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Highgrove

An Exclusive Tour of Royal Palaces and Regal Places

August 1 to 12, 2025 ♦ From \$9,300 per person

You are cordially invited on an exclusive tour of England's palaces to follow in the footsteps of famous royals past and present. We discover a range of iconic landmarks; starting in London with Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London, before venturing further afield to the Althorp Estate, world-famous Sandringham in Norfolk and Highgrove in the Cotswolds, where the spectacular gardens of King Charles III and Queen Camilla await. As we weave our way around a collection of exquisite castles, idyllic estates, country retreats and the most glorious gardens in England, our series of private tours illuminate the history of these stately treasures.

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ♦ 4 nights at the Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill
- ♦ 3 nights at the Graduate Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the Ellenborough Park Hotel
- ♦ 1 night at the Castle Hotel
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ♦ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ♦ 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.

Itinerary

August 1: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

August 2: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to the Hyatt Regency London – The Churchill Hotel, our base for the first four nights of our tour. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

August 3: Kensington Palace & Kew Palace & Gardens

A private guided tour of Kensington Palace awaits this morning. The Palace boasts the impressive Sunken Garden, a favorite of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. A statue honoring the People's Princess was unveiled here on what would have been Diana's 60th birthday. We wander through

“Idyllic estates, country retreats and the most glorious gardens in England.”

Victoria's re-imagined childhood rooms and take in the majestic King's State Apartments.

Afterward we visit Kew's Royal Botanic Gardens. Discover the Arboretum, the peaceful Japanese garden and the indoor rainforest within the Palm House. Before leaving we also discover Kew Palace, a royal retreat in the heart of the gardens, complete with an 18th-century Great Pagoda and Georgian kitchens.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

August 4: Buckingham Palace, Lunch at the Goring Hotel, Tower of London & the Ceremony of the Keys

The world-famous Buckingham Palace, our first stop today, has served as the official London residence of the United Kingdom's sovereigns since 1837. We discover the stunning State Rooms; where members of the Royal Family entertain their guests on ceremonial, State and official occasions.

Our Royal Day Out ticket also includes entry to The Queen's Gallery in the palace, showcasing historic paintings, rare furniture and unique photographs. We then continue to the Royal Mews, home to the Royal Family's state vehicles and horse-drawn carriages.



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Blickling Hall

Next, we enjoy lunch at Belgravia's iconic Goring Hotel, the only remaining luxury family-owned hotel in London.

To round off the day, we head to the Tower of London, the oldest building in London, for a special evening tour. A particular highlight is the Crown Jewels, the dazzling symbols of the British monarchy. Afterward, we are treated to the Ceremony of the Keys, a 700-year-old tradition that forms part of the locking-up process.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

August 5: Eltham Palace & Hampton Court Palace

We take a guided tour of Eltham Palace, once a medieval residence and playground for a young Henry VIII, who spent much of his childhood here in the early 16th century. It was leased from The Crown and transformed into an Art Deco mansion in the 1930s.



Hampton Court Palace



Onward to Hampton Court Palace for a dive into the world of the Tudor court during our guided tour. We experience the private life (and public dramas) of Henry VIII, while we explore one of Europe's most sophisticated palaces. We see Henry's Great Hall, which still houses Anne Boleyn's falcon badge, and the Tudor kitchens.

Meals: Breakfast

August 6: Belvoir Castle

Fans of *The Crown* will no doubt recognise Belvoir Castle, standing in for Windsor Castle during seasons 1-3. Not only do we tread the path of Hollywood stars but also past monarchs, with James I, Charles I, Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II all leaving their footprints on the estate. We find out more about Belvoir's history during a guided tour followed by lunch.

Later, we check into the Graduate Hotel, where we stay for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

August 7: Holkham Hall & Sandringham

Our day begins with a private out-of-hours guided tour of Holkham Hall, a Neo-Palladian masterpiece. The Marble Hall, with its splendid colonnade and 50ft domed ceiling, was inspired by the Temple of Fortuna Virilis and the Pantheon in Rome, while the state rooms boast collections of ancient statuary, original furniture, tapestries and works of art.

Next, we visit the Sandringham Estate, much loved by Elizabeth II. We learn all about its royal connections during our private out-of-hours guided tour, from the Transport Museum to the magnificent walled and water gardens. We also indulge in an afternoon tea here.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea

August 8: Blickling Hall & Blue Badge Guided Tour of Cambridge

Set at the heart of a magnificent garden, our first stop is Blickling Hall, one of the country's finest Jacobean houses and once home to the Boleyn family. It is also home to one of the country's most significant libraries, featuring the National Trust's biggest book collection.

This afternoon we enjoy a Blue Badge guided tour, beginning in Cambridge, renowned for its architecture, ancient colleges and the pleasant river.

Meals: Breakfast

August 9: Althorp Estate

Leaving Cambridge, we head to Althorp Estate. Built in the 16th century, it has been home to 19 generations of the Spencer family and houses one of Europe's finest private collections of furniture, paintings and ceramics. Althorp was also the childhood home of Diana, Princess of Wales and is her final resting place.

Later, we check into the delightful Ellenborough Park Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights. After dinner at the hotel, we enjoy a fascinating royal-themed talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Althorp Estate

August 10: Highgrove & Berkeley Castle

Today we are treated to a guided tour of Highgrove Gardens, the organic gardens of Their Majesties. Over 30 years in the making, Highgrove has one of the most creatively inspired and innovative gardens in the country. We also enjoy lunch here.

Our second guided tour of the day is at Berkeley Castle, built in the 12th century. The oldest building in the country to be inhabited by the same family who built it, Berkeley is an almost complete medieval survival that allows us to imagine how it might have been to live there during that time.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

August 11: The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park & Windsor Castle

After checking out of our hotel, we make our way to The Savill Garden in the heart of Windsor Great Park. Created in the 1930s, acres of interconnected areas include the Hidden Gardens, Spring Wood, the Summer Gardens and The Glades.

We enjoy some more fresh air during our royal heritage tour of Great Windsor Park, part of the Windsor Estate. Today we learn about the history of the estate, visiting various spots such as the Coronation Groves, the Deer Park, Royal Equestrian Statues, The Guards Polo Club, The Royal School and the world-famous Long Walk.

Our last stop is a private out-of-hours guided tour of Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world. Established in the 11th century by William the Conqueror, it has been remodeled by successive kings and queens and is used for ceremonial and State occasions.

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

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

August 12: 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 Kensington Palace
- ♦ Royal Day Out (Buckingham Palace State Rooms, The Queen's Gallery & the Royal Mews)
- ♦ Lunch at the Goring Hotel
- ♦ Evening guided tour of the Tower of London with the Ceremony of the Keys
- ♦ Guided tour of Eltham Palace
- ♦ Guided tour of Hampton Court Palace
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Belvoir Castle
- ♦ Out-of-hours guided tour at Holkham Hall
- ♦ After-hours guided tour & afternoon tea at Sandringham
- ♦ Blue Badge guided tour of Cambridge
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Highgrove Gardens
- ♦ Guided tour of Berkeley Castle
- ♦ Guided royal heritage tour of Windsor Great Park
- ♦ Private out-of-hours guided tour of Windsor Castle
- ♦ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker