

NEW



Muncaster Castle

Literary Legends of the Lake District

May 2 to 13 & August 9 to 20, 2026 ♦ From \$7,300 per person

On this inspiring tour, we explore the breathtaking UNESCO-listed Lake District while discovering how it influenced the life and work of famous writers. Discover remarkable collections with an expert curator at William Wordsworth's Dove Cottage, see Beatrix Potter's charming Hill Top, follow in Arthur Ransome's footsteps across Coniston Water, the delightful inspiration for his popular *Swallows and Amazons* adventure novel, and discover a range of other impressive estates, ancient castles and grand houses, where centuries of stories are woven into the fabric of these special places. Crossing over into glorious Yorkshire, a fascinating visit to the Brontë Parsonage Museum completes this imagination-igniting journey into the world of literary legends.

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/Departure airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ♦ 3 nights at the Cottons Hotel & Spa, Knutsford
- ♦ 1 night at the Losehill House Hotel, Hope Valley
- ♦ 1 night at the Coniston Hotel, Country Estate & Spa, near Skipton
- ♦ 5 nights at the Macdonald Old England Hotel & Spa, Lake Windermere
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 7 nights at the hotels** (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ♦ Services of a tour director
- ♦ Travel to & from all excursions
- ♦ All excursion costs
- ♦ Porterage where available

*Supplement applies for transfers from all other airports and all other locations, including central London.

**Please note that the availability of the 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner may vary depending on the hotel, as some establishments offer a set menu.

Itinerary

Day one: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

Day two: Arrival

Upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Cottons Hotel & Spa in Knutsford. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Day three: Lyme Park & Tatton Park

For our first visit we experience the beauty of Lyme Park, nestled on the edge of the stunning Peak District. We take a private guided tour of the property, a treasure chest of precious objects and family keepsakes, followed by the formal gardens, which demonstrate a masterful appreciation of geometry.

We continue to one of Britain's most well-known estates, Tatton Park, designed by Samuel Wyatt. Inside, explore the collections of silver, china,

glass and fine furniture made by Gillows, while outside, we take a *History of the Gardens* tour with a Senior Craftsmen Gardener.

This evening, we stay at the Losehill House Hotel in Hope Valley.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day four: Chatsworth House

Today is spent at Chatsworth House, where we're treated to a house and gardens tour followed by a light lunch. This magnificent estate is home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and has witnessed 16 generations of the powerful Cavendish family, featuring grandiose interiors, a superlative art collection and an 1,000-acre park, chiefly designed by Capability Brown.

This evening, we stay at the Coniston Hotel, Country Estate & Spa near Skipton.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day five: Brontë Parsonage Museum & Emsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway

We head to the Brontë Parsonage Museum, which contains the largest Brontë collection in the world. It's fascinating to wander round the historic rooms, looking at the very spot where classics were created, including *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights* and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

Next, we take a trip on the preserved Emsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway. Most trains are hauled by restored steam engines, the oldest one dating back to 1908. Imagine you are travelling in the Golden Age of steam while admiring the Yorkshire Dales landscapes and enjoying a delicious afternoon tea!

Later, we check into the Macdonald Old England Hotel & Spa on the shores of Lake Windermere, where we stay for the next five nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

Day six: Blackwell House

Enjoy a morning at leisure before taking a guided tour of the Grade I listed Blackwell, one of Britain's finest Arts and Crafts houses with breathtaking views of Windermere and Coniston Fells. Designed by MH Baillie Scott, Blackwell retains many of its original decorative features, including spectacular plasterwork, stained glass and more.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Lyme Park

©NTP/Nadia Mackenzie



Day seven: Hutton in the Forest & Dalemain Mansion

Today begins with a guided tour of Hutton in the Forest, a spectacular historic house on the northern edge of the Lake District with a charming Walled Garden. Occupied by the same family since 1605, each generation of has made their mark, resulting in a remarkable journey through time.

Afterward, we head to Dalemain Mansion, with its a helter-skelter of secret passages, spiral staircases, priest's hiding hole, Chippendale furniture and priceless oil portraits. Our guided tour includes access to unseen areas of the house, continuing outside with the Tudor knot garden and splendid rose walk. We conclude with a cream tea.

Meals: Breakfast, Cream Tea

Day eight: The World of Beatrix Potter, Lake Windermere Cruise & Holker Hall

A delightful day awaits, beginning with the enchanting World of Beatrix Potter. Here, an endearing short film presentation, exhibition and garden bring Beatrix Potter's celebrated characters to life, complete with the Peter Rabbit Garden and all the sights and sounds of the glorious countryside.

Next is a leisurely cruise on Lake Windermere, England's largest lake. Journeying from pretty Bowness-on-Windermere to Ambleside, admire the breathtaking scenery of towering mountains, secluded bays and wooded islands.

Lastly, we visit Holker Hall, the family home of Lord and Lady Cavendish. On our private guided tour, we discover fine displays of antique furniture and art, including portraits of Charles II and Catherine of Braganza, and even visit the bedroom where Queen Mary stayed in 1937.

Meals: Breakfast

Day nine: Steam Yacht Gondola, Brantwood & Muncaster Castle

We discover another beautiful lake today with a memorable trip aboard the *Steam Yacht Gondola* across Coniston Water, a Victorian steam-powered yacht which has been completely rebuilt by the National Trust. With its backdrop of spectacular scenery, Coniston Water was the inspiration for Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* enchanting childhood adventure book.

