



# THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

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2012

Supporting Level  
and Heritage Circle  
UK Tour Programs with  
the National Trust of  
England, Wales and  
Northern Ireland

# Supporting Level & Heritage Circle UK Tour Programs with the National Trust of England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Royal Oak is pleased to offer our Supporting Level & Heritage Circle members this program of twelve special events at National Trust properties across the United Kingdom. These events are organized by the Trust for their Benefactor members and feature senior staff in the region and at individual properties. They provide wonderful opportunities for behind-the-scenes visits to some of the Trust's most spectacular properties and the chance to forge new friendships with like-minded Trust supporters in the UK.

Among the events offered for 2012 are:

- An afternoon visit to one of the Trust's newest acquisitions, Nuffield Place, the home of the inventor and philanthropist William Morris (not the Morris of the Arts & Crafts movement). You will have the opportunity to preview the house and collection before it opens to the public.
- A two-day excursion to the spectacular landscapes and gardens of Mount Stewart and Rowallane in Northern Ireland.
- A two-day trek through the majestic scenery of Snowdonia in North Wales, including an opportunity to visit the Llyndy Isaf property just saved by the Trust with support from Royal Oak.
- A day's visit at Petworth House in West Sussex, one of England's great treasure houses, which includes a private tour with the brilliant Andy Loukes, House and Collections Manager, who provided a similar tour for Royal Oak's Board of Directors on its visit in September 2011.

No matter which of these special events you choose to participate in, you are certain to have an unforgettable experience with some of the National Trust's star staff members. If you are interested in an event, please sign up early as spaces are limited. In the meantime, I thank you very much for your generous support of Royal Oak as a Supporting Level or Heritage Circle member.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Sawyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sean" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Sawyer".

Sean Sawyer, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
The Royal Oak Foundation  
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## **Nuffield Place** **Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire**

Thursday March 29, 10:30am to 12:30pm or 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Friday March 30, 10:30am to 12:30pm or 2:30pm to 4:30pm

Born in 1877 and raised in a modest terraced house in Cowley, Oxford, William Morris started a bicycle repair business in his father's shed. He went on to become one of the world's leading philanthropists, giving away over £30 million to charitable causes from the proceeds of his "Morris Car Empire," earning himself the title of Lord Nuffield. His lasting legacy includes Nuffield College, The Nuffield Foundation, The Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown, and many more.

Located close to Nettlebed, near Henley on Thames, Nuffield Place was Lord and Lady Nuffield's home for over 30 years. Recently, this 1930s time capsule was gifted to the National Trust by Nuffield College. This visit includes an exclusive preview of the house and garden before it opens to the general public.

**\$10 per person**  
Includes refreshments





## **Mount Stewart and Rowallane Gardens** County Down, Northern Ireland

Sunday April 22, 6pm to  
Tuesday April 24, 4pm

Our base for this visit will be the Stormont Hotel, Belfast where we will start with dinner on Sunday evening.

On Monday we will visit Mount Stewart House and Garden where we will explore Edith, Lady Londonderry's art of gardening through her fascinating garden diaries; her taste in plants; her color schemes; and her thirst for new species and varieties.

Head of Gardens Neil Porteous will take us on a journey to explore this wonderful garden and give us insight into how the Trust plans to manage the garden in the future. We will see first hand what has already been done to conserve Mount Stewart's unique collection of plants and what the Trust hopes to achieve in order

to bring the garden back to the highest horticultural and artistic standards.

Our final day takes us to the enchanting and unique plant collection at Rowallane Garden, a 52-acre, nineteenth-century landscape naturally laid out with plants from around the world. This is a tranquil, peaceful and sensitive garden set in a very natural location. The garden is a paradise of wild collected seed and is particularly known for its spectacular displays of rhododendrons and azaleas during March, April and May.

