Wonders of the West Country
Houses of Hampshire, Wiltshire & Dorset

With Lecturer James McDonaugh
May 31 through June 4, 2020
Hampshire, Wiltshire & Dorset

These counties of West England boast some of the most beautiful country houses and gardens in the UK, not to mention great historic towns like Winchester and Salisbury.

This unique tour, designed specially for the Royal Oak Foundation, will show you some of England’s most beautiful private houses and art collections.

You will go behind the scenes at Salisbury Cathedral and Winchester College, the oldest school in the country.

There will be special private lunches and dinners, and as ever, we will be visiting important National Trust houses.
Day 1 / Sunday May 31

London & Hatchlands Park

MORNING
Meet at the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria and depart by private transfer.

Private visit to Hatchlands Park. This National Trust-owned Georgian house bears witness to some of Robert Adam's earliest work. We will see wonderful examples in the plasterwork ceilings in the library and staircase hall and the fireplace and the ceiling in the saloon.

Home to the Cobbe family, the house displays highlights from the Cobbe Collection of paintings and musical instruments. Including a collection of Old Masters and an extraordinary group of keyboard instruments owned or played by some of history's greats such as J.C. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Chopin.

AFTERNOON
Lunch together en route. Arrive at Lainston House Hotel, check into rooms and rest.

EVENING
Private welcome dinner at the hotel.
Day 2 / Monday June 1

**Mottisfont & Crichel House**

**MORNING**
Special visit to Mottisfont Abbey Gardens with a tour lead by the Head Gardener.

Mottisfont is home to England’s National Collection of Roses established by famed horticulturalist, Graham Stuart Thomas in the mid-20th century. The gardens are also known for the herbaceous borders in the walled gardens, the result of an ambitious project to restore the borders back to the original design of horticulturalist Graham Stuart Thomas. Agapanthus, geraniums and peonies mingle with pinks, lilies and phlox, to name just a few.

The lime avenue by Jellicoe, font and river add to the beauty of the landscape.

**AFTERNOON**
Lunch at The Museum Inn.

Private visit to Crichel House, which is not open to the public.

We have been given very special permission by owners Mr. & Mrs. Chilton to view the newly restored interiors of Crichel House, one of Dorset’s greatest 18th-century houses. James will lead a tour of his old family home and this will be followed by a visit to the newly laid out gardens.

Tea refreshment will be served at the house.

**EVENING**
Private dinner nearby hosted by the family of James McDonaugh, surrounded by much of the art collection from Crichel House, this will be a splendid evening.

Visit the Houses of Hampshire, Wiltshire & Dorset
Day 3 / Tuesday June 2
Wilton House & Salisbury

MORNING
Depart the hotel by private transfer.

Private visit to Wilton House. One of England’s most beautiful and important country houses, Wilton is the private home of the Earl of Pembroke.

The family has lived here since the 1540s and have built a superb art collection including works by renowned artists such as Van Dyck, Brueghel, Rembrandt and Richard Wilson. Wilton is one of the most influential English Country Houses on the history of English taste.

Followed by free time to explore the gardens at leisure.

AFTERNOON
Lunch at the nearby Pembroke Arms.

Private tour of the library at Salisbury Cathedral with the head archivist: this is one of the finest and most interesting Cathedral libraries in England with manuscripts dating back to Norman times. This will be a very special private visit with the head archivist who will lay out the most interesting books for us to see.

Visit the magnificent Salisbury Cathedral: this iconic building is a wonder of medieval architecture and the best-preserved copy of the Magna Carta is here.

Cream tea in the Cathedral Café.

EVENING
Group dinner at the hotel.

Wilton House has been the home of the Earls of Pembroke for over four and a half centuries. ©Art Tours
Day 4, Wednesday June 3

Winchester Cathedral and College

MORNING
Depart the hotel by private transfer.

Private visit to Winchester College. The college was founded in 1382 by William of Wycombe, Chancellor of England and founder of New College, Oxford. Winchester became the feeder school for New College. Most of the original buildings survive and date to 1387-1392. We begin with a tour of the College then a viewing in the Archives with College archivist, Suzanne Foster, finishing with the Treasury.

(Please note there is a steep, spiral staircase to reach the archives.)

Visit Winchester Cathedral with the Cathedral Vice-Dean: this is one of England's oldest and most impressive churches, dating back to Norman times. There are few better places to conjure the atmosphere of early medieval England.

AFTERNOON
Lunch at the Wycombe Arms.

Visit St. Cross Church & Alms House. The church and hospital was founded in the 1130s by Henry of Blois brother of King Stephen. It was run by thirteen Poor men (secular brothers of the Holy Cross) and dedicated to the Holy Cross. It was not therefore a monastic community which is why it survived the Reformation. There is superb Norman architecture to see inside.

The coach will return to the hotel, or you can stay on in Winchester to enjoy some independent time in the city. Rest of the day at leisure.

EVENING
Independent Dinner.

Visit the Houses of Hampshire, Wiltshire & Dorset
Day 5, Thursday, June 4
The Vyne & London

MORNING
Depart the hotel by private transfer.

Private visit to The Vyne: this National Trust house is arguably the most beautiful in Hampshire and embraces Tudor, Palladian, Georgian and Gothic Revival all in one building.

The fine architecture is matched by wonderfully atmospheric rooms, including magnificent trompe l’oeil vaulting. The central staircase is a masterpiece by John Chute.

AFTERNOON
Lunch nearby.

Drive to London, Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria (1.5-2 hours).
General Information

Hotel
Our base for 4 nights will be the Lainston House Hotel, near to Winchester. The property is a charming 17th-century country house set in 63 acres of parkland. Rooms are rich with period features and have large windows overlooking fine gardens. There is a fine dining menu, The Avenue, serving British dishes with produce from the kitchen garden.

