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Highgrove

An Exclusive Tour of Royal Palaces and Regal Places

August 1 to 12, 2026 ♦ From \$9,650 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 May Fair Hotel
- ♦ 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

Upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to the May Fair 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: The Savill Garden & Windsor Castle

We make our way to The Savill Garden, Britain's finest ornamental garden in the heart of Windsor Great Park. Tranquil strolls are the order of the day as we explore the oasis of designed gardens and woodland. Created in the 1930s, acres upon acres of interconnected areas include the Hidden Gardens, Spring Wood, the Summer Gardens, the New Zealand Garden, Summer Wood and The Glades. The Rose Garden is an extra special addition, opened by Elizabeth II in 2010 and perfumed with the most beautiful rose-bed scents. We are treated to a guided tour and lunch in the Garden Kitchen here.

Our next stop is a private out-of-hours guided tour of Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest



©NTPA/John Miller

Blickling Hall

inhabited castle in the world and the final resting place of Elizabeth II. Established in the 11th century by William the Conqueror, it has been remodeled by successive kings and queens and is regularly used for ceremonial and State occasions. The magnificent State Apartments are furnished with some of the finest works of art to admire during our evening tour.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

August 5: Buckingham Palace, Afternoon Tea at the Ritz, the Tower of London & the Ceremony of the Keys

No trip to London is complete without a visit to the world-famous Buckingham Palace, which has served as the official London residence of the United Kingdom's sovereigns since 1837 and provides the backdrop to the regular Changing of the Guard ceremony. We discover the stunning



Hampton Court Palace

State Rooms; these are the public rooms where members of the Royal Family entertain their guests on ceremonial, State and official occasions.

Next, we then enjoy the world-famous afternoon tea at the Ritz Hotel.

To round off the day, we head to the Tower of London, the oldest building in London, for a special evening tour after the hustle and bustle of the daytime.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea

August 6: Cambridge

We travel from London to the historic city of Cambridge, where we check into the Graduate Hotel, our base for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast

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: Blue Badge Guided Tour of Norwich & Blickling Hall

This morning we enjoy a Blue Badge guided tour, beginning at the stunning Norwich Cathedral, a magnificent structure that befitted Norwich's 12th-century status as England's second city and one of the finest examples of Romanesque architecture in Europe.

Set at the heart of a magnificent garden and historic park, our next 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; with over 12,500 volumes, it's the National Trust's largest book collection.

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: THampton Court Palace

After checking out of our Cotswolds hotel, we make our way to Hampton Court Palace for a dive into the fascinating world of the Tudor court during our guided tour. We experience the private life (and very 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, with time for a stroll around the enchanting riverside gardens – blossoming with flowers and grand Yew tree avenues. Imagine walking in the footsteps of his famous six wives, who were all brought to this opulent property.

Later, we check into our 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

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. 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.

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