Our second stop of the day is Brantwood House, former home of John Ruskin. Uncover many fine paintings, beautiful furniture and Ruskin's personal treasures, offering a fascinating insight into the world of the famous Victorian writer, artist and social reformer.

We continue on to Muncaster Castle for a private after-hours tour. Home to the Pennington family since 1208, the castle has a colorful history and an extensive collection of 16th and 17th-century furniture, paintings and family portraits across rooms such as the renowned library and atmospheric Tapestry Room. Our time here is rounded off by a special dinner in the castle.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Dove Cottage

Day ten: Hill Top (Beatrix Potter's House), Dove Cottage & the Wordsworth Museum

After checking out of our hotel, we head to Hill Top, Beatrix Potter's beloved farmhouse, purchased with the earnings from *Peter Rabbit* in 1905. With a lovely cottage garden, this charming house was the inspiration for many of her children's books and is a veritable time capsule of her life.

We then visit another home of a British literary icon, William Wordsworth, little changed since Wordsworth's tenure. We enjoy a special *Stories of Wordsworth* tour with an expert curator, where we have the opportunity to see items from the collection which are not ordinarily viewed by the public, including first edition books, Dorothy's Grasmere journal and letters written by the family.

Later, we check back into the Cottons Hotel & Spa in Knutsford, where we stay for the remainder of our tour.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day eleven: Speke Hall

Our last visit is to Speke Hall, a lovely timber-framed Tudor National Trust property, built by devout Catholics living under Elizabeth I's Protestant rule who incorporated a series of protective hideaways. We find out more about its fascinating history during our introductory talk before exploring the peaceful grounds, with highlights including the restored Secret Garden and the Moat Garden.

This evening, we enjoy a farewell dinner together at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day twelve: Departure

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

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: the order of excursions is subject to change and guided tours are subject to restrictions.



Tour Highlights

- ◆ Private guided tour of Lyme Park House & Gardens
- ◆ *History of the Gardens* tour with a Senior Craftsmen Gardener at Tatton Park
- ◆ Private guided house & garden tour & light lunch at Chatsworth House
- ◆ Heritage journey on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway with afternoon tea
- ◆ Guided house tour at Blackwell House
- ◆ Guided tour at Hutton in the Forest
- ◆ Guided behind-the-scenes tour & cream tea at Dalemain Mansion
- ◆ Cruise on Lake Windermere
- ◆ Private guided tour of Holker Hall
- ◆ *Steam Yacht Gondola* cruise on Coniston Water
- ◆ Private after-hours tour & dinner at Muncaster Castle
- ◆ *Stories of Wordsworth* tour at Dove Cottage & the Wordsworth Museum
- ◆ Introductory talk at Speke Hall

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make a booking?

Call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785** to register by phone (preferred method) **Monday - Friday from 9am to 5pm (EST)** or register online at **www.nationaltrusttours.com**.

Please note: featured prices are inclusive of the National Trust membership discount. If you are not a National Trust Member, please visit **savingplaces.org/membership-benefits** to sign up. Thank you for your support.

When are payments due?

When you confirm your booking with us, a non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 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 (including 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 and the reading list. Approximately 28 days prior to the tour, we will prepare and send you our Travel Pack with your finalized information 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.

National Trust Tours preferred travel insurance partner is USI Travel Insurance Services. For information on a custom travel protection plan for travelers with National Trust Tours, visit **nationaltrusttours.com/travel-insurance** or call 1-866-322-9975.

Do I need a passport and visa?

Important UK Entry requirements

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 however a new Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) will now be required.

US and other Non-European citizens now requiring an ETA can apply in advance from 27 November 2024. An ETA will be required for travel from 08 January 2025. European visitors now requiring an ETA can apply from 05 March 2025. An ETA will be required for travel from 02 April 2025.

An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to 6 months at a time and is valid for 2 years or until the holders passport expires – whichever is sooner. An ETA does not permit entry to the UK – it authorises an individual to travel to the UK. British & Irish citizens do not need an ETA.

Apply for an ETA

Applications can be done via a smartphone app - UK ETA app or online at Apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) - **GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

This is a simple process, and decisions are usually communicated within 3 days.

It remains your responsibility to ensure you have the correct travel documentation for your trip.

Are there single traveler room supplements?

Yes, 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 handpicked 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. For more information on the hotels please visit our website.

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 traveling 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, property or restaurant 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. 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 where available, 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. While 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 (about \$6.50 as of this printing) per day for your coach and transfer drivers and £10 (about \$13 as of this printing) per day for your Tour Director. Gratuities for hotel staff and the tour guides you may meet at properties are at your discretion.

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



Windsor Castle



Cragside



Castle Howard



Hever Castle



Highgrove Gardens

Terms & Conditions Extract

It is important that you read the following booking conditions extract and the full booking conditions shown on our website at albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions. These online booking conditions form the basis of your contract with us. Please read them and the extract below carefully as they apply to all bookings you make with us unless otherwise specified.

1. VACATION 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
\$1,000 (USD)	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 canceled 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. VACATION 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:

91 days or more prior to departure	\$1,000 (USD)
90 days or less before departure	100% of the program cost is non-refundable

If any member of your party is prevented from traveling, 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: albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions.

Bookings are accepted on the basis that you have read and understood them.

ALBION
Journeys Inspired By Heritage