Much of the Rowallane plant collection is over 120 years old and the elderly shrubs are very susceptible to new diseases. We will learn how the Trust is managing these risks and preparing for the future through its micropropagation work and planting regimes.

### **\$700 per person**

Includes two nights' accommodation, all meals and transport within Northern Ireland starting and finishing in Belfast

# Hidden Snowdonia, Wales

Tuesday May 1, 5pm to Thursday May 3, 3:30pm



Here is a chance to get off the beaten track to view some of Snowdonia's hidden landscapes. Our hotel base will be the world renowned Portmeirion Hotel in the village made famous by the architecture of Clough Williams-Ellis. We meet for pre-dinner drinks on the terrace overlooking the estuary and take a tour of the village's unique architecture with the Estate Manager. After dinner with Wales Director Justin Albert, we learn more of the mysteries of Snowdonia with an informative presentation by General Manager Richard Neale.

On Tuesday we board the Welsh Highland Railway for a steam train ride through the stunning Aberglaslyn pass. We will spend the day exploring Nantgwynant from our base at Craflwyn, taking in the famous 1998 Snowdon acquisition at Hafod y Llan and see the new developments at Gelli Iago. We will walk the newest National Trust property at Llyndy Isaf and climb higher up

the valley to visit Dyffryn Mymbyr – the farm made famous in the book *I Bought a Mountain* – followed by a chance to stock up on local Welsh produce in the Beddgelert shop.

On Wednesday we take the high road to cross the Mignient, Wales' highest upland peat bog, to reach Ty Mawr, the birthplace of Bishop Morgan, before travelling to Cymryd in the Conwy valley at the kind invitation of Miss Dilys Glynne. Cymryd has been generously donated to the National Trust by Miss Glynne and, after a locally sourced picnic lunch, she will host a tour of her sixteenth-century family home before we return to our hotel for departure.

## **\$700 per person**

Includes two nights' accommodation, all meals, refreshments, steam train ride and transportation during the event

## **Hardwick Hall** Chesterfield, Derbyshire

Monday May 14, 10am to 4pm

Hardwick Hall is one of Britain's greatest Elizabethan houses and a magnificent statement of the wealth and authority of its builder, the Countess of Shrewsbury, better known as "Bess of Hardwick." Built in the 1590s, the Hall has six towers, huge windows, high ceilings, gleaming stone and glittering glass. This architecturally dramatic property houses rich tapestries, plaster friezes and alabaster fireplaces. From the Great Hall to the Long Gallery, this extensive house is full of atmosphere and interest.



Along with a guided tour of the hall, our day will include exploring the park and garden surrounding this great house and seeing first hand the work of the Trust's skilled stone masonry team.

**\$50 per person**

Includes lunch and refreshments

## **Attingham Park, Cronkhill and Sunnycroft** Shropshire

Monday May 28, 4pm to  
Wednesday May 30, 3pm

Our base for this visit will be the historic town of Shrewsbury at the Lion and Pheasant Hotel. On Monday we will meet for afternoon tea at the hotel prior to departing for an evening tour of Attingham Park, built for the 1st Lord Berwick in 1785. Our private tour with General Manger Mark Agnew and his team will be followed by dinner in the Orangery.

On Tuesday morning we will return to Attingham for a tour of the beautiful parkland surrounding the mansion. After lunch we will travel the short distance to the beautiful Regency period Italianate villa of Cronkhill, designed by John Nash. Cronkhill is a privately tenanted house and is only open a few days a year. We will be taken on this very private tour before returning to our



hotel for some free time and dinner.

Our final excursion on Wednesday morning will be to Sunnycroft, a substantial late-Victorian, red-brick villa that has survived as it was when it was home to the Lander family from 1899 to 1997. Following lunch we will return to our hotel for our onward journeys.

