

NORTHERN PARTNER GARDENS

Stretching from Co Down right around to Donegal we have eleven great Partner Gardens waiting for you to explore!

Ballyedmond Castle Gardens, Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, Seaforde Gardens, Rowallane Garden and Mount Stewart are south of Belfast in Co Down, with Ballyrobert Gardens, Glenarm Castle Walled Garden and Benvarden Garden to the north in Co Antrim. Then across to Oakfield Park and Salthill in Co Donegal and last but not least to Killyreagh Garden in Co Fermanagh. A suggested tour for a few days but the choice is yours!

On the shores of Carlingford Lough, **Ballyedmond Castle Gardens** near Rostrevor is a private garden largely developed over the past 30 years but still with some original 1800s plantings. There is a great variety of interest with statuary, glasshouses, terraces, various garden rooms and woodland. Further north, **Seaforde Gardens** are part of a historic demesne with lots to enjoy including its Tropical Butterfly House, Ireland's oldest living maze, rare and venerable trees and a Herb Garden with a Mughal Tower. The National Trust's **Rowallane Garden** and **Mount Stewart House and Gardens**, within a half hour of each other, are among the most beautiful and prestigious gardens on the island. Along with the many horticultural treasures at Rowallane, are the summer roses and perennials including The National Penstemon Collection. Meanwhile Mount Stewart's Arts and Crafts-style designed gardens and huge plant collection are the jewels within their larger demesne.

Just 20 minutes south of Belfast is famous **Hillsborough Castle and Gardens**- home of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. 100 acres of magnificent gardens made up of formal areas, a newly restored 4 acre walled garden, lake, extensive woodland walks with widespread bulb and rhododendron planting

A half hour north of Belfast into Co Down, **Ballyrobert Gardens** comprises six acres of charming gardens nestled into the countryside. Informal herbaceous planting around the old farm cottage gives way to an orchard, woodland, meadows, streams and a lake. There is a cottage-garden plant nursery attached. A change to history and formality awaits half hour further north at beautiful **Glenarm Castle and Gardens**. There is much to see and enjoy here including a walled garden being one of the finest in the north and has been recently restored with several innovative and very attractive areas. Further along the northern coast is **Benvarden Garden**, near Ballymoney. Enclosed since the 17th century, the restored walled garden has a formal area with a central fountain, box parterre, rose arches, herbaceous borders, and a well stocked adjoining kitchen garden. There is also a woodland area leading down to the banks of the River Bush.

Thence over to Co Donegal and **Oakfield Park** in Raphoe. This 18th century Georgian Deanery has won several national awards for the restoration of its gardens and buildings. On the 100 acre estate you'll find beautiful parkland, formal gardens man-made lakes, walled ere gardens, follies, parterres, and much more! Heading south to Mountcharles, on the edge of Donegal Bay is the romantic **Salthill Garden**. The circa 1 acre walled garden behind a Georgian house and old farm buildings has its own microclimate with a profusion of perennials, roses, shrubs and vegetables woven between winding grass and gravel paths.

A 50 minute drive south along the scenic shores of Lower Lough Erne brings you to Enniskillen and nearby **Killyreagh House Garden**. From the front of the listed Georgian house this peaceful and tranquil garden leads down a sloped lawn to a pond and beautiful views beyond over the surrounding fields and hills.

.