

South of England Stately Homes & the Isle of Wight

May 12 to 22, 2024 ♦ From \$5,845 per person

Renowned for its idyllic countryside and stunning coastline, the picturesque South of England is peppered with spectacular estates and unique homes. Here we uncover captivating stories and antique gems contained within properties such as the impressive Polesden Lacey and opulent Petworth House, which is home to the National Trust's finest collection of art and sculptures. We combine these fascinating discoveries with a trip to the delightful Isle of Wight, where we delve into the history of the "Garden Isle" with visits to some of the island's finest treasures including Osborne House, the Italianate seaside retreat of Queen Victoria.



Arundel Castle

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ♦ Return ferry crossings to the Isle of Wight
- ♦ 2 nights at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor
- ♦ 3 nights at the Buxted Park Hotel, Uckfield
- ♦ 4 nights at the Royal Hotel, Ventnor (Isle of Wight)
- ♦ Welcome drink and canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 8 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea and coffee)
- ♦ 1 lunch at a local restaurant
- ♦ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ♦ Travel to and from all excursions
- ♦ All excursion costs
- ♦ Porterage where available

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



Petworth House

Itinerary

May 12: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

May 13: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. In the evening join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

May 14: Polesden Lacey and Standen

This morning we visit one of the National Trust's most popular properties, Polesden Lacey, described as a "delicious house" by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on her honeymoon there. This peaceful countryside retreat is most closely connected to Dame Margaret Greville, who entertained royalty and the celebrities of her time with lavish parties at the manor, which remains home to her extensive collection of art and ceramics.

Next, we visit Standen, one of the finest examples of an Arts and Crafts property, where the light, airy rooms are decorated with William Morris wallpapers and textiles with William de Morgan pottery to create a warm atmosphere. As we wander around, imagine you are a guest of James and Margaret Beale at their rural retreat, as the house is dressed for a weekend stay in 1925.

Later we check in to the Buxted Park Hotel, where we stay for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

May 15: Parham House and Petworth House

We begin the day with a guided tour of Parham House, an idyllic Elizabethan family home with award-winning gardens. During the World War II, Parham became home to 30 evacuee children before being requisitioned for billeting Canadian officers. The family lived in part of the house during this time and their descendants still remain there today. Outside, the gardens consist of beautiful pleasure grounds, a four-acre walled garden, an orchard, a vegetable garden and a 1920s Wendy house.

Immortalized in Turner's paintings, Petworth House is an impressive estate that combines a deer park landscaped by Capability Brown with a vast 17th-century mansion, which houses the National Trust's finest collection of art and sculptures. We discover masterpieces by the likes of Van Dyck, Reynolds, Blake and Turner himself.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Polesden Lacey

“Uncover captivating stories and antique gems of the South.”

May 16: Brighton Pavilion

This morning we take a guided tour of Brighton Pavilion, a Grade I listed former royal residence and a hospital during World War I. Built for George IV as a seaside palace, this architectural treasure combines Regency and Indo-Saracenic styles with its exotic domes and elegant minarets.

Afterward we enjoy lunch together in a local restaurant followed by some free time, the perfect chance to explore Brighton’s unique antique and boutique shopping area in the Lanes or stroll along the beach.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 17: Arundel Castle

This morning we make our way to Arundel Castle for a private guided tour. This imposing architectural gem is one of the longest inhabited country houses in England, having been the seat of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors since 1067. Many of the original features remain such as the Norman keep and gatehouse.

We then head to Southampton to catch the ferry to the Isle of Wight and check in to the Royal Hotel, where we stay for the next four nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Osborne House

May 18: Osborne House

Today we are treated to a guided tour and lunch or afternoon tea at Osborne House, purchased by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1845 as a seaside retreat. The Italianate palace reflects Queen Victoria and Prince Albert’s tastes and passions, and boasts spectacular views across the Solent. We take an intimate glimpse of Royal Family life as we wander through the magnificent Royal Apartments as well as the walled gardens and grounds.

After dinner back at the hotel this evening, we enjoy a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch or Afternoon Tea, Dinner

May 19: Carisbrooke Castle & Museum and Isle of Wight Steam Railway

This morning we head to Carisbrooke Castle. Take the chance to explore the museum, walk around the award-winning Edwardian-style garden and admire the panoramic views from the castle walls.



Brighton Pavilion

The museum was founded by Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria’s youngest daughter, as a memorial to her husband, Prince Henry of Battenburg.

In the afternoon we journey back to a bygone era as we board the award-winning Isle of Wight Steam Railway at Havenstreet. Sit back and relax in beautifully restored Victorian and Edwardian carriages as we enjoy the rolling views of the glorious Isle of Wight countryside.

Meals: Breakfast

May 20: Quarr Abbey and Isle of Wight Villages

Our first visit today is to Quarr Abbey, nestled in the beautiful countryside and home to a small group of Benedictine monks. Founded in 1132, the abbey was demolished under the reign of King Henry VIII. Today, we can see the ancient ruins and explore the newer buildings, lovely gardens and visitor center, which tells the turbulent story of the abbey.

In the afternoon we enjoy a scenic drive through some of the Isle of Wight’s most picturesque and charming villages such as Godshell and Brighstone, as well as the beautiful Steephill Cove.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

May 21: Jane Austen’s House Museum

This morning we catch the ferry back to Jane Austen’s House Museum, the charming house where she spent the last eight years of her life. It was in this country cottage where Austen did the majority of her mature writing, including the timeless *Pride and Prejudice*. The museum tells the story of the author and her family through a host of treasures, including first editions of Austen’s books, jewellery and furniture.

Later, we return to the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

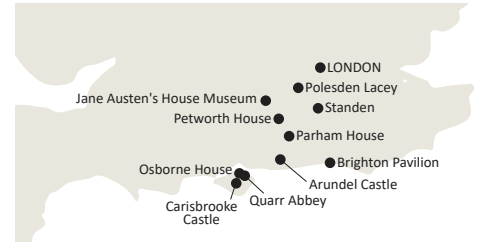
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

May 22: 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.



Buxted Park Hotel

Tour Highlights

- ◆ Guided tour of Parham House
- ◆ Guided tour of Brighton Pavilion
- ◆ Private tour of Arundel Castle
- ◆ Guided tour and afternoon tea or lunch at Osborne House
- ◆ Heritage train journey on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- ◆ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker

**Please inform us at the time of booking of any special dietary requirements.*



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Isle of Wight Steam Railway

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 \$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 (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 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. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you upon tour confirmation. USI Travel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers. For details, please contact National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

Do I need a passport and visa?

It is your responsibility to ensure you have a passport which must be valid for 6 months after the return date of your trip. At the time of printing, 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. 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, 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.

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

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

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



Windsor Castle



Nostell Priory



Sissinghurst Castle Garden



Hatfield House Gardens



Charlecote Park

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:

More than 91 days 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