* - in Europe. [There are over 5000 standing stones in Brittany.] We board a little tourist train to see some of the “alignments” as they are disbursed

over quite a large area! Following our visit to Carnac, we head to Vannes where we will stay the next two nights. Tonight is the eve of Bastille Day, and the annual *Fêtes Historiques* are underway. These celebrations are not to be missed!!! The town center is alive with people in costume. Entertainment abounds. We eat dinner at the festival (on our own) and stay up late to see fireworks, hear music, and soak up the energy and excitement of this amazing night.



Day 10 (Wed., July 14) - Bastille Day!

B

Today is one of France's most-celebrated holidays — Bastille Day.

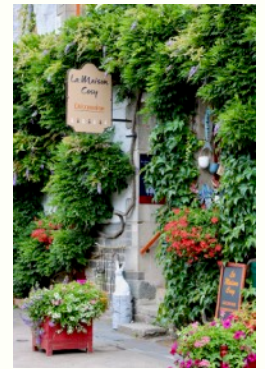
We spend the whole day in Vannes on our own. This city is famous for its Bastille Day celebrations — the *Fêtes Historiques de Vannes*. Note: as of this writing, the theme of this year's celebration has not been announced. Perhaps, we begin our day at the weekly *outdoor market* in the Place des Lices, held every Wednesday from 8:00am to 1:30pm. We could also see the beautiful *French garden in the ramparts of the old city walls*. The city will have plenty of *parades* today. Those should not be missed! It is a very festive day with so much to do and see. Enjoy! Dine on our own this evening. Stay one more night in Vannes.

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FÊTES HISTORIQUES



Day 11 (Thurs., July 15) - Puy du Fou **B,D**
After a wonderful break, we say “au revoir” to Vannes after breakfast and make our way to our garden visit. We reach a wonderful hydrangea nursery — *Les Hortensias du Haut Boi*. Over 50,000 hydrangeas are cultivated over a space of 32 acres. We are visiting at the height of bloom. After lusting after many plants and making notes of what we wish to source when we return home, we make our way to *Rochefort-en-terre*. This town is rated a 4-flower town — the highest rating — by the Ministry of Culture. We have time for lunch here (on our own) and to admire all the window flower displays hanging from medieval buildings! Afterwards, we continue further south until we reach the theme park of *Puy du Fou*. This special place is arguably the best theme park in the world, employing thousands of actors to re-enact historical events. Combining history, music, special effects, and artistic performances, everyone is thrilled and amazed. It is spectacular (and the grounds are beautiful, too, and could be considered a “garden” in their own right). We stay the next two nights at Puy du Fou. Dine as a group this evening in one of the themed hotels.

Note: Puy du Fou was a highlight of the 2025 Normandy/Loire Valley tour. It was mind-blowing!

Link to Youtube video of Puy du Fou: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K9DoayS5rQ>

Day 12 (Fri., July 16) - Puy du Fou **B,D**
We have the entire day devoted to enjoying the features at Puy du Fou. Past travelers have raved about the following shows in particular:

- **Le Dernier Panache:** Witness the epic story of a French naval officer, from Brest to the French Revolution to the American War of Independence, on a rotating stage with over 200 actors and 1,500 costumes.
- **The Phantom Birds Ball:** Marvel at the aerial ballet of over 200 birds of prey flying over the ruins of the old castle, and discover the age-old art of falconry.
- **The Sign of Triumph:** Immerse yourself in the excitement of the Roman arena with breathtaking battles and support your favorites.

- **Vikings:** Relive the Viking invasion with emotionally-charged scenes involving horses, wolves and bears.
- **Les Noces de Feu:** Let yourself be transported by the dreamlike wedding on the lake, in a night-time spectacle of light and fire.
- **La Cinéscénie:** Enjoy the world's largest night show retracing the history of the Vendée, with an exceptional deployment of technical and human resources.

