



Holy Island



Alnwick Castle

# Grand Tour of Northern England & the Lake District

**NEW** May 15 to 28, 2027 ♦ From \$6,600\* per person

Uncover the richly layered landscapes of Northern England, where celebrated landmarks and hidden treasures unfold. This meticulously crafted tour reveals a tapestry of scenery and compelling narratives, bringing to life the people, heritage and places that define the region’s enduring allure. From the dramatic fells and tranquil waters of the Lake District to the timeless beauty of Northumberland National Park, each setting invites reflection and discovery. Walk in the footsteps of Romans along the evocative remains of Hadrian’s Wall and immerse yourself in the literary legacies of Wordsworth and the Brontë sisters, whose works were shaped by these very surroundings. Experience the profound splendor of Durham Cathedral and savor exclusive moments, such as a private dinner within the atmospheric walls of Muncaster Castle.

### What’s Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from Manchester Airport\*
- ♦ 2 nights at Cottons Hotel & Spa, Knutsford
- ♦ 2 nights at The Coniston Hotel, Country Estate & Spa, near Skipton
- ♦ 3 nights at the Bailiffgate Hotel, Alnwick
- ♦ 2 nights at Lumley Castle Hotel, Chester-le-Street (porterage not available)
- ♦ 3 nights at Macdonald Old England Hotel & Spa, Lake Windermere
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés at your first hotel
- ♦ Full English / Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course dinner, usually served *table d’hôte* style, on 7 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.

### Itinerary

**May 15: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in Manchester**

**May 16: Arrival**

Upon arrival at Manchester Airport, a private transfer will take you to our hotel, Cottons Hotel & Spa, Knutsford. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

**May 17: Quarry Bank Mill**

Enjoy a guided tour of Quarry Bank Mill, where the Industrial Revolution comes to life through working machinery and vivid stories. Explore the historic cotton mill, visit the Apprentice House where child workers once lived and take time to wander scenic woodland paths and gardens along the River Bollin.

**May 18: Brontë Parsonage Museum & Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway**

We visit the charming hilltop village of Haworth, home of the Brontë sisters, and explore the preserved Parsonage Museum. Enjoy a nostalgic

journey on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway through the Yorkshire Dales, then relax with a delightful afternoon tea at a nearby venue.

**May 19: Durham Cathedral & ‘The Angel of the North’**

Take a guided tour of Durham Cathedral, exploring its rich history before visiting the Cathedral Museum at your leisure. Spend free time discovering Durham’s historic streets, university, or riverside walks. Later, relax on the journey to Alnwick, with a photo stop at the iconic Angel of the North.



Steam Yacht Gondola

## May 20: Alnwick Castle & Cragside

We explore Alnwick Castle, the ancestral home of the Duke of Northumberland famed for film and television appearances, and admire its grand State Rooms and gardens. Then visit Cragside, the innovative hillside home of Lord Armstrong, renowned as the first house powered by hydroelectricity, filled with Victorian ingenuity and scenic surroundings.

## May 21: Holy Island & Lindisfarne Priory & Castle

Discover the unique Holy Island of Lindisfarne, visiting the ruins of Lindisfarne Priory and its dramatic castle. Reached by a tidal causeway, the island offers a memorable arrival. Once a center of early Christianity and home to the Lindisfarne Gospels, it remains a place of striking beauty.

## May 22: Bamburgh Castle & Seaton Delaval Hall

We head to Bamburgh Castle, set dramatically above the Northumberland coast, where we explore its historic halls, collections and stunning surroundings. Continue to Seaton Delaval Hall, a grand Baroque house designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, where exhibitions and restored gardens bring the lively history of the Delaval family to life.

## May 23: Vindolanda Fort & Museum, Hadrian’s Wall & Hexham Abbey

Here, at the very frontier of the Holy Roman Empire, we explore Vindolanda on our guided tour, uncovering life along Hadrian’s Wall and viewing remarkable Roman artifacts in the museum. Stop at The Sill Discovery Center for lunch at your leisure and countryside views, then visit Hadrian’s Wall. We conclude at Hexham Abbey, discovering its rich 1,300-year history on a guided tour.

## May 24: Raby Castle

Take a private guided tour of Raby Castle, a magnificent fortress shaped by the Neville family. Explore its richly decorated interiors, spanning medieval to Victorian styles, and admire an impressive art collection. Afterward, relax and enjoy a picnic lunch within the historic surroundings of this remarkable estate.



Lake District

## May 25: Blackwell House, Grasmere, Dove Cottage & The Wordsworth Museum

Embark on a guided tour of Blackwell, an Arts and Crafts masterpiece with original features and Lakeland views. Then visit Dove Cottage, home of William Wordsworth, for a curator-led tour showcasing personal items, manuscripts and rare pieces, offering a fascinating insight into the poet’s life and legacy.

## May 26: Steam Yacht Gondola, Brantwood & Muncaster Castle

Enjoy a scenic cruise aboard the National Trust-restored Steam Yacht Gondola on Coniston Water, followed by a visit to Brantwood, the former home of John Ruskin. Later, explore Muncaster Castle on a private evening tour, discovering its history, collections, gardens and legends before a special dinner inside the castle. It promises to be one of the most memorable highlights on our tour.

## May 27: Lake Windermere Cruise, Holker Hall & Levens Hall

We begin with a relaxing cruise on Lake Windermere, taking in spectacular Lakeland scenery. Visit Holker Hall on a private tour, admiring its historic interiors and art, then explore Levens Hall, home to fine paintings and England’s oldest topiary gardens, with time to wander after a delightful included lunch.

## May 28: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Manchester 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: \$1,000.*

### Key Highlights

- ♦ Take in rugged scenery in the Lake District, Pennines and Northumberland National Park
- ♦ Enjoy a day out at Hadrian’s Wall, exploring one of the best-preserved Roman forts — Vindolanda
- ♦ Contrast the exuberance of aristocratic life at Seaton Delaval Hall with the harsh conditions of Quarry Bank Mill’s Apprentice House
- ♦ Discover more about literary legends and artists, as we visit the houses of John Ruskin, Wordsworth and the Bronte sisters
- ♦ Visit Holy Island, Lindisfarne, along with Durham Cathedral and find out about some of the UK’s most important religious sites
- ♦ Be treated to a special after-hours tour and private dinner at Muncaster 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](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 portage 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.*