



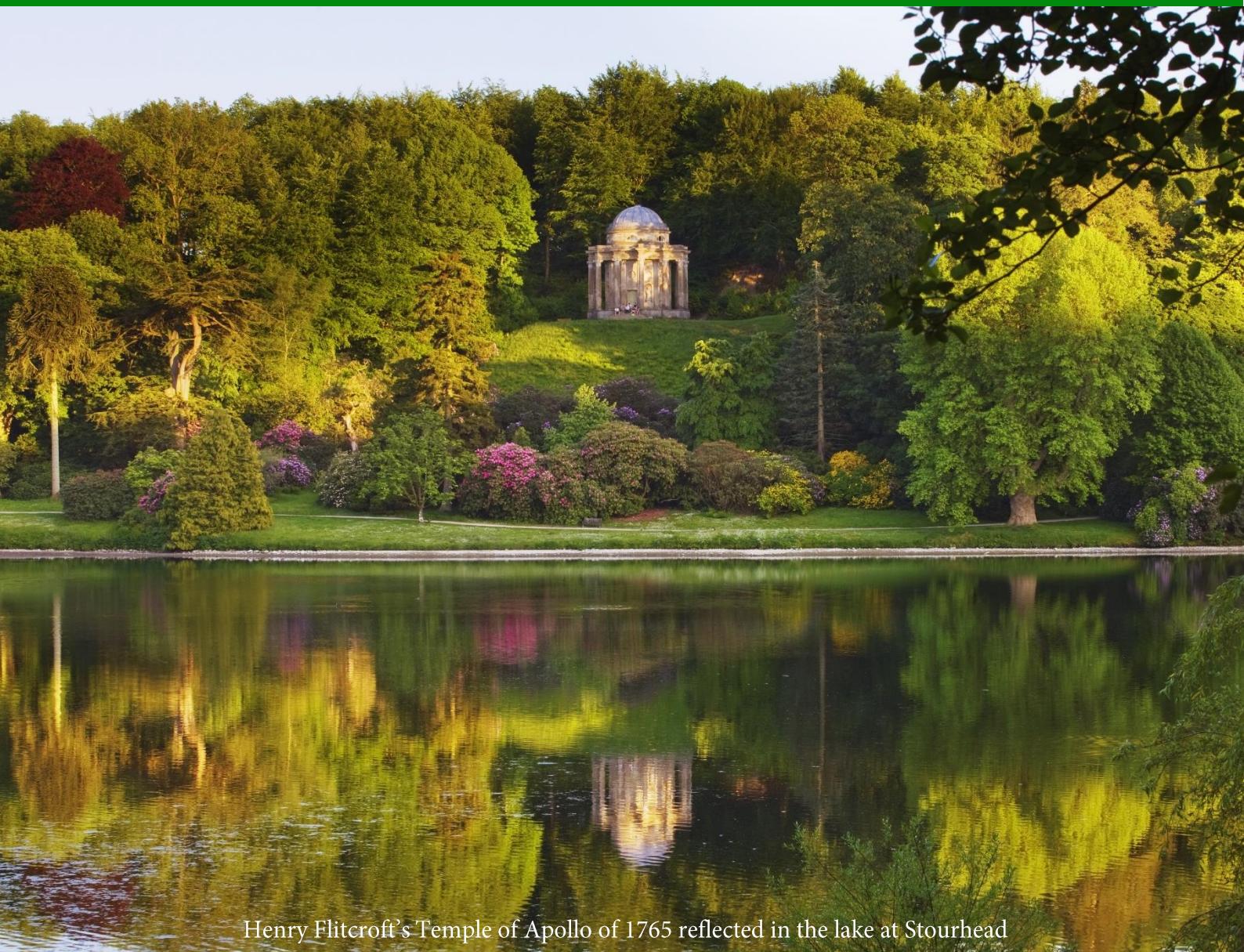
The Royal Oak Foundation

House & Gardens Tour

Great Gardens and Country Houses of Dorset

With Lecturer Anthony Lambert

Monday May 30 – Friday June 3, 2022



Henry Flitcroft's Temple of Apollo of 1765 reflected in the lake at Stourhead



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

Americans in Alliance with the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Dorset

The county known to many through the novels of Thomas Hardy is exceptionally rich in country houses and gardens as well as idyllic landscapes – over half the county is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The gardens benefit from the mild climate, exemplified by the range of plants grown in the garden at Compton Acres, and we shall visit a wide variety of gardens, from the early example of landscape gardening at Stourhead to the recent award-winning garden at Mapperton and the pioneering approach to permaculture at Deans Court.