Stay one more night at Puy du Fou. Dine as a group this evening in one of the themed hotels.



Day 13 (Sat., July 17) - Nantes **B,D**
We check out of our Puy du Fou hotel and return a bit north to Nantes. On arrival, we visit the *Jardin des Plantes*, and the *Château des Ducs de Bretagne*. The rest of the afternoon we are free to explore other sights of interest in the city center. This evening, we enjoy a group “farewell” dinner. Stay the night in Nantes.

Day 14 (Sun., July 18) **B**
After breakfast, we say goodbye to our many new friends. Transfers will be provided to the Nantes airport or to the local train station.
Happy travels!

TOUR COMPANY



Stita House, 11 Trinity Lane
Cheltenham, GL52 2NT, UK

PRICING INFORMATION

Tour & Dates in 2027	What's included	Per Person Sharing a double room	Single Rate
<p>Brittany tour July 5-18, 2027</p> <p>(Price is based on a tour size of 27 participants.)</p> <p>A deposit of €750 will be required to hold your reservation.</p>	<p>13 nights</p> <p>All breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners</p> <p>Services of a motor coach (bus) and driver;</p> <p>Local tour guide</p> <p>All gratuities for included meals & services, tour guide, & driver</p> <p>Admissions to features as specified in itinerary (including 2-day ticket to Puy du Fou + one day Emocion pass + evening shows)</p>	<p>Euros € 4,459</p> <p>US\$ 5,250*</p>	<p>Euros € 5,874</p> <p>US\$ 6,915*</p>

***The prices above include a \$350 non-tax deductible donation to the Northwest Horticultural Society**

The minimum number of participants required for each tour segment is identified above. If the minimum is not reached, an additional amount (approx. 5%) will be assessed. The US prices quoted above are estimates based on the exchange rate of \$1.1773 to €1.00 as of February 23, 2026. The actual price will be based on the exchange rate at the time payment is made to the tour company.

Please note that airfare to/from France is not included. Other items not included: Gratuities for housekeeping staff, room service, laundry, phone calls made from your room, items of a personal nature, etc. Please see the next page for additional terms and conditions and other information.

NHS HOST & PATHFINDERS GUIDE

Bruce Wakefield will be the host for this tour. A past president of the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon, an avid gardener, plantsman, traveler, and the co-creator of Old Germantown Gardens, a 2-acre plantsman's garden near Portland, Oregon. This will be the 49th tour that Bruce has planned and hosted.



Our in-country guide, H el ene Gaujac, will also accompany us throughout the tour. A native of France but also living part-time in the UK, H el ene is naturally fluent in both languages. She last accompanied us on a 2024 tour of Eastern France to rave reviews! We are lucky and delighted to have her for this Brittany tour!



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TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Tour Registration

By submitting a booking for this tour, you confirm that you have read, and accept, these Terms & Conditions.

Membership in the Northwest Horticultural Society is required in order to register and participate on this tour.

You will receive an online confirmation from Pathfinders via the WeTravel portal when your booking has been submitted.

2. Willingness & Ability to Participate

The success of a tour depends on each person's ability to participate fully and to cooperate with other tour members, the tour guide, the driver, and your tour escort. Tour participants must be capable of meeting the tour company-designated activity level for this tour.

XX Activity Level 2, Active

Tolerate long travel times each day. Board and disembark a coach without assistance. Walk, in segments, several miles a day, and stand repeatedly for 30-45 minutes or more at a time. Climb and descend stairs. Navigate uneven paths at sites with no accommodation or access for disabled persons. Handle your own luggage, including loading it on the coach and carrying it to your hotel room whenever necessary. [Porterage is not assured. Participants will often likely be handling their own luggage].

Proof of full vaccination for Covid-19 is no longer required of all tour participants prior to the start of the tour. However, full vaccination is highly recommended, and participants should maintain awareness of local government health guidelines.

