



A unique experience with Albion Journeys

Take time to reflect

Dear Royal Oak Members and Friends,

I am very pleased to share with you our brand-new 2020 heritage tour program produced in partnership with Albion, one of the leading heritage travel providers in Great Britain. These exclusive group tours offer Royal Oak members the unique opportunity to discover the vast cultural and natural heritage of Britain including many of the impressive places owned by the National Trust.

Immerse yourself in Britain's fascinating history on these custom itineraries with behind-the-scenes tours, after dinner lectures and insights from the owners of the properties themselves. Our 2020 program has some captivating new tours. Discover the stunning pastoral landscapes of the Malverns, an inspiration for writers and composers such as Tolkien and Elgar on our *Nostalgic Journey Through the Malvern Hills & Cotswold Vales* tour (page 28) or discover architectural gems in Britain's capital city on our *Tudors & Stuarts in London* tour (page 8).

The Royal Oak Foundation is proud to be partners of the National Trust, helping to support the Trust's vital conservation work. We recently launched our 2019 National Trust appeal to support a major effort to protect Blickling Hall's remarkable library and make its collection better known to the public. Blickling's library is one of Britain's foremost private book collections, making it of exceptional national and international significance. Acquired in 1742, it contains more than 12,500 volumes, including some very rare and precious early manuscripts. You can see Blickling's wonderful library for yourself on the *Cambridge & East Anglia Mansions & Villages* tour featured on page 26.

I encourage you to join one or more of these tours and experience first-hand the history and beauty of the United Kingdom. Every tour helps raise funds for The Royal Oak Foundation too and we are sure that you will have a truly wonderful time sharing these journeys with other members and friends from across the United States.

Ian Murray

Interim Executive Director, The Royal Oak Foundation



Chartwell



Knole House



Longleat House

Chatsworth House

Delve Deeper into Britain's Heritage

It's the little extras that set Albion tours apart from the rest

Carefully chosen itineraries

We work closely with our partner heritage organizations to create unique and insightful itineraries that truly unlock Britain's history and culture. Our itineraries are carefully researched to ensure that they provide a valuable and enriching experience. Our in-house planners are always on hand should you have any questions before you travel with us.

Caring staff

If you have booked an Albion tour before you will already be on first name terms with our customer service team! They will look after you from your first enquiry through to your arrival in the UK, and work hard to ensure that any special requests or arrangements you may need are carried out. Our team work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure your tour runs smoothly.

Tailored reading lists

If you want to understand more about the themes of your tour, we provide a full reading list that should enable you to fully engage with the subject before your tour begins. We ensure that our reading lists are entertaining as well as informative, and they often include a mix of fiction as well as factual tomes. It is up to you how much you want to use the reading list, but you can be sure that it will help spark lively conversation!

Special guided tours

On an Albion journey we arrange tours by the house owners themselves wherever possible, to really bring historic houses alive. We also offer behind the scenes tours or private tours with special access, and even talks by curators at historic houses, to make sure you get the full story and the most out of your visit.

Exclusive themed talks by experts

The majority of our tours include an after-dinner talk by an expert in their field that promises to be both informative and engaging. Whether it is a leading historian, fascinating writer or learned expert, we arrange guest speakers who will enhance the themes of your tour and provide some captivating background or intriguing insight. With the opportunity for you to ask questions at the end of the talk, these interactive experiences are an opportunity not to be missed.



Hartwell House

Hand-picked hotels

Your journey through Britain's colorful past won't end after a day of excursions. We've chosen your principal hotels for their character and history and full descriptions can be found on our website. These hotels are complemented by conveniently located overnight hotels at the beginning and end of your stay.

Two hotels featured on these tours that are of particular interest are Historic House Hotels of the National Trust, with all profits supporting the charity's conservation work. **Hartwell House's** most famous resident was Louis XVIII, exiled King of France, who lived there with his Court for five years. The hotel also welcomed Bill Clinton during his Presidency. **Bodysgallen Hall** is believed to have begun life as a watchtower for Conwy Castle in the 13th century but it wasn't until late in the Elizabethan era that it became a house.



**A Wonderful Opportunity
to Explore & Experience...**



**Create your
perfect tour
room upgrades,
extra nights,
excursions,
theater trips...**

**We can book
weekend theater
or sightseeing
breaks in central
London as an
add-on to your
main tour.
Contact us for
more details!**



Your Tour, Your Way

We are happy to book any room upgrades or extras you might require to make your stay extra special. For everything from extra nights at your hotel to additional transfers or even supplementary hotels, excursions or theater trips, contact the Albion office to discuss prices and availability.

Travel in 2020 with your favorite Tour Directors

Here at Albion we are aware that as well as an excellent itinerary and quality hotels, exceptional Tour Directors help make your tour special, so we'd like to introduce you to some of our team members...

David Robertson



David left the world of commerce eight years ago to become a tour manager so that he could share his love for travel and flex his organizing skills. David is very welcoming and simply loves sharing his passion for the UK with his clients. David is originally from the Midlands but now bases himself in the North of England.

"Extraordinary, professional, caring and informative."

David will be joining these tours:

*Glorious Gardens & Grandeur of North Wales
The Lake District & William Wordsworth's Homes
Aristocrats & Manor Houses & A Grand Tour to the North*

Carolyn Russell



Carolyn has travelled extensively all over the world with tour groups, previously spending a lot of time in Cuba and North America. She now prefers to travel with groups in the UK, sharing her love of the country's history with her clients. Carolyn is also our resident expert on the Royal Family; we challenge you to find something that she doesn't know about them. When not managing tours Carolyn lives in central London.

"Carolyn was spectacular – so well organized, knowledgeable, and professional. She made this tour work perfectly and flawlessly."

Carolyn will be joining these tours:

*The Tudors & Stuarts in London
South East England & the Bloomsbury Group
Oxford & Home Counties' Picturesque Houses & Gardens*

Tour Map



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For a more detailed map for each tour please see the tour pages

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Last chance
to book
September
2019 tours



Don't miss your opportunity
to join us in 2019....



Stunning Stately Homes of Yorkshire & the Brontës

September 1 to 9, 2019

from \$4,990 per person

The Brontës are well known as poets and novelists and their home, now the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Yorkshire, has become a place of pilgrimage for thousands of visitors each year. We make the journey north to York to discover places associated with their lives, alongside other historic houses with literary associations such as Knebworth House, once the residence of dramatist Edward Bulwer-Lytton, and East Riddlesden Hall, believed to be the inspiration for Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*.

Special extras included in your itinerary

- ❖ Guided walking tour of York
- ❖ Guided tour of York Minster
- ❖ Guided walking tour of Haworth
- ❖ Guided tour of Norton Conyers
- ❖ Guided tour of Nostell Priory
- ❖ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker

Includes visits to: Wrest Park, Stamford, Kirkstall Abbey, York, York Minster, Temple Newsam House, Haworth, Brontë Parsonage Museum, Norton Conyers, East Riddlesden Hall, Saltaire, Harrogate, Nostell Priory, Grantham and Knebworth House



Wrest Park



Nostell Priory



Knebworth House

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 2 nights at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Stapleford Park Country House Hotel
- ❖ 4 nights at the Grand Hotel & Spa York
- ❖ 1 night at the Waterton Park Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All entrance costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Nights One and Eight – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor
Night Two – Stapleford Park Country House Hotel, near Melton Mowbray
Nights Three to Six – The Grand Hotel & Spa, York
Night Seven – Waterton Park Hotel, Wakefield

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

For full details of this tour please visit albionjourneys.com or call 1-866-834-8358



Queen Victoria 200: Regal Splendor & an Island Getaway

September 15 to 24, 2019

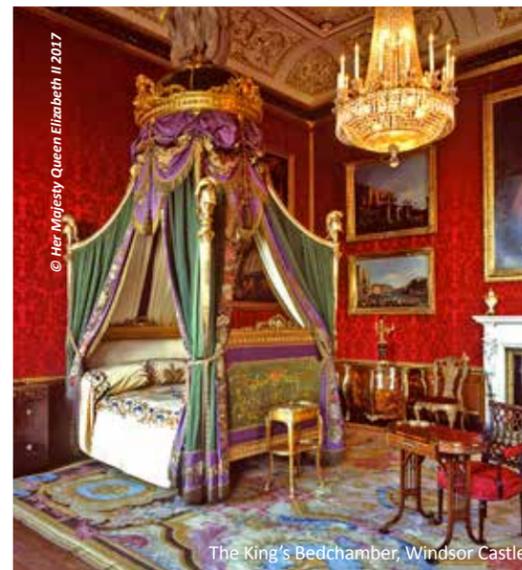
from \$4,800 per person

2019 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria, Britain's second longest serving monarch. Victoria's reign marked a period of great cultural, industrial and political change and a great expansion of the British Empire. This tour takes in some of the famous palaces, castles and country houses frequented by the Queen throughout her reign and offers a very real insight into her life and the people closest to her.

Special extras included in your itinerary

- ❖ Guided walking tour of Windsor with a Blue Badge Guide
- ❖ A visit to the royal residence of Kensington Palace and Westminster Abbey
- ❖ Guided tour of Dimbola Lodge
- ❖ Guided tour of Nunwell House
- ❖ Guided tour and lunch at Avington Park
- ❖ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker

Includes visits to: Windsor, Windsor Castle, Hughenden, Cliveden Gardens, Kensington Palace, Westminster Abbey, Arundel Castle, Osborne House, Cowes, The Needles, Farringford House & Gardens, Dimbola Lodge, Mottistone Gardens,



© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2017

The King's Bedchamber, Windsor Castle



Osborne House

Popular
tour: new
date added

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 5 nights at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ 4 nights at the Royal Hotel, Isle of Wight
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 1 dinner at a restaurant in Windsor
- ❖ 1 dinner at a restaurant on the Isle of Wight
- ❖ 2 lunches
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ Return ferry to the Isle of Wight
- ❖ All entrance costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Nights One to Four, and Nine – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor
Nights Five to Eight – The Royal Hotel, Isle of Wight

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

St Lawrence Parish Church, Nunwell House, North Court Gardens, Godshill and Avington Park
 For full details of this tour please visit albionjourneys.com or call 1-866-834-8358



Banqueting House

The Tudors & Stuarts in London

May 4 to 11, 2020

from \$4,990 per person

London's skyline today is characterized by modern high-rise towers, but look hard and you can still see traces of its early history. The Tudor and Stuart monarchs collectively ruled Britain for over 200 years and this time was highly influential on the city's architecture. We discover Sir Christopher Wren's rebuilding of the city's churches after the Great Fire of London along with visiting magnificent St Paul's Cathedral. We also travel to the capital's outskirts to find impressive Tudor houses waiting to be rediscovered.

Eight Day Itinerary

Monday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to The Royal Horseguards Hotel, our hotel for the duration of our stay. Tonight, join the group for a welcome drink followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Tuesday: Tower of London, the Monument to the Great Fire of London, St Dunstan in the East Garden and St Paul's Cathedral

We begin our day at the Tower of London. Founded in 1066, in its time it has housed a famous selection of prisoners including multiple wives and associates of Henry VIII. We will find out more about the history here on our audio guided tour.

Our next stop is the Monument to the Great Fire of London, designed by Britain's famed architect Sir Christopher Wren and completed in 1677. Afterwards, we venture to St Dunstan in the East Garden. This unique city garden was built amongst the ruins of a medieval church. The church was severely bombed during World War II, but it wasn't until 1967 that the City of London decided to turn the remains into a public garden.

We head next to St Paul's Cathedral, with its world-famous dome that remains an iconic feature of the London skyline. The present cathedral was the masterpiece of Sir Christopher Wren, built between 1675 and 1710 in the Baroque style. We have time to discover the spectacular interiors and the crypt on our guided tour.