Wilton – the family's garden in the foreground and, above left, the North Forecourt Garden created in 1971 based on a rectangle of pleached limes

Monday May 30
LONDON TO WILTON AND DORSET

MORNING Depart from London Victoria by private coach to **Wilton** for lunch and a tour of the house and gardens, including the family's private garden which is normally closed to visitors. Built on the remains of a nunnery, Wilton is one of England's finest houses, outstanding for its art collection and Inigo Jones's Double Cube Room, designed to accommodate Van Dyck's colossal portrait of the 4th Earl of Pembroke and his family.

AFTERNOON After the tour of the house, we continue to **Plumber Manor**, a Jacobean

house owned and run by the same family who built it in the early 17th century. The hotel is set in 14 acres of grounds with a 3-acre garden and stream running through the property. After welcome drinks, a private dinner at the hotel.

Tuesday May 31
DEANS COURT, COMPTON ACRES AND BROWNSEA ISLAND

MORNING Coach to **Deans Court**, home of the Hanham family since an ancestor suppressed the Deanery in 1548. Red-brick façades were added in 1725 and the Saxon hall was remodelled in 1868. In the 13-acre garden is an American Swamp Cypress and

Tulip tree planted by explorer Thomas Hanham on his return from a voyage to the New World in 1607. The kitchen garden is enclosed by an 18th-century crinkle-crankle wall and was the first organic garden in the country to be accredited by the Soil Association, under the supervision of Lady Jane Hanham.

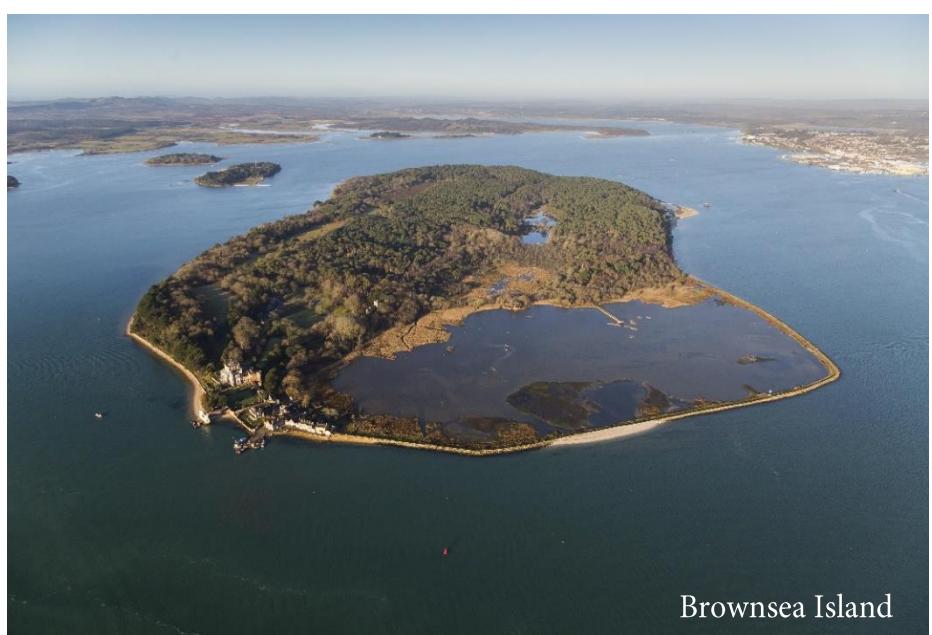
AFTERNOON
After a lunch hosted by Sir William and Lady Alison Hanham, we leave for **Compton Acres**. This privately owned 10-acre garden in Canford Cliffs was created in the 1920s in a late example of high Victorian mixed style with five classical themed gardens. A circular route takes

in the Italian Garden, the Wooded Valley, the Rock and Water Garden, the Heather Garden, and an authentic Japanese Garden with many ornaments imported from Japan. The garden has a magnificent collection of more than 3,000 species of trees, shrubs, bulbs and herbaceous plants from around the world.

Before dinner we take to the water in a National Trust boat around **Brownsea Island** with Trust staff to talk about the story and care of the island, birthplace of Scouting in 1907 by Lord Baden Powell. Dinner will be at Rick Stein Sandbanks Restaurant overlooking Poole Harbour. It is one of the country's foremost seafood restaurants.

