



# Kent & Sussex, Historic Castles & Beautiful Gardens

May 2 to 12, 2026 ♦ From \$6,300 per person \*

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Garden of England's remarkable fortresses, manor houses and gardens. On this tour, we explore West Dean Garden's variety of diverse plant collections and Sissinghurst Castle Garden, blooming with meticulously curated plantings, and enjoy afternoon tea at the Savill Garden, Britain's finest ornamental garden in the heart of Windsor Great Park. The aura of these gardens evokes a sense of peace, while vibrant colors and fragrant blooms provide a wonderful sensory experience. We combine magnificent greenery with exploration of architectural grandeur and storied homes – from a private guided tour and special overnight stay at Hever Castle, where the rich history of Anne Boleyn unfolds within its walls, to Bateman's Jacobean House, where rooms remain much as Rudyard Kipling and his wife left them

## What's Included

- Return airport transfers from London Heathrow\*
- 1 night at the Castle Hotel, Windsor
- 3 nights at the Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells
- 1 night at Hever Castle, Edenbridge
- 3 nights at the Harbour Hotel, Chichester
- 1 night at the MacDonald Hotel, Windsor
- Welcome drink & canapés
- Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- 3-course table d'hôte dinner on 5 nights
- Services of a tour director
- Travel to & from all excursions
- All excursion costs
- Porterage where available

\*Supplement applies for transfers from other airports and locations

## Itinerary

**May 2:** Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

### May 3: Arrival

Upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to the Castle Hotel in Windsor. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

### May 4: Ightham Mote, Knole House & the Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio

This morning we visit a medieval moated manor house, once described by historian David Starkey as 'the most beautiful and the most interesting of English country houses'. Called Ightham Mote, this National Trust Property's name is derived from the Saxon name, Ehta, and 'mote' reflects the residence's location being surrounded by an actual fairytale moat. Built nearly 700 years ago, atmospheric Ightham has been home to

medieval knights, courtiers to Henry VIII and Victorian High Society. We discover more on our guided tour here, before heading to our second National Trust property of the day, Knole House.

One of Britain's most important and complete historic homes, the property is now cared for by the National Trust, and here we can discover more about its colorful past. Knole House was home to the Sackville family for 400 years, including novelist Vita Sackville-West, who used the house as inspiration for her novel, The Edwardians.

Next, we explore the Royal Oak Foundation Conservation Studio – the first of its kind in the National Trust, allowing visitors the unique opportunity to watch conservators at work, working on objects from collections across the Trust. Find out what there is to see and do at this distinctive property, plus a bit more about the centuries-old building itself.

Later, we check into the Spa Hotel, where we stay for the next three nights of our tour.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### May 5: Sissinghurst Castle Garden & Great Dixter House

We head out early morning to Sissinghurst Castle Garden, created in the 1930s by novelist Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson. Set around the ruins of an Elizabethan manor house, these world-famous gardens are laid out as a series of individually-planted 'rooms', including a fragrant Herb Garden and Rose Garden, and are a delight to explore. Here we are treated to an exclusive out-of-hours tour and then stop for a light lunch at the café.

This afternoon, we visit Great Dixter, home of gardener and gardening writer Christopher Lloyd. A Garden Curator here treats us to a guided tour of the famous gardens, home to a spectacular mix of topiary, mixed borders, an orchard and a wildflower meadow. We also take a peek around



the house, which, although largely medieval, has several later additions by Edwin Lutyens. Just one highlight is the Great Hall, one of the largest surviving timber-framed halls in the country.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

### May 6: Batemans & Pashley Manor

We visit 17th-century Bateman's, which so enchanted Jungle Book author Rudyard Kipling when he discovered it that he made it his home in 1902. With its stone-mullioned windows and Sussex oak beams, it's a romantic retreat that has been left virtually untouched since Kipling's tenure here. The tranquil gardens include an orchard, a formal garden and a colorful wildflower meadow, through which a river flows.

Our afternoon is spent at Pashley Manor, where we enjoy a guided tour as well as tea and cake. Set against the beautiful backdrop of Pashley Manor House, home to the Sellick family, admire the elegant rose and historic walled gardens and explore the productive kitchen garden here.

Meals: Breakfast



### May 7: Chartwell & Hever Castle and gardens

Today, we first visit Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's beloved home from 1924 until his death. It still houses many of the great statesman's personal and political mementoes, including an amazing collection of gifts he received from other world leaders. One of Churchill's passions was painting; we see more of his work on our Churchill the Artist tour here.

We then pay a visit to the magnificent Hever Castle, the childhood home of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn. Dating back to the late 13th century, this double-moated castle is home to various historic artifacts, including Tudor portraits and furniture, as well as two prayer books inscribed by Anne Boleyn. The castle was lavishly restored by American millionaire William Waldorf Astor, in the early 20th century. We enjoy a private tour of the castle's magnificent interior and of its grand exterior, comprising 125 acres of award-winning gardens, including a formal Italian Garden, the Tudor Garden and the English Rose Garden. There are also secret grottoes to discover along with the famous water maze.

We stay overnight at Hever Castle and enjoy our evening meal here.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



### May 8: Nymans & Arundel Castle

This morning we explore Nymans. In the late 19th century, the Messel family bought the Nymans Estate and created one of the country's great gardens, with experimental designs and new plants from around the world. Partially destroyed by fire in 1947, the romantic ruins of the fairytale Gothic mansion remain.

In the afternoon, we make our way to Arundel Castle for a private guided tour. This imposing architectural gem is one of the longest inhabited country houses in England, having been the seat of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors since 1067. Although restored and remodelled in the 19th century, many original features remain, such as the Norman keep and gatehouse, while the finely preserved interiors are home to priceless works of art.

This evening, we check in to the Harbour Hotel, our base for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### May 9: Chichester

The cathedral city of Chichester is renowned for its stunning 200-year-old market that offers a glimpse into the rich history and vibrant culture of the area. This charming city is home to some of the country's oldest buildings and streets, creating a picturesque setting. Our behind-the-scenes walking tour takes us on a discovery of the cathedral church of the Holy Trinity, an architectural masterpiece that stands as a testament to the city's historical significance. We enjoy time at leisure here this afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast

### May 10: West Dean Garden & Tinwood Vineyard

This morning, we visit West Dean Garden, a beautifully rejuvenated estate with diverse plant collections and a variety of themed gardens, including a Walled Garden, a Sunken Garden and a Pergola. We enjoy a leisurely walk along the paths and explore the Victorian glasshouses, while our guided tour by one of the gardeners here reveals more about the history behind these exquisite displays.

Later, we head to Tinwood Vineyard, located at the foot of the South Downs National Park. We tour the vineyard and learn about the

winemaking process from grape to glass, along with a tasting session where we can sample a selection of their finest sparkling wines, accompanied by a platter of local cheeses.

Meals: Breakfast

### May 11: Jane Austen House Museum & Savill Garden

For our first visit, we head to Jane Austen's House Museum, the charming house where she spent the last eight years of her life. It was in this country cottage where Austen completed the majority of her mature writing, including the timeless Pride and Prejudice. The museum tells the story of the author and her family through a host of treasures, including first editions of Austen's books, jewellery and furniture.

We enjoy an afternoon tea at 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.

Later, we enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel together.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

### May 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.*



# 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