Back at the hotel this evening, we enjoy dinner together before a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Wednesday: Ham House & Gardens and Syon Park

We take a scenic drive to Ham House & Gardens, one of Europe's greatest 17th-century houses nestling on the banks of the River Thames. This atmospheric mansion with fine interiors and historic gardens has remained virtually unchanged for 400 years and we find out more on our guided house tour.

Next we visit Syon Park, the spectacular London home of the Duke of Northumberland. Built in the 16th century, it has been in the family of the present owners for more than 400 years. The Tudor mansion was remodelled by Robert Adam for the first Duke in the 1760s and we learn more about the property on our guided tour.

Meals: Breakfast

Thursday: Sir Christopher Wren's Churches, Eastbury Manor House and Sutton House

After the Great Fire of London, Sir Christopher Wren rebuilt 51 churches and this morning we take a guided walking tour to see several of the finest places of worship including Temple Church and St Stephen Walbrook.

We then travel to the Tudor gentry house, Eastbury Manor House, for a guided tour. Completed in around 1573, little has changed since. Admire the evocative exposed timbers in the attic, an original spiral oak staircase as well as the cobbled courtyard.

Our final stop today is Sutton House. Nearly 500 years old, this property was once a Tudor country house for a courtier of King Henry VIII. We have time to explore the house at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Friday: Chelsea Physic Garden, Southwark Cathedral, Globe Theatre and the George Inn

We start the day with a guided tour of the Chelsea Physic Garden. Founded in 1673 as the Apothecaries' Garden, with the purpose of training apprentices in the identification and use of medicinal plants, the garden was only opened to the public in the 1980s.

Afterwards, we visit Southwark Cathedral, once known as the parish of St Saviour's and the oldest Gothic church in London. William Shakespeare is perhaps the most famous resident of the parish and his brother Edmund was buried at St Saviour's. His ledger stone is situated in the Cathedral Choir.

We continue to Shakespeare's Globe where we visit the fascinating exhibition and enjoy a backstage tour to learn more about this iconic theater and its most famous playwright. From colorful stories of the original 1599 Globe to the faithful reconstruction process of the 1990s, there is plenty to discover. To round off our day we visit the George Inn, the last remaining galleried pub in the capital, before travelling on to enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Westminster Abbey, Covent Garden and Banqueting House

Our day begins with a guided tour of the magnificent Westminster Abbey. Founded by Benedictine monks in 960AD, the Abbey has been the coronation church since 1066. A remarkable addition to the Abbey was the glorious Lady Chapel built by King Henry VII, first of the Tudor monarchs.

After, we venture to Covent Garden for free time. The West Piazza of Covent Garden Market is known for its street performers that entertain every afternoon. All performers have passed an audition to entertain here and good acts can draw huge crowds. There are also restaurants, cafés and shopping opportunities here.

We end the day with a visit to Banqueting House, a survivor of the lost royal Palace of Whitehall. The crowning glory here is the magnificent nine ceiling paintings by Peter Paul Rubens, installed in 1636.

Meals: Breakfast

Sunday: Fenton House and the Charterhouse

The day starts to the north of the city in the leafy suburb of Hampstead, at Fenton House, a handsome 17th-century merchant's house set in a beautiful walled garden. The house is filled with highly decorative collections of porcelain, early musical instruments and 17th-century needlework. The balcony of the house offers panoramic views of the city on fine days.

We continue on to the Charterhouse, a former Carthusian monastery which, in 2017, opened its doors to the public for the first time since its foundation in 1348. Since the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century, the site has served as a private mansion, a boys' school and an almshouse, which it remains to this day. We enjoy a guided tour of this historic site with one of the 'Brothers' (a resident of the almshouse).

Afterwards we have free time to enjoy London at our leisure before a farewell dinner together back at the hotel this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 7 nights at The Royal Horseguards Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 3 nights at the hotel (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 1 dinner in a local restaurant
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotel

Nights One to Seven – The Royal Horseguards Hotel**, London

For more information on this hotel please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

**Please note: Hotel check in is available from 4pm only. If you would like to check in earlier, please call for details.



Fenton House

Special extras included in your itinerary

- ❖ Audio guided tour of the Tower of London
- ❖ Guided tour of St Paul's Cathedral
- ❖ Guided tour of Ham House
- ❖ Guided tour of Syon Park
- ❖ Guided walking tour of Sir Christopher Wren's Churches
- ❖ Guided tour of Eastbury Manor House
- ❖ Guided tour of Chelsea Physic Garden
- ❖ Backstage tour of the Globe Theatre
- ❖ Guided tour of Westminster Abbey
- ❖ Guided tour of the Charterhouse
- ❖ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker



Ham House



Westminster Abbey



Monument to the Great Fire of London



Hever Castle



Windsor Castle



Ightham Mote



Sissinghurst Castle Garden

Kent Castles & Coasts

May 5 to 13, 2020

from \$4,990 per person

The romantic county of Kent offers a multitude of historic treasures, from enchanting castles and stately homes to imaginative gardens and delightful coastal towns. On this captivating break we learn about Kent's role in shaping English history, and discover some of its famous residents such as Ann Boleyn, Charles Dickens and Winston Churchill. In a county famed for its castles, we also explore historic Hever and impressive Leeds Castle. We combine these fascinating architectural wonders with the peacefulness of the Kentish coast, as we experience the classic seaside charm of Margate and Whitstable.

Nine Day Itinerary

Tuesday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Wednesday: Chartwell and Ightham Mote

Today we first visit Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's beloved home from 1924 to the time of his death. The house is still home to many of the great statesman's personal and political mementos, including an amazing collection of gifts he received from other world leaders and his personal painting studio hidden in the grounds.

Next, we explore the moated manor house of Ightham Mote, once described by historian David Starkey as "the most beautiful and the most interesting of English country houses". Built nearly 700 years ago, atmospheric Ightham has been home to medieval knights, courtiers to Henry VIII and Victorian High Society.

From here, we travel to the Chilton Park Hotel where we stay for the next six nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Hever Castle and Riverhill Himalayan Gardens

We head to Hever Castle, the childhood home of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, where we enjoy a private guided tour and lunch. Dating back to the late 13th century, this double-moated castle is home to various historic artifacts including Tudor portraits and furniture, as well as two prayer books inscribed by Anne Boleyn. The castle



was lavishly restored by American millionaire, William Waldorf Astor, in the early 20th century.

We continue to Riverhill Himalayan Gardens, a fine example of horticultural excellence, created by contemporary of Charles Darwin and patron of Victorian plant hunter, John Rogers. We discover its interesting history as we enjoy the combination of world-class British sculpture, secret pathways and stunning floral displays.

This evening we enjoy dinner together in a local pub.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Friday: Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Tenterden and Bodiam Castle

This morning we head to Sissinghurst Castle Garden where we enjoy an exclusive out-of-hours garden tour. Created in the 1930s by novelist Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson around the ruins of an Elizabethan manor house, these world-famous gardens are laid out as a series of individually-planted 'rooms' including a fragrant Herb Garden and Rose Garden.

After lunch (not included) in the picturesque town of Tenterden, we continue to Bodiam Castle. This archetypal 14th-century moated castle with a ruined interior gives us a glimpse of medieval splendor and boasts an original wooden portcullis, spiral staircases, and battlements.

After dinner back at the hotel this evening, we enjoy a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Canterbury, Canterbury Cathedral and Whitstable

We start the day in Canterbury. The city has a fascinating history which we learn about on our guided walking tour. We also enjoy a guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral, the oldest cathedral in England, dating back to Norman times. In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in the cathedral and ever since, it has been a site of Christian pilgrimage.

Our next stop is Whitstable, a picturesque fishing and harbour town on the north coast of Kent, renowned for its fresh oysters and connections to Charles Dickens. You can enjoy sampling these culinary delights during dinner in a popular local seafood restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Margate, Sandwich and The Salutation Gardens

This morning we head to the coastal town of Margate. This town epitomises the charm of a classic British seaside resort, with its unspoiled sandy bays, retro shops and a friendly atmosphere. As Margate is also home to a thriving arts community, you may like to browse the Turner Contemporary, a beautiful gallery overlooking the sea.

We then head to the historic town of Sandwich. Once a major port, there are still many original medieval buildings dotted around this enchanting town, making it a delight to explore.

We continue to The Salutation Gardens in Sandwich, where we enjoy a guided tour followed by lunch. Designed in 1912 by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, the exquisite gardens are divided into a sequence of symmetrical 'rooms.' After around 70 years, the gardens sadly fell into disorder, but with a new owner and head gardener at the helm, an extensive restoration project was undertaken in 2005.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Monday: Leeds Castle and Godinton House

We visit Leeds Castle, a quintessential moated castle set in 500 acres of glorious parkland, where we enjoy a private guided tour. Dating back to the 12th century, it was once home to Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. The castle's last private owner was Lady Baillie, an Anglo-American heiress who lovingly restored the castle to its former glory. We discover more of the castle's fascinating history as well as its wealth of furnishings, paintings, tapestries and antiques on display.

Our next stop is Godinton House, a delightful Jacobean house incorporating a medieval hall and ornate carvings where we enjoy a guided tour and lunch. Godinton is a much-loved home where each room reflects the tastes of those who have lived here with an excellent collection of furniture, art, and curios. We also have time to explore the 12 acres of tranquil gardens, surrounded by ancient parkland.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday: Down House and Windsor Castle

Our first stop today is Down House, home of scientist Charles Darwin and his family for 40 years. Several rooms have been recreated as they appeared when he lived here including the study where he wrote 'On the Origin of Species'. The house is surrounded by extensive gardens; Darwin's 'outdoor laboratory'.

We then visit Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world which is still one of the official residences of Queen Elizabeth II today. Established in the 11th century by William the Conqueror, it has been remodelled by successive kings and queens and is regularly used for ceremonial and state occasions. The

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 2 nights at the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery
- ❖ 6 nights at the Chilton Park Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 1 dinner at a traditional local pub
- ❖ 1 dinner at a popular local seafood restaurant
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All entrance costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Nights One and Eight – Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, Windsor

Nights Two to Seven – Chilton Park Hotel, Lenham

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

magnificent State Apartments are furnished with some of the finest works of art to admire during our audio guided tour.

Later, we check back in to the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Godinton House



Linlithgow Palace



Brodie Castle



Urquart Castle



Craigievar Castle

Bonnie Prince Charlie & the Jacobite Rebellion

May 10 to 20, 2020

from \$6,490 per person

Bonnie Prince Charlie, born to the exiled Stuart King James II, was raised in the belief that his family were the true rulers of Britain. Supported by his fellow Jacobites, his planned invasion of England started promisingly but ultimately ended in a disastrous defeat with the Prince forced to go on the run. Discover the fascinating story of the young prince's time in Scotland, visiting the places where he sought refuge, in a story that has shaped Scottish history.

Eleven Day Itinerary

Sunday: Arrival

From Edinburgh airport, a private transfer will take you to the Principal Charlotte Square Hotel, our hotel for the next two nights. Later, join the group for a welcome drink, dinner and an introductory lecture.

Meals: Dinner

Monday: Palace of Holyroodhouse, National Museum of Scotland and Edinburgh Castle

We visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse for a private guided tour followed by refreshments. Back in September 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie set up court at the palace and we visit the rooms that became the focus of the Jacobite cause in Edinburgh. Next, we venture to the National Museum of Scotland, boasting a significant collection of material relating to the Jacobite story.

