



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

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



English Elegance

Art, Estates & Spas of Cheltenham & Bath

with Alice W. Iglehart, Lecturer

May 31 – June 9, 2026

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

TRAVEL with **Alice W. Iglehart**, longtime Met educator, for a behind-the-scenes exploration of English estates, royal gardens, and spa towns

BEGIN with a private curator-led tour of London's UNESCO-listed **Kew Gardens**, walking through rainforest glasshouses and more at one of the world's most diverse plant collections

EXPERIENCE **Waddesdon Manor**, the Rothschilds' 19th-century château managed by the National Trust, and **Blenheim Palace**, birthplace of Churchill, on exclusive tours guided by senior staff

VISIT **Highgrove House and Gardens**, the private residence of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla, with a senior horticulturist guiding you through gardens shaped by the King's personal values

GO behind the scenes at Bath's **No. 1 Royal Crescent** after hours with a curator, exploring restored Georgian interiors that reveal how architecture, furnishings, and ritual shaped social life in 18th-century England

WALK on Roman paving stones and explore ancient plunge pools in Bath during a private tour of the **Roman Baths**, among the world's most complete Roman ruins

ENTER private family quarters at **Sudeley Castle** not open to the public, including rooms where Katherine Parr—last wife of Henry VIII—lived, and walk gardens once used by four Tudor queens

DISCOVER Cheltenham's neoclassical **Pittville Pump Room**, stand trackside at the historic **Racecourse**, and visit the Wilson for a close look at Arts & Crafts design guided by a curator

ENJOY afternoon teas at **Cliveden House**, a Thames-side estate owned by the National Trust, and Bath's 17th-century **Sally Lunn's Tea Room & Restaurant**

STAY at historic properties, including Cheltenham's **Ellenborough Park**, built on the foundations of a 15th-century manor, and Bath's **Royal Crescent Hotel**



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In England's countryside estates and spa towns like **Cheltenham** and **Bath**, every detail—from a carved cornice to a garden path—was crafted to signal taste, status, and power. From **May 31 to June 9, 2026**, join the Museum Travel Alliance and the Royal Oak Foundation in the U.K. for exclusive access to historic homes, collections, gardens, and Roman baths. Go behind the scenes in lavish properties and gardens owned by **His Majesty King Charles III**, **Sir Winston Churchill**, the **Rothschilds**, and other fascinating historical figures.

We spoke with lecturer **Alice W. Iglehart**—a longtime Met educator and graduate of the prestigious Attingham Summer Program with a deep passion for British portraiture—about how she helped design this very personal journey. **To reserve your place**, contact the Museum Travel Alliance at Arrangements Abroad at 212-324-1893 or email trips@museumtravelalliance.com.

How does your background shape this program?

Attingham taught me to read an English country house like a painting. For example, we'll share a private tour of the 19th-century Rothschild family *château*, **Waddesdon Manor**, we'll see how every choice reflected their wealth and refinement, from Sèvres porcelain to some of my favorite portraits by English painters Reynolds and Gainsborough. At **Blenheim Palace**, Churchill's UNESCO-listed birthplace, we'll explore grand state rooms and Capability Brown's gardens designed to rival Versailles in scale.

What kind of access will travelers have?

The access will be exceptional. At King Charles III's private **Highgrove House**, a royal horticulturist will show us how His Majesty's philosophy shaped every garden. We'll enter rooms typically closed to the public at **Sudeley Castle**, where Katherine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII, spent her final days, and walk its gardens once used by four Tudor queens.

Why include Cheltenham and Bath?

Cheltenham was a spa town that turned wellness into theater. In the 18th and 19th centuries, visitors came to "take the waters." The city's racecourse brings in my own family history—my uncle ran steeplechasers there—and the **Wilson** offers a curator-led look at hand-crafted Arts & Crafts works that pushed back against the encroaching Industrial Revolution.

Bath feels like walking through a layered script. At the **Roman Baths**, steam still rises off ancient stonework. At **No. 1 Royal Crescent**, our after-hours visit will show how Georgian design choreographed social order—from servant bells to parlor etiquette—down to the last silver spoon.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Alice W. Iglehart has more than 40 years of experience at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and is a master of gallery-based teaching. She co-created the award-winning *Murder at The Met: An American Murder Mystery* and has taught and trained

staff at numerous historic house museums. She is also on the faculty at the School of Visual Arts in the Art History and Critical Studies department. She has a B.A. triple-major in Art History, History, and Studio Art with a minor in Theater and an M.S. in Museum Education. She is a graduate of the Attingham Summer Program in English architecture and art.

