



Belton House

# A Tour around the Treasure Houses of England

May 30 to June 11, 2026 ♦ From \$8,500 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. On this captivating tour, we explore several of these impressive places, alongside other historic gems, giving us a fascinating insight into life in England over the centuries.

## What's Included

- ♦ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow\*
- ♦ 2 nights at Leonardo Royal Hotel, Oxford (or similar)
- ♦ 1 night at the Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke
- ♦ 1 night at Haycock Manor Hotel, Cambridgeshire
- ♦ 2 nights at Eastwood Hall, Nottinghamshire
- ♦ 3 nights at Middlethorpe Hall & Spa, near York
- ♦ 2 nights at Hartwell House & Spa, near Aylesbury
- ♦ 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)\*\*
- ♦ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ♦ Travel to & from all excursions
- ♦ All excursion costs
- ♦ Porterage where available
- ♦ Two bottles of water a 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

**May 30:** Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

**May 31:** Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to our carefully chosen hotel near Oxford, our base for the next two nights. In the evening join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

*Meals: Dinner*

**June 1: Blenheim Palace**

We travel through scenic countryside to the UNESCO-listed Blenheim Palace, designed on an awe-inspiring scale by Vanbrugh and set in beautiful parkland landscaped by Capability Brown. The birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, a permanent exhibition commemorates the life of this famous wartime Prime Minister here, whilst the magnificent State Rooms reveal a superb collection of tapestries, paintings, porcelain and furniture.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 2: Oxford**

Today is left free to explore Oxford. This beautiful city of dreaming spires has plenty to offer, with many historic university buildings to see, including the famous Bodleian Libraries, and postcard-perfect

Explore unique charm, stunning architecture and beautiful gardens.

scenes of students and visitors punting on the river. Oxford also has a wide variety of shops, from High Street stores to quaint individual boutiques and bookshops, peppered with plenty of restaurants and *olde worlde* taverns.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 3: Highclere Castle**

After breakfast, we visit the magnificent Highclere Castle, famously known as the setting of *Downton Abbey*, set in stunning parkland designed by Capability Brown and home to the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon. We explore the opulent interiors featured in the series, including the grand staircase, library and drawing room, along with the Egyptian Exhibition in the cellars, telling the story of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon's role in Tutankhamun's tomb discovery.

Later, we drive north to our overnight hotel in Cambridgeshire, Haycock Manor.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 4: Burghley House, Belton House & Belvoir Castle**

We check out of our hotel and begin the day at Burghley House, widely regarded as England's greatest Elizabethan stately home. On arrival, we enjoy a welcome talk and learn about its fascinating history. Home to William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I, the stunning State Rooms are filled with one of the country's finest collections of paintings, ceramics and decorative arts, many of which remain in their original 17<sup>th</sup>-century positions.

Next, we head to the elegant Belton House, one of England's finest surviving examples of Restoration architecture. With its perfect symmetry, classical proportions and warm, lived-in charm, Belton offers a fascinating glimpse into aristocratic life in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Our last stop of the day is to the dramatic Belvoir Castle. Originally founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it has been home to the Dukes of Rutland for over a thousand years and was largely rebuilt in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. A guided tour reveals lavish interiors, fine art and historic treasures, followed by an indulgent cream tea.



Highclere Castle



Chatsworth House

Later, we check in to Eastwood Hall, where we stay for the next two nights.

*Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner*

**June 5: Chatsworth House & Hardwick Hall**

Today we travel to Derbyshire, where we enjoy a visit to Chatsworth House before a light lunch or afternoon tea. This magnificent treasure is home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and has witnessed 16 generations of the powerful Cavendish family, who acquired the estate in 1549. Expect grandiose interiors and a superlative art collection, along with a 1,000-acre park chiefly designed by Capability Brown.

In the afternoon, we visit Hardwick Hall, a splendid example of Elizabethan architecture. Built in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century for Bess of Hardwick, one of the wealthiest women of her time, the hall is renowned for its unique design and impressive collection of tapestries and furnishings.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch or Afternoon Tea, Dinner*

**June 6: Harewood House & Harrogate**

We check out of our hotel and begin the day with a guided tour of Harewood House. Built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for Edwin Lascelles to designs by architect John Carr, it is one of the greatest Treasure Houses in England with interiors designed by Robert Adam, superb Thomas Chippendale furniture, an outstanding art collection ranging from Renaissance masterpieces to 20<sup>th</sup>-century art plus landscapes by Capability Brown.



Castle Howard

After lunch at Harewood, we spend the afternoon in the elegant spa town of Harrogate, where highlights include the Royal Pump Room, the Grade II-listed Royal Hall and traditional tea rooms.

Later, we check into Middlethorpe Hall and Spa and in the evening, we enjoy a themed after-dinner talk from a guest speaker.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**June 7: Treasurer's House, York & Castle Howard**

Our first stop of the day is at Treasurer's House in the heart of York. The house has a 2,000-year-old history and was the first house given complete with its contents to the National Trust in 1930, thanks to wealthy industrialist Frank Green.

After our visit, there is time to explore York. The city is steeped in history and there is plenty of evidence of this fascinating past left to admire, including the Roman city walls and the surviving medieval streets known as the Shambles. A visit to the magnificent York Minster is a must too.

In the afternoon, we enjoy a private tour of Castle Howard, home to the Howard family for over 300 years and filming location for *Brideshead Revisited* and *Bridgerton*. This magnificent 18<sup>th</sup>-century residence, surmounted with its iconic gilded dome, offers world-renowned collections and stunning architecture, all set within 1,000 acres of breathtaking scenery.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

**June 8: Nostell Priory & York**

This morning, we visit Nostell Priory, a grand 18<sup>th</sup>-century Palladian house and home to the Winn family for over 300 years. The interiors also showcase one of the country's finest collections of Chippendale furniture along with fine art and intricate decorative details, offering a fascinating glimpse into Georgian life. In the evening, we return to York for a historical pub walking tour.

*Meals: Breakfast*

**June 9: Kelmarsh Hall & Gardens**

We make our way to Georgian Kelmarsh Hall. Inside, we find elegant rooms filled with historical treasures that provide insight into the lives of the former residents.

Afterward, we check into Hartwell House & Spa, one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels, our base for the last two nights. Tonight we enjoy dinner together at the hotel.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*



**June 10: Waddesdon Manor**

For our last full day, we travel to the French-inspired chateau of Waddesdon Manor, built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the 1870s to showcase his enthusiastic interest in art. We enjoy a guided house tour, lunch and time in the fine late Victorian gardens, which features a Rococo-style aviary, a Parterre, sculptures and more. This evening, we enjoy a farewell dinner together at the hotel.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**June 11: 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.

## Albion Experiences

- ♦ Welcome talk at Burghley House
- ♦ Guided tour & cream tea at Belvoir Castle
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch or afternoon tea at Chatsworth House
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Harewood House
- ♦ Private guided tour of Castle Howard
- ♦ Historical pub walking tour in York
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Waddesdon Manor
- ♦ 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, 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