

Waddesdon Manor



# 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. 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 Colwick Hall Hotel
- ♦ 2 nights at the The Peacock at Rowsley
- ♦ 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

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

#### May 31: 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 1: 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2: 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 Colwick Hall Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### June 3: 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*



Castle Howard

#### June 4: 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 The Peacock at Rowsley, our base for the next two nights.

*Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner*



Hardwick Hall

#### June 5: 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 6: 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 7: 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 18<sup>th</sup>-century residence, surmounted by its iconic gilded dome, offers world-renowned collections and stunning architecture, all set within breathtaking scenery.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

#### June 8: Nostell Priory

Today we visit Nostell Priory, an 18<sup>th</sup>-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 9: 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 10: 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 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.*

### 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



# 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