



Waddesdon Manor



Leeds Castle

# Historic Leaders, Great Houses & the Bayeux Tapestry

**NEW** May 9 to 21, 2027 ♦ From \$9,800\* per person

The temporary return of the Bayeux Tapestry to Britain, on loan to the British Library, presents to us a rare moment to reconnect with the origins of a nation's story. This extraordinary artifact, chronicling William the Conqueror's triumph in 1066, serves as the evocative starting point for a journey that spans centuries of leadership, influence and innovation. From this pivotal turning point, our journey unfolds, tracing the lives and legacies of some of the greatest figures in political, royal, scientific and military history. Through visits to magnificent houses, historic estates and the very sites where defining moments took place, each chapter reveals the human stories behind power and an exploration of the individuals who shaped the modern world. From Sir Winston Churchill's Chartwell to Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace, there is plenty to uncover.

## What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from Heathrow Airport\*
- ♦ 3 nights at the Hyatt Regency London — The Churchill, London
- ♦ 3 nights at the Buxted Park Hotel, Uckfield
- ♦ 3 nights at Hartwell House Hotel & Spa, near Aylesbury
- ♦ 2 nights at Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés at your first hotel
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course dinner, usually served *table d'hôte* style, on 8 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ♦ Any additional meals as listed in the itinerary
- ♦ Entrances to all excursions as listed in the itinerary
- ♦ Porterage where available
- ♦ Services of a tour manager

\*Supplement applies for transfers from all other airports and all other locations, including central London.

## Itinerary

**May 9: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London**

**May 10: Arrival**

Upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to our hotel, Hyatt Regency Churchill, London. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

**May 11: London & The Bayeux Tapestry**

Enjoy a free morning before heading to the British Library for the Bayeux Tapestry Exhibition. On loan from Bayeux in France, this extraordinary embroidery dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century and depicts the events of 1064 to 1066.

Later, indulge in a traditional afternoon tea in the elegant Hansom Room at the St Pancras London, Autograph Collection.

**May 12: Kensington Palace, Apsley House & Benjamin Franklin House**

A private guided tour of Kensington Palace awaits, home to TRH The Prince and Princess of Wales and their family and featuring the beautiful Sunken Garden.

We also step into the grandeur of Apsley House, the London residence of the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington, with an extraordinary collection of art.

Afterward, discover the fascinating story of one of America's Founding Fathers with a visit to Benjamin Franklin House, set within a Georgian townhouse.

*Please note: Benjamin Franklin House is unsuitable for anyone with mobility difficulties.*



Osborne House

**May 13: Eltham Palace & Down House**

We take a guided tour with an expert gardener at medieval Eltham Palace, which boasts a Great Hall from the 1470s and served as a playground for the young Henry VIII.

Next is Down House, the former home of Charles Darwin and where he developed his revolutionary theory of evolution by natural selection.

**May 14: Battle Abbey & The Battle of Hastings, Rye & Bodiam Castle**

Step back in time with a visit to Battle Abbey and the battlefield of the Battle of Hastings. Here, in 1066, William the Conqueror secured his victory and forever altered the course of English history. He later founded the abbey to commemorate this triumph.

We stop at the enchanting town of Rye before visiting Bodiam Castle, an archetypal 14<sup>th</sup>-century moated castle with an original wooden portcullis, spiral staircases, tower rooms and battlements.

**May 15: Dover Castle & Leeds Castle**

We visit iconic Dover Castle, known as the 'Key to England,' which has witnessed sieges, royal intrigue and military innovation across the centuries.

Enjoy a traditional Ploughman's lunch at the moated Leeds Castle, once a Norman stronghold, a royal residence for medieval queens, a palace for Henry VIII and a retreat for high society guests.

**May 16: Quebec House & Chartwell**

16<sup>th</sup>-century Quebec House offers a glimpse into Georgian family life and gives insight into General Wolfe, who secured Britain's victory at the Battle of Quebec in 1759.

Our discovery of Chartwell offers an intimate glimpse into the life of Sir Winston Churchill, filled with his memorabilia. On our specialist guided tour, we learn about his leadership, his legacy and his creative passion for painting.

**May 17: Blenheim Palace & Sulgrave Manor**

The birthplace of Churchill, Blenheim is an awe-inspiring masterpiece set within magnificent



Chartwell



parkland landscaped by Capability Brown. We discover its grand collections during our guided tour before enjoying lunch here.

We step into American history at Sulgrave Manor, a Tudor home built by Lawrence Washington, ancestor of George Washington, where we learn more about the Washington family.

**May 18: Hughenden Manor & Waddesdon Manor**

Hughenden Manor was once the cherished residence of Benjamin Disraeli, Queen Victoria's 'favorite Prime Minister', and later used for covert operations during World War II.

Another highlight today is chateau-inspired Waddesdon Manor, created by the Rothschild family and boasting an exceptional array of treasures, which we discover on our guided tour. Explore the exquisite grounds before heading to the Five Arrows Hotel for dinner.

**May 19: Hampton Court Palace**

We visit Hampton Court Palace, where our guided tour illuminates the fascinating world of the Tudor court. Highlights include Henry's Great Hall, still bearing Anne Boleyn's falcon badge, the vast Tudor kitchens and enchanting riverside gardens.

**May 20: Osborne House & Isle of Wight**

Used as a seaside retreat, we take an intimate glimpse of royal family life at Queen Victoria's Osborne House, wandering through the magnificent Royal Apartments and the walled gardens.

Time and ferry schedules permitting, we hope to discover the charm of the Isle of Wight to round off our tour.

**May 21: Departure**

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow Airport for your return flight home.

*Please note: the order of excursions is subject to change and guided tours are subject to restrictions.*

\*Single supplement applies: \$2,250.

## Key Highlights

- ♦ See the Bayeux Tapestry, while it is on loan from France to the British Library
- ♦ Visit the favorite properties of Henry VIII, such as Hampton Court and Queen Victoria's beloved Osborne House
- ♦ Enjoy a combination of palaces such as Blenheim with more intimate homes, like Charles Darwin's Down House and General Wolfe's Quebec House
- ♦ Step back in time with visits to the Battle of Hastings' battlefield and uncover the wartime history of Dover Castle
- ♦ Visit the ancestral home of George Washington and the London home of Benjamin Franklin

# 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](http://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](http://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 120 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. National Trust Tours makes travel insurance available to its customers through USI Travel Insurance Services. Information will be sent to you upon request or with your confirmation letter from National Trust Tours.

## 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. Tourist visas are not required for US citizens visiting the UK or Republic of Ireland, however for travel to the UK 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 on line at Apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) — [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) ([www.gov.uk](http://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, all our featured hotels charge single supplements and prices are shown on the tour pages. 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.

## 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 our featured hotels and a \$35 administration fee is charged.

## 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 Tour Directors?

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. Note also that tours described as being led by property owners, curators and head gardeners are always subject to availability of the individuals concerned.

## How much walking will there be on these tours?

Any included guided tours will operate at a fairly relaxed pace, but with many historic houses you may experience some uneven flooring along the way, and some rooms and levels may be inaccessible other than by stairs. You will, however, usually have the option to explore any venue by yourself at your own pace. Due to the distances covered, garden tours and guided city walking tours will often require slightly higher standards of mobility. It is essential that you inform us of any concerns at the time of booking, so that we can assess the suitability of your chosen tour in line with your specific requirements.

## 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). Unless stated otherwise we do provide porterage at each of the hotels used on our tours, 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 except. All dates are subject to change.*



Holkham Hall



Hever Castle



Bodnant Garden



Tower of London

# 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)	120 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:

121 days or more prior to departure	\$1,000 (USD)
120 days or less before departure	100% of the program cost is non-refundable

