

Gardens Of Eden

We've picked some of the most glorious from across the country, each perfect for a summer day trip

The 26-acre ravine garden has been 160 years in the making

🌸 Trebah Gardens, Cornwall

With its lush palms cascading down to the coast, you could be forgiven for thinking this subtropical paradise was somewhere in the Caribbean. It's a great garden for kids to explore, and the giant, umbrella-like leaves of the gunnera look even more impressive if you bring little people along for scale!

🌸 Open daily from 10am-6pm (last entry at 4.30pm). Adult tickets, £9. For more details, call 01326 252 200, or visit trebahgarden.co.uk

The waterfall in part of the garden known as The Dell

🌸 Bodnant Garden, Conwy

This beautiful, 80-acre horticultural haven in north Wales, with its stunning views across Snowdonia and world-renowned botanical collections, was lovingly created by five generations of the same family, many of whom are laid to rest at The Poem, an ornate mausoleum within the garden grounds.

🌸 Open daily from 10am-5pm. Adult tickets, £9.50. For more details, call 01492 650 460, or visit nationaltrust.org.uk

Words: Hannah Bass. Photo: iStock

Woman's Weekly Gardening

The Jacobean splendour of Audley End House

🌸 Audley End, Saffron Walden, Essex

The grounds of Audley End's gardens are a masterpiece of the famous 18th-century landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. There are amazing views from the Corinthian-style Temple of Concord. But we love the walled kitchen garden, which has been restored using the centuries-old diary of one of its young gardeners, to look exactly as it did in Victorian times.

🌸 Open daily from 10am-6pm. Adult tickets, £15.40. For more information, call 0870 333 1181, or visit english-heritage.org.uk

🌸 Open Gardens Across Scotland

Scotland's Gardens, the Caledonian sister to the phenomenally successful National Gardens Scheme, gives you the opportunity to peek into Scotland's secret gardens for just a few days of the year. See some of the country's most beautiful planting usually hidden behind garden gates, such as the walled garden at Tullichettle, Perthshire (left).

🌸 For full details, visit scotlandsgardens.org, where you can also order the 2014 guidebook for £5.50.

🌸 To find more open gardens in the rest of the UK, visit ngs.org.uk, where you can also order a copy the famous *Yellow Book* for £9.99.

The Aberuchill Hills are the scenic backdrop for tranquil Tullichettle