

NEW

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A la Ronde

# Write Around the Finest Homes of Cornwall, Devon & Dorset

April 18 to May 1, 2026 ♦ From \$8,700 per person \*

With its ancient myths, sparkling seas and breathtaking landscapes, the south-west corner of England has provided a magical world of inspiration for centuries. We explore their finest historic gems while treading the path of British icons; we see the very spot where Jane Austen penned her classics, have lunch in the famous smuggler’s tavern immortalized in Daphne du Maurier’s *Jamaica Inn*, traverse the idyllic countryside that is inextricably linked to Thomas Hardy’s works and follow in the footsteps of Agatha Christie, firstly at her beloved Greenway, and secondly at the same Art Deco hotel where the Queen of Crime wrote two of her most celebrated novels.

## What’s Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from London Heathrow\*
- ♦ 1 night at the Audleys Wood Hotel
- ♦ 1 night at the Belmont Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the Bovey Castle Hotel
- ♦ 5 nights at the Headland Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the Grand Hotel
- ♦ 1 night at the Castle Hotel
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d’hôte* dinner on 10 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ♦ 1 dinner at a local restaurant
- ♦ ♦ 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

**April 18** Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

### April 19: Arrival

Upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to the Audleys Wood Hotel in Basingstoke, where we stay overnight. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

*Meals: Dinner*

### April 20: Jane Austen’s House & Chawton House

For our first visit, we head to Jane Austen’s House Museum, the charming house where she spent her later years and wrote the timeless *Pride and Prejudice*. We continue to Chawton House, an Elizabethan manor house that once belonged to Jane Austen’s brother, Edward Austen Knight. We find out more during our guided tour, preceded by lunch. Later, we check into our overnight hotel, the Belmont Hotel in Sidmouth.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### April 21: A La Ronde & Exeter Cathedral

Today, we step into another world at A La Ronde, a unique 16-sided house built at the request of two spinster cousins in the 18th century. This eccentric house with quirky diamond-shaped windows and fascinating interior decoration is crammed full of extraordinary artifacts, curiosities and mementoes from the cousins’ grand European tour.

We continue our journey to the magnificent Exeter Cathedral. This stunning Gothic structure, dating back to the 12th century, has the longest uninterrupted medieval vaulted ceiling in the world. The cathedral also houses an extensive collection of historical documents, beautiful stained glass windows and intricate carvings.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### April 22: Dartmoor drive, Buckland Abbey Garden & Tavistock

Drive over the moor from Bovey via Two Bridges and Princetown. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Buckland Abbey became the home of Elizabethan seafarers Sir Roger Grenville and Sir Francis Drake and remained in the Drake family for around 400 years.

We head to the market town of Tavistock for a relaxing afternoon of browsing independent shops and the historic Pannier Market. Enjoy a Sparkling afternoon tea at the Bedford Hotel.

*Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner*

### April 23: Jamaica Inn & Lanhydrock

Jamaica Inn is Cornwall’s most famous smuggling inn, located high up on the wildly beautiful Bodmin Moor - made famous by Daphne du Maurier’s tale of smugglers, rogues and pirates and has been welcoming travellers for nearly 300 years.

Continue to Lanhydrock, one of the most fascinating and complete late 19th-century houses in England. Here we enjoy a light lunch and explore the house and gardens. Admire the extensive gardens, with their beautiful herbaceous borders and a formal parterre.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### April 24: Godolphin & St Michael’s Mount

Take a guided tour of Godolphin, recognized as a Cornwall and West Devon mining landscape UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the medieval garden and Piggery tea room, all surrounded by 500 acres of stunning rural countryside.

Afternoon tea at St Michael’s Mount, one of the most iconic sights of Cornwall. This craggy island features a medieval castle, harbor and village. Enjoy a boat ride to and from the island or a 15-minute walk along the ancient cobbled walkway.

*Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner*

### April 25: Horticulture Experience at the Eden Project

The Eden Project is often described as the Eighth Wonder of the World. This extraordinary place offers a deep dive into the world of plants and how they shape our lives. Housed within massive Biomes, the Eden Project simulates different environmental conditions, showcasing an incredibly diverse collection of flora from around the globe. We are joined by a dedicated Eden horticulturist as we partake in the Immersive Experience.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



© NTP/Lenny Harper

Lanhydrock

### April 26: Port Isaac, Pencarrow House & Gardens & Padstow

Port Isaac, a filming location of British TV show Doc Martin. This small fishing village, which boasts winding streets lined with whitewashed cottages and a quaint harbor with clear waters, Sheltered by rolling verdant scenery and delirious pasty shops.

A guided tour of Pencarrow House uncovers the



Chawton House

secrets of this magnificent house, along with hidden passageways, glorious portraits, fine porcelain and marble busts sporting a variety of hats upon the wishes of the Lady of the Manor. There is an Iron Age hill fort and a grotto, believed to have once been a secret meeting place.

Dinner is at the charming port resort of Padstow, famous for its connection to chef Rick Stein.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

### April 27: St Ives, Barbara Hepworth Museum & Sculpture Garden & Trerice House

We begin with the holiday town of St Ives, the perfect place to stroll along one of the sandy beaches, watch the fishermen launch their boats from the harbor, wander through the maze of cobbled streets and admire the pretty cottages. Take in the artwork on display at the Cornwall branch of the Tate Gallery.

Visit the nearby Barbara Hepworth Museum & Sculpture Garden, the former home and studio

of the eminent British sculptor.

Our next stop is one of Cornwall's hidden gems, Trerice House, for a guided tour and a light lunch. This romantic Elizabethan manor house remains little changed with fine interiors, featuring the Tudor Great Hall and a lovely re-created knot garden.

*Meals: Breakfast*

### April 28: Charlestown & Saltram House

Visit Charlestown, an unspoiled example of a late Georgian working port, constructed in response to the growth of the local mining industry. Later, we head to Saltram, an elegant Georgian mansion set in a rolling landscape park and one of the National Trust’s least discovered treasures.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

### April 29: Greenway & Burgh Island

After a journey on the foot ferry we arrive at Greenway, the much-loved holiday home of Agatha Christie and her family. Nestled on the side of the River Dart and surrounded by a picturesque woodland garden, this atmospheric house is set in the 1950s and contains many of the family’s collections.

We then take a special trip to the beautiful Art Deco Burgh Island Hotel, accessed by a unique sea tractor from Bigbury on Sea Beach, where we enjoy a champagne afternoon tea. Built in 1932, the hotel has been restored to its 30's glamour and offers an opulent glimpse into the past. Previous guests include Winston Churchill, Josephine Baker, Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson.

*Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner*



Lands End

### April 30: Hardy’s Cottage & Max Gate

Leaving Cornwall, we travel to Thomas Hardy’s birthplace. Little altered since the Hardy family left, this delightful cob and thatch cottage is surrounded by a typical cottage garden of honeysuckle, climbing roses and japonica, and is where Hardy wrote some of his early poetry and novels.

We continue to the outskirts of Dorchester and the atmospheric Victorian house, Max Gate, designed by Hardy in 1885 and where he lived until his death in 1928. Hardy wrote some of his most famous novels here, including Tess of the d’Urbervilles and Jude the Obscure.

Next, we visit Dorchester, Hardy’s birthplace, and explore the visitor centre, which offers a comprehensive insight into Hardy’s life and works through numerous exhibits, including original manuscripts, personal belongings and interactive displays.

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

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

### May 1: 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.*



St. Michael's Mount



# 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, there is a \$150 increase on the prices shown.**

## 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. 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 full passport and we recommend that it is valid for 6 months after the return date of your trip. At the time of printing, tourist visas are not required for US or Canadian citizens visiting the UK for under 90 days solely for the purpose of tourism. If you are not a US or Canadian 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?

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 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 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