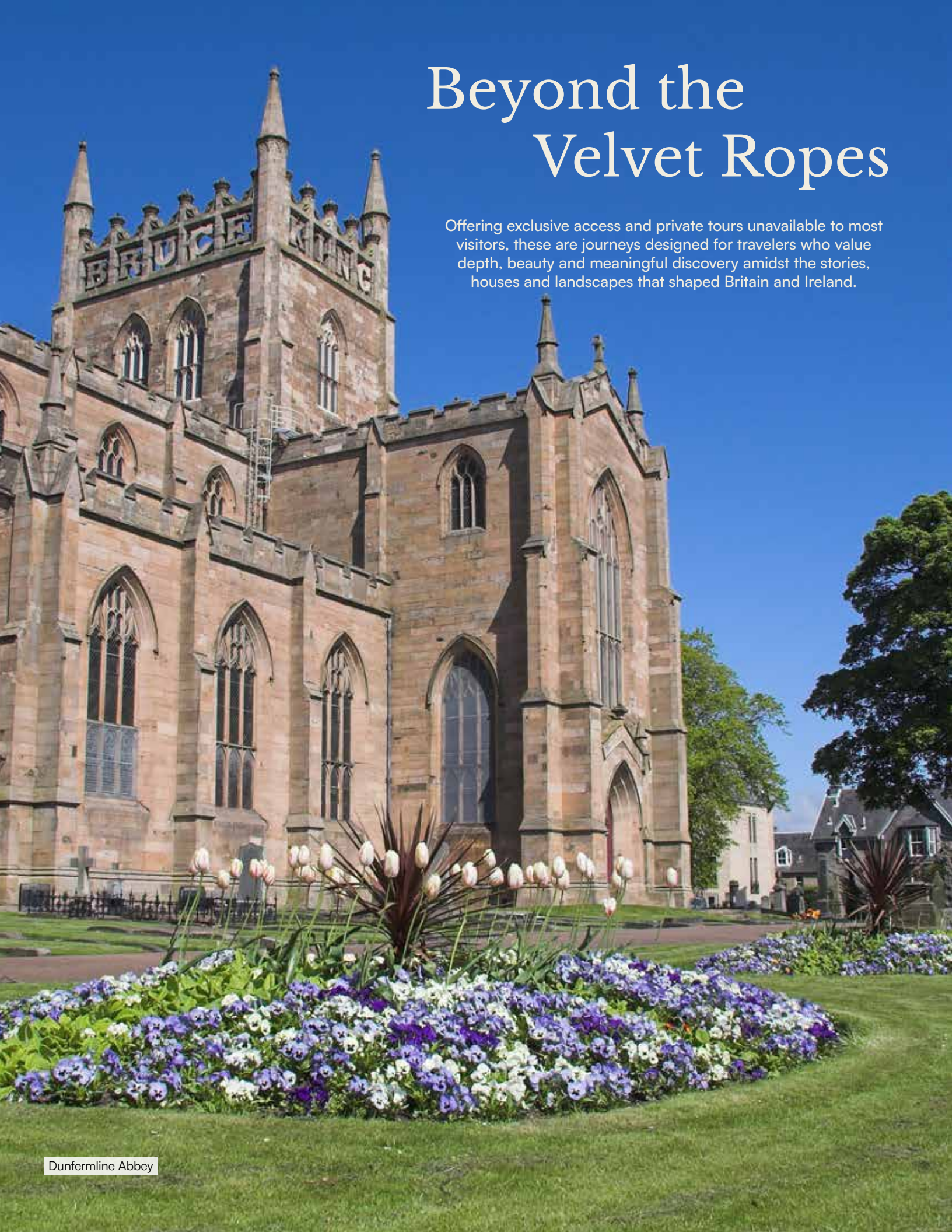
If any member of your party is prevented from traveling, that person may transfer their place to someone else (introduced by you) providing we are notified no less than two weeks before departure.

*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.*

# Beyond the Velvet Ropes

Offering exclusive access and private tours unavailable to most visitors, these are journeys designed for travelers who value depth, beauty and meaningful discovery amidst the stories, houses and landscapes that shaped Britain and Ireland.



Dunfermline Abbey



Bamburgh Castle



Cragside

## The National Trust Tours & Albion Journeys Difference

**We don't simply show you Britain's most remarkable places — we reveal the stories behind them.**

Every journey is shaped by experience, scholarship and close relationships with the heritage organizations who care for Britain and Ireland's greatest places and spaces. It's the considered details that distinguishes these tours.

### Thoughtfully Curated

We work closely with our heritage partners to create unique and insightful itineraries that truly unlock Britain's history and culture — journeys that go beyond simply seeing the sights.

### Exclusive Access

Wherever possible, we arrange visits with house owners, curators and local experts, opening doors that are often closed to the public. From private openings to behind-the-scenes experiences, you'll discover the stories that bring Britain's past vividly to life.

### Characterful Stays

Your journey through Britain's colorful past doesn't end when the day's excursions do. We've selected distinguished hotels chosen for their history, atmosphere and sense of place.

### Exceptional Tour Directors

Outstanding journeys deserve outstanding people. Our experienced Tour Directors are passionate, knowledgeable and dedicated to making every tour seamless, enriching and memorable.

## Our Heritage Partnerships

Albion Journeys works in partnership with a number of distinguished UK heritage organizations, enabling our guests to enjoy special access to some of Britain's most significant historic properties. We are proud to support them in their ongoing efforts to conserve and protect the nation's heritage for future generations.

In the United States, we also operate select tours in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the The Royal Oak Foundation, with a contribution from each tour supporting the important work of these organizations.



Plas Newydd



National Trust for Historic Preservation

**National Trust Tours**

National Trust Tours is a proud affiliate of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which safeguards significant places in the United States where history has unfolded, representing the nation's diverse cultural heritage. Albion Journeys has worked in partnership with the organization since 2014 and is honored to support its mission.



**THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION**

Americans in Alliance with National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The Royal Oak Foundation seeks to raise awareness of and advance the work of the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland by fostering American support for the preservation of historic places and landscapes across these countries. Albion Journeys has proudly partnered with The Royal Oak Foundation since 2013.