



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.

Special extras included in your itinerary

- ❖ Guided walking tour of Bath
- ❖ Afternoon tea at The Pump Rooms, Bath
- ❖ Guided tour of the Bishop's Palace & Gardens
- ❖ Guided tour of The Peto Garden
- ❖ Guided tour and lunch at Bowood House
- ❖ Guided tour and lunch at Longleat House
- ❖ Guided tour of Winchester Cathedral
- ❖ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker

Ten Day Itinerary

August 2: Arrival (depart U.S. on 8/1)

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

August 3: 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

August 4: 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

August 5: 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

August 6: 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

August 7: 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

August 8: 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

August 9: 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.

August 10: 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

August 11: Departure

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

Meals: Breakfast

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

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.

For more information, please telephone the Tours Program at the National Trust at **(888) 484-8785** or **(202) 588-6300**

- web: www.nationaltrusttours.com
- email: info@nationaltrusttours.com

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.

