



Oxford



Blenheim Palace

Yuletide Festivities - the Cotswolds, Windsor & Bath

December 1 to 11, 2027 ♦ From \$7,800* per person

Twinkling lights, festive markets and magnificent historic houses dressed for the season set the scene for this enchanting Christmas journey through southern England. From royal palaces and medieval castles to elegant country estates and winter gardens, discover some of the country’s most celebrated heritage treasures at their most magical time of year.

Explore Windsor Castle and Hampton Court Palace adorned with seasonal decorations, browse the Christmas Markets of Bath and Oxford and experience the spectacular illuminated trail at Kew Gardens. Along the way, uncover the traditions of Oxford University, enjoy a traditional Sunday lunch in the Cotswolds and visit magnificent estates including Waddesdon Manor, Hughenden Manor and Blenheim Palace, transformed by dazzling festive displays.

What’s Included

- ♦ Arrival/departure airport transfers from Heathrow Airport*
- ♦ 4 nights at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor
- ♦ 2 nights at the Bailbrook House Hotel, Bath
- ♦ 3 nights at the 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
- ♦ Porterage where available
- ♦ Services of a tour manager

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

Itinerary

December 1: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

December 2: Arrival

Upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to our hotel, the Macdonald Windsor. This evening, meet your fellow travelers for a welcome reception with drinks, canapés and dinner.

December 3: Hampton Court Palace & Festive Fayre

The festive season begins in regal style at Hampton Court Palace, where the popular Festive Fayre fills the historic grounds with traditional wooden chalets, artisan gifts, seasonal treats and live entertainment. We also enjoy a guided tour of the magnificent Tudor palace, once home to Henry VIII, exploring highlights including the Great Hall, Tudor Kitchens and beautifully decorated historic interiors.

December 4: The Roman Baths, Bath Christmas Market & No. 1 Royal Crescent

Elegant Bath provides a wonderfully festive setting today. Visit the remarkably preserved Roman Baths, where steaming thermal waters still flow through Britain’s most famous Roman site, before free time to explore Bath’s renowned Christmas Market. Later, we enjoy an exclusive after-hours curator-led tour of No. 1 Royal Crescent. Featured as Lady Featherington’s home in *Bridgerton*, this beautifully decorated Georgian townhouse is brought to life with wine and seasonal canapés.

Christmas Market

December 5: Berkeley Castle, Traditional Sunday Lunch & Scenic Cotswolds Drive

One of England’s oldest inhabited castles, Berkeley Castle is richly decorated for Christmas and steeped in royal history. Still home to the Berkeley family after almost 900 years, it is also famed as the place where King Edward II was imprisoned in 1327. Following a traditional Sunday lunch, we enjoy a scenic drive through pretty villages and rolling landscapes of the Cotswolds, one of England’s most picturesque regions.

December 6: Oxford University, Bodleian Library & Oxford Christmas Market

A guided tour of Oxford introduces centuries of academic excellence and architectural splendor. Explore the historic Bodleian Library, including Duke Humfrey’s Library and the Divinity School, familiar to many as a filming location in the Harry Potter films. There is also time at leisure to discover the famous ‘City of Dreaming Spires’, browse the Christmas Market or visit one of the city’s renowned museums, such as the Ashmolean.

December 7: Waddesdon Manor

Built in the 1870s by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Waddesdon Manor resembles a French château set within the Buckinghamshire countryside. Our guided tour explores its exceptional collections of French decorative arts, paintings and furnishings, while the beautifully landscaped grounds provide a fitting backdrop to the festive season. This evening, dinner is served at the historic Five Arrows Hotel, situated at the gates of the estate.

December 8: Christmas at Blenheim Palace

Christmas at Blenheim Palace is a spectacular seasonal experience. Birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the palace is transformed with dazzling decorations, festive displays and beautifully dressed State Rooms.



Roman Baths

Beyond the Christmas displays, admire the grandeur of Sir John Vanbrugh’s architecture and the sweeping parkland designed by Capability Brown. Following our visit, we return to Hartwell House for a traditional afternoon tea and time to enjoy the elegant surroundings of this magnificent country house hotel.

December 9: Hughenden Manor, Henley-on-Thames & Greys Court

We visit Hughenden Manor, the much-loved home of Queen Victoria’s favorite Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli. Decorated for Christmas, the house offers fascinating insights into Victorian politics and its secret role in Second World War map-making operations. Later, enjoy free time in the charming riverside town of Henley-on-Thames before visiting nearby Greys Court, a Tudor manor house surrounded by historic gardens and rolling Chiltern countryside.

December 10: Windsor Castle & Kew Gardens

Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world and an official residence of the Royal Family. Explore the magnificent State Apartments, richly decorated for the festive season and filled with treasures from the Royal Collection.



Later, experience the magical Christmas light trail at Kew Gardens, where illuminated trees, sparkling installations and festive music transform the world-famous botanic gardens into a spectacular winter wonderland. This evening, we gather for a farewell dinner.

December 11: Departure

After breakfast, we transfer to Heathrow Airport for our return journey.

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

**Single supplement applies: \$1,650.*

Key Highlights

- ♦ Enjoy royal history, seasonal treats and shopping at Hampton Court Palace and Festive Fayre
- ♦ Stay at elegant Hartwell House, one of the National Trust’s historic hotels and in festive Bath for our yuletide escape
- ♦ See England’s grandest homes with spectacular seasonal decorations and festive displays
- ♦ Visits to Christmas markets and charming towns (Bath, Oxford, Henley-on-Thames and the Cotswolds)
- ♦ Dazzling seasonal displays at Waddesdon Manor, the Neo-Renaissance masterpiece built for the Rothschilds

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 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. 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.