

**NEW**



Bodnant Garden

# Discovering Wales - Heritage, Houses & Gardens

June 13 to 26, 2026 ◆ From **\$8,500** per person

Wales offers a treasure trove of historic wonders, where imposing castles, glorious gardens and stately homes scatter sweeping landscapes, woodlands and valleys. From hidden gems to world-renowned horticultural excellence, we explore estates such as Penrhyn Castle, Bodnant Garden, Aberglasney Gardens and Tredegar House, uncovering fascinating stories along the way. Highlights include a luxurious stay at the National Trust's Bodysgallen Hall Hotel & Spa, a Welsh food tasting tour in Cardiff, a cocktail masterclass at Hensol Castle, a wildlife cruise to Puffin Island and a gold-service journey on the Welsh Highland Railway. From South to North, this is an exciting tour through Welsh heritage.

## What's Included

- ◆ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow\*
- ◆ 2 nights at the Castle Hotel, Windsor (or similar)
- ◆ 2 nights at the Parkgate Hotel, Cardiff
- ◆ 2 nights at the Vale Resort, Pontyclun
- ◆ 1 night at the Angel Hotel, Abergavenny
- ◆ 4 nights at the Bodysgallen Hall Hotel & Spa, near Llandudno
- ◆ 1 night at the Diglis House Hotel, Worcester
- ◆ Welcome drink & canapés
- ◆ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ◆ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 9 nights at the hotels\*\* (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ◆ Services of a tour director
- ◆ Travel to & from all excursions
- ◆ All excursion costs
- ◆ Porterage where available
- ◆ 2 bottles of water per person per day

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

\*\*Please note that the availability of the 3-course table d'hôte dinner may vary depending on the hotel, as some establishments offer a set menu.

## Itinerary

**June 13:** Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

**June 14:** Arrival

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

*Meals: Dinner*

**June 15:** Avebury Manor Gardens & Caerleon Roman Baths

Our first stop is the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Avebury Manor, known for its recreated rooms in styles ranging from Tudor to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Outside, themed gardens include the Kitchen Garden with organic produce and the Monk's Garden with herbaceous perennials. Other highlights include the Lavender Walk and the tranquil Orchard – a registered Silent Space.

Next, we visit Caerleon Roman Baths, featuring an open-air swimming pool brought to life with film projection. The site also includes Europe's only surviving Roman legionary barracks and Britain's most complete Roman amphitheatre.

Later, we check into the Parkgate Hotel in Cardiff, where we stay for the next two nights.

*Meals: Breakfast*

**June 16:** Tredegar House & Cardiff Food Tasting Tour

This morning, we head to Tredegar House, a late 17<sup>th</sup>-century restoration house surrounded by 90 acres of beautiful gardens and parkland. For more than 500 years it was home to one of the greatest Welsh families, the Morgans, later Lords Tredegar and their intriguing narrative is told throughout the house.

We then head back to Cardiff, with its fascinating history that stretches through the centuries, for a delicious Welsh food tasting tour.

*Meals: Breakfast, Food Tasting*

**June 17:** Cardiff Castle & Hensol Castle Gin Experience

After checking out, we visit Cardiff Castle for a Connoisseurs tour. This Gothic Victorian fantasy castle features opulent interiors with murals, stained glass, marble, gilding and intricate wood carvings.

We then discover craft gin at the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Hensol Castle. Enjoy a signature cocktail on arrival, learn from mixologists, make your own cocktails, sample gin, tour the distillery and end the day with a gin and tonic at the bar.

Afterward, we make our way to the Vale Resort in Pontyclun, our base for two nights.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 18:** Brecon Mountain Railway & Brecon Beacons National Park

We head to Pant, where we board our vintage train and take a trip on the Brecon Mountain Railway. Sit back and relax as we meander through beautiful Brecon scenery and along the full length of the sparkling Taf Fechan Reservoir before climbing to Torpantau, the summit of the original line.

On the way back to the hotel we enjoy a scenic coach drive through the Brecon Beacons National Park, stopping in the market town of Brecon for some free time.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 19:** National Botanic Garden of Wales & Aberglasney Gardens

We begin our day with the National Botanic Garden of Wales, created over 150 years. This spectacular re-interpretation of the historical garden blends the careful restoration of the double-walled garden with Norman Foster's Great Greenhouse, the largest single span glasshouse in the world, where mere panes of glass separate the familiar green hills of Wales from a panoramic sweep of warm, Mediterranean scenery.



National Botanic Garden of Wales

Penrhyn Castle



By contrast, Aberglasney is a superb 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>-century garden, which was discovered after 50 years of neglect. Now restored, a visit here is a delight for the senses with over 20 different garden styles, including a unique Elizabethan Cloister Garden, the only surviving example in the UK today. We learn more during our guided tour with a Head Gardener.

Later, we enjoy afternoon tea at the Angel Hotel in Abergavenny, where we also stay overnight.

*Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea*

**June 20:** Llandudno & Bodnant Garden

We enjoy leisure time in Llandudno, known for its golden beach, Great and Little Ormes headlands and Victorian charm.

Next, we explore Bodnant Garden in the Snowdonian foothills. Created 150 years ago by Henry Pochin, it features plants collected by renowned explorers and houses National Collections and Champion Trees across its lawns, terraces and woodland.

Afterward, we check into the National Trust's Bodysgallen Hall Hotel & Spa, where we're treated to a memorable four-night stay.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 21:** Plas Newydd, Puffin Island & Penrhyn Castle

Today, we cross the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Menai Bridge to the Isle of Anglesey to visit Plas Newydd, a country house tied to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Anglesey and artist Rex Whistler. The garden hosts extraordinary plants, including tender exotics and Mediterranean varieties. Next, we take a wildlife cruise around Puffin Island, spotting seals, birds, puffins and possibly porpoises or dolphins.