Price
$4,850 USD per person   Single Room Supplement: $895 USD per person
Departure: May 29, 2019

- Accommodation for 4 nights in Lainston House, including breakfast and taxes
- The services of tour manager and art historian James McDoanough
- Private transport as per the itinerary
- The costs of at least 7 private visits
- All other admission fees as per the itinerary
- Guiding by other expert local guides as per the itinerary
- 3 Dinners (three courses with wine, water and coffee)
- 5 lunches (two courses with wine, water and coffee)
- All tips and taxes
- Audio headphones for group listening
- Full Support from Art Tours Office including personalised itinerary booklets, sightseeing notes, restaurant bookings and an emergency contact number
- $500 of your payment per person is a tax-deductible contribution to the Royal Oak Foundation

*Those who wish to make their own way to the hotel may do so, but we regret that we cannot offer money off for those making their own travel arrangements.

Price does not include:
- International flights
- Any personal expenditure and meals
Payment and Booking Information

The Royal Oak Foundation will be collecting payments and Booking Forms for this tour for payment to Art Tours Ltd on your behalf. Your payment can be made by Credit Card (American Express, Visa and Master Card) or by Check [made out to the order of “Royal Oak Foundation”]. Please note that in the event of any conflict between these payment terms and those in Art Tours Ltd. terms and conditions, these payment terms shall prevail.

If you would like to join the tour, please complete and return the Art Tours Ltd Booking Form and send a non-refundable deposit equal to 20% of the total cost of the tour. Please remit this payment to The Royal Oak Foundation, c/o Kayla Smith, Royal Oak Foundation, 20 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036. (Contact information: Tel: (212) 480-2889, ext. 201; Fax: (212)764-7234; Email: ksmith@royal-oak.org)

Booking Forms can be returned by mail, email, or fax, and must be returned to Royal Oak Foundation with your signature. Bookings will be made on a first come first served basis. The deadline for signing up to the trip is February 7, 2020, and Royal Oak Foundation must have received your booking by this date. Please note that your booking is not confirmed until we have received both your booking form and deposit.

The full balance of your payment is due no later than 8 weeks before departure or by April 3, 2020.

N.B. Although Royal Oak Foundation is collecting payments for this tour, by enrolling you acknowledge that Art Tours Ltd is the sole tour operator for this full program, and that your enrolment and participation is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Art Tours Ltd, contained in the booking form and as abbreviated below.

Art Tours Ltd. - Terms and Conditions

Please Note

- Tours are subject to a minimum and a maximum number of participants. This tour is subject to a maximum of 24 participants. Art Tours Ltd. endeavors to run all tours and will work as hard as possible to ensure the tour can go ahead. If the tour cannot go ahead due to insufficient numbers, or due to other factors beyond our control, then your deposit will be refunded. Please see Art Tours Ltd’s website (http://www.arttoursltd.com/about/terms-and-conditions) for the full terms and conditions. Please note that we cannot refund the cost of flights that you have booked independently.
- Art Tours Ltd. will be delighted to book and/or advise on alternative travel arrangements before, during or after the tour and will help with upgrades, changes or extensions to your itinerary. Please note that the cost of alternative arrangements must be met by you in full and is subject to a service fee.
- You must have a valid passport and take out full travel insurance to cover all aspects of your holiday and it is part of our terms and conditions that you do so. This insurance should be activated from the point of holiday confirmation and should cover all emergency and medical care, cancellation and repatriation costs and ideally your luggage and personal possessions.
Frequently Asked Questions

Mobility
For this trip you will need to have reasonable mobility. When visiting the houses and gardens often the coach is not able to access the front of the property and you will need to be comfortable walking around the gardens.

Tour Numbers
Tours are subject to a minimum number of 16 participants. While we endeavour to run all tours, if the tour cannot go ahead due to insufficient numbers, or due to other factors beyond our control, then your deposit will be refunded. Please see our website and booking form for our full terms and conditions.

Passport and Visa Arrangements
You must have a valid passport and take out full travel insurance to cover all aspects of your holiday and it is part of our terms and conditions that you do so. This insurance should be activated from the point of holiday confirmation and should cover all emergency and medical care, cancellation and repatriation costs and ideally your luggage and personal possessions.

Changes to the Itinerary and Extension to Your Holiday
Art Tours Ltd. will be delighted to book and/or advise on alternative travel arrangements before, during or after the tour and will help with upgrades or extensions to your itinerary. Please note that the cost of alternative arrangements must be met by you in full and is subject to a service fee.

If, after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you want to change any part of your Tour please contact us immediately and we will do all we can to help you, but it may not always be possible. If it is possible to make the change, you will be asked to pay an administration charge and any further cost we incur in making this alteration. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made.

Traveling as Part of a Group
Please remember that this is a group tour and you will be expected to be punctual at meeting times and remain with the group during the fixed part of the program or advice the tour manager if you do not attend to take part in any aspect of the itinerary in advance. Please keep an eye at all times on your lecturer and tour manager while walking through the city. If you need to leave the group for any reason, please inform them. It is important that we stick as close as possible to our timings. If you need assistance getting to destinations by taxi while the group is on foot, you will need to meet these costs yourself.
Art Tours Ltd is a leading specialist in cultural travel design for museums, art collectors and friends and family coming together for the trip of a lifetime. We create bespoke itineraries sourcing the finest experts, providing exceptional experiences and offering new and thrilling perspectives.

Art Tours Ltd is based in London and was founded in 2008 by Oxford graduate and Courtauld trained art historian James McDonaugh. James and his team look after a select group of clients worldwide.
Pictured here is Rosa Graham Thomas ‘Ausmas’ in bloom during une at Mottisfont House and Garden, Hampshire.