



Blickling Hall

An Exclusive Tour of Royal Palaces & Regal Places

August 1 to 12, 2026 ♦ From \$9,650 per person

You are cordially invited on an exclusive tour of England's magnificent palaces, following in the footsteps of royals past and present. Our journey begins in London with Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London's ancient Ceremony of the Keys, before continuing to the Althorp Estate, childhood home and resting place of Diana, Princess of Wales. We also visit world-famous Sandringham in Norfolk and Highgrove in the Cotswolds, where the gardens of King Charles III and Queen Camilla await. Along the way, private tours illuminate the history of these exquisite castles, idyllic estates, country retreats and glorious gardens.

What's Included

- ♦ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ♦ 4 nights at the May Fair Hotel, London
- ♦ 3 nights at the Graduate Hotel, Cambridge
- ♦ 2 nights at the Ellenborough Park Hotel, Cheltenham
- ♦ 1 night at the Castle Hotel or similar, Windsor
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 5 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

*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

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

August 2: Arrival

On 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

We begin with a private guided tour of Kensington Palace, home to TRH The Prince and Princess of Wales. Highlights include the stunning Sunken Garden, loved by Diana, Princess of Wales and featuring her commemorative statue. We explore Victoria's childhood rooms and the grand King's State Apartments.

Later, we visit Kew's Royal Botanic Gardens, renowned for plant research and home to 50,000

“An exclusive tour of England's magnificent palaces and exquisite castles.”

plants. Discover the Arboretum, Japanese garden and Palm House rainforest. We end our day at Kew Palace, a charming royal retreat with an 18th-century Great Pagoda and Georgian kitchens, once home to Queen Charlotte and George III.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

August 4: The Savill Garden, the Tower of London & the Ceremony of the Keys

We make our way to The Savill Garden, Britain's finest ornamental garden in the heart of Windsor Great Park. 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.

There is then some free time in Windsor, where you may wish to enjoy dinner at your own leisure.

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. A particular highlight is the Crown Jewels, the dazzling symbols of the British monarchy. Afterward, we are treated to the Ceremony of the Keys, in which the same exchange has been cried out every evening for 700 years, forming part of the traditional locking-up process.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

August 5: Buckingham Palace & Afternoon Tea at the Goring Hotel

No London trip is complete without visiting Buckingham Palace, the official residence of UK sovereigns since 1837 and backdrop to the Changing of the Guard. Explore the stunning State Rooms, where the Royal Family hosts ceremonial and official events, before discovering The King's Gallery, featuring historic paintings, rare furniture and unique photographs. We also visit the Royal Mews, home to state vehicles and horse-drawn carriages.

Next, we enjoy afternoon tea at Belgravia's iconic Goring Hotel, the only remaining luxury family-owned hotel in London and where Catherine, Princess of Wales, stayed here on the night before her wedding to Prince William.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea



Kensington Palace



Hampton Court Palace

August 6: London & Windsor Castle

There's plenty of time to explore the iconic sights of London at your leisure today, from a trip on the London Eye to a spot of shopping on Oxford Street or a stroll through Hyde Park. There are plenty of world-class museums and galleries to enjoy too. In the early evening, we head to Windsor for dinner at your own leisure.

Later, we are treated to a private out-of-hours guided tour of Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest 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, with fine artworks on display.

Later, we travel 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 starts with a private tour of Holkham Hall, a Neo-Palladian masterpiece set in parkland. Founded by jurist Edward Coke, it is home to the 8th Earl of Leicester. Highlights include the Marble Hall with its 50ft domed ceiling inspired by Roman architecture, ancient statuary, original furniture, tapestries and art by Rubens, Van Dyck and Gainsborough.

Next, we visit Sandringham Estate, a favorite of Elizabeth II and a royal residence since the 1860s. On our guided tour, we explore its royal history, view the car collection in the Transport Museum and enjoy the walled and water gardens. After afternoon tea, we visit St Mary Magdalene Church, where the Royal Family attends services during their stay.

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. The tour continues with Norwich itself, one of the most complete medieval cities in the country.

Set at the heart of a magnificent garden and historic park, our next stop is Blickling Hall, a fine Jacobean house and once home to the Boleyn family. In decorative terms, it's a wonderful house to explore because of its plasterwork, superb 18th-century Long Gallery and impressive Great Hall. 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, set in 550 acres of attractive parkland. Built at the beginning of 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 her final resting place. In addition to exploring the beautiful interiors, we have time to wander around the magnificent park, remodeled gardens, arboretum and peaceful Round Oval Lake.

Later, we check into the delightful Ellenborough Park Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Highgrove Gardens

August 10: Highgrove Gardens & Berkeley Castle

Today, we enjoy an exclusive guided tour of Highgrove Gardens, the organic gardens of Their Majesties. Over 30 years in the making, Highgrove showcases The King's philosophy of working with nature. Highlights include the Kitchen Garden, Wildflower Meadow and a National Collection of Beech trees, with Highgrove House visible in the distance.

Our second tour is at Berkeley Castle, built in the 12th century by Robert Fitzharding under Henry II's orders to defend the Severn estuary and Welsh border. This medieval gem offers a glimpse into life in the era. Edward II was imprisoned here after losing power to Isabella and Roger Mortimer and

the room where he was allegedly murdered in 1327 can be seen. Berkeley is the oldest building continuously inhabited by the same family who built it, with the Berkeley lineage tracing back to Saxon times. Afternoon tea follows our tour.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

August 11: Hampton 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.

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.

Albion Experiences

- ♦ Private guided tour of Kensington Palace
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at The Savill Garden
- ♦ Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London
- ♦ Royal Day Out (Buckingham Palace State Rooms, The King's Gallery & the Royal Mews)
- ♦ Afternoon tea at the Goring Hotel
- ♦ Private guided tour of Windsor Castle
- ♦ Private guided tour of Holkham House Exclusive-access guided tour & afternoon tea at Sandringham Estate
- ♦ Guided tour of Norwich Cathedral, Norwich & Blickling Estate with a local Blue Badge guide
- ♦ Exclusive private tour of Highgrove Gardens
- ♦ Guided tour & afternoon tea at Berkeley 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 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.

ALBION
Journeys Inspired By Heritage