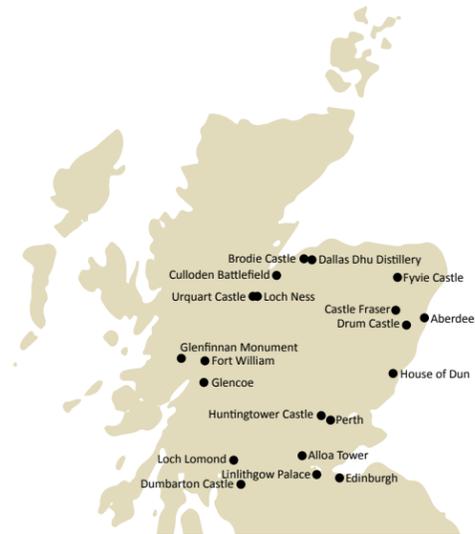
We then head to Edinburgh Castle, witness to many of the defining events of Scottish history including the unsuccessful Jacobite blockades during the 1715 and 1745 risings. Discover more on our audio guided tour.

Meals: Breakfast

Tuesday: Linlithgow Palace, Alloa Tower, Huntingtower Castle and Perth

The day begins at Linlithgow Palace, once a comfortable country retreat visited by Charles Edward Stuart during his march south in 1745. However, in 1746, Linlithgow was ravaged by fire after British troops ransacked the house searching for retreating Jacobites.

Next is Alloa Tower, one of Scotland's oldest keeps and previously home to John Erskine, the Jacobite



who led the 1715 rising. Later we venture to Huntingtower Castle, birthplace of Lord George Murray; both he and his brother were involved in earlier Jacobite risings.

Then we visit Perth, 'Gateway to the Highlands', located on the banks of the River Tay with a rich history stretching back over 800 years.

We then continue to our overnight hotel, Fonab Castle.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: House of Dun, Drum Castle and Aberdeen

The Georgian House of Dun was built for David Erskine, a distant cousin of John Erskine. On our guided tour we discover subtle nuances that hint at David Erskine's clandestine loyalties.

Next we visit Jacobite Drum Castle where we enjoy a guided tour. Alexander Irvine fought alongside Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden and after the defeat, hid in a secret room at Drum Castle to avoid capture.

Our final stop today is the cosmopolitan port and 'Granite city' of Aberdeen. We then travel to the Marcliffe Hotel where we enjoy a fascinating talk after dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Craigievar Castle and Castle Fraser

Our day begins with a guided tour at Craigievar Castle. Don't miss the Order of Battle for the Battle of Culloden which you will find in a manuscript cabinet here.

Afterwards we visit Castle Fraser, one of the strongholds of the Fraser Clan, who came out for the Jacobites in the 1745 rebellion. We learn more on our guided tour.

Meals: Breakfast

Friday: Fyvie Castle, Brodie Castle and Dallas Dhu Distillery

Known as Scotland's pink castle, Fyvie blends 13th-century origins with opulent Edwardian interiors. After our visit to Fyvie, we continue to Brodie Castle, where there are tales of government troops camped out in the wood behind the castle,

in an area known today as the '45 Wood. The house also has a major collection of paintings plus fine antique furniture which we discover on our guided tour.

Our day finishes with a visit to Dallas Dhu Distillery – learn how whisky was made in the 1900s and then sample a wee dram too.

Later, we check in to the Macdonald Drumossie Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Inverness, Culloden Battlefield and Urquart Castle

This morning we enjoy free time in Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, before travelling to Culloden Battlefield, scene of the final battle of the 1745-46 Jacobite rising.

After, we continue to Urquart Castle where in 1689 government troops were stationed. On their departure in 1692, they blew up the gatehouse to prevent the Jacobites using the location.

Meals: Breakfast

Sunday: Loch Ness, Jacobite train journey and Glenfinnan Monument

We visit Loch Ness where a multi-media presentation in the Exhibition Centre leads us through 500 million years of history.

Then we continue to Fortwilliam, known for its breathtaking location on the shores of Loch Linnhe. We'll board the famous Jacobite Train, featured in the *Harry Potter* movies, which takes us across the scenic, mountainous west coast of Scotland to Mallaig.

We return via the Glenfinnan Monument – a chance to stand on the site where Bonnie Prince Charlie came ashore on 19 August 1745 and raised the Stuart standard. The lone kilted Highlander atop the 18 meter-high column is a tribute to the Jacobite clansmen who fought to defend the Highland way of life.

We then travel to the Glenfinnan House Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Glencoe, Loch Lomond and Dumbarton Castle

Our day begins at Glencoe, regarded by many as a natural monument to the infamous massacre of February 1692, where 38 supporters of the 1689 Jacobite rising were killed by government troops.

We then enjoy a Loch Lomond cruise before visiting Dumbarton Castle, once a military base and prison. Aeneas MacDonald – one of the 'seven men of Moidart' – was imprisoned at the castle after the Battle of Culloden. Tonight we stay at the Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday: Royal Yacht Britannia and Edinburgh Underground Vaults

Back in Edinburgh, we step aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia, the Queen's floating Royal residence for over 44 years. Learn more on our fascinating audio guided tour. After, we have free time in

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from Edinburgh*
- ❖ 3 nights at the Principal Charlotte Square Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Fonab Castle Hotel
- ❖ 2 nights at the Marcliffe Hotel & Spa
- ❖ 2 nights at the Macdonald Drumossie Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Glenfinnan House Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full Scottish breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 7 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Nights One, Two and Ten – Principal Charlotte Square Hotel, Edinburgh

Night Three – Fonab Castle Hotel, Pitlochry
Nights Four and Five – Marcliffe Hotel & Spa, Aberdeen

Nights Six and Seven – Macdonald Drumossie Hotel, Inverness

Night Eight – Glenfinnan House Hotel, Glenfinnan

Night Nine – Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort, near Glasgow

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

the city before checking back in to the Principal Charlotte Square Hotel.

Following dinner, we take a tour beneath the bustle of Edinburgh's Old Town, to the dark, damp and eerie Underground Vaults. Explore a world of streets and tunnels that were once the main streets of Edinburgh until they were built on top of, but be warned, this tour is not for the faint hearted with various tales of supernatural happenings.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Edinburgh airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Conwy Castle



Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens



Plas Newydd House



Bodnant Garden

Glorious Gardens & Grandeur of North Wales

June 7 to 16, 2020

from \$5,750 per person

North Wales, a land blessed with rugged mountains, beautiful beaches and picturesque villages also has some of the most striking gardens in the UK, many attached to magnificent houses with centuries of history to uncover. From world-renowned gardens to hidden gems, we encounter a remarkable array of sweeping landscapes, woodlands, valleys, walled gardens and displays of abundant flowers and shrubs which thrive in the unique climate of this region.

Ten Day Itinerary

Sunday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Monday: Stratford-upon-Avon and Shakespeare's Birthplace

We head to Stratford-upon-Avon, a town forever associated with England's greatest poet and playwright, William Shakespeare. We visit Shakespeare's Birthplace, where we explore the extraordinary story of Shakespeare in the house where he was born and grew up.

Later, we continue our journey to Wales, checking in to Bodysgallen Hall & Spa, one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels, where we spend the next six nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday: Bodnant Garden and Penrhyn Castle

Today we first visit Bodnant Garden, nestled in the Snowdonian foothills. Created over 150 years, this world-famous garden is home to National Collections and Champion Trees and boasts sweeping lawns, grand terraces and verdant woodland.

Next stop is the magnificent Penrhyn Castle. Built in the 19th century in a neo-Norman style, Penrhyn was built on a massive scale over a period of 13 years and offers superb views of Snowdonia. There is so much to see here, from the outstanding collection of paintings, restored Victorian kitchens and a railway museum.

Meals: Breakfast



Wednesday: Isle of Anglesey, Plas Newydd House & Gardens and Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens

Today we cross the 19th-century Menai Bridge to spend the day on the Isle of Anglesey. Our first visit is to the fine country house of Plas Newydd, where we enjoy a guided tour of the house and gardens. Its most famous past resident is the 1st Marquess of Anglesey, who commanded the cavalry at Waterloo in 1815. The elegant interior owes more to the 1930s, thanks to its associations with the artist, socialite and fallen WWII soldier Rex Whistler. The garden's climate allows extraordinary plants to flourish including tender exotics and Mediterranean plants.

We continue on to Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens, a series of historic gardens which are gradually being restored to their former glory, where we enjoy a guided tour. Three different gardens have been discovered, including an unusual walled garden with curving walls, a secret valley garden with three waterfalls and a river, and an upper woodland garden with the remains of a 19th-century folly.

After dinner back at the hotel this evening, we are treated to a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Plas Tan y Bwlch, Betws-y-Coed and Conwy Castle

Home to the Snowdonia National Park Environmental Studies Centre, Plas Tan y Bwlch is a 17th-century country house which was once home to slate quarry owners the Oakeley family. The 100 acre estate boasts a spectacular Victorian garden, native and exotic plants, rare trees and shrubs. We enjoy a guided tour with the Head Gardener (please note there is no access to the house itself).

We then make a short stop in the picturesque village of Betws-y-Coed in the Snowdonia National Park. The backdrop of coniferous forests has earned this area the name 'Little Switzerland'.

From here we head to the medieval walled town of Conwy to visit the imposing Conwy Castle. Classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this imposing castle was built by Edward I during his conquest of Wales in the late 13th century and is considered to be among the finest surviving medieval fortifications in Britain with soaring curtain walls, round towers and fortified gateways.

This evening we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Erddig Hall and Brynbella Garden

Erddig Hall is an atmospheric early 18th-century house that reflects the 'upstairs, downstairs' life of a gentry family, and we're provided with a fascinating insight into the lives of the family and their servants on our private guided tour. Our tour extends to the superb walled garden, now restored to its former 18th-century formal design with rare fruit trees and a national collection of ivies.

We then travel to Brynbella Garden, nine acres of beautiful garden and woodland set below a Palladian villa. The current owners have created a modern garden while retaining as many of the original 18th-century features as possible. The garden is laid out as a series of rooms including a woodland garden, walled garden, three water gardens, a gravel garden plus formal and informal garden areas with focal points such as statuary and sculptures.

This evening we enjoy a traditional fish and chip supper at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Portmeirion and Plas Bronanw Gardens

The day starts in Portmeirion, an Italianate village created by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, inspired by his visits to the Mediterranean. Its unique atmosphere has been featured on camera many times, most famously in the iconic 1960s British TV series *The Prisoner*.

We then visit Plas Bronanw Gardens. The house and gardens were given to Sir Clough Williams-Ellis by his father in 1902 and the gardens are regarded by some as his finest creation. Inspired by the gardens of renaissance Italy, he created a unique garden landscape with stone walls, topiary and avenues of trees leading the eye to the dramatic mountainous backdrop.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Tatton Park

Leaving Wales we journey east to Tatton Park, where we enjoy a guided tour followed by lunch. Built by Samuel Wyatt, Tatton Park is one of Britain's most complete estates, with a landscaped deer park and exquisite formal gardens. The opulent interior is crammed with collections of silver, china, glass and fine furniture made by Gillows. This grandeur also extends outside to the garden, where year-round color is provided by the Rose, Italian and Japanese gardens.

From here we travel south to the Mercure Stratford-upon-Avon Shakespeare Hotel, where we stay overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Monday: Waterperry Gardens

We start the morning with some time at leisure in Stratford-upon-Avon, before travelling to Waterperry Gardens. Here we enjoy lunch followed by a guided tour. Made famous by Beatrix Havergal who established her School of Horticulture for Ladies here from 1932 to 1971, the eight acres of beautifully landscaped gardens now include a

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 1 night at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ 6 nights at Bodysgallen Hall & Spa
- ❖ 1 night at the Mercure Stratford-upon-Avon Shakespeare Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 2 dinners at local restaurants (including one traditional English fish and chip supper)
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All entrance costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Night One – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor

Nights Two to Seven – Bodysgallen Hall & Spa, near Llandudno

Night Eight – Mercure Stratford-upon-Avon Shakespeare Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

Night Nine – Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, Windsor

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

rose and formal knot garden, water-lily canal, and riverside walk.

Afterwards, we travel to the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Tatton Park



Burghley House



Holkham Hall



Ickworth House



Castle Howard

A Tour Around the Treasure Houses of England

June 21 to July 2, 2020

from \$5,990 per person

The Treasure Houses of England are a collection of the most magnificent palaces, houses and castles. Each with its own unique charm, stunning architecture and beautiful gardens, together these properties host some of the most important art collections in the world. We explore nine of these impressive places, alongside other historic gems, giving us a fascinating insight into life in England over the centuries.

Twelve Day Itinerary

Sunday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to the Audleys Wood Hotel where we stay for two nights. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Monday: Beaulieu

We make our way to the Beaulieu Estate where we enjoy a guided tour of Palace House, once the gatehouse of the medieval Beaulieu Abbey, and the ancestral home of the Montagu family since 1538. Remodelled in the 1800s, it is now a fine example of a Victorian Gothic style country house.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday: RHS Garden Wisley and Leeds Castle

We travel to RHS Garden Wisley, the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship garden. Extending over 240 acres, Wisley offers a wealth of inspirational ideas on design, innovation and cultivation techniques.

Next stop is Leeds Castle, a quintessential moated castle. Dating back to the 12th century, it was once home to Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. The castle's last private owner was Lady Baillie, an Anglo-American heiress who lovingly restored the castle to its former glory. We discover more with an introductory lecture as well as an audio guided tour.

From here, we travel to the Chilton Park Hotel where we stay overnight. After dinner we are treated to a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Hatfield House

Home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, Hatfield House was built in 1611 by Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury. There are superb



examples of Elizabethan craftsmanship while the State Rooms are rich in paintings, fine furniture and tapestries and we learn more on our guided tour.

Later we check in to the Ickworth Hotel on the Ickworth Estate – a magnificent National Trust property and our base for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Holkham Hall, Norfolk villages and Ickworth House

We enjoy a private guided tour of Holkham Hall, an elegant 18th-century country mansion constructed in the Palladian style for Thomas Coke, 1st Earl of Leicester. The hall is currently home to the 8th Earl of Leicester. The spectacular Marble Hall was inspired by the Pantheon in Rome.

We also make a short stop in Castle Acre and Swaffham. The village of Castle Acre is a rare and complete survival of a Norman planned settlement, built by a great baronial family. The market town of Swaffham has many attractive Georgian buildings and was once home to a flourishing sheep and wool industry in the 14th and 15th centuries.

On returning to the Ickworth Estate we explore Ickworth House itself. This Neo-classical mansion is most notable for its enormous central Rotunda commissioned by the 4th Earl of Bristol to house his priceless treasures.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Doddington Hall and Lincoln

Begun in 1595 by the Elizabethan architect Robert Smythson, Doddington Hall was completed in 1600 and has never been sold or cleared out since. Still a lived-in family home, this fine mansion's unfussy, symmetrical looking exterior contrasts with an elegant Georgian interior. We learn more on our exclusive guided tour.

After our visit, we head to Lincoln where we have the afternoon at leisure. Lincoln has a well-preserved medieval quarter full of quaint cobbled streets while Lincoln Cathedral is one of Europe's finest Gothic buildings.

Later, we check in to Lincoln's DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, where we stay overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Chatsworth House

Today we enjoy a guided tour of magnificent Chatsworth House, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and witness to 16 generations of the powerful Cavendish family who acquired the estate in 1549. The house boasts grandiose interiors and a superlative art collection.

From here, we make our way to our hotel for the next two nights, the Grand Hotel & Spa in York.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Castle Howard and York

We enjoy a guided tour of Castle Howard, home to the Howard family for over 300 years. Designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, Castle Howard has appeared as *Brideshead* in film and television adaptations of Evelyn Waugh's classic novel.

We continue on to York, a city steeped in history, from its founding by the Romans to its wealth as a medieval wool trading center. There is plenty to admire, from the Roman city walls to the surviving medieval streets. A must-see is York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Harewood House

When Edwin Lascelles started building Harewood House in 1759, he employed the finest craftsmen of the time: architect John Carr, interior designer Robert Adam, furniture maker Thomas Chippendale and visionary landscape gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Harewood is still home to the Lascelles family and reflects the changing tastes and styles of the past 250 years and we learn more on our tailor-made tour followed by lunch.

Later we check back in to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Lincoln for the night.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday: Burghley House

We start our journey south, stopping for a guided tour of Burghley House, cited as England's greatest Elizabethan house. Burghley offers a unique glimpse into the way great houses have been lived in from the time of Elizabeth I to the present day.

We continue on to our overnight hotel, the Hartwell House Hotel, one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Blenheim Palace and Windsor Castle

We head to Blenheim Palace, designed on an awe-inspiring scale by Vanbrugh and set in beautiful parkland landscaped by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. As the seat of the Dukes of Marlborough, the palace is synonymous with the Churchill family and is the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. We learn more about the palace on our audio guided tour followed by a cream tea.

Our final visit is an audio guided tour of Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world and one of the Queen's official residences. Established in the 11th century by William the Conqueror, it has been remodelled by successive

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 2 nights at the Audleys Wood Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Chilton Park Hotel
- ❖ 2 nights at the Ickworth Hotel
- ❖ 2 nights at the Lincoln DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
- ❖ 2 nights at the Grand Hotel & Spa York
- ❖ 1 night at the Hartwell House Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 11 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

- Nights One and Two** – Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke
- Night Three** – Chilton Park Hotel, Lenham
- Nights Four and Five** – Ickworth Hotel, near Bury St Edmunds
- Nights Six and Nine** – DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Lincoln
- Nights Seven and Eight** – Grand Hotel & Spa, York
- Night Ten** – Hartwell House Hotel, near Aylesbury
- Night Eleven** – Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, Windsor

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

kings and queens and is regularly used for ceremonial and State occasions. Afterwards we check in to the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: As this tour travels from the south to the north of England and back, some days will involve fairly long journeys.



Blackwell



Brantwood



William Wordsworth



Sizergh Castle

The Lake District & William Wordsworth's Homes

July 5 to 13, 2020

from \$4,990 per person

The deep lakes and jagged fells of the Lake District have proved an inspiring backdrop for some of Britain's greatest poets, writers and artists. Classified as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, we explore this spectacular part of England with its magnificent scenery, while discovering how it influenced the life and work of the famous romantic poet, William Wordsworth.

Nine Day Itinerary

Sunday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. Tonight, join the group for a welcome drink followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Monday: Baddesley Clinton and Stratford-upon-Avon

Set timelessly in its own secluded parkland, Baddesley Clinton is a moated, medieval manor house dating back to the 13th century. Its extensive formal gardens are steeped in history, from its use as a place of hiding and refuge for Catholic priests to the story of the Victorian Quartet; four writers and artists who used Baddesley as a retreat from the modern world.

We then visit the beautiful, riverside town of Stratford-upon-Avon, forever associated with William Shakespeare. We take a guided walking tour to see some of the town's highlights before time at leisure. Fans of Shakespeare can visit the house in which he was born or discover the local theaters including the Swan Theatre, home of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Later we check in to our overnight hotel, the New Hall Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday: Rufford Old Hall and Sizergh Castle

Beginning our journey north, we make our way to Rufford Old Hall. This magnificent Tudor Great Hall, with later additions, was home to the Hesketh family for 500 years and reveals the family's lives, loves and fortunes. Surrounded by formal Victorian and Edwardian gardens, the hall has a fantastic collection of arms, armor and tapestries.



After, we visit Sizergh Castle, associated with the Strickland family since the 13th century. The castle's imposing grey stone walls rise up out of a beautiful garden with a pond, lake and a wonderful limestone rock garden while inside, we find portraits and fine furniture in this much-loved family home.

We then continue to the Newby Bridge Hotel, our base for the next five nights. This evening after dinner, we enjoy a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Brantwood House, Coniston Water Cruise, Ambleside, Lake Windermere Cruise and Bowness-on-Windermere

Brantwood House is the former home of John Ruskin and we visit the house just over 200 years after his birth. Filled with many fine paintings, beautiful furniture and Ruskin's personal treasures, gain a fascinating insight into the world of the famous writer, artist and social reformer on our guided tour.

We then enjoy a scenic cruise on Coniston Water with its backdrop of spectacular scenery towards Brantwood, before continuing on by coach to Ambleside, a pretty town situated at the head of Lake Windermere, the largest natural lake in England. From here we take a picturesque cruise to Bowness-on-Windermere, a charming enclave on the eastern shores of the lake, where we have free time to enjoy the craft and gift shops, lakeside cafés and tea rooms. Tonight we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum

Today we head to Dove Cottage, home to Wordsworth from 1799 to 1808 and his first family home. The famous poet fell in love with the cottage and Grasmere while on a walking tour of the Lake District in 1799. Little changed since Wordsworth's tenure, the story of the house

and family is vividly told here, with many of Wordsworth's furniture and possessions on display.

Our day continues at the Wordsworth Museum, home to original letters, journals, manuscripts and artworks. We enjoy an exclusive talk from a member of the senior curatorial team here, where we have the opportunity to see items from the collection which are not ordinarily viewed by the public, including first edition books. After lunch together we will also have the chance to see a printing press in action as well as enjoy some of Wordsworth's poetry.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Friday: Rydal Mount, Abbot Hall Art Gallery & Museum and Kendal

This morning begins at Rydal Mount, Wordsworth's family home for the greater part of his life from 1813 until his death in 1850. Lying between Ambleside and Grasmere, the house commands glorious views of Lake Windermere and retains a lived-in, family atmosphere plus portraits, personal possessions and first editions of the poet's work.

We then head to Windermere to take the train to Kendal where we visit Abbot Hall Art Gallery & Museum, originally designed as an opulent house by architect John Carr in 1759. Kendal's finest historic house is now an award-winning art gallery, showcasing a variety of works by a wealth of artists including George Romney, Daniel Gardner and John Ruskin. Afterwards we have free time to enjoy the market town of Kendal at leisure. Dinner will be in a local restaurant tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Blackwell and Holker Hall

Our day begins with a guided tour of Blackwell, one of Britain's finest Arts and Crafts houses. Designed by MH Baillie Scott, Blackwell retains many of its original decorative features, including spectacular plasterwork and stained glass while the rooms contain furniture and objects by many of the leading Arts and Crafts designers.

Finally, we visit Holker Hall, home of Lord and Lady Cavendish. Dating back to the 16th century, with alterations and additions in the 18th and 19th centuries, it is a delightful family home with fine displays of antique furniture and art. We enjoy a guided tour here.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Shugborough Estate

On our journey south, we stop at the Shugborough Estate, a rare survival of a complete estate that was returned to the care of the National Trust in 2017. We enjoy a genuine glimpse into the past; with an operational Victorian servants' quarter, dairy and Georgian Park Farm complete with watermill, this imposing 17th-century house is also a sensory treat, while the parkland is scattered with mysterious monuments.



What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 1 night at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the New Hall Hotel
- ❖ 5 nights at the Lakeside Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Hartwell House Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 5 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 2 dinners in local restaurants
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Night One – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor

Night Two – New Hall Hotel, Sutton Coldfield

Nights Three to Seven – Lakeside Hotel, Newby Bridge

Night Eight – Hartwell House Hotel, near Aylesbury

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

Later we check in to the Hartwell House Hotel, one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels, before a farewell dinner together this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Dove Cottage



Knole House

South East England & the Bloomsbury Group

July 14 to 22, 2020

from \$5,690 per person

In the early part of the 20th century a group of writers, intellectuals, philosophers and artists who lived and worked in Bloomsbury were perhaps best known for their liberal views on politics and social conventions as well as their infamous love triangles. Luminaries including Virginia Woolf, John Maynard Keynes, Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, E. M. Forster and Lytton Strachey also undertook an experimental attitude to ways they decorated their homes, resulting in highly original and inspired designs. We uncover the finest examples of their work as we visit the houses where they lived and loved.