Activity Level:
Intermediate



Pace Level:
Moderato



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

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May 31 – June 9, 2026



SUNDAY, MAY 31: DEPARTURE

Depart on an overnight flight to London.

MONDAY, JUNE 1: LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Arrive at London's Heathrow Airport and transfer to the **Four Seasons Hotel London at Park Lane**. After an afternoon at leisure, come together as a group for a welcome reception. R

TUESDAY, JUNE 2: LONDON / TAPLOW / CHELTENHAM

MORNING

- **Private tour of Kew Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.** After checking out, roam amongst the world's most diverse collection of living plants.
- Take in the vast arboretum and wander through beautiful glasshouses. Before the Palm House closes for renovation in 2027, enjoy an opportunity to explore this famous glasshouse featuring an exotic rainforest. Walk along the 59-foot-high Treetop Walkway and explore the 18th-century Great Pagoda.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

▪ **Lunch and afternoon tea at Cliveden House**, the luxury destination for Britain's elite for more than 350 years. Perched atop a chalk cliff overlooking the River Thames, take in sweeping views of the celebrated Parterre Gardens and delight in some of the house's treasured culinary delights and choice teas.

- Check in and take part in a group dinner at the hotel. B,L,T,D

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3: CHELTENHAM / WADDESDON / WOODSTOCK

MORNING

- **Curator-led tour of Waddesdon Manor**, a French Renaissance-style château managed by the National Trust, built between 1874 and 1889 for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.
- Discover Baron Ferdinand's world-class art collections, including portraits by Reynolds, Gainsborough, and Romney, alongside Dutch Old Masters like Dou and Cuyp.
- Marvel at the estate's French decorative arts, such as Marie-Antoinette's desk and a rare Sèvres vase. While here, shop for wines from two Bordeaux vineyards.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- **Private lunch and director-led tour at Blenheim Palace**, Sir Winston Churchill's UNESCO-listed birthplace and home. One of England's largest houses, this 18th-century marvel boasts 2,000 acres of parkland redesigned by Capability Brown, "England's greatest gardener," from 1763 to 1774.
- See the palace and gardens that once were the envy of British monarchs. Explore the Formal Gardens, featuring water terraces, the Duke's Private Italian Garden, and a rose garden with 1,800 blooms.
- Dinner this evening is at leisure.

B,L



THURSDAY, JUNE 4: CHELTENHAM

MORNING

- **Curator-led tour of the Wilson.** Discover this museum's extensive collection of artifacts, including archaeological finds relating to both the prehistoric and Roman occupation of the surrounding North Cotswolds region.
- Observe noted decorative art pieces such as an important collection of Chinese ceramics and exceptional works by designers like William Morris, C.F.A. Voysey, and M.H. Baillie Scott.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Following lunch at leisure, dive into an afternoon tour of Cheltenham's sights.
- **Visit the Pittville Pump Room**, a mesmerizing venue as well as a monument to the more than 100 years of fame Cheltenham enjoyed as a spa town.
- **Stop at world-famous Cheltenham Racecourse**, regarded as the home of National Hunt jump racing, before enjoying a group dinner.

B,D

FRIDAY, JUNE 5: CHELTENHAM / WINCHCOMBE / HICCOTE BARTRIM

MORNING

- **Behind-the-scenes tour of Sudeley Castle & Gardens**, England's only private castle grounds where a queen is buried. Queen Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's last wife, lived at Sudeley until her death in 1548. Enjoy access to private family rooms usually closed to the public.
- Explore 10 exquisite, award-winning gardens, including the Queens' Garden, where four Tudor queens—Anne Boleyn, Katherine Parr, Lady Jane Grey, and Elizabeth I—once strolled.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Visit the world-famous **Hidcote Manor Garden**, a Grade I-listed garden and the National Trust's first garden-only property. Created by Major Lawrence Johnston, a British landscape designer from an American expatriate family, this 10.5-acre Arts and Crafts masterpiece revolutionized garden design with its innovative "garden room" concept.
- See displays of scilla in the Fuchsia Garden and geraniums, campanulas, phlox, and salvia, complemented by fragrant Philadelphus and tree peonies, in the Pillar Garden.
- Take part in a group dinner this evening.