**\$700 per person**

Includes two nights' accommodation, all meals, refreshments and transportation during the event

# A Taste of the East of England

## Suffolk and Essex

Monday June 18, 5:30pm to  
Wednesday June 20, 4:30pm

Our hotel for this visit to properties in Suffolk and Essex will be the fifteenth-century Swan, which is located in the beautiful medieval village of Lavenham. We have a packed two days planned, which will start with pre-dinner drinks and an evening tour of Lavenham Guildhall before returning to our hotel for dinner. On Tuesday morning we will depart for the picturesque Melford Hall for a tour of what is still the much-loved family home of the Hyde Parker family. There are many layers to the history of this house but it is the stories of family life at Melford, such as visits by their relation Beatrix Potter with her menagerie of animals, that make this house more than just bricks and mortar.

In the afternoon we will take a theatrical detour, going quite literally behind the scenes at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, the country's sole surviving example of a Regency playhouse. We will end our day back at our hotel for dinner.

The final day will include a visit to Flatford, which is situated in the heart of the beautiful Dedham Vale. We will take a tour of this special place to explore some of the locations made famous in the paintings of John Constable.

We will then slip over the border into Essex to our final destinations. Our first visit of the afternoon will be to one of Europe's oldest timber-framed buildings — Coggleshall Grange barn. Then our final visit will be to Paycocke's — a sixteenth-



century merchant's house. The wealth generated by the East Anglian wool trade in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries enriched the homes of merchants as many of them used their fortunes to build half-timbered houses, of which Paycocke's is a fine example. At the end of the day we will return to our hotel for our onward journeys.

### **\$700 per person**

Includes two nights' accommodation, all meals, refreshments and transportation during the event

## **Kingston Lacy** Wimborne Minster, Dorset

Monday June 25, 10am to 4pm

Kingston Lacy is home to one of the greatest family picture collections in Britain. Visitors delight in works by Rubens, Tintoretto, Van Dyck, Titian and Brueghel. The art not only hangs on the walls, it is the walls! There is beautiful marble, as well as Florentine pietra dura panels, ornate wooden doors brought to England from the Vatican and panels of gilded leather. This important collection was built by many generations of the Bankes family and tells a fascinating story stretching back over 400 years.

The extensive and varied gardens hold an important key to an ancient riddle; find



out how William Bankes helped to unlock the meaning of hieroglyphics. This is an opportunity to hear the story of a beautiful house, its gardens and an amazing family from Trust experts who ensure it is lovingly maintained for future generations to treasure and enjoy.

### **\$50 per person**

Includes lunch and refreshments

## **Corfe, Purbeck and Brownsea Island, Dorset**

Friday July 6, 6pm to Sunday July 8, 3:30pm



Our base for this visit will be Mortons House Hotel situated in the center of Corfe where we will meet for dinner on Friday evening. On Saturday morning we will take the short walk up to Corfe Castle for a guided tour of this monument to the power of medieval kings. We will then take the train from Corfe to Swanage for our onward journey to Studland Bay. While we spend the afternoon walking with local rangers we will hear about the work they do to take care of this special part of the coast. After a busy day we will return to our hotel for a relaxing dinner. Brownsea Island is our destination on Sunday, where we will be greeted by Property Manager Angela Cott and her team. They will give us a guided tour of this oasis for wildlife nestled in the bustling Poole harbor.

### **\$700 per person**

Includes two nights' accommodation, all meals, refreshments and transportation during the event

## Rufford Old Hall, Rufford, Lancashire

Thursday July 12, 11am to 3pm



Rufford Old Hall is one of Lancashire's finest sixteenth-century Tudor buildings, built by a wealthy local family, the Heskeths, to proclaim their status in society. Today, much of the medieval house remains, including the Great Hall where the young William Shakespeare possibly performed, together with later additions that complete a delightfully intimate property. Outside, the gardens feature topiary squirrel sculptures and woodland walks. Our tour will start with refreshments and an introduction to the property, followed by a guided tour of the house, lunch in the award-winning restaurant and an amble around the garden and its surrounding woodland and canal walks.