Our final stop is Penrhyn Castle, a neo-Norman 19<sup>th</sup>-century masterpiece with Snowdonia views, opulent interiors, a painting collection, Victorian kitchens and a railway museum. We explore its history of sugar and slate fortunes, social unrest and Britain's longest industrial dispute.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 22:** Bodrhyddan Hall & Conwy Castle

We start the day at Bodrhyddan Hall, a Grade I listed house owned by Lord Langford's family for 500 years, surrounded by formal gardens and woodland. On our guided tour, we explore its historical collection, including fine portraits and a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy. The visit concludes with drinks and light bites.

Next, we visit Conwy Castle in the medieval walled town of Conwy. Built by Edward I in the late 13th century, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of Britain's finest medieval fortifications, featuring curtain walls, round towers and fortified gateways.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 23:** Snowdonia Star (Welsh Highland Railway)

We head to Porthmadog and board the Welsh Highland Railway for a picturesque trip to Caernarfon. Stunning coastlines, ancient woodlands, sparkling rivers and historic castles create an enchanting and memorable journey aboard the Snowdonia Star. We are also treated to the gold service, the perfect chance to experience Orient Express-style splendour.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 24:** Brynkinalt Estate & Powis Castle

Our journey back to England begins at the Brynkinalt Estate, a Grade II listed hall from 1612, surrounded by vast grounds. Home to the Trevor family, their lineage traces back to Severa, daughter of Emperor Maximus and Gwrtheyrn Gwrtheneu, the 82nd King of Britain. A guided tour reveals their fascinating history, followed by tea, coffee and Welsh cakes.

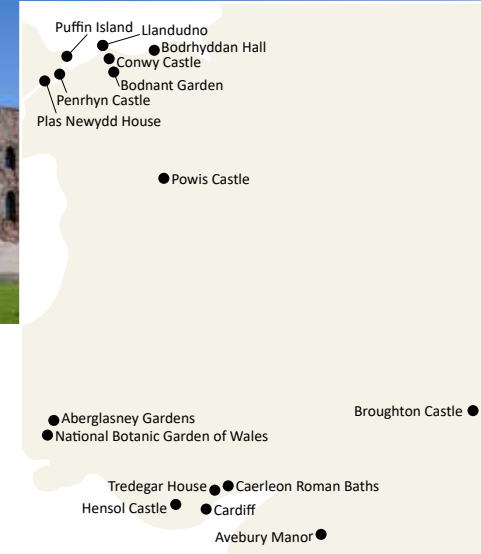
Next, we visit Powis Castle, hailed as 'the most magnificent castle in Wales.' Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, it boasts inspiring treasures and stunning 25-acre gardens, terraces and an orangery linked to architect William Winde.

This evening, we stay overnight at the Diglis Hotel in Worcester.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*



Powis Castle



**June 25:** Broughton Castle & Oxford

Broughton Castle, built in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, is a moated manor house in scenic parkland. Home to Martin Fienes, it has been in the family since 1377, with portraits from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries adorning its gallery. Historically, it hosted political meetings against Charles I and royal stays, including James I and King Charles. A guided tour reveals its fascinating history.

We then pay a visit to Oxford for some free time. Don't miss the famous Bodleian Libraries and the postcard-perfect scenes of students and visitors punting on the river.

Later, we check back into the Castle Hotel (or similar), where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 26:** 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.*

## Albion Experiences

- ◆ Head Gardener tour at Avebury Manor Gardens
- ◆ Food tasting tour in Cardiff
- ◆ Connoisseurs tour at Cardiff Castle
- ◆ Gin experience at Hensol Castle
- ◆ Head Gardener tour at Aberglasney
- ◆ Heritage journeys on the Brecon Mountain Railway & Welsh Highland Railway (Snowdonia Star)
- ◆ Afternoon tea at the Angel Hotel
- ◆ Puffin Island Wildlife Cruise
- ◆ Drinks reception, light bites & guided tour at Bodrhyddan Hall
- ◆ Guided tour, tea/coffee & Welsh cakes at Brynkinalt Estate
- ◆ Guided tour at Broughton Castle

# 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**.

**Please note:** featured prices are inclusive of the National Trust membership discount. If you are not a National Trust Member, please visit **savingplaces.org/membership-benefits** to sign up. Thank you for your support.

## 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 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.

## Do I need a passport and visa?

**Important UK Entry requirements**  
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 however a new Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) will now be required.

Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETA) are being introduced for visitors to the UK who currently do not require a visa for short stays, they are digitally linked to a traveller's passport and ensure more robust security checks are carried out before people begin their journey to the UK, helping prevent abuse of immigration systems.

An ETA costs £10 and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to 6 months at a time and is valid for 2 years or until the holders passport expires – whichever is sooner. An ETA does not permit entry to the UK – it

authorises an individual to travel to the UK. British & Irish citizens do not need an ETA.

## Apply for an ETA

Applications can done via a smartphone app - UK ETA app or online at Apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) - **GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

This is a simple process, and decisions are usually communicated within 3 days.

It remains your responsibility to ensure you have the correct travel documentation for your trip.

## Are there single traveler room supplements?

Yes, 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 handpicked 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 where available, 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.

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



# 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](http://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:

91 days or more 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](http://albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions).*

*Bookings are accepted on the basis that you have read and understood them.*

**ALBION**  
Journeys Inspired By Heritage