Wednesday June 1 **FORDE ABBEY AND MAPPERTON**

MORNING Coach to **Forde Abbey**, a former 12th-century Cistercian monastery converted into a palatial family home during the mid-17th century. The house has exquisitely ornate plaster ceilings throughout the state rooms, together with a collection of Mortlake tapestries woven from cartoons drawn by Raphael for the Sistine Chapel. During the last century the 30 acres of gardens have been transformed into a diverse landscape with productive Kitchen Garden, Arboretum,



Rock Garden, Herbaceous Borders, Bog Garden and Woodland Garden.

AFTERNOON After lunch at Forde Abbey, coach to **Mapperton**, a largely Elizabethan house with the garden chosen as the 2020 Christies and Historic Houses Garden of the Year.

Mapperton's gardens are set out on four levels, sloping down the valley from the formal croquet lawn, through the 1920s Italianate gardens, past the ponds and finally to an arboretum. The gardens have fine specimen trees and shrubs, and the roses and herbaceous borders are at their best in summer.

We shall have a conducted tour of the house and garden by the Countess of Sandwich before pre-dinner drinks and a presentation by Viscountess Hinchingbrooke on Life in a Country House in the 21st century, followed by dinner hosted by Viscount and Viscountess Hinchingbrooke.



Forde Abbey garden

Thursday June 2
MINTERNE GARDENS AND WOLFETON HOUSE

MORNING Coach to **Minterne Gardens** for a private tour with Lord Henry Digby. The house is an eclectic creation of 1904 and has been described as standing 'in a corner of paradise' for its views over woods and meadows. The Minterne Valley was

landscaped in the manner of 'Capability' Brown in the 18th century. The gardens are laid out in a horseshoe below Minterne House, with a chain of small lakes, waterfalls and streams. A Himalayan Garden is filled with specimens gathered by plant-hunters of the 18th and 19th centuries – Himalayan rhododendrons and azaleas, with spring bulbs, cherries, maples and many fine and rare trees.

AFTERNOON Coach to **Wolfeton House** for lunch hosted by Capt. Nigel and Emma Thimbleby before a private tour of the house. Set among water meadows at the confluence of the rivers Frome and Cerne, the largely 16th-century house is approached between two drum towers redolent of French châteaux. The highlight of the interiors is



The Fountain Court Garden at Mapperton

Minterne house and gardens



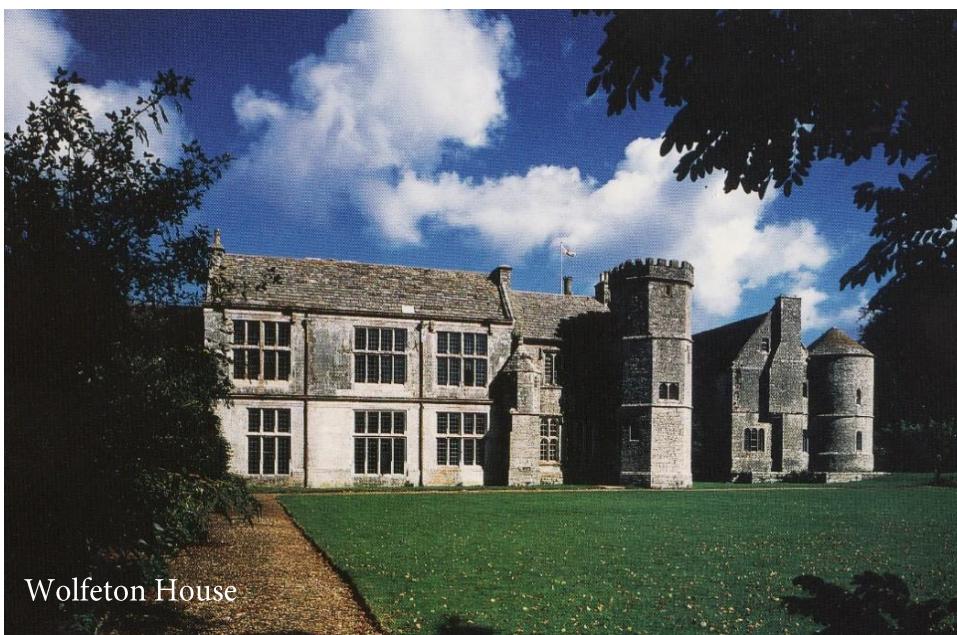
the absolutely stunning Elizabethan and Jacobean carving, oak panelling and plastered ceilings. Private farewell dinner at **Plumber Manor**.

**Friday June 3
STOURHEAD AND LONDON**

MORNING Coach to Stourhead for a welcome in

the Library of the house built by Henry Hoare and a walk from the house around the magnificent wooded lake and the architectural features that surround it – one of Britain's finest landscape gardens, created in the mid-18th century. Lunch will be served in the Pantheon, built by Henry Hoare for supper parties and picnics, with Audrey Hoare as our hostess.

AFTERNOON Continue the return journey to London Victoria and the end of the tour.



Wolfeton House



The exterior of Plumber Manor, Dorset. © Plumber Manor Hotel

General Information

Hotel

Plumber Manor, the archetypal Dorset country hotel, is a fine Jacobean country house, still owned, and now run as a luxury hotel, by the same family that built it in the early 1600's. Located in the heart of Thomas Hardy's vale of little dairies, it is one of the most beautiful parts of Dorset. Set in a 3 acre garden, this is a hotel that's so 'far from the madding crowd', you could be excused for believing that time is at a standstill.

Price

\$5,300 USD per person No Single Room Supplement

Departure: May 30, 2022

- Accommodation for 4 nights in Plumber Manor Hotel, including breakfast and taxes
- The services of tour manager and lecturer Anthony Lambert
- Private transport as per the itinerary
- The costs of all visits
- All other admission fees as per the itinerary
- Guiding by other expert local guides as per the itinerary
- 4 Dinners (three courses with wine, water and coffee)
- 5 lunches (two courses with beverage)
- All tips and taxes
- \$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

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"]. If you would like to join the tour, you will need to complete the form and pay a **\$1,000 deposit per person.**

Return the Booking Form and payment for the deposit 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; Email: ksmith@royal-oak.org)

Booking Forms can be returned online or by mail, or email, 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 **March 11, 2022**, 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 4, 2022.

N.B. Your enrolment and participation is subject to the Terms and Conditions contained herein.

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 15 participants. While we endeavor 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 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

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 advise the tour manager, in advance, if you do not intend to take part in any aspect of the itinerary. 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.



ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION TERMS & CONDITIONS

Responsibility Statement - Royal Oak Foundation ("ROF") offers tours to provide educational and cultural enrichment of its members and friends.

ROF acts only to arrange with any transportation carrier, hotel, ground operator, or other suppliers of services connected with this tour (referred to herein as "providers"), who in turn are solely responsible and liable for providing their respective services.

We shall not be held liable for (A) any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, persons occasioned directly or indirectly by an act or omission of any other provider, including but not limited to any defect in any aircraft, watercraft, or vehicle operated or provided by such other provider, and (B) any loss or damage due to delay, cancellation, or disruption in any manner caused by the laws, regulations, acts or failures to act, demands, orders, or interpositions of any government or any subdivision or agent thereof, or by acts of God, strikes, fire, flood, war, rebellion, terrorism, insurrection, sickness, quarantine, epidemics, theft, or any other cause/s beyond our control. Baggage and personal effects are at all times the sole responsibility of the participant.

By registering for an ROF Tour, the participant acknowledges and agrees to the Responsibility Statement and the Terms and Conditions herein. The participant waives and releases any claim against us for any such loss, damage, injury, or death, and **each participant is required to sign Tour Participant Release and Waiver of Liability as a condition for participating in the tour**. You can rest assured that the safety of our travelers is of the utmost importance to us and we continually monitor the political and security situation within the destinations on each itinerary.

Health - Our tours involve walking around cities, classical and other sites and standing in museums. You must ensure that you are physically fit enough to participate in these activities. By paying the deposit for a tour, you certify that you do not have any physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for yourself or other passengers. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diet, or treatment must be reported in writing on the passenger information form sent to you upon confirmation onto the tour. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate special diets and treatment; however, we cannot guarantee special arrangements.

Special Health Statement – Due to the current worldwide pandemic, and for the safety and security of all Participants, staff, and destination hosts, all Participants are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Proof of vaccination, as well as testing, may be required in order to enter countries on the itinerary, and/or by airlines, cruise lines, hotels, private hosts, and other elements of the Program. Participants accept all risks and costs associated with the requirements stated in this paragraph including an inability to join/continue with any element(s) of the Program.

Insurance - You must 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 cover all emergency and medical care, cancellation and repatriation costs. This insurance is at an additional cost to you.

Smoking Policy - For the comfort of all participants, we ask that there be no smoking during all group activities, including excursions and meals.



ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Passport & Visa Requirements - You will need a ten year passport for travel to all destinations and you will need at least 6 months validity on your current passport. Certain countries require a visa for entry and we will advise you at the time of booking if a visa is required. However, arranging the visa is your responsibility. Any members of the travelling party holding a non-EU passport should check with the embassy in question for specific visa requirements.

Basis of Rates - All prices are per person based on two sharing a room and fares are quoted in U.S. dollars. Per person rates for single, triple, or quad occupancy may be available if not already noted. Please inquire. The rates are based on current airfares, tariffs, fuel costs, and currency values, which are all subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. The prices are based on the minimum number of participants specified in the pricing joining the expedition. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

Tour Costs - Tours are subject to a minimum and a maximum number of participants. This tour is subject to a maximum of 22 participants. Prices are based on a minimum of 15 paying participants. At the time of final payment, Royal Oak reserves the right to add any increased amounts arising from changes in taxes and from changes instituted by suppliers or caused by market conditions. All local/government taxes on hotels, meals, and services in the itinerary are included, in addition to normal gratuities to porters, waiters, and local guides. Rates are based on group participation, and there can be no refund for services or portions of the tour not taken. It is also understood and agreed that all excursions are optional and refunds cannot be made to tour members who do not participate or complete the tour, for any reason.

Single Travelers - A limited number of single rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis, but availability cannot be guaranteed. We make every effort to match single travelers who request a roommate. Neither a single room nor a share can be guaranteed. Participants will be notified if we are unsuccessful in finding a suitable roommate.

Deposits & Payments - Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and must be accompanied by a deposit. An invoice will be sent to you upon receipt for a partial balance due with the final balance due 120 days before the tour. Deposit and final payment requirements are described in the specific trip brochure.

Full payment is required for reservations made after the final payment date. Acceptable forms of payment are check, credit card, or wire.

Air Tickets Purchased Independent of the Tour - We urge you to check airline cancellation penalties before purchasing airline tickets since departure times and flights can change. Tours also can be cancelled due to low enrollment. We do not accept liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets purchased independently in conjunction with a tour.

Itinerary Changes - The itineraries and study leader staff that are presented in the brochure are subject to modification and change. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate programs as planned, but alterations may still occur without allowance of refund.



ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PAYMENTS & CANCELLATIONS

Payment Terms

In order to confirm your trip, a deposit is required at the signing of your contract in accordance with the trip Booking Form and our terms and conditions.

The balance for your trip must be paid no later than 8 weeks prior to departure. If your booking is made within 8 weeks of departure, full payment must be sent with this form.

Make checks payable to 'The Royal Oak Foundation', and mail with your completed form to our office, or complete the credit card section of this form and mail to our office.

If you cancel your tour

You, or any member of your Party, may cancel your travel arrangements at any time. If any member of your Party decides to cancel their place on the Tour, the person who made the booking must notify us of the decision as soon as possible by sending written notification by mail. Cancellation will be effective from the date it is received by us. Since we incur costs in cancelling your travel arrangements, you will have to pay the applicable percentage of the total booking price by way of cancellation charges set out below:

Period before departure within which notice of cancellation is received by us in writing –

Cancellation charge (% of total booking price)

- More than 8 weeks - full refund
- Less than 8 weeks and more than 4 weeks– loss of deposit
- Within 4 weeks of departure – no refunds

Phone or Email

The Royal Oak Foundation

20 West 44th Street, Suite 606 New York, NY 10036

+1.212.480.2889 ext. 201

ksmith@royal-oak.org

If we cancel your tour

We endeavor 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 you will receive a full refund of all monies paid to Royal Oak.

We will not cancel your tour with less than 8 weeks before departure, except for reasons of Force Majeure, or failure by you to pay the final balance or where the minimum number of clients for a particular trip has not been reached.



ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

TERMS & CONDITIONS

PROGRAM PRICES

Land-Only Tour Cost per person, double occupancy

Single supplement – per trip brochure, limited availability

Minimum of 15 guests

Includes: Four nights' deluxe accommodation; breakfast daily, five lunches, and four dinners, including complimentary welcome pre-dinner drinks the first evening; wine at dinner; transportation by private deluxe coach; entrances to sites featured in the itinerary; portage at Hotel; tips and taxes for included services; Tour Lecturer to provide commentary. A gratuity for the coach driver has been included in the tour cost.

Excludes: Round-trip airfare to and from London; meals and beverages not otherwise included; items for personal use, including phone, fax, and email charges, minibar, and laundry services; passport fees, if any.

The Hoare family home of Stourhead