A valid passport is required for this international tour. Currently, a visa is not required for travel to France for US citizens. However, the European ETIAS may be implemented prior to departure. It is each participant's individual responsibility to comply with entry requirements.

This is a non-smoking tour; smoking is not permitted during group activities including meals. Local customs may make it impossible to prevent exposure to smoke by others at times during the tour.

3. Tour Price

The tour price and services included in the price of the tour are described in the Tour Brochure.

The tour price is directly related to the number of participants in it. This tour is priced for a group size of 27. If this group size is not met, the tour may be canceled or postponed, or tour members may have the option of

agreeing to a change in pricing. Once the maximum participation of 27 is met, a wait list is created in the order in which bookings are received.

International tours are priced in the local currency but options are available for paying in US Dollars at the exchange rate in effect at time of payment. The Tour Brochure indicates the currency in which the tour is priced. Until full payment for the tour is received, your price for the tour in US Dollars is an estimate and subject to currency fluctuation.

4. Booking Confirmation & Deposit

Once your participation in the tour is submitted, a deposit is required to hold the reservation. The tour deposits are as follows:

– Brittany tour: €750 (750 Euros)

Deposit payments will be due at the time of booking.

Each tour participant must also submit a signed *Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement* within 30 days of confirmation of tour participation.

Please do not book any non-refundable air travel that may be associated with the tour until you are notified by the tour host that the tour has reached the minimum required level of participation, and you have signed and submitted the *Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk & Indemnity Agreement*.

5. Invoicing & Payment

You are invoiced for the full cost of the tour in one or more installments. The payment schedule is presented to tour members upon confirmation of their registration for the tour. Your tour deposit is applied to the balance.

Payments by credit card incur a service charge. The amount of the service charge is indicated at the time of payment. Late payment of tour invoices exceeding 21 days are subject to a 10% penalty. If an installment or final payment is not received by the Tour Agent's deadlines, non-payment will be treated as the participant's withdrawal from the tour, and subject to the terms herein.

6. Withdrawals, Cancellations & Refunds

Any booking & processing fees are non-refundable.

A withdrawal from the tour after confirmation of acceptance, regardless of the reason, is subject to the following terms:

- After payment of your tour deposit, but prior to the first installment payment, the withdrawal fee is equal to 10% of your cost for the tour (not including any booking and processing fees).

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CASTEL MEUR
THE HOUSE BETWEEN
TWO ROCKS

(Continued from previous page)

- After payment of the first installment and prior to the payment of the final installment, the tour deposit is forfeited, as well as any prepayments made by the Tour Agent/Companies that are non-recoverable.
- After payment of the final invoice, the tour deposit and all installments are forfeited.

Where the space on the tour resulting from your withdrawal can be filled with another traveler, the withdrawal fee is equal to the greater of 10% of the cost of your tour, or the amount of any non-recoverable prepayments made by the Tour Agent/Company.

If the tour is canceled because the minimum number of participants is not reached by the Tour Agent's deadline for payment, the Tour Agent/Company will refund in full the deposit and any installment payments made by tour members.

If the tour is canceled by the Tour Agent due to circumstances beyond their control, including travel bans

or health regulations, the amount of any refund is determined by the recoverable portion of your tour payments.

Travel insurance is highly recommended. It can mitigate many, if not all, of the potential penalties described here. It may also provide coverage for illness, injury, death, property loss, delay or cancellation, or other circumstance. Travel insurance is not included in the price of the tour. Tour registrants are encouraged to secure coverage at their own expense. For some types of coverage ('cancel for any reason,' or for pre-existing medical conditions, for example), coverage must be obtained at the time you make a deposit for the tour.

7. Tour Agent/Operator

Pathfinders/STITA tours is the tour agent/operator for this tour.

8. Tour Host

Bruce Wakefield, as the tour host is acting solely as a **volunteer** with respect to advising the Tour Operator and Tour Guide regarding featured visits.



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