

A Tour Around the Treasure Houses of England

June 1 to 13, 2024 ♦ From \$6,845 per person

The Treasure Houses of England are a collection of the most magnificent palaces, houses and castles, each with their own unique charm, stunning architecture and beautiful gardens. Most are still homes to the great families who have owned them for generations and together, the houses display some of the most important art collections in the world, showcasing exquisite examples of fine furniture, porcelain, china and portraiture. On this captivating tour, we explore nine of these impressive places, alongside other historic gems, giving us a fascinating insight into life in England over the centuries.



What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ♦ 2 nights at the Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke
- ♦ 1 night at the Chilton Park Hotel, Lenham
- ♦ 2 nights at the Ickworth Hotel, near Bury St Edmunds
- ♦ 3 nights at Middlethorpe Hall & Spa, near York
- ♦ 1 night at the Stapleford Park Country House Hotel, near Melton Mowbray
- ♦ 1 night at Hartwell House & Spa, near Aylesbury
- ♦ 1 night at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor
- ♦ Welcome drink and canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 10 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea and coffee)
- ♦ 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.



Itinerary

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

June 2: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to the Audleys Wood Hotel, our base for the next two nights. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

June 3: Beaulieu

After breakfast, we make our way to the Beaulieu Estate, set in the heart of the New Forest National Park. Here we enjoy a guided tour of Palace House, once the gatehouse of the medieval Beaulieu Abbey, and the ancestral home of the Montagu family since 1538.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 4: RHS Garden Wisley and Leeds Castle

Today we travel first to RHS Garden Wisley, the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship garden where the 240 peaceful acres range from beautiful rose gardens to tranquil woodland.

Our next stop is Leeds Castle, a quintessential moated castle which was once home to Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. The castle's last private owner was Lady Baillie, an Anglo-American heiress who lovingly restored the castle to its former glory, and we discover more history during our audio-guided tour.

From here, we travel the short distance to the Chilton Park Hotel, where we stay overnight. After dinner at the hotel, we are treated to a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 5: Hatfield House

We travel northwards to Hatfield House, home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury and their family. The house was built in 1611 by Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, one of Elizabeth I's most important advisors. There are superb examples of Elizabethan craftsmanship, which we discover on our exclusive, out-of-hours Champagne guided tour.

Later we check in to the stunning Ickworth Hotel on the Ickworth Estate – a magnificent National Trust property, where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner





Castle Howard

A collection of the most magnificent palaces, houses and castles.

June 6: Holkham Hall and Ickworth House

This morning we enjoy a private guided tour led by one of the most experienced Hall Stewards followed by refreshments at Holkham Hall, an elegant 18th-century country mansion and the current home to the 8th Earl of Leicester and his family.

We then return to the Ickworth Estate, where we explore Ickworth House itself. This Neo-classical mansion is most notable for its enormous Rotunda commissioned by the 4th Earl of Bristol to house his priceless treasures.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 7: Doddington Hall

Begun in 1595 by the great Elizabethan architect Robert Smythson, Doddington Hall was completed in 1600 and has never been sold or cleared out since. Still a much-loved family home, this fine Elizabethan mansion houses captivating collections that reflect 400 years of unbroken family occupation. We learn more on our guided tour of the hall and gardens.

From here, we make our way to Middlethorpe Hall & Spa near York, where we stay for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 8: Chatsworth House

Today we visit Chatsworth House with its grand interiors and extensive art collection. This magnificent treasure is home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and has witnessed 16 generations of the powerful Cavendish family. We also enjoy a light lunch here.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

June 9: Castle Howard and York

Our first visit of the day is to Castle Howard, home to the Howard family for over 300 years, where we enjoy a private guided tour with refreshments and a complimentary guidebook. Designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, Castle Howard has twice appeared as

Brideshead in film and television adaptations of Evelyn Waugh's classic novel.

We then return to York. The city is steeped in history and there is plenty of evidence of this fascinating past left to admire, from the Roman city walls to the surviving medieval streets known as the Shambles. A must-see is 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."

There is then free time to enjoy dinner on your own in York.

Meals: Breakfast

June 10: Harewood House

When Edwin Lascelles started building Harewood House in 1759, he employed the finest craftsmen of the time: architect John Carr, interior designer Robert Adam, England's greatest furniture maker Thomas Chippendale and visionary landscape gardener Capability Brown. Harewood is still home to the Lascelles family and we learn more on our tour followed by lunch.

Later we check in to the Stapleford Park Country House Hotel in Leicestershire, where we stay overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

June 11: Burghley House

This morning we start our journey south, stopping to enjoy a guided tour of Burghley House, cited as England's greatest Elizabethan house. Home to William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I, Burghley offers a unique glimpse into the way great houses have been lived in from the Elizabethan period to the present day.

We continue on to Hartwell House & Spa, one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels, where we stay overnight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 12: Blenheim Palace

Our last visit is to Blenheim Palace, designed on an awe-inspiring scale by Vanbrugh. As the birthplace of Winston Churchill, a permanent exhibition commemorates the life of this famous wartime Prime Minister and we learn more on our audio-guided tour followed by a delicious afternoon tea.



Tour Highlights

- ◆ Guided Palace House tour at Beaulieu
- ◆ Audio-guided tour at Leeds Castle
- ◆ Exclusive out-of-hours Champagne guided tour of Hatfield House
- ◆ Private guided tour of Holkham Hall with refreshments
- ◆ Guided tour of Doddington Hall and Gardens
- ◆ Light lunch at Chatsworth House
- ◆ Private guided tour of Castle Howard, with refreshments and guidebook
- ◆ Guided tour and lunch at Harewood House
- ◆ Guided tour of Burghley House
- ◆ Audio-guided tour and afternoon tea at Blenheim Palace
- ◆ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker

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

We then check in to the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

June 13: 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.



Middlethorpe Hall & Spa

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 declaration 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 porterage 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.

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