Nine Day Itinerary

Tuesday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our hotel for the night, the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Wednesday: Knole House and Standen

We visit Knole House for a guided tour*. One of Britain's most important and complete historic homes, Knole House was home to the Sackville family, including novelist Vita Sackville-West who used the house as inspiration for her novel *The Edwardians*.

Next we visit Standen, a fine Arts and Crafts property, which combines the skills of architect Philip Webb and his friend William Morris. The light, airy rooms are decorated with Morris' wallpapers and textiles with William de Morgan pottery.

We then continue to our hotel for the next five nights, the South Lodge Hotel in Horsham.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

*subject to availability

Thursday: Charleston, The Church of St Michael and All Angels, and Farleys House & Gallery

This morning takes us to Charleston, home of artists Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell and country meeting place for the Bloomsbury Group. The house was transformed by the artists who painted the walls and furniture. Here we enjoy a private out-of-hours tour.

© NTPJ/Andrew Butler

Special extras included in your itinerary

- ❖ Guided tour of Knole House**
- ❖ Private out-of-hours tour of Charleston
- ❖ Private guided tour at Farleys House & Gallery
- ❖ Private out-of-hours guided tour at Sissinghurst Castle Garden
- ❖ Entrance to the Brighton Museum & Art Gallery
- ❖ A *Walk Through British Art* exhibition at Tate Britain accompanied by an art historian
- ❖ Guided Bloomsbury Group Blue Plaque Walking Tour
- ❖ Themed evening talk by a Bloomsbury Group Expert

**subject to availability



Bateman's



Monks House



Charleston

© Axel Hassenberg



The British Museum - LONDON
Windsor - Tate Britain
Knole House
Standen
Sissinghurst Castle Garden
Monks House - Brighton
Farleys House & Gallery - Rye
Charleston - Charleston
Bateman's - Bateman's
The Church of St Michael and All Angels - Berwick

Afterwards we visit The Church of St Michael and All Angels in Berwick. During the war, many of the church's decorative stained glass windows were damaged and rather than replace the fragile glass, the Bishop of Chichester commissioned Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell to cover the walls with pastoral scenes.

We then continue on to Farleys House & Gallery, home to the photographer Lee Miller and artist Roland Penrose. The house became a meeting place for leading figures in the world of Modern Art including Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro. Roger Fry introduced Penrose to many Bloomsbury Group members, forging links between Bloomsbury and the surrealists. On our guided tour we can admire works by many of the Surrealist artists that are on display.

After dinner at the hotel this evening, we enjoy a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Sissinghurst Castle Garden and Monks House

This morning we head to Sissinghurst Castle Garden where we enjoy an out-of-hours guided tour. Created in the 1930s by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson, these world-famous gardens are laid out as a series of enchanting, individually-planted 'rooms'.

Afterwards we head to Monks House. Situated in the heart of rural Sussex, this 17th-century cottage was home to Leonard and Virginia Woolf from 1919 until Leonard's death in 1969. Carefully preserved to appear as it was when they lived there; learn more about this fascinating couple by viewing some of their most prized possessions. The Woolfs initially purchased the property for 'the shape and fertility and wildness of the garden' so make sure to explore the delightful cottage garden here too.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Rye and Bateman's

Firstly today we visit Rye. This medieval town perched on a hill boasts enchanting streets and architectural treasures, which is why it's not surprising that Rye was a popular holiday haunt for the Bloomsbury Group.

Next we visit 17th-century Bateman's, that so enchanted *Jungle Book* author Rudyard Kipling when he discovered it, that he made it his home in 1902. With its stone-mullioned windows and Sussex oak beams, it's a romantic retreat that has been left virtually untouched since Kipling's tenure here.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Brighton

Today we visit Brighton, a popular seaside resort that was frequented by members of the Bloomsbury Group as a holiday destination, there is even a bus named after Vanessa Bell here! We have some free time to explore this vibrant location at our leisure and we include a visit to Brighton Museum & Art Gallery located in the Royal Pavilion Garden, where you will find pieces on display created by members of the group as well as other 20th-century art.

This evening we enjoy dinner at a restaurant in Brighton.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Tate Britain and London

We travel into central London to visit Tate Britain to admire *A Walk Through British Art* exhibition, accompanied by an art historian to shed light on the paintings. The rooms of this exhibit showcase work by some of Britain's greatest artists, including that of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell.

We then continue to our hotel for the next two nights, the Grange City Hotel. After checking in, you can explore London at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Tuesday: Bloomsbury Group Walking Tour and British Museum

After breakfast, we enjoy a Bloomsbury Group Blue Plaque Walking Tour. See 46 Gordon Square, along with a number of other properties that were once home to members of the group. We'll also discover some of their places of work, for example 22 Fitzroy Square, Duncan Grant's former studio; and 21 Fitzroy Square, once Roger Fry's studio.

We then visit the British Museum which featured in Virginia Woolf's work *A Room Of One's Own* (1929) and *Jacob's Room* (1922). This is our chance to see these locations for ourselves. The rest of the day is free to spend at leisure exploring England's vibrant capital city.

Back at the hotel this evening we enjoy a farewell dinner together and a chance to reflect on all that we have discovered about the famous Bloomsbury Group.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 1 night at the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery
- ❖ 5 nights at the South Lodge Hotel
- ❖ 2 nights at the Grange City Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 1 dinner at a local restaurant
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Portage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Night One – Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, Windsor

Nights Two to Six – South Lodge Hotel, Horsham

Nights Seven and Eight – Grange City Hotel, London

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.



Sissinghurst Castle Garden



Highclere Castle



Castle Howard



Nostell Priory



Cragside

Aristocrats & Manor Houses & A Grand Tour to the North

July 19 to 28, 2020
from \$5,490 per person

Our unforgettable tour explores the architectural grandeur and superb collections of some of Britain's finest estates, some still family homes to this day. From the world-famous Highclere Castle, television's *Downton Abbey*, to Winston Churchill's birthplace of Blenheim Palace and beyond, we discover several historic treasures and their society stories. We juxtapose these fine manor houses with the rugged landscapes of the north, providing us with the perfect opportunity to explore Britain's rich heritage and diverse countryside.

Ten Day Itinerary

Sunday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our hotel for the night, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Monday: Highclere Castle

After breakfast, we journey to the world-famous Highclere Castle, residence of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and filming location for the much loved *Downton Abbey* television series. Entrance includes access to the Egyptian Exhibition in the cellars of the castle, which explores the achievements of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922.

From here, we travel to Leicestershire and the Stapleford Park Country House Hotel where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday: Chatsworth House and Nottingham

We start the day at Chatsworth House where we enjoy an introductory house tour. This magnificent estate is home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and has witnessed sixteen generations of the powerful Cavendish family and boasts grandiose interiors, wonderful grounds and a superlative art collection. Chatsworth also appeared as Pemberley in the 2005 film adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. We finish our visit with a Devonshire Cream Tea.



En-route back to our hotel, we make a short stop in Nottingham. One-time lace capital of the world, Nottingham is renowned for its landmark buildings, each of which tells its own chapter in Nottingham's history, including the Lace Market with its stunning architecture.

Meals: Breakfast

Wednesday: Hardwick Hall, York and Fairfax House

Our first visit is to Hardwick Hall. Ordered in the 16th century by Bess of Hardwick, England's richest woman after her Queen, Elizabeth I, Hardwick is a striking Elizabethan treasure. The lavish number of windows (at a time when glass was a luxury) inspired the neat phrase, 'Hardwick Hall, more glass than wall'.

We then travel north to the historic city of York. Here we visit Fairfax House, a stunning Georgian town house that has been returned to its former glory, providing a perfect time capsule of life in Georgian times with a richly decorated interior and a fine collection of English 18th-century furniture. We enjoy refreshments here after our visit.

Afterwards, we make our way to our hotel for the next two nights, the Wood Hall Hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Fountains Abbey and Harrogate

This morning we go to the largest monastic ruin in Britain, Fountains Abbey, where we enjoy a guided tour. Nestling in the Skell Valley, the ruin is surrounded by some 800 acres of gorgeous countryside, including the Georgian Studley Royal Water Garden with its wonderful views, cascades, follies and statues, and a medieval deer park.

Our next stop is the elegant Victorian spa town of Harrogate, located in the heart of scenic Yorkshire. Notable sights include the Royal Pump Room and the Grade II listed Royal Hall, and don't miss the attractive Montpellier Quarter with its pedestrianized streets lined with 19th-century buildings.

After dinner at the hotel this evening, enjoy a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Castle Howard and Durham

Designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, Castle Howard has twice appeared as *Brideshead* in film and television adaptations of Evelyn Waugh's classic novel. Home to the Howard family for over 300 years, this magnificent 18th-century residence offers world-renowned collections and stunning architecture, all set within 1,000 acres of breathtaking scenery. We enjoy a private guided tour followed by coffee.

We then make a short stop in the beautiful city of Durham, where we find an abundance of impressive historical buildings and sights. Highlights include the 11th-century Durham Castle, and the magnificent Norman cathedral which sits on a rocky promontory high above the River Wear, affording an imposing feature of Durham's skyline.

Later, we check in to the Ramside Hall Hotel, our base for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Alnwick Castle and Cragside

Still home to the Duke of Northumberland and his family, Alnwick Castle is the second largest inhabited castle in England. Inside the medieval walls are lavish State Rooms filled with an eclectic array of furniture, ceramics and art collected by the Percy family over hundreds of years, which we discover on our guided State Rooms tour. Alnwick Castle has also featured in *Downton Abbey* and *Harry Potter*.

We enjoy a scenic coastal drive to Cragside, built high into the rock above the clear waters of Debdon Burn. Once the home of Victorian inventor Lord Armstrong, this imposing house is packed to the rafters with fascinating gadgets from the era. It was also the first house in the world to be lit by hydro-electricity and in 2014, a fully-working Archimedes Screw was installed, once again producing enough energy to light the house.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Nostell Priory

Today we visit Nostell Priory, an 18th-century architectural masterpiece which has been the home of the Winn family for 300 years. Set in landscaped parkland, Nostell is also home to England's best documented collection of Chippendale furniture, designed especially for the estate.

Later, we check back in to the Stapleford Park Country House Hotel, where we stay overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Blenheim Palace

We travel south and visit Blenheim Palace, undoubtedly one of Britain's grandest houses. Seat of the Dukes of Marlborough and the birthplace of Winston Churchill, Blenheim was designed on an awe-inspiring scale by Vanbrugh and is set in over 2,000 acres of beautiful parkland landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. We enjoy an audio guided tour followed by a traditional afternoon tea.

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 1 night at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ 3 nights at the Stapleford Park Country House Hotel
- ❖ 2 nights at the Wood Hall Hotel
- ❖ 2 nights at the Ramside Hall Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Hartwell House Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 8 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Night One – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor

Nights Two, Three and Eight – Stapleford Park Country House Hotel, near Melton Mowbray

Nights Four and Five – Wood Hall Hotel, Wetherby

Nights Six and Seven – Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham

Night Nine – Hartwell House Hotel, near Aylesbury

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

From here we travel to Hartwell House Hotel, one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: As this tour travels from the Home Counties to the north of England and back, some days will involve fairly long journeys.



Bowood House



Highclere Castle



Lacock Abbey



The Peto Garden

South West Classic English Gardens & their Manor Houses

August 2 to 11, 2020

from \$4,990 per person

The picturesque South West of England is home to a veritable treasure trove of impressive stately homes and atmospheric manors. These magnificent properties boast extraordinary interiors and often feature fascinating garden styles and parkland too, many of which were created by 18th-century garden design trendsetters such as 'Capability' Brown. On this tour, we uncover some of these classic and sometimes hidden gems, from the Elizabethan Longleat House to the tranquil Heale House Gardens and Italianate Peto Garden.

Ten Day Itinerary

Sunday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our hotel for the night, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Monday: Highclere Castle and Lacock Abbey

Today we journey to the world-famous Highclere Castle, residence of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and filming location for the much loved *Downton Abbey* television series. Entrance includes access to the Egyptian Exhibition, which explores the achievements of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922.

We then head to Lacock Abbey, which sits at the heart of Lacock village with golden stone cloisters and a Great Hall. Once a medieval nunnery, the abbey was turned into a family home by William Henry Fox Talbot who invented the first photographic negative.

Later we check in to the Bailbrook House Hotel where we stay for seven nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday: Tyntesfield and Georgian House Museum

We visit the once loved family home of Tyntesfield, a fabulous Gothic Revival house of turrets and ornate stonework. Here we discover the largest recorded collection of unique possessions cared for by the National Trust, accumulated by four generations of the Gibbs family.



Afterwards take a step back in time at the Georgian House Museum in Bristol. This 18th-century townhouse provides us with a fascinating insight into what life would have been like for sugar merchant John Pinney and his servants above and below stairs.

This evening we enjoy dinner together at a restaurant in Bristol.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Bath – Victoria Park, Herschel Museum of Astronomy, Roman Baths and Pump Rooms

The day begins with a guided walking tour of Bath, an elegant Regency town. We enjoy a visit to Victoria Park, first opened in 1830 by the 11-year-old Princess Victoria, which is overlooked by the iconic Royal Crescent.

We continue to the Herschel Museum of Astronomy, located in the former home of astronomer William Herschel. We visit the museum's garden, which is a re-creation of the garden as it might have appeared during Herschel's discovery of the planet Uranus, laid to recreate a typical planting scheme for a Georgian town house.

Next, we are transported back to Roman times as we enjoy a guided tour of the town's ancient Roman Baths. We explore the extensive bathing complex, one of the best-preserved Roman remains in the world, which still flows with natural hot water before we finish with afternoon tea at the elegant Georgian Bath Pump Rooms.

After dinner back at the hotel, we are treated to a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Wells, Bishop's Palace & Gardens and Stourhead

Our day starts in the cathedral city of Wells, with its eclectic mix of historic buildings and quaint narrow streets. Here we discover the Bishop's Palace & Gardens, a unique medieval palace which has been home to the Bishops of Bath and Wells for 800 years. We enjoy an expert-led tour of highlights such as the private Chapel and the beautiful Royal Horticultural Society partner gardens.

We continue to Stourhead, renowned for its 18th-century landscaped garden, a delight of classical temples, exotic trees, hidden grottos and a magnificent lake. The grand Palladian house is no less of a draw, with its Chippendale furniture and one of the finest Regency libraries left in existence.

Later, we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Bradford-on-Avon, The Peto Garden, Great Chalfield Manor and Prior Park Landscape Garden

We travel first to Bradford-on-Avon, an enchanting town full of historic buildings and quaint streets to explore. Next we enjoy a guided tour of The Peto Garden at Ilford Manor, designed by the distinguished British garden designer Harold Peto. Evoking Peto's love of Italy, the gardens are characterised by colonnades, pools and ancient statues.

Our next visit is Great Chalfield Manor, a charming moated manor built in the 15th century for Thomas Tropenell, a modest member of the landed gentry who made his fortune as a clothier. Outside, the romantic gardens offer terraces, topiary houses, colorful borders and delightful views.

Finally we head to Prior Park Landscape Garden, an intimate garden created in the 18th century and influenced by the poet Alexander Pope and 'Capability' Brown. Set in a sweeping valley with fantastic views of Bath, the garden features a rare Palladian bridge, Cascade and Serpentine Lake.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Bowood House and The Courts Garden

This morning we travel to Bowood House where we enjoy a guided tour followed by lunch. Family home of the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne, Bowood houses a unique collection of historical artifacts, from Queen Victoria's wedding chair to Napoleon's death mask. Outside are 100 acres of beautiful parkland, designed by 'Capability' Brown.

We continue on to The Courts Garden, a quintessentially English country garden superbly planted and maintained with seven acres of colorful plants, herbaceous borders and peaceful water gardens.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sunday: Longleat House

Today we head to Longleat House, widely regarded as one of Britain's finest examples of Elizabethan architecture. Substantially completed by 1580, Longleat House is set within 900 acres of stunning 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland featuring a fine lawn, serpentine river, wooded hills and meandering pathways. We enjoy a guided tour of the impressive house with its priceless antiques and ornate painted ceilings, followed by lunch.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 2 nights at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ 7 nights at the Bailbrook House Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 5 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 2 dinners and 1 lunch in local restaurants
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

**supplement applies for transfers from all other airports*

Your Hotels

Nights One and Nine – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor

Nights Two to Eight – Bailbrook House Hotel, Bath

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

Monday: Heale House Gardens, Winchester and Winchester Cathedral

The day begins at Heale House Gardens, a beautiful garden designed by Harold Peto in both Edwardian and Tudor styles. Set in the grounds of historic Heale House, mostly unchanged since King Charles II hid there in 1651, these eight acres of beautiful gardens include a delightful mixture of styles including a walled garden and Japanese water garden with its authentic Japanese tea house and red Nikko bridge.

We then head to the cathedral city of Winchester, England's ancient capital, where we enjoy lunch. We then enjoy a guided tour of the awe-inspiring Winchester Cathedral where we discover its hidden treasures, including the tomb of Jane Austen and the Winchester Bible, one of the finest 12th-century bibles to have survived.

From here we return to the Macdonald Windsor Hotel where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Blickling Hall



Fitzwilliam Museum



Houghton Hall



Audley End

Cambridge & East Anglia Mansions & Villages

August 17 to 26, 2020

from \$4,990 per person

The region of East Anglia is filled with natural beauty, charming villages and historic wool towns that have changed little since Tudor times, with their timber-framed buildings and crooked streets. On this insightful tour we explore some of these wonderful locations and discover magnificent houses rich in history and architecture such as elegant **Holkham Hall** and the breathtaking Jacobean mansion of **Blickling**.

Ten Day Itinerary

Monday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Tuesday: Audley End and Orchard Tea Garden

Our first visit is to Audley End, one of the finest Jacobean houses in England with an impressive great hall, magnificent state apartments and a carefully restored service wing which gives a glimpse of life 'below stairs'.

From here we visit the Orchard Tea Garden in Grantchester for afternoon tea. The Orchard was first planted in 1868 and the tradition of taking afternoon tea here began purely by chance with a group of Cambridge students in 1897 and has continued ever since.

Later we check in to the University Arms Hotel, our base for the next four nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum and Wimpole Estate

We make our way to Cambridge. Renowned for its world-famous university, this historic city is home to many fascinating sights which we discover on our guided walking tour, including the majestic college buildings.

Afterwards we visit the Fitzwilliam Museum. The art and antiquities museum of the University of Cambridge contains a vast collection of treasures from paintings and armor to ceramics, furniture, textiles, sculptures and manuscripts.



Our final stop is the working estate of Wimpole. The impressive mansion, at the heart of the estate, boasts some unique interior flourishes. The wonderful library was specially built to house an enormous collection of books that went on to form the core of the early British Library.

Later, we enjoy dinner together at a bistro in Cambridge.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Thursday: Oxburgh Hall and Anglesey Abbey

This morning we discover Oxburgh Hall. This romantic moated manor house has been home to the Catholic Bedingfield family since the 15th century and charts their precarious history from medieval austerity to neo-Gothic Victorian splendor. Look out for the 16th-century priest's hole as well intricate embroidery crafted by Mary, Queen of Scots.

We then make our way to Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill. The house's interior is a vestige of 1930s luxury, complete with rich furnishings, silver, paintings, books and rare clocks. Outside, discover an exceptional array of sculptures in the landscape gardens.

After dinner back at the hotel, we are treated to a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Saffron Walden, Flatford and Lavenham

We travel first to Saffron Walden, a charming medieval market town with many historic buildings including the half-timbered Guildhall.

Our next stop is the charming hamlet of Flatford, the inspiration for some of artist John Constable's most famous paintings. Here we enjoy a guided walking tour, discovering the lovely views and locations that Constable painted including Flatford Mill, immortalized in *The Haywain*.

The last visit of the day is to Lavenham, a remarkably well-preserved Tudor village that was one of the richest towns in England during the 15th century thanks to the woollen-cloth industry.

Meals: Breakfast

Saturday: Mississippi Paddle Steamer and Felbrigg Hall

We make our way to the picturesque village of Horning where we enjoy a scenic cruise of the Norfolk Broads on the Mississippi Paddle Steamer. A unique and beautiful landscape of shallow lakes and rivers, these spectacular waterways are scattered with pretty market towns and villages along the shoreline.

We continue to Felbrigg Hall, one of East Anglia's finest country houses. Felbrigg's interior is a lavish blend of sumptuous furniture, ornate plasterwork and William Wyndham II's painting collection, gathered on his Grand Tour of Europe.

From here, we make our way to the Pheasant Hotel where we stay for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Holkham Hall and Blickling Hall

This morning we enjoy a private guided tour of Holkham Hall, an elegant 18th-century country mansion constructed in the Palladian style for Thomas Coke, 1st Earl of Leicester. The hall is currently home to the 8th Earl of Leicester. The spectacular Marble Hall was inspired by the Temple of Fortuna Virilis and the Pantheon in Rome, while the magnificent State Rooms boast superb collections of ancient statuary, original furniture, tapestries and works of art.

Blickling Hall is one of Britain's finest Jacobean houses. In decorative terms it's a wonderful house to explore because of its plasterwork and superb 18th-century Long Gallery. Discover Blickling's collections and learn about the National Trust's ambitious new conservation project to secure the future of one of the most significant book collections in the country.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Sandringham Estate and Walsingham Abbey

We visit the house, gardens and museum of the Sandringham Estate, the country retreat of Her Majesty the Queen. Built in 1870, Sandringham has been the private home of four generations of British monarchs. The interiors are home to many exhibits such as an important collection of oriental arms and armor. The museum, housed in the former coach houses and stable block, holds extraordinary collections of Royal vehicles, rare ceramics, photographs and memorabilia. We enjoy lunch here during our visit.

Later we visit Walsingham Abbey, famous for the spectacular remains of a medieval priory. A place of pilgrimage since the 11th century, the priory was destroyed during Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. We have time to wander through the tranquil gardens scattered with medieval ruins and explore the unspoiled woodland and landscape parkland.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 2 nights at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ 4 nights at the University Arms Hotel
- ❖ 3 nights at the Pheasant Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 7 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 1 dinner at a bistro in Cambridge
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Nights One and Nine – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor

Nights Two to Five – University Arms Hotel, Cambridge

Nights Six to Eight – Pheasant Hotel, Kelling

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

Tuesday: Houghton Hall and Ely Cathedral

We start with a private guided tour of Houghton Hall, one of England's finest Palladian houses. Built in the 1720s by Great Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, the Hall boasts sumptuous state rooms lavishly endowed with pictures, statuary and fine furniture while outside is an award-winning five acre garden and contemporary sculpture park.

Afterwards we visit the historic Fenland city of Ely and the magnificent Ely Cathedral. Founded as a monastery in 673, work on the present building dates from the early 1080s. A remarkable example of both Romanesque and Norman architecture, its most famous feature is the central Octagon Tower. Later, we return to the Macdonald Windsor Hotel where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Hidcote Manor Garden



Eastnor Castle



Burford



Blenheim Palace

A Nostalgic Journey Through the Malvern Hills & Cotswold Vales

September 6 to 14, 2020

from \$4,750 per person

Steeped in the rural charm of a bygone age, the picturesque villages of the Cotswolds have housed writers and artists whose work mirrored the natural beauty of their surroundings. The Malvern Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty overlooking the Cotswold Vale, have equally inspired writers like Tolkien and composers such as Edward Elgar with their stunning scenery. We learn more about the fascinating history of the area, reflected in Sudeley and Eastnor Castles, and discover how the landscape influenced grand estates like Croome and the region's gardens such as gorgeous Hidcote Manor Garden.

Nine Day Itinerary

Sunday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Monday: Burford, Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe and Bourton-on-the-Water

This morning, we stop in Burford, a small medieval town on the River Windrush in the Cotswold Hills, before continuing to Sudeley Castle for a guided tour. This Tudor castle was once home to Katherine Parr, the last of King Henry VIII's six wives. The castle rooms contain many fascinating treasures, from ancient Roman times to the present day while outside are award-winning gardens. After, we enjoy lunch in a local gastropub in the quaint town of Winchcombe.

We then visit one of the most picturesque villages in the Cotswolds, Bourton-on-the-Water. Admire its elegant low bridges and tree-shaded river banks, browse the independent shops or relax in local tearooms. After time at leisure, we make our way to the Queens Hotel Cheltenham – MGallery, our hotel for the next six nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Tuesday: Rodmarton Manor and Painswick Rococo Garden

Our day begins at Rodmarton Manor, one of the last country houses to be built and furnished according to the ideals of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Ernest Barnsley and the Cotswold group of Craftsmen took over 20 years to build and furnish the house. We enjoy a guided tour here followed by refreshments and a chance to explore the stunning gardens.

Afterwards, we enjoy lunch and an introductory talk at Painswick Rococo Garden. Initially designed in the 1740s as an English country gentleman's pleasure garden and a venue for hosting intimate garden parties, it is now the country's sole surviving complete Rococo garden, so-called for its winding pathways and imaginative follies, full of architectural charm.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Wednesday: Eastnor Castle and Croome

Eastnor Castle lies at the foot of the Malvern Hills, surrounded by a beautiful deer park, arboretum and lake. This 19th-century revival castle was built by the 2nd Baron (Lord) Somers and continues to be inhabited by his descendants. We enjoy a guided tour followed by lunch.

Our day finishes at Croome, 'Capability' Brown's first complete landscape and the one that made his name. Robert Adam and James Wyatt also helped design the mansion, Croome Court, and the temples and follies scattered throughout the parkland. Surprisingly, Croome was also once a secret wartime airbase, so don't miss the visitor center to find out more before admiring the commanding views over the Malverns that can be had from the grounds.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Thursday: Hidcote Manor Garden, Broadway and Stow-on-the-Wold

The day starts at Hidcote Manor Garden, an exquisite Arts and Crafts garden. Created by the reclusive American horticulturist, Major Lawrence

Johnston, the garden is laid out as a series of colorful and intricately designed 'rooms' featuring many plants that were collected on Johnston's trips to far flung places.

We continue to the quintessential Cotswold village of Broadway, with its picturesque High Street lined with honey-colored stone buildings, before visiting the beautiful market town of Stow-on-the-Wold, renowned for its wonderful collection of artisanal boutiques. We enjoy dinner in a restaurant in Cheltenham this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Cheltenham, Wilson Gallery and Holst Birthplace Museum

We enjoy a guided walking tour of Cheltenham, where we learn about the town during its spa heyday and admire the Regency town houses, intricate ironwork balconies and painted stucco facades. Afterwards, we visit the Wilson Gallery, an outstanding museum and art gallery with a program of temporary exhibitions and permanent galleries.

Then we visit the Holst Birthplace Museum, a wonderful Victorian-Edwardian family home, lovingly restored to offer a fascinating insight into the life and work of the English composer and teacher, Gustav Holst.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Berkeley Castle and Frampton Court Estate

Berkeley Castle has remained in the Berkeley family since its construction in the late 12th century and we enjoy a guided tour here. This ancient fortress home boasts fine medieval rooms and magnificent collections, however it is probably best known as the scene of the brutal murder of Edward II in 1327. The castle has also been used as a filming location including for the hugely successful *Poldark* TV series.

We continue on to Frampton Court Estate, owned by the Clifford family since the 11th century. Built between 1730 and 1733, the house displays a magnificent mixture of Baroque and Palladian architectural styles while the lavish interiors are home to a fine collection of period furniture. We discover more on our private guided tour.

After dinner back at the hotel, we are treated to a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: The Garden at Miserden, Bibury and Blenheim Palace

The day starts with a visit to The Garden at Miserden, a true hidden gem which dates back to the 17th century. Boasting 850 acres of woodland, farmland and gardens, there is plenty to discover from wildlife to beautiful flowers.

Next we visit the charming Cotswold village of Bibury, described by William Morris as 'the most beautiful village in England'. A picturesque row of National Trust owned weavers' cottages lie next to the River Coln and a water meadow provides an important habitat for water-loving plants and birds.



What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 2 nights at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ 6 nights at the Queens Hotel Cheltenham – MGallery
- ❖ Welcome drink
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 5 nights at the hotel (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 1 lunch and 1 dinner at local restaurants
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Nights One and Eight – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor

Nights Two to Seven – Queens Hotel Cheltenham – MGallery, Cheltenham

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.

We end the day at Blenheim Palace, set in beautiful parkland landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. As the seat of the Dukes of Marlborough, the palace is synonymous with the Churchill family and is the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. A permanent exhibition commemorates the life of this famous wartime Prime Minister, whilst the magnificent State Rooms reveal a superb collection of tapestries, paintings, porcelain and furniture. We learn more on our audio guided tour.

Afterwards we check back into the Macdonald Windsor Hotel where we enjoy a farewell dinner together this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast



Painswick Rococo Garden



Oxford & the Home Counties' Picturesque Houses & Gardens

September 6 to 13, 2020
from \$4,990 per person

The pastoral landscapes of the Home Counties that surround London provide a beautiful backdrop to some of Britain's most impressive homes. We uncover the fascinating stories of these magnificent places with their wonderful mix of architectural styles and fine treasures within, and explore spectacular landscape gardens and parkland. Our tour is complemented by a stay at Hartwell House Hotel, a stunning stately home and one of the Historic House Hotels of the National Trust.



quirky statuary and topiary plus a historic maze, these impressive gardens have a special charm. In 1837, Cliveden was purchased by Harriet, Duchess of Sutherland, to be used as a home away from London. The house is now a luxury hotel and after our gardens visit, we savour the quintessentially British pastime of high tea here.
Meals: Breakfast, High Tea, Dinner

Wednesday: Waddesdon Manor and Nether Winchendon House

This morning takes us to Waddesdon Manor. Built by the wealthy Rothschild family, Waddesdon is a renaissance-style chateau that looks as though it's been transported to the gentle Buckinghamshire countryside from France's Loire Valley. Along with a guided tour of the sumptuous interiors, we also enjoy lunch here.

Afterwards we visit Nether Winchendon House, an enchanting medieval and Tudor manor house set in seven acres of tranquil gardens. From its medieval origins, this extraordinary house has evolved into an exciting mix of styles with curling Tudor chimneys, crenellations, tall Gothic windows, a 12th-century Great Hall and 16th-century Dining Room. Since the mid-16th century, Nether Winchendon has had continuous family occupation and remains a family home to this day.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Thursday: Sezincote and Kiftsgate Court Gardens

We start the day at Sezincote, where we enjoy a guided tour of this unique and exotic palace followed by refreshments. In the early 1800s, Charles Cockerell, who had worked for the East India Company, commissioned his architect brother, Samuel, to design and build an Indian house in the Mogul style of Rajasthan. Assisted by the artist Thomas Daniell, the result is a unique combination of Hindu and Muslim architecture with a weathered-copper onion dome, minarets and curving orangery while outside is a romantic Indian fantasy of temples, grottoes and waterfalls with a landscape reputedly designed by Humphry Repton.

From here we head to Kiftsgate Court Gardens, set on the edge of the Cotswold escarpment with lovely views towards the Malvern Hills. The gardens are the creation of three generations of women gardeners, started by Heather Muir in the 1920s. Developed organically with harmonious color schemes, the gardens have many unusual shrubs and plants and are known for the Kiftsgate rose, a scented climbing rose claimed to be the largest rose in Britain.

After dinner back at the hotel, we are treated to a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Oxford

Today we visit historic Oxford, famous seat of learning. On our guided walking tour, we discover the history of many of the city's magnificent buildings including the colleges of the famous Oxford University. Following our tour, we have free time to enjoy the city at leisure. The University of Oxford Botanic Garden, the Ashmolean (the world's first public museum) and Bodleian Library are just some of the attractions here.

Later we return to the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery where we stay for the last two nights of our tour.

Meals: Breakfast

Saturday: Painshill Park and Houghton Lodge

We head first to Painshill Park, an elegant 18th-century landscape garden created between 1738 and 1773 by the Hon. Charles Hamilton. Inspired by Renaissance art and his Grand Tours across Europe, as well as his passion for plants, Hamilton's vision was to create 'living paintings' in a new style of garden. The result is a sequence of breathtaking vistas across the landscape punctuated by mystical follies including a ruined abbey and Gothic temple, a serpentine lake, vineyard, woodland and more.

Our final visit is to Houghton Lodge. Home of the Busk family for more than a century, the lodge is one of the finest (and earliest) surviving examples of the *cottage ornée* style, a genre of 'picturesque' Gothic architecture that flourished for about 25 years from 1790. Our guided tour gives us an insight into the history of this unique house. Outside, the lovely gardens feature both formal and informal gardens, a traditional kitchen garden, an orchid house, peacock garden and herbaceous borders.

Back at the hotel tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 3 nights at the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery
- ❖ 4 nights at the Hartwell House Hotel & Spa
- ❖ Welcome drink
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Nights One, Six and Seven – Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, Windsor
Nights Two to Five – Hartwell House Hotel & Spa, near Aylesbury

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.



Special extras included in your itinerary

- ❖ Guided tour of Chiswick House
- ❖ Guided tour of Strawberry Hill House
- ❖ High tea at Cliveden House Hotel
- ❖ Guided tour and lunch at Waddesdon Manor
- ❖ Guided tour and refreshments at Sezincote
- ❖ Guided walking tour of Oxford
- ❖ Guided tour of Houghton Lodge
- ❖ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker





Mayflower II



The Hoe, Plymouth



SS Great Britain



Saltram

Mayflower 400

September 10 to 20, 2020

from \$5,990 per person

2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's pioneering voyage from England to America. In 1620, an intrepid group of dissenters set sail across the Atlantic on what was then an incredibly dangerous journey to start a new life in the New World. To commemorate this anniversary, we follow in the footsteps of the Mayflower Pilgrims and trace the Mayflower's journey en-route for America, learning more about the ship that links four nations and the legacy of a voyage that changed history.

Eleven Day Itinerary

Thursday: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery where we stay for the next two nights. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Friday: Rotherhithe, Mayflower Pub and London

Our first stop is Rotherhithe – the London homeport where in July 1620, the Mayflower took on board 65 passengers before journeying onwards to Southampton. Rotherhithe has a long seafaring and ship building history and was the home of Christopher Jones, captain of the Mayflower.