B,L,D

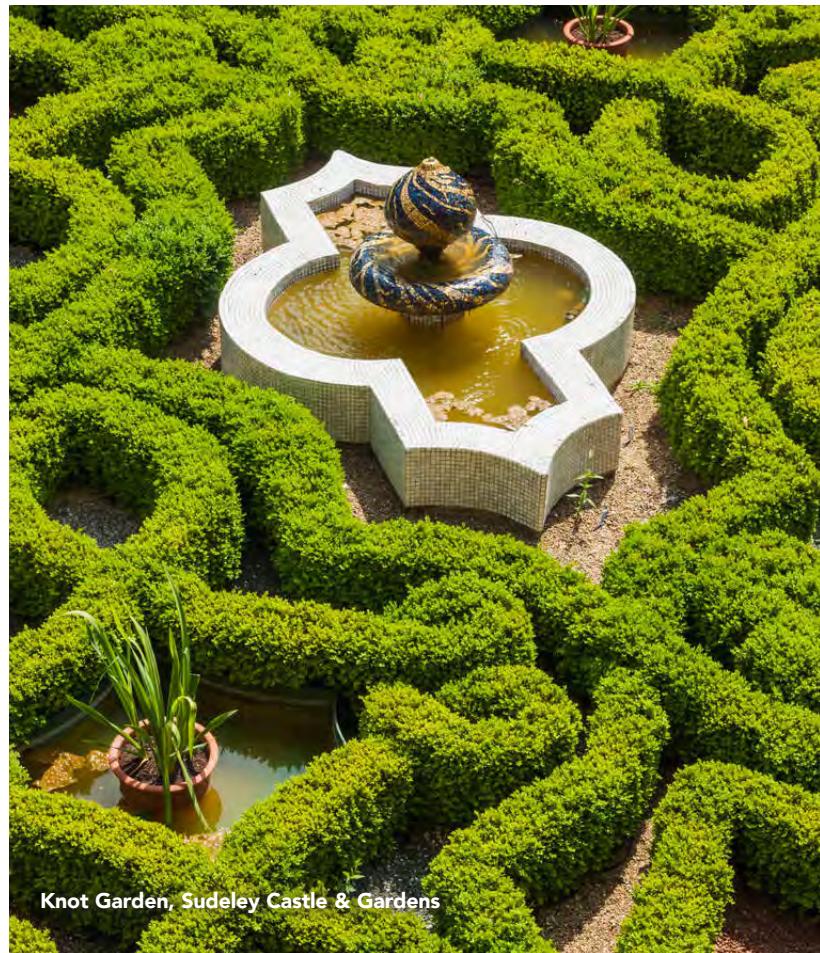
SATURDAY, JUNE 6: CHELTENHAM / HIGHGROVE / BATH

MORNING

- Check out of the hotel and depart for Bath, stopping for a group lunch en route.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- **Private tour and afternoon tea at Highgrove House and Gardens**, the private residence of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Join an expert guide for a tour of the interlinked series of gardens, each reflecting His Majesty's interests and environmental philosophy.
- The gardens, a place of peace and tranquility, comprise a varied collection of landscapes, from the genteel surroundings of the Sundial Garden to the enchanting setting of the Arboretum to the unstructured beauty of the Wildflower Meadow.
- In Bath, check into the hotel and gather for dinner. B,L,T,D



SUNDAY, JUNE 7: BATH

MORNING

- **Private tour of the Roman Baths.** Walk on 2,000-year-old pavements and access one of the world's best preserved Roman remains, marvels of ancient engineering. See extensive ruins and explore chambers housing historical changing rooms and plunge pools.

AFTERNOON

- **Lunch at Sally Lunn's Tea Room & Restaurant.** Enjoy a delicious group meal, sip a pot of afternoon cream tea, and savor a world-famous Sally Lunn Bun at this eatery housed in Bath's oldest residence.
- See the original bakery used by Lunn, a Huguenot refugee previously known as Solange Luyon, in the 1680s.

EVENING

- **After-hours, curator-led tour of the No. 1 Royal Crescent Museum.** Step into a world of historic splendor and see what life was like for the wealthy and their servants in late 18th-century Bath. The Palladian Revival-style building is regarded as one of its era's greatest urban developments.
- Dinner this evening is at leisure. B,L

MONDAY, JUNE 8: BATH

MORNING

- **Private, curator-led tour of Beckford Tower and Museum.** Learn all about the complex history behind one of Bath's singular landmarks. Inside its imposing 120-foot tower, climb the spiral staircase and take in spectacular city views.
- Descend to the hidden grotto, explore the Victorian cemetery, and explore the source of William Beckford's immense power, privilege, and wealth.

AFTERNOON / EVENING

- Enjoy lunch at leisure during a free afternoon.
- **Unearth more of Bath's historical treasures on your own.** Climb the 212 steps to the top of the tower at Bath Abbey, a spectacular Gothic church, or unwind at Thermae Bath Spa. Walk across the Pulteney Bridge and stroll through the Circus, a circular terrace of Georgian homes with intricate stonework and symmetry.
- This evening, come together for a festive farewell dinner. B,D

TUESDAY, JUNE 9: BATH / RETURN

Depart the hotel early this morning for the flight home. B

You may also join Alice W. Iglehart for her following exclusive program, **"Dublin to Belfast: Ireland & Northern Ireland's Splendid Estates & Private Collections," June 9-17, 2026.** To register for both programs, please contact the Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893.

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Museum Travel Alliance and The Royal Oak Foundation. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php>.

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PROGRAM RATE

\$11,999 per person, double rate
\$14,999 single rate

RATES INCLUDE

- Eight nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, T=Tea, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at all included lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any optional pre/postlude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Four Seasons Hotel London at Park Lane



Cliveden House, photo © National Trust Images/Hugh Mothersole

THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION ENGLISH ELEGANCE MAY 31 – JUNE 9, 2026 RESERVATION FORM

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LONDON AT PARK LANE

At this Mayfair establishment, experience the Four Seasons' world-class service, effortless sense of home, and understated luxury. Enjoy Hyde Park views, a Michelin-starred breakfast, and a rooftop spa.

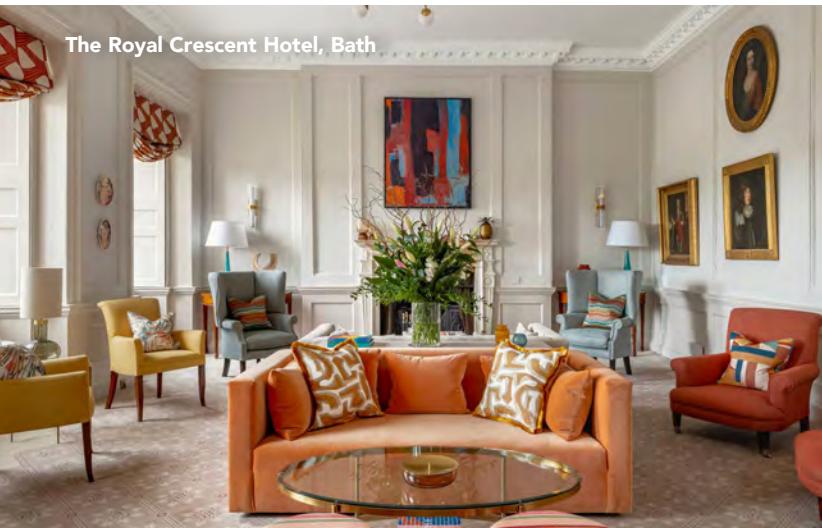
ELLENBOROUGH PARK, CHELTENHAM

Set on 90 private acres near the edge of the Cotswolds, Ellenborough Park combines the solid stone bones of a 15th-century manor with the ease of a country escape. Guests dine on seasonal dishes drawn from the surrounding land, then walk the grounds or slip into the spa's warm waters for restoration.

THE ROYAL CRESCENT HOTEL & SPA, BATH

Built into the graceful curve of Bath's Royal Crescent, this hotel offers a rare chance to stay inside one of the city's most photographed landmarks. The hidden garden beyond holds a small spa, where guests can unwind in the thermal pool or pause between treatments. The restaurant focuses on local produce and classic English cooking. This hotel is a trusted partner of the Royal Oak Foundation.

The Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath



To reserve a place, please call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@museumtravelalliance.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) to Museum Travel Alliance. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (Museum Travel Alliance)

Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php> to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION
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NEW YORK, NY 10036-6603

Front cover: Highgrove House, photo by GAP Gardens. Back cover: Interior of Beckford's Tower, Bath, photo Watson Media, courtesy of Beckford's Tower/Bath Preservation Trust (top) and Pulteney Bridge, Bath (bottom).
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