**\$40 per person**

Includes lunch and refreshments

## Mottisfont near Romsey, Hampshire

Thursday July 19, 6pm to 9pm

There are many layers of history for us to explore at Mottisfont, from the remains of the original thirteenth-century Augustinian priory, to the mid-twentieth century and the influence of the last private owner, the society hostess and patron of the arts, Maud Russell.

Our evening will be hosted by General Manager Alison Evans and her team. They will take us on a journey exploring highlights of the beautiful gardens and historically interesting house, including



a preview of their latest art exhibition. As we go they will give us an insight into their plans to improve and extend what is on offer to visitors and what they have achieved so far.

**\$40 per person**

Includes lunch and refreshments



## Castle Drogo and Dartmoor Devon

Sunday September 9, 3:30pm to  
Tuesday September 11, 2pm

Our hotel will be the Ilsington Country House Hotel near Haytor in Devon. On Sunday we will meet for afternoon tea at the hotel prior to departing for an evening tour of Castle Drogo.

While at Castle Drogo we will learn more about the last castle to be built in England; the dream home of Julius Drewe, a wealthy tea baron. The granite castle was built between 1910 and 1930 and is one of the most remarkable works of Sir Edwin Lutyens, combining the grandeur of a medieval castle with the comforts of the twentieth century. Our tour will end with dinner in the restaurant at Castle Drogo.

The following day we will return to Castle Drogo for a tour of the gardens with Head Gardener John Rippin. Following lunch we will move on to the Parke Estate, located on the outskirts of the moorland town Bovey Tracey, where we will explore its orchards, walled garden and estate walks. We will return to the hotel for free time prior to meeting for drinks and dinner.

Our final day will take place a short distance from our hotel where we will enjoy a walk up Haytor and a visit to Widecombe on the Moor. Both locations offer extensive views across Dartmoor and Head Ranger Gus Fergusson will give an insight into the management of these spectacular places.

### **\$700 per person**

Includes two nights' accommodation, all meals, refreshments, and transportation during the event

# Petworth House and Park

## Petworth, West Sussex

Friday October 5, 10:30am to 3:45pm

Petworth House is a vast late-seventeenth-century mansion. It is set in a beautiful 700-acre deer park, landscaped by Capability Brown and immortalized in Turner's paintings. The house contains the Trust's finest collection of pictures, with numerous works by Turner, Van Dyke, Reynolds and Blake, ancient and neo-classical sculpture, fine furniture and carvings by Grinling Gibbons. The servants' quarters contain fascinating kitchens and other service rooms.

House and Collections Manager Andy Loukes will be our guide through the house and its collection. Head Gardener Gary Liddle will take us on a tour of the extensive grounds surrounding the house.

### \$50 per person

Includes lunch and refreshments



National Trust properties have varying levels of access for visitors with disabilities. If you have any questions about the nature of these programs and your requirements, please contact Jan Lizza for more details: 212-480-2889 extension 205 or [jlizza@royal-oak.org](mailto:jlizza@royal-oak.org).

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

**Accommodation:** Every effort is made to select convenient and comfortable hotels for each tour, some of which may not offer air conditioning.

**Dietary Restrictions:** Please indicate any dietary restrictions. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.

**Visitors with Disabilities:** Sites have varying levels of access for visitors with disabilities. Please indicate any physical restrictions.

**Cancellation Policy:** Refunds may be requested up to 30 days prior to event (less a \$25 processing fee). There are no refunds for cancellations made 1 to 29 days prior to the program; however, your payment may be converted to a tax-deductible contribution.



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Front cover: The ceiling of the Boudoir at Attingham Park, Shropshire.

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To reserve your place on these tours, contact Jan Lizza  
email: [jlizza@royal-oak.org](mailto:jlizza@royal-oak.org)  
phone: 212.480.2889 or 800.913.6565, ext. 205