We head to the Mayflower pub in Rotherhithe village, the oldest pub on the River Thames where we enjoy lunch together. You can also spot the original 1620 mooring point of the Mayflower. This afternoon we have free time to explore London.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Saturday: Southampton, Merchant's House, Winchester and Winchester Cathedral

Southampton was a thriving sea port and many of the buildings and streets familiar to the Pilgrims then still exist today. The Mayflower arrived in Southampton in late July 1620, before being joined by the Speedwell, setting sail on 15 August with the intention to sail in company direct to America.

We visit Merchant's House where we take in the history of Southampton's 'old town' before heading to the medieval city of Winchester, ancient capital of England.

Later, we check in to the Lainston House Hotel where we stay overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Sunday: Lyme Regis and Exeter Cathedral

Lyme Regis is a historic seaside town and fishing port, nestling in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Jurassic Coast. The town has a fascinating maritime heritage and rich history and we discover more on our guided walk.

We continue on to Exeter where we enjoy a guided tour of Exeter Cathedral. Dating back 900 years, it is one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture anywhere. Notable features include the longest uninterrupted Gothic vaulted ceiling in the world. We then travel to the Bovey Castle Hotel, our base for the next five nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Monday: Coletton Fishacre and Buckfast Abbey

Today begins at Coletton Fishacre, a 1920s Arts and Crafts-style house built for the D'Oyly Carte family. The house's surviving Art Deco interior contrasts with the magical 30 acre garden.

Our next stop is Buckfast Abbey, nestled on the banks of the River Dart. Dating back to 1018, the abbey is home to a community of Benedictine monks. Explore the Abbey church or wander the tranquil gardens. On our way back to the hotel this evening, we stop to enjoy dinner in a traditional country pub.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Tuesday: Greenway, Dartmouth Royal Naval College, Pilgrims Walking Tour and Bayards Cove Inn

We board the ferry to Greenway, the much-loved holiday home of the famous author Agatha Christie and her family. Nestled on the side of the River Dart, this atmospheric house is set in the 1950s and contains many of the family's collections.

Next is the picturesque port of Dartmouth. The town has a significant naval history and we start with a private guided tour of the Royal Naval College, home of initial Naval Officer training in the UK since 1863.

Later we enjoy a Pilgrims walking tour where we learn of the town's links to the Pilgrim Fathers. In August 1620, having made a detour to Dartmouth, the Pilgrim Fathers departed from Bayards Cove for the New World aboard the Mayflower and the Speedwell. Unfortunately the Speedwell started to

sink 300 miles off Land's End and they all returned to Plymouth from where the Mayflower continued her journey alone to America. Before leaving Dartmouth, we visit Bayards Cove Inn for a relaxing drink.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday: Plymouth, Elizabethan House, The Box and The Hoe

Our day is spent in Plymouth, Britain's ocean city. It was from Plymouth, on 16 September 1620, that the Mayflower and her passengers made their final voyage to the New World. We enjoy a guided walking tour along New Street in the Barbican, one of Plymouth's oldest streets. The listed buildings have retained their historic facades, transporting us into the past. One such property is Elizabethan House – built in the 1580s, the house is a rare surviving example of its time.

Next we visit The Box, which opens in 2020 as the flagship building for the Mayflower 400 commemorations. One of its first exhibitions will be *Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy*. Afterwards we take in the stunning views at The Hoe before we enjoy free time in Plymouth.

Meals: Breakfast

Thursday: Saltram

This morning we head to Saltram, an elegant Georgian mansion complete with its original, impressively lavish contents, including stunning paintings and textiles. We then return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday: Exeter, Bristol and SS Great Britain

Leaving Cornwall we stop en-route back in Exeter, a handsome and compact city that offers a great range of shops and a cobbled quayside area.

We continue on to the city of Bristol where we visit SS Great Britain, the great-great grandmother for all modern ships. Created in 1843 by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the ship has been painstakingly restored and we get under the skin of life at sea at the Dockyard Museum and step onto the ship itself on our audio guided tour.

From here we make our way to the Queens Hotel Cheltenham – MGallery where we stay overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Saturday: Oxford

We spend our final day in Oxford, the city of dreaming spires. On our guided walking tour, we discover the history and many of the magnificent buildings of the city. Afterwards we enjoy time at leisure here. We then check in to the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Sunday: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ❖ 2 nights at the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery
- ❖ 1 night at the Lainston House Hotel
- ❖ 5 nights at the Bovey Castle Hotel
- ❖ 1 night at the Queens Hotel Cheltenham – MGallery
- ❖ 1 night at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 7 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 1 lunch at the Mayflower pub
- ❖ 1 dinner at a traditional country pub
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All excursion costs
- ❖ Porterage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

- Nights One and Two** – Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, Windsor
- Night Three** – Lainston House Hotel, Winchester
- Nights Four to Eight** – Bovey Castle Hotel, Dartmoor
- Night Nine** – Queens Hotel Cheltenham – MGallery, Cheltenham
- Night Ten** – Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor

For more information on these hotels please visit our website.

We have a small number of single places with no supplement available on this tour. These places sell quickly.



Coletton Fishacre

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make a booking?

You can book via our website, www.albionjourneys.com/royaloak or over the telephone on our toll-free number **1-866-834-8358**. Our offices are open 9:00am-5:00pm EST Monday to Friday. If you have any questions or queries you can also email us at info@albionjourneys.com. If you are not a Royal Oak Member, the cost of the tour increases by \$150.

When are payments due?

When you confirm your booking with us, a non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person is required to secure your place. The final balance payment must be paid to us no later than 90 days prior to the tour departure date. Of course, full payment can be made at the time of booking if you prefer and for bookings made less than 8 weeks before the tour departs this will be a requirement.

How can I pay?

We accept debit and credit cards (except American Express), for deposits and full payment.

What paperwork will I receive?

When your booking is confirmed, we will email you a booking confirmation document along with a copy of our full Terms and Conditions. 90 days prior to the tour, we will prepare and send you our Travel Pack with your finalized information, reading list and tour itinerary details.

Do I need travel insurance?

Yes, this is essential; we can only accept a booking on the basis that you have taken out a full and comprehensive travel insurance policy to cover the full duration of your trip. We will ask you to confirm this to us. If you choose not to take out travel insurance, this is done so against our advice and at your own risk; we will ask you to sign a declination form indemnifying us from any responsibility or cost in the event of medical emergency or repatriation.

Do I need a passport and visa?

It is your responsibility to ensure you have a full passport and we recommend that it is valid for 6 months after the return date of your trip. Tourist visas are not required for US citizens visiting the UK for under 90 days solely for the purpose of tourism. If you are not a US citizen or you are combining your visit with business, it is your responsibility to check the requirements for visiting the UK, you can do this by visiting the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website to determine whether you need a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

Are there single traveler room supplements?

We have a small number of rooms on each tour that are sold with no single supplement; once these are sold out we charge a supplement for any additional single rooms which varies for each tour. You can contact us to enquire about single supplement prices. Please book early as single rooms sell fast.

Are room upgrades available?

All of the hotels on these tours have been hand-picked for their high quality of accommodation and service. However, in some instances room upgrades are available and we would be happy to assist you to arrange these should you be interested.

Can you arrange extra hotel nights?

Yes, if you decide to arrive a few days before the start of the tour or leave a few days after the end of the tour, we are happy to arrange extra nights' accommodation. However, this service is only available at hotels that feature in the tour on which you are travelling and a \$35 administration fee is charged for this service.

Are meals included?

All breakfasts are included on all tours. Certain lunches and dinners are also included and you should study the tour itinerary in this brochure to determine what meals are included on your chosen tour. Meals not mentioned are not included and all beverages are at your own expense throughout the tour.

What do I do about any dietary requirements?

Please inform us at the time of booking, we will pass your information on to the hotel who will do their best to accommodate your requirements.

How many passengers will be in the Albion Journeys tour group?

Typically, between 10 and 30.

What is the role of the Tour Director?

Our friendly Tour Director will meet you for a welcome dinner at the beginning of each tour. Their role is to facilitate the smooth organization of all operational aspects of the tour. If you have any queries or experience any issues during the tour, they are there to assist you.

Will the excursions change?

Please note that we plan our tours far in advance and the order and availability of excursions may be subject to change. In the event of a property not being available to visit, we will substitute with a similar visit, and you will be informed of the full details.

How much walking will there be on these tours?

As much or as little as you like. Any included guided tours will operate at a fairly relaxed pace, as with many historic houses and gardens, you may experience some uneven flooring and steps along the way. Of course, you will always have the option to explore any venue by yourself at your own pace. Any specific tour in this brochure with more than an average amount of walking will be clearly noted in the itinerary. If you have any specific concerns, please contact us.

What are the arrangements for luggage?

The standard luggage allowance is one item of hand luggage and one suitcase per person restricted to a maximum weight of 20kgs (44 pounds). We do provide portage at each of the hotels used on our tours, however, as with all things of a personal nature, it is your responsibility to ensure your suitcase is loaded onto the vehicles we use throughout the tour.

What clothing should I bring?

Comfortable leisurewear is recommended for the daytime. In the evening many participants prefer to wear smarter dress for dining. Whilst gentlemen may choose to wear a jacket in the restaurant in the evening, at most hotels this is not obligatory, we will of course inform you if any hotel does have a dress code. It is advisable to bring layered clothing and a light waterproof jacket. We recommend sturdy footwear when visiting gardens as the ground may be soft underfoot. Many historic properties request ladies do not wear high heels which may damage flooring.

Can you arrange my flights to the UK?

Albion Journeys do not arrange your air travel for our tours; this is your responsibility and gives you the flexibility to decide on your own routing.

What should I budget for tipping?

While it is not compulsory, it is customary to tip the coach driver and Tour Director as well as offering a small gratuity to the transfer drivers to acknowledge the services they have provided. As a guideline we suggest a rate of £5 per day for your driver, £10 per day for your Tour Director and a couple of pounds for your transfer driver. Gratuities for hotel staff and the tour guides you may meet at properties on your day trips are covered by Albion Journeys.

All tours offered subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Errors and omissions excepted.

Terms & Conditions

It is important that you read the following booking conditions. These Booking Conditions form the basis of your contract with us. Please read these sections carefully as they apply to all bookings you make with us unless otherwise specified. All holidays are operated by Albion.

1. HOLIDAY PAYMENT: When you make a booking you must pay a deposit for every person named on the booking. Deposits per person and the balance due date (the period before the departure date on which your full balance normally becomes due) are:

Deposit	Balance due date
\$750	90 days before departure

If you cannot make a payment by card at the time of booking, please speak to one of our Reservations staff to discuss other options. You can make payments against your balance anytime between making the booking and the balance due date. If the balance is not paid on time we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you and apply cancellation charges as set out in clause 3 below. For bookings made after the balance due date, the full amount is due at the time of booking.

2. OUR AGREEMENT: A contract is formed when we issue to you the booking confirmation document and terms and conditions. It is important you read through these and any other documents you receive and advise us of any inaccuracy within 14 days of the document date. By accepting the booking is correct you agree to our terms and conditions.

We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracy in any document within 14 days of our sending it out. This contract and all matters arising out of it will be governed by English law and will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

3. HOLIDAY CANCELLATION BY YOU: If you want to cancel your booking after we have confirmed it with you either verbally, over the telephone or by email, you can do so over the phone or in writing. The following cancellation charges will apply:

365 to 182 days prior to departure	\$500
181 to 91 days prior to departure	\$750
90 days or less before departure	100% of the program cost is non-refundable

If any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person may transfer their place to someone else (introduced by you) providing we are notified no less than two weeks before departure.

Full terms and conditions will be provided with your booking confirmation. They are also available on request or via our website: www.albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions.





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Journeys Inspired By Heritage

Front & Back Cover Image: Eastnor Castle

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