

NEW



Hardwick Hall

A Grand Tour of Yorkshire: Moors, Dales and Coasts

September 2 to 14, 2025 ♦ From \$7,300 per person

Often referred to 'God's Own Country' and world renowned for its wild and evocative landscape, the county of Yorkshire showcases natural beauty on a grand scale. Poets, painters and storytellers throughout the ages have been inspired by the windswept moors, dramatic countryside and picturesque rural villages, and peppered throughout this rugged landscape are time capsules of a distant past that hold the memories and keepsakes of former generations. We combine this magnificent scenery with an exploration of the architectural grandeur, superb collections and fascinating heritage of some of the region's finest houses and estates. Our tour is a window to bygone eras, shown to us by the proud stately homes and impressive manors, historic castles and ancient ruins.

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ♦ 1 night at the Windsor Castle Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the Losehill Hotel & Spa
- ♦ 2 nights at Crathorne Hall Hotel
- ♦ 3 nights at the Grand Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the Devonshire Arms Hotel & Spa
- ♦ 1 night at the MacDonald Windsor Hotel
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 10 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ♦ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ♦ Travel to & from all excursions
- ♦ All entrance costs
- ♦ Porterage where available

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

Itinerary

September 2: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

September 3: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to the Castle Hotel Windsor, where we stay overnight. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

September 4: Hardwick Hall

Our visit today is to the National Trust's Hardwick Hall. Ordered in the 16th century by Bess of Hardwick, England's richest woman after her Queen, Elizabeth I, Hardwick is a striking Elizabethan treasure. The lavish number of windows (at a time when glass was a luxury) inspired the neat phrase, 'Hardwick Hall, more glass than wall'.

Admire the fine collection of centuries old needlework, furniture and portraits here, along with the beautiful garden, set against rolling hills.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

September 5: Chatsworth House & Bakewell

We start the day at Chatsworth House, where we're treated to a guided tour. This magnificent estate is home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and has witnessed sixteen generations of the powerful Cavendish family and boasts grandiose interiors, wonderful grounds and a superlative art collection. Chatsworth also appeared as Pemberley in the 2005 movie adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Afterward we visit Bakewell, located on the banks of the River Wye in the heart of scenic Yorkshire. Known for its delicious and unique pudding, legend has it that the Bakewell Tart was created by mistake by a local cook in the mid-19th century. Today, the delicious 'jam tart that went wrong' can be savored at various bakeries and cafés and even ordered online from anywhere in the world! We also include a tasting here today.

Later we check into the Losehill House Hotel & Spa for the next two nights and enjoy an evening meal.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Renishaw Hall

September 6: Wentworth Woodhouse & Renishaw Hall

Built by the First Marquess of Rockingham between 1725 and 1750, Wentworth Woodhouse consists of two joined houses of totally different architectural styles; the Baroque style west front and the east front in the later Palladian style.

After our visit, we journey south, past Sheffield, whose name derives from the River Sheaf which runs through it, and arrive at Renishaw Hall in the afternoon. We enjoy a guided tour of the historic estate and Italianate gardens, home to the Sitwell family for nearly 400 years.

Afterward we check in to the Crathorne Hall Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

September 7: Whitby Abbey & Scarborough

We head to the charming seaside town of Whitby to visit the 13th-century ruins of Whitby Abbey, perched high on a cliff above the town. The abbey's soaring gothic splendor also provided Bram Stoker with a dramatic location for scenes in his 1897 classic horror novel, *Dracula*.

Next, we journey to Scarborough to take in the coastal views from Scarborough Castle. Built in



Chatsworth House



the 12th century, the castle was transformed into a mighty royal fortress by Henry II, King John and William III. Located in St Mary's burial ground, we stop by the grave of Ann Brontë, famous author of *Agnes Grey* and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

September 8: Castle Howard & Fountains Abbey

We head to Castle Howard, home to the Howard family for over 300 years, where we enjoy a private guided tour and refreshments. Designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, Castle Howard has twice appeared as *Brideshead* in movie and television adaptations of Evelyn Waugh's classic novel, as well as providing the backdrop for various scenes in the hit Netflix series, *Bridgerton*.

Our next stop of the day is the largest monastic ruin in Britain, Fountains Abbey, for a fascinating guided tour.

We then make our way to the Grand Hotel in York, our home for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast



Burton Constable Hall

September 9: Burton Constable Hall & Burton Agnes Hall

We enjoy a guided tour of Burton Constable Hall, taking us through over thirty rooms of fine art and furniture; this grand house truly is a time capsule.

This afternoon we enjoy a change of pace with a visit to the charming village of Burton Agnes. Here we enjoy a guided tour of the impressive Elizabethan manor house, Burton Agnes Hall. Built in 1598 by Sir Henry Griffith and designed by Robert Smythson, the Master Mason to Queen Elizabeth, this architectural gem has been called a 'splendid and glittering composition' with 'beautiful proportions.'

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

September 10: York Minster, Fairfax House & Treasurer's House

We spend the day in York, starting with a guided tour of York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe and home to some of the most stunning stained glass windows that have led to the Minster being described as 'the Sistine Chapel of England'.



Lyme Park

Next is a guided tour of Fairfax House, an impressive Georgian town house that has been restored to its former glory, providing a perfect time capsule of life in Georgian times with a richly-decorated interior and a fine collection of English 18th-century furniture.

We complete our day at Treasurer's House in the heart of the city. The house has a 2,000-year-old history and was the first house given complete with its contents to the National Trust in 1930.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

September 11: Harewood House

This morning we journey west for a guided tour of Harewood House. Built in the 18th century, Harewood House is one of the greatest Treasure Houses in England, with interiors designed by Robert Adam, furniture by Thomas Chippendale and an outstanding art collection ranging from Renaissance masterpieces to 20th-century art.

Later we check in to the Devonshire Arms Hotel & Spa, where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

September 12: Bolton Castle & Bolton Abbey

Our first stop today is one of the country's best-preserved medieval castles which perfectly demonstrates the balance between defence, comfort and what was known as 'aesthetically considered orderliness.' We are treated to a

guided tour of the castle and with over 600 years worth of history, the castle has a few fair stories to tell, including tales of Mary, Queen of Scots' imprisonment here between 1568 and 1569.

A short distance from Bolton Castle, in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales, is Bolton Abbey. Here we enjoy a guided tour of the historical Abbey ruins and look out for the many woodland birds which populate the area, including Curlews and endangered Wader Safaris.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

September 13: Lyme Park

We spend the day at Lyme Park, a large estate managed by the National Trust. Here, we experience the vastness of Yorkshire in all its wide, expansive glory. At the centre is the House, where we have our lunch.

We take a guided tour of the house, a treasure chest of precious objects and family keepsakes, and then the formal gardens which demonstrate a masterful appreciation of geometry. Wander through the clipped hedges and columns of yew trees before entering the historic parkland, home to deer and other wildlife as well as some historic gems built in strategic places across the landscape.

Later, we check into the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

September 14: Departure

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

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

Tour Highlights

- ♦ Guided tour of Chatsworth House
- ♦ Bakewell Tart tasting
- ♦ Guided tour of Castle Howard
- ♦ Guided tour of Fountains Abbey
- ♦ Guided tour of Burton Constable Hall
- ♦ Guided tour of Burton Agnes Hall
- ♦ Guided tour of York Minster
- ♦ Guided tour of Fairfax House
- ♦ Guided tour of Harewood House
- ♦ Guided tour of Bolton Castle
- ♦ Guided tour of Bolton Abbey
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Lyme Park