



Blenheim Palace



Highclere Castle

The Treasure Houses of Southern England

NEW July 8 to 17, 2027 ♦ From \$7,600* per person

The Treasure Houses of England represent eleven of the nation's most magnificent palaces, houses and castles, enduring symbols of aristocratic power, royal connection and artistic patronage. On this carefully curated journey, we visit four of these exceptional estates: Blenheim Palace, Beaulieu, Woburn Abbey and Hatfield House, each showcasing outstanding collections of art, furniture and portraiture still displayed in their ancestral settings.

We also enjoy rare access to Highclere Castle on an exclusive day reserved solely for Albion and its sister companies, alongside visits to Waddesdon Manor, Sulgrave Manor and Broughton Castle. With stays in distinguished country house hotels and a fascinating visit to Bletchley Park, this relaxed-paced tour blends heritage, American connections and exclusive access into an unforgettable exploration of England's grandest homes.

What's Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from London Heathrow*
 - ♦ 3 nights at the Audleys Wood Hotel, Basingstoke
 - ♦ 5 nights at Hartwell House & Spa, near Aylesbury
 - ♦ 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
 - ♦ Services of a tour manager
- *Supplement applies for transfers from all other airports and all other locations, including central London.

Itinerary

July 8: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

July 9: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to the Audleys Wood Hotel. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

July 10: Highclere Castle & Winchester

On our exclusive access day, Highclere Castle opens its doors solely for guests of Albion and our sister companies, a rare privilege at one of England's most celebrated country houses. Known worldwide as the setting for *Downton Abbey*, Highclere is first and foremost a living family home, seat of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon. We explore the opulent interiors featured in the series, discovering the real history of Highclere, remodelled in the 19th century by Sir Charles Barry and used as a hospital during WWI. Downstairs, the fascinating Egyptian Exhibition

tells the story of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon's role in the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb.

Later, time in Winchester offers independent discovery in England's ancient former capital, with the option to visit Winchester Cathedral or the Great Hall to see the legendary Round Table of King Arthur.

July 11: Beaulieu & the National Motor Museum

The Beaulieu Estate in the New Forest offers an engaging look at aristocratic life, past and present. We enjoy a guided tour of Palace House, once the gatehouse of the medieval Beaulieu Abbey and the ancestral home of the Montagu family since 1538. Remodeled and extended in the 1800s, it is now a fine example of a Victorian Gothic-style country house.

A light sandwich lunch is included before time to explore the wider estate at leisure. Highlights include the fascinating National Motor Museum, housing an extraordinary collection of historic vehicles, as well as the ruins of Beaulieu Abbey.

On departure, a scenic drive through the New Forest showcases a quintessentially English landscape.

July 12: Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and birthplace of Winston Churchill, this masterpiece by Sir John Vanbrugh sits within sweeping parkland designed by Capability Brown. A guided tour and included lunch enhance the experience, with access to the magnificent State Rooms. As the seat of the Dukes of Marlborough, Blenheim remains one of Britain's most powerful aristocratic symbols. Time is also spent in nearby Woodstock for independent exploration.

July 13: Waddesdon Manor & Oxford

Waddesdon Manor, built in the 1870s by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, is a spectacular French-style château set in the Buckinghamshire countryside. Created for entertaining, it houses an outstanding collection of French decorative arts, Old Masters and English portraiture.

A guided house tour is followed by time to explore the formal gardens, from the Parterre to the Rococo-style aviary, before departing for Oxford, where the afternoon is free to explore the historic university city at leisure.

July 14: Sulgrave Manor & Broughton Castle

American history comes to life at Sulgrave Manor, the Tudor home of the Washington family and ancestral link to George Washington. Built in the mid-1500s by Lawrence Washington, the manor explores this unique transatlantic connection on a guided visit, having been restored as a memorial of shared heritage between Britain and the United States.

Beaulieu House



Later, a guided tour of Broughton Castle reveals a beautifully preserved moated manor still owned by the Fiennes family since the 14th century. Rich in portraits and political history, it hosted royal visitors and played a role in the tensions leading to the English Civil War.

July 15: Hatfield House & Hughenden

Hatfield House, one of England's finest Jacobean mansions, was built in 1611 by Robert Cecil, advisor to Elizabeth I. Still home to the Marquess of Salisbury, it features richly decorated State Rooms, the Grand Staircase and extensive gardens and parkland. Its cinematic legacy includes *The Crown* and *Bridgerton*.

We also visit Hughenden Manor, former home of Victorian Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, offering a more intimate look at 19th-century political life within the Chiltern Hills. Tonight's dinner is served at the historic Grade II-listed Five Arrows Inn.

Broughton Castle



July 16: Woburn Abbey and Gardens & Bletchley Park

Woburn Abbey, home of the Dukes of Bedford for nearly 400 years, is one of the great Treasure Houses of England. Its State Rooms display an exceptional art collection including works by Reynolds, Gainsborough and Canaletto, set within elegant interiors overlooking landscaped gardens.



The afternoon shifts to Bletchley Park, where Alan Turing and the codebreakers of World War II deciphered the Enigma code. Restored huts and interactive exhibits reveal the extraordinary secrecy and impact of this pivotal wartime achievement.

July 17: 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: \$1,400.

Key Highlights

- ♦ See four of the famous Treasure Houses, Blenheim, Beaulieu, Woburn Abbey and Hatfield House
- ♦ Stays in just two hotels, including Hartwell House (one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels) and ever-popular Audleys Wood
- ♦ An exclusive visit to Highclere, on a day when access is reserved for Albion and its sister companies
- ♦ Discover Bletchley Park, with its interesting wartime history and extraordinary codebreakers

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 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 (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. 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.

Bookings are accepted on the basis that you have read and understood them.