



A Tour Around the Treasure Houses of England

June 1 to 13, 2025 ♦ From \$8,100 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. Our selection includes spectacular Blenheim, Burghley, Chatsworth, Castle Howard and Harewood, where their stories are just waiting to be discovered and their honey-colored hues glint in the English summer sunshine like real-life treasure boxes, framed by acres upon acres of idyllic grounds. On this captivating tour, we explore these impressive abodes, 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
- ♦ 2 nights at the Rutland Hall Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the Cavendish Hotel
- ♦ 3 nights at Middlethorpe Hall & Spa
- ♦ 2 nights at Hartwell House & Spa
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner every night 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

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

June 2: Arrival

Upon 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 and canapés, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

June 3: Highclere Castle

After breakfast, we make our way to the world-famous Highclere Castle, home to the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and the filming location for the much-loved *Downton Abbey* TV series and movies. Walk in the footsteps of your favorite characters, explore the Egyptian Exhibition in the cellars, celebrating the 5th Earl of Carnarvon's discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922, and admire the spectacular Capability Brown parkland.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

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

June 4: Delapré Abbey, Lamport Hall & Gardens & Kelmarsh Hall & Gardens

For our first visit today we head to Delapré Abbey, where our guided tour illuminates its 900-year history. Built in 1145, it was once a nunnery but changed hands on many occasions and even played an important role in the Wars of the Roses.

Next stop is the Grade I listed Lamport Hall. Its fascinating story began as a fine Tudor manor house, but Lamport has since had many different purposes; a hunting lodge, a country club, a base for the Northamptonshire Records Office, an army base, an Italian prisoner of war camp and a family home, with plenty of treasures purchased during a grand tour of Europe in the 1670s on display. We find out more during our guided tour, followed by lunch.



Highclere Castle

We round off our lovely day with a trip to the Palladian-style country manor of Kelmarsh Hall, set in award-winning gardens. During our visit we discover what Victorian life was like here 'below stairs', a stark contrast to the finery of the rooms above.

Later, we check into the Rutland Hall Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

June 5: Burghley House & Priest's House

This morning we enjoy a guided tour of the State Rooms at 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 time of Elizabeth I to the present day.

We then make a brief stop at Priest's House in pretty Stamford, one of the National Trust's smallest buildings, where a chantry priest would have lived until the dissolution of the monasteries.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 6: Belton House & Belvoir Castle

Our first visit of the day takes us to Belton House. Built in the 1680s, this historic gem is a classic example of an English country house estate, surrounded by formal gardens and a 1,300-acre deer park. Inside Belton, its wealth is evident with grand rooms and impressive collections of porcelain, paintings and over 11,000 books amassed by two families.

Pronounced 'Beaver', fans of *The Crown* will no doubt recognise our next stop, the magnificent Belvoir Castle. This has been the ancestral home of the Duke of Rutland since the first Lord of Belvoir came to England with William the Conqueror in the 11th century. Since then, the family have lived in an unbroken line here, standing the test of vast remodelings, familial squabbles, wars and even a damaging fire in 1816. We find out more during a guided tour followed by afternoon tea.

This evening, we check into the Cavendish Hotel, our base for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner



Hardwick Hall

June 7: Chatsworth House & Hardwick Hall

Today we travel to Derbyshire where we enjoy a guided tour of grandiose Chatsworth House before either a light lunch or afternoon tea. This magnificent treasure has witnessed 16 generations of the powerful Cavendish family, evolving through the centuries to reflect the tastes of succeeding generations and boasting a superlative art collection.

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

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch or Afternoon Tea, Dinner

June 8: Harewood House & Harrogate

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. Still home to the Lascelles family, we learn more on our fascinating guided tour, followed by lunch.

Our next stop is the elegant Victorian spa town of Harrogate for some free time. From here, we make our way to Middlethorpe Hall & Spa near York, where we stay for the next three nights. After dinner, we enjoy a fascinating talk from a guest speaker.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

June 9: Treasurer's House, York & Castle Howard

This morning we visit Treasurer's House, boasting a 2,000-year-old history and the first house given complete with its contents to the National Trust in 1930.

We then enjoy some free time in York, where just one must-see is the glorious York Minster.

This evening, we are treated to a private guided tour of Castle Howard, home to the Howard family for over 300 years and a famous filming location. This magnificent 18th-century residence, surmounted by its iconic gilded dome, offers world-renowned collections and stunning architecture, all set within breathtaking scenery.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 10: Nostell Priory

Today we visit Nostell Priory, an 18th-century architectural masterpiece which has been the home of the Winn family for 300 years. Surrounded by wildflower meadows, peaceful lakes, fairytale woodland and colourful gardens, Nostell is also home to England's best documented collection of Chippendale furniture.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 11: Blenheim Palace

After checking out of our hotel, we head to Sir Winston Churchill's awe-inspiring birthplace of Blenheim Palace. As part of our afternoon celebration experience, we marvel at the lavish State Rooms on a guided tour, take a stroll through the pretty water terraces, indulge in a champagne afternoon tea and enjoy some free time to explore.



We continue on to Hartwell House & Spa, one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels, where we stay for the two remaining nights of our tour.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

June 12: Waddesdon Manor

We make our way to Waddesdon Manor, built by the wealthy Rothschild family in the style of a French Renaissance château with late Victorian gardens, a Rococo-style aviary, a Parterre, sculptures and more. We enjoy a guided tour to find out more about Waddesdon's history and are treated to lunch.

Later, we enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel together.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

June 13: Departure

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

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: as this tour travels from the south to the north of England and back, some days will involve fairly long journeys. The order of excursions is subject to change and guided tours are subject to restrictions.

Tour Highlights

- ♦ Guided tour of Delapré Abbey
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Lamport Hall & Gardens
- ♦ Guided tour of Burghley House
- ♦ Guided tour & afternoon tea at Belvoir Castle
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch or afternoon tea at Chatsworth House
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Harewood House
- ♦ Private evening tour of Castle Howard
- ♦ Celebration Experience at Blenheim Palace (includes guidebook, guided State Rooms tour & Champagne afternoon tea)
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Waddesdon Manor
- ♦ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker