

DOOR TO DOOR COACH TOURS



Ellen Smith

2024



bonded
coach
holidays

ABTOT 
Member 7049

www.ellensmith.co.uk

INTRODUCTION & CONTENTS

WELCOME

I am delighted to introduce you to our 2024 'Door to Door' coach holiday brochure.

As ever it is a mix of our tried and tested customer favourites with several new itineraries, including our first holidays to mainland Europe for several years. Our increasingly popular 'Mature Singles' - breaks have been significantly added to, as have our Channel Island flight holidays.

Our customer numbers grow each year with very good cause - our original 'Door to Door' service, great coaches with friendly & professional drivers, and lovely hotels coupled with interesting and appropriate itineraries. Add to the mix guaranteed friendships and lifetime memories, mean that our customers return to us time and time again.

So why not let our experienced team take the strain and provide you with holidays that will exceed your expectations at a price that will put a smile on your face.

Paul Targett
Managing Director

Travel Insurance?

- Fully-flexible, comprehensive insurance
- Pre-existing medical conditions covers (for travel in the UK)
- Specialist cover for coach tours
- No upper age limit in the UK

Please ask our staff for more details (for summary of cover and premiums, please refer to page 151 of this brochure.



PERIOD	UK inc. Isle of Man	Channel Islands & R.O.I.
Up to 3 Days	£27	£58
Up to 5 Days	£29	£61
Up to 10 Days	£35	£72

Financial Security Statement



The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

Therefore, you will benefit from all rights applying to packages; Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole.

Additionally, as required by law, Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd have protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that they become insolvent. Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd are members of the Bonded Coach Holiday Group, overseen by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited. This is a government approved consumer protection scheme. This ensures that in relation to the coach package holidays described in this brochure (or website) that a Bond, which may be called upon in the unlikely event of the members Insolvency, protects the clients' monies. Clients are recommended to inspect the current membership certificate at our registered office or alternatively go to <https://www.abtot.com/bch-abtot-members-directory/> or telephone 0207 7065 5316 to confirm current membership.

Your attention is also drawn to the Bonded Coach Holiday Group Trading Charter that will apply to these coach package holidays. Details of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 can be found at The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 (legislation.gov.uk)

Ellen Smith Tours – Price Promise

Peace of mind when you book an Ellen Smith Tours Coach Holiday.

- The price advertised in the brochure is the total amount you will pay for your holiday.
- We will not impose any surcharge for fuel price increases.
- In the case of currency fluctuation, we will absorb any additional costs.
- We will not advertise or issue any general 'Money Off' vouchers.
- Any supplement imposed by the hotel for extra single rooms will be the exact amount we charge our passengers.
- We will not reduce the price of any tour to encourage bookings prior to the holiday departing. The first person to book will pay the same as the last one.

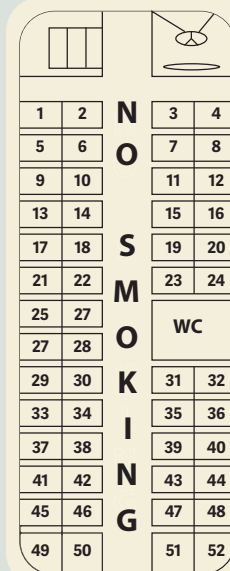
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Coach Seating Plan

Please Note:

Due to the hiring in of coaches, we cannot guarantee that this will be the exact seating plan of the coach you will travel on.



OUR TEAM / DRIVERS

We have a small but perfectly formed Team here at Ellen Smith's, meet them below:



Paul

Hi, I'm Paul and I'm the MD. My main duties revolve around the overall operation of the business with particular emphasis on the website, marketing, and looking after the pennies! When not constantly checking my work's laptop, I do find time for a diverse range of interests ranging from sailing & skiing to walking, swimming, and playing guitar. My family is my primary focus, especially my four grandchildren Grace, James, Max & Isabel who most definitely keep me on my toes!



Pam

Hi, I'm Pam, and it's my job to put together our Tour Programme to keep you, our lovely customers travelling to new and exciting destinations. I also look after the many Private Group Organisers who put their trust in us every year to look after their members. I have 3 beautiful grandchildren who keep me on my toes when I'm not in work, they're always popping in for something or other as they live next door!



Zoe

Hello, I'm Zoe. 2024 will mark my 30th year at Ellen Smith, I guess you could say I love my job which is to look after the office and Day Excursion programme. I was lucky enough to become a Nannie in 2020 and again in 2022 so most of my spare time is taken up with Miya & Jorgie and spending time with family and friends.



Mark

Hello, I'm Mark and it's my job to look after the transport side of the business. It's my 2nd stint at Ellen Smith and I genuinely feel like I have come home. I enjoy spending time with my family, going to the theatre, walking with our little dog, Charlie, and of course, I have a passion for travel. We have just returned from Kefalonia where I asked a very special lady to marry me, and she said yes!



Julie

Hi everyone, I'm Julie. I've been with Ellen Smith for over 32 years & it's flown by, can't imagine working anywhere else. In my spare time I love walks with my fur baby, Derek, socialising with friends & family, and squeezing in as many holidays as possible.

Below, meet some of your Tour Drivers, always helpful, professional, and most of all friendly.



Darren



Richard



Carl



Graham



Brent

A BRIEF HISTORY...



Back in the 1890's Ellen Gilson would never have believed that her married name would adorn coach sides throughout the UK in 2024, with an accompanying tiger!



The story goes back to the elopement of Ellen and Lund to a farm in Littleborough. As an aside to their farming, they began to operate a haulage business using horse drawn vehicles that, in time, diversified into a passenger carrying operation around Rochdale. Following Lund Smith's death their children Miles, Fred, and Perry, along with Ellen, took control of the business. A son Harry died young and another, Lewis, was badly affected by shell shock following the Great War. Two daughters Gertie and Cissie were also involved.



Motorised vehicles were introduced in 1915, these were often multifunctional, haulage during the week and passengers at weekend.

Up to the outbreak of war in 1939 both sides of the business prospered, and Charabanc holidays were added into the mix. It is believed that Gracie Fields was a passenger on one of them.

During the war the company was contracted to transport POWs to their places of work, and many coaches were commandeered by the war department, some never to be seen again.

In 1946 the company took up where it left off, with more vehicle purchases and more diversity in the type of work undertaken. During this time the business was ably managed by Harry Smith, son of Miles, his wife Majorie, and Eric, son of Fred, alongside some dedicated and long serving drivers and mechanics. The standards they espoused, and their reputation amongst their rivals were exemplary, so, of course, passenger numbers grew! The Tiger, an amalgam of Leyland Vehicles and a cigarette card, designed by Jack Mills, vehicle painter, first appeared.

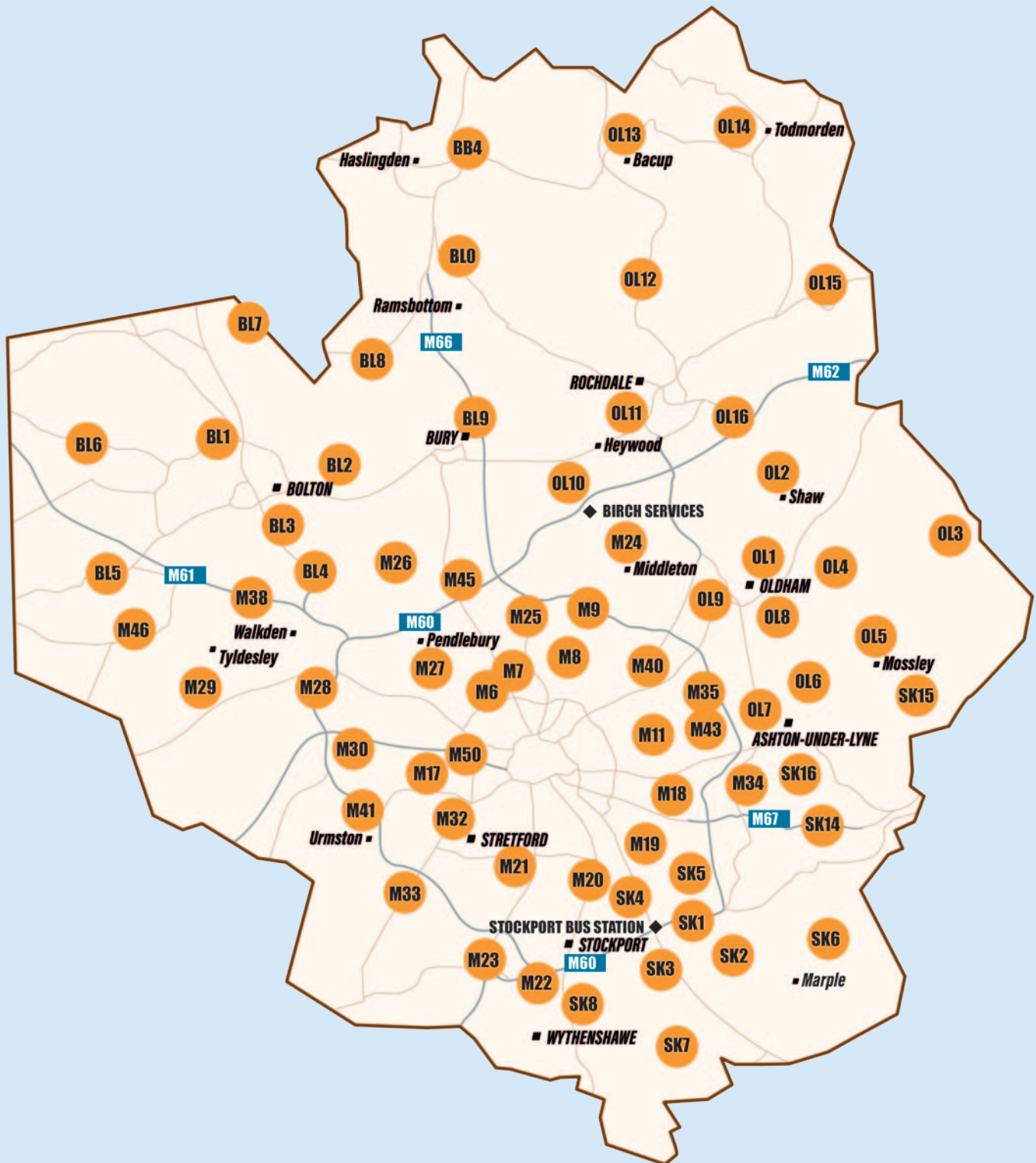


In 1988 Harry passed away, he had been actively involved for over 60 years. In 1991 the Smith family decided to sell the business and it was duly sold to Council owned Rossendale Transport Ltd in 1991.

Ellen Smith Tours Ltd operated as a subsidiary of Rossendale Transport and work was further diversified with continental tours to Europe, UK based tours, day excursions, works contracts and schools work, at one time the fleet size was 35 full sized coaches. However in 2002 the Council appointed non-executive directors of Rossendale Transport agreed to a management buyout of the tours element of the business to Paul Targett and John White, both Directors of Rossendale Transport Ltd.

Over the past 20 years there has been an ongoing rationalisation of the company's operations, gone are the five retail outlets to be replaced with an emphasis on telephone sales and a strong on-line presence. John retired from the business in 2008. Our small administrative team now operate from our Rochdale base, with customer satisfaction at our heart. Along with our business partners Grayways, Rothwells, Viking Coaches and Town Taxis, and our superb drivers, we believe we offer a service that is second to none.

'DOOR TO DOOR'



All of the holidays in this brochure include our **FREE 'DOOR TO DOOR' SERVICE**. This means that you will be picked up, by a taxi or mini-bus, from your home address on the morning of departure. You will then be transferred to meet your holiday coach.

On the return journey, following your holiday, a taxi or mini-bus will meet you at the coach and transport you back to your home address. This applies to all passengers who live within our pick-up area, see map above.

*If you live outside our pick-up area, please contact a member of staff who will advise you if it is possible to pick you up from home, however, there will be an additional cost for this.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Everything you need to know about booking a holiday with us – and some things you didn't know that you needed to know!

How can I book a holiday with you?

There are three methods. You can call our office on 01706 648126 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. You can also book via our website; this will result in a saving of £10 per passenger. Finally, you can visit one of our agents based in various towns within our pickup area.

What Deposit will I have to pay?

A deposit of £75 per person needs to be paid at the time of booking for coach holidays to secure the holiday. For Jersey flight holidays the deposit is £150.

Is my coach seat reserved?

Yes. However, we do reserve the right to move you under certain circumstances. For example, to allow a couple to sit together. This rarely happens and you will be informed prior to travelling. Please note that the wearing of seatbelts is mandatory.

What's included in the price.

Our 'Door to Door' service, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast and all attractions as noted in the itinerary, unless mentioned otherwise.

Can I, and should I, take out travel insurance?

For holidays inside the UK, insurance is optional. Remember though, most claims are for cancellation of holidays prior to travel, so please ensure you have appropriate cover for monetary losses as well as medical. For travel outside the UK, you must have some form of travel insurance in place. We offer holiday insurance via Wrightsure, who provide our customers with an age-appropriate, fit to travel based policy. There are no exclusions for pre-existing medical conditions when travelling in the UK, however you should make sure that you read and can agree with the 'criteria' for all trips taken.

Can I travel with you if I live outside your defined pick-up area?

Yes, you can. There are two options. You can make your own way to one of our pickup hubs at an agreed time and we will give a discount for this option. The second option is for us to arrange to pick you up, but you will have to pay a supplement dependent on the distances involved.

Can I bring my wheelchair?

We accept folding wheelchairs and folding walkers. We do restrict the number of folding wheelchairs to two per coach for luggage space reasons. You must inform us at the time of booking if you intend to bring either of the aforementioned. We do not allow any form of motorised mobility aid to be carried.

Do I have to pay a Single Supplement if I travel alone?

For each tour we are allocated a number of single rooms. Some don't carry a supplement, others do. This is entirely dependent upon the policy of each individual hotel. Prior to the holiday some hotels, upon request, allow double or twins to be used as singles – but with a supplement. We will advise you of any additional costs at the time of booking. We don't add any additional costs to the supplement charged by the hotel.

Can I make special requests for my hotel stay?

Any special requests made at the time of booking will be passed on to the hotel prior to the coach's arrival. However, we will note that 'Any requests cannot be guaranteed' on your confirmation document. If your request needs to be guaranteed, then it is your responsibility to liaise with us to ensure this is the case.

What paperwork will I receive?

You will receive a booking confirmation detailing all aspects of your holiday booking. This needs to be carefully checked to ensure all is correct. Any amendments made later will incur an administrative charge. If you've taken insurance, you will also receive your policy documents.

When does my final balance become due?

Eight weeks prior to travel, earlier for Jersey flights. The balance due date is noted on your holiday confirmation document. You can either call us to pay your balance (we don't keep details of your Credit or Debit cards) or, if you booked online, you can pay your balance via your account on our website.

Are your holidays financially secure?

Yes. All our tours are covered by the British Coach Holidays (BCH) Bond. Please see details on Page 2.

What happens if I cancel my holiday?

We will issue you with a Cancellation Invoice in accordance with our industry recognised terms and conditions. We will then refund you any sums due and you can use the invoice to submit a claim to your insurance company.

What happens if we cancel the holiday?

We review each tour on a weekly basis to ensure we have enough passengers booked on to make it viable, we do this as early as possible. If we decide to cancel the holiday, we will contact you and either offer you a full refund of all monies paid or offer you another appropriate tour and give you a £20 discount per person to transfer.

When will I need a passport or an identity document.

For travel to Ireland or the Channel Islands travellers need either a passport with 6 months validity or some form of photographic ID. This could be a current driving licence or a Bus Pass. For travel to the EU a full passport with 6 months validity is required.

When will I receive my Travel Documents?

About 8 to 10 days prior to travel. The envelope will contain a note of your collection time on the day of travel, an itinerary booklet giving day by day information for the duration of the tour and luggage labels.

Do you sell your holidays cheaper to fill rooms close to the departure date?

No. We believe that every customer on the coach should pay the same amount.

Do I need to leave Next of Kin (NOK) details?

Totally optional. We take the care of our passengers to an extra level. If you are taken ill whilst away on holiday with us, we will make contact with the designated NOK and advise them of your situation. We will then assist in any way possible.

What size suitcase should I bring?

For coach holidays each passenger should bring one suitcase weighing no more than 18 kgs (40lbs). If the tour has an overnight stop,

it is advisable to bring an overnight bag to avoid unpacking and re-packing. The allowance will be different for our flight holidays, please see information on your Travel Documents. Any important medications should be kept in personal hand luggage.

Where are your coach/taxi meeting hubs?

We have two coach meeting places Birch Services West and Viaduct Street in Stockport.

How does your 'Door to Door' service work?

We have been operating our 'Door to Door' service for many years now – suffice it to say that we're very good at it. Every customer is given a time that they will be picked up at on the first day of their holiday. A licensed taxi or minibus will turn up at the allotted time. We have an emergency telephone number in case of traffic delays or similar. The taxi / minibus then picks up other passengers en-route to the coach meeting point.

Are all your coaches the same?

All our coaches are modern executive coaches with all 'mod cons' including an onboard toilet. However, they are different makes and models and as such will have different window alignments and, as such, we cannot guarantee a 'full window' seat.

What about your drivers?

Our drivers are mature professional individuals with many years of experience. They are customer focused and will tend to your requirements whilst on holiday.

How often do you stop en-route?

Because we don't have long pickup routes, we can take a more leisurely approach on the outward journey. The driver will decide where to stop for lunch and comfort breaks ensuring an appropriate hotel arrival time.

Are there any additional costs whilst on holiday?

The only extra costs that you should incur are your lunches and drinks from the bar, and other personal purchases.

Is portorage included?

Yes – you should not need to touch your suitcase from your front door to your hotel bedroom. If for any reason general Portorage is not available at your hotel, and you are unable to manage your own case, please make your Driver or a member of hotel staff aware, and they will assist you.

Are breakfast and dinner always included?

On 99% of tours they are. On some more specialised tours, for example involving Ferries, there will be different arrangements – these will always be clearly stated on your itinerary.

What happens on the return day?

You will make your way home with suitable stops. For shorter distance holidays, your coach will come straight home after breakfast. The driver will arrange to have the taxis and minibuses waiting for you. Your luggage will be put into your taxi and you will be called off the coach to be taken home.

Will I want to travel with you again?

We like to think so. We have hundreds of customers who travel with us time and time again. Their returning business and recommendations are the best forms of advertising we have.

We look forward to seeing you on one of our tours.

Mystery Tours

We are delighted to bring back our popular Mystery Tours for 2024. These tours are ideal if you fancy a break away but are unsure where to go. It is also a perfect opportunity for us to take advantage of discounted rates, giving you a great value for money holiday. On each break, we will include admission to a visitor attraction. If the hotel is centrally located, you will have 1 day to explore the resort/town and 1 other excursion. On the 4-day breaks, you will have 1- or 2-days' excursions, dependent on location of the hotel.

So, join us on one of our Magical Mystery Tours, it might be your best holiday yet



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Breakfast & Dinners Daily
- ◆ Admission to an Attraction
- ◆ Excursions

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 4th March 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£100	£29
Friday 5th April 2024	4 Days	£369 pp	£75	£29
Monday 29th July 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£100	£29
Monday 14th October 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£100	£29
Friday 22nd November 2024	4 Days	£369 pp	£75	£29

South West England



Torquay – The English Riviera

Torquay is an award-winning resort where elegant Victorian villas, a bustling harbour, and palm-fringed beaches give the Riviera its well-earned name.



Cornish Winter Warmer

Cornwall is on a beautiful peninsula tumbling into the vast Atlantic Ocean, almost completely surrounded by the sea. Cornwall is loved for its dramatic coastlines, captivating fishing harbours, and of course, its pasties and cream teas!



The Rosemundy House Hotel

This elegant 3-star standard hotel is set in over 4 acres of secluded gardens and woodlands and yet only 100 yards from the main street in the quaint village of St Agnes. The Queen Ann style hotel is family run and has been tastefully extended and converted. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, lounge, bar, and some evening entertainment. Sorry, there is no lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ St Ives & Porthleven ◆ Bodmin Jail & Padstow
- ◆ Sherry Reception, 1 Afternoon Cream Tea, Glass of Wine with Dinner on Last Evening

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Discover Cornwall's most haunting and dark history in the world-class immersive experience at Bodmin Jail. Delve into the depths of the jail's state-of-the-art 'Dark Walk' where your perceptions between the past and present will be blurred and provoked. Take 90-minutes to walk in the footsteps of the condemned! Later, we visit Padstow, a working harbour, surrounded by glorious beaches. In the town you'll find boutique shops and galleries at every twist and turn, showcasing the very best of Cornwall's makers & shakers! You'll always be led back to the harbour, at the very heart of this coastal town.
- ◆ St Ives – the dazzling jewel in Cornwall's crown is a picturesque fishing harbour and seaside town. Wander through the maze of narrow cobbled streets, independent shops, and fishermen's cottages in the heart of St Ives. St Ives has been attracting artists for decades and is a seemingly subtropical oasis where the beaches are golden, the vegetation is lush and the light piercingly bright. Later, we visit Porthleven, the most southerly working port in the UK, boasting a picturesque harbour, with some interesting old buildings. Porthleven retains the character of an unspoilt fishing village with its granite harbour and pier, and famous clock tower.

The Belgrave Sands Hotel

The Belgrave has been totally transformed from top to bottom into a modern hotel with all new fixtures and fittings. All en-suite bedrooms are stylishly finished and feature TV, mini-fridge, iron & ironing board, digital safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Seasons Restaurant & Lounge, and Reflections Spa with heated indoor swimming pool, fully equipped gym, steam room, and sauna.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Brixham
- ◆ Afternoon Tea at The Palace Paignton
- ◆ Exmouth River Cruise & Exeter

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Brixham is a quintessentially English harbour town, with colourful houses surrounding the harbour bowl. As one of the busiest fishing ports in the UK, Brixham has a long history of bringing in fresh seafood. There are plenty of attractions to keep you busy, from the life-size pirate ship museum, the Golden Hind, that sits in the middle of the harbour, to the stunning views from the old Napoleon fort at Berry Head. On the way back to Torquay, we stop at the stunning Palace Hotel in Paignton to enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea.
- ◆ We enjoy a scenic cruise on the River Exe from Exmouth. We travel along the peaceful waters of the river, up near Powderham Castle, and along to where the river opens out into the English Channel on Exmouth's traditional seafront. Later, we visit historic Exeter with its magnificent Cathedral, imposing Roman wall, diverse mix of eateries, and great selection of independent shops and boutiques.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 8th January 2024	5 Days	£369 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 12th February 2024	5 Days	£369 pp	NIL	£29

Isle of Wight Mock Cruise

Boasting award-winning beaches, unspoilt and spectacular scenery, and a rich, historical heritage, the Isle of Wight has something for everyone to enjoy. Discover picturesque villages, spectacular cliffs, and sandy beaches. This break offers you the unique opportunity to sail the high seas and travel the world without leaving the comfort of the hotel.



Torquay – The English Riviera

Torquay is an award-winning resort where elegant Victorian villas, a bustling harbour, and palm-fringed beaches give the Riviera its well-earned name.



The Trouville Hotel

Situated centrally on Sandown's seafront, opposite the golden beach, and with views over the sweep of Sandown & Shanklin Bay, is the Trouville Hotel. Well-appointed, en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, ballroom, function room, and some live entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ryde & East Cowes ◆ Godshill, Alum Bay & The Needles
- ◆ We visit Different Ports Daily (Destinations to be Confirmed)
- ◆ Cabaret Entertainment ◆ Daily Activities 'On Deck'
- ◆ Formal Evening ◆ Meet the Captain Drinks Reception
- ◆ Daily Drinks Specials ◆ Quizzes & Bingo

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We visit Ryde. Paul McCartney recently confirmed what the town already 'knew' ... The Beatles hit Ticket to Ride was inspired by a trip to Ryde made by Macca and John Lennon in the early sixties! It's a fantastic place that combines shopping centres, golden sands and creative hearts. We also visit East Cowes, home to the oldest and biggest sailing regatta in the world. Stroll through the vibrant town and enjoy independent shops and well-known yachting clothing stores, sit at a pavement café, or have lunch and people watch.
- ◆ Godshill is the quintessential English village and boasts some of the oldest architecture on the Isle of Wight. With its delightful medieval church and winding main street lined with traditional tea rooms, Godshill is as picturesque as it is popular. We also visit Alum Bay for views of The Needles, one of the most photographed groups of rocks in the world.

The Belgrave Sands Hotel

The Belgrave has been totally transformed from top to bottom into a modern hotel with all new fixtures and fittings. All en-suite bedrooms are stylishly finished and feature TV, mini-fridge, iron & ironing board, digital safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Seasons Restaurant & Lounge, and Reflections Spa with heated indoor swimming pool, fully equipped gym, steam room, and sauna.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Brixham
- ◆ Afternoon Tea at The Palace Paignton
- ◆ Powderham Castle & Exeter

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Brixham is a quintessentially English harbour town, with colourful houses surrounding the harbour bowl. As one of the busiest fishing ports in the UK, Brixham has a long history of bringing in fresh seafood. There are plenty of attractions to keep you busy, from the life-size pirate ship museum, the Golden Hind, that sits in the middle of the harbour, to the stunning views from the old Napoleon fort at Berry Head. On the way back to Torquay, we stop at the stunning Palace Hotel in Paignton to enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea.
- ◆ Powderham Castle enjoys a unique, picturesque setting within an ancient deer park beside the Exe Estuary, just south of Exeter. Over 600 years of history can be discovered within the walls of one of Devon's oldest family homes. On our Castle Tour you will see the many majestic rooms and hear fascinating stories about the Courtenay family as told by knowledgeable and engaging guides. Later, we visit historic Exeter with its magnificent Cathedral, imposing Roman wall, diverse mix of eateries, and great selection of independent shops and boutiques.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 10th March 2024	6 Days	£449 pp	NIL	£35

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 25th March 2024	5 Days	£369 pp	NIL	£29

Bournemouth

With seven miles of golden sands and sparkling sea, the vibrant cosmopolitan town of Bournemouth has it all – a vast variety of shops and restaurants, endless countryside offering peace and relaxation, and beautiful, award-winning gardens.



© Flickr - Gilbert Sopakuwa

Marsham Court Hotel

The Marsham Court Hotel offers high-quality accommodation in a wonderful location edging the beautiful Dorset coastline and sparkling sea at Bournemouth. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, iron, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and swimming pool.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Beaulieu & Christchurch
- ◆ Poole Harbour & Islands Cruise & Poole Quay

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our visit to Beaulieu includes the National Motor Museum – see over 285 vehicles at the world-famous museum, from F1 cars and land speed record breakers to incredible examples of pioneering motoring; Palace House – get a fascinating look into the Montagu family home where costumed guides give you a flavour of what it would have been like in Victorian times; Grounds & Gardens – lose yourself in Beaulieu's serene grounds and gardens, from the wild nature of the Millpond Walk to the beautifully designed flower gardens and topiary; World of Top Gear – see iconic cars from memorable TV challenges in the condition they were left in! Plus, step into the Enormodrome to get a feel for the BBC Top Gear studio; Beaulieu Abbey – walk in the footsteps of medieval monks who lived here over 800 years ago. The conserved ruins of this once vast medieval abbey include an exhibition on its history; Monorail & Veteran Bus – save your feet and enjoy unlimited rides on the open top Veteran bus and high level Skytrain. Later, we visit Christchurch with its attractive, bustling town centre and range of independent shops.
- ◆ Enjoy a Poole Harbour & Islands Circular Cruise. Take in fantastic views from the open deck as you pass picturesque Brownsea Island, Sandbanks Peninsula, Studland Bay, and more. With live commentary from the captain, you're guaranteed not to miss a thing. You can also enjoy the lower saloon lounge area that includes booth seating and a fully licensed bar. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore Poole, well known for Europe's largest natural harbour, award-winning Blue Flag beaches, a bustling quayside, and a beautiful historic old town.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 1st April 2024	5 Days	£459 pp	NIL	£29

Cream of Devon & Exeter

Whatever you're looking for, Devon is the place for you. This diverse county has everything you could think of and a little more besides! From the bustling historic cities of Plymouth and Exeter to the varied coastlines, the abundance of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the popular English Riviera and everything else in between.



© Flickr - Matthew Hartley

Devon Hotel, Exeter

The Devon Hotel has always had a reputation for outstanding cuisine and luxury accommodation. Centred around a Georgian manor house, The Devon Hotel oozes warmth and charm. The hotel has a restaurant & bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Buckfast Abbey & Buckfastleigh
- ◆ South Devon Railway from Buckfastleigh to Tones & Return
- ◆ City of Exeter & Cream Tea Cruise ◆ Dawlish & Teignmouth

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Located at the centre of a picturesque valley on the edge of Dartmoor National Park, Buckfast Abbey is home to a community of Roman Catholic Benedictine Monks who live their lives of prayer, work, and study according to the ancient rule of St Benedict. The heart of the site is the Abbey Church and Monastery, the original Abbey being founded in 1018AD by King Cnut. Today, the site is a flourishing complex of buildings including beautiful, spacious gardens, restaurants, and Visitor Welcome Centre. From here, we travel into Buckfastleigh. Vibrant, lively and with a touch of mystery surrounding it, we enjoy a little free time before joining the South Devon Railway for our journey to Tones and return.
- ◆ We spend the morning in Exeter – a small city that packs a big punch! Pre-dating the arrival of the Romans in AD 50, Exeter's history is rich and long. This is reflected in its fascinating visitor attractions, including its unique Underground Passages, free Red Coat Guided Tours, magnificent Cathedral, and imposing Roman wall. Later, we drive to Exmouth for our cruise along the calm and protected waters of the River Exe, whilst enjoying a delicious Devon Cream Tea with oodles of cream and lashings of strawberry jam!
- ◆ Dawlish is a traditional seaside town with a wonderful golden sand beach on its doorstep. The town is centred around The Lawn and Brook, which is home to the famous Black Swans. We also visit the stunning coastal town of Teignmouth, with historic Georgian buildings, long sandy beaches and fresh, local food.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 14th April 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£80	£29

Bournemouth – Mock Mediterranean Cruise

With seven miles of golden sands and sparkling sea, the vibrant cosmopolitan town of Bournemouth has it all – a vast variety of shops and restaurants, endless countryside offering peace and relaxation, and beautiful, award-winning gardens.



© Pixabay - Ronile

A Touch of Luxury in Cornwall

Cornwall is on a beautiful peninsula tumbling into the vast Atlantic Ocean, almost completely surrounded by the sea. Cornwall is loved for its dramatic coastlines, captivating fishing harbours, and of course, its pasties and cream teas!



© TrebahGarden

The Suncliffe Hotel

The Suncliffe Hotel boasts a traditional yet contemporary design and offers warm hospitality and a range of amenities to cater for every guest. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Overcliff Pub, Tropicana Bar & Lounge, Atlantis Restaurant, and indoor leisure facilities with heated swimming pool, mini cardio gym, squash courts, and dance studio.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Bucklers Hard & River Cruise
- ◆ Breamore House with Tea & Scones and Salisbury
- ◆ Mediterranean Cruise Entertainment Package including:
Monday – Spain – Manager Cocktail Party & Evening Entertainment
Tuesday – Italy – Afternoon Bingo & Evening Entertainment
Wednesday – France – Evening Entertainment
Thursday – Greece – Afternoon & Entertainment

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We visit Salisbury, the Cathedral City of ageless beauty and captivating history, welcoming travellers since 1227. Gathered around the Cathedral is a modern medieval city, full of buildings crafted with the care of another age. The historic Charter Market takes place every Tuesday in the heart of bustling Market Place. Later, as you enter through the lion gates and up the winding drive, you'll see a 1,000-year-old yew tree, behind it is Breamore House. This house is an Elizabethan mansion completed in 1583 and sits at the heart of the estate. On one side of the house is a pristine forest and on the other, a grass parkland that stretches to the New Forest. As you travel through the house on a guided tour, you'll get a sense of what life was like in the 18th Century. We enjoy Tea & Scones whilst here.
- ◆ On the banks of the Beaulieu River, in the heart of the new Forest, you will find the unspoilt haven of Buckler's Hard which remains untouched by the passage of time. From the wide high street to the woodland trail, explore the peaceful haven of Buckler's Hard Village. Visit the Museum and discover the role Buckler's Hard played in Britain's shipbuilding history and learn about the vessels built here for Nelson's Navy. Step through the door of the shipwright's cottage to see how the shipwright and their family lived in the 18th Century. Weather permitting, we also take a tranquil boat trip down the beautiful Beaulieu River as fascinating commentary reveals its history.

The Royal Duchy Hotel

With a wealth of history to share and a genuine wish to make guests feel recharged, the Royal Duchy Hotel holds a unique appeal among Cornwall hotels. The Royal Duchy has a fabulous position on Falmouth's seafront, with stunning views across the bay. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, terrace lounge, terrace bar, and Leisure & Spa with indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, and gym.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Trebah Gardens & Porthleven
- ◆ Marazion & Cornish Seal Sanctuary with Cream Tea

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Trebah Garden is a sub-tropical paradise with a stunning coastal backdrop. Discover the magic of this beautiful 26-acre Cornish valley garden with over 4 miles of footpaths. Explore under canopies bursting with exotic blooms and follow vibrant tunnels that cascade down to a secluded beach on the Helford Rover. In spring, Trebah comes alive with a colourful array of 100-year-old rhododendrons, magnolias, and camellias. Later, we visit Porthleven, the most southerly working port in the UK, boasting a picturesque harbour, with some interesting old buildings. Porthleven retains the character of an unspoilt fishing village with its granite harbour and pier, and famous clock tower.
- ◆ The ancient market town of Marazion is a great place to visit. Take a walk along the main street running parallel to the sea and discover a variety of gift and craft shops along with art galleries showing established and upcoming local artists and plenty of places to eat and drink. Aside from the ever-present view of St Michael's Mount, the long sweep of Mount's Bay is a great place to watch the world go by. Later, we visit the Cornish Seal Sanctuary and meet the resident grey seals, each carrying their own unique story. Get up close to the fantastic creatures with underwater viewing areas. Meet the comical Humboldt penguins on Penguin Beach and find out about the threats they face in the wild and what you can do to help! Whilst here, we enjoy a delicious Cream Tea.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd April 2024	5 Days	£409 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd April 2024	5 Days	£639 pp	£60	£29

Torquay – The English Riviera

Torquay is an award-winning resort where elegant Victorian villas, a bustling harbour, and palm-fringed beaches give the Riviera its well-earned name.



Devon Delights

From our base in one of the UK's oldest boroughs, Barnstaple, we enjoy the delightful South Devon Railway, a beautiful Abbey, and a Cream Tea Cruise.



Royal & Fortescue Hotel, Barnstaple

Barnstaple is full of historic finds, and one of its most special architectural gems is the beautiful Georgian building which houses the Royal & Fortescue. Ancient meets modern at this relaxed and comfortable hotel with its classic boutique styling and warm, friendly ambience. Smart lounges, a sleek bar and stunning bistro complete the experience. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift but there may be steps to some bedrooms.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Hartland Abbey & Gardens & Bideford
- ◆ Arlington Court & National Trust Carriage Museum & Lynton
- ◆ Ilfracombe & Barnstaple

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Hartland Abbey is the cherished home of the Stucley family and although it was built in the 12th Century, remaining as a monastery for 400 years, and passing through the female line three times, it has never been sold. Consequently, it contains collections of pictures, furniture and porcelain which have accumulated over many generations. The story of the Abbey mirrors local and natural history at every turn. It has a friendly and lived-in atmosphere, so often absent in many of our nation's historic houses. Later, we visit Bideford, the perfect place for a spot of retail therapy. Take some time to explore the narrow backstreets and alleyways linking the quay and the river, you'll find many antique shops scattered around.
- ◆ Arlington Court and the National Trust Carriage Museum is an intriguing Regency house and impressive collection of horse-drawn vehicles, set in a picturesque garden. The house is an unexpected jewel, a complete family estate held by the Chichester family for over 500 years. There's a formal garden with herbaceous borders, a fountain, walled kitchen garden and conservatory growing exotic plants from around the world. The Carriage Museum in the Stables has a vehicle for every occasion ranging from elegant coaches used for state occasions to humble carts that would have carried servants. Enjoy a tasty treat, warm drink or light bite from our tea room, situated in what were once Arlington Court Kitchens. Later, we visit Lynton. Explore Lynton's charming old town with great cafes, restaurants and shops tucked away in the winding streets. These charming old streets are hiding some wonderful secrets, pubs with beer gardens, cafes with outdoor seating local shops and artisan treats, even a gym and a library!
- ◆ Enjoy a leisurely morning in Barnstaple, one of the UK's oldest boroughs. One of the most famous heritage attractions is the historic Pannier Market, flanked by Butcher's Row, a terrace of 10 shops under an iron roof, which as the name suggests, historically was the location of a number of butchers. Later, we visit Ilfracombe with its picturesque historic harbour of quaint, pastel-coloured houses, 14th Century chapel perched on Lantern Hill and Damien Hirst's statue Verity standing guard at the entrance.

Derwent Hotel

Situated close to the seafront, The Derwent Hotel offers easy access to the town centre, via the Promenade. All the en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. As part of the Torquay Leisure Hotel Group, guests at The Derwent can take advantage of a range of leisure facilities. The hotel has a lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Steam Train from Paignton to Kingswear
- ◆ Ferry to Dartmouth & Free Time
- ◆ House of Marbles, Dartmoor & Tavistock
- ◆ Totnes & Plymouth
- ◆ 1 x Free Day in Resort

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel to Paignton and join the Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Company for our train journey to Kingswear. This is one of the finest steam train trips in the country along the coast of Torbay through stunning Devon countryside and overlooking the River Dart. At Kingswear, we join the ferry to Dartmouth for some free time before we re-join our coach for the journey back to Torquay.
- ◆ First stop is the House of Marbles – makers and purveyors of a world-famous range of glass marbles, board games, classic toys, puzzles pastimes, & decorative accessories for the home and garden. From here, we cross mysterious Dartmoor on our way to Tavistock, a beautifully friendly market town, home of the cream tea and the only town in Devon to hold world heritage status.
- ◆ Totnes is a postcard-pretty, bustling town with a lively independent shop and café scene unfolding in the shadow of the impressive Totnes Castle. From here, we continue to Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City. This vibrant 'waterfront city' has a wealth of attractions. In the Elizabethan Barbican, where history comes alive, there's the Mayflower Steps where the Pilgrims set sail for America and Plymouth Gin Distillery. The modern pedestrianised City Centre, with its floral displays and water features is a delight for shoppers. At Plymouth Hoe you can climb up Smeaton's Tower Lighthouse to enjoy the best views of Plymouth, overlooking the art-deco style Tinside Lido and Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 28th April 2024	6 Days	£429 pp	NIL	£35

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 5th May 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£80	£29

Sandbanks

Sandbanks, a small peninsula on the Dorset coast contains some of the most expensive houses and land in the country. In fact, Sandbanks is becoming as famous for its well-known residents and lavish lifestyles of some of its occupants as it is for its beach!



© 2022 Exbury Gardens Ltd

The Sandbanks Hotel

Perched in one of England's most enviable seaside locations, the Sandbanks Hotel is a relaxed place to stay, with direct access to the world-famous Sandbanks Beach with seven miles of prestigious Blue Flag awarded sand to get between your toes! The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Poole Harbour & Islands Cruise and Poole Historic Quayside
- ◆ Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway and Christchurch

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ A Poole Harbour & Islands Circular Cruise this morning will allow us fantastic views from the open deck as we pass picturesque Brownsea Island, Sandbanks Peninsula, Studland Bay, and more. With live commentary from the Captain, you're guaranteed not to miss a thing. Later, enjoy a heady mix of old and new in quirky Poole quayside, with ancient buildings, cobbled streets and salt-washed fishing boats, luxury Sunseeker yachts, boutique shopping and alfresco dining.
- ◆ Dorset's Christchurch offers two delightful rivers to walk along, two historic quays to discover and two castles to explore. The historic Priory Church & Castle ruins help give an olde world charm to the attractive, bustling town centre with its range of independent shops, and wonderful choice of foods and restaurants. Later, we visit Exbury Gardens and Steam Railway, celebrating more than 100 years of horticultural excellence. Exbury's glorious gardens, designed and curated by the de Rothschild family, have the power to delight and inspire in equal measure. This spectacular collection of landscaped woodland, herbaceous, contemporary, formal and wildflower gardens provide an ever-changing palette of colour that will entice you back to witness the seasons unfold. During our visit, we experience the sights and sounds of a working narrow-gauge steam railway by stepping aboard The Rhododendron Line. The beautiful narrow-gauge engines depart from replica Victorian station Exbury Central and travel through a tunnel, over a bridge, around the Dragonfly Pond and through the Summer Lane Garden.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 6th May 2024	5 Days	£599 pp	£46	£29

Sidmouth

Sidmouth is probably the most unspoilt resort in the country and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful. Quiet and unhurried, Sidmouth has preserved the natural beauty of the countryside with colourful gardens, open spaces, and tree-covered hills.



© Flickr - muffinn

Royal York & Faulkner Hotel

The Royal York & Faulkner is a fine example of Regency architecture and forms a modern, spacious hotel. Situated in an unrivalled position at the centre of the Esplanade, the hotel directly overlooks the sea and is adjacent to the picturesque shopping centre. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, Aspara Spa with Hydrotherapy Pool, sauna & steam cabin, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Seaton Tramway with Cream Tea & Lyme Regis
- ◆ Bicton Park Botanical Gardens & Topsham

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The Seaton Tramway takes us through 3 miles of unspoilt countryside along the beautiful Axe Valley. Seaton Tramway operates narrow gauge trams between Seaton, Coleford, and Colyton in East Devon's glorious Axe Valley travelling alongside the River Axe Estuary through two nature reserves and giving an unrivalled view of the abundant wading birdlife. At Colyton Station, we enjoy a delicious Cream Tea before taking the tram back to Seaton. Later, we visit Lyme Regis, a pretty seaside resort with breath-taking scenery.
- ◆ Bicton Park Botanical Gardens has over 64 acres to explore. Spanning nearly 300 years of gardening history, the park is home to many rare and beautiful species, collected from around the world. The Palm House is made from over 18,000 panes of glass hosting many Palms. Enjoy coffee or tea overlooking the Italian Garden, explore the arboretum, while away the time in the bird hide, ride the Bicton Woodland Railway for an overview of the park and explore the countryside museum containing a huge collection from bygone days. Later, we visit Topsham, a quaint historic town with a cosmopolitan atmosphere and eclectic cluster of specialist shops and fine restaurants and pubs.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Tuesday 7th May 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	NIL	£29

Beautiful South Downs & West Sussex

One of the UK's most diverse counties, West Sussex covers both coast and the South Downs National Park, encompassing hills, harbours, farmland, and market towns. From stately homes to breath-taking beaches, the area is full of gems to discover.



© Weald & Downland Museum

The Beachcroft Hotel

This renovated hotel is proudly located on the beach front, in the seaside resort of Bognor Regis. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, beach terrace, and swimming pool. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms may be available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Weald & Downland Living Museum (Home of The Repair Shop) and Chichester
- ◆ Arundel Castle & Historic Arundel

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The Weald & Downland Living Museum, home of the BBC's Repair Shop, is a hidden gem. Be part of something historic and discover Sussex rural history through the seasons, in the heart of the picturesque South Downs. See what rural living was like with over 1,000 years of history to explore, and over 50 relocated historic houses covering the 40-acre site. Later, we visit the Roman cathedral city of Chichester. It has a plethora of grade II listed buildings, and the city is mostly pedestrianised making it a safe and spacious shopping experience.
- ◆ Arundel Castle's story begins in 1067 and continues to the present day. Many of the original features such as the Norman Keep, medieval Gatehouse and Barbican survive. Learn from friendly guides about the finely preserved interior with its fascinating furniture, tapestries, and rare collection of paintings by renowned artists, including Van Dyck, Gainsborough, and Canaletto. Stroll through the tranquil grounds where you will discover glorious gardens to explore – beautiful award-winning Tropical & English Gardens, the quirky Stumpery, and the abundant Kitchen Garden. Discover warm Glasshouses with chillis, grapes and lemons, and immerse yourself in the fragrance of the Rose Garden and enjoy the tranquillity of the Fitzalan Chapel's White Garden. Once your visit is complete, visit Arundel's historic town centre, with its museum, galleries, shops, and restaurants – just 500m from the main entrance.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 13th May 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£95	£29

Somerset Splendour

Somerset boasts five areas of outstanding natural beauty and the Exmoor National Park along with a varied coastline including long sandy beaches, rugged cliffs, and traditional harbours. Hidden gems are waiting to be found and we hope you enjoy our pick of the best.



© Flickr - Simon Ingram

Mercure Bridgewater Hotel

The Mercure Bridgewater Hotel is conveniently set in the heart of the historic town, making it easy for guests to get around. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ City of Wells & Thatcher's Cider Tour & Tasting
- ◆ West Somerset Railway from Bishop's Lydeard to Minehead
- ◆ Bristol & Weston-Super-Mare

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ With its historic centre, magnificent Cathedral, unique Vicar's Close, moated Bishop's Palace, and its wonderful independent shops, Britain's smallest City – Wells – is a brilliant place to visit. Later, we visit Thatcher's Cider, made on Myrtle Farm since 1904 by four generations dedicated to the craft. With a fifth generation waiting in the wings, there's been a lot of change over the years, but one thing remains constant: cider making is our pride & joy. On our tour, learn about how we've been making cider in Somerset for over 115 years. You'll see how times have changed and no doubt you'll hear a story or two about the Thatcher family. And of course, you'll also get the chance to try the ciders too!
- ◆ We join the West Somerset Railway at Bishop's Lydeard for our journey along 20 miles of heritage railway through stunning Somerset countryside and coast to Minehead. The remainder of the day is free here to explore. There are beaches to explore, a fishing quarter and an historic harbour. There's a 14th Century church on the hill and the much-photographed historic church steps. Take a walk down the tree-lined Avenue and visit the selection of tea rooms, pubs and independent shops in the town centre.
- ◆ A mix of seaside & city today with our first stop being Bristol. If there ever was a city with a story to tell, it's Bristol. Enveloped in the hills of South West England, it has developed an unmistakable identity and fiercely independent spirit, forged by its passionate locals. Devour the feast of food and drink that covers sumptuous street food, superstar chefs & everything in between. Shopping in Bristol is top class, from retail giants to quirky independents. Later, we make a stop at Weston-Super-Mare. Enjoy almost 2 miles of beach with a flat promenade running alongside it, and the town centre with its independent shops, cafes, and bars is nestled within a few steps.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 16th May 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£80	£29

The Isle of Portland & Dorset

Portland is a part of Dorset like no other; wild, natural and ruggedly beautiful. This unique, tied island marks the southernmost point on the Jurassic Coast and is joined to the mainland by Chesil Beach. Its isolated location, quaint villages, and rocky, coastal scenery give the island its own special atmosphere.



The Heights Hotel

The Heights Hotel is set at the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Coastline on the summit of the Isle of Portland, Dorset. There are stunning panoramic views over Chesil Beach, Lyme Bay and Portland Harbour from the Bar & Bistro. The hotel has a lift. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, radio, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Weymouth & 'Portland Bill'
- ◆ Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens & West Bay
- ◆ Durdle Door & Lulworth Cove
- ◆ Tank Museum with Cream Tea

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We stop at 'Portland Bill' Lighthouse Visitor Centre. The former lighthouse keepers' dwellings feature fun and informative maritime displays and interactives. The rest of the day is at leisure in nearby Weymouth, with its beautiful golden beaches and a pretty harbour. The world was introduced to the Georgian grandeur of Weymouth during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Weymouth's fine seafront provided an impressive backdrop to the sailing events and captured the hearts of many.
- ◆ Start the day with a visit to Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens – a mixture of formal and informal flowers, world-famous for its Camellia groves and magnolias. It is also noted in Dorset for its Rhododendron and Hydrangea collections and the charming Victorian Garden. Later, we visit West Bay, 'Broadchurch' in the TV drama. With delightful beaches and a wonderful selection of places to eat around the Harbour, West Bay is a favourite destination for visitors.
- ◆ We take in the famous Jurassic Coast with a visit to East and West Lulworth, where the scenery is stunning, boasting some of the most dramatic geological features including Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. Later, we enjoy an unforgettable visit at the world's most historically significant collection of armoured vehicles. The museum houses 300 military machines, representing the key battles of every major conflict since the First World War. The awe-inspiring exhibitions tell the story of this British invention; from the mud of the Somme to the beaches of Normandy and the deserts of Iraq – featuring powerful stories from the people that fought in them.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 20th May 2024	5 Days	£489 pp	£140	£29

Enchanting Exmouth

Our base for this tour is the lively town of Exmouth, situated on the east coast of Devon where the River Exe meets the sea. The town offers a diverse selection of shops, places to eat and things to do. The beach is just the beginning



© www.geograph.org.uk - Christine Matthews

Royal Beacon Hotel, Exmouth

With spectacular views of the Jurassic Coast this charming hotel is an elegant landmark in Exmouth. Sensitively decorated in a contemporary regency style, the ideals of comfort and relaxation are a priority here. The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cruise from Exmouth to Torquay and return
- ◆ Bicton Park Botanical Gardens & Sidmouth
- ◆ Exmouth

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ There are over 64-acres to explore at Bicton Park Botanical Gardens, spanning nearly 300 years of gardening history. The Palm House is made from over 18,000 panes of glass and plays host to many palms, Tropical House, Arid House, and Temperate House. Explore the arboretum and while away time in the bird hide. Ride the Bicton Woodland Railway for an oversight of the park or visit the countryside museum containing a huge collection of bygone days. Later, we visit the Regency town of Sidmouth – a place that it easy to find and hard to leave. Hidden in plain view along the beautiful Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sidmouth is a seaside town like no other.
- ◆ We join Stuart Line Cruises in Exmouth for our Day Trip to Torquay. We cruise across to the South Devon coastline past exclusive coves and bays only visible from the water. This stretch of shoreline is renowned for its diversity of rocks and formations, some dating back over 150 million years. Rounding the corner, we sail into Torbay and the lively town of Torquay, full of cafes, restaurants, high street shops and big attractions. We enjoy 2-3 hours here before cruising back to Exmouth and our hotel.
- ◆ We have a free day in the lovely town of Exmouth situated on the east coast of Devon where the River Exe meets the sea. The town offers a diverse selection of shops places to eat and things to do. The beach is just the beginning

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 20th May 2024	5 Days	£419 pp	£120	£29

Isle of Wight

Boasting award-winning beaches, unspoilt and spectacular scenery, and a rich, historical heritage, the Isle of Wight has something for everyone to enjoy. Discover picturesque villages, spectacular cliffs, and sandy beaches. Our base in Sandown, a traditional seaside resort with long stretches of beach and a Victorian pier.



© Flickr - Michael Gaylard

The Trouville Hotel

Situated centrally on Sandown's seafront, opposite the golden beach, and with views over the sweep of Sandown & Shanklin Bay, is the Trouville Hotel. Well-appointed, en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, ballroom, function room, and some live entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Osborne House & Cowes
- ◆ Godshill, Alum Bay & The Needles
- ◆ Ventnor Botanic Garden & Shanklin
- ◆ Wight Military & Heritage Museum & Ryde

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ 'It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot' said Queen Victoria of Osborne House, her palatial holiday home. Visit Victoria & Albert's private apartments, their bathing beach and children's play cottage for an intimate glimpse of royal family life. Weather permitting, stroll through the garden terraces where the stunning views across the Solent reminded Prince Albert of the Bay of Naples. We also visit Cowes, home to the oldest and biggest sailing regatta in the world. Stroll through the vibrant town and enjoy independent shops and well-known yachting clothing stores, sit at a pavement café, or have lunch and people watch.
- ◆ Godshill is the quintessential English village and boasts some of the oldest architecture on the Isle of Wight. With its delightful medieval church and winding main street lined with traditional tea rooms, Godshill is as picturesque as it is popular. We also visit Alum Bay for views of The Needles, one of the most photographed groups of rocks in the world.
- ◆ Ventnor Botanic Garden is a great place to visit. When the sun is shining you can walk the Gardens and enjoy the colourful flowers in bloom. In inclement weather, you can spend time looking at the regular displays and exhibitions taking place in the Garden Gallery and warm up in the café with a hot cup of tea, or step into the Temperate House. Later, we visit Shanklin which has all the charm of a proper seaside town and set against the dramatic sandstone cliffs, the beach is one of the most stunning walks to take on the island. We visit the Old Village with its independent shops, restaurants, and pubs, you won't be short of something to do!
- ◆ The Wight Military & Heritage Museum offers guided tours by volunteers who, with their varied experiences and anecdotes, really contribute to the enjoyment of the displays. This is a museum that brings together items and, most importantly, people from all walks of life and backgrounds. Later, we visit Ryde. Paul McCartney recently confirmed what the town already 'knew' ... The Beatles hit Ticket to Ride was inspired by a trip to Ryde made by Macca and John Lennon in the early sixties! It's a fantastic place that combines shopping centres, golden sands and creative hearts.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 2nd June 2024	7 Days	£619 pp	NIL	£35

North Devon Delights

Step into North Devon where you'll find Tarka Country, little changed since Henry Williamson wrote his famous novel, Tarka the Otter. The region is full of golden sandy beaches, amazing attractions, great local food and drink and a wealth of cultural experiences just waiting to be discovered.



Royal Hotel, Bideford

Standing proudly by Bideford Bridge, and with glorious views over the River Torridge, The Royal Hotel has a history dating back to the golden age of the 17th Century when Bideford was the busiest port in North Devon. Today, this hotel oozes charm and character whilst offering fabulous comfort and exceptional cuisine. The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ RHS Garden Rosemoor & Bideford
- ◆ Woolacombe & Ilfracombe
- ◆ Lynton & Lynmouth

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ There is something for everyone in Ilfracombe with its picturesque historic harbour of quaint pastel-coloured houses, 14th Century chapel perched on Lantern Hill and Damien Hirst's statue Verity standing guard at the entrance surrounded by dramatic clifftop scenery. Explore great eateries numerous art & craft galleries, and independent shops before we move on to Woolacombe in the afternoon with time to blow away the cobwebs and maybe enjoy an ice cream on the beach.
- ◆ Lynton & Lynmouth is a picturesque coastal resort located in North Devon. Explore Lynton's charming old town with great cafes, restaurants and shops tucked away in the winding streets. These charming old streets are hiding some wonderful secrets, pubs with beer gardens, cafes with outdoor seating local shops and artisan treats, even a gym and a library! Enjoy strolling along Lynmouth Street browsing through the fabulous array of shops selling arts and crafts, leather goods and clothing, interior decorations, and other objects of desire. If you're feeling peckish then there's a great selection of cafes and tearooms where you can enjoy excellent homemade cakes, tea, and coffee.
- ◆ RHS Garden Rosemoor is rich in horticultural heritage and could be said to have two faces: one designed more recently by RHS and the other created over time. Highlights include The Rose Gardens, The Long Borders, The Hot Garden, The Cool Garden, The Model Gardens, and The Exotic Garden. We return to Bideford for a little free time. Take some time to explore the narrow backstreets and alleyways linking the quay and the river, you'll find many antique shops scattered around.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 9th June 2024	5 Days	£509 pp	£80	£29

Dorset & A Sea Train Adventure

Escape the hurley burley of modern life and let loose in Dorset - where memories are made! Holidays in Dorset will open your eyes to a county of contrasts, offering the best countryside, coastline and ancient ruins.



Marsham Court Hotel

The Marsham Court Hotel offers high-quality accommodation in a wonderful location edging the beautiful Dorset coastline and sparkling sea at Bournemouth. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, iron, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and swimming pool.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Return Cruise Poole Harbour to Swanage
- ◆ Return Journey on the Swanage Railway – Swanage to Corfe Castle
- ◆ Bucklers Hard with River Cruise
- ◆ Salisbury & Shaftesbury
- ◆ Lymington & Lyndhurst

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The highlight of our tour – our coach will take us to Poole for our cruise through Poole Harbour, down the Jurassic Coast to Victorian Pier and town of Swanage. Walk through the beautiful town of Swanage to the train station in time to catch the steam train on the Swanage Railway, taking us through picturesque Purbeck and on to the idyllic village of Corfe. Enjoy a little free time before we take the train back to Swanage, then the boat to Poole Harbour where we re-join our coach.
- ◆ We visit Salisbury, the Cathedral City of ageless beauty and captivating history, welcoming travellers since 1227. Gathered around the Cathedral is a modern medieval city, full of buildings crafted with the care of another age. The historic Charter Market takes place every Tuesday in the heart of bustling Market Place. Later, we head to Shaftesbury, home to Gold Hill made famous by the 'Hovis' advert.
- ◆ Lymington is a colourful coastal town with an ancient seaport with a rich maritime history. Later, we visit Lyndhurst, known as the 'capital of the New Forest'. Along the High Street you will find a variety of independent shops, many offering souvenirs or local crafts.
- ◆ On the banks of the Beaulieu River, in the heart of the new Forest, you will find the unspoilt haven of Buckler's Hard which remains untouched by the passage of time. From the wide high street to the woodland trail, explore the peaceful haven of Buckler's Hard Village. Visit the Museum and discover the role Buckler's Hard played in Britain's shipbuilding history and learn about the vessels built here for Nelson's Navy. Step through the door of the shipwright's cottage to see how the shipwright and their family lived in the 18th Century. Weather permitting, we also take a tranquil boat trip down the beautiful Beaulieu River as fascinating commentary reveals its history.

Cornish Delights

Cornwall is on a beautiful peninsula tumbling into the vast Atlantic Ocean, almost completely surrounded by the sea. Cornwall is loved for its dramatic coastlines, captivating fishing harbours, and of course, its pasties and cream teas!



The Rosemudy House Hotel

This elegant 3-star standard hotel is set in over 4 acres of secluded gardens and woodlands and yet only 100 yards from the main street in the quaint village of St Agnes. The Queen Ann style hotel is family run and has been tastefully extended and converted. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, lounge, bar, and some evening entertainment. Sorry, there is no lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ St Ives & Porthleven
- ◆ Eden Project
- ◆ Lost Gardens of Heligan & Mevagissey

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Eden Project is a feast for the senses that can be experienced in so many different ways. Explore the Rainforest Biome, an enormous indoor rainforest where you can trek through the humid tropics via SE Asia, West Africa and South America. In the Mediterranean Biome, experience sights, scents, and stories from the Mediterranean, California South Africa, and Western Australia. Explore the world beyond our senses in the Invisible Worlds Exhibition in the Core building. Stroll through the vast outdoor gardens, home to over 20 plant-based exhibits, colourful seasonal borders, art installations, and play areas.
- ◆ St Ives – the dazzling jewel in Cornwall's crown is a picturesque fishing harbour and seaside town. Wander through the maze of narrow cobbled streets, independent shops, and fishermen's cottages in the heart of St Ives. St Ives has been attracting artists for decades and is a seemingly subtropical oasis where the beaches are golden, the vegetation is lush and the light piercingly bright. Later, we visit Porthleven, the most southerly working port in the UK, boasting a picturesque harbour, with some interesting old buildings. Porthleven retains the character of an unspoilt fishing village with its granite harbour and pier, and famous clock tower.
- ◆ Step back in time a lose yourself in Europe's largest garden restoration; a world of romance, nostalgia, and adventure awaits your discovery. Later, we visit Mevagissey where narrow streets and terraced houses lead down to the centre of old Mevagissey where the distinctive twin harbour provides a safe haven for the many fishing boats that land their daily catch.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 16th June 2024	8 Days	£769 pp	NIL	£35

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Saturday 22nd June 2024	6 Days	£569 pp	NIL	£35

Torquay – The English Riviera

Torquay is an award-winning resort where elegant Victorian villas, a bustling harbour, and palm-fringed beaches give the Riviera its well-earned name.



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Derwent Hotel

Situated close to the seafront, The Derwent Hotel offers easy access to the town centre, via the Promenade. All the en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. As part of the Torquay Leisure Hotel Group, guests at The Derwent can take advantage of a range of leisure facilities. The hotel has a lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Steam Train from Paignton to Kingswear
- ◆ Ferry to Dartmouth & Free Time
- ◆ House of Marbles, Dartmoor & Tavistock
- ◆ Totnes & Plymouth ◆ Topsham & Exeter ◆ 2 x Free Days in Resort

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel to Paignton and join the Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Company for our train journey to Kingswear. This is one of the finest steam train trips in the country along the coast of Torbay through stunning Devon countryside and overlooking the River Dart. At Kingswear, we join the ferry to Dartmouth for some free time before we re-join our coach for the journey back to Torquay.
- ◆ First stop is the House of Marbles – makers and purveyors of a world-famous range of glass marbles, board games, classic toys, puzzles pastimes, & decorative accessories for the home and garden. From here, we cross mysterious Dartmoor on our way to Tavistock, a beautifully friendly market town, home of the cream tea and the only town in Devon to hold world heritage status.
- ◆ Totnes is a postcard-pretty, bustling town with a lively independent shop and café scene unfolding in the shadow of the impressive Totnes Castle. From here, we continue to Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City. This vibrant 'waterfront city' has a wealth of attractions. In the Elizabethan Barbican, where history comes alive, there's the Mayflower Steps where the Pilgrims set sail for America and Plymouth Gin Distillery. The modern pedestrianised City Centre, with its floral displays and water features is a delight for shoppers. At Plymouth Hoe you can climb up Smeaton's Tower Lighthouse to enjoy the best views of Plymouth, overlooking the art-deco style Tinside Lido and Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.
- ◆ The quaint historic port of Topsham has a cosmopolitan atmosphere with an eclectic cluster of specialist shops and fine restaurants. A short stop here, before we continue to Exeter, one of the most vibrant, attractive, and historically interesting cities in England.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 23rd June 2024	8 Days	£599 pp	£NIL	£35

Isle of Wight

Situated just 4 miles from the mainland across the Solent, the Isle of Wight is often described as 'The Garden Isle', the wonderful scenery and attractive resorts make it the perfect place for a relaxing holiday. Enjoying an unreasonable amount of warmth and sunshine, more than half the Isle of Wight has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with 50% of its coastline honoured by the title 'Heritage Coast', an award only given to the finest beaches in the country. Queen Victoria fell in love with the Island and after her first visit to Osborne House pronounced: 'It is impossible to find a prettier spot'.



The Channel View Hotel

The Channel View Hotel overlooks Shanklin Bay and offers a warm welcome, good service, and tasty food. Hotel facilities include a lift to most floors, restaurant, bar, some evening entertainment, an indoor swimming pool and sauna. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Towns of Cowes & Ryde
- ◆ Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- ◆ Picturesque Godshill Village
- ◆ Osborne House – Queen Victoria's Summer Retreat

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Cowes is best known as the world's premier yachting centre and the island's main port with a natural harbour. From here, we travel the short distance to Osborne House, Queen Victoria's palace by the sea. Look out for Victorian opulence, extravagant interiors, and jaw-dropping Indian décor in the Dunbar Room. Osborne was built as a family home and as you walk through the Queen's bedroom, the nursery rooms, and even royal bathrooms, you get an intimate glimpse into royal family life. There are acres of grounds and gardens to relax in, horse and carriage rides to take, and a delightful restaurant and café.
- ◆ We head to Godshill, one of the most photographed and prettiest villages on the Island. There are plenty of cafes, pubs, tearooms, and many beautiful sights to enjoy. Maybe visit the Model Village during our stop. We return to Shanklin for a free afternoon to explore the resort.
- ◆ The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is a beautifully preserved railway with majestic steam trains taking us on a journey through the Island's stunning countryside. Step back to a bygone era when steam power was the order of the day and experience the golden age of travel as you settle back into beautifully restored Victorian and Edwardian carriages with their gleaming brass handles and vintage droplight windows. From here, we head on to the seaside resort of Ryde with long spacious stretches of sandy beach, a thriving independent shopping scene and fabulous eating out. We return to the hotel via the coastal town of Bembridge, with its famous windmill.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd July 2024	5 Days	£599 pp	NIL	£29

Sidmouth

Sidmouth is probably the most unspoilt resort in the country and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful. Quiet and unhurried, Sidmouth has preserved the natural beauty of the countryside with colourful gardens, open spaces, and tree-covered hills.



Royal York & Faulkner Hotel

The Royal York & Faulkner is a fine example of Regency architecture and forms a modern, spacious hotel. Situated in an unrivalled position at the centre of the Esplanade, the hotel directly overlooks the sea and is adjacent to the picturesque shopping centre. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, Aspara Spa with Hydrotherapy Pool, sauna & steam cabin, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Seaton Tramway with Cream Tea & Lyme Regis
- ◆ Bicton Park Botanical Gardens & Topsham
- ◆ Powderham Castle & Budleigh Salterton

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The Seaton Tramway takes us through 3 miles of unspoilt countryside along the beautiful Axe Valley. Seaton Tramway operates narrow gauge trams between Seaton, Coleford, and Colyton in East Devon's glorious Axe Valley travelling alongside the River Axe Estuary through two nature reserves and giving an unrivalled view of the abundant wading birdlife. At Colyton Station, we enjoy a delicious Cream Tea before taking the tram back to Seaton. Later, we visit Lyme Regis, a pretty seaside resort with breath-taking scenery.
- ◆ Bicton Park Botanical Gardens has over 64 acres to explore. Spanning nearly 300 years of gardening history, the park is home to many rare and beautiful species, collected from around the world. The Palm House is made from over 18,000 panes of glass hosting many Palms. Enjoy coffee or tea overlooking the Italian Garden, explore the arboretum, while away the time in the bird hide, ride the Bicton Woodland Railway for an overview of the park and explore the countryside museum containing a huge collection from bygone days. Later, we visit Topsham, a quaint historic town with a cosmopolitan atmosphere and eclectic cluster of specialist shops and fine restaurants and pubs.
- ◆ Powderham Castle is a remarkable place with centuries of stories to share. On our Tour you will see many majestic rooms and hear fascinating stories about the Courtenay family as told by our knowledgeable & engaging guide. The American Garden is a haven of peace & tranquillity, beautiful, secluded, adorned with exotic trees and the gothic summerhouse. The Rose Garden is home to beautiful blooms, with wisteria hanging in all its glory from the Castle's east-facing terrace. The Secret Garden houses a Victorian glasshouse, Pets Corner, and the Courtenay Fort. Later, we visit Budleigh Salterton, a charming resort, overlooked by high cliffs known as The Floors. We return to the hotel via the Otter Valley.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 28th July 2024	6 Days	£669 pp	NIL	£35

Torquay – The English Riviera

Torquay is an award-winning resort where elegant Victorian villas, a bustling harbour, and palm-fringed beaches give the Riviera its well-earned name.



© Visit Exeter

Headland Hotel

An elegant hotel, The Headland sits majestically on the headland, looking out to sea, with 2 acres of lovely grounds with stunning views across Torbay. All the tastefully decorated en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift to most floors, a lounge, bar, restaurant, and entertainment. The Headland Hotel offers a complimentary 'taxi' service into town of your free days.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Steam Train from Paignton to Kingswear
- ◆ Ferry to Dartmouth & Free Time
- ◆ House of Marbles, Dartmoor & Tavistock
- ◆ Totnes & Plymouth ◆ Topsham & Exeter ◆ 2 x Free Days in Resort

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 29th July 2024	8 Days	£739 pp	NIL	£35

Steam, Crafts & Tipples of Somerset

Somerset boasts five areas of outstanding natural beauty and the Exmoor National Park along with a varied coastline including long sandy beaches, rugged cliffs, and traditional harbours. Hidden gems are waiting to be found and we hope you enjoy our pick of the best.



Cornish Delights

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The Rosemundy House Hotel

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ St Ives & Porthleven
- ◆ Eden Project
- ◆ Lost Gardens of Heligan & Mevagissey
- ◆ Newquay & Healey's Cyder Farm

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Eden Project is a feast for the senses that can be experienced in so many different ways. Explore the Rainforest Biome an enormous indoor rainforest where you can trek through the humid tropics via SE Asia, West Africa and South America. In the Mediterranean Biome, experience sights, scents, and stories from the Mediterranean, California South Africa, and Western Australia. Explore the world beyond our senses in the Invisible Worlds Exhibition in the Core building. Stroll through the vast outdoor gardens, home to over 20 plant-based exhibits, colourful seasonal borders, art installations, and play areas.
- ◆ St Ives – the dazzling jewel in Cornwall's crown is a picturesque fishing harbour and seaside town. Wander through the maze of narrow cobbled streets, independent shops, and fishermen's cottages in the heart of St Ives. St Ives has been attracting artists for decades and is a seemingly subtropical oasis where the beaches are golden, the vegetation is lush and the light piercingly bright. Later, we visit Porthleven, the most southerly working port in the UK, boasting a picturesque harbour, with some interesting old buildings. Porthleven retains the character of an unspoilt fishing village with its granite harbour and pier, and famous clock tower.
- ◆ At the Lost Gardens of Heligan, step back in time and lose yourself in Europe's largest garden restoration; a world of romance, nostalgia, and adventure awaits your discovery. Later, we visit Mevagissey where narrow streets and terraced houses lead down to the distinctive twin harbour which provides a safe-haven for the many fishing boats that land their daily catch.
- ◆ Located on Cornwall's Atlantic Coast, Newquay has previously been voted 'One of the nation's favourite seaside towns' and Newquay's laidback charm is here for everyone to enjoy. Later, we visit Healey's Cornish Cyder Farm, home to Cornwall's favourite Rattler Cornish Cloudy Cyder, Traditional Cornish Cream Teas, and makers of England's oldest whiskey.

The Northfield Hotel

The Northfield Hotel Minehead is located on the lower slopes of North Hill in Minehead in nearly 2 acres of landscaped gardens, reputed to have been laid out by Gertrude Jekyll. There are wonderful views from the coast to the Quantocks, Brendon Hills, and Exmoor itself. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, indoor heated swimming pool, gym, and steam room. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Dartington Crystal
- ◆ Sheppy's Cider
- ◆ Lynton & Barnstaple Railway

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ It is market day in Bideford. Browse amongst the farmer's market and enjoy free time exploring this town with its elegant Georgian buildings. Take some time to explore the narrow backstreets and alleyways linking the quay and the river, you'll find many antique shops scattered around. Later, we visit Dartington Crystal to enjoy a behind-the-scenes factory tour. Watch as skilled craftsmen demonstrate how they hand craft glass into luxury homeware items.
- ◆ We visit the county town of Taunton for a little free time. Taunton is a bustling, forward-looking town with a good selection of independent and high street shops, distinctive restaurants, cafes and attractions, and a wealth of history all whilst being surrounded by picturesque countryside. Later, we visit Sheppy's Cider who have been producing cider here since 1917. Enjoy a guided tour of the facility and learn what goes into producing this fine cider before sampling the goods for yourself.
- ◆ After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we travel west to visit the Victorian seaside resort of Ilfracombe, known as the jewel in the north Devon coast. Discover a quaint quayside and harbour, whitewashed villas, lovely beaches, coastal paths, and an abundance of cafes and shops. After lunch, we enjoy a steam ride on the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway. Board heritage carriages as you enjoy a traditional steam ride through the rolling countryside that offers picturesque views of the moorland and rugged coastline.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 29th July 2024	5 Days	£569 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 5th August 2024	8 Days	£769 pp	NIL	£35

Isle of Wight

Boasting award-winning beaches, unspoilt and spectacular scenery, and a rich, historical heritage, the Isle of Wight has something for everyone to enjoy. Discover picturesque villages, spectacular cliffs, and sandy beaches. Our base is in Sandown, a traditional seaside resort with long stretches of beach and a Victorian pier.



© VisitIsleOfWight.co.uk

The Trouville Hotel

Situated centrally on Sandown's seafront, opposite the golden beach, and with views over the sweep of Sandown & Shanklin Bay, is the Trouville Hotel. Well-appointed, en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, ballroom, function room, and some live entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Osborne House & Cowes
- ◆ Godshill, Alum Bay & The Needles
- ◆ Ventnor Botanic Gardens & Shanklin
- ◆ Wight Military & Heritage Museum & Ryde

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ 'It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot' said Queen Victoria of Osborne House, her palatial holiday home. Visit Victoria & Albert's private apartments, their bathing beach and children's play cottage for an intimate glimpse of royal family life. Weather permitting, stroll through the garden terraces where the stunning views across the Solent reminded Prince Albert of the Bay of Naples. We also visit Cowes, home to the oldest and biggest sailing regatta in the world. Stroll through the vibrant town and enjoy independent shops and well-known yachting clothing stores, sit at a pavement café, or have lunch and people watch.
- ◆ Godshill is the quintessential English village and boasts some of the oldest architecture on the Isle of Wight. With its delightful medieval church and winding main street lined with traditional tea rooms, Godshill is as picturesque as it is popular. We also visit Alum Bay for views of The Needles, one of the most photographed groups of rocks in the world.
- ◆ Ventnor Botanic Garden is a great place to visit. When the sun is shining you can walk the Gardens and enjoy the colourful flowers in bloom. In inclement weather, you can spend time looking at the regular displays and exhibitions taking place in the Garden Gallery and warm up in the café with a hot cup of tea, or step into the Temperate House. Later, we visit Shanklin which has all the charm of a proper seaside town and set against the dramatic sandstone cliffs, the beach is one of the most stunning walks to take on the island. We visit the Old Village with its independent shops, restaurants, and pubs, you won't be short of something to do!
- ◆ The Wight Military & Heritage Museum offers guided tours by volunteers who, with their varied experiences and anecdotes, really contribute to the enjoyment of the displays. This is a museum that brings together items and, most importantly, people from all walks of life and backgrounds. Later, we visit Ryde. Paul McCartney recently confirmed what the town already 'knew' ... The Beatles hit Ticket to Ride was inspired by a trip to Ryde made by Macca and John Lennon in the early sixties! It's a fantastic place that combines shopping centres, golden sands and creative hearts.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Tuesday 6th August 2024	7 Days	£629 pp	NIL	£35

North Devon Delights

Step into North Devon where you'll find Tarka Country, little changed since Henry Williamson wrote his famous novel, Tarka the Otter. The region is full of golden sandy beaches, amazing attractions, great local food and drink and a wealth of cultural experiences just waiting to be discovered.



Royal Hotel, Bideford

Standing proudly by Bideford Bridge, and with glorious views over the River Torridge, The Royal Hotel has a history dating back to the golden age of the 17th Century when Bideford was the busiest port in North Devon. Today, this hotel oozes charm and character whilst offering fabulous comfort and exceptional cuisine. The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ RHS Garden Rosemoor & Bideford
- ◆ Woolacombe & Ilfracombe
- ◆ Lynton & Lynmouth

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ There is something for everyone in Ilfracombe with its picturesque historic harbour of quaint pastel-coloured houses, 14th Century chapel perched on Lantern Hill and Damien Hirst's statue Verity standing guard at the entrance surrounded by dramatic clifftop scenery. Explore great eateries, numerous art & craft galleries, and independent shops before we move on to Woolacombe in the afternoon with time to blow away the cobwebs and maybe enjoy an ice cream on the beach.
- ◆ Lynton & Lynmouth is a picturesque coastal resort located in North Devon. Explore Lynton's charming old town with great cafes, restaurants and shops tucked away in the winding streets. These charming old streets are hiding some wonderful secrets, pubs with beer gardens, cafes with outdoor seating local shops and artisan treats, even a gym and a library! Enjoy strolling along Lynmouth Street browsing through the fabulous array of shops selling arts and crafts, leather goods and clothing, interior decorations, and other objects of desire. If you're feeling peckish then there's a great selection of cafes and tearooms where you can enjoy excellent homemade cakes, tea, and coffee.
- ◆ RHS Garden Rosemoor is rich in horticultural heritage and could be said to have two faces: one designed more recently by RHS and the other created over time. Highlights include The Rose Gardens, The Long Borders, The Hot Garden, The Cool Garden, The Model Gardens, and The Exotic Garden. We return to Bideford for a little free time. Take some time to explore the narrow backstreets and alleyways linking the quay and the river, you'll find many antique shops scattered around.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 11th August 2024	5 Days	£509 pp	£80	£29

Sunblessed Somerset Secrets

Myths, legends and unequalled traditions abound in sunlit Somerset. Uncover the influence of generations on a journey through vivid shards of sunlight into hazy, lazy Somerset country. Star of BBC Gardener's World, land-inspired working estate The Newt will delight the senses, Simply the best Cheddar Cheese welcomes you, a private tour at 900-year-old Cistercian Forde Abbey Gardens will reveal stunning flower displays, and the West Somerset Railway provides some nostalgia.



© Flickr - Luc LOYEZ

Mercure Bridgewater Hotel

The Mercure Bridgewater Hotel is conveniently set in the heart of the historic town, making it easy for guests to get around. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ West Somerset Railway
- ◆ Forde Abbey & Gardens Private House & Garden Tour
- ◆ Cheddar Cheese Making Demonstration & Tasting
- ◆ The Newt in Somerset – Meet & Greet with Private Garden Tour

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We meet the team producing the finest hand-made authentic cheddar cheese available today. Taste the piquant produce and see how it is made using the produce of dairy herds fed on lush green pastures and time-honoured traditions. Nestled at the foot of beautiful cliffs in the heart of one of Britain's most spectacular natural landmarks, The Original Cheddar Cheese Company was founded in the year 1870 by the local Cheddar merchant William Small and his family and has been family-run ever since. We return to the hotel via Wells with its historic centre, magnificent Cathedral, and unique moated Bishop's Palace.
- ◆ The West Somerset Railway is England's longest 'heritage' railway and the longest standard gauge steam railway in Britain. Journey back in time on board an authentic heritage steam train or vintage diesel train from yesteryear. Embark upon the 20-mile, 75-minute journey from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead through the most varied countryside in Britain. Along the way, the trains pass through the Quantock Hills, and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the coastline between Exmoor and the Bristol Channel.
- ◆ An exclusive private tour of 900-year-old Cistercian monastery Forde Abbey and 30-acre award-winning gardens is an eye-opener to a rich and varied past, as you walk as monks would once have done in what is a largely unchanged and still overwhelmingly monastic exquisite estate, boasting a Centenary Fountain, arboretum, and 'bog' garden. We also enjoy an exclusive Meet & Greet and private garden tour at The Newt in Somerset, which will provide an insight to 'A Slice of the Good Life' where a passionate team of farmers, gardeners, butchers, bakers, cheesemakers, chefs and cider makers combine on a working estate to produce a feast for the senses, all set among stunning gardens, woodland, farmland and cider orchards.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 29th August 2024	5 Days	£569 pp	£80	£29

The Isle of Portland & Dorset

Portland is a part of Dorset like no other; wild, natural and ruggedly beautiful. This unique, tied island marks the southernmost point on the Jurassic Coast and is joined to the mainland by Chesil Beach. Its isolated location, quaint villages, and rocky, coastal scenery give the island its own special atmosphere.



© Flickr - Alison Day

The Heights Hotel

The Heights Hotel is set at the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Coastline on the summit of the Isle of Portland, Dorset. There are stunning panoramic views over Chesil Beach, Lyme Bay and Portland Harbour from the Bar & Bistro. The hotel has a lift. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, radio, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Weymouth & 'Portland Bill'
- ◆ Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens & West Bay
- ◆ Durdle Door & Lulworth Cove
- ◆ Tank Museum with Cream Tea

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We stop at 'Portland Bill' Lighthouse Visitor Centre. The former lighthouse keepers' dwellings feature fun and informative maritime displays and interactives. The rest of the day is at leisure in nearby Weymouth, with its beautiful golden beaches and a pretty harbour. The world was introduced to the Georgian grandeur of Weymouth during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Weymouth's fine seafront provided an impressive backdrop to the sailing events and captured the hearts of many.
- ◆ Start the day with a visit to Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens – a mixture of formal and informal flowers, world-famous for its Camellia groves and magnolias. It is also noted in Dorset for its Rhododendron and Hydrangea collections and the charming Victorian Garden.. Later, we visit West Bay, 'Broadchurch' in the TV drama. With delightful beaches and a wonderful selection of places to eat around the Harbour, West Bay is a favourite destination for visitors.
- ◆ We take in the famous Jurassic Coast with a visit to East and West Lulworth, where the scenery is stunning, boasting some of the most dramatic geological features including Lulworth Cove and Durdle Door. Later, we enjoy an unforgettable visit at the world's most historically significant collection of armoured vehicles. The museum houses 300 military machines, representing the key battles of every major conflict since the First World War. The awe-inspiring exhibitions tell the story of this British invention; from the mud of the Somme to the beaches of Normandy and the deserts of Iraq – featuring powerful stories from the stories that fought in them.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 16th September 2024	5 Days	£489 pp	£140	£29

Devon Delights

From our base in one of the UK's oldest boroughs, Barnstaple, we enjoy the delightful South Devon Railway, a beautiful Abbey, and a Cream Tea Cruise.



Royal & Fortescue Hotel, Barnstaple

Barnstaple is full of historic finds, and one of its most special architectural gems is the beautiful Georgian building which houses the Royal & Fortescue. Ancient meets modern at this relaxed and comfortable hotel with its classic boutique styling and warm, friendly ambience. Smart lounges, a sleek bar and stunning bistro complete the experience. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift but there may be steps to some bedrooms.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Hartland Abbey & Gardens & Bideford
- ◆ Arlington Court & National Trust Carriage Museum & Lynton
- ◆ Ilfracombe & Barnstaple

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Hartland Abbey is the cherished home of the Stucley family and although it was built in the 12th Century, remaining as a monastery for 400 years, and passing through the female line three times, it has never been sold. Consequently, it contains collections of pictures, furniture and porcelain which have accumulated over many generations. The story of the Abbey mirrors local and natural history at every turn. It has a friendly and lived-in atmosphere, so often absent in many of our nation's historic houses. Later, we visit Bideford, the perfect place for a spot of retail therapy. Take some time to explore the narrow backstreets and alleyways linking the quay and the river, you'll find many antique shops scattered around.
- ◆ Arlington Court and the National Trust Carriage Museum is an intriguing Regency house and impressive collection of horse-drawn vehicles, set in a picturesque garden. The house is an unexpected jewel, a complete family estate held by the Chichester family for over 500 years. There's a formal garden with herbaceous borders, a fountain, walled kitchen garden and conservatory growing exotic plants from around the world. The Carriage Museum in the Stables has a vehicle for every occasion ranging from elegant coaches used for state occasions to humble carts that would have carried servants. Enjoy a tasty treat, warm drink or light bite from our tea room, situated in what were once Arlington Court Kitchens. Later, we visit Lynton. Explore Lynton's charming old town with great cafes, restaurants and shops tucked away in the winding streets. These charming old streets are hiding some wonderful secrets, pubs with beer gardens, cafes with outdoor seating, local shops and artisan treats, even a gym and a library!
- ◆ Enjoy a leisurely morning in Barnstaple, one of the UK's oldest boroughs. One of the most famous heritage attractions is the historic Pannier Market, flanked by Butcher's Row, a terrace of 10 shops under an iron roof, which as the name suggests, historically was the location of a number of butchers. Later, we visit Ilfracombe with its picturesque historic harbour of quaint, pastel-coloured houses, 14th Century chapel perched on Lantern Hill and Damien Hirst's statue Verity standing guard at the entrance.

Sandbanks

Sandbanks, a small peninsula on the Dorset coast contains some of the most expensive houses and land in the country. In fact, Sandbanks is becoming as famous for its well-known residents and lavish lifestyles of some of its occupants as it is for its beach!



The Sandbanks Hotel

Perched in one of England's most enviable seaside locations, the Sandbanks Hotel is a relaxed place to stay, with direct access to the world-famous Sandbanks Beach with seven miles of prestigious Blue Flag awarded sand to get between your toes! The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Poole Harbour & Islands Cruise and Poole Historic Quayside
- ◆ Exbury Gardens & Steam Railway and Christchurch

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ A Poole Harbour & Islands Circular Cruise this morning will allow us fantastic views from the open deck as we pass picturesque Brownsea Island, Sandbanks Peninsula, Studland Bay, and more. With live commentary from the Captain, you're guaranteed not to miss a thing. Later, enjoy a heady mix of old and new in quirky Poole quayside, with ancient buildings, cobbled streets and salt-washed fishing boats, luxury Sunseeker yachts, boutique shopping and alfresco dining.
- ◆ Dorset's Christchurch offers two delightful rivers to walk along, two historic quays to discover and two castles to explore. The historic Priory Church & Castle ruins help give an olde world charm to the attractive, bustling town centre with its range of independent shops, and wonderful choice of foods and restaurants. Later, we visit Exbury Gardens and Steam Railway, celebrating more than 100 years of horticultural excellence. Exbury's glorious gardens, designed and curated by the de Rothschild family, have the power to delight and inspire in equal measure. This spectacular collection of landscaped woodland, herbaceous, contemporary, formal and wildflower gardens provide an ever-changing palette of colour that will entice you back to witness the seasons unfold. During our visit, we experience the sights and sounds of a working narrow-gauge steam railway by stepping aboard The Rhododendron Line. The beautiful narrow-gauge engines depart from replica Victorian station Exbury Central and travel through a tunnel, over a bridge, around the Dragonfly Pond and through the Summer Lane Garden.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 22nd September 2024	5 Days	£519 pp	£80	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 23rd September 2024	5 Days	£639 pp	£46	£29

Sidmouth

Sidmouth is probably the most unspoilt resort in the country and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful. Quiet and unhurried, Sidmouth has preserved the natural beauty of the countryside with colourful gardens, open spaces, and tree-covered hills.



© Seaton Tramway

Royal York & Faulkner Hotel

The Royal York & Faulkner is a fine example of Regency architecture and forms a modern, spacious hotel. Situated in an unrivalled position at the centre of the Esplanade, the hotel directly overlooks the sea and is adjacent to the picturesque shopping centre. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, Aspara Spa with Hydrotherapy Pool, sauna & steam cabin, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Seaton Tramway with Cream Tea & Lyme Regis
- ◆ Bicton Park Botanical Gardens & Topsham

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The Seaton Tramway takes us through 3 miles of unspoilt countryside along the beautiful Axe Valley. Seaton Tramway operates narrow gauge trams between Seaton, Coleford, and Colyton in East Devon's glorious Axe Valley travelling alongside the River Axe Estuary through two nature reserves and giving an unrivalled view of the abundant wading birdlife. At Colyton Station, we enjoy a delicious Cream Tea before taking the tram back to Seaton. Later, we visit Lyme Regis, a pretty seaside resort with breath-taking scenery.
- ◆ Bicton Park Botanical Gardens has over 64 acres to explore. Spanning nearly 300 years of gardening history, the park is home to many rare and beautiful species, collected from around the world. The Palm House is made from over 18,000 panes of glass hosting many Palms. Enjoy coffee or tea overlooking the Italian Garden, explore the arboretum, while away the time in the bird hide, ride the Bicton Woodland Railway for an overview of the park and explore the countryside museum containing a huge collection from bygone days. Later, we visit Topsham, a quaint historic town with a cosmopolitan atmosphere and eclectic cluster of specialist shops and fine restaurants and pubs.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 27th September 2024	5 Days	£549 pp	NIL	£29

Autumn Colours of Cornwall

Cornwall is on a beautiful peninsula tumbling into the vast Atlantic Ocean, almost completely surrounded by the sea. Cornwall is loved for its dramatic coastlines, captivating fishing harbours, and of course, its pasties and cream teas!



The Rosemudy House Hotel

This elegant 3-star standard hotel is set in over 4 acres of secluded gardens and woodlands and yet only 100 yards from the main street in the quaint village of St Agnes. The Queen Ann style hotel is family run and has been tastefully extended and converted. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, lounge, bar, and some evening entertainment. Sorry, there is no lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ St Ives & Porthleven
- ◆ Bodmin Jail & Padstow
- ◆ Eden Project

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Discover Cornwall's most haunting and dark history in the world-class immersive experience at Bodmin Jail. Delve into the depths of the jail's state-of-the-art 'Dark Walk' where your perceptions between the past and present will be blurred and provoked. Take 90-minutes to walk in the footsteps of the condemned! Later, we visit Padstow, a working harbour, surrounded by glorious beaches. In the town you'll find boutique shops and galleries at every twist and turn, showcasing the very best of Cornwall's makers & shakers! You'll always be led back to the harbour, at the very heart of this coastal town.
- ◆ St Ives – the dazzling jewel in Cornwall's crown is a picturesque fishing harbour and seaside town. Wander through the maze of narrow cobbled streets, independent shops, and fishermen's cottages in the heart of St Ives. St Ives has been attracting artists for decades and is a seemingly subtropical oasis where the beaches are golden, the vegetation is lush and the light piercingly bright. Later, we visit Porthleven, the most southerly working port in the UK, boasting a picturesque harbour, with some interesting old buildings. Porthleven retains the character of an unspoilt fishing village with its granite harbour and pier, and famous clock tower.
- ◆ Eden Project is a feast for the senses that can be experienced in so many different ways. Explore the Rainforest Biome an enormous indoor rainforest where you can trek through the humid tropics via SE Asia, West Africa and South America. In the Mediterranean Biome, experience sights, scents, and stories from the Mediterranean, California South Africa, and Western Australia. Explore the world beyond our senses in the Invisible Worlds Exhibition in the Core building. Stroll through the vast outdoor gardens, home to over 20 plant-based exhibits, colourful seasonal borders, art installations, and play areas.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 11th October 2024	6 Days	£589 pp	NIL	£35

Bridgerton, Bath & The Cotswolds

A special tour for Bridgerton fans with a guided tour of the city of Bath where we can see iconic filming locations from the series, including Featherington House and Lady Danbury's Residence. We also visit Wilton House and Gardens, known in the series as the London residence for the Duke of Hastings, Simon Basset.



© Flickr - Henry Lawford

Best Western Plus Blunsdon House Hotel

Set in 30 acres of beautiful Wiltshire countryside, the Best Western Plus Blunsdon House Hotel has a lift, extensive leisure facilities including indoor swimming pool and gym, 2 superb restaurants, and 3 comfortable bars. En-suite bedrooms have TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Bridgerton Themed Guided Tour of Bath
- ◆ Wilton House & Gardens 'Simon Basset's London Residence'
- ◆ Scenic Cotswolds

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel Southwest to the city of Bath. Here, we meet our guide who will take us on a Bridgerton tour of the city. They'll show us around the iconic filming spots including Featherington House, Lady Danbury's Residence and Gunter's Tea Rooms, where the Bridgerton's & Featherington's gossip! Following our tour, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore this 18th Century spa town at your leisure.
- ◆ This morning, we set off on a wonderful scenic drive into the beautiful Cotswolds countryside. First stop is Bourton-on-the-Water, regularly voted one of the prettiest villages in England. Enjoy time here by the River Windrush with its beautiful bridges. Next, is Stow-on-the-Wold, a quintessential English town with mellow Cotswold stone buildings, a fine selection of shops, chic bistros, Cotswold inns and cosy tea shops. Finally, we visit Burford, with a broad main high street lined with 17th and 18th Century buildings, which appear to have changed little for hundreds of years.
- ◆ We make our way to historic Salisbury, welcoming visitors since 1227. At Salisbury Cathedral you will find the best preserved of the four original Magna Carta manuscripts dating from 1215AD. Nearby, the famous Cathedral Close houses attractions like Arundells, Mompesson House, The Rifles Military Museum, and Salisbury Museum. Later, we journey to the magnificent Wilton House – immediately recognisable as Hastings House, Simon Basset's London home. Wilton House doubles up as a number of Bridgerton filming locations – including Clyvedon Castle and the interior of St. James's Palace. Out in the beautiful, landscaped gardens, you can stroll through London's 'Hyde Park' and view the delightful Palladian Bridge, a backdrop in many scenes throughout the series.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 3rd October 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	£112	£29

Steam, Crafts & Tipples of Somerset

Somerset boasts five areas of outstanding natural beauty and the Exmoor National Park along with a varied coastline including long sandy beaches, rugged cliffs, and traditional harbours. Hidden gems are waiting to be found and we hope you enjoy our pick of the best.



Bournemouth

With seven miles of golden sands and sparkling sea, the vibrant cosmopolitan town of Bournemouth has it all – a vast variety of shops and restaurants, endless countryside offering peace and relaxation, and beautiful, award-winning gardens.



The Northfield Hotel

The Northfield Hotel Minehead is located on the lower slopes of North Hill in Minehead in nearly 2 acres of landscaped gardens, reputed to have been laid out by Gertrude Jekyll. There are wonderful views from the coast to the Quantocks, Brendon Hills, and Exmoor itself. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, indoor heated swimming pool, gym, and steam room. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Dartington Crystal
- ◆ Sheppy's Cider
- ◆ Lynton & Barnstaple Railway

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ It is market day in Bideford. Browse amongst the farmer's market and enjoy free time exploring this town with its elegant Georgian buildings. Take some time to explore the narrow backstreets and alleyways linking the quay and the river, you'll find many antique shops scattered around. Later, we visit Dartington Crystal to enjoy a behind-the-scenes factory tour. Watch as skilled craftsmen demonstrate how they hand craft glass into luxury homeware items.
- ◆ We visit the county town of Taunton for a little free time. Taunton is a bustling, forward-looking town with a good selection of independent and high street shops, distinctive restaurants, cafes and attractions, and a wealth of history all whilst being surrounded by picturesque countryside. Later, we visit Sheppy's Cider who have been producing cider here since 1917. Enjoy a guided tour of the facility and learn what goes into producing this fine cider before sampling the goods for yourself.
- ◆ After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we travel west to visit the Victorian seaside resort of Ilfracombe, known as the jewel in the north Devon coast. Discover a quaint quayside and harbour, whitewashed villas, lovely beaches, coastal paths, and an abundance of cafes and shops. After lunch, we enjoy a steam ride on the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway. Board heritage carriages as you enjoy a traditional steam ride through the rolling countryside that offers picturesque views of the moorland and rugged coastline.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 14th October 2024	5 Days	£509 pp	NIL	£29

Marsham Court Hotel

The Marsham Court Hotel offers high-quality accommodation in a wonderful location edging the beautiful Dorset coastline and sparkling sea at Bournemouth. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, iron, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and swimming pool.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Beaulieu & Christchurch
- ◆ Poole Harbour & Islands Cruise & Poole Quay

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our visit to Beaulieu includes the National Motor Museum – see over 285 vehicles at the world-famous museum, from F1 cars and land speed record breakers to incredible examples of pioneering motoring; Palace House – get a fascinating look into the Montagu family home where costumed guides give you a flavour of what it would have been like in Victorian times; Grounds & Gardens – lose yourself in Beaulieu's serene grounds and gardens, from the wild nature of the Millpond Walk to the beautifully designed flower gardens and topiary; World of Top Gear – see iconic cars from memorable TV challenges in the condition they were left in! Plus, step into the Enormodrome to get a feel for the BBC Top Gear studio; Beaulieu Abbey – walk in the footsteps of medieval monks who lived here over 800 years ago. The conserved ruins of this once vast medieval abbey include an exhibition on its history; Monorail & Veteran Bus – save your feet and enjoy unlimited rides on the open top Veteran bus and high level Skytrain. Later, we visit Christchurch with its attractive, bustling town centre and range of independent shops.
- ◆ Enjoy a Poole Harbour & Islands Circular Cruise. Take in fantastic views from the open deck as you pass picturesque Brownsea Island, Sandbanks Peninsula, Studland Bay, and more. With live commentary from the captain, you're guaranteed not to miss a thing. You can also enjoy the lower saloon lounge area that includes booth seating and a fully licensed bar. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore Poole, well known for Europe's largest natural harbour, award-winning Blue Flag beaches, a bustling quayside, and a beautiful historic old town.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 20th October 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	NIL	£29

Torquay – The English Riviera

Torquay is an award-winning resort where elegant Victorian villas, a bustling harbour, and palm-fringed beaches give the Riviera its well-earned name.



The Belgrave Sands Hotel

The Belgrave has been totally transformed from top to bottom into a modern hotel with all new fixtures and fittings. All en-suite bedrooms are stylishly finished and feature TV, mini-fridge, iron & ironing board, digital safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Seasons Restaurant & Lounge, and Reflections Spa with heated indoor swimming pool, fully equipped gym, steam room, and sauna.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Brixham
- ◆ Afternoon Tea at The Palace Paignton
- ◆ Powderham Castle & Exeter

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Brixham is a quintessentially English harbour town, with colourful houses surrounding the harbour bowl. As one of the busiest fishing ports in the UK, Brixham has a long history of bringing in fresh seafood. There are plenty of attractions to keep you busy, from the life-size pirate ship museum, the Golden Hind, that sits in the middle of the harbour, to the stunning views from the old Napoleon fort at Berry Head. On the way back to Torquay, we stop at the stunning Palace Hotel in Paignton to enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea.
- ◆ Powderham Castle enjoys a unique, picturesque setting within an ancient deer park beside the Exe Estuary, just south of Exeter. Over 600 years of history can be discovered within the walls of one of Devon's oldest family homes. On our Castle Tour you will see the many majestic rooms and hear fascinating stories about the Courtenay family as told by knowledgeable and engaging guides. Later, we visit historic Exeter with its magnificent Cathedral, imposing Roman wall, diverse mix of eateries, and great selection of independent shops and boutiques.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 21st October 2024	5 Days	£419 pp	NIL	£29

Isle of Wight

Boasting award-winning beaches, unspoilt and spectacular scenery, and a rich, historical heritage, the Isle of Wight has something for everyone to enjoy. Discover picturesque villages, spectacular cliffs, and sandy beaches. Our base is in Sandown, a traditional seaside resort with long stretches of beach and a Victorian pier.



The Trouville Hotel

Situated centrally on Sandown's seafront, opposite the golden beach, and with views over the sweep of Sandown & Shanklin Bay, is the Trouville Hotel. Well-appointed, en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, ballroom, function room, and some live entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Osborne House & Cowes
- ◆ Godshill, Alum Bay & The Needles

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ 'It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot' said Queen Victoria of Osborne House, her palatial holiday home. Visit Victoria & Albert's private apartments, their bathing beach and children's play cottage for an intimate glimpse of royal family life. Weather permitting, stroll through the garden terraces where the stunning views across the Solent reminded Prince Albert of the Bay of Naples. We also visit Cowes, home to the oldest and biggest sailing regatta in the world. Stroll through the vibrant town and enjoy independent shops and well-known yachting clothing stores, sit at a pavement café, or have lunch and people watch.
- ◆ Godshill is the quintessential English village and boasts some of the oldest architecture on the Isle of Wight. With its delightful medieval church and winding main street lined with traditional tea rooms, Godshill is as picturesque as it is popular. We also visit Alum Bay for views of The Needles, one of the most photographed groups of rocks in the world.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 21st October 2024	5 Days	£409 pp	NIL	£29

South East England



Eastbourne

Eastbourne is a town with grace and elegance that has something for everyone – a landscaped, pedestrianised town centre bordered by a large range of shops, a clean, well-managed beach and seafront renowned for its attractive three-tier flower-decked level promenade.



© Flickr - Jeff & Brian

York House Hotel

An elegant Victorian 3-star hotel that enjoys a relaxed, laid-back seafront location just 20 yards from the sea and a pleasant stroll from Eastbourne's pier and town centre. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Herstmonceux Castle Estate & Alfriston
- ◆ Borde Hill Gardens & Brighton

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Herstmonceux boasts 300 acres of carefully managed woodland and beautiful gardens, all surrounding a red brick, 15th Century, moated castle. Highlights of our visit include the Elizabethan Garden – the largest and most prestigious of the Gardens, the Sundial & Rose Garden – an imposing central sundial amidst a multitude of roses, Shakespeare Garden – all the planting of this garden is mentioned within Shakespeare's works, Lower Garden – a butterfly friendly garden, and Apothecary Garden – a collection of herbs for medicinal and culinary use. Later, we visit Alfriston, with a narrow, twisting High Street with a surprising wealth and variety of shops.
- ◆ Set within 383 acres heritage listed Parkland, Borde Hill Garden captivates and delights visitors with a series of intimate living 'Garden Rooms'. Beyond the formal Garden, explore historic woodland, the South Park with tranquil lakes, and outstanding views across the Sussex High Weald. Highlights include Jay Robin's Rose Garden, Italian Garden, Paradise Walk, and Mid-Summer Border and South Lawn. Later, we visit free-thinking Brighton. With its majestic Regency squares and crescents, iconic Royal Pavilion and famous piers, Brighton is as well known for being a welcoming city.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 8th April 2024	5 Days	£419 pp	£80	£29

Beautiful Berkshire & Secrets of Surrey

With vibrant towns surrounded by spectacular countryside including scenic Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, there's plenty on this tour waiting for you to explore. Surrey is England's most wooded county and home to rolling hills and valleys, so come and explore world-famous gardens, ancient heathland, stunning views and beautiful waterways.



© RHS - Joanna Kossak

The Hampshire Court Hotel

The Hampshire Court Hotel stands at Chineham on the outskirts of Basingstoke. Part of the prestigious Q Hotels group, hotel facilities include a lift, restaurant, bar, and leisure club with indoor swimming pool and gym. All en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Polesden Lacey
- ◆ Relaxing River Thames Cruise
- ◆ RHS Garden Wisley

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The picturesque, Thames-side town of Kingston-upon-Thames is a bustling market town with an abundance of both independent and big-name retailers, stunning riverside dining, an impressive heritage, and an ancient marketplace. Enjoy some time here to explore before we continue to RHS Wisley for our included visit. The garden here is a place full of inspiration, offering ideas galore, with Wild Garden, Glasshouse, Model Gardens, Fruit Field, Arboretum, and spectacular floral displays.
- ◆ We travel through the rolling Surrey countryside to the county town of Guildford, with its magnificent Cathedral and cobbled high street. This riverside town boasts a stunning high street with historic setts and beautiful architecture. Later, we visit Polesden Lacey. The late Queen Mother remarked 'this is a nice house' on her honeymoon to Polesden Lacey. This country house with glorious views across the Surrey Hills, the glittering interior, designed to impress Royalty the world over, houses art from Dutch Masters and sparkling Faberge and more. The gardens offer something for everyone.
- ◆ First stop today is Henley-on-Thames, famous for its annual regatta. Henley is one of the most beautiful towns in England and a regular winner of RHS Britain in Bloom medals. Its riverside location, surrounded by a Chiltern landscape of wooded hills and green fields, lends itself to relaxation, long lunches, and quirky shopping. We continue to Windsor where the rest of the day is at leisure to explore independently.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 11th April 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£120	£29

Hampton Court Tulip Festival & RHS Garden, Wisley

A delightful spring tour, the highlight being a visit to the Hampton Court Palace Tulip Festival. Over 100,000 Tulips will be in bloom, providing a spectacular floral display of colour.



© Historic Royal Palaces

Holiday Inn, Shepperton

The Holiday Inn is set in 11 acres of beautiful grounds, near Shepperton, in a pleasant rural area. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and leisure club with indoor swimming pool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Hampton Court Palace Tulip Festival
- ◆ RHS Garden, Wisley
- ◆ Richmond-Upon-Thames
- ◆ Guildford

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our first stop today is in delightful Richmond-upon-Thames with chance to explore, relax by the river or on Richmond Green – London's largest town centre open space, or browse the shops and grab a bite to eat or have a drink. Later, we continue to Hampton Court where we include entry to the Palace and Gardens. The annual Tulip Festival is underway and 100,000's of Tulips engulfing the Palace and Gardens in spectacular floral fashion. The Palace was acquired by Henry VIII in 1520, a succession of Royal occupants has made sure the Palace has a superb collection of furnishings and art. The formal 60-acre gardens include the famous Maze.
- ◆ This morning we travel to the splendid royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley. The garden here is a place full of inspiration, offering ideas galore. Highlights include the Wildlife Garden – drink in the wonders of wildlife among flowerbeds and borders buzzing with life, the Glasshouse – the huge cathedral-like Glasshouse, covering the area of 10 tennis courts and rising to 12m (40ft) high, and the Exotic Garden – showcasing plants that have a tropical look and feel, but will flourish outdoors in a typical UK summer climate. Later, we travel to the town of Guildford with its pretty high street, riverside and its own castle.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 12th April 2024	4 Days	£399 pp	£105	£29

Eastbourne

Eastbourne is a town with grace and elegance that has something for everyone – a landscaped, pedestrianised town centre bordered by a large range of shops, a clean, well-managed beach and seafront renowned for its attractive three-tier flower-decked level promenade.



Haddon Hall Hotel

The Haddon Hall Hotel is enviably situated at the seafront end of Devonshire Place, a broad, tree-lined avenue which links the main promenade with the town centre. The Bandstand is located across the road from the hotel. En-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, spacious lounge, ballroom, cocktail bar, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Lewes & Steam & Cream on the Bluebell Railway
- ◆ Brighton Pavilion & Brighton

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We visit Lewes, home to many independent, antique, and quirky shops. It's also the perfect place to stop for a bite to eat or a drink in one of the historic pubs. Later, we enjoy Steam & Cream on the Bluebell Railway travelling through 11 miles of glorious Sussex scenery behind a steam engine. Meet railway staff in period clothing, see original working signal boxes, and step back in time as you board vintage carriages. Enjoy a Cream Tea on board our afternoon train from Sheffield Park as we steam through the countryside to East Grinstead where we re-join our coach.
- ◆ At the Royal Pavilion & Garden, experience a fantasy palace fit for a king. Bask in Regency splendour, inside & out. Highlights include the Banqueting Room – luxury dining George IV style, Great Kitchen – a king's kitchen with the latest technology, the Saloon – restored to its brilliant glory, the Music Room – a place for music, dancing and plenty of dragons, and the Royal Bedrooms – where three royals rested. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore free-thinking Brighton. With its majestic Regency squares and crescents and famous piers, Brighton is as well known for being a welcoming city.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Wednesday 17th April 2024	5 Days	£409 pp	NIL	£29

Beautiful Kent

Known as the Garden of England, Kent boasts beautiful beaches, stunning castles, exciting culture, and delicious food and drink. There are so many beautiful villages, towns, cities, and seaside's to explore, we are spoilt for choice, but we think our itinerary will showcase the very best Kent has to offer.



The Orida Hotel

Ideally located on the outskirts of Maidstone, The Orida Hotel is an ideal base for our Kent tour. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, and Health Club & Spa with gym, fitness studio, swimming pool, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ightham Mote & Royal Tunbridge Wells
- ◆ Canterbury & Herne Bay
- ◆ Kent & East Sussex Railway & Tenterden

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Ightham Mote, hidden away in a secluded Kent valley, is a perfectly preserved medieval moated manor house, gardens, and estate. Enter the medieval half-timbered house into a hushed interior. Discover dark wood panelling, huge fireplaces, and a mix of furnishings inside. The garden offers vibrant colours, the buzz of wildlife and space to relax in the historic pleasure grounds. Later, we visit Royal Tunbridge Wells, a magnet for royalty and the gentry, Tunbridge Wells was one of the most fashionable destinations of Georgian England. The elegance and atmosphere of this bygone era remain today in this, the only spa town in southeast England. The Pantiles – the famous colonnaded walkway where the aristocracy once promenaded – is now home to a wonderful selection of high-quality boutiques, specialist independent shops, bars, and cafes.
- ◆ There is nowhere quite like Canterbury. It offers a beautiful escape to shop with ease at incredible independent shops, explore the heritage and rich culture, be inspired by the architecture, and enjoy a wonderful day. Later, we visit Herne Bay, famous for its historic pier and picturesque seafront. The distinctive 80ft Victorian clock tower watches over the seafront, while Waltrap Gardens has a wonderful flower display for those wanting to relax and enjoy the seascapes.
- ◆ We travel to Bodiam where we join the Kent & East Sussex Railway, a 10½ mile light railway, for our journey to Tenterden. The line is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and follows the wide unspoilt Rother Valley for much of the journey. Known as the 'Jewel of the Weald', Tenterden offers the best of all worlds – fascinating history, a wealth of architecture, and excellent shopping. At its centre are the tree-lined greens that distance you from the world going by.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 24th May 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	£100	£29

Chelsea Flower Show

The Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show is well-known as the world's most famous floral spectacle. For more than 80 years this celebrated show has blossomed in the centre of London – a floral feast for the senses, this show brings you innovation and creativity from leading garden designers and nurseries.



The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel

Situated in east Berkshire, the Copthorne Hotel is an ideal base for exploring the area. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and leisure club with swimming pool, sauna, steam room, and gym. All en-suite bedrooms have TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Chelsea Flower Show

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Chelsea Flower Show



DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 24th May 2024	3 Days	£449 pp	£90	£27

Royal Windsor & Cruise the Thames

With so many places to visit in Berkshire, you can easily forget you're right on London's doorstep. You'll discover towns and villages and countryside to explore in this county with unique connections to the Royal family, where you'll find the River Thames meandering along its northern edge and beautiful parks and gardens ablaze with colour.



© French Brothers Ltd

The Bull Hotel

Overlooking the picturesque village common in Gerrard's Cross, to the west of London, the 4-star rated Bull Hotel was built as a coaching inn in 1688 on the old London to Oxford road. Today, The Bull maintains a charming period atmosphere and is a hotel where you can expect a warm and friendly welcome. Ensuite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and 2 bars – the traditional village bar or the quieter cocktail bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Windsor & Thames River Cruise
- ◆ Thame & Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway
- ◆ Bekonscot Model Model Village & Marlow

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Crowned by Windsor Castle and linked by the River Thames, the Royal Borough of Windsor has a rich mix of history, culture, heritage and fun. There's a wide range of restaurants, pubs, bars, and cafes to choose from that suits all tastes and budgets. Browse the pedestrian-only shopping centre and shop-lined streets offering a great mixture of high street names and independent retailers. This afternoon, we enjoy a short cruise upstream to Boveney Lock and returns with fantastic views of Windsor Castle, Eton College, Mill House, Windsor Racecourse, and the Brocas Meadows.
- ◆ Thame is one of the most frequently used filming locations for the popular ITV series, *Midsomer Murders*. Like many traditional market towns, Thame grew from Anglo-Saxon roots but has since developed its own individual character whilst preserving its rich history. Ancient buildings stand alongside Georgian and Victorian architecture and the iconic boat-shaped high street stands as testimony to the marketplace for which it was originally designed. Later, we join the Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway for a seven & a half mile round trip along the Chiltern foothills with Red Kites whirling overhead and the steam curling lazily past your window.
- ◆ Bekonscot Model Village & Railway is the world's oldest original model village opening for the first time in 1929. With over 90 years of history, a huge model railway, 1.5 acres of well-kept gardens and finely detailed model buildings, Bekonscot is a great visit. Stuck in a 1930s time warp, see England how it used to be, and discover a wonderful little world tucked away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Later, we visit Marlow, without doubt one of the loveliest locations on the River Thames situated on a broad sweep of the river between Henley & Windsor. It has a lively town centre made up of historic streets with small, listed buildings and offers an array of shops, restaurants, wine bars and pubs, which all add to Marlow's charm.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 30th May 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£120	£29

Eastbourne

Eastbourne is a town with grace and elegance that has something for everyone – a landscaped, pedestrianised town centre bordered by a large range of shops, a clean, well-managed beach and seafront renowned for its attractive three-tier flower-decked level promenade.



© Flickr - Neil

Haddon Hall Hotel

The Haddon Hall Hotel is enviably situated at the seafront end of Devonshire Place, a broad, tree-lined avenue which links the main promenade with the town centre. The Bandstand is located across the road from the hotel. En-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, spacious lounge, ballroom, cocktail bar, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Pashley Manor Gardens & Royal Tunbridge Wells
- ◆ Great Dixter House & Gardens and Rye
- ◆ Borde Hill Garden & Lewes
- ◆ Mitchelham Priory & Alfriston

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At Pashley Manor Gardens you will discover 11 acres of beautiful borders and vistas, the culmination of a lifetime of passion for gardening, an appetite for beauty and an admiration of the tradition of the English Country garden. All the ingredients are present – sweeping herbaceous borders, ha-ha, well maintained lawns, box hedges, espaliered rose walk, historic walled garden, inspiring kitchen garden, venerable trees, and the Grade I listed house as a backdrop. Later, we visit Royal Tunbridge Wells, a magnet for royalty and the gentry, and one of the most fashionable destinations in Georgian England – ever since the discovery of the Chalybeate Spring over 400 years ago.
- ◆ Great Dixter is an historic house, a garden, a centre of education, and a place of horticulturists from across the world. One of the pleasant features about the gardens is that they lie all around the house – make a circuit of the house and you have made a circuit of the house exterior. We also visit Rye, a picturesque town with cobbled streets, historical buildings and lovely independent shops.
- ◆ Set within 383 acres heritage listed Parkland, Borde Hill Garden captivates and delights visitors with a series of intimate living 'Garden Rooms'. Beyond the formal Garden, explore historic woodland, the South Park with tranquil lakes, and outstanding views across the Sussex High Weald. Highlights include Jay Robin's Rose Garden, Italian Garden, Paradise Walk, and Mid-Summer Border and South Lawn. Later, we visit Lewes, home to many independent, antique, and quirky shops. It's also the perfect place to stop for a bite to eat or a drink in one of the historic pubs.
- ◆ Explore 800 years of history at Mitchelham Prior House & Gardens, a Tudor house set on a picturesque, moated island. Founded by Augustinian canons in 1229, the site is steeped in history. There are fascinating displays of furniture and artefacts, set in rooms reflecting different periods of Mitchelham Priory's rich history. We also visit Alfriston, with a narrow, twisting High Street with a surprising wealth and variety of shops.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Saturday 1st June 2024	8 Days	£639 pp	NIL	£35

Portraits of Churchill

Sir Winston Churchill was one of this country's greatest statesmen. He was born in 1874 in Blenheim Palace and died in 1965 aged 90. He is buried in the little church at Bladon, just a short distance from Blenheim. We feature a visit to Churchill's house near Sevenoaks, in Kent, and a day in London to visit the Wartime Cabinet Rooms. A very interesting and rewarding tour as we follow in the footsteps of the great man.



© Flickr - Chuca Cimas

Crowne Plaza Reading

This stylish riverside hotel is located next to Caversham Bridge in Reading, just minutes away from the town centre. Relax in the Revive Health Club & Spa with indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, and beauty rooms, or work out in the fully equipped fitness centre. The stylish Riverside Restaurant offers delicious fresh dishes with amazing views. The spacious, en-suite bedrooms have TV, hairdryer, iron, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Blenheim Palace
- ◆ Bladon Village
- ◆ Chartwell House
- ◆ Cabinet War Rooms & Churchill Museum

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Magnificent Blenheim Palace is the birthplace of Winston Churchill. We see the rooms where he was born in 1874. Enter the Palace and explore gilded State Rooms with their priceless collections of portraits, tapestries, and furniture. Visit the Churchill Exhibition which features a mix of historic artefacts and new technology, documenting key aspects of the adventurous life of Sir Winston Churchill. Leaving Blenheim, we pay a brief visit to nearby Bladon Village where Churchill is buried in the local church.
- ◆ We travel into London today to visit the Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum. The Cabinet War Rooms were emergency accommodation provided for Winston Churchill and the War Cabinet against air attacks during the Second World War. See the original 21 historic rooms where the Defence of the Realm was planned. Also included here is the Churchill Museum, which charts his entire life.
- ◆ We travel into Kent today where we visit the beautiful Chartwell House, Churchill's home for most of his adult life. Now in the care of the National Trust, the house is now a museum and the rooms and gardens remain virtually the same as when he lived there.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 7th July 2024	5 Days	£569 pp	£120	£29

Eastbourne

Eastbourne is a town with grace and elegance that has something for everyone – a landscaped, pedestrianised town centre bordered by a large range of shops, a clean, well-managed beach and seafront renowned for its attractive three-tier flower-decked level promenade.



© VisitEngland - Visit Eastbourne

Haddon Hall Hotel

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Pashley Manor Gardens & Royal Tunbridge Wells
- ◆ Great Dixter House & Gardens and Rye
- ◆ Borde Hill Garden & Lewes
- ◆ Mitchelham Priory & Alfriston

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At Pashley Manor Gardens you will discover 11 acres of beautiful borders and vistas, the culmination of a lifetime of passion for gardening, an appetite for beauty and an admiration of the tradition of the English Country garden. All the ingredients are present – sweeping herbaceous borders, ha-ha, well maintained lawns, box hedges, espaliered rose walk, historic walled garden, inspiring kitchen garden, venerable trees, and the Grade I listed house as a backdrop. Later, we visit Royal Tunbridge Wells, a magnet for royalty and the gentry, and one of the most fashionable destinations in Georgian England – ever since the discovery of the Chalybeate Spring over 400 years ago.
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- ◆ Set within 383 acres heritage listed Parkland, Borde Hill Garden captivates and delights visitors with a series of intimate living 'Garden Rooms'. Beyond the formal Garden, explore historic woodland, the South Park with tranquil lakes, and outstanding views across the Sussex High Weald. Highlights include Jay Robin's Rose Garden, Italian Garden, Paradise Walk, and Mid-Summer Border and South Lawn. Later, we visit Lewes, home to many independent, antique, and quirky shops. It's also the perfect place to stop for a bite to eat or a drink in one of the historic pubs.
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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Saturday 7th September 2024	8 Days	£609 pp	NIL	£35

Surprising London

On this tour we explore some of our Capital City's attractions. We visit probably the most famous Botanic Garden in the UK and enjoy some magnificent sightseeing during a cruise on the iconic River Thames.



The Delta by Marriott Heathrow-Windsor Hotel

The Marriott Heathrow-Windsor is perfectly positioned as a base for our tour. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, safe, iron & ironing board, and tea/coffee making facilities.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Buckingham Palace
- ◆ St Paul's Cathedral – Guided Tour
- ◆ Houses of Parliament – Guided Tour
- ◆ Kew Gardens
- ◆ Cruise on the River Thames

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Buckingham Palace is the official London residence of the King and serves both as a home and as an office. Visit the magnificent State Rooms, lavishly furnished with some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection. There are 19 State Rooms at Buckingham Palace, designed to be on public view and used by the Royal Family when welcoming guests on official State and ceremonial visits. Paintings by the grand masters and acclaimed artists adorn the walls, as well as sculpture and furniture by the finest craftsmen in the world are all available to view and admire.
- ◆ We visit the Houses of Parliament for a fun and informative guided tour of the Palace of Westminster, the Chamber of the House of Lords, the House of Commons, and Westminster Hall.
- ◆ Enjoy a delightful 90-minute cruise on the River Thames from Westminster Pier to Kew Gardens, where we spend the afternoon. From the vast Arboretum to an Alpine rock garden there's something to see in every corner.
- ◆ We have a fascinating guided tour of historic St. Paul's Cathedral, standing at the heart of the City of London – and of the British Nation. Created in the 17th Century by Sir Christopher Wren, the Cathedral is a landmark the world over, a place of celebration as well as remembrance.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 12th August 2024	5 Days	£659 pp	£120	£29
Monday 19th August 2024	5 Days	£659 pp	£120	£29

Beautiful Kent

Known as the Garden of England, Kent boasts beautiful beaches, stunning castles, exciting culture, and delicious food and drink. There are so many beautiful villages, towns, cities, and seaside's to explore, we are spoilt for choice, but we think our itinerary will showcase the very best Kent has to offer.



Eastbourne

Eastbourne is a town with grace and elegance that has something for everyone – a landscaped, pedestrianised town centre bordered by a large range of shops, a clean, well-managed beach and seafront renowned for its attractive three-tier flower-decked level promenade.



The Orida Hotel

Ideally located on the outskirts of Maidstone, The Orida Hotel is an ideal base for our Kent tour. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, and Health Club & Spa with gym, fitness studio, swimming pool, sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ightham Mote & Royal Tunbridge Wells
- ◆ Canterbury & Herne Bay
- ◆ Kent & East Sussex Railway & Tenterden

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Ightham Mote, hidden away in a secluded Kent valley, is a perfectly preserved medieval moated manor house, gardens, and estate. Enter the medieval half-timbered house into a hushed interior. Discover dark wood panelling, huge fireplaces, and a mix of furnishings inside. The garden offers vibrant colours, the buzz of wildlife and space to relax in the historic pleasure grounds. Later, we visit Royal Tunbridge Wells, a magnet for royalty and the gentry, Tunbridge Wells was one of the most fashionable destinations of Georgian England. The elegance and atmosphere of this bygone era remain today in this, the only spa town in southeast England. The Pantiles – the famous colonnaded walkway where the aristocracy once promenaded – is now home to a wonderful selection of high-quality boutiques, specialist independent shops, bars, and cafes.
- ◆ There is nowhere quite like Canterbury. It offers a beautiful escape to shop with ease at incredible independent shops, explore the heritage and rich culture, be inspired by the architecture, and enjoy a wonderful day. Later, we visit Herne Bay, famous for its historic pier and picturesque seafront. The distinctive 80ft Victorian clock tower watches over the seafront, while Waltrap Gardens has a wonderful flower display for those wanting to relax and enjoy the seascapes.
- ◆ We travel to Bodiam where we join the Kent & East Sussex Railway, a 10½ mile light railway, for our journey to Tenterden. The line is situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and follows the wide unspoilt Rother Valley for much of the journey. Known as the 'Jewel of the Weald', Tenterden offers the best of all worlds – fascinating history, a wealth of architecture, and excellent shopping. At its centre are the tree-lined greens that distance you from the world going by.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 12th September 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	£100	£29

York House Hotel

An elegant Victorian 3-star hotel that enjoys a relaxed, laid-back seafront location just 20 yards from the sea and a pleasant stroll from Eastbourne's pier and town centre. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Herstmonceux Castle Estate & Alfriston
- ◆ Borde Hill Gardens & Brighton

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Herstmonceux boasts 300 acres of carefully managed woodland and beautiful gardens, all surrounding a red brick, 15th Century, moated castle. Highlights of our visit include the Elizabethan Garden – the largest and most prestigious of the Gardens, the Sundial & Rose Garden – an imposing central sundial amidst a multitude of roses, Shakespeare Garden – all the planting of this garden is mentioned within Shakespeare's works, Lower Garden – a butterfly friendly garden, and Apothecary Garden – a collection of herbs for medicinal and culinary use. Later, we visit Alfriston, with a narrow, twisting High Street with a surprising wealth and variety of shops.
- ◆ Set within 383 acres heritage listed Parkland, Borde Hill Garden captivates and delights visitors with a series of intimate living 'Garden Rooms'. Beyond the formal Garden, explore historic woodland, the South Park with tranquil lakes, and outstanding views across the Sussex High Weald. Highlights include Jay Robin's Rose Garden, Italian Garden, Paradise Walk, and Mid-Summer Border and South Lawn. Later, we visit free-thinking Brighton. With its majestic Regency squares and crescents, iconic Royal Pavilion and famous piers, Brighton is as well known for being a welcoming city.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 21st October 2024	5 Days	£419 pp	£80	£29

East England



Codebreakers & Cambridge

Cambridge is a vibrant, modern city with a colourful history that attracts visitors from around the world. Combined with our visit to Bletchley Park, home of the Codebreakers, you're sure to learn something new on this Cambridgeshire long weekend.



Grand Houses & Gardens of Norfolk

Explore Norfolk and discover a county with more than 90 miles of stunning coast, beautiful countryside, forest, heath and fens, the unique Broads National Park, seaside resorts, and historic, vibrant towns and villages. Our themed tour takes in some of the most beautiful Houses & Gardens the county has to offer.



Delta by Marriott Hotel Huntingdon

Located in the heart of picturesque Cambridgeshire, the Delta by Marriott Hotel Huntingdon is the ideal base for our tour. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and lounge. Ensuite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Bletchley Park
- ◆ Guided Tour of Cambridge

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We discover the incredible achievements of Britain's World War II Codebreakers in the place where it happened, Bletchley Park. Once the top-secret home of WW2 Codebreakers, Bletchley Park is now a vibrant heritage attraction. Immersive films, interactive displays, museum collections and faithfully recreated WW2 rooms will guide you on a journey to discover the past at Bletchley Park. Exhibitions, set within beautifully restored historic buildings, tell the story of this once top-secret operation. Find out more about the brilliant minds and complex machines that made this vital work possible and discover the global impact Bletchley Park had on the outcome of WW2.
- ◆ We are joined by our guide this morning for a tour on our coach of Cambridge. Our route takes in a good number of famous sights: Queen's College and its Mathematical Bridge, Darwin College, Pembroke College, Emmanuel College, the River Cam, Jesus Green, and the University's Botanic Garden. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore picturesque city, known for its rich history, punts and university. Away from the museums and beautiful green spaces, the city has a booming shopping scene with plenty of independent stores, alongside familiar brands. Pop into St Mary's Passage to browse the range of traditional-style satchels at Cambridge Satchel Company, visit the Cambridge Distillery or go punting along the River Cam.

Dunston Hall Hotel

Tucked away in rural Norfolk, Dunston Hall's woodland setting makes for an ideal base for our tour. This Elizabethan-style country retreat dates to 1859 and boasts a lift, restaurant, bar, and health club with gym and swimming pool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Thetford Market & Oxburgh Estate
- ◆ Houghton Hall & Gardens & Old Hunstanton
- ◆ Blickling Hall & Cromer

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Thetford is a town full of history with a picturesque, river-side setting. Old timber-framed houses sit happily beside more recent brick-built ones and the flint, much of it mined locally, is very much in evidence in shops, houses, churches, and many other buildings. Shopping can be enjoyed in the town today, and Tuesday is Market Day. Later, we visit Oxburgh Estate. It's hard not to fall in love when you catch your first glimpse of the imposing brick manor house reflected in the tranquil moat. Step inside to discover the legacy of the 6th Baronet who created much of what you see today, from the Victorian Gothic interiors to the ornate architectural additions that reflect a romantic view of Oxburgh's medieval past. Outside, the gardens are a mixture of formal and wilderness with the kitchen garden, orchard, and herbaceous border adding colour.
- ◆ Built for Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole in the 1720s, Houghton Hall is now home to the 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley – a descendant of Sir Robert Walpole – and his family. The Hall is set in extensive parkland, with its famous white fallow deer, an award-winning Walled Garden, Model Soldier Museum (the largest private collection of model soldiers in the world), café and Gift Shop. Later, we visit Hunstanton – the only west-facing resort on the east coast of England.
- ◆ Nobody ever forgets their first sight of Blickling. The breath-taking Jacobean mansion and ancient yew hedges sit at the heart of a magnificent garden and historic park in the beautiful Bure Meadows. Surrounding the house, the formal garden is the result of three centuries of inspired planting. Later, we visit Cromer, home to an unspoilt pier, Cromer Museum, and the 14th Century Church of St Peter and St Paul.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 28th March 2024	4 Days	£349 pp	£93	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 17th June 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£120	£29

Coastal Norfolk and Lavender

Explore Norfolk and discover a county with more than 90 miles of stunning coast, beautiful countryside, forest, heath and fens, the unique Broads National Park, seaside resorts, and the historic, vibrant city of Norwich. Beyond Norwich there are well-preserved market towns and picturesque villages, from Georgian splendour to thatch and flint; and ancient landscape of cultivated arable fields and farms.



Le Strange Arms Hotel, Signature Collection by Best Western

Located in the picturesque seaside town of Old Hunstanton, with lawns leading down to a sandy beach. The hotel has a lift which serves most rooms, restaurant, and bar. En-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Norfolk Lavender Farm
- ◆ Seaside Resort of Cromer
- ◆ Cathedral City of Norwich

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Spend the morning relaxing in the hotel or exploring Old Hunstanton. Later, we make the short journey to England's premier lavender farm, Norfolk Lavender. Renowned worldwide, the farm has nearly 100 acres of lavender under cultivation. We are joined by a guide on our coach who will take us on a 90-minute guided tour of the local villages, including West Newton and Castle Riding, discussing the area's heritage and history with lavender. We return to Norfolk Lavender where you can stroll through the National Lavender Collection and look around the gift shop.
- ◆ We travel to Norwich where we meet our guide for a tour on our coach of the city of Norwich. Once you are familiarised with the city, the rest of the day will be at leisure to explore independently. A visit to the Cathedral is a must, also cobbled Elm Hill and the Castle Mall shopping complex. Norwich is a city of foodies. Being in the centre of a large farming county, enjoy the spoils of local produce. Whether you are looking for restaurants, cafes and coffee shops, street-food eats, or bars to enjoy a few beers, you'll be spoilt for choice in this City of Stories.
- ◆ Today is Market Day in North Walsham. The marketplace houses a 16th Century cross with clock, the focal point of the town, which was built to collect rent from the market traders. The rest of the town has plenty of shops and eateries. We spend the rest of the day in the traditional seaside resort of Cromer, famous for Banksy's Great British Spraycation artwork, Cromer Pier, and Pavilion Theatre. The Pier is an enduring example of Victorian architecture having withstood many storms, tidal surges, and even an attempt to blow it up by the Government in WW2 to prevent the pier being used as a landing strip for enemy invaders!

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday, 6th May 2024	5 Days	£589 pp	NIL	£29

Come Racing in Newmarket Great Yarmouth

Racing is the 'Sport of Kings' and you can experience the thrill of the races and a unique insight behind the scenes on this special break for lovers of horses and beautiful countryside alike.

Based in Norfolk's premier seaside resort, this is a holiday of many contrasts, from the hustle and bustle of a busy seaside resort to the relaxing calm of The Broads, to the historic City of Norwich and the quieter resorts and towns of the region.



Palm Court Hotel

The family owned and run Palm Court Hotel stands in a quiet location on Great Yarmouth's seafront, overlooking the sea. All the en-suite bedrooms are pleasantly decorated and feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, 2 bars, a good range of seating areas and an indoor swimming pool. There will be some evening entertainment during your stay.

The Holiday Inn Hotel

The Holiday Inn is just a short drive from Cambridge City Centre and is an ideal base for this tour. The hotel has an indoor swimming pool, gym, restaurant, bar, and open plan lounge. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Race Day at Newmarket
- ◆ Afternoon Tea at the Races
- ◆ Visit to the National Stud, Gallops and Driving, Royalty Tour
- ◆ Cambridge Sightseeing

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We head for Newmarket, home of horse racing. Our guide will take us to The Gallops to listen to the hoof beats followed by a Guided 'Racing Royalty' tour on our coach. Afterwards, we visit the National Stud – a fascinating and informative visit, even for those not interested in horse racing. We learn how a horse progresses from training field to racetrack. We also have chance to get you close and personal with the horses. On the Gallops, we will see lots of horses working on over 2500 acres of Jockey Club land. We see the variety in gallops – hills, surface, and length. At the national Stud, we have a chance to see top stallions, mares and foals taking their first steps to becoming a racehorse. From here, 'we are off' to Newmarket racecourse for Race Day where we have time to enjoy the exciting atmosphere as you cheer your favourite towards the winning post. During our visit, we have included Afternoon Tea at the Races. Later, we return to the hotel – hopefully to celebrate a successful day!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Norfolk Broads Cruise
- ◆ Bressingham Gardens
- ◆ Blickling Estate
- ◆ Cathedral City of Norwich
- ◆ Timeless Southwold

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We begin our day with a visit to Wroxham and the charming Norfolk Broads where we enjoy a cruise around the picturesque Broads. Later, we travel to the Cathedral City of Norwich. There're so many amazing things to do here – award-winning shopping, lively streets, and historic monuments. A visit to the Cathedral is a must, also cobbled Elm Hill, and the Castle Mall shopping centre.
- ◆ We travel down the coast and into Suffolk to the timeless and delightful resort of Southwold, little changed since Victorian times. We continue inland to Diss and Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre and visit nearby Bressingham Gardens and Steam Museum. The gardens are renowned all over the world for their excellence.
- ◆ Blickling Estate is one of England's great Jacobean Houses. It is famed for its spectacular Long Gallery and collections of furniture, pictures, books, and tapestries. The gardens are full of colour throughout the year and the extensive parkland has a lake with beautiful woodland and lakeside walks. Later, we have free time in the traditional resort of Cromer, famous for Banksy's Great British Spraycation artwork, Cromer Pier, and Pavilion Theatre.
- ◆ Today, we visit Oulton Broad, and Lowestoft – once a small fishing port. The town is set on a backdrop of an award-winning beach and The Broads National Park. The Gulliver Wind Turbine stands proud over the town, whilst those wanting a glimpse of times gone by can visit the heritage vessels on the South Pier.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 21st June 2024	3 Days	£399 pp	£60	£27

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 7th July 2024	7 Days	£689 pp	NIL	£35

Lincolnshire Delights

From rolling countryside with historic market towns and villages, to an award-winning coastline and Britain's Best Small City, there is so much to see and do in this county of contrasts.



© Flickr - davehighbury

The Barn Hotel & Spa

The Barn Hotel Grantham is a delightful, tranquil retreat set in beautiful Lincolnshire countryside, close to the village of Marston. The hotel – a member of 'Tastes of Lincolnshire' – prides itself on the quality of its food. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and health club with indoor swimming pool, sauna, and spa.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Belvoir Castle & Melton Mowbray
- ◆ Burghley House & Historic Stamford
- ◆ International Bomber Command Centre & Lincoln

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Belvoir Castle's history dates back to the 11th century. It is the ancestral home of the Duke of Rutland, where the family have lived in an unbroken line for almost a thousand years. Crowning a hill, the Castle's turrets and towers rise over the Vale of Belvoir like an illustration in a romantic fairy-tale. Walk around the Castle and marvel at the opulent State Rooms and walk through the Japanese Woodland and the Duchess Garden. Later, we visit Melton Mowbray, known worldwide for Pork Pies and Stilton Cheese. Discover quirky shops including Ye Old Pork Pie Shop and The Cheese Shop.
- ◆ We visit the beautiful town of Stamford, a bustling market town with quaint streets and delicious food. Stamford has a unique blend of history, niche shopping and stunning Georgian architecture. Later, we visit Burghley House, a 13,000-acre working Lincolnshire estate on the outskirts of Stamford. Discover Burghley's history, extensive collections, and grandest state rooms during our visit. In the Gardens, discover a wonderful gallery of contemporary sculpture sitting amongst hidden trails, herbaceous planting areas and undulating landscapes in the Sculpture Garden.
- ◆ The International Bomber Command Centre is a world-class site that provides a space for recognition, remembrance, reflection, and education about the Bomber Command Unit. Immerse yourself in interactive exhibits telling stories of those involved on all sides, discover recordings, documents, and the sacrifices of those who united their efforts to protect the freedom we enjoy today. Later, we visit Lincoln, a beautiful historic city full of heritage and culture. Wander along the picturesque, cobbled streets and take in the spectacular sights of Lincoln's magnificent historic architecture.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 15th July 2024	5 Days	£459 pp	£88	£29

Hoo Fancies Scenic Suffolk?

Suffolk is a county that unless you travel slowly through it, you may miss many of its charming and redeeming features. Suffolk is an agricultural landscape of wheat fields, thatched cottages, in rural villages and attractive market towns.



Salthouse Harbour Hotel

This contemporary, boutique hotel is set on the beautiful Ipswich waterfront. The sleek and stylish public areas, including the Salthouse Eaterie, bar and lounge areas, feature contemporary décor dotted with pieces of art. The hotel has a lift. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Guided Tour of Sutton Hoo
- ◆ Deben Cruise with Tea/Coffee & Scones
- ◆ Helmingham Hall Gardens

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Today we enjoy a tour along the picturesque Suffolk coast, starting with a visit to Southwold, complete with its famous painted beach huts and lovely pier. We continue to the pretty village of Thorpeness, with its pretty mock-Tudor houses and the fairy-tale 'House in the Clouds'. We enjoy free time here before continuing to Aldeburgh, which retains features from a bygone era.
- ◆ Today, we enjoy a guided tour of the world-famous Anglo-Saxon burial site at Sutton Hoo, the hauntingly beautiful 255-acre estate which is home to one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time. We discover the story of the ship burial and an Anglo-Saxon king, explore the award-winning exhibition and the full-size reconstruction of the burial chamber (please note, the walk to the burial mounds is a 10–15-minute outdoor walk on flat ground, passengers who are less mobile can visit the exhibition, café and small shop). Later, we make our way to Waldringfield where we enjoy a 2-hour cruise along the River Deben with tea/coffee and scones – one of the most beautiful and scenic spots on the east coast.
- ◆ Enjoy free time to relax and explore the beautiful marina surrounding our hotel, before travelling to the spectacular Grade I Listed Helmingham Hall Gardens. They themselves say that 'it is hard to exaggerate the effect this beautiful park, with its red deer, spectacular moated Hall in mellow patterned red brick with its famous gardens will have on the visitor.' And they aren't wrong, there's a magical feel to this peaceful estate.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 15th July 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	£116	£29

Big Skies from Coast to Countryside

An eclectic journey showcasing North Norfolk's unparalleled experiences. Situated in ancient parkland, home to a spectacular herd of deer, enjoy exclusive access with the head gardener at award-winning Houghton Hall. Alight one of the UK's great five heritage railways through the country's most striking coastal scenes. Delight on a cruise from the enchanting fishing village of Blakeney. Watch the art of brewing at family-run Elgood's Brewery and tour the garden.



Duke's Head Hotel

There can be few more imposing hotels in the east of England than the Duke's Head with its striking powder-blue elegance. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. All the characterful yet contemporary bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Houghton Hall Private Tour
- ◆ Return Journey on the North Norfolk Railway
- ◆ Blakeney Harbour Seal Trip
- ◆ Elgood's Brewery & Gardens Tour

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Houghton Hall & Gardens is one of the finest Palladian Houses in the country, built in the 1720s, for Sir Robert Walpole, Britain first Prime Minister. The Hall is currently the home of the 7th Marquess of Cholmondley, Walpole's descendent, and his family. Situated in traditional parkland, Houghton is home to a spectacular herd of white fallow and other exotic deer. The award-winning 5-acre Walled Garden includes a spectacular double-sided herbaceous border, a formal rose parterre, a Mediterranean garden, a kitchen garden with arches and espaliers of apples and pears.
- ◆ Unlike most other railways of the time, the Poppy Line was built to serve the eager tourist market, travelling via popular holiday spots, rather than to serve the community. This means today we are treated to the smart, Victorian seaside resort of Sheringham, the Georgian market town of Holt, and the pretty village and shingle beaches at Weybourne. Along the way are unrivalled views of this area of outstanding natural beauty. With 50 years of experience operating in Blakeney Harbour, a trip to the Blakeney Seals with Beans Boats offers a rare opportunity to get 'up close and personal' to the resident Grey Seal and Common Seal colonies without causing a disturbance. Please note, sailing times will be dependent on tide times and may require a change to our itinerary.
- ◆ At Elgood's Brewery & Gardens, discover the art of the brewer, watch traditional brewing methods using original open copper vessels, and wander around the Brewery Museum before sampling Elgood's range of real ales. Relax in the 4-acre garden, featuring 200-year-old specimen trees, a herb garden, herbaceous borders, and a rockery. Find your way out of the maze and enjoy one of the award-winning ales in the licensed café bar.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 12th August 2024	5 Days	£559 pp	£100	£29

Great Yarmouth

Based in Norfolk's premier seaside resort, this is a holiday of many contrasts, from the hustle and bustle of a busy seaside resort to the relaxing calm of The Broads, to the historic City of Norwich and the quieter resorts and towns of the region.



Palm Court Hotel

The family owned and run Palm Court Hotel stands in a quiet location on Great Yarmouth's seafront, overlooking the sea. All the en-suite bedrooms are pleasantly decorated and feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, 2 bars, a good range of seating areas and an indoor swimming pool. There will be some evening entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Norfolk Broads Cruise
- ◆ Bressingham Gardens
- ◆ Blickling Estate
- ◆ Cathedral City of Norwich
- ◆ Timeless Southwold

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We begin our day with a visit to Wroxham and the charming Norfolk Broads where we enjoy a cruise around the picturesque Broads. Later, we travel to the Cathedral City of Norwich. There're so many amazing things to do here – award-winning shopping, lively streets, and historic monuments. A visit to the Cathedral is a must, also cobbled Elm Hill, and the Castle Mall shopping centre.
- ◆ We travel down the coast and into Suffolk to the timeless and delightful resort of Southwold, little changed since Victorian times. We continue inland to Diss and Blooms of Bressingham Garden Centre and visit nearby Bressingham Gardens and Steam Museum. The gardens are renowned all over the world for their excellence.
- ◆ Blickling Estate is one of England's great Jacobean Houses. It is famed for its spectacular Long Gallery and collections of furniture, pictures, books, and tapestries. The gardens are full of colour throughout the year and the extensive parkland has a lake with beautiful woodland and lakeside walks. Later, we have free time in the traditional resort of Cromer, famous for Banksy's Great British Spraycation artwork, Cromer Pier, and Pavilion Theatre.
- ◆ Today, we visit Oulton Broad, and Lowestoft – once a small fishing port. The town is set on a backdrop of an award-winning beach and The Broads National Park. The Gulliver Wind Turbine stands proud over the town, whilst those wanting a glimpse of times gone by can visit the heritage vessels on the South Pier.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 22nd September 2024	7 Days	£699 pp	NIL	£35

Codebreakers & Cambridge

Cambridge is a vibrant, modern city with a colourful history that attracts visitors from around the world. Combined with our visit to Bletchley Park, home of the Codebreakers, you're sure to learn something new on this Cambridgeshire long weekend.



Delta by Marriott Hotel Huntingdon

Located in the heart of picturesque Cambridgeshire, the Delta by Marriott Hotel Huntingdon is the ideal base for our tour. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and lounge. Ensuite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Bletchley Park
- ◆ Guided Tour of Cambridge

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We discover the incredible achievements of Britain's World War II Codebreakers in the place where it happened, Bletchley Park. Once the top-secret home of WW2 Codebreakers, Bletchley Park is now a vibrant heritage attraction. Immersive films, interactive displays, museum collections and faithfully recreated WW2 rooms will guide you on a journey to discover the past at Bletchley Park. Exhibitions, set within beautifully restored historic buildings, tell the story of this once top-secret operation. Find out more about the brilliant minds and complex machines that made this vital work possible and discover the global impact Bletchley Park had on the outcome of WW2.
- ◆ We are joined by our guide this morning for a tour on our coach of Cambridge. Our route takes in a good number of famous sights: Queen's College and its Mathematical Bridge, Darwin College, Pembroke College, Emmanuel College, the River Cam, Jesus Green, and the University's Botanic Garden. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore picturesque city, known for its rich history, punts and university. Away from the museums and beautiful green spaces, the city has a booming shopping scene with plenty of independent stores, alongside familiar brands. Pop into St Mary's Passage to browse the range of traditional-style satchels at Cambridge Satchel Company, visit the Cambridge Distillery or go punting along the River Cam.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 3rd October 2024	4 Days	£349 pp	£93	£29

Middle England



Heart of England

The Heart of England is a place steeped in history, art and culture. Based in Great Malvern with the beautiful Malvern Hills overlooking the town, we take you on a lovely sightseeing holiday showcasing some of the very best the region has to offer.



© Museum of Royal Worcester

The Abbey Hotel

The setting of the Abbey Hotel is by far one of the most perfect in the country, situated right at the heart of the countryside at the foot of the Malvern Hills. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, ironing centre, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Priory View Restaurant, 1848 Lounge Bar, and the Courtyard Café.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Museum of Royal Worcester & Worcester
- ◆ Ledbury, Monmouth & Cruise on the River Wye
- ◆ Hampton Court Castle & Gardens & Hereford

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At the Museum of Royal Worcester, discover 250 years of colourful stories through the largest collection of Worcester porcelain in the world, and the unique archive, in the place where it was made. We enjoy an entertaining talk by passionate expert and time to browse a unique range of gorgeous vintage Worcester porcelain, quality contemporary Royal Worcester china and crystal, and handmade gifts and jewellery by former Royal Worcester artists in the shop. There will be free time in Worcester – proudly independent and tastefully historic. With a wealth of interesting architecture combined with an unrivalled combination of independent boutiques and high street names, and quality cuisine from vintage tea rooms to riverside alfresco dining, there's something here for everyone to enjoy.
- ◆ First stop is Ledbury, with historic streets lined with brilliant independent shops, plus plenty of places to refuel. Monmouth next, well-known for its iconic 13th Century gatehouse bridge and famous past with connections to Henry V. Time here for lunch as Monmouth has restaurants to suit all tastes and plenty of opportunities for coffee in a quiet courtyard. Later, we enjoy a cruise of the River Wye, famous for its river scenery as the river winds its way through the Symonds Yat Gorge and village.
- ◆ Our Tour of Hampton Court Castle & Gardens is conducted by an experienced and engaging guide who will show us some of the spectacular rooms inside the Castle, whilst talking us through the history of the estate. Explore the magnificent grounds with water features, maze, colourful borders and more. Later, we visit Hereford, which sits on a loop of the River Wye. The golden-stone cathedral, with its medieval Mappa Mundi and Chained Library, is a huge draw, but you can also wander among half-timbered houses and stroll along the Wye. Browse independent shops across the city – they're clustered along quirky Church Street – and explore the Old Market, transformed into an open-air destination for shopping and dining.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 1st April 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£60	£29

Robin Hood Country & 'The Crown' Jewel of Castles

A green city with a legendary past, a vibrant culture and a bright future, a creative destination of rebels and pioneers, and the home of Robin Hood, Nottinghamshire is one of the UK's top destinations and a warm welcome awaits.



© Belvoircastle.com

The Mercure Nottingham Sherwood Hotel

The Mercure Nottingham Sherwood Hotel is ideally located for exploring the area on our tour. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and swimming pool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Guided Tour of Nottingham
- ◆ Cruise with 2-course Lunch in Nottingham
- ◆ Lincoln Cathedral & Guided Cruise
- ◆ Belvoir Castle & Southwell Workhouse

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We start first thing with a part walking/part step-on guided tour by 'Ezekial Bone', Nottingham's official outlaw, Robin Hood. We stroll around the Victorian Lace Market, once the commercial heart of a world-wide empire in machine made lace, learning about the evolution of Nottingham's textile industry. We hear the truth behind the Robin Hood legend with masterful storytelling by our aptly dressed guide. This afternoon, we take to the water for a relaxing 3-hour cruise on the River Trent. As we sail, we tuck into a 2-course traditional roast lunch with tea/coffee, taking in lovely scenery and superb views of the historic city.
- ◆ This morning we visit magnificent Lincoln Cathedral. One of Europe's finest gothic buildings dating back to the 11th Century, our visit includes a 1-hour floor tour where an expert guide takes us on a journey revealing hundreds of years of history. We have free time for lunch and a wander around the city, before we finish our day with a relaxing 1-hour guided canal cruise taking in the sights of Lincoln and the surrounding countryside. An entertaining commentary is included so we don't miss a detail.
- ◆ This morning we visit Belvoir Castle, used as 'Windsor Castle' in series 3 of the hugely successful Netflix series, The Crown. We embark on a guided tour of the castle and learn about the rare treasures and impressive painting collection as we walk in the footsteps of past Dukes and Duchesses. We have time to explore the choice of gardens including the Rose Garden, Japanese Woodland, Hermits Garden, and Dukes Walk to mention but a few. Later, we return to Nottingham and visit Southwell Workhouse. It offers a fascinating vignette of how the poor lived as we explore the rooms, vegetable garden and yards and find out about the role of the workhouse and how it evolved through time.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 15th April 2024	5 Days	£519 pp	£108	£29

Timeless Wiltshire

Wiltshire has been a special place for a long time. But history in Wiltshire is not just ancient. Romans, Normans, and Saxons have all left their mark on the countryside and towns. Walk through time on our tour of Wiltshire, touch and feel the past, and be inspired with what's on offer.



© www.geograph.org.uk - Michael-Garlick

The Blunsdon House Hotel

Blunsdon House Hotel is set in 30 acres of beautifully maintained grounds with views to The Cotswolds. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and fitness centre with gym and swimming pool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cogges Manor Farm with Cream Tea and Burford
- ◆ American Museum & Gardens and Corsham
- ◆ Bowood House & Gardens and Marlborough

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Cogges Manor Farm is a beautifully preserved collection of Cotswold stone farm buildings set in its own grounds. The site has been occupied since before the Domesday Book and parts of the Manor House date back to the 13th Century. Our dedicated guide will lead us through the changes and adaptations made at Cogges to enable it to survive over the centuries. Whilst here, we enjoy a delicious Cream Tea. Later, we visit Burford, one of the most picturesque towns in the area, famous for its high street which sweeps downhill towards the River Windrush past Cotswold stone cottages, Georgian townhouses, a medieval church, shops, tearooms, and historic pubs.
- ◆ Positioned in a gorgeous setting, the American Museum & Gardens was created by an Anglo-American couple, Dallas Pratt and John Judkyn, and opened to the public in 1961 with the ambition to showcase American decorative arts and dispel stereotypes of American culture. Today, the estate boasts a Museum – featuring collections including world-renowned folk art, quilt and maps, Exhibition Gallery – housing a shop and gallery, Gardens – 125 acres of green, rolling topography with stunning views across the valley, and American Garden Deli – serving a range of homemade American inspired food and drink. Later we visit Corsham with its independent shops and restaurants, and peacocks roaming freely!
- ◆ Home of the Lansdowne Family, Bowood House lies in 2,000 acres of Grade I listed 'Capability' Brown parkland. Highlights include Queen Victoria's Wedding Chair, Napoleon's Death Mask, Laboratory in which Dr Joseph Priestley identified Oxygen Gas, and a collection of art and historical treasures. Surrounding the Georgian House is the Italian-inspired Terrace Garden, the Private Walled Gardens, and the herbaceous border, all radiating colour throughout the seasons. We also visit the vibrant market town of Marlborough, with its arcades, alleyways, coaching inns, half-timbered cottages, and a church at each end of the high street.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 18th April 2024	5 Days	£459 pp	£120	£29

Steam Trains, Grand Union Canal & Midlands Memories

Central England is a place steeped in art, history, and culture. Our tour takes in some of the gems on offer. With a Steam Train ride, a Canal Cruise, and a visit to a Living History Museum, there's something to suite all tastes.



© Flickr - Paul Lucas

The Chesford Grange Hotel

The Chesford Grange Hotel is located near the banks of the River Avon, with great links to the surrounding area. The hotel has a lift, health club, indoor swimming pool, spa, River Room Restaurant, Manor & Terrace Bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Severn Valley Railway ◆ Great Central Railway
- ◆ Foxton Locks Canal Cruise ◆ Black Country Living Museum
- ◆ Museum of Road Transport ◆ Baddesley Clinton

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our day begins with a drive south to historic Coventry where we visit the Museum of British Road Transport, with over 400 artefacts and thousands of items of memorabilia from the golden age of cars and motorcycles. The museum is only 5 minutes' walk from the world-famous Coventry Cathedral. Later, we visit Baddesley Clinton House – this atmospheric moated house has been a sanctuary since the 15th Century, with three priest holes and the peaceful gardens, with fish pools, romantic lake and walled garden are a delight.
- ◆ We make our way to the little village of Foxton where we board 'Vagabond', an elegant motor launch, for a trip on the Grand Union Canal, seeing the Foxton Flight of 10 locks, and gently passing through peaceful countryside. At Foxton, there is a canal-side pub where refreshments are available to purchase. Later, we join the Great Central Railway for a nostalgic steam train ride for 18 miles to Loughborough, crossing picturesque Swithland Reservoir on the way.
- ◆ We travel to Kidderminster and join the Severn Valley Railway for a ride along the valley to Bridgenorth, passing through delightfully restored stations on the way. From here we continue to the Black Country Living Museum for our included visit. Experience sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the Black Country as you explore shops, houses, and industrial workshops, rebuilt in this canal side village.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 30th May 2024	5 Days	£589 pp	£140	£29

Salisbury & 'Downton Abbey' Weekender

The traditional and original medieval city of Salisbury is a 'must see' destination on any visit to Wiltshire. Pair this with magnificent Highclere Castle and you're in for a rare treat!



© Highclere Castle

The Stones Hotel

The Stones Hotel is located between Salisbury & Amesbury, an ideal spot for our weekender. The restaurant features a mixture of booth and table seating with seasonal and locally sourced food on the menu. The hotel also has a bar and outside terrace. Sorry, there is not lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cathedral City of Salisbury
- ◆ Highclere Castle – TV's 'Downton Abbey'

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We have the day at leisure to explore the Cathedral City of Salisbury. At the city's heart is Salisbury Cathedral, a beacon that has attracted visitors for centuries. Gathered around the Cathedral Close are attractions like Arundells, Mompesson House, The Rifles Military Museum, and Salisbury Museum. Elsewhere, the historic streets are home to all your favourite stores, as well as independent retailers offering products designed and crafted locally. On Saturdays, the hustle and bustle of the historic Charter Market fills the Market Place, friendly colourful, noisy, and full of enticing aromas from freshly ground coffee and fresh bread to hot doughnuts, hog roast and newly cut flowers.
- ◆ Today we visit Highclere Castle, transformed in 1842 by Sir Charles Barry, who also designed the Houses of Parliament. There are between 250 and 300 rooms in the Castle and during your tour you will explore the main state rooms, so familiar from 'Downton Abbey'. You will see some of the bedrooms after which you will follow the stairs down to the cellars and old staff quarters where you will find the Egyptian Exhibition celebrating the 5th Earl of Caernarfon's discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun. Records show that the gardens at Highclere were first developed during the 13th Century. Today, highlights include the original Monks' Garden, the White Border, the Wood of Goodwill, the Rose Arbour, the Wild Flower Meadow, and, nearer the house, the Healing Herb Garden.

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The Blunsdon House Hotel

Blunsdon House Hotel is set in 30 acres of beautifully maintained grounds with views to The Cotswolds. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and fitness centre with gym and swimming pool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cogges Manor Farm with Cream Tea and Burford
- ◆ American Museum & Gardens and Corsham
- ◆ Bowood House & Gardens and Marlborough

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Cogges Manor Farm is a beautifully preserved collection of Cotswold stone farm buildings set in its own grounds. The site has been occupied since before the Domesday Book and parts of the Manor House date back to the 13th Century. Our dedicated guide will lead us through the changes and adaptations made at Cogges to enable it to survive over the centuries. Whilst here, we enjoy a delicious Cream Tea. Later, we visit Burford, one of the most picturesque towns in the area, famous for its high street which sweeps downhill towards the River Windrush past Cotswold stone cottages, Georgian townhouses, a medieval church, shops, tearooms, and historic pubs.
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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 31st May 2024	4 Days	£369 pp	£88	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 13th June 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	£120	£29

Bells & Gems of the English Shires

The highlight of our tour to the 'English Shires' is a visit to Loughborough Bell Foundry – the last major bell foundry in Britain. We have combined this with visits to Oakham & Barnsdale Gardens, historic Stamford, and Boughton House = 'Les Miserables'.



Courtesy Loughborough Bell Foundry

The Rockingham Forest Hotel

The Rockingham Forest Hotel is pleasantly situated just outside the pretty Northamptonshire village of Rockingham, just a short distance from Rockingham Castle. Its rural setting gives easy access to the countryside and all the attractions on our tour. The hotel has a restaurant and bar. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor bedrooms are available on request. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Loughborough Bell Foundry
- ◆ Barnsdale Gardens
- ◆ Historic Stamford
- ◆ Foxton Locks
- ◆ Boughton House

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We begin with a ride around Rutland Water, heading for historic Stamford. Stamford is praised for several different qualities, from its unique blend of history and Georgian architecture to its unique and quality shopping – unanimously considered a charming, character-filled, and picturesque destination. Later, we visit Barnsdale Gardens, familiar to many TV viewers as home of the late Geoff Hamilton, and Gardeners World. The gardens comprise 37 individual gardens and features, all blended by the borders into one eight-acre garden.
- ◆ We make for the little village of Foxton, and join 'Vagabond', an elegant motor launch, for a cruise on the Grand Union Canal, seeing Foxton Flight of 10 Locks, and gently passing through peaceful countryside. Afterwards, we have a treat in store as we visit Boughton House, one of the greatest treasure houses in Europe. The collection here is staggering – arts, rare furniture, porcelain, and weaponry. In 2012, the house hosted the cast of the Oscar-winning film 'Les Misérables' and was featured in several scenes.
- ◆ The highlight today is a visit to one of England's most historic beloved institutions, founded in the 14th Century – the Loughborough Bell Foundry has been making bells for parish churches and cathedrals alike. It has cast more than 25,000 bells hung in the cathedrals, churches, universities, and public buildings on over 100 countries. Later, we visit the old English town of Melton Mowbray. While Melton is known worldwide for its Pork Pies and Stilton Cheese, there's so much more to this quintessential English town.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 10th June 2024	5 Days	£439 pp	£30	£29

Heart of England

The Heart of England is a place steeped in history, art and culture. Based in Great Malvern with the beautiful Malvern Hills overlooking the town, we take you on a lovely sightseeing holiday showcasing some of the very best the region has to offer.



© Flickr - Heather Cowpe

The Abbey Hotel

The setting of the Abbey Hotel is by far one of the most perfect in the country, situated right at the heart of the countryside at the foot of the Malvern Hills. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, ironing centre, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Priory View Restaurant, 1848 Lounge Bar, and the Courtyard Café.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Museum of Royal Worcester & Worcester
- ◆ Ledbury, Monmouth & Cruise on the River Wye
- ◆ Hampton Court Castle & Gardens & Hereford

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At the Museum of Royal Worcester, discover 250 years of colourful stories through the largest collection of Worcester porcelain in the world, and the unique archive, in the place where it was made. We enjoy an entertaining talk by passionate expert and time to browse a unique range of gorgeous vintage Worcester porcelain, quality contemporary Royal Worcester china and crystal, and handmade gifts and jewellery by former Royal Worcester artists in the shop. There will be free time in Worcester – proudly independent and tastefully historic. With a wealth of interesting architecture combined with an unrivalled combination of independent boutiques and high street names, and quality cuisine from vintage tea rooms to riverside alfresco dining, there's something here for everyone to enjoy.
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- ◆ Our Tour of Hampton Court Castle & Gardens is conducted by an experienced and engaging guide who will show us some of the spectacular rooms inside the Castle, whilst talking us through the history of the estate. Explore the magnificent grounds with water features, maze, colourful borders and more. Later, we visit Hereford, which sits on a loop of the River Wye. The golden-stone cathedral, with its medieval Mappa Mundi and Chained Library, is a huge draw, but you can also wander among half-timbered houses and stroll along the Wye. Browse independent shops across the city – they're clustered along quirky Church Street – and explore the Old Market, transformed into an open-air destination for shopping and dining.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 30th June 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£60	£29

Shropshire's Enchantingly Curious

Storybook Shropshire awaits; enchanting tales of a medieval castle, a secret garden and a scandalous prison.



© Flickr Frank Kinch

The Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa

The Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa is set inside a beautiful 18th Century Manor House, boasting 15 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and an ornamental lake. This 300-year-old hotel is conveniently located just four miles from Shrewsbury centre, an ideal base for our tour. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar and leisure facilities with swimming pool, sauna, steam room, and gym. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Shrewsbury Prison
- ◆ Powis Castle & Garden
- ◆ Hodnet Hall Gardens

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ This morning we make the short journey to Shrewsbury Prison. The giant prison gates have clanged shut and now there's nowhere to escape. Ever wondered what happens next? It's time to ask all the juicy questions How do the drugs get in? How did executions transpire? Who was the most infamous inmate and how wicked was the crime? Ex-prison officers will be your guides through the world's most interactive prison, introducing you to traditional prison wings, furnished cells, healthcare, segregation, prisoners' kitchen, visits, hangman's bedroom, and the notoriously well-used execution room. Later, we enjoy free time in Shrewsbury with its higgledy piggledy streets with names you want to say out loud. Explore endless independents, favourite big names, tastebud tingling eateries and bars all set in a picturesque market town with over 1,000 years of history.
- ◆ This morning's visit is to Powis Castle & Garden. Reign over the Welshpool countryside from Powis Castle's proud position high on a rock. Once a medieval fortress built by Welsh princes, and reimagined over generations by the Herbert family, Powis' interiors are abundant with stunning treasures of paintings, sculptures, furniture and tapestries, including one of the UK's most significant collections from India. Descend into the Grade I listed fairy-tale likeness of original baroque gardens, grand Italian terraces blasted into solid rock, jaw-dropping 30 feet-high yew hedges and countless dancing statues. This afternoon, we explore Welshpool where the main streets are lined with fine Georgian buildings.
- ◆ Hidden in the hills of Shropshire, discover a secret garden embodying transformation since the 12th Century. A constant presence in Shropshire for almost a millennia, Hodnet Hall's gardens are a unique design combining the impressions made by each of its owners. Tickle all your senses wandering the jungle-like Water Garden, sophisticated Circular Garden and prestigious Walled Kitchen Garden, keeping an eagle eye out for the resplendent green woodpecker. Search for the pristine monuments of previous eras, including a 400-year-old tithe barn and a fairy-tale Grade II listed Tudor Dovecote. We also visit the market town of Wem, famed for its connection with sweet peas.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 1st July 2024	5 Days	£579 pp	£140	£29

Walking at Leisure & Sightseeing in the Peak District

We are delighted to introduce this new concept tour for those ramblers out there. Don't worry, we won't have you climbing mountains – not just yet anyway – but take you on gentle ambles through some stunning scenic locations. So, dig out your walking boots & backpacks and join us on this new adventure.



Riches to Ruins: Worcestershire

Escape to the rolling heart of England for 'needle in the haystack' experiences, exploring great tales from riches to ruins.



The Worcester Whitehouse Hotel

Built in the 16th Century, this former coaching inn is adjacent to Foregate Street train station, in the heart of the historic and vibrant city of Worcester. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and leisure club. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ragley Hall, Park & Gardens
- ◆ Witley Court & Gardens
- ◆ Forge Mill Needle Museum & Jinney Ring Craft Centre

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At Witley Court & Gardens feel the grandeur still present in the charred walls of England's greatest ruins. Built in the 17th Century and extensively remodelled in Victorian times, disaster struck in 1937 when a fire ripped through Witley Court. Hear stories of the lost world of this magnificent country house – a bygone era of great wealth, the house once played host to some of the richest people in the country, from royal parties to fashionable society including the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII. Not to be missed is the spectacular Perseus and Andromeda Fountain, along the monster walk of William Nesfield, 'firing' as it comes to life, once said to make the noise of an express train. The immaculately designed gardens have stood the test of time and still feature Victorian bedding plants – the gardens alone are noted as a must-see for any horticultural enthusiast! Later we visit the Georgian town of Stourport-on-Severn, with its independent shops, cafes, and restaurants.
- ◆ Located in Radio 4's 'Archers' countryside, there is more to the Forge Mill Needle Museum than meets the eye. Hear how the humble Victorian needle was manufactured. The site once produced 90% of the world's needles and has supplied needles for almost everything – from needles to sew panels onto space shuttles to microsurgery tools. Hear the turmoil of the workers who underwent some of the most dangerous jobs and conditions of the period. You'll also witness traditional skilled craftsmen at work, at the Jinney Ring Craft Centre, one of the most visited craft centres in the West Midlands.
- ◆ You might recognise your surroundings as you tour Ragley Hall, as one of the settings in the immensely popular Netflix series 'The Crown' and Doctor Who! Set in the heart of Shakespeare's England, get to know one of Warwickshire's most exclusive venues, its gorgeous interiors the result of contributions from 9 generations of the same family, as the ancestral seat of the Hertford family. Be sure to take in the exquisitely illustrated mural in the South Staircase, The Temptation, which took 14 years to complete. Immerse yourself in the timeless elegance of Ragley whilst enjoying eccentric tales of the past and present. We also enjoy some free time in the beautiful cathedral city of Worcester. Just a stone's throw away from the Cathedral are historic Friar Street and New Street where two of Worcester's oldest and most historic pubs are located.

Derby Mickleover Hotel, Signature Collection by Best Western

The Mickleover Hotel offers a central base for this holiday. The hotel has a 'Wow' factor from the moment you set foot through the doors, with a large atrium in the reception area overlooked by balconies on each floor. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, fitness centre, indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room, and whirlpool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Two Guided Walks in the Stunning Peak District
- ◆ Ilam Park & Dovedale
- ◆ Chatsworth Park & House
- ◆ Shugborough Estate
- ◆ Matlock Bath, Bakewell & Buxton

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We meet our Guide and drive to Ilam Hall, built in a battlemented Gothic style, used for films such as Jane Eyre. Our walk takes us past the picturesque church and through the pretty village of Ilam, built in an Alpine style. We then take the path over fields with views ahead to Thorpe Cloud, the dramatic hill that marks the southern end of Dovedale. From here, we take a short walk up the riverside path through the Dale to see, and maybe cross over, the famous Dovedale Stepping Stones before re-joining the coach. We take a lunch break in Ashbourne before visiting the stunning Shugborough Estate, former home of the late Lord Patrick Lichfield. Set on the banks of the River Sow, the magnificent 17th Century mansion house offers much to see.
- ◆ Today we have a Peak District sightseeing tour, taking us first to Matlock for a short break before we head to the Peak District Capital – Buxton. We have time to explore this town with its delightful gardens and pedestrianised centre and get lunch before continuing our way for an afternoon stop in Bakewell, home of the famous 'tart'.
- ◆ With our guide, we travel to Beeley. We start with a gentle walk through the pretty estate village, then take a path over fields to Chatsworth Garden Centre where we have a mid-morning break. The walk then continues along the side of the River Derwent, through Chatsworth Park with wonderful views across the river to Chatsworth House. This afternoon we include a visit to Chatsworth House.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 4th July 2024	5 Days	£489 pp	£100	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd July 2024	5 Days	£519 pp	£100	£29

Timeless Wiltshire

Wiltshire has been a special place for a long time. But history in Wiltshire is not just ancient. Romans, Normans, and Saxons have all left their mark on the countryside and towns. Walk through time on our tour of Wiltshire, touch and feel the past, and be inspired with what's on offer.



Ludlow and the County of Shropshire

Shropshire is especially rich in historic sites, charming market towns, and is a wonderful county for eating and drinking. On our tour, we hope you agree, we have chosen some of the best.



The Blunsdon House Hotel

Blunsdon House Hotel is set in 30 acres of beautifully maintained grounds with views to The Cotswolds. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and fitness centre with gym and swimming pool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cogges Manor Farm with Cream Tea and Burford
- ◆ American Museum & Gardens and Corsham
- ◆ Bowood House & Gardens and Marlborough

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Cogges Manor Farm is a beautifully preserved collection of Cotswold stone farm buildings set in its own grounds. The site has been occupied since before the Domesday Book and parts of the Manor House date back to the 13th Century. Our dedicated guide will lead us through the changes and adaptations made at Cogges to enable it to survive over the centuries. Whilst here, we enjoy a delicious Cream Tea. Later, we visit Burford, one of the most picturesque towns in the area, famous for its high street which sweeps downhill towards the River Windrush past Cotswold stone cottages, Georgian townhouses, a medieval church, shops, tearooms, and historic pubs.
- ◆ Positioned in a gorgeous setting, the American Museum & Gardens was created by an Anglo-American couple, Dallas Pratt and John Judkyn, and opened to the public in 1961 with the ambition to showcase American decorative arts and dispel stereotypes of American culture. Today, the estate boasts a Museum – featuring collections including world-renowned folk art, quilt and maps, Exhibition Gallery – housing a shop and gallery, Gardens – 125 acres of green, rolling topography with stunning views across the valley, and American Garden Deli – serving a range of homemade American inspired food and drink. Later we visit Corsham with its independent shops and restaurants, and peacocks roaming freely!
- ◆ Home of the Lansdowne Family, Bowood House lies in 2,000 acres of Grade I listed 'Capability' Brown parkland. Highlights include Queen Victoria's Wedding Chair, Napoleon's Death Mask, Laboratory in which Dr Joseph Priestley identified Oxygen Gas, and a collection of art and historical treasures. Surrounding the Georgian House is the Italian-inspired Terrace Garden, the Private Walled Gardens, and the herbaceous border, all radiating colour throughout the seasons. We also visit the vibrant market town of Marlborough, with its arcades, alleyways, coaching inns, half-timbered cottages, and a church at each end of the high street.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 19th August 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	£120	£29

Telford Hotel & Golf Resort

The Telford Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort has an enviable location, overlooking the iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ironbridge Gorge, nestled amid acres of gorgeous Severn Valley countryside. The award-winning spa offers a range of treatments & massages, pool, and steam room. The hotel offers Gorge Lounge & Bar and Restaurant 1779. All ensuite bedrooms have TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, ironing board, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ludlow & Wenlock Edge ◆ Shrewsbury & River Severn Cruise
- ◆ Beautiful Georgian Bewdley ◆ Ironbridge – Museum of the Gorge
- ◆ Stokesay Castle ◆ Cream Tea in Stourport on Severn

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel north to Stokesay Castle – a survivor of 700 years of border and civil wars. Its buildings are complete and breath-taking. Discover the great hall, unchanged for over 700 years. Spot characters carved in the timbers of the 17th Century gatehouse and climb to the top of a fairy-tale tower for breath-taking views of the Shropshire Hills. Continue to historic Ludlow, a medieval town with imposing castle at the top of the town square. The town has much to offer, and we have chance for lunch and to explore before we head back to the hotel.
- ◆ This morning it's Shrewsbury that catches our attention, packed with timber-framed black and white buildings amongst narrow alleyways, surrounded by the River Severn. Whilst here, we enjoy a cruise on the River Severn. Later, we visit the impressive Ironbridge Gorge where the world's first iron bridge forms the centre of this World Heritage Site. Included is a visit to the Museum of the Gorge for a brief insight into life at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.
- ◆ This morning we head to Bridgnorth where we join the Severn Valley Railway for a delightful ride along the beautiful Severn Valley, passing through lovingly restored stations on our way to Kidderminster. From here, we have a short drive to the lovely Georgian Severn-side town of Bewdley. Time here for lunch and a look around before we continue to the Stourport Manor Hotel, former home of Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin, for a delicious Cream Tea.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 19th August 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	£140	£29

Majestic Malverns & The Midlands

Join us on an adventure through scenic landscapes, idyllic gardens, and the precious legacy of two institutions that made a significant impact on their communities.



The Worcester Whitehouse Hotel

Built in the 16th Century, this former coaching inn is adjacent to Foregate Street train station, in the heart of the historic and vibrant city of Worcester. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and leisure club. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ralph Court Gardens Guided Tour & Afternoon Tea
- ◆ Morgan Motor Company Factory Tour
- ◆ Museum of Carpet Guided Tour
- ◆ Shakespeare Gin Distillery Cruise

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Leominster is situated in the rolling countryside in the beautiful borderlands of England & Wales known as 'The Marches'. Much of the town centre retains its medieval and Tudor flavour – narrow streets and half-timbered houses, whilst Church Street and Etnam Street boast gracious terraces of the Georgian period. Later, we visit Ralph Court Gardens. Eager to share their passion for gardening with the public, Stephen & Paula – the masterminds behind this creative artwork – designed a never-before-seen garden that incorporates 12 remarkable styles and themes, taking guests across the globe in the heart of the East Midlands. We conclude our visit with a delicious Alice in Wonderland themed Afternoon Tea.
- ◆ At the Morgan Motor Company, we witness how a family-owned enterprise was able to keep its ethos over the years. Operating for more than 110 years, authentic design, engineering, and manufacturing have made Morgan Motor renowned worldwide for its ability to build and deliver products tailored to each owner's specific needs. Meet the craftsmen at work on a factory tour – highlights include gaining access to workshops and seeing a Morgan Sports Car being handmade from start to finish. Later we enjoy Stratford from the River Avon on a 60-minute cruise designed to satisfy your curiosity. Travel along the canal to view sights such as the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Holy Trinity Church, and Shakespeare's burial place. The skipper will share information about the river's wildlife and the canal's heritage, while you enjoy a tutored tasting of 3 award-winning crafted gin samples and a gin & tonic drink in a souvenir glass to take home.
- ◆ We meet the talented team at the Museum of Carpet, the place where they lived and worked as they share first-hand insights into their craft. The Museum is today's source of 300 years of history with engineered machines dating from the 18th Century to the present day. We enjoy a tour of the museum including demonstrations of spinning, handloom, and power loom. We also enjoy some free time in the beautiful cathedral city of Worcester. Just a stone's throw away from the Cathedral are historic Friar Street and New Street where two of Worcester's oldest and most historic pubs are located.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 26th August 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	£100	£29

Heart of England

The Heart of England is a place steeped in history, art and culture. Based in Great Malvern with the beautiful Malvern Hills overlooking the town, we take you on a lovely sightseeing holiday showcasing some of the very best the region has to offer.



© www.geograph.org.uk - Philip Pankhurst

The Abbey Hotel

The setting of the Abbey Hotel is by far one of the most perfect in the country, situated right at the heart of the countryside at the foot of the Malvern Hills. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, ironing centre, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Priory View Restaurant, 1848 Lounge Bar, and the Courtyard Café.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Museum of Royal Worcester & Worcester
- ◆ Ledbury, Monmouth & Cruise on the River Wye
- ◆ Hampton Court Castle & Gardens & Hereford

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At the Museum of Royal Worcester, discover 250 years of colourful stories through the largest collection of Worcester porcelain in the world, and the unique archive, in the place where it was made. We enjoy an entertaining talk by passionate expert and time to browse a unique range of gorgeous vintage Worcester porcelain, quality contemporary Royal Worcester china and crystal, and handmade gifts and jewellery by former Royal Worcester artists in the shop. There will be free time in Worcester – proudly independent and tastefully historic. With a wealth of interesting architecture combined with an unrivalled combination of independent boutiques and high street names, and quality cuisine from vintage tea rooms to riverside alfresco dining, there's something here for everyone to enjoy.
- ◆ First stop is Ledbury, with historic streets lined with brilliant independent shops, plus plenty of places to refuel. Monmouth next, well-known for its iconic 13th Century gatehouse bridge and famous past with connections to Henry V. Time here for lunch as Monmouth has restaurants to suit all tastes and plenty of opportunities for coffee in a quiet courtyard. Later, we enjoy a cruise of the River Wye, famous for its river scenery as the river winds its way through the Symonds Yat Gorge and village.
- ◆ Our Tour of Hampton Court Castle & Gardens is conducted by an experienced and engaging guide who will show us some of the spectacular rooms inside the Castle, whilst talking us through the history of the estate. Explore the magnificent grounds with water features, maze, colourful borders and more. Later, we visit Hereford, which sits on a loop of the River Wye. The golden-stone cathedral, with its medieval Mappa Mundi and Chained Library, is a huge draw, but you can also wander among half-timbered houses and stroll along the Wye. Browse independent shops across the city – they're clustered along quirky Church Street – and explore the Old Market, transformed into an open-air destination for shopping and dining.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 22nd September 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£60	£29

Northern England & Yorkshire



Blackpool

A holiday in Blackpool will leave you feeling refreshed, relaxed, and recharged p even if you are on the go 25 hours a day! Perhaps it's the resort's infectious zest for life, or may it's just that, uniquely, whatever your routine, Blackpool can offer a perfect break from it.



Morecambe, Lancaster & Lakeland

Stroll along Morecambe's award-winning promenade with an ice cream before visiting the Eric Morecambe Statue, and The Tern Project, a series of public art installations inspired by the birdlife of Morecambe Bay.



The Doric Hotel

Situated on the Queen's Promenade, with breath-taking views over the Irish Sea, Morecambe Bay, and the Isle of Man, The Doric is a firm favourite. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor & outdoor swimming pools, poolside bar, and incredible entertainment every night. A pool of highly professional entertainers await you at The Doric. A full all-year-round entertainment programme with tribute acts, performances and fabulous vocal talent all waiting in the spotlight to entertain you.

Please note our coach & Driver do not stay with you on this tour and there are no excursions included.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.



© Visit Blackpool

UPGRADES AVAILABLE

- ◆ **Drinks Inclusive - £40.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm.
- ◆ **All Inclusive - £60.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm, local Travel Pass, Packed Lunch, Six Bingo Books per adult,

The Auckland Hotel

Having been a family-run hotel for nearly 40 years, the Auckland Hotel understands the needs of holidaymakers, from great food to a good night's sleep as they strive to make sure your stay is as good as possible. Located in the heart of Morecambe and close to shops and restaurants, the hotel offers spectacular views over the Bay to the lake District Hills. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Lancaster Castle & Lancaster
- ◆ Lakeland Museum & Bowness-on-Windermere

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Lancaster Castle's origins date back almost 1,000 years. This Grade 1 Listed building occupies a city centre hilltop location on the site of three successive Roman forts and has been described by English Heritage as 'not only the Northwest's most important historic and archaeological monument but also of international importance'. We enjoy a tour of the Castle, highlights include The Gatehouse, The Governor's House, the Debtors Prison, and Crown Court. The remainder of the day is at leisure in the city of Lancaster. Its independent shops give the city a quirky and unique feeling, offering clothes and gifts, food, and drink; and lots more!
- ◆ Explore a fascinating collection of over 30,000 exhibits that trace the development of road transport throughout the twentieth century-cycles, motorbikes, motor cars, and automobilia. Don't be put off if you don't like cars, the social history of the Lakeland Museum is also evident, and the memories are sure to come flooding back! The cosy café serves tasty treats to warm you up on a cold day. We then travel along Lake Windermere to Bowness for the rest of the day. Why not visit The World of Beatrix Potter or take a cruise on the Lake. There are lots of shops to browse and plenty of eateries to suit every taste & budget.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd January 2024	5 Days	£349 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 26th February 2024	5 Days	£329 pp	NIL	£29

St Annes on Sea

St Annes on Sea, on the Fylde Coast, offers a gentle and peaceful way of life. St Annes boasts a beautifully restored Victorian Pier, promenade with views across to North Wales, multi award-winning beach huts, a wide-open sandy beach, plenty of places to eat, and wonderful seaside charm.



Scarborough

Scarborough enjoys an unrivalled position as one of Britain's premier coastal resorts, yet also lies tantalisingly close to North Yorkshire's rugged national park. You can enjoy golden beaches, superb parks and gardens, and a wide range of leisure amenities, which have given Scarborough its justifiable reputation.



The St Ives Hotel

A warm welcome awaits you at the St Ives Hotel, which is located close to the beach and the pier. All the tastefully decorated bedrooms are en-suite with TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, bar, indoor swimming pool, and some evening entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Lytham Hall & Lytham
- ◆ Fleetwood Market
- ◆ Cleveleys

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Lytham Hall is the finest Georgian house in Lancashire, once the ancestral home of the colourful Clifton family, spanning over 4 centuries. Highlights include the Main Entrance Hall, Morning Room, Gold Room, Willow Room, and Staircase Hall. Whilst here we enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits whilst one of the Tour Guides will enlighten you with the history of the Clifton family before your self-guided tour. Afterwards, you will have free time in Lytham – the one with the Windmill on the Green! Walk along the beautiful seafront, through Lowther Gardens, or shop in the nearby town centre.
- ◆ A busy traditional coastal market offering a great seaside shopping experience, Fleetwood Market has over 150 stalls within three indoor halls and a selection of outdoor stalls. A true shopper's paradise you'll find a variety of stalls including jewellery, clothing and household goods, all at great prices. Later, we continue to the friendly seaside resort of Cleveleys. With great access, public artworks, clean beaches and public facilities, Cleveleys Seafront is worth a visit. The town centre is compact but has everything you need, plenty of cafes and places to meet.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 11th March 2024	5 Days	£319 pp	NIL	£29

The Park Manor Hotel

A lovely hotel situated in one of Scarborough's areas of natural beauty overlooking Peasholm Park. Comfortable en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, bar, indoor swimming pool, bubbling spa, and steam room.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Pickering Market & Helmsley
- ◆ Whitby

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Pickering is a small town packed with a wealth of heritage. From William the Conqueror to Oliver Cromwell and Harry Potter, several notable historical and fictional characters have graced the town of Pickering throughout the years, adding to its rich tapestry. As far as small towns in North Yorkshire go, there will be few, if any, that boast a Castle, a heritage railway, and a church with world-renowned frescoes. The heart of Pickering and its surrounding streets plays host to a range of independent shops and Monday is Market Day. Later, if you were asked to imagine the perfect English market town, then it'd probably look a lot like Helmsley! There's a bustling Market Square, the dramatic castle ruins, the charming tea rooms, and the inviting inns.
- ◆ Today, we visit Whitby. Steeped in history, there are many visitor attractions that are connected to the town's fascinating past, such as the Captain Cook Memorial Museum, where you can learn about the famous explorer's life in the port town. Other things to do in Whitby include the visiting the Dracula Experience on the seafront, where you can be guided through the story and learn about its connection to the town. A trip to Whitby would not be the same without climbing the 199 steps to Whitby Abbey, counting as you go, and exploring the beautiful ruins which tower over the town.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 17th March 2024	5 Days	£439 pp	NIL	£29

Blackpool

A holiday in Blackpool will leave you feeling refreshed, relaxed, and recharged p even if you are on the go 25 hours a day! Perhaps it's the resort's infectious zest for life, or may it's just that, uniquely, whatever your routine, Blackpool can offer a perfect break from it.



© VisitBritain - Jason Knott

Easter Sunday in Harrogate with Afternoon Tea

What a lovely way to spend Easter Sunday than with a traditional Afternoon Tea in the stunning Old Swan Hotel in the heart of the picturesque spa town of Harrogate.



© www.geograph.org.uk - Colin Park

The Doric Hotel

Situated on the Queen's Promenade, with breath-taking views over the Irish Sea, Morecambe Bay, and the Isle of Man, The Doric is a firm favourite. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor & outdoor swimming pools, poolside bar, and incredible entertainment every night. A pool of highly professional entertainers await you at The Doric. A full all-year-round entertainment programme with tribute acts, performances and fabulous vocal talent all waiting in the spotlight to entertain you.

Please note our coach & Driver do not stay with you on this tour and there are no excursions included.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.



© Flickr - Jeremy Thompson

UPGRADES AVAILABLE

- ◆ **Drinks Inclusive - £40.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm.
- ◆ **All Inclusive - £60.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm, local Travel Pass, Packed Lunch, Six Bingo Books per adult,

Old Swan Hotel

The Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate combines Victorian splendour with elegant contemporary style and is just a short walk from the town centre. One of the most famous hotels in Harrogate, thanks to its romantic past – once a popular spa, it was the hideaway haven for crime queen Agatha Christie when she famously disappeared here in 1926. The hotel is packed with stunning period features, including revolving doors and polished wooden floors. The hotel has a lift as well as elegant reception rooms, including the magnificent Wedgewood Restaurant with its original glass ceiling, or the Swan Lounge & Bar overlooking the lawns with views of the town centre. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, iron & ironing board, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Sunday Afternoon Tea
- ◆ RHS Harlow Carr

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The most northerly of all the RHS gardens, Harlow Carr's location presents challenges and opportunities representative of the region. The landscape here is diverse, with managed woodlands, streamside plantings, lavish and ornamental herbaceous borders, wildflower meadows, and small-scale model gardens. Collectively, they illustrate different garden styles, types of planting, methods of supporting wildlife, ideas for greening grey spaces and strategies for mitigating the effects of extreme weather. The plant collection is extensive and continues to evolve as we push the boundaries of what can be grown. Blue poppies, primulas, and rhododendrons all flourish in the cool moist conditions along the beck and woodland edge, and they are now accompanied by new plantings incorporating Japanese iris, astilbe and hydrangea to increase seasonal interest. We continue to the hotel where we enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 25th March 2024	5 Days	£359 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 31st March 2024	2 Days	£199 pp	£5	£27

St Annes on Sea

St Annes on Sea, on the Fylde Coast, offers a gentle and peaceful way of life. St Annes boasts a beautifully restored Victorian Pier, promenade with views across to North Wales, multi award-winning beach huts, a wide-open sandy beach, plenty of places to eat, and wonderful seaside charm.



York Short Break

York is a city where ancient walls surround incredible attractions, shops, and eateries. York is unlike any other English city – there's thirty world-class museums for a start.



The St Ives Hotel

A warm welcome awaits you at the St Ives Hotel, which is located close to the beach and the pier. All the tastefully decorated bedrooms are en-suite with TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, bar, indoor swimming pool, and some evening entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Lytham Hall & Lytham
- ◆ Fleetwood Market
- ◆ Cleveleys

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Lytham Hall is the finest Georgian house in Lancashire, once the ancestral home of the colourful Clifton family, spanning over 4 centuries. Highlights include the Main Entrance Hall, Morning Room, Gold Room, Willow Room, and Staircase Hall. Whilst here we enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits whilst one of the Tour Guides will enlighten you with the history of the Clifton family before your self-guided tour. Afterwards, you will have free time in Lytham – the one with the Windmill on the Green! Walk along the beautiful seafront, through Lowther Gardens, or shop in the nearby town centre.
- ◆ A busy traditional coastal market offering a great seaside shopping experience, Fleetwood Market has over 150 stalls within three indoor halls and a selection of outdoor stalls. A true shopper's paradise you'll find a variety of stalls including jewellery, clothing and household goods, all at great prices. Later, we continue to the friendly seaside resort of Cleveleys. With great access, public artworks, clean beaches and public facilities, Cleveleys Seafront is worth a visit. The town centre is compact but has everything you need, plenty of cafes and places to meet.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd April 2024	5 Days	£339 pp	NIL	£29

Middleton's Hotel

Located on Skeldergate in the heart of the historic city, Middleton's is a luxury York city centre hotel offering the perfect base for our short break. Ensuite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant and bar. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Historic City of York

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ You'll love shopping at Shambles Market in the heart of York. From exquisite quality gifts and fresh flowers to artisan crafts and stylish handbags, Shambles Market offers a delightful variety of choices. If you're a food enthusiast, don't miss the vibrant Shambles Food Court, located at the heart of the market, where you can savour a delectable array of street food delights. Discover one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, a masterpiece in stained glass and stone and a sacred space which has been at the centre of Christianity in the north of England since the 7th Century. Visit the National Railway Museum not only home to icons of the railway and thousands of railway related objects but also Wonderlab: The Bramhall Gallery, a special interactive experience and the Flying Scotsman VR Experience where you can see the famous locomotive's story come to life around you. Discover the Original Viking Encounter at JORVIK Viking Centre with its world-famous ride taking visitors around the sights, sounds and smells of Viking-age York and state-of-the-art galleries showcasing a unique collection of 1,000-year-old artefacts. Enjoy a cruise on the River Ouse with an informative and entertaining commentary. Visit York's Chocolate Story, the ultimate destination for chocolate lovers, offering you an exciting and educational journey through the fascinating history of chocolate, complete with interactive exhibits, delicious tastings, and chocolate making. Whatever, your interest, you'll be sure to find it in York.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 28th April 2024	3 Days	£289 pp	£74	£27

Isle of Man

This beautiful island, 32 miles long and 14 miles wide, lies in the Irish Sea, approximately equidistant from Britain and Ireland. It is dominated by Snaefell Mountain, rising to over 3,000ft. The island is well away from it all yet so close to home and it's where the life is simple and undemanding, the pace easy and relaxed, a fabulous destination to enjoy that well-deserved break.



Ramsey Park Hotel

Ramey Park Hotel, the luxurious contemporary hotel is set in one of the most scenic parts of the Isle of Man. Situated beside Mooragh Lake, and with views over the sea towards Cumbria, Ramsey Park makes a stunning setting for your stay on the Island. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.



© Visit Isle of Man

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Peel & Ramsey
- ◆ Douglas
- ◆ Manx Electric Railway & Snaefell Mountain Railway
- ◆ Port Erin & Castletown

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 28th April 2024	6 Days	£589 pp	£125	£35

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We join the Manx Electric Railway at Ramsey for our train journey to the pretty village of Laxey. Upon arrival in Laxey, we climb aboard the Snaefell Mountain Railway and journey up to the summit of Snaefell Mountain for stunning views of the island before making the journey back down.
- ◆ Peel Beach is situated on the island's west coast. It has a golden, gently sloping sandy beach, set in a beautiful bay, bounded by Peel Castle and the Peel Harbour on one side and red, sandstone cliffs on the other. Enjoy ice cream parlours and cafes, treats to try on Peel Promenade include its famous crab sandwiches and locally produced ice cream. The view to the south of Peel Beach is of the magnificent, medieval Peel Castle situated on St Patrick's Isle. In the foreground you will see the Peel's Breakwater where the River Neb flows into the sea. We return to Ramsey, where the afternoon is at leisure to explore. Situated between the famed TT spectator spot at Parliament Square and the quaint St Paul's Square, Ramsey high street is known for its small independent boutiques and novelty gift shops.
- ◆ You'll find plenty to enjoy in Port Erin. The heart of the village is around Station Road and Church Road with a range of shops, cafes, and bars. The village grew up along the shore of the lovely horseshoe-shaped bay which looks out to the Mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland past Bradda Head. Later, take a stroll around Castletown, the ancient capital of Mann and discover interesting facts and stories that this town has to tell. Castletown is made up of small winding streets, picturesque fishing cottages along the harbour, and a Viking castle that towers over the town.
- ◆ Take a walk along Douglas Promenade and discover its fascinating history, from the Victorian era through to the present day. From one of the finest examples of a Victorian theatre still in existence to the only horse tram service still in use in the northern hemisphere, there's lots to discover. The main shopping area in Douglas is Strand Street, which runs parallel to Douglas Promenade.

Cumbrian Cavalcade

Most people think of the Lake District when you mention Cumbria but there is life away from the Lakes. Some of the earliest stone circles in Britain, the remains of the Roman Empire, abbeys and priories, ancient churches, castles, and peel towers, as well as spectacular scenery, can all be found in this beautiful part of the country.



Scarborough

Scarborough enjoys an unrivalled position as one of Britain's premier coastal resorts, yet also lies tantalisingly close to North Yorkshire's rugged national park. You can enjoy golden beaches, superb parks and gardens, and a wide range of leisure amenities, which have given Scarborough its justifiable reputation.



© www.geograph.org.uk - Alan Walker

The Crown & Mitre Hotel

The Crown & Mitre Hotel stands in the centre of Carlisle and offers the perfect mix of Edwardian grandeur with beautiful original features, including an elegant sweeping staircase, and all the modern comforts of home to create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Hotel facilities include a lift, swimming pool, jacuzzi, bar, and restaurant. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway – L'al Ratty
- ◆ The Cumbrian Coastline ◆ Settle to Carlisle Railway
- ◆ Spectacular Yorkshire Dales Scenery ◆ Hexham & Hadrian's Wall
- ◆ Kielder Water & Forest National Park

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We head for Longtown and drive along Liddesdale and make our way to Kielder Water National Park. We take a break at the Visitor Centre before continuing to Bellingham and Hexham, dominated by the Abbey overlooking the market square. Later, we return along the path of Hadrian's Wall, which stretched some 76 miles from the Tyne to the Solway.
- ◆ We start our first train journey of the day in Carlisle. The line follows the Cumbrian coastline through Maryport and Whitehaven, the stunning sea views stay with us to Ravenglass. Here, we join the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway – L'al Ratty steam train from the coast to the foothills of England's highest mountains. Seven miles of steam in the Lake District National Park.
- ◆ We travel into the Yorkshire Dales to Kirby Lonsdale, where we find the weekly market in full swing. Then we travel on past the immense Ribbleshead Viaduct, through charming Horton-in-Ribblesdale to Settle. In the afternoon, we take in the most spectacular train journey on a main line railway in the whole of England – the famous Settle to Carlisle line. Towering viaducts, bridges, long deep tunnels, lovingly kept station gardens, all help to make this one of the best loved lines in the country. We travel along the whole line through majestic scenery to Carlisle.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 29th April 2024	5 Days	£529 pp	£60	£29

The Park Manor Hotel

A lovely hotel situated in one of Scarborough's areas of natural beauty overlooking Peasholm Park. Comfortable en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, bar, indoor swimming pool, bubbling spa, and steam room.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Scampston Hall & Malton
- ◆ Castle Howard & Helmsley

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Castle Howard is a place like no other. The Howard story is one of ambition, public service, liberal politics, and artistic endeavours. Today, above all, it is about the challenge of preserving the family home as a national treasure for family and visitors alike to enjoy. Castle Howard's friendly and knowledgeable guides are on hand to share stories with you as you tour the house at your own pace exploring a treasure trove of inspiring architecture and interiors, as well as world-renowned collections. Whatever the weather, the Castle Howard landscape brings out the colour and drama of the season. With 1,000 acres of parkland to explore, Castle Howard is a haven of peace and tranquillity with extensive woodland walks, temples, lakes, and fountains. The monumental landscape offers breath-taking views at every turn, taking in countryside of the Howardian Hills. Later, if you were asked to imagine the perfect English market town, then it'd probably look a lot like Helmsley! There's a bustling Market Square, the dramatic castle ruins, the charming tea rooms, and the inviting inns.
- ◆ Scampston is a traditional estate with an exciting twist. The contemporary Walled Garden is set within the spectacular grounds of Scampston Hall, and is stunningly beautiful, quite unlike any other. We are welcomed by the House Butler, Craig, before being led around the hall by an expert guide, before exploring the walled garden and grounds at your own pace. Whilst here, we also enjoy a delicious Cream Tea. Later, we visit Malton, a town of makers & markets, set in the most beautiful Yorkshire countryside. Malton is passionate about their artisan producers, independent shops, and great places to taste the delicious food & drink.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 12th May 2024	5 Days	£519 pp	NIL	£29

Lazy Days Lake District

In contrast to our other Lake District holidays, this one is set at a more relaxed pace. Enjoy leisurely breakfasts and shorter days, take in stunning scenery, beautiful towns and villages, and watch the world go by in cosy cafes and tea rooms on this scenic holiday.



Walking in the Lake District

We are delighted to introduce this new concept tour for those ramblers out there. Don't worry, we won't have you climbing mountains – not just yet anyway – but take you on gentle ambles through some stunning scenic locations. So, dig out your walking boots & backpacks and join us on this new adventure.



The Shap Wells Hotel

The Shap Wells Hotel is set in tranquil surroundings amongst the Lakeland Fells and is an ideal base from which to explore this beautiful corner of England. Set in 20 acres of grounds, the hotel offers a well-stocked bar, lounges, and spacious restaurant. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Cumbria Grand Hotel

The Cumbria Grand Hotel was built in 1880 and is set in 20 acres of private gardens and woodland, overlooking Morecambe Bay. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, outdoor garden area, complimentary Wi-Fi in public areas, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ulverston & Grange-over-Sands
- ◆ Grasmere & Ambleside
- ◆ Bowness-on-Windermere & Lake Windermere Cruise

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ With independent shops, traditional markets, beautiful walks, and welcoming cafes and pubs, Ulverston has so much to offer. Later, we return to Grange-over-Sands, a quiet, pretty seaside retreat on the southern tip of the Cartmel peninsula, between the mountains and the sea.
- ◆ Lying in a great natural bowl between the green, craggy mountains, few villages enjoy a more dramatic setting than Grasmere. Rough-slated cottages, and ancient church, and nearby lake have the intense beauty of a romantic painting and many artists & poets have been inspired by this spectacular landscape. Perhaps the most famous of these is William Wordsworth. We also visit Ambleside, with its shops and restaurants. A short walk from the centre of the village leads to Stick Ghyll Force, a spectacular 70-foot waterfall which may be viewed safely from a railed viewpoint. The 17th Century Bridge House over Stick Ghyll beck is one of the most photographed scenes in Lakeland.
- ◆ Today, we visit Bowness-on-Windermere, a thriving holiday town with hundreds of shops, eating and drinking establishments. The views from Bowness out across the mountains are some of the finest in the Lake District. Whilst here, we enjoy a beautiful round-trip cruise on Lake Windermere, offering wonderful views of wooded shorelines, historical houses, gardens, and more.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Two Guided Walks in the Lake District ◆ Windermere
- ◆ Ullswater ◆ Kendal – Home of the 'Mint Cake'
- ◆ Penrith ◆ Keswick

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We meet our Guide who will join us on our journey to Lake Windermere for our first guided tour of the holiday, which will take approximately 2 hours. We depart the landing stage at Bowness to walk towards the Glebe and alongside Lake Windermere. Hear how Beatrix Potter saved Cockshotts Point for the National trust and future visitors. Look across the Lake to Belle Isle and its unusual circular house. Discover its history before an easy stroll back to Bowness. There will be plenty of photo opportunities along the way. Later, we visit Ambleside, perfectly surrounded by majestic Lakeland Fells. Ambleside's roots are in the medieval woollen trade, but the town you see today is primarily Victorian, built of traditional grey slate. There are some fabulous restaurants, cafes, and pubs to satisfy the discerning palette and numerous award-winning ales to quench your thirst. Ambleside's specialist shops offer a welcome variation from high street chains.
- ◆ Our Guide will join us for the day today as we travel to the North Lakes for a gently stroll around Glenridding and Ullswater. We depart from Glenridding Bridge and follow Glenridding Beck to Gillside in the shadow of Helvellyn, then over Rattlebeck Bridge to walk back to the village and Ullswater 'Queen of the Lakes' via the edge of farmland on the lower fellside. Once again, there will be many extraordinary photo opportunities for you to take! We have a stop in Keswick with time for lunch before returning to the hotel, making a stop at the famous Penrith Castle.
- ◆ We travel to beautiful Kendal with indulgent shopping to incredible food and drink, adventurous activities to leisurely strolls with wonderful views all around. Perhaps experience a little Kendal Mint Cake! We continue to Grasmere, passing Helvellyn, England's third highest mountain at 3118 feet) and various lakes. Once in Grasmere, perhaps try some of its famous ginger cake!

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 12th May 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	£64	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 13th May 2024	5 Days	£459 pp	NIL	£29

It's a Hull of a Catch

The lush undulating farmland of East Yorkshire meets the sea at the capital Hull – the cosmopolitan port has gone through an amazing transformation. On a fun and fact-filled walking tour we explore the vivid history and fascinating maritime past of this oft forgotten county. Our excursions include an engrossing tour of Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre, a visit to Burnby Hall and a seaside trip on Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway to include a tempting lunch of good old traditional fish & chips!



© Flickr_David Hodgson

The Holiday Inn Hull Marina

The Holiday Inn Hull Marina is just a short stroll from the heart of the city, about half a mile from Hull's Old Town, including the Museums Quarter. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar & lounge, and fitness room. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Tour of the Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre
- ◆ Return Journey on the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway with fish & chips
- ◆ Entrance to Burnby Hall & Gardens
- ◆ Walking Tour of Hull

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ This morning we step back in time to experience the height of the fishing industry in the 1950s at Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre. The interactive exhibitions give a vivid picture of the everyday dangers faced by trawlermen and we board the magnificent Ross Tiger, thought to be the oldest side-winder fishing trawler in the UK. We then hop on a historic miniature railway for a 45-minute return journey along the picturesque Humber side Coast with the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway. The trip includes a delicious lunch of fish & chips plus a visit to the smallest pub on the planet! Later, we enjoy free time to relax in the Victorian seaside resort of Cleethorpes.
- ◆ Today we head to Pocklington for a visit to Burnby Hall Gardens, often referred to as a 'jewel in Yorkshire's crown', home to a national collection of over 80 water lilies, across both upper and lower lakes. The walled garden project was completed here in 2022. We have time afterwards in Pocklington itself, a delightful town with two art galleries, an acclaimed arts centre, and a host of independent shops. On our way back to our hotel, we stop off in Beverley for the afternoon. A traditional thriving town with a 13th Century minster standing tall above the rooftops we find a bustling marketplace, boutique shops and historic pubs which are sure to make for a lovely afternoon.
- ◆ In the morning we embark on an informal walking tour of Hull's compact historic quarter. We wander through the cobbled streets and alleyways, flush with Georgian buildings and rich in reminders of Hull's fascinating past, as our knowledgeable guide acquaints us with tales of its maritime history, architecture and famous characters. In the afternoon, we enjoy time at leisure to soak up the atmosphere and further explore the vibrant mix of culture and shopping this revitalised waterfront city has to offer. Take a stroll along the marina, amble through the eclectic museum quarter and visit Wilberforce House Museum, birthplace of the MP and antislavery crusader William Wilberforce.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 23rd May 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	£110	£29

Southport

Southport is a fun-loving seaside town with attractions for all, and an abundance of independent restaurants, and bars, making it a foodies' haven. Whether it's the historic Victorian architecture, Iron Pier, or shops, there's plenty to keep you occupied from our base just a short stroll from the heart of the town.



© Flickr_Kernowfile

The Waterfront Hotel

The Waterfront Hotel has an enviable position on Southport's Marina, only a short walk from fabulous local attractions. With facilities to wow from the stunning Roof Garden with views of the coast, including deck chairs and tables to soak in the sunshine, as well as the incredible Waterfront Marina Restaurant. The hotel has a lift. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Rufford Old Hall, Churchtown & Botanic Gardens
- ◆ Antony Gormley's 'Another Place' & Liverpool

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At Rufford Old Hall be wowed by the Tudor Great Hall with its fantastic furniture, arms, armour, tapestries, and the carved oak screen, a rare survivor from the 1500s. History springs to life in the Hesketh's dining room, its food-laden table, lit candles and 'fire in the hearth' waiting to welcome the family's dinner guests. Then relax as you stroll through Rufford's Victorian and Edwardian gardens with colourful borders, manicured lawns, an orchard, and even squirrel-shaped topiary. Later, we make a stop at Churchtown, a tranquil historic village with specialist shops and charming cafes. We also visit Southport's Botanic Gardens – originally opened in 1874, these Victorian gardens are bursting with floral splendour and colourful displays. Don't miss the Victorian Fernery housing a wonderful display of ferns of all shapes and sizes. There's an aviary, gift shop, and café too.
- ◆ We make a photo stop at Crosby Beach, the picturesque beginning to 22 miles of Sefton coastline. This area is home to internationally acclaimed artist Antony Gormley's 'Another Place' installation – 100 cast-iron figures that stretch the coastline and almost a mile out to sea. Our destination is Liverpool where you can explore top attractions from the iconic Royal Liver Building and the Royal Albert Dock to green spaces and coastline.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 27th May 2024	5 Days	£489 pp	£140	£29

Pennine Pleasures, Durham Dales & Vales

Capture breathtaking dales, vales and dramatic coasts in an inspiring UNESCO-rich county. Venture high in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to spectacular waterfalls, snap deer running and click birds soaring as you journey on England's highest railway. Be delighted by deliciousness and welcomed by friendly local experts at Teesdale Cheesemakers, before exploring on a private guided tour at impressive 14th Century Raby Castle.



© Flickr - barnyz

The Radisson Blu Durham

Nestled on a lovely bend of the River Wear in the centre of Durham, the Radisson Blu Hotel provides an idyllic base, just a short walk from major tourist attractions like Durham Castle, Durham Cathedral, and the charming Old City. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, hot tub, sauna and steam room, state-of-the-art gym, and swimming pool. En-suite bedrooms are modern and stylish with TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, iron & ironing board, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Raby Castle Private Guided Tour
- ◆ Coach Tour – Durham Dales & Hidden Gems of the North Pennines
- ◆ Teesdale Cheese Makers Dairy Tour & Tasting

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We embark on a coach tour of discovery through the spectacular Durham Dales and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and UNESCO Global Geopark. Our expert guide will enlighten you on the many gems of the area including a woodland walk leading to 'High Force' – one of England's most spectacular waterfalls, dropping 70ft into the plunge pool below!
- ◆ The current seat of a Lord, built for the mighty Nevill dynasty and one of the best-kept medieval castles in the region, Raby Castle dates to the 14th Century having been owned by the Vine family since 1626! Enjoy a private guided tour to discover the scandalous history including the failed plotting of the Rising of the North, and wander through spectacularly maintained ornamental rooms adorned with works of art and treasures including the Baron's Hall with fascinating heritage and dramatic interior. Explore the 18th Century Walled Gardens and the beautiful 200-acre Deer Park with ornamental lakes. Later, a warm welcome awaits from the husband-and-wife team at Teesdale Cheesemakers where you will be guided through the dairy to discover award-winning cheeses made with milk from the 5th-generation, family farm.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 3rd June 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	£100	£29

St Annes on Sea

St Annes on Sea, on the Fylde Coast, offers a gentle and peaceful way of life. St Annes boasts a beautifully restored Victorian Pier, promenade with views across to North Wales, multi award-winning beach huts, a wide-open sandy beach, plenty of places to eat, and wonderful seaside charm.



© Flickr_Lancaster Liffest

The St Ives Hotel

A warm welcome awaits you at the St Ives Hotel, which is located close to the beach and the pier. All the tastefully decorated bedrooms are en-suite with TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, bar, indoor swimming pool, and some evening entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Lytham Hall & Lytham
- ◆ Fleetwood Market
- ◆ Cleveleys

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Lytham Hall is the finest Georgian house in Lancashire, once the ancestral home of the colourful Clifton family, spanning over 4 centuries. Highlights include the Main Entrance Hall, Morning Room, Gold Room, Willow Room, and Staircase Hall. Whilst here we enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits whilst one of the Tour Guides will enlighten you with the history of the Clifton family before your self-guided tour. Afterwards, you will have free time in Lytham – the one with the Windmill on the Green! Walk along the beautiful seafront, through Lowther Gardens, or shop in the nearby town centre.
- ◆ A busy traditional coastal market offering a great seaside shopping experience, Fleetwood Market has over 150 stalls within three indoor halls and a selection of outdoor stalls. A true shopper's paradise you'll find a variety of stalls including jewellery, clothing and household goods, all at great prices. Later, we continue to the friendly seaside resort of Cleveleys. With great access, public artworks, clean beaches and public facilities, Cleveleys Seafront is worth a visit. The town centre is compact but has everything you need, plenty of cafes and places to meet.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 10th June 2024	5 Days	£359 pp	NIL	£29

South Yorkshire's Hidden Gems

South Yorkshire is full of pleasant surprises and as with all of Yorkshire, you're only ever a stone's throw from magic scenery.



The Quays Hotel

Situated in Sheffield's Quayside area, Best Western Plus Quays Hotel is a 5-minute walk from the city centre. The hotel has a lift, Quays Restaurant, Quays Bar, and leisure club with gym and swimming pool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, iron & ironing board, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Bolsover Castle
- ◆ Chesterfield Market (Monday)
- ◆ Wentworth Woodhouse with Tea/Coffee & Cake
- ◆ Kelham Island Museum
- ◆ Brodsworth Hall & Elsecar Heritage Centre

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Chesterfield Market has been trading for over 800 years. Enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the traditional market as you browse a variety of stalls selling food, fashion, homeware and gifts. Later, we visit Bolsover Castle, the fantasy hilltop pleasure of a horse-mad Cavalier playboy – and even today, this Stuart mansion never fails to impress. Hear tales from the past from costumed storytellers, roam the ruined Terrace Range and take in stunning countryside views from the restored wall walk.
- ◆ Wentworth Woodhouse is one of the grandest stately homes in the country and is at the beginning of an ambitious regeneration project. We discover the formal State Rooms and its vast history with a Wentworth Tour led by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide. As we journey through the State Rooms, see first-hand the splendour of this 18th Century house still intact after a chequered past. Whilst here, we enjoy tea/coffee and cake. Later, we visit Kelham Island Museum to explore the story of making in the city, from master craftsmen to mass production. Experience life and work during the Industrial Revolution, follow the sights and sounds of progress through the Victorian era, celebrate the Women of Steel and see how industry forged the modern city.
- ◆ Brodsworth Hall was built in the 1860s for the Thellusson family, but as the family's fortune diminished, the house and gardens gradually fell into decline and disrepair. Today, the Victorian pleasure gardens have been expertly restored to their former glory, and the house has been gently conserved to tell the stories of the generations of people who lived and worked here. We continue to Elsecar Heritage Centre to discover how the Earls Fitzwilliam created a model village with bustling workshops, mighty ironworks, and deep dark collieries. Find out what it was like to work here and what happened when Royalty and aristocrats came to visit.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 23rd June 2024	5 Days	£439 pp	£100	£29

Summer in Blackpool

A holiday in Blackpool will leave you feeling refreshed, relaxed, and recharged p even if you are on the go 25 hours a day! Perhaps it's the resort's infectious zest for life, or may it's just that, uniquely, whatever your routine, Blackpool can offer a perfect break from it.



The Doric Hotel

Situated on the Queen's Promenade, with breath-taking views over the Irish Sea, Morecambe Bay, and the Isle of Man, The Doric is a firm favourite. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor & outdoor swimming pools, poolside bar, and incredible entertainment every night. A pool of highly professional entertainers awaits you at The Doric. A full all-year-round entertainment programme with tribute acts, performances and fabulous vocal talent all waiting in the spotlight to entertain you.

Please note our coach & Driver do not stay with you on this tour so there will be no excursions included.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.



UPGRADES AVAILABLE

- ◆ **Drinks Inclusive - £40.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm.
- ◆ **All Inclusive - £60.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm, local Travel Pass, Packed Lunch, Six Bingo Books per adult,

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 8th July 2024	5 Days	£369 pp	NIL	£29

Southport

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© visitsouthport.com

The Waterfront Hotel

The Waterfront Hotel has an enviable position on Southport's Marina, only a short walk from fabulous local attractions. With facilities to wow from the stunning Roof Garden with views of the coast, including deck chairs and tables to soak in the sunshine, as well as the incredible Waterfront Marina Restaurant. The hotel has a lift. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Rufford Old Hall, Churchtown & Botanic Gardens
- ◆ Antony Gormley's 'Another Place' & Liverpool

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At Rufford Old Hall be wowed by the Tudor Great Hall with its fantastic furniture, arms, armour, tapestries, and the carved oak screen, a rare survivor from the 1500s. History springs to life in the Hesketh's dining room, its food-laden table, lit candles and 'fire in the hearth' waiting to welcome the family's dinner guests. Then relax as you stroll through Rufford's Victorian and Edwardian gardens with colourful borders, manicured lawns, an orchard, and even squirrel-shaped topiary. Later, we make a stop at Churchtown, a tranquil historic village with specialist shops and charming cafes. We also visit Southport's Botanic Gardens – originally opened in 1874, these Victorian gardens are bursting with floral splendour and colourful displays. Don't miss the Victorian Fernery housing a wonderful display of ferns of all shapes and sizes. There's an aviary, gift shop, and café too.
- ◆ We make a photo stop at Crosby Beach, the picturesque beginning to 22 miles of Sefton coastline. This area is home to internationally acclaimed artist Antony Gormley's 'Another Place' installation – 100 cast-iron figures that stretch the coastline and almost a mile out to sea. Our destination is Liverpool where you can explore top attractions from the iconic Royal Liver Building and the Royal Albert Dock to green spaces and coastline.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 14th July 2024	5 Days	£489 pp	£140	£29

Isle of Man

This beautiful island, 32 miles long and 14 miles wide, lies in the Irish Sea, approximately equidistant from Britain and Ireland. It is dominated by Snaefell Mountain, rising to over 3,000ft. The island is well away from it all yet so close to home and it's where the life is simple and undemanding, the pace easy and relaxed, a fabulous destination to enjoy that well-deserved break.



Ramsey Park Hotel

Ramsey Park Hotel, the luxurious contemporary hotel is set in one of the most scenic parts of the Isle of Man. Situated beside Mooragh Lake, and with views over the sea towards Cumbria, Ramsey Park makes a stunning setting for your stay on the Island. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Peel & Ramsey
- ◆ Douglas
- ◆ Manx Electric Railway & Snaefell Mountain Railway
- ◆ Port Erin & Castletown

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We join the Manx Electric Railway at Ramsey for our train journey to the pretty village of Laxey.
- ◆ Peel Beach is situated on the island's west coast. It has a golden, gently sloping sandy beach, set in a beautiful bay, bounded by Peel Castle and the Peel Harbour on one side and red, sandstone cliffs on the other.
- ◆ You'll find plenty to enjoy in Port Erin. The heart of the village is around Station Road and Church Road with a range of shops, cafes, and bars. The village grew up along the shore of the lovely horseshoe-shaped bay which looks out to the Mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland past Bradda Head.
- ◆ Take a walk along Douglas Promenade and discover its fascinating history, from the Victorian era through to the present day. From one of the finest examples of a Victorian theatre still in existence to the only horse tram service still in use in the northern hemisphere, there's lots to discover.

Please Note: For full itinerary, please see P58

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 14th July 2024	6 Days	£609 pp	£125	£35

Sailing, Steaming & Dreaming in the Lake District

The sheer beauty of the Lake District has inspired poets and artists for centuries and on this holiday, we will paint a picture that will last in your memory for years to come.



Morecambe, Lancaster & Lakeland

Stroll along Morecambe's award-winning promenade with an ice cream before visiting the Eric Morecambe Statue, and The Tern Project, a series of public art installations inspired by the birdlife of Morecambe Bay.



The Shap Wells Hotel

The Shap Wells Hotel is set in tranquil surroundings amongst the Lakeland Fells and is an ideal base from which to explore this beautiful corner of England. Set in 20 acres of grounds, the hotel offers a well-stocked bar, lounges, and spacious restaurant. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Northern Lakes & Fells by Mountain Goat ◆ Keswick
- ◆ Thirlmere & Grasmere ◆ Ambleside & Lake Windermere Cruise
- ◆ Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway ◆ Ullswater Cruise
- ◆ Kirkstone Pass & Windermere Village

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We drive across Shap Fells to Kendal for a morning break. Kendal boasts indulgent shopping and incredible food and drink. We continue to Windermere village, with its little shops and wide selection of coffee shops, bars, and restaurants. Heading over the rugged Kirkstone Pass, with the lonely inn at the summit, we come to Glenridding where we have a sail on board the lake 'steamer', along the lake to Pooley Bridge.
- ◆ Today, we ride via St. John's Vale and Lake Thirlmere to the lovely Lakes village of Grasmere, home of William Wordsworth and his family, along with other artists. Sample some gingerbread from the local shop before we head for Ambleside where we enjoy a delightful cruise along Lake Windermere to Lakeside. Here, we join the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway for a nostalgic steam train ride to round off the day.
- ◆ We head west to Keswick, the heart of which is the Market Square, ringed round with shops and hotels. There are no cars in the pedestrianised area which makes for a very pleasant shopping experience. This afternoon, we have an adventure with the Mountain Goat! The mountain Goat minibuses take us where our coach cannot go. We start with a scenic journey along the shore of Derwentwater to Ashness Bridge and Borrowdale, continuing over Honister Pass to Buttermere Village. After a break, we pass Crummock Water and Loweswater on our way to the Whinlatter Pass Visitor Centre for a break before heading back to Keswick, rejoining the coach for the journey back to the hotel.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd July 2024	5 Days	£519 pp	NIL	£29

The Auckland Hotel

Having been a family-run hotel for nearly 40 years, the Auckland Hotel understands the needs of holidaymakers, from great food to a good night's sleep as they strive to make sure your stay is as good as possible. Located in the heart of Morecambe and close to shops and restaurants, the hotel offers spectacular views over the Bay to the lake District Hills. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Yorkshire Dales & Hawes Creamery
- ◆ Holker Hall & Gardens and Grange-Over-Sands

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We make our way into the Yorkshire Dales, passing through Ingleton, on our way to Hawes for our visit to the Wensleydale Creamery. We enjoy a cheesemaking demonstration followed by a self-guided tour to learn about the thousand-year history of cheesemaking in the Dales. We continue our scenic tour of the Dales, passing Buckden and Kettlewell on our way to Grassington before returning to the hotel.
- ◆ We visit Holker Hall & Gardens, a name given by the Norse invaders meaning 'A rise in marshy ground'. For centuries, people have felt drawn here and the love of those who have lived here emanates from the architecture, the grounds, and the landscape they created around it. Nestled between the hills of the Lake District and the sea marshes it rises from, Holker is, above all, a family home. Immerse yourself in the family history in the stunning architecture and beautiful interiors of The Hall. In the Gardens, distinct areas of formal planting with their herbaceous borders, lawns and topiaries, contrast with meadows and woodlands. Of several impressive, veteran trees, the most remarkable is the 400-year-old Holker Great Lime. Later, we visit the pretty resort of Grange-Over-Sands. Grange is an elegant town, with strong reminders of its heyday as a fashionable seaside resort in the 19th Century – all thanks to the balmy influence of the Gulf Stream and the arrival of the railroad in the 1850s. Grange's Victorian and Edwardian elegance is still very much in evidence today, in its ornamental gardens, attractive shopping arcades and its long seafront promenade.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 5th August 2024	5 Days	£409 pp	NIL	£29

Hidden Corners of Yorkshire Scarborough

This tour covers a splendid variety of magnificent scenery and contrasting countryside, with quaint Yorkshire towns and villages. We also feature a ride on the Wensleydale Railway, reopened after 50 years, re-living rural railway travel as it used to be all those years ago.

Scarborough enjoys an unrivalled position as one of Britain's premier coastal resorts, yet also lies tantalisingly close to North Yorkshire's rugged national park. You can enjoy golden beaches, superb parks and gardens, and a wide range of leisure amenities, which have given Scarborough its justifiable reputation.



© North Yorkshire Moors Railway



The Blackwell Grange Hotel

The Blackwell Grange Hotel is a stunning 17th Century mansion, which enjoys an enviable setting in the beautiful County Durham countryside. The hotel is nestled in wooded parkland in Darlington, located between the North Yorkshire Moors and the Pennines. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, heated indoor swimming pool, spa, and sauna. All en-suite bedrooms have TV, radio, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Historic Maritime Whitby ◆ North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- ◆ Wensleydale Railway ◆ Swaledale – Historic Richmond
- ◆ Teesside Princess River Cruise ◆ 'Little Switzerland' Beautiful Bilsdale
- ◆ The World of James Herriott

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel over the Moors, across Blakey Ridge, through picturesque Hutton-Le-Hole to Pickering where we join the North Yorkshire Moors Railway for a steam train journey through rugged moorland to Whitby – passing through Goathland – 'Aidensfield' in TV's Heartbeat. Whitby is a maritime town, bursting with character and is quite unique. Wander the alleyways and narrow streets or climb the steps to Whitby Abbey.
- ◆ We drive to historic Richmond, high above the River Swale. Here you will find a castle, The Green Howards Museum, and the Richmondshire Museum, which houses the set from All Creatures Great and Small. Leaving Richmond, we head for the Wensleydale Railway for a nostalgic ride through rural scenery from Leyburn to Leeming Bar where we rejoin the coach. Afterwards, we head to Thirsk, home of James Herriott, for our included visit to World of James Herriott before returning to the hotel.
- ◆ Our first visit today is to Preston Park & Hall Museum. The attractive parkland surrounds the museum. In the museum you will find a delightful collection of memorabilia from times gone by. Take a walk back in time through the cobbled Victorian street and imagine life as it was in times past. At Preston Hall we join the 'Teesside Princess' and take a gentle cruise on the River Tees through beautiful countryside to the cobbled town of Yarm, famous for its location on the river and the awe-inspiring viaduct. Later, we drive through Bilsdale – 'Little Switzerland', past the Sun Inn, which has had the same landlord for 200 years! We then pass Rievaulx Abbey and drop into Helmsley with its 12th Century castle. On our way back to the hotel we journey over the spectacular Sutton Bank, giving you fantastic views of the moors and the Vale of York.

Crown Spa Hotel

The 4-star Crown Spa Hotel is the oldest purpose-built hotel in Scarborough, with many of the original features still in their prime. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, safe, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and Spa with swimming pool.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Scampston Hall & Malton
- ◆ Castle Howard & Helmsley

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Castle Howard is a place like no other. The Howard story is one of ambition, public service, liberal politics, and artistic endeavours. Today, above all, it is about the challenge of preserving the family home as a national treasure for family and visitors alike to enjoy. Castle Howard's friendly and knowledgeable guides are on hand to share stories with you as you tour the house at your own pace exploring a treasure trove of inspiring architecture and interiors, as well as world-renowned collections. Whatever the weather, the Castle Howard landscape brings out the colour and drama of the season. With 1,000 acres of parkland to explore, Castle Howard is a haven of peace and tranquillity with extensive woodland walks, temples, lakes, and fountains. The monumental landscape offers breath-taking views at every turn, taking in countryside of the Howardian Hills. Later, if you were asked to imagine the perfect English market town, then it'd probably look a lot like Helmsley! There's a bustling Market Square, the dramatic castle ruins, the charming tea rooms, and the inviting inns.
- ◆ Scampston is a traditional estate with an exciting twist. The contemporary Walled Garden is set within the spectacular grounds of Scampston Hall, and is stunningly beautiful, quite unlike any other. We are welcomed by the House Butler, Craig, before being led around the hall by an expert guide, before exploring the walled garden and grounds at your own pace. Whilst here, we also enjoy a delicious Cream Tea. Later, we visit Malton, a town of makers & markets, set in the most beautiful Yorkshire countryside. Malton is passionate about their artisan producers, independent shops, and great places to taste the delicious food & drink.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 5th August 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 26th August 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£200	£29

Isle of Man

This beautiful island, 32 miles long and 14 miles wide, lies in the Irish Sea, approximately equidistant from Britain and Ireland. It is dominated by Snaefell Mountain, rising to over 3,000ft. The island is well away from it all yet so close to home and it's where the life is simple and undemanding, the pace easy and relaxed, a fabulous destination to enjoy that well-deserved break.



© Flickr_Culture Vannin

Ramsey Park Hotel

Ramsey Park Hotel, the luxurious contemporary hotel is set in one of the most scenic parts of the Isle of Man. Situated beside Mooragh Lake, and with views over the sea towards Cumbria, Ramsey Park makes a stunning setting for your stay on the Island. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Peel & Ramsey
- ◆ Douglas
- ◆ Manx Electric Railway & Snaefell Mountain Railway
- ◆ Port Erin & Castletown

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We join the Manx Electric Railway at Ramsey for our train journey to the pretty village of Laxey.
- ◆ Peel Beach is situated on the island's west coast. It has a golden, gently sloping sandy beach, set in a beautiful bay, bounded by Peel Castle and the Peel Harbour on one side and red, sandstone cliffs on the other.
- ◆ You'll find plenty to enjoy in Port Erin. The heart of the village is around Station Road and Church Road with a range of shops, cafes, and bars. The village grew up along the shore of the lovely horseshoe-shaped bay which looks out to the Mountains of Mourne in Northern Ireland past Bradda Head.
- ◆ Take a walk along Douglas Promenade and discover its fascinating history, from the Victorian era through to the present day. From one of the finest examples of a Victorian theatre still in existence to the only horse tram service still in use in the northern hemisphere, there's lots to discover.

Please Note: For full itinerary, please see P58

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 1st September 2024	6 Days	£609 pp	£125	£35

Hidden Corners of Yorkshire

This tour covers a splendid variety of magnificent scenery and contrasting countryside, with quaint Yorkshire towns and villages. We also feature a ride on the Wensleydale Railway, reopened after 50 years, re-living rural railway travel as it used to be all those years ago.



The Blackwell Grange Hotel

The Blackwell Grange Hotel is a stunning 17th Century mansion, which enjoys an enviable setting in the beautiful County Durham countryside. The hotel is nestled in wooded parkland in Darlington, located between the North Yorkshire Moors and the Pennines. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, heated indoor swimming pool, spa, and sauna. All en-suite bedrooms have TV, radio, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Historic Maritime Whitby ◆ North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- ◆ Wensleydale Railway ◆ Swaledale – Historic Richmond
- ◆ Teesside Princess River Cruise ◆ 'Little Switzerland' Beautiful Bilsdale
- ◆ The World of James Herriott

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel over the Moors, across Blakey Ridge, through picturesque Hutton-Le-Hole to Pickering where we join the North Yorkshire Moors Railway for a steam train journey through rugged moorland to Whitby – passing through Goathland – 'Aidensfield' in TV's Heartbeat. Whitby is a maritime town, bursting with character and is quite unique. Wander the alleyways and narrow streets or climb the steps to Whitby Abbey.
- ◆ We drive to historic Richmond, high above the River Swale. Here you will find a castle, The Green Howards Museum, and the Richmondshire Museum, which houses the set from All Creatures Great and Small. Leaving Richmond, we head for the Wensleydale Railway for a nostalgic ride through rural scenery from Leyburn to Leeming Bar where we rejoin the coach. Afterwards, we head to Thirsk, home of James Herriott, for our included visit to World of James Herriott before returning to the hotel.
- ◆ Our first visit today is to Preston Park & Hall Museum. The attractive parkland surrounds the museum. In the museum you will find a delightful collection of memorabilia from times gone by. Take a walk back in time through the cobbled Victorian street and imagine life as it was in times past. At Preston Hall we join the 'Teesside Princess' and take a gentle cruise on the River Tees through beautiful countryside to the cobbled town of Yarm, famous for its location on the river and the awe-inspiring viaduct. Later, we drive through Bilsdale – 'Little Switzerland', past the Sun Inn, which has had the same landlord for 200 years! We then pass Rievaulx Abbey and drop into Helmsley with its 12th Century castle. On our way back to the hotel we journey over the spectacular Sutton Bank, giving you fantastic views of the moors and the Vale of York.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 2nd September 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	NIL	£29

Blackpool & Illuminations

A holiday in Blackpool will leave you feeling refreshed, relaxed, and recharged p even if you are on the go 25 hours a day! Perhaps it's the resort's infectious zest for life, or may it's just that, uniquely, whatever your routine, Blackpool can offer a perfect break from it.



© Merlin Entertainments Group

The Doric Hotel

Situated on the Queen's Promenade, with breath-taking views over the Irish Sea, Morecambe Bay, and the Isle of Man, The Doric is a firm favourite. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor & outdoor swimming pools, poolside bar, and incredible entertainment every night. A pool of highly professional entertainers awaits you at The Doric. A full all-year-round entertainment programme with tribute acts, performances and fabulous vocal talent all waiting in the spotlight to entertain you.

Please note our coach & Driver do not stay with you on this tour. On 1 day, our coach will return to take you on a half-day excursion and then, after dinner, will take you on a drive through Blackpool's famous Illuminations. No other excursions are included.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Blackpool Illuminations

UPGRADES AVAILABLE

- ◆ **Drinks Inclusive - £40.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm.
- ◆ **All Inclusive - £60.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm, local Travel Pass, Packed Lunch, Six Bingo Books per adult,

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 9th September 2024	5 Days	£369 pp	NIL	£29

Cumbrian Cavalcade

Most people think of the Lake District when you mention Cumbria but there is life away from the Lakes. Some of the earliest stone circles in Britain, the remains of the Roman Empire, abbeys and priories, ancient churches, castles, and peel towers, as well as spectacular scenery, can all be found in this beautiful part of the country.



The Crown & Mitre Hotel

The Crown & Mitre Hotel stands in the centre of Carlisle and offers the perfect mix of Edwardian grandeur with beautiful original features, including an elegant sweeping staircase, and all the modern comforts of home to create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Hotel facilities include a lift, swimming pool, jacuzzi, bar, and restaurant. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway – L'al Ratty
- ◆ The Cumbrian Coastline ◆ Settle to Carlisle Railway
- ◆ Spectacular Yorkshire Dales Scenery ◆ Hexham & Hadrian's Wall
- ◆ Kielder Water & Forest National Park

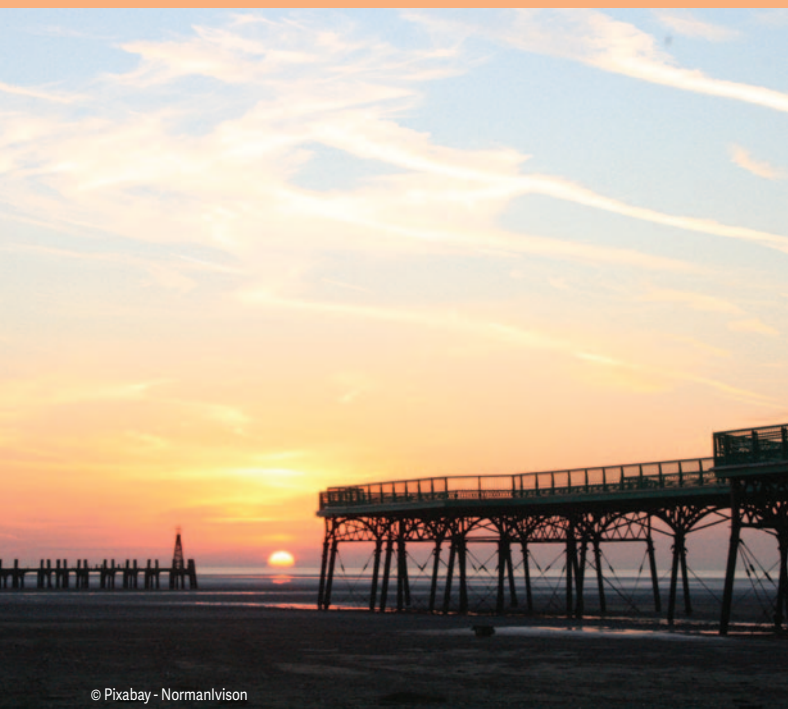
EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We head for Longtown and drive along Liddesdale and make our way to Kielder Water National Park. We take a break at the Visitor Centre before continuing to Bellingham and Hexham, dominated by the Abbey overlooking the market square. Later, we return along the path of Hadrian's Wall, which stretched some 76 miles from the Tyne to the Solway.
- ◆ We start our first train journey of the day in Carlisle. The line follows the Cumbrian coastline through Maryport and Whitehaven, the stunning sea views stay with us to Ravenglass. Here, we join the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway – L'al Ratty steam train from the coast to the foothills of England's highest mountains. Seven miles of steam in the Lake District National Park.
- ◆ We travel into the Yorkshire Dales to Kirby Lonsdale, where we find the weekly market in full swing. Then we travel on past the immense Ribbleshead Viaduct, through charming Horton-in-Ribblesdale to Settle. In the afternoon, we take in the most spectacular train journey on a main line railway in the whole of England – the famous Settle to Carlisle line. Towering viaducts, bridges, long deep tunnels, lovingly kept station gardens, all help to make this one of the best loved lines in the country. We travel along the whole line through majestic scenery to Carlisle.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 9th September 2024	5 Days	£589 pp	£60	£29

St Annes on Sea

St Annes on Sea, on the Fylde Coast, offers a gentle and peaceful way of life. St Annes boasts a beautifully restored Victorian Pier, promenade with views across to North Wales, multi award-winning beach huts, a wide-open sandy beach, plenty of places to eat, and wonderful seaside charm.



© Pixabay - Normanlvison

York Short Break

York is a city where ancient walls surround incredible attractions, shops, and eateries. York is unlike any other English city – there's thirty world-class museums for a start.



© Karl Moran - Unsplash

The St Ives Hotel

A warm welcome awaits you at the St Ives Hotel, which is located close to the beach and the pier. All the tastefully decorated bedrooms are en-suite with TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, bar, indoor swimming pool, and some evening entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Lytham Hall & Lytham
- ◆ Fleetwood Market
- ◆ Cleveleys

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Lytham Hall is the finest Georgian house in Lancashire, once the ancestral home of the colourful Clifton family, spanning over 4 centuries. Highlights include the Main Entrance Hall, Morning Room, Gold Room, Willow Room, and Staircase Hall. Whilst here we enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits whilst one of the Tour Guides will enlighten you with the history of the Clifton family before your self-guided tour. Afterwards, you will have free time in Lytham – the one with the Windmill on the Green! Walk along the beautiful seafront, through Lowther Gardens, or shop in the nearby town centre.
- ◆ A busy traditional coastal market offering a great seaside shopping experience, Fleetwood Market has over 150 stalls within three indoor halls and a selection of outdoor stalls. A true shopper's paradise you'll find a variety of stalls including jewellery, clothing and household goods, all at great prices. Later, we continue to the friendly seaside resort of Cleveleys. With great access, public artworks, clean beaches and public facilities, Cleveleys Seafront is worth a visit. The town centre is compact but has everything you need, plenty of cafes and places to meet.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 23rd September 2024	5 Days	£399 pp	NIL	£29

Middleton's Hotel

Located on Skeldergate in the heart of the historic city, Middleton's is a luxury York city centre hotel offering the perfect base for our short break. Ensuite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant and bar. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Historic City of York

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ You'll love shopping at Shambles Market in the heart of York. From exquisite quality gifts and fresh flowers to artisan crafts and stylish handbags, Shambles Market offers a delightful variety of choices. If you're a food enthusiast, don't miss the vibrant Shambles Food Court, located at the heart of the market, where you can savour a delectable array of street food delights. Discover one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, a masterpiece in stained glass and stone and a sacred space which has been at the centre of Christianity in the north of England since the 7th Century. Visit the National Railway Museum not only home to icons of the railway and thousands of railway related objects but also Wonderlab: The Bramhall Gallery, a special interactive experience and the Flying Scotsman VR Experience where you can see the famous locomotive's story come to life around you. Discover the Original Viking Encounter at JORVIK Viking Centre with its world-famous ride taking visitors around the sights, sounds and smells of Viking-age York and state-of-the-art galleries showcasing a unique collection of 1,000-year-old artefacts. Enjoy a cruise on the River Ouse with an informative and entertaining commentary. Visit York's Chocolate Story, the ultimate destination for chocolate lovers, offering you an exciting and educational journey through the fascinating history of chocolate, complete with interactive exhibits, delicious tastings, and chocolate making. Whatever, your interest, you'll be sure to find it in York.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 6th October 2024	3 Days	£289 pp	£74	£27

Blackpool & Illuminations

A holiday in Blackpool will leave you feeling refreshed, relaxed, and recharged p even if you are on the go 25 hours a day! Perhaps it's the resort's infectious zest for life, or may it's just that, uniquely, whatever your routine, Blackpool can offer a perfect break from it.



Southport

Southport is a fun-loving seaside town with attractions for all, and an abundance of independent restaurants, and bars, making it a foodies' haven. Whether it's the historic Victorian architecture, Iron Pier, or shops, there's plenty to keep you occupied from our base just a short stroll from the heart of the town.



The Waterfront Hotel

The Waterfront Hotel has an enviable position on Southport's Marina, only a short walk from fabulous local attractions. With facilities to wow from the stunning Roof Garden with views of the coast, including deck chairs and tables to soak in the sunshine, as well as the incredible Waterfront Marina Restaurant. The hotel has a lift. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

The Doric Hotel

Situated on the Queen's Promenade, with breath-taking views over the Irish Sea, Morecambe Bay, and the Isle of Man, The Doric is a firm favourite. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor & outdoor swimming pools, poolside bar, and incredible entertainment every night. A pool of highly professional entertainers awaits you at The Doric. A full all-year-round entertainment programme with tribute acts, performances and fabulous vocal talent all waiting in the spotlight to entertain you.

Please note our coach & Driver do not stay with you on this tour. On 1 day, our coach will return to take you on a half-day excursion and then, after dinner, will take you on a drive through Blackpool's famous Illuminations. No other excursions are included.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Blackpool Illuminations

UPGRADES AVAILABLE

- ◆ **Drinks Inclusive - £40.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm.
- ◆ **All Inclusive - £60.00 per person supplement** – Inclusive selected drinks at the bar each day from 12:00midday until 10:00pm, local Travel Pass, Packed Lunch, Six Bingo Books per adult,

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Rufford Old Hall, Churchtown & Botanic Gardens
- ◆ Antony Gormley's 'Another Place' & Liverpool

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At Rufford Old Hall be wowed by the Tudor Great Hall with its fantastic furniture, arms, armour, tapestries, and the carved oak screen, a rare survivor from the 1500s. History springs to life in the Hesketh's dining room, its food-laden table, lit candles and 'fire in the hearth' waiting to welcome the family's dinner guests. Then relax as you stroll through Rufford's Victorian and Edwardian gardens with colourful borders, manicured lawns, an orchard, and even squirrel-shaped topiary. Later, we make a stop at Churchtown, a tranquil historic village with specialist shops and charming cafes. We also visit Southport's Botanic Gardens – originally opened in 1874, these Victorian gardens are bursting with floral splendour and colourful displays. Don't miss the Victorian Fernery housing a wonderful display of ferns of all shapes and sizes. There's an aviary, gift shop, and café too.
- ◆ We make a photo stop at Crosby Beach, the picturesque beginning to 22 miles of Sefton coastline. This area is home to internationally acclaimed artist Antony Gormley's 'Another Place' installation – 100 cast-iron figures that stretch the coastline and almost a mile out to sea. Our destination is Liverpool where you can explore top attractions from the iconic Royal Liver Building and the Royal Albert Dock to green spaces and coastline.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 7th October 2024	5 Days	£369 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 13th October 2023	5 Days	£489 pp	£140	£29

Scarborough

Scarborough enjoys an unrivalled position as one of Britain's premier coastal resorts, yet also lies tantalisingly close to North Yorkshire's rugged national park. You can enjoy golden beaches, superb parks and gardens, and a wide range of leisure amenities, which have given Scarborough its justifiable reputation.



© Flickr - Allison Harrison

The Park Manor Hotel

A lovely hotel situated in one of Scarborough's areas of natural beauty overlooking Peasholm Park. Comfortable en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, bar, indoor swimming pool, bubbling spa, and steam room.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Pickering Market & Helmsley
- ◆ Whitby

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Pickering is a small town packed with a wealth of heritage. From William the Conqueror to Oliver Cromwell and Harry Potter, several notable historical and fictional characters have graced the town of Pickering throughout the years, adding to its rich tapestry. As far as small towns in North Yorkshire go, there will be few, if any, that boast a Castle, a heritage railway, and a church with world-renowned frescoes. The heart of Pickering and its surrounding streets plays host to a range of independent shops and Monday is Market Day. Later, if you were asked to imagine the perfect English market town, then it'd probably look a lot like Helmsley! There's a bustling Market Square, the dramatic castle ruins, the charming tea rooms, and the inviting inns.
- ◆ Today, we visit Whitby. Steeped in history, there are many visitor attractions that are connected to the town's fascinating past, such as the Captain Cook Memorial Museum, where you can learn about the famous explorer's life in the port town. Other things to do in Whitby include the visiting the Dracula Experience on the seafront, where you can be guided through the story and learn about its connection to the town. A trip to Whitby would not be the same without climbing the 199 steps to Whitby Abbey, counting as you go, and exploring the beautiful ruins which tower over the town.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 13th October 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	NIL	£29

Morecambe, Lancaster & Lakeland

Stroll along Morecambe's award-winning promenade with an ice cream before visiting the Eric Morecambe Statue, and The Tern Project, a series of public art installations inspired by the birdlife of Morecambe Bay.



© Holker Estate

The Auckland Hotel

Having been a family-run hotel for nearly 40 years, the Auckland Hotel understands the needs of holidaymakers, from great food to a good night's sleep as they strive to make sure your stay is as good as possible. Located in the heart of Morecambe and close to shops and restaurants, the hotel offers spectacular views over the Bay to the lake District Hills. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Yorkshire Dales & Hawes Creamery
- ◆ Holker Hall & Gardens and Grange-Over-Sands

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We make our way into the Yorkshire Dales, passing through Ingleton, on our way to Hawes for our visit to the Wensleydale Creamery. We enjoy a cheesemaking demonstration followed by a self-guided tour to learn about the thousand-year history of cheesemaking in the Dales. We continue our scenic tour of the Dales, passing Buckden and Kettlewell on our way to Grassington before returning to the hotel.
- ◆ We visit Holker Hall & Gardens, a name given by the Norse invaders meaning 'A rise in marshy ground'. For centuries, people have felt drawn here and the love of those who have lived here emanates from the architecture, the grounds, and the landscape they created around it. Nestled between the hills of the Lake District and the sea marshes it rises from, Holker is, above all, a family home. Immerse yourself in the family history in the stunning architecture and beautiful interiors of The Hall. In the Gardens, distinct areas of formal planting with their herbaceous borders, lawns and topiaries, contrast with meadows and woodlands. Of several impressive, veteran trees, the most remarkable is the 400-year-old Holker Great Lime. Later, we visit the pretty resort of Grange-Over-Sands. Grange is an elegant town, with strong reminders of its heyday as a fashionable seaside resort in the 19th Century – all thanks to the balmy influence of the Gulf Stream and the arrival of the railroad in the 1850s. Grange's Victorian and Edwardian elegance is still very much in evidence today, in its ornamental gardens, attractive shopping arcades and its long seafront promenade.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 21st October 2024	5 Days	£379 pp	NIL	£29

North East England



Northumberland Uncovered - Reunion

Get ready to explore the breath-taking landscapes and fascinating heritage of Northumberland on our exciting Reunion Tour. Fully Escorted by Pam & Zoe, there'll be prize quizzes on the coach and a Raffle during our stay.



© Flickr - Paula Funnell

Millennium Copthorne Hotel

Located in Newcastle Quayside, right in the heart of this vibrant city, Millennium Copthorne Newcastle is the perfect base from which to explore. As the only hotel in Newcastle City with all rooms overlooking the River Tyne, there's nowhere better in the city to stay. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and evening entertainment.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ South Shields & 'Vera Country' Guided Tour
- ◆ Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
- ◆ Morpeth Market & Cragside House

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We head to South Shields, home of the late Catherine Cookson, where we pick-up our guide. We head along the coast road on our way past Marsden Bay, Whitburn and Seaburn, with guided commentary and insight into the TV series 'Vera' which is also filmed in the area.
- ◆ We visit Morpeth – combining history and heritage with hustle and bustle, traditional markets lie around one cobbled corner and trendy bars lie around another. Today is Market Day. Morpeth has an eclectic mix of shops and places to eat. Later, we visit magnificent Cragside House, the former home of Lord and Lady Armstrong, now in the care of the National Trust. Cragside was the first house to be lit by electricity – a wonder of the Victorian age. We return via the coast, Warkworth and the village of Ellington.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 18th March 2024	5 Days	£419 pp	£80	£29

Alnwick & Beautiful Northumberland

Northumberland is a land of big adventures, breath taking beauty and unlimited possibilities. Discover romantically ruinous castles, barely visited beaches, bunting-strewn market towns, and enjoy endless experiences.



The White Swan Hotel

Set in the heart of the historic market town of Alnwick, the White Swan Hotel is a charming, 300-year-old coaching inn that blends unique heritage and superb accommodation. The hotel is probably best known for the Olympic Dining Suite which features the magnificent panelling, mirrors, and stained-glass windows from the Titanic's sister ship. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel does not have a lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Howick Hall Gardens & Arboretum
- ◆ Ford & Etal Estates – Lady Waterford Hall, Hatherslaw Corn Mill & Railway with Soup & Cake Lunch with Pots of Tea
- ◆ Bamburgh & Holy Island

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Howick Hall Gardens & Arboretum is the ancestral seat of the Earls Grey since 1319. Discover the history of the 2nd Earl, after whom the famous tea is named, wander through the beautiful gardens created by the 5th Earl Grey and his family, or for the more energetic explore the arboretum - a united nations of shrubs and trees covering over 65 acres. Take a rest from exploring in the Earl Grey Tea House for a bit to eat and a cup of Earl Grey Tea!
- ◆ We visit Ford & Etal Estates where our first stop is Lady Waterford Hall – a former schoolroom, now a museum where you can study Lady Waterford's sketches and other paintings, learn about her life and how she developed Ford as a 'model' village. Next, we visit the Cornmill with a talk from the Duty Miller before our included Soup & Cake Lunch with Pots of Tea. Later, we take the Hatherslaw Light Railway to Etal Village.
- ◆ We cross the causeway to Holy Island, a pint-sized island that holds pubs and cafes a-plenty. Admire staggering views as you go and feel as though you are entering a secret world as you approach the island. Later, we spend some time in the beautiful coastal town of Bamburgh, famous for its castle perched high on the cliff, overlooking the beach & town.

Please note: the Causeway crossing to Holy Island is governed by tide times. It may be necessary to amend this excursion.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 5th May 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	£180	£29

Northern (De)Lights

Follow in the footsteps of the mighty Romans at Hadrian's Wall, tower 150 feet above sea level at Bamburgh – England's finest coastal castle, and gaze at Northumberland's iconic coastline on a Farne Islands cruise, home to England's most abundant seabird and seal habitats.



Copthorne Hotel Newcastle

Located in Newcastle Quayside, right in the heart of this vibrant city, Copthorne Hotel Newcastle is the perfect base from which to explore. As the only hotel in Newcastle city with all rooms overlooking the River Tyne, there's nowhere better in the city to stay with a Quayside view. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Durham Cathedral
- ◆ Bamburgh Castle
- ◆ Farne Islands Experience Cruise
- ◆ Hadrian's Wall Coach Guided Tour

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Durham Cathedral is one of the great buildings of Europe. Set grandly on a rocky promontory next to the Castle with the medieval city huddled below and the river sweeping round, the profile of the World Heritage Site is instantly recognisable. Learn about the incredible history of some wonderful artefacts, regarded as relics of St Cuthbert, the North of England's greatest Saint whose remains rest at Durham Cathedral taking visitors back to Durham Cathedral's 1000-year-old roots.
- ◆ Sitting proudly atop its basalt throne, Bamburgh Castle reigns supreme over the surrounding landscape. With stunning views out to the Farne Islands and north to Lindisfarne, you can't fail to be impressed. The staterooms are filled with the finest porcelain, china, furniture, and artworks. Bloodthirsty weapons glint from the walls and cases, hinting at the turmoil and sieges that have taken place here. An active archaeology dig also reveals the dark secrets of the Anglo-Saxons. Later, feel as though you're David Attenborough as we embark on a nature and wildlife cruise around the rocky Farne Islands. Trace the resident Atlantic Grey Seal colony, seen on or around the islands anytime of the year! Try your hand at seabird spotting with the seasonal visitors. This experience is dependent on weather conditions as the boat can only sail in safe conditions.
- ◆ Our local guide takes us on an all-encompassing tour of Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrating its 1900th anniversary and named one of the 35 must-see destinations for 2022 by National Geographic. Take in a famous Roman Cavalry Fort, together with iconic views of Hadrian's Wall, an important Battlefield, and England's Tree of the Year 2016, with its links to Robin Hood. Highlights include Heddon on the Wall – the best remaining example of the 'Broad Wall' which stretches for several hundred yards, and Corbridge – an attractive small market town which is regularly enjoyed by guests.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 27th May 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£100	£29

Northumbria & Holy Island Land of the Prince Bishops

Northumberland is a land of big adventures, breath-taking beauty, and unlimited possibilities and attractions. Discover romantically ruinous castles, barely-visited beaches, bunting-strewn market towns, and enjoy endless experiences.

County Durham was once a virtually independent state ruled not by the king, but by powerful 'Prince Bishops' who were more or less the 'Kings of County Durham'. Our tour includes a visit to The Auckland Project which includes a Castle, Galleries, Museums, and lots more to explore.



© English Heritage



The Holiday Inn Gosforth Park Hotel

The Holiday Inn Gosforth Park is ideally situated to be the perfect base for our tour. The hotel has a lift, indoor swimming pool, spa bath, restaurant, and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Northumberlandia ◆ Holy Island
- ◆ Woodhorn Museum ◆ Seaton Delaval Hall
- ◆ Tynemouth Priory ◆ Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Today we travel to the north of Northumberland, across the causeway to Holy Island of Lindisfarne – a mysterious tidal island with charming cafes, an ancient priory, and a castle that teeters on the coastline. We return to Bamburgh, with its mighty castle on the beach. Discover a pristine beach, drifting sand dunes, snug eateries ticked away on street corners, and a magnificent castle view everywhere you turn.

Please note, the crossing of the causeway to Holy Island is governed by tide times so it may be necessary to amend this excursion.

- ◆ Travel north passing Walkworth Castle to Alnwick. From broomsticks to bookshops, tree houses to cherry blossoms, and jousts to dragons, you can't miss the magic of the cobbled market town of Alnwick. Later, we visit Belsay Hall, Castle & Gardens, regarded as the first British country house to be built new in Greek Revival style. Prepare to be enchanted by Belsay's Grecian architecture, medieval castle, and 30 acres of outstanding gardens.
- ◆ We start with a drive to Northumberlandia, home of 'The Angel of the North', a stunning human landform sculpture of a lady, scaling 100ft in height and spanning ¼ of a mile. We continue to Morpeth and today is Market Day. Time to get lunch here before we visit Woodhorn Museum, a 19th Century coal mine, now a museum and heritage centre. Located in what was once the largest pit village in the world, the former colliery is now home to the popular visitor attraction. The museum is proud to house the Ashington Group Collection of artworks, commonly known as the 'Pitmen Painters'.
- ◆ Tynemouth Priory contains a 13th Century chapel, as well as WW2 gun battery. Overlooking the North Sea and the River Tyne, it dominates the headland. Time for lunch in the Tynemouth Village, with strong maritime connections, traditional pubs, cafes, and bistros, and mix of shops. Later, we visit Seaton Delaval Hall where you can stroll around the gardens or see its dramatic halls before we finish the day with a short drive along the coast to Blyth Beach.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 16th June 2024	6 Days	£589 pp	£150	£35

The Park Head Hotel

The Park Head hotel is situated just a short drive from Bishop Auckland. The hotel and its 38 rooms have recently undergone a full renovation since being taken over by The Auckland Project, giving a modern, stylish, and contemporary feel. The hotel has a bar, restaurant, and a communal garden area. All en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Raby Castle
- ◆ Weardale Heritage Railway
- ◆ Auckland Project All Access Pass – Mining Gallery, Faith Museum, Spanish art Gallery, Auckland Tower, Auckland Gardens

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We make the short journey to Auckland Castle, proud home of the Bishops of Durham and stands as one of the best-preserved Bishops Palaces in Europe. Enjoy time to explore the Castle with its staterooms designed to tell the history and story of the bishops that lived there. Outside in the grounds, there is a 17th Century Walled Garden to explore and produce from the garden is incorporated into the menus at the Park Head Hotel. This afternoon we have included an all-access ticket to The Auckland Project's other museums in the town centre, so you are free to explore. There is a Mining Art Gallery that provides a truly unique insight into the lives and souls of this area's coal miners. The Spanish Art Gallery is linked to Auckland Castle's heritage as home to Francisco de Zurbarán's series of Spanish paintings for over 250 years. A Faith Museum looks to contemplate the ideas, implications, and impact of faith in Britain. Then, the Auckland Tower provides 360-degree views of the Castle, Bishop Auckland, and the rural area.
- ◆ We journey to Raby Castle, one of the finest medieval castles to remain in Britain and the resident home of the Vane family since 1626. Afterwards, we make a lunch stop in Barnard Castle – you can see where Dickens immortalised 'Dothboys Hall', look at Cromwell's refuge, browse around the antique shops, or visit the Castle itself, high above the trees. Later, we drive into the Durham Dales to Wolsingham, where we enjoy a return train journey on the heritage Weardale Line to Stanhope, taking in beautiful views along the way.
- ◆ The historic city of Durham is well-known for its huge cathedral, overlooking the rest of the city and its beautiful cityscape. Maybe enjoy a stroll by the riverside and perhaps obtain lunch in one of many cosy city cafes. A must-visit is Durham Cathedral with its great architecture and peaceful surroundings.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 25th July 2024	5 Days	£549 pp	NIL	£29

Time Travellers Retreat & Journeys of the North

We visit Museums and Visitor Centres, take some scenic railway rides, and explore historic towns - all connected with the world's first public railway to use Steam Locomotives (Stockton & Darlington Railway 1825)



© Teesside Princess

The Redworth Hall Hotel

Redworth Hall is a stunning 17th Century Jacobean Manor House, situated in the blissful tranquillity of its own 26 acres of landscaped grounds. En-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and Retreat Spa with swimming pool, gym, and treatment rooms.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Teesside Princess Cruise
- ◆ Yarm & Preston Park
- ◆ Weardale Railway & Durham Dales
- ◆ Head of Steam & Locomotion Visitor Centres
- ◆ Beamish

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Embark on a picturesque journey aboard the Teesside Princess, cruising through the tranquil countryside along the twists and turns of the River Tees until we reach Yarm. Here, we'll explore the town's rich railway history with a visit to the George & Dragon pub where a meeting in 1820 set the wheels in motion for the railway between Darlington and Stockton. The highlight is the beautiful railway viaduct towering over the River Tees. Later, stroll down a Victorian street in Preston Park, experiencing life as it was in 1895 and stopping by the sweet shop, toy shop, and blacksmiths.
- ◆ Journey north to Beamish, the world-famous living museum of the North. Here, we step back in time to life in Northeast England during the 1820s, 1900s, 1940s, and 1950s. Next, we'll embark on a delightful journey through Weardale, one of the most dramatic Dales in the country, to Stanhope. Here, we board the newly reopened Weardale Railway for our return journey to Wolsingham.
- ◆ A guide will join us as we journey through railway history. We begin with a ride on a local train from Darlington to the Head of Steam, a newly restored centre commemorating 200 years since the first train set off in 1825. This momentous event led to the development of nearly 15,000 miles of passenger lines over the next 40 years. Next, we continue down the line to Locomotion – the National Railway Experience, home to many famous locomotives, including the one that hauled the first passenger train.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 12th August 2024	5 Days	£559 pp	£120	£29

Kynren – An Epic Tale of England

This action-packed, live blockbuster performed by a cast & crew of 1,000, takes you on an amazing journey through 2,000 years of history, myth, and legend. Kynren is a world class show brought to life with magnificent sets, combat, stunts, horsemanship, stunning pyrotechnics, and amazing special effects, set to a thrilling original soundtrack. A truly captivating experience for all and must be seen to be believed.



The Maldron Hotel

The Maldron Hotel stands right at the centre of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, just minutes from the bustling shops of the city and the famous Quayside. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, safe, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, iron & ironing board, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Kynren Live Action Show
- ◆ Cathedral City of Durham
- ◆ Newcastle Upon Tyne

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Enjoy the day at leisure in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Just a short walk from the hotel are bars, restaurants, and the famous Quayside where you could enjoy a cruise on the Tyne. The city centre isn't far away with plenty of shopping and places to visit. Return to the hotel for an early dinner before heading to Bishop Auckland for Kynren – An Epic Tale of England. Taking place on a vast landscaped stage with a huge lake at its centre hiding a host of surprises, you'll meet many of the characters and events that have shaped England. With 29 scenes encompassing the Roman occupation to World War II, history will unfold in front of your eyes, thanks to a cast and crew of almost 1,500 performing on this vast open-air stage. Spectacular sets appear as if by magic, mass choreography and fierce battles are illuminated with dazzling special effects, effervescent lighting and pyrotechnics, set to a spine-tingling score which you'll experience in movie-like surround sound.

(Kynren is an outdoor show, so it is important that passengers bring appropriate clothing for the weather. This show may not be suitable for passengers with mobility issues.)

- ◆ We head to the Cathedral city of Durham

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 16th August 2024	4 Days	£459 pp	£90	£29

Alnwick & Beautiful Northumberland

Northumberland is a land of big adventures, breath taking beauty and unlimited possibilities. Discover romantically ruinous castles, barely visited beaches, bunting-strewn market towns, and enjoy endless experiences.



South Shields & The Durham Coast

The North East of England is a region rich in contemporary culture, historic sights, and dramatic landscapes, all within easy reach of our base in the traditional seaside resort of South Shields.



The White Swan Hotel

Set in the heart of the historic market town of Alnwick, the White Swan Hotel is a charming, 300-year-old coaching inn that blends unique heritage and superb accommodation. The hotel is probably best known for the Olympic Dining Suite which features the magnificent panelling, mirrors, and stained-glass windows from the Titanic's sister ship. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel does not have a lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Howick Hall Gardens & Arboretum
- ◆ Ford & Etal Estates – Lady Waterford Hall, Hatherslaw Corn Mill & Railway with Soup & Cake Lunch with Pots of Tea
- ◆ Bamburgh & Holy Island

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Howick Hall Gardens & Arboretum is the ancestral seat of the Earls Grey since 1319. Discover the history of the 2nd Earl, after whom the famous tea is named, wander through the beautiful gardens created by the 5th Earl Grey and his family, or for the more energetic explore the arboretum - a united nations of shrubs and trees covering over 65 acres. Take a rest from exploring in the Earl Grey Tea House for a bit to eat and a cup of Earl Grey Tea!
- ◆ We visit Ford & Etal Estates where our first stop is Lady Waterford Hall – a former schoolroom, now a museum where you can study Lady Waterford's sketches and other paintings, learn about her life and how she developed Ford as a 'model' village. Next, we visit the Cornmill with a talk from the Duty Miller before our included Soup & Cake Lunch with Pots of Tea. Later, we take the Heatherslaw Light Railway to Etal Village.
- ◆ We cross the causeway to Holy Island, a pint-sized island that holds pubs and cafes a-plenty. Admire staggering views as you go and feel as though you are entering a secret world as you approach the island. Later, we spend some time in the beautiful coastal town of Bamburgh, famous for its castle perched high on the cliff, overlooking the beach & town.

Please note: the Causeway crossing to Holy Island is governed by tide times. It may be necessary to amend this excursion.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 1st September 2024	5 Days	£569 pp	£180	£29

The Little Haven Hotel

The Little Haven Hotel is uniquely situated in South Shields at the gateway to the River Tyne and boasts extensive views of the busy Tyne and Little Haven Beach. The hotel has a lift, and the Boardwalk Restaurant is fashionably set in the conservatory overlooking Little Haven Beach and the lively waterfront. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ City of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
- ◆ Tynemouth & Whitley Bay
- ◆ Catherine Cookson Country
- ◆ Tyne Valley Sightseeing

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Spend the morning exploring the traditional seaside resort of South Shields, home of the late Catherine Cookson. Later, we continue along the coast road on our way south, past Marsden Bay, Whitburn, and Seaburn, before turning inland across to the ancient and historic city of Durham, acclaimed as a World Heritage Site, and dominated by the magnificent Norman Cathedral and Castle, high above the River Wear.
- ◆ We head inland via Jarrow, and Hebburn, to Gateshead, Blaydon, and Prudhoe as we make our way to Hexham and its historic Abbey. Clustered around its marketplace and medieval Abbey, Hexham features glorious Victorian buildings overlooking the park and historic buildings dotted around town, home to art galleries, pubs, and much more. This afternoon, a short drive takes us to Wall from where we follow the path of Hadrian's Wall to Vindolanda, and then continue past the Gateshead Metro Centre and back to South Shields.
- ◆ We begin with a ride through the Tyne Tunnel and out to the coast to Tynemouth. We have a break with time to stroll along the shore and have a look around before we continue our journey to spend the afternoon in Newcastle. In the centre Roman, medieval, Jacobean, Georgian and Victorian buildings sit comfortably alongside colourful Chinatown and the Eldon Square complex. It is a happy jumble which gives the city a true cosmopolitan air.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 16th September 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£84	£29

Mature Singles



Mature Singles - Sidmouth

Sidmouth is probably the most unspoilt resort in the country and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful. Quiet and unhurried, Sidmouth has preserved the natural beauty of the countryside with colourful gardens, open spaces, and tree-covered hills.



Mature Singles - Exploring the Scottish Highlands

You can lose yourself within the stunning scenery of The Highlands, with its majestic mountains and mysterious lochs, as we journey through this beautiful land.



© VisitScotland - North East 250 - Damian Shields

The Highlander Hotel

Set in the stunning location of the Cairngorm National Park, the Highlander Hotel is the ideal place to stay whether you're an outdoor enthusiast or just want to enjoy the spectacular scenery in the area. Based in the village of Newtonmore, the Highlander Hotel offers a warm welcome and true highland hospitality. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, and some entertainment. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms may be available on request. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cairngorm Mountain Railway & Aviemore
- ◆ Fort William & Ben Nevis Distillery
- ◆ Loch Ness Cruise & Inverness

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We enjoy a breath-taking trip on the Cairngorm Mountain Railway, Scotland's only funicular railway the highest in the UK reaching the Ptarmigan building at over 1,097m above sea level. The 2km funicular takes passengers to the top of the slopes in around 5-8 minutes and once at the top you can enjoy a unique visitor experience – Ptarmigan Restaurant with panoramic views, Cairngorm Gin Bar, viewing terrace, 270 degrees immersive exhibition, and the Shop at the Top serving a wide range of gifts, clothing and local products. Later, we visit the village of Aviemore, with its great selection of shops, restaurants, cafes and bars, and beautiful scenery.
- ◆ Fort William is the largest town in The Highlands, located on the shores of beautiful Loch Linnhe. The pedestrianised main street is packed with independent shops and places to eat. We also visit the Ben Nevis Distillery, one of the oldest licensed distilleries in Scotland and home to The Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis Visitor Centre. Established in 1825 and situated at the foot of Britain's highest mountain Ben Nevis, Ben Nevis Distillery is an impressive and historic place. In a specially commissioned audiovisual presentation, we will meet Hector McDram, a mythical giant who will reveal the secret Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis.
- ◆ We cruise the Loch and view the castle on our 50-minute voyage across the deepest, mysterious waters of Loch Ness. From here, treat those peepers – and your camera – to the breathtaking sight of the historic Urquhart Castle. An onboard audio is bursting with lots of facts and legends to tune into as you sail, and don't forget to look out for Nessie, with a little help from the onboard sonar! Later, we visit Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, a perfect mix of a small city scene with an escape to the surrounding natural beauty of the area within minutes!

The Royal York & Faulkner Hotel

The Royal York & Faulkner is a fine example of Regency architecture and forms a modern, spacious hotel. Enjoying an unrivalled position on Sidmouth's elegant Esplanade, the hotel directly overlooks the sea and is adjacent to the picturesque shopping centre. En-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, Aspara Spa with Hydrotherapy Pool, sauna & steam cabin, and evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ River Exe Cruise & Exmouth
- ◆ Torquay & Palace Paignton Afternoon Tea

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The tranquil waters of the River Exe allow us to cruise today to see the constantly changing landscape from the ever-calm waters of the river. We sail along the peaceful waters of the river towards Powderham Castle and along to where the river ends on Exmouth's traditional seafront. The heated lower decks have large windows for great viewing and outside upper decks with plenty of fresh air and blankets. Later, we spend some time in Exmouth, one of Devon's prettiest seaside resorts and thought to be the oldest. Exmouth is a vibrant town with plenty to see and do all year round. We return to Sidmouth through the Otter Valley.
- ◆ Torquay is a traditional yet thriving seaside town with iconic palm trees, a busy harbour, an international marina, and wonderful array of continental-style cafes, restaurants, and cocktail bars. Take a leisurely stroll along the historic Torquay pier and palm tree-lined promenade and enjoy the sea views and watch the comings and goings in the adjacent marina. Later, we travel to nearby Palace Hotel Paignton where we enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea before returning to Sidmouth.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Tuesday 13th February 2024	5 Days	£409 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 18th March 2024	5 Days	£459 pp	NIL	£29

Mature Singles - Harrogate

Harrogate is a Victorian Spa Town in the heart of Yorkshire. For the more metropolitan the reputation of the shopping streets for exquisite retail opportunities is well deserved and the spa heritage is evident to this day with spa treatments old and new available.



The Old Swan Hotel

The Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate combines Victorian splendour with elegant contemporary style and is just a short walk from the town centre. One of the most famous hotels in Harrogate, thanks to its romantic past – once a popular spa, it was the hideaway haven for crime queen Agatha Christie when she famously disappeared here in 1926. The hotel is packed with stunning period features, including revolving doors and polished wooden floors. The hotel has a lift as well as elegant reception rooms, including the magnificent Wedgewood Restaurant with its original glass ceiling, or the Swan Lounge & Bar overlooking the lawns with views of the town centre. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, iron & ironing board, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Harewood House & Ilkley
- ◆ Leyburn & Wensleydale Creamery

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ When Edward Lascelles started building Harewood House in 1759 he wanted nothing but the best for his new home. He employed the finest craftsmen of the time and as you walk around the House, you can see Renaissance masterpieces, exquisite family portraits by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Lawrence and Richmond, as well as a fine collection of Sevres china, among many other delights. There are over 100 acres of gardens at Harewood, full of variety with plants from all over the world. All this in the setting of a magnificent landscape created by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Later, we visit Ilkley, set in beautiful Wharfedale. Wander around Ilkley's bustling town centre and treat yourself in one of Ilkley's many independently owned shops or enjoy a bite to eat or drink in one of the fantastic range of bars, restaurants, and cafes.
- ◆ We visit Hawes and the Wensleydale Creamery, home of award-winning flagship Cheese Experience and Visitor Centre. An interactive experience takes you on a journey through the art of cheesemaking to discover a fascinating insight into the thousand-year history of cheesemaking in the Dales, with the opportunity to watch Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese being crafted from a Cheesemaking Viewing Gallery. The experience continues in the much-loved Cheese & Gift Shop with over 20 varieties of artisan cheese to discover, along with fantastic locally sourced food, drink & unique handcrafted gifts. Later, we visit Leyburn, with a great selection of independent shops and restaurants, cafes and pubs around the Market Place for every pocket and taste.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 25th March 2025	5 Days	£559 pp	NIL	£29

Mature Singles - Liverpool, Floating Grace & Strawberry Fields Forever

Liverpool city centre is compact and walkable. There are various 'quarters' (more than four) that represent the different areas of the city centre. They are The Ropeworks, The Georgian Quarter, Cavern Quarter, The Baltic Triangle, The Waterfront, St George's Quarter, and Chinatown. Each neighbourhood quarter has its own character, history, and experience- which will you choose?



Mercure Atlantic Tower Hotel

The Atlantic Tower Hotel is ideally situated in the heart of Liverpool, opposite the Pier Head and Liver Building. The hotel has a lift, Vista restaurant, and Vue Bar & Terrace with skyline views of Liverpool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cruise on the Floating Grace with Lunch Included
- ◆ Strawberry Fields

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel straight to Liverpool for the remainder of the day at leisure to explore Liverpool at leisure. Options include the Walker Art Gallery, St Georges Hall, International Slavery Museum, Royal Liver Building, Museum of Liverpool, The Beatles Story, Pier Head, Liverpool Cathedral, Anfield, the list goes on. Don't forget Liverpool One for Liverpool shopping, dining, and entertainment experience like no other. From high street to high end, there's the ultimate in retail therapy, as well as bars and restaurants.
- ◆ We visit Strawberry Field, the iconic site immortalised by John Lennon in The Beatles hit 'Strawberry Fields Forever'. An interactive experience tells interweaving stories of the house, The Salvation Army, John Lennon's childhood, and the writing and recording of the famous song. At the heart of the attraction are the peaceful gardens where, as a child, John Lennon played. We return to Liverpool's Albert Dock for our cruise on The Floating Grace with lunch included. Enjoy the best views of Liverpool's historic docklands whilst enjoying excellent food. Following our cruise there will be a little time in the iconic Albert Dock to explore independently.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 19th May 2024	3 Days	£339 pp	NIL	£27

Mature Singles - Middle England

Middle England boasts areas of outstanding natural beauty and the home of William Shakespeare and is steeped in art, history, and culture. We have included some wonderful places in our itinerary, guaranteed to delight.



The Mercure Daventry Court Hotel

Mercure Daventry Court is nestled within picturesque grounds and a delightful inner courtyard. A warm welcome awaits you with a friendly team of staff throughout the hotel. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, and fitness centre.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Shakespeare's School Room & Guildhall & Stratford Upon Avon
- ◆ Coton Manor Gardens with Light Lunch
- ◆ Delapre Abbey

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ During our visit to Shakespeare's Schoolroom, immerse yourself in sixteenth century Stratford-upon-Avon and explore the very room where William Shakespeare sat in the 1570s and where he wrote his first works. Discover the space where young William saw plays performed by the finest actors of the day. Enjoy a fun and engaging Tudor style school lesson with Shakespeare's last schoolmaster and you may leave having learnt a little Latin! The rest of the day will be at leisure in Stratford-upon-Avon, a market town with more than 800 years of history, containing not only many buildings that survive today and would have been familiar to Shakespeare, but also a thriving community offering a variety of shopping and dining experiences.
- ◆ The beautiful garden at Coton Manor occupies a hillside position, extending down from the 17th century manor house constructed of mellow Northamptonshire stone. The 10-acre garden has luxuriant borders that will delight the plant enthusiast while everyone will enjoy the garden's charm and special atmosphere, with colour and interest throughout the seasons. Beyond the garden is a magical 5-acre bluebell wood and a wildflower meadow. The extensive nursery has over a thousand varieties of plants, many of which are unusual and are propagated from the garden. Before we leave, we enjoy a delicious light lunch of sandwiches & cakes, washed down with tea or coffee. Later, we visit Delapre Abbey where you'll experience tales of the Abbey told across five storytelling zones you'll investigate unexpected views, strange doorways and eccentric architecture and make your own memories in a building brimming with history. The Abbey is set within the remains of the formal and semi-formal gardens which were once the pride and joy of the Tate and Bouverie families. There's a large walled garden, superb specimen trees in the understated arboretum, the hidden remains of a splendid water garden and the south lawn which stretches out to the ha-ha which separates the lawn from the 500 acres of the wider parkland and the gold course beyond.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 14th June 2024	4 Days	£449 pp	NIL	£29

Mature Singles - Harrogate

Harrogate is a Victorian Spa Town in the heart of Yorkshire. For the more metropolitan the reputation of the shopping streets for exquisite retail opportunities is well deserved and the spa heritage is evident to this day with spa treatments old and new available.



© Flickr - Tim Green

The Crown Hotel

With a history dating back over 300 years, alongside an enviable location just moments from many of Harrogate's most popular sites, The Crown Hotel combines beautiful surroundings with a storied past and luxurious facilities. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Forbidden Corner & Leyburn
- ◆ Yorkshire Dales & Skipton Canal Cruise

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The Forbidden Corner is a unique labyrinth of tunnels, chambers, follies, and surprises created within a 4-acre garden in the heart of Tuppill Park and the Yorkshire Dales. A visitor attraction unlike anywhere that you have been before, ideal for the adventurers and those young at heart! The temple of the underworld, a huge pyramid made of translucent glass, paths and passages that lead nowhere, extraordinary statues - at every turn there are decisions to make and tricks to avoid. Later, we visit Leyburn, with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside, unusual local shops and cafes, and traditional pubs.
- ◆ The picturesque Yorkshire Dales have been carved through outstanding scenery by sparkling rivers, with unspoilt villages of stone houses dotted through the stunning valleys. The distinctive stone walls and field barns surround hay meadows with colourful wild flowers, overlooked by ancient fortresses steeped in history. We enjoy a scenic drive ending in Skipton and today is Market Day. Immense history, a rich culture independent shops, food & drink places galore, a famous market, an iconic castle, stunning countryside and, perhaps most of all, friendly, fiercely proud and passionate Yorkshire people. We end the day with an hour of rib-tickling historic escapism you can find in Skipton on a cruise on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 1st July 2024	5 Days	£569 pp	NIL	£29

Mature Singles - Warwickshire

Warwickshire is a county of literary greats, of culinary brilliance, and iconic heritage. Did you know 19 rivers cross Warwickshire, the game of rugby was invented here, and James Bond's Aston Martin DB10 was made here!



The Delta by Marriott Hotel

Well situated near Warwick, the Delta by Marriott Hotel is the perfect base for our tour. Recently refurbished, en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, iron & ironing board, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, fitness centre, vibrant restaurant, modern bar, and coffee bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Alcester & Studley Castle Afternoon Tea
- ◆ Stratford-upon-Avon & Warwick Castle

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Alcester is a charming town that offers something for everyone – history, culture, shopping, and food & drink. Discover a charming town centre, find historic buildings, dine in inviting pubs, and cosy tea rooms, then browse traditional independent shops where service matters. Later, we visit Studley Castle Hotel where we enjoy a delicious Afternoon Tea. Studley Castle is a beautiful hotel curating more than 180 years of history, but utterly modern in outlook.
- ◆ Stratford-upon-Avon is a market town with more than 800 years of history containing not only many buildings that survive today and would have been familiar to Shakespeare, but also a thriving community offering a wide variety of eating and shopping experiences. Later, we visit Warwick Castle. With over 1000 years in the making, Warwick Castle brings you Britain's ultimate historical experience. 'The Kingmaker' will take you on a fascinating journey through preparations for battle in Medieval England. Join the Countess of Warwick and her esteemed guests for a lavish weekend party at the 'The Royal Party Weekend'. Discover the castle's magnificent Great Hall and resplendent State Rooms. The Gardens showcase sculptures topiaries, manicured hedges, and centrepiece fountain, as well as stunning views across the Pageant Fields.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 2nd August 2024	4 Days	£449 pp	NIL	£29

Mature Singles - Oxford - City of Dreaming Spires & Royal Windsor

On our long weekend we visit two of the most popular places in England – Oxford, the 'City of Dreaming Spires' and Royal Windsor. Both days include river cruises giving us the opportunity to view these beautiful places from a different perspective.



© French Brothers Ltd

Holiday Inn Reading South

This smart, modern hotel is ideally located for our weekend away. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant and bar. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cruise from Abingdon to Oxford & Oxford
- ◆ Windsor & Thames River Cruise with Cream Tea

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel to Abingdon where we join Salter's Steamers for our cruise to Oxford. Our journey takes us through beautiful countryside with highlights including the Oxford University Intercollegiate Regatta Course and the magnificent Nuneham House. The journey also links two hugely popular waterside pubs, the Head of the River pub at Oxford and The Nag's Head at Abingdon. The remainder of the day is free to explore Oxford – The City of dreaming Spires - at leisure. Oxford is famous the world over for its university and place in history. For over 800 years it has been home to royalty and scholars, and since the 9th century an established town, although people are known to have lived in the area for thousands of years. Nowadays, the city is a bustling cosmopolitan town with a mix of ancient and modern. Whether it's visiting one of the many historic buildings, colleges, or museums, enjoying a drink or a meal, or shopping till you drop, Oxford has it all.
- ◆ Windsor is our focus today. Crowned by Windsor Castle and linked by the River Thames, the Royal Borough of Windsor has a rich mix of history, culture, heritage and fun. There's a wide range of restaurants, pubs, bars, and cafes to choose from that suits all tastes and budgets. Browse the pedestrian-only shopping centre and shop-lined streets offering a great mixture of high street names and independent retailers. Later, we join French Brothers Cruises for our 2-hour cruise which provides excellent views of Windsor Castle and Eton College. After passing Windsor Racecourse, the boat goes through Boveney Lock and past Sutherland Grange, The Willows, and Bray Film Studios. The boat then heads towards Oakley Court, Queens Eyot, and Monkey Island where the boat turns for the journey back to Windsor. Whilst on board, we enjoy a delicious Cream Tea.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 18th October 2024	4 Days	£429 pp	NIL	£29

Mature Singles Romantic Journeys of Yorkshire

For those who yearn for an era of leisurely pace, of times gone by, dramatic landscapes broken by the familiar sound of a steam train making its way through a backdrop of rolling countryside, this is a tour not to be missed.



The Cedar Court Hotel

The Cedar Court Hotel Bradford & West Yorkshire is the ideal base for our tour. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The 'Railway Children' Line
- ◆ Brontë's Haworth
- ◆ Beautiful Bolton Abbey & Wharfedale
- ◆ Spectacular Settle and Carlisle Railway
- ◆ Wensleydale Railway

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We drive to the pleasant North Yorkshire market town of Settle for our ride on the Settle to Carlisle Railway, considered to be one of the most scenic rail journeys. We join the diesel train for our journey, passing through spectacular scenery, crossing the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct, and stopping at Dent, the highest mainline station in England. We re-join our coach for the short journey to Hawes, main town of The Dale. After a break and chance to get lunch, we continue along Wensleydale past Aygarth to join Wensleydale Railway, a unique and exciting project to restore train services along the whole of Wensleydale, re-instating one of the east-west rail links of the past. Our journey is about 40-minutes.
- ◆ Today, we head off along the Aire Valley to Skipton – 'Gateway to the Dales'. The main street houses the well-known market, and Skipton Castle stands proudly at the top of the street. Take a stroll around the town and explore some of the interesting little alleyways and shops. From Skipton, we make our way to Haworth, home of the famous Brontë sisters and their notorious brother. Little has changed in the village since they lived at The Parsonage. Later, we enjoy a steam train ride along the delightful Worth Valley, following the locations used in the film 'The Railway Children', and afterwards we return to the hotel in time for a drink before dinner.
- ◆ Our journey today begins with a visit to Bolton Abbey. The Abbey and ruined Priory are set in a beautiful and tranquil location alongside the River Wharf, surrounded by moorland, woodland, and riverside – a truly inspirational setting for many. We have time for a stroll through this beautiful landscape, part of the Duke of Devonshire's Estate. Continuing through beautiful Dale's scenery we visit the Dales village of Grassington – its cobbled street, diminutive marketplace and its many quaint byways and alleyways make it a place in which to linger.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 16th September 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	£88	£29

Mature Singles - Weston Super Mare

Our Somerset Singles Tour highlights some of the most popular places to visit in the area from our base in the seaside resort of Weston-Super-Mare.



© Flickr - Nina

Smiths Hotel

Smith Hotel is a family run hotel occupying a prime position on the beautiful seafront of Weston-Super-Mare. Spacious en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, two bars, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Brunel's SS Great Britain & Bristol
- ◆ Wells & Glastonbury
- ◆ Cream Tea at the Hotel
- ◆ Reduced Price Bar (selected brands only) 5pm-8pm each night

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We head to Bristol for our visit of Brunel's SS Great Britain – the ship that changed the world. Explore the ship's story and the engineer behind it across two museums and the mighty SS Great Britain itself in the very dry dock where it was built. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Bristol. Enveloped in the hills of South West England, it has developed an unmistakable identity and fiercely independent spirit, forged by its passionate locals. Devour the feast of food and drink in Bristol that covers sumptuous street food, superstar chefs, and everything in between. Shopping in Bristol is top class, from retail giants to quirky independents.
- ◆ The city of Wells has an historic centre, magnificent cathedral, and unique moated Bishop's Palace. There's a wonderful range of independent shops positioned in and around the historic High Street and be inspired by the locally sourced cuisine offered by the unique cafes, cosy pubs, and excellent restaurants. Later, we visit Glastonbury, possibly the quirkiest town in England. Steeped in history, myth and the smell of incense, and home of the famous Glastonbury Festival.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 28th October 2024	5 Days	£439 pp	NIL	£29

Singles Galore in Aberfoyle

Our base on the outskirts of the charming village of Aberfoyle is perfect for exploring Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Stunning scenery and fantastic attractions will leave you feeling glad you came.



© Paul Tomkins_ScottishViewpoint

Rob Roy Hotel

Located on the edge of Aberfoyle in the heart of The Trossachs, The Rob Roy Hotel is highly reviewed in all departments, from its food & service to its spotlessly clean rooms and public areas. Ensuite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, ballroom, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Stirling Castle
- ◆ Tasting at Stirling Distillery
- ◆ Loch Lomond Cruise & Luss
- ◆ Falkirk Wheel & Three Bridges Cruise with Lunch

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ At Stirling Castle, enter a world of Scotland's Renaissance kings and queens and discover a world of colour, splendour and glorious craftsmanship. Learn about the history, uncover secrets, and be inspired by a gallery of photographs and videos. Highlights include The Great Hall, The Chapel Royal, The Great Kitchens, and The Stirling Tapestries. There will be free time for lunch in Stirling before we head to Stirling Distillery where you'll be welcomed and taken through the history of the brand, followed by some of Stirling City's most fascinating stories about mythology and the history behind the products. After a tour of the distilling room, you'll sample a range of gins and gin liqueurs including the award-winning Red Cap, Tropical Triumph and flagship nettle-based Stirling Classic Gin.
- ◆ Beautiful Loch Lomond is our focus today as we enjoy a cruise. The fault line that divides the Highlands from the Lowlands runs right across Loch Lomond making this an endlessly varied part of the world – rugged hills, wooded nooks, and enticing waters. We spend a little time in the pretty village of Luss before return to the hotel.
- ◆ The Falkirk Wheel is the world's one and only rotating boat lift. A marvel of engineering connecting the Forth & Clyde Canal with the Union Canal in a half-turn that takes only five minutes! Later, we continue to South Queensferry for our Three Bridges Cruise with lunch on board. The Firth of Forth is brimming with history, adventure and tales of daring do! But the real stars are the Three Bridges, scenery, seals, puffins, and you might spot the occasional porpoise.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 28th October 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	NIL	£29

Mature Singles - Blackpool Turkey & Tinsel

A holiday in Blackpool will leave you feeling refreshed, relaxed, and recharged p even if you are on the go 25 hours a day! Perhaps it's the resort's infectious zest for life, or may it's just that, uniquely, whatever your routine, Blackpool can offer a perfect break from it.



The Doric Hotel

Situated on the Queen's Promenade, with breath-taking views over the Irish Sea, Morecambe Bay, and the Isle of Man, The Doric is a firm favourite. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor & outdoor swimming pools, poolside bar, and incredible entertainment every night. A pool of highly professional entertainers awaits you at The Doric. A full all-year-round entertainment programme with tribute acts, performances and fabulous vocal talent all waiting in the spotlight to entertain you.

Please note our coach & Driver do not stay with you on this tour. On 1 day, our coach will return to take you on a half-day excursion and then, after dinner, will take you on a drive through Blackpool's famous Illuminations. No other excursions are included.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Turkey & Tinsel Package at the Hotel
- ◆ ½ Day Excursion
- ◆ Blackpool Illuminations

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- ◆ **'Christmas Eve'** – Sparkling Wine Reception, Warm Mince Pies, Gala Dinner, Live Christmas Show
- ◆ **'Christmas Day'** – Breakfast, Hats & Crackers, Gala Christmas Dinner, Live Christmas Show, Warm Mince Pies
- ◆ **'Boxing Day'** – Breakfast, Afternoon Entertainment, A Taste of Lancashire Evening Meal, Live Christmas Show
- ◆ **'New Year's Eve'** – Breakfast, Afternoon Entertainment, Party Poppers & Streamers, New Year Banquet, New Year Entertainment

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 11th November 2024	5 Days	£339 pp	NIL	£29

Mature Singles - Lots of Singles in Chester & Liverpool

Chester is our focus for this festive winter break, an ideal opportunity to begin your Christmas shopping or just to relax and get into the Christmas spirit.



The Queen at Chester Hotel, Premier Collection by Best Western

The Queen at Chester Hotel is just a short distance from Chester centre and is an ideal location for this break. Marvel at the vaulted ceilings, spectacular staircases, and regal public areas of this stately building. Guests from long ago included Lillie Langtree and Charles Dickens. Each room is true to the Victorian style, unique in terms of size, décor and aspect, and features TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. There is a lift to all floors.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Glass of Wine on 1st & 4th Evening
- ◆ Cream Tea at the Hotel
- ◆ Roman City of Chester
- ◆ Liverpool & Mersey Cruise
- ◆ Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We head into Liverpool for free time to visit local attractions and city sights. There's lots to see & do including The Beatles Story, International Slavery Museum, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool Cathedral, Royal Liver Building, and many more. Alternatively, shop 'till you drop at Liverpool One, full of shopping, dining and entertainment options. Later, we join Mersey Ferries for a cruise on the River Mersey with spectacular views of the Liverpool Waterfront, including the famous 'Three Graces' - The Royal Liver Building, The Cunard Building, and The Port of Liverpool Building.
- ◆ Chester is our focus today. The unique 2-storey 'Rows' of shops are worth a look, or you may fancy a gentle stroll to the River Dee or take a walk around the ancient Roman Walls. Situated outside the Town Hall near to Chester Cathedral, the Christmas Market has a range of over 70 stalls selling Christmas gifts, arts and craft goodies, sweet treats, local spirits, and stocking fillers, all surrounding the beautiful Christmas Tree in the heart of the city centre.
- ◆ Find great deals on clothing, accessories, home décor and more from over 140 stores and 18 restaurants at Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet, the perfect place for Christmas Shopping. Later, we return to the hotel for a delicious Cream Tea and time to relax before dinner.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 18th November 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£100	£29

Mature Singles - Liverpool & Chester Christmas Shopper

Liverpool city centre is compact and walkable. There are various 'quarters' (more than four) that represent the different areas of the city centre. They are The Ropeworks, The Georgian Quarter, Cavern Quarter, The Baltic Triangle, The Waterfront, St George's Quarter, and Chinatown. Each neighbourhood quarter has its own character, history, and experience- which will you choose?



© Visit Chester

Mercure Atlantic Tower Hotel

The Atlantic Tower Hotel is ideally situated in the heart of Liverpool, opposite the Pier Head and Liver Building. The hotel has a lift, Vista restaurant, and Vue Bar & Terrace with skyline views of Liverpool. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Chester Christmas Markets
- ◆ Liverpool

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel straight to Chester where we visit the Chester Christmas Markets. Situated outside the Town Hall near to Chester Cathedral, the Christmas Markets have a range of over 70 stalls selling Christmas gifts, arts and crafts goodies, local spirits and stocking fillers, all surrounding the beautiful Christmas tree in the heart of the City Centre. Whilst shopping, treat yourself to a hot mulled wine to get you in the Christmas spirit. There is also a small selection of stands selling food ranging from hot dogs to hog roasts.
- ◆ You have the full day in Liverpool to explore at leisure. Options include the Walker Art Gallery, St Georges Hall, International Slavery Museum, Royal Liver Building, Museum of Liverpool, The Beatles Story, Pier Head, Liverpool Cathedral, Anfield, the list goes on. Don't forget Liverpool One for Liverpool shopping, dining, and entertainment experience like no other. From high street to high end, there's the ultimate in retail therapy, as well as bars and restaurants.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 1st December 2024	3 Days	£309 pp	NIL	£27

Mature Singles Torquay

An award-winning resort where elegant Victorian villas, a bustling harbour, and palm-fringed beaches give the English Riviera its well-earned name.



© Flickr - Alison Day

The Derwent Hotel

Situated close to the seafront, The Derwent Hotel offers easy access to the town centre via the Promenade. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. As part of the Torquay Leisure Hotel Group, guests at The Derwent can take advantage of a range of leisure facilities. The hotel has a lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Exeter Christmas Market & River Exe Cruise
- ◆ Christmas at Powderham Castle & Teignmouth
- ◆ Full Entertainment Programme at the Hotel

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Make it a day to remember at Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market. You'll discover something for everyone, with over a hundred twinkling festive chalets, local gifts, themed bars, global street food, seasonal entertainment, and complimentary entry into awesome Exeter Cathedral, including the Light of Hope star installation by artist, Peter Walker. Later, we travel to Exmouth for a Festive Cruise on the River Exe. Our festively decorated boat has covered and heated lower decks with cosy blankets. Enjoy a glass of proper homemade mulled wine and a tasty, warmed mince pie.
- ◆ Powderham Castle enjoys a unique, picturesque setting within an ancient deer park beside the Exe Estuary. Over 600 years of history can be discovered within the walls of one of Devon's oldest family homes. Very little of the Castle itself has changed since those early days and at this time of year rooms are dressed for Christmas. Later, we visit Teignmouth with long expanse of sand, pier, and promenade. The town centre has several beautiful Georgian buildings and the high street is lovely for a spot of retail therapy.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 9th December 2024	5 Days	£389 pp	NIL	£29

Ireland



A Royal Tour: Hillsborough Castle & Historic Marvels in Armagh

This super new tour makes the most of our base in the historic city of Armagh with guided tours of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral and Armagh Robinson Library, as well as a visit to the Armagh Cider Company complete with tasting. We also follow in the footsteps of royalty at the cracking Hillsborough Castle and step back in time at the Navan Centre & Fort and Brownlow House. A great tour packed with history and discovery and some tasty treats along the way!



© Flickr - David in Lisburn

The Armagh City Hotel

Within easy walking distance of the city's historical attractions, shops, restaurants and bars, the Armagh City Hotel occupies a slightly elevated position offering pleasant views over Armagh. With its dark wood panelling, the elegant Friary Restaurant offers a relaxed atmosphere and makes use of the finest local produce in its dishes. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift and a bar.



© Armagh Cider Company

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Return ferry from Cairnryan to Belfast
- ◆ Guided Tour of Navan Centre & Fort with Soup & Sandwich Lunch
- ◆ Guided Tour of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral & Armagh Robinson Library
- ◆ Guided Tour of Hillsborough Castle
- ◆ Guided Tour & Tasting at Armagh Cider Company & Tea/Coffee and Apple Tart
- ◆ Guided Tour of Brownlow House with Afternoon Tea

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We enjoy a guided tour of the Navan Centre and one of Ireland's most important ancient monuments, the Navan Fort. Our experienced guide divulges some of the significant archaeological discoveries made here and provides an insight into the fort's links with the city of Armagh and other royal sites in Ireland. As living history characters interpret life over 2,000 years ago, we experience life in an Iron Age dwelling, sample a traditional Celtic welcome of tea and oat cakes, and learn some warrior skills and how to write our names in Ogham. We enjoy a soup and sandwich lunch with tea/coffee here before heading to the historic Hill of Armagh. Our guided tour introduces us to some of the city's most important historic buildings, including St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, built on the site of St Patrick's first stone church, and the 18th century Armagh Robinson Library, home to thousands of rare books, maps, and manuscripts, including the original copy of 'Gulliver's Travels'.
- ◆ We follow in the footsteps of royalty this morning with a guided tour of Northern Ireland's royal residence, Hillsborough Castle. As we move through the stunning State Rooms, we learn more about the history of this elegant Georgian home. Outside, we can stretch our legs in the 100 acres of beautiful gardens. We enjoy free time for lunch at the castle before making our way to the family-run Armagh Cider Company for a tour and tasting. We stroll through the orchards, see where the apples are pressed and fermented and step into the bottling plant, progressing to the Cider Barn where the ciders and juices can be sampled. Taste buds tingling, we tuck into tea/coffee and a delicious apple tart with cream.
- ◆ Our day begins with a scenic drive through the majestic Mourne Mountains, the highest mountain range in Northern Ireland with 12 picturesque peaks. We stop in the small seaside resort town of Newcastle to enjoy some time at leisure before continuing to Brownlow House, a fabulous grade A, 19th century country manor house overlooking the scenic Lurgan Park. We tuck into a delightful afternoon tea and embark on a guided tour of the house with its ornate high ceilings, grand spiral staircases, and beautiful stained-glass windows. As we explore, we can imagine what life was like when it was occupied as a dwelling in years gone by and as a home to US troops during World War II.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd April 2024	5 Days	£639 pp	£118	£29

West Cork & The Wild Atlantic Way

A visit to West Cork stimulates your senses and refreshes you, it leaves you wanting to return to the friendship of those you met and to the wonders of an everchanging landscape.



© Tourism Ireland - Tim Thompson

Overnight Hotel – Outbound – Talbot Hotel Stillorgan

Ideally located for our overnight stay, en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Overnight Hotel – Return – To be confirmed

Main Hotel – The Celtic Ross Hotel

The family-owned Celtic Ross Hotel is located in the beautiful Cathedral town of Rosscarbery, at the start of the Wild Atlantic Way. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and leisure centre with swimming pool.



© Fáilte Ireland - Leo Byrne

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Kinsale
- ◆ Titanic Experience Cobh & Jameson Distillery
- ◆ Cork

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We drive to Holyhead for our ferry crossing to Dublin. Upon arrival, we make our way to the Talbot Hotel Stillorgan for dinner and our overnight stay.
- ◆ After breakfast, we continue our journey to the south-west of Ireland and on to the beautiful town of Rosscarbery for our 4 nights' stay at the Celtic Ross Hotel.
- ◆ Located at the start of the Wild Atlantic Way. Kinsale town is famous for its colourful streetscapes and rich history, fuelled by great people, food, and boutiques. Sit on the wall at Kinsale's stunning harbour and breathe in the fresh sea air or walk around the town soaking up all the vibrant colours. A collection of boutiques and galleries bring together local and Irish designs.
- ◆ Titanic Experience Cobh is a unique visitor experience located in the historic White Star Line Building – the very place from where Titanic's last passengers departed. Retrace the footsteps of the Queenstown passengers, featuring real passenger stories and eyewitness accounts of the tragedy. Later, we have free time in the picturesque harbour town of Cobh before making our way to the Jameson Distillery for a Tour & Tasting.
- ◆ Cork is Ireland's fun-loving, independent-minded-city known to locals, only half-jokingly, as 'the real capital'. Built on a series of islands this ancient merchant city is steeped in maritime history and a rich artistic culture. With a thriving foodie and craft beer scene, the country's friendliest pubs and an artisan coffee bar on every corner, Cork is the best place to relax.
- ◆ We leave Rosscarbery after breakfast and make our way towards Dublin and on to our hotel for dinner and our overnight stay.
- ◆ Due to an early start this morning, there will only be a 'grab & go' breakfast at the hotel. We make our way to Dublin Port in time for our ferry back to Holyhead. There will be a full breakfast on-board the ferry. Upon arrival in Holyhead, we continue our journey home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 28th April 2024	7 Days	£699 pp	£180	£72

Belfast & The Giant's Causeway

Belfast is a giant city of buzzing culture and industrial prowess. Whether you're exploring the restaurants of the Cathedral Quarter or visiting the birthplace of the world's most famous ship Titanic, there is something for everyone in Northern Ireland's dynamic capital city.



The Stormont Hotel

The beautiful Stormont Hotel is located just minutes from Belfast City Centre, adjacent to Stormont Estate overlooking the immaculately maintained wooded landscape. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has lift, restaurant, and bar.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Giant's Causeway
- ◆ Titanic Experience & Belfast
- ◆ Hillsborough Castle

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 19th May 2024	5 Days	£669 pp	£220	£29

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We drive to Cairnryan for our ferry crossing to Belfast. Upon arrival, we make our way to the Stormont Hotel for dinner and our 4 nights' stay.
- ◆ A scenic day today as we travel along the Causeway Coast Road making a stop at Ballycastle, a small town nestled in Antrim County. Ballycastle Beach offers excellent views of the Mull of Kintyre and Rathlin Island just off the shore. There are lots of places to grab a coffee. We continue to the Giant's Causeway. Flanked by the wild Atlantic Ocean and a landscape of dramatic cliffs, for centuries the Giant's Causeway has inspired artists and captured imaginations. Discover all about the fascinating myths surrounding the causeway including local history and legends. Spend time in the visitor centre to learn more about this special place or take a walk and experience the natural environment of the coastal landscape.
- ◆ Located beside the Titanic Slipways the Harland & Wolff Drawing Offices and Hamilton Graving Dock – the very place where Titanic was designed, built and launched, Titanic Belfast tells the story of Titanic from her conception, through her construction and launch, to her maiden voyage and subsequent place in history. The self-guided tour extends over nine interactive galleries where you discover the sights, sounds, smells and stories of the ship, as well as the people and city that made her. Later, explore the Maritime Mile – there's plenty to explore from the historic giants dominating the city skyline and public art dotted along the waterfront, to heritage attractions and top-notch eateries. The rest of the day is at leisure in Belfast.
- ◆ Explore Northern Ireland's Royal Residence where worlds and minds meet. Relax in 100 acres of picturesque gardens explore the State Rooms still used today and indulge in delicious food and drink in the café. Discover stories of celebration, entertainment, diplomacy, and negotiation as you explore Hillsborough Castle's fascinating history and stunning State Rooms. Access is to the State Rooms that make up this elegant Georgian home including the grand Throne Room, relaxing State Drawing Room, Lady Grey's Study, State Dining Room, Red Room, and Stair Hall. Expert Castle Hosts will be on hand to share details of the historic rooms.
- ◆ After our final breakfast this morning, we make our way to Belfast Port in time for our ferry back to Cairnryan and journey home.

Killarney & Ring of Kerry

A bustling town, full of character, Killarney is Ireland's oldest and most popular tourist destination. On our tour we enjoy a Jaunting Car ride, a Lake Cruise, and the spectacular Ring of Kerry.



Overnight Hotel – Wilton Hotel

Situated in the seaside town of Bray, the Wilton Hotel is the perfect stopover for our tour. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

Main Hotel – The Killarney Towers Hotel

A superbly appointed hotel with a great reputation, occupying a prime position in Killarney. Tastefully decorated, en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and indoor swimming pool.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Jaunting Car Ride
- ◆ Cruise on Lough Leane
- ◆ Guided Tour of the Spectacular Ring of Kerry

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

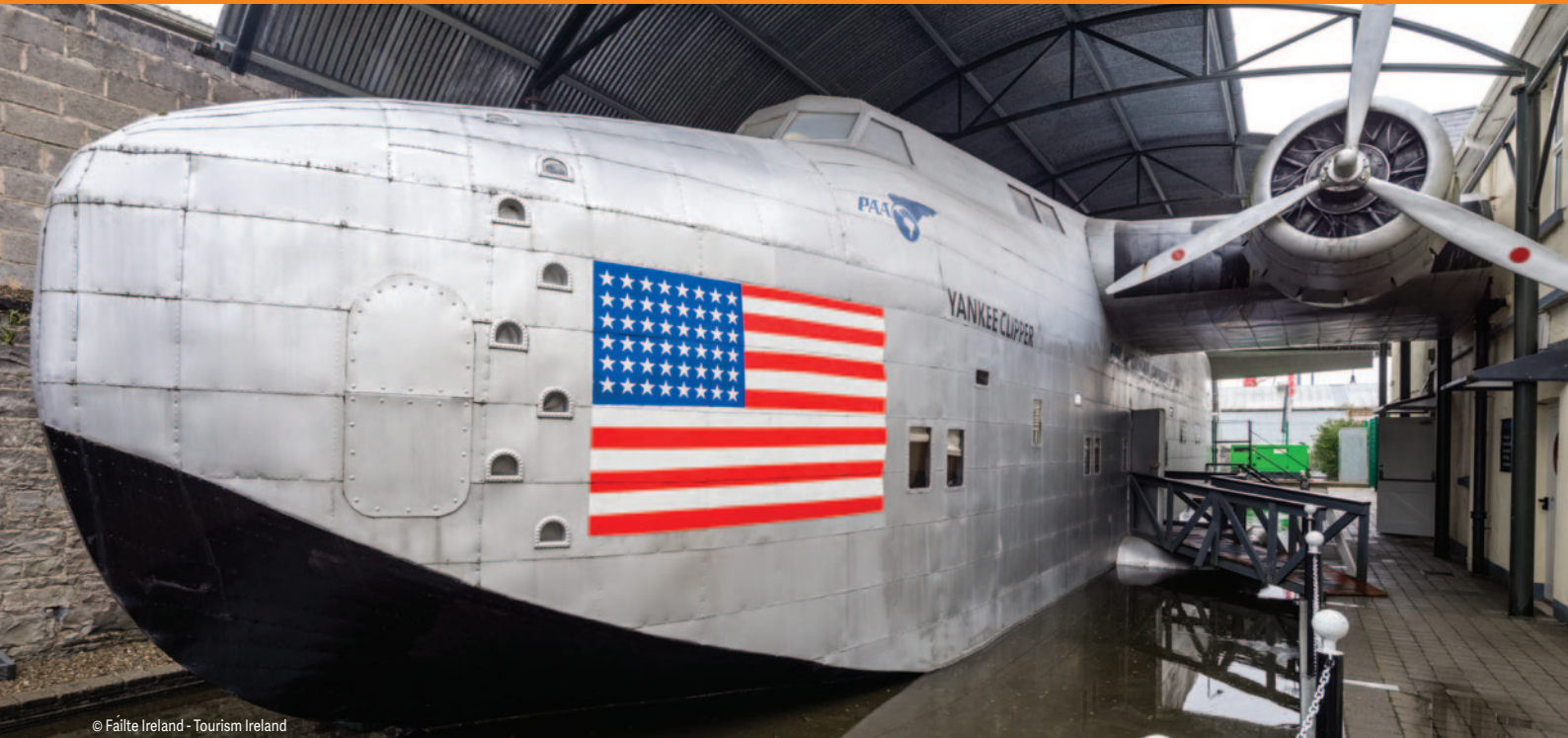
- ◆ We drive to Holyhead for our ferry crossing to Dublin. Upon arrival, we make our way to the Wilton Hotel, Bray for our overnight stay.
- ◆ After breakfast, we continue our journey to the south-west of Ireland and on to the lively town of Killarney for our 3 nights' stay at the Killarney Towers Hotel.
- ◆ Today, enjoy the best of both worlds with a Traditional Jaunting Car and Lake Cruise Tour. From land to lake experience the full range of scenery and history that Killarney has to offer. We start the tour onboard a traditional Jaunting Car and enjoy the unique beauty of Killarney National Park as we ramble through its tree-lined avenues before our arrival at Ross Castle. Learn about the history, legends and folklore of the area from our local Jarvey Guide. We then board MV Lake Cruiser and set upon a voyage through Killarney's largest and most picturesque Lake. We re-join our coach and return to Killarney where the rest of the day is free to explore this delightful town.
- ◆ Today we are joined by a Local Guide to accompany us as we enjoy Ireland's most scenic drive around the Ring of Kerry. Varied and spectacular scenery awaits, from mountains, lakes, and peat bogs to magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean.
- ◆ We leave Killarney after breakfast and make our way to Bray and on to the Wilton House Hotel for our overnight stay.
- ◆ Due to an early start this morning, there will only be a 'grab & go' breakfast at the hotel. We make our way to Dublin Port in time for our ferry back to Holyhead. There will be a full breakfast on-board the ferry. Upon arrival in Holyhead, we continue our journey home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Saturday 22nd June 2024	6 Days	£659 pp	£166	£72

© Tourism Ireland

Shannon's Flying Boats & Whiskey Floats

Golden beaches, dramatic cliffs, pleasure lakes, islands, the River Shannon, the Burren GeoPark and fabulous fun activities, all wrapped up in warm welcome in Co. Clare. We visit an ancient castle, explore a museum, take a boat trip to an island, and visit a Stud, we're sure of a good time.



© Fáilte Ireland - Tourism Ireland

Overnight Hotel – Outbound – Talbot Hotel Stillorgan

The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Main Stay – The Lakeside Hotel, Killaloe

This is a stunning, family-run, independent hotel in Killaloe, with landscaped gardens on the edge of Loch Derg. Hotel facilities include Cois Locha Restaurant, O'Hara's Bar, and leisure centre with swimming pool, fully equipped gym, steam room, sauna, and Jacuzzi. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, iron & ironing board, in-room safe, and tea/coffee making facilities. Please note, there is no lift in the hotel main building, and most rooms are accessed by approximately 15 steps. There are a limited number of ground floor rooms which are available on request.

Overnight Hotel – Return – Wilton Hotel, Bray

The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, iron, and tea/coffee making facilities.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Newbridge Silverware
- ◆ Foynes Flying Boat Museum with Irish Coffee
- ◆ Bunratty Castle
- ◆ Lough Derg Cruise
- ◆ Irish National Stud
- ◆ Evening Entertainment

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We journey to Holyhead to join our ferry crossing to Dublin and onwards to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.
- ◆ After breakfast, we continue our journey, making a stop at Newbridge Silverware Visitor Centre. The Visitor Centre houses the complete range of Newbridge Silverware products and some exclusive selections. There's also the award-winning Domo's Emporium Café & Food Hall and the Museum of Style Icons. From here, we continue to Killaloe and the Lakeside Hotel. Enjoy dinner this evening followed by entertainment.
- ◆ This morning we travel to the fabulous Foynes Flying Boat Museum for an absorbing chapter in aviation history, and a new Maritime Museum exploring the River Shannon past and present. Irish Coffee was invented here, so we have included one! We continue to Bunratty with a little time to get lunch before our included visit to Bunratty Castle & Folk Park. Bunratty Castle is the most complete and authentic castle in Ireland. Take a tour of this iconic fortress, hear and see how the lords and ladies of this castle lived, hear stories of battles and bravery and enjoy stunning views across the idyllic Clare countryside.
- ◆ We spend the morning in the city of Limerick with its galleries, museums, and King John's Castle. This afternoon, we board the Spirit of Killaloe at nearby Lough Derg for a scenic cruise on Ireland's 'pleasure lake', part of the River Shannon watercourse and whose shores lie in three counties – Clare, Galway and Tipperary.
- ◆ We travel via Kildare to The Irish National Stud & Gardens. Ireland's horse heritage has developed from folklore, legends & High Kings to a place where the story of the horse is embedded within our DNA. Welcome to this land of horses, trees, and gardens & celebrate the wonders of nature. We continue to Bray and on to the Wilton Hotel for dinner and our overnight stay.
- ◆ A 'grab & go' breakfast at the hotel before we depart towards Dublin for our ferry back to Holyhead. Breakfast will be served on board the ferry.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 18th August 2024	6 Days	£699 pp	£116	£72

Ireland's Hidden Treasure – The Fermanagh Lakelands

This landscape of crystal-clear lakes adorned with islands and peninsulas makes the perfect retreat, whilst staying in an elegant 18th Century manor house and enjoying a sunset dinner cruise.



© Courtesy of Tourism Northern Ireland

Overnight Hotel – Outward - Talbot Hotel Stillorgan

The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Main Stay – Manor House Country Hotel

Overlooking a stunning lush green landscape, on the shores of Lough Erne, Fermanagh, you will find the Manor House Country Hotel – a wonderful rural retreat. This family-owned property combines old-world charm with modern hotel luxury and a warm Fermanagh welcome. The hotel boasts a lift, two bars, a restaurant, and a leisure complex with swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi & hot tub, and steam room. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Overnight Hotel – Return – Talbot Hotel Stillorgan

As above.



© Northern Ireland Tourist Board

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Sunset Dinner Cruise ◆ Belleek Pottery
- ◆ Blessingbourne Estate with Tea & Scones
- ◆ Ulster American Folk Park ◆ Entertainment on 1 evening

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Saturday 31st August 2024	7 Days	£789 pp	£160	£72

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We journey to Holyhead to join our ferry crossing to Dublin and onwards to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.
- ◆ After breakfast, we continue our journey, stopping in Dublin for some free time to explore before heading north through the ancient landscapes of Navan and Cavan to the Lakeland County of Fermanagh for our 3-night stay. Dinner will be served in the hotel this evening.
- ◆ We enjoy a day in Donegal where visits can be to Donegal Castle or Magee's home of hand-woven tweeds. There's also a waterbus that offers scenic boat trips around Donegal Bay (subject to tidal restrictions so can only be booked on the day).
- ◆ This morning we head to the lovely Blessingbourne Country Estate for a guided tour of the house and gardens, with its fascinating history, by the lady of the manor. We finish the tour with tea and home-made cakes. This evening, we enjoy one of the highlights of the tour, a sunset dinner cruise on lovely Lough Erne. (If the cruise is cancelled due to inclement weather, we will try to arrange an alternative day, but this is subject to availability. Otherwise, dinner will be served in the hotel).
- ◆ Relax in the hotel before our visit to Belleek Pottery, Ireland's oldest pottery having produced delicate Parian china for over 150 years. We continue to the Ulster American Folk Park, one of the country's major museums. Here, you'll experience the epic story of Ireland's emigration from the thatched cottages of Ulster to the American Frontier, brought to life through costumed re-enactments.
- ◆ We travel to nearby Enniskillen, built on a natural island between Upper and Lower Lough Erne. Discover a collection of arts and crafts boutiques in the Buttermarket, and visit established high street stores sitting beside small independent traders along the main street. A feature of Enniskillen which is becoming increasingly unusual is the number of small bars and hostleries on the main street, providing welcome relief from the shops! We continue to Stillorgan and on to the Talbot Hotel for dinner and our overnight stay.
- ◆ A 'grab & go' breakfast at the hotel before we depart towards Dublin for our ferry back to Holyhead. Breakfast will be served on board the ferry.

Magical Mayo

We base our tour in Ballina, the largest town in Co. Mayo, on the banks of the River Moy. From here, explore the rugged landscape of the Wild Atlantic Way, the Wild Nephin National Park and the county's rich historical heritage dating from prehistoric times to the present.



Overnight Hotel – Outward – City North Hotel, Gormanston

The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Main Stay – Great National Hotel, Ballina

This is a contemporary hotel situated just a few minutes' drive from Ballina Town, making it an excellent location to explore Co. Mayo and the Wild Atlantic Way. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and leisure centre with swimming pool, steam room, sauna, and gym. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Overnight Hotel – Return – City North Hotel, Gormanston

As above.



© Fáilte Ireland

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Guided Tour of Strokestown Park House and National Famine Museum
- ◆ Visit to Ballycroy Visitors Centre
- ◆ Guide for Full Day Excursion of Co Mayo
- ◆ Introductory Talk at Foxford Woollen Mill
- ◆ Visit to National Museum of Ireland – Country Life

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We journey to Holyhead to join our ferry crossing to Dublin and onwards to our hotel for dinner and overnight stay.
- ◆ After breakfast, we continue our journey, stopping at the National Famine Museum at Strokestown, signifying a tragic but fascinating chapter of Irish history. We continue our journey to Ballina and on to the Great National Hotel. Dinner will be served in the hotel this evening.
- ◆ A long but worthwhile day today. We travel to the Georgian town of Westport for time at leisure before relishing some of Mayo's most spectacular scenery. Head up Mulranny, perched on the Wild Atlantic Way; up to Corraun with dramatic views across to Achill Island. Loop back to Mulranny and the Claggan Mountain Coastal Trail for a visit to Ballycroy Visitor Centre and the unspoilt wilderness of Wild Nephin National Park.
- ◆ Our guide for the day brings the heritage of Co. Mayo to life. See the Killala Roundtower and the remarkable Ceide Fields overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Visit Belmullet, along the impressive coast with sandy beaches before heading back to Ballina via Bangor Erris, on the banks of the Owenmore River.
- ◆ We start the day at Foxford Woollen Mill, founded in 1892 by an Irish nun, with an introduction to a century of manufacturing and craftsmanship. Take time to browse before visiting the National Museum of Ireland. Here, immerse yourself in Ireland's rural past but recent way of life and Victorian Gothic mansion which overlooks gardens and parkland.
- ◆ We travel to Dublin for the afternoon at leisure before continuing to Gormanston and the City North Hotel for dinner and our overnight stay.
- ◆ A 'grab & go' breakfast at the hotel before we depart towards Dublin for our ferry back to Holyhead.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 13th October 2024	7 Days	£749 pp	£180	£72

Scotland



Strathpeffer & The Highlands of Scotland

The Scottish Highlands is really the Scotland of your imagination and the perfect backdrop for your next adventure. We explore mysterious Loch Ness, pass through the Cairngorms National Park, marvel at iconic Dunrobin Castle, and be wowed by the stunning scenery on one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world.



Bluebell Glades in the Trossachs

Scotland's first National Park is packed with interesting corners for you to explore. The fault line that divides the Highlands from the Lowlands runs right across Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, making this an endlessly varied part of the world – rugged hills, wooded nooks, and enticing waters.



Courtesy Kilbryde Castle

Ben Wyvis Hotel

Placed in the heart of the stunning Victorian spa town of Strathpeffer, the Ben Wyvis has an imposing façade yet indoors a friendly welcome awaits you. The Ben Wyvis Hotel is a grand Victorian hotel full of character and charm, surrounded by 5 acres of woodland and landscaped mature gardens with stunning views of Ben Wyvis itself. The hotel has a lift, Strathview Lounge & Bar, and the Jacobite Restaurant. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Loch Ness Centre, Drumnadrochit & Fort Augustus
- ◆ Dunrobin Castle & Gardens
- ◆ Kyle Line from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh & Attadale Gardens

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Located at the head of Urquhart Bay on the northern shore of Loch Ness, the lovely village of Drumnadrochit is popular with Loch Ness Monster hunters! Here we visit the Loch Ness Centre, the real home of the Loch Ness story. In this location, at the old Drumnadrochit Hotel, Mrs Aldie MacKay reported seeing a 'whale-like fish' or 'water beast' in the waters of Loch Ness. Her sighting sparked the birth of a monster media frenzy and created a global legend. Walk through 500 million years of history. Delve deeper into ancient Scottish myths, legends, and scientific research. Uncover the mysteries of the loch and become part of the story at this unique visitor centre. We continue to Fort Augustus, offering spectacular views down Loch Ness. Perhaps visit the Caledonian Canal Heritage Centre which details the history of the Caledonian Canal, sit and watch the boats navigating the locks, or explore the Clansmen Centre, where appropriately attired guides demonstrate 17th Century clan weaponry.
- ◆ At Inverness, we join Scotrail for our journey along the Kyle Line to Kyle of Lochalsh. The Kyle Line draws a wide arc from Inverness to the shores of Loch Alsh, taking in spectacular Highland scenery – and finishing with magnificent views of Skye. Our coach will meet us at Loch Alsh and take us to Attadale Gardens, a Highland garden offering meandering paths through water gardens and woodland, with sculptures, a herb garden, sunken garden, and Japanese garden to discover along the way.
- ◆ Dunrobin Castle is the most northerly of Scotland's great houses, one of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses dating back to the early 1300s. The Castle resembles a French chateau with its towering conical spires. Visit the state rooms, Museum, and garden during our visit.

The Winnock Hotel

The Winnock Hotel is Drymen's landmark building. A former 18th Century coaching inn, The Winnock takes centre stage in the conservation village and sits on the village green looking out over spectacular surroundings. En-suite bedrooms are sympathetically decorated with TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a spacious lounge & bar, covered and heated outdoor decking area, and restaurant. Sorry, there is not lift, but ground floor rooms can be requested and are subject to availability.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Cruise on Loch Katrine on the Steam Ship SS Sir Walter Scott
- ◆ 2-Hour Sailing on Loch Lomond with a Landing on Inch Cailloch Island
- ◆ Visit to Kilbryde Castle with Coffee, Home Baking & Tour of Castle Grounds

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Loch Katrine has drawn tourists for hundreds of years, ever since Sir Walter Scott's vivid descriptions inspired a generation of Victorian tourists to visit the loch to see the landscape for themselves. We sail on the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott, fully restored and back sailing on Loch Katrine. Later, we visit the charming village of Aberfoyle on the banks of the River Forth in the magnificent Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The attractive main street is well served with individual shops, cafes and restaurants. Learn more about the area's natural beauty and history at the Trossachs Discovery Centre, and the Scottish Wool Centre relates the full story of wool, from sheep to shops, through live sheep shows and hands-on demonstrations of spinning and working sheepdogs.
- ◆ Today's cruise is on beautiful Loch Lomond with a surprise landing on Inch Cailloch with refreshments and time to explore. Inch Cailloch is part of the Loch Lomond National Nature Reserve and is a wonderful place to visit due to its rich natural and cultural heritage. It is the perfect place to experience remoteness and wildness in a safe and easily accessible location.
- ◆ Kilbryde Castle is home to a large and varied garden covering some 15 acres. We will be welcomed by Sir James Campbell who will give a short talk on his homes fascinating history. Afterwards, tea/coffee and cakes will be served before our tour around the castle grounds. Later, we pass by Dunblane on our way to Stirling, known as Gateway to the Highlands. This ancient old town is home to some of Scotland's most epic events, and the captivating stage for some of the nation's most romantic, courageous, and memorable figures. Absolute must-do's include the glorious Stirling Castle with its Royal Palace and Chapel Royal. From its rocky eyrie, this imposing fortress rewards your stroll up Stirling's cobbled main street with spectacular views over beautiful Stirlingshire countryside.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 8th April 2024	5 Days	£409 pp	£64	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 12th May 2024	5 Days	£579 pp	£80	£29

Picturesque Perthshire

Perthshire is a glorious location filled to the brim with things to do, featuring acres of forests, incredible attractions, and city gems to explore. The city of Perth was once Scotland's ancient capital and has lots of historic buildings, castles, and museums to enjoy.



Oban, Mull & Iona

Based in the bustling seaside town of Oban, our tour explores the enchanting Inner Hebridean Islands of Mull and ancient Iona. We take in some stunning scenery as we travel along loch-side roads with towering mountains and visit iconic Inveraray Castle.



The Royal Hotel

The Royal Hotel stands in the centre of the town of Oban, close to the harbour and ferry terminal. All the en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and complimentary Wi-Fi in public areas.

The Salutation Hotel

Reputed to be one of the oldest hotels in Scotland, the Salutation Hotel has been welcoming guests since 1699. Situated in the heart of the historic city of Perth, the hotel offers a warm welcome. All the en-suite bedrooms are individual in size & shape and have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar & lounge.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Blair Castle & Gardens and Pitlochry
- ◆ Crieff & Glenturret Distillery

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Blair Castle has been the home of the Atholl family for over seven centuries. The castle has had a diverse history witnessing both turbulent and peaceful times, enlarged and adapted over 750 years. Home to politicians, soldiers, agriculturists and entrepreneurs, the family history is brought to life against a backdrop of fine 18th Century interiors and Scots Baronial architecture. Laid out within the 18th Century, the Gardens at Blair Castle feature a nine-acre walled garden, a wooded grove, gothic folly, a kirk ruin, and extensive deer park. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore picturesque Pitlochry with its beautiful scenery and fine food, and plenty of things to do.
- ◆ Crieff is an attractive and bustling town centre offering the best of food and drink, clothing, gifts, crafts and art. Over the past years, Crieff has built a reputation for fine food with an amazing choice of cafes, coffee shops, and restaurants for fine or casual dining. Later, we visit Glenturret. Scotland's oldest working distillery. Our tour reveals the history, heritage and traditional art of making single malt whisky.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Seaside Town of Oban
- ◆ Return Ferry to Mull
- ◆ Return Ferry to Iona
- ◆ Inveraray Castle

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We board the ferry with our coach for the 55-minute crossing to the enchanting Isle of Mull. Our coach takes us south passing Duart Castle to Fionnphort where we join the ferry for the short crossing to Iona, as foot passengers. Here, we can wander round the island at leisure. With its white sandy beach and pathways, Iona is an island of pilgrimage and is recognised as the birthplace of Christianity in the UK. We return by ferry to Mull and re-join our coach for the journey to the ferry back to the mainland.
- ◆ Inveraray Castle is first and foremost a family home, however, its very existence reflects the part played by the Campbells in the rich tapestry of Scottish and British history. The contents of Inveraray Castle span many generations of the family and will give you a glimpse into the way our ancestors lived. The garden covers 16 acres, of which around 2 acres are formal lawns and flowerbeds, the remainder being park and woodland. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore Inveraray, overlooking the still waters of Loch Fyne. The town is full of Scottish Georgian architecture and key buildings that are worth a visit include the neoclassical church, and Inveraray Jail and Courthouse, now an award-winning museum that graphically recounts prison conditions from medieval times up until the 19th Century.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 13th May 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	£64	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 27th May 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	£64	£29

Strathpeffer & The Highlands of Scotland

The Scottish Highlands is really the Scotland of your imagination and the perfect backdrop for your next adventure. We explore mysterious Loch Ness, pass through the Cairngorms National Park, marvel at iconic Dunrobin Castle, and be wowed by the stunning scenery on one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world.



Fort William & The Jacobite Express

Staying in Fort William, and surrounded by spectacular Scottish scenery, this tour shows off some of the most scenic parts of the West Highlands. The highlight is a journey on the famous Jacobite Express Steam Train from Fort William to Mallaig.



Ben Wyvis Hotel

Placed in the heart of the stunning Victorian spa town of Strathpeffer, the Ben Wyvis has an imposing façade yet indoors a friendly welcome awaits you. The Ben Wyvis Hotel is a grand Victorian hotel full of character and charm, surrounded by 5 acres of woodland and landscaped mature gardens with stunning views of Ben Wyvis itself. The hotel has a lift, Strathview Lounge & Bar, and the Jacobite Restaurant. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Loch Ness Centre, Drumnadrochit & Fort Augustus
- ◆ Dunrobin Castle & Gardens
- ◆ Kyle Line from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh & Attadale Gardens

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Located at the head of Urquhart Bay on the northern shore of Loch Ness, the lovely village of Drumnadrochit is popular with Loch Ness Monster hunters! Here we visit the Loch Ness Centre, the real home of the Loch Ness story. In this location, at the old Drumnadrochit Hotel, Mrs Aldie MacKay reported seeing a 'whale-like fish' or 'water beast' in the waters of Loch Ness. Her sighting sparked the birth of a monster media frenzy and created a global legend. Walk through 500 million years of history. Delve deeper into ancient Scottish myths, legends, and scientific research. Uncover the mysteries of the loch and become part of the story at this unique visitor centre. We continue to Fort Augustus, offering spectacular views down Loch Ness. Perhaps visit the Caledonian Canal Heritage Centre which details the history of the Caledonian Canal, sit and watch the boats navigating the locks, or explore the Clansmen Centre, where appropriately attired guides demonstrate 17th Century clan weaponry.
- ◆ At Inverness, we join Scotrail for our journey along the Kyle Line to Kyle of Lochalsh. The Kyle Line draws a wide arc from Inverness to the shores of Loch Alsh, taking in spectacular Highland scenery – and finishing with magnificent views of Skye. Our coach will meet us at Loch Alsh and take us to Attadale Gardens, a Highland garden offering meandering paths through water gardens and woodland, with sculptures, a herb garden, sunken garden, and Japanese garden to discover along the way.
- ◆ Dunrobin Castle is the most northerly of Scotland's great houses, one of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses dating back to the early 1300s. The Castle resembles a French chateau with its towering conical spires. Visit the state rooms, Museum, and garden during our visit.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 9th June 2024	5 Days	£529 pp	£64	£29

The Alexandra Hotel

Part of the very fabric of Fort William since 1876, the Alexandra Hotel provides traditional Scottish hospitality at every turn. Located in a great spot, within walking distance of the town centre. The bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ 'Jacobite' Steam Train from Fort William to Mallaig
- ◆ Seil Island & The Bridge Over the Atlantic
- ◆ Fort Augustus, Inverness, Aviemore & Spean Bridge

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We walk the short distance from the hotel to Fort William Train Station to board 'The Jacobite'. Described as the greatest railway journey in the world, this 42-mile journey takes you past a list of impressive extremes. Starting near the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis, it visits Britain's most westerly mainline railway station, Arisaig; passes close by the deepest freshwater loch on Britain, Loch Morar and the shortest river in Britain, River Morar, finally arriving next to the deepest seawater loch in Europe, Loch Nevis. We have a little free time in Mallaig before making the return journey back to Fort William by coach.
- ◆ Lying on the impressive 60-mile long Caledonian Canal, Fort Augustus offers spectacular views down Loch Ness. Sit and watch the boats navigating the locks or explore the Clansmen Centre where appropriately attired guides demonstrate 17th Century clan weaponry. We continue to Inverness, 'Capital of the Highlands' in time for lunch. We take the scenic route back to the hotel via Aviemore and Spean Bridge.
- ◆ A scenic drive to Seil Island, crossing 'the Bridge over the Atlantic', making our way to the pretty village of Easdale, with its whitewashed cottages looking out over the water. We return to Oban where the rest of the day is at leisure to explore this delightful seaside town.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 27th June 2024	5 Days	£579 pp	£64	£29

Arran's Finest

Clear, green seas, sandy beaches, mountains and lochs, Arran is a true Scottish gem. Influenced by the Gulf Stream the climate is mild, a place where you will see palm trees around its 56 miles of coastline. Spend leisurely days on the island exploring its natural beauty and discovering its history and heritage. If you're brave enough go off the beaten track on the amazing Mogabout 4x4 Tour.



The Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot

Fully refurbished in 2019, this hotel sits right on the seafront with open views of sea and countryside. The restaurant and bar have superb views and the food is all freshly prepared. The hotel has a lift, and leisure facilities include indoor, heated swimming pool, sauna, squash court, and snooker room. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Distillery Tour & Tasting with Tea & Scones
- ◆ Brodick Castle & Gardens
- ◆ 4 x 4 Adventure
- ◆ Arran Heritage Centre

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Start the day off in Southern Arran with a visit to Lagg Distillery. One half of the group can enjoy refreshments whilst the others have a 60-minute tour & tasting of some of the Island's best malts. We then swap over. Later, we pass through coastal villages including Whiting Bay & Lamlash. We stop for photos of impressive Paddy's Milestone (Ailsa Craig) at Kildonan. There will be free time in Brodick, the island's capital, with a visit to Arran Aromatics before returning over the tops to our hotel.
- ◆ Enjoy a leisurely morning; take in the sea air, use the leisure facilities, or appreciate the fabulous views from the hotel lounge. Later, we drive to Brodick Castle & Gardens, beautifully positioned overlooking the Firth. The castle is packed full of treasures, period furniture, paintings & silverware. The landscaped gardens, dating back to 1710, include water features, wildlife ponds, a collection of rhododendrons, Bavarian Summer House, walled garden, and woodland walks towards the seashore.
- ◆ Today, we join Mogabout for a 90-minute, 4x4 adventure. Take in beaches and forests and look out for some of the big five. We also visit the Arran Heritage Centre, originally the site of a small school, the present group of buildings were a croft and smiddy, and include a farmhouse, cottage, bothy, milk house laundry, stable, coach house and harness room. The exhibits reflect the social history, archaeology and geology of the island.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 8th July 2024	5 Days	£749 pp	NIL	£29

Kelpies, Lochs & Glens

Staying at the wonderful Winnock Hotel in Drymen, our tour takes us to some of the finest attractions in the area. Expect spectacular scenery around every corner as we cruise Loch Katrine & Loch Lomond, visit picturesque Aberfoyle, and marvel at The Kelpies.



The Winnock Hotel

The Winnock Hotel is Drymen's landmark building. A former 18th Century coaching inn, The Winnock takes centre stage in the conservation village and sits on the village green looking out over spectacular surroundings. En-suite bedrooms are sympathetically decorated with TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a spacious lounge & bar, covered and heated outdoor decking area, and restaurant. Sorry, there is not lift, but ground floor rooms can be requested and are subject to availability.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Aberfoyle Woollen Mill & Sheep Dog Show
- ◆ Lady of the Lake Cruise on Loch Katrine with Tea & Cakes served on board
- ◆ Cruise on Loch Lomond to Luss & Inveraray
- ◆ Visit to The Kelpies with a Guided Tour & Edinburgh

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Loch Katrine has drawn tourists for hundreds of years, ever since Sir Walter Scott's vivid descriptions inspired a generation of Victorian tourists to visit the loch to see the landscape for themselves. We sail on the historic Steamship Sir Walter Scott, fully restored and back sailing on Loch Katrine. Later, we visit the charming village of Aberfoyle on the banks of the River Forth in the magnificent Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. The attractive main street is well served with individual shops, cafes and restaurants. Learn more about the area's natural beauty and history at the Trossachs Discovery Centre, and the Scottish Wool Centre relates the full story of wool, from sheep to shops, through live sheep shows and hands-on demonstrations of spinning and working sheepdogs.
- ◆ Today we cruise on beautiful Loch Lomond to Luss, a pretty conservation village on the shores of the Loch. With its prim, identical sandstone and slate cottages garlanded in rambling roses, and its narrow, pebbly strand, the village became the setting for the successful TV soap High Road which undoubtedly contributed to its popularity during the 1980s and 1990s. From here, we continue to Inveraray, overlooking the still waters of Loch Fyne. The town is an absolute set piece of Scottish Georgian architecture and key buildings worth a visit include the neoclassical church, and Inveraray Jail and courthouse, now an award-winning museum that graphically recounts prison conditions from medieval times up until the 19th Century.
- ◆ We visit The Helix, home of the Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures. A short photo-stop here before we continue to Edinburgh where the rest of the day is at leisure to explore. With the city's skyline, cobbled streets and colourful characters as your backdrop, there's so many ways to explore. We'll drop you at the 'Royal Mile' in the Old Town – a 'Scots mile' long, connecting two royal residences (the Castle and the palace of Holyrood House), it is also home to parliaments old and new, law courts, a cathedral and churches, and a vast range of visitor attractions, walking tours, shops, restaurants, cafes, and pubs.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd July 2024	5 Days	£609 pp	£84	£29

Sandy Beaches & Far Out Reaches

Coupled with its intricate network of island ferries, Scotland hosts spotlessly clean, deserted beaches with cream coloured sand accompanied by the sound of gulls as they ride the currents. This fantastic island-hopping holiday travels the full length of the Outer Hebrides, covering the most southerly island of Barra to Lewis in the North.



Outward & Return Overnight Hotels

To be confirmed closer to departure. The hotel will be a minimum 3-star standard with en-suite bedrooms, restaurant, and bar. We cannot guarantee there will be a lift.

Dark Island, Benbecula

On a summer evening as you stroll along the machair tracks close to the hotel, you will hear corncrakes, oystercatchers and lapwings calling from the vibrant patchwork of machair cornfield. The hotel has a restaurant and bar. There is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Caladh Inn, Stornoway

The recently refurbished Caladh Inn is conveniently situated a short walk from Stornoway town centre. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.



© Flickr - Peter Gawthrop

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Mallaig – Lochboisdale Sailing with Dinner on Board
- ◆ Return Sailing Eriskay – Barra (Packed Lunch Provided)
- ◆ Guided Tour of Eriskay & Barra
- ◆ Berneray - Leverburgh Sailing ◆ Guide on Lewis
- ◆ Entrance to Blackhouses Museum ◆ Sailing Stornoway - Ullapool



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Let the adventure begin! We travel north, past Glasgow and Loch Lomond, with an introduction to some of Scotland's most breathtaking scenery. We arrive in the Arrochar area, and our overnight hotel in time for dinner this evening.
- ◆ After breakfasting this morning, we journey north through Glencoe before catching the afternoon/early evening sailing to Uist with dinner or lunch served on board. We arrive at Lochboisdale before continuing north to the Dark Island Hotel for our 2 nights' stay.
- ◆ Today, we meet our guide for a tour of the Isle of Eriskay and head over by ferry to the Island of Barra. Barra is the most southerly of the inhabited islands, and is long famed for its beauty, boasting beaches, hills, mochar and moor, all in one small island.
- ◆ We take the sea crossing to Harris, a rugged and mountainous island with moorlands, deep lochs and of course, glorious beaches. Admire the beaches of Berneray, Nisabost and Horgabost before continuing along the spine of the island to Lewis with its history dating back 5,000 years. We have 2 nights on Stornoway, the island's capital.
- ◆ Be immersed in the folklore and history of the Isles as your local guide takes you to see the impressive 5,000-year-old standing stones of Callanish (Scotland's Stonehenge, but older). Ancient thatched 'Blackhouses', typical of crofting settlements, with entry included, and the imposing Carloway Broch, a fortified tower dating back over 2,000 years.
- ◆ Aboard the ferry for the 2½ hour sailing to Ullapool, followed by a scenic drive across the sweep of the Highlands, with time free in the Highland Capital, Inverness (ferry times permitting). We proceed south through 'bonny' Speyside and your final night's stay.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 15th July 2024	7 Days	£909 pp	£166	£35

Aberdeenshire Delights

Our Aberdeenshire tour visits 'The Granite City' of Aberdeen, where we take excursions to Haddo Castle, Pitmedden Gardens, take a ride on the Keith & Dufftown Railway, and visit Barra Castle – renowned for its berry growing.



© VisitScotland - Kenny Lam

The Aberdeen Altens Hotel

Our hotel is pleasantly situated on the outskirts of the 'Granite City' Aberdeen, perfect for our days out. The hotel has a lift, bar, restaurant, and leisure club with heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room, and gym. The en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.



© Deeside Railway Company

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Royal Deeside Railway
- ◆ Pitmedden Garden & Museum of Farming Life
- ◆ Royal Lochnagar Distillery
- ◆ Haddo House & Garden
- ◆ Aberdeen – 'The Granite City'

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 22nd July 2024	5 Days	£589 pp	£120	£29



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel north to Pitmedden Garden & Museum of Farming Life. This 17th Century walled garden contains over 30,000 bedding plants, 6 miles of clipped box hedging, and over 200 fruit trees. The garden is split over three levels and at the heart of the property is a formal walled parterre garden, filled with an array of colourful plants. The adjacent museum brings to life the agricultural heritage of the local area, where you can admire an extensive range of agricultural artefacts. Later, we journey west to the village of Oldmeldrum for our lunchtime stop before making our way to Haddo House & Garden. Visit the delightful terrace garden with flower beds, lovely borders, and fountain. A magnificent avenue of lime trees leads to adjacent Haddo Country Park, with lakes, monuments, and wildlife.
- ◆ Today is free to explore Aberdeen at leisure, the Duthie Park Gardens are well worth a visit and admission is free. Aberdeen is a compact city with great maritime history. Walk along a mile long stretch of golden beach and you may spot dolphins playing in the harbour mouth and admire the sparkling granite architecture that Aberdeen is so famous for. Step back in time in Aberdeen's Old Town as you visit the cobbled roads and historic buildings.
- ◆ This morning we travel into the Cairngorms National Park to the Royal Lochnagar Distillery. Located just 1 mile away from the famous royal retreat of the Royal Family Balmoral Castle, this distillery is proud to have been supplying Royalty since 1848. We enjoy a guided tour of the distillery followed by a tasting. Afterwards, we travel to Banchory with time to grab lunch before our delightful journey on the Royal Deeside Railway, a heritage railway that is in a beautiful setting running along the River Dee.

Ayrshire & Dumfries House

Intro



© VisitScotland - Kenny Lam

The Riverside Lodge Hotel

Located on the outskirts of Irvine in beautiful Ayrshire, The Riverside Lodge Hotel is the ideal base for our tour. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, ironing facilities, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, and lounge.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Dumfries House with Tea/Coffee & Shortbread & Ayr
- ◆ Culzean Castle
- ◆ Riverside Museum & Largs

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Dumfries House is part of the Prince's Foundation. Set in 2,000 acres, the stunning Estate and 18th Century house with its unrivalled collection of Chippendale furniture has something for everyone. Highlights of our visit include the Blue Drawing Room, The Pewter Corridor, The Picture Gallery, the Family Bedroom, and the Tapestry Room. Whilst here, we enjoy tea/coffee & shortbread. Later, we spend a little time in the popular seaside resort of Ayr with its fantastic esplanade and long, sandy beach – perfect for walking.
- ◆ Robert Adam's cliff-top masterpiece, Culzean Castle, rises above a world of woods, beaches, and secret follies. Discover 40 buildings, and secret follies in this country park, including the magnificent cliff-top castle. Don't miss Robert Adam's Oval Staircase – the dramatic centrepiece of the castle. Admire the enormous collection of flintlock pistols and military swords and marvel at the interior, from the imposing entrance hall to the elegant rooms and bustling kitchen.
- ◆ Located at the junction of the Rivers Kelvin and Clyde, the Riverside Museum houses the city of Glasgow's fabulous transport and technology collections, which have been gathered over the centuries and which reflect the important part Glasgow has played in the world through its contributions to heavy industries like shipbuilding, train manufacturing and engineering. Later, we visit the traditional holiday resort of Largs, complete with Victorian promenade and a choice of ice cream parlours and shops.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 29th July 2024	5 Days	£439 pp	£100	£29

Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Set against the backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, The Edinburgh Military Tattoo is a great international gathering. Every year, more than 100 million people around the world watch the Tattoo on TV and more than 11 million people from over 100 countries have experienced the Tattoo live ... and more than 40,000 performers from over 40 countries have taken part.



© The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Doubletree by Hilton Glasgow Westerwood Spa & Golf Resort

This welcoming hotel offers a tranquil escape, surrounded by countryside, yet not far from the bright city lights of Edinburgh. All the contemporary, en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, fitness suite, swimming pool, sauna and steam room.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Free time in Edinburgh
- ◆ Ticket to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo



© The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ After a late breakfast on the day of the Tattoo, we travel into Edinburgh for some time at leisure to explore independently. With an abundance of history, top-quality attractions, and beautiful architecture, Edinburgh is a city you won't forget in a hurry. Explore the medieval Old Town and the elegant Georgian New Town which sit side by side and visit unique attractions in the city centre. There is no evening meal included this evening so before you take your seats for the Edinburgh Tattoo, make sure you try one of Edinburgh's award-winning restaurants, cafes and bars offering something to suit all tastes and budgets. Your coach will pick-you up and transfer you to The Castle for the performance.

PLEASE NOTE: Our Coach cannot drop off right outside the Castle during the Tattoo and access to the Castle is via Castle Hill which is quite a steep walk. Due to the location of our allocated seats for the Tattoo, this tour may not be suitable for passengers with disabilities.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Wednesday 7th August 2024	3 Days	£379 pp	£60	£27

Bonnie Scotland

The village of Crianlarich is located in Glen Strathfillan to the north of The Trossachs, some eight miles north of the head of Loch Lomond. From here, we cover some stunning Scottish scenery and sample a tot or 2 at the Glenturret Distillery.



© The Glenturret

Best Western Crianlarich Hotel

The Best Western Crianlarich Hotel stands in the village of the same name on the fringe of the beautiful Breadalbane region of Perthshire. The hotel has a lift, bar, and restaurant, and all en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ West Highland Railway Line – Oban through the Pass of Brander
- ◆ Loch Leven, Glencoe & Rannoch Moor
- ◆ Ben Cruachan – The Hollow Mountain
- ◆ Glenturret Distillery ◆ Perthshire Sightseeing

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We join the Scotrail train at Crianlarich Station for the journey to Oban. The line takes us through the Pass of Brander and alongside Loch Etive. You'll travel through a daunting landscape of mountain, steep-sided lochs, and heather moors. In Oban, we have time to explore town, have a look at the harbour, enjoy lunch, and relax. In the afternoon, we take the train back to Crianlarich.
- ◆ Today, we head along Glen Dochart to Killin, with the Falls of Dochart rushing through the village. From here, we drive along Loch Tay to Aberfeldy, where we have our lunch break. This afternoon, we head south along the Sma' Glen to Crieff where we visit the Glenturret Distillery for a tour and a 'wee dram'. Our return takes us along Loch Earn and Glen Ogle to Crianlarich.
- ◆ We discover one of the hidden wonders of the highlands – a power station buried deep under Ben Cruachan – the Hollow Mountain. At its centre lies a massive cavern, high enough to house the Tower of London. The hollow mountain is unique, an underground world on a spectacular scale, a five-star attraction not to be missed. From here we head north to Fort William. We have time to explore this popular town before we are on our way south alongside Loch Linhe to Ballachulish and Loch Leven. The Glencoe Visitor Centre is our afternoon stop and here you can learn all about the Glencoe clans and the infamous massacre. We return over rugged and awesome Rannoch Moor to Crianlarich.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 26th August 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	NIL	£29

Scotland's Northwest Passage

Regarded as a 'trip of a lifetime', discover Route 500 – Scotland's Route 66 – a jaw-dropping journey skirting the very top of the UK's Northwest coastline, passing deserted beaches and ancient castles. We discover a landscape spanning 430 miles of some of the most unspoilt and picturesque scenery in Europe, with its diverse array of wildlife and a culture which has little changed in generations. We top it all with a wonderful, guided day tour of The Orkneys.



© VisitScotland - Kenny Lam

Overnight Hotels. To be confirmed.

The Dunollie, Skye

The Dunollie Hotel is set by the serene waterside of Broadford Bay, at the foot of the mountains that lead to the famous Cuillin Hills. En-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant and bar.

The Royal, Ullapool

The Royal Hotel boasts a loch-side location with breath-taking views over Loch Broom and the rugged mountain landscapes beyond. All the en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant and bar.

Pentland Hotel, Thurso

Centrally located in the heart of Thurso, The Pentland Hotel offers a warm welcome. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant and bar.

Please note that due to the limited accommodation options on this tour, we cannot guarantee special requests or lift availability. This tour may not be suitable for guests with limited mobility.



© VisitScotland - Kenny Lam

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Smoo Cave Lunch
- ◆ Orkney Cruise and Tour of Island on Private Coach
- ◆ Entry to The Italian Chapel
- ◆ Entry to Skara Brae
- ◆ Dunrobin Castle

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 23rd August 2024	7 Days	£779 pp	£130	£35

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We enjoy our outward journey, making suitable stops along the way to the Glasgow area for dinner and our overnight stay.
- ◆ **West Highlands & Skye** After breakfast, we travel along the shores of Loch Lomond, 'The Queen of the Lochs', before crossing beautiful Glencoe, 'The Weeping Glen', on our way to Fort William where we stop for our lunch break. After lunch, we continue along the Great Glen with loch & mountain scenery all the way, stopping for photographs at Eilean Donan Castle, one of Scotland's most photographed castles, on our way to Skye. We arrive in time for dinner and our overnight stay.
- ◆ **Isle of Skye, Loch Maree & Ullapool** This morning, we tour Skye, stopping in Portree, the island's colourful capital, before turning northwards into the vast region of Wester Ross. We travel along the shores of Loch Maree, regarded as one of Scotland's bonniest lochs. We stop to take in the Highland air at Gairloch, with its pretty harbour before the drive snakes its way along the coastline, dotted with islands, inlets, beaches, and cliffs, before descending into the picture-perfect harbour town of Ullapool. We enjoy dinner and our overnight stay in Ullapool.
- ◆ **Caithness & Sutherland on Route 500** Today's tour makes up a large part of the North Coast 500 and will leave a lasting memory too. Mile upon mile of crumbling cliffs, sheer rocky headlands, picturesque lochs, sheltered bays & deserted perfect white beaches to rival those abroad. It is here you will feel Scotland in an entirely different way – it's not all about tartan and bagpipes! We stop at Smoo Cave Hotel for lunch before continuing our journey to Thurso, our base for the next 2 nights.
- ◆ **The Orkney Isles** After breakfast today, we travel to John O'Groats for our 40-minute crossing over the Pentland Firth, a graveyard for many a ship, to Orkney. On arrival, a private coach and experienced Driver/Guide awaits to commence a magical day on the Orkneys. We cross the Churchill Barriers, visit the 2,000-year-old Scara Brae, Ring of Brodgar, The Italian Chapel, and Kirkwall with its 12th Century Cathedral, before returning to John O'Groats then Thurso and our hotel.
- ◆ **Inverness & Pitlochry** The coastal road between Wick and Inverness passes many interesting places – historical Helmsdale, white sands at Brora, and fairy-tale Dunrobin Castle. We have free time in the Highland capital, Inverness, before continuing through the Spey Valley, then over the Drumochter Pass and into Perthshire for our final night's stay.
- ◆ After breakfast, we leave the hotel and Scotland and make our way home.

Glesga Grub

This brand-new tour for 2024 samples some of Scotland's most famous exports whilst taking in the area's diverse landscapes. From the cityscapes of Glasgow, to the 'Bonnie Banks' of Loch Lomond and the weaving Ayrshire coastline, this tour has a bit of everything.



The Garfield House Hotel, Stepps

The award-winning Garfield House Hotel holds an excellent setting in the quiet, peaceful village of Stepps, with the bustling Glasgow city centre just a short drive away. The hotel has a restaurant and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Afternoon Tea ◆ Half-Day Glasgow Guide
- ◆ Haggis Demonstration & Tasting ◆ Loch Lomond Cruise
- ◆ Distillery Tour & Tasting ◆ Chippie Dinner

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ In the mid 90's The River Clyde was at the core of the Glaswegian summer holiday. Start the day in one of Glasgow's newest distilleries for a fascinating tour and tasting on the edge of the river. Afterwards, follow the Clyde Trail 'Doon the Watter' to Ayrshire ending the afternoon in the seaside resort of Largs for Fish & Chips at the town's iconic Nardini's Café.
- ◆ A local guide joins you today for a half-day tour of Glasgow. Hear tales of tenement times and the city's deep design history. The day culminates with a visit to Mackintosh & The Willow Tearooms where we enjoy a sumptuous Afternoon Tea surrounded by the décor based on designs by the great Charles Rennie Mackintosh.
- ◆ Travel into Scotland's newest National Park on a 1-hour Loch Lomond Cruise and hear the tales of the depths with a live commentary. The true highlight of the day is the chance to hear the history of haggis, learn the real recipe and enjoy a generous tasting.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 5th September 2024	5 Days	£529 pp	£120	£29

Oban, Mull & Iona

Based in the bustling seaside town of Oban, our tour explores the enchanting Inner Hebridean Islands of Mull and ancient Iona. We take in some stunning scenery as we travel along loch-side roads with towering mountains and visit iconic Inveraray Castle.



The Royal Hotel

The Royal Hotel stands in the centre of the town of Oban, close to the harbour and ferry terminal. All the en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and complimentary Wi-Fi in public areas.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Seaside Town of Oban ◆ Return Ferry to Mull
- ◆ Return Ferry to Iona ◆ Inveraray Castle

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We board the ferry with our coach for the 55-minute crossing to the enchanting Isle of Mull. Our coach takes us south passing Duart Castle to Fionnphort where we join the ferry for the short crossing to Iona, as foot passengers. Here, we can wander round the island at leisure. With its white sandy beach and pathways, Iona is an island of pilgrimage and is recognised as the birthplace of Christianity in the UK. We return by ferry to Mull and re-join our coach for the journey to the ferry back to the mainland.
- ◆ Inveraray Castle is first and foremost a family home, however, its very existence reflects the part played by the Campbells in the rich tapestry of Scottish and British history. The contents of Inveraray Castle span many generations of the family and will give you a glimpse into the way our ancestors lived. The garden covers 16 acres, of which around 2 acres are formal lawns and flowerbeds, the remainder being park and woodland. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore Inveraray, overlooking the still waters of Loch Fyne. The town is full of Scottish Georgian architecture and key buildings that are worth a visit include the neoclassical church, and Inveraray Jail and Courthouse, now an award-winning museum that graphically recounts prison conditions from medieval times up until the 19th Century.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 15th September 2024	5 Days	£579 pp	£64	£29

Scotland's Northwest Passage

Regarded as a 'trip of a lifetime', discover Route 500 – Scotland's Route 66 – a jaw-dropping journey skirting the very top of the UK's Northwest coastline, passing deserted beaches and ancient castles.



Fort William & The Jacobite Express

Staying in Fort William, and surrounded by spectacular Scottish scenery, this tour shows off some of the most scenic parts of the West Highlands. The highlight is a journey on the famous Jacobite Express Steam Train from Fort William to Mallaig.



Overnight Hotels. To be confirmed.

The King's Arms, Skye

The Kings Arms Hotel is based in Kyleakin, a pretty village on the Isle of Skye with panoramic views across the Kyle of Lochalsh to mainland Scotland. Dating back to the 1600s, the hotel is one of the oldest on the island. While it has a range of modern comforts, it still retains many traditional features, such as big, open fires. All rooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

The Royal, Ullapool

The Royal Hotel boasts a loch-side location with breath-taking views over Loch Broom and the rugged mountain landscapes beyond. All the en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant and bar.

Norseman Hotel, Thurso

Located in the centre of the former Viking town of Wick, The Norseman Hotel offers the chance to relax. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Please note that due to the limited accommodation options on this tour, we cannot guarantee special requests or lift availability. This tour may not be suitable for guests with limited mobility.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Smoo Cave Lunch
- ◆ Orkney Cruise and Tour of Island on Private Coach
- ◆ Entry to The Italian Chapel ◆ Entry to Skara Brae ◆ Dunrobin Castle

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ For full details please see Page 104

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 30th September 2024	7 Days	£749 pp	£130	£35

The Alexandra Hotel

Part of the very fabric of Fort William since 1876, the Alexandra Hotel provides traditional Scottish hospitality at every turn. Located in a great spot, within walking distance of the town centre. The bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ 'Jacobite' Steam Train from Fort William to Mallaig
- ◆ Seil Island & The Bridge Over the Atlantic
- ◆ Fort Augustus, Inverness, Aviemore & Spean Bridge

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We walk the short distance from the hotel to Fort William Train Station to board 'The Jacobite'. Described as the greatest railway journey in the world, this 42-mile journey takes you past a list of impressive extremes. Starting near the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis, it visits Britain's most westerly mainline railway station, Arisaig; passes close by the deepest freshwater loch on Britain, Loch Morar and the shortest river in Britain, River Morar, finally arriving next to the deepest seawater loch in Europe, Loch Nevis. We have a little free time in Mallaig before making the return journey back to Fort William by coach.
- ◆ Lying on the impressive 60-mile long Caledonian Canal, Fort Augustus offers spectacular views down Loch Ness. Sit and watch the boats navigating the locks or explore the Clansmen Centre where appropriately attired guides demonstrate 17th Century clan weaponry. We continue to Inverness, 'Capital of the Highlands' in time for lunch. We take the scenic route back to the hotel via Aviemore and Spean Bridge.
- ◆ A scenic drive to Seil Island, crossing 'the Bridge over the Atlantic', making our way to the pretty village of Easdale, with its whitewashed cottages looking out over the water. We return to Oban where the rest of the day is at leisure to explore this delightful seaside town.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 4th October 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£64	£29

Wales



Landlubbers Cruise at the Tynedale Hotel

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



Weekender at the Tynedale Hotel

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



Tynedale Hotel

Situated in a prime sea-front position on Llandudno's iconic Victorian promenade, The Tynedale Hotel is bright, modern, and welcoming, and just 20-metres from the beach and a short walk from the high street and the town's well-preserved pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Themed Dinner on 3 Evenings
- ◆ Captain's Dinner on Last Evening
- ◆ Special Cruise Breakfasts
- ◆ Entertainment Each Evening
- ◆ Late night Finger Buffet Each Evening

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ In addition to its architectural heritage, its stunning setting, and sub-tropical gardens, Portmeirion has two stylish hotels, shops, a spa, cafes and restaurants and an authentic Italian style gelateria. Portmeirion Village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series The Prisoner. It comprises a cluster of colour-washed buildings around a central piazza, scenic surroundings, and extensive woodlands.
- ◆ We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 29th January 2024	5 Days	£489 pp	NIL	£29

Tynedale Hotel

Situated in a prime sea-front position on Llandudno's iconic Victorian promenade, The Tynedale Hotel is bright, modern, and welcoming, and just 20-metres from the beach and a short walk from the high street and the town's well-preserved pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ A full day to Explore Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ In a nutshell, everyone loves Llandudno. Who could possibly argue with that while strolling along Llandudno's elegant promenade past pastel-coloured hotels and impeccably authentic seafront architecture just like the Victorians did? All that's needed to complete the picture is a frilly parasol (for the ladies) and a straw boater (for the gentlemen). Llandudno's appearance is down to the fact that, unlike most other resorts, it has remained largely unchanged for over a century. There's a pier, the longest in Wales, and Punch & Judy, donkey rides on the beach, and canopied shopping streets just behind the prom. Put simply, Llandudno is a classic of its kind. We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 9th February 2024	3 Days	£289 pp	NIL	£27

Llandudno

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Llandudno

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Marlborough Hotel

A family-run hotel where a warm welcome awaits, located on the South Parade, just off the Promenade, opposite the Pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, and evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Conwy
- ◆ 1 Free Day in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.
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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 9th February 2024	4 Days	£319 pp	NIL	£29

Marlborough Hotel

A family-run hotel where a warm welcome awaits, located on the South Parade, just off the Promenade, opposite the Pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, and evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Conwy
- ◆ Portmeirion
- ◆ 1 Free Day in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.
- ◆ In addition to its architectural heritage, its stunning setting, and sub-tropical gardens, Portmeirion has two stylish hotels, shops, a spa, cafes and restaurants and an authentic Italian style gelateria. Portmeirion Village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series The Prisoner. It comprises a cluster of colour-washed buildings around a central piazza, scenic surroundings, and extensive woodlands.
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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 4th March 2024	5 Days	£379 pp	NIL	£29

A Welsh Tipple

The town of Mold is nestled beneath the Clwydian Hills and offers a quiet haven. Our Spring Break is the perfect way to blow off those Winter Blues and see you through to the Summer.



© British Ironwork Centre

The Beaufort Park Hotel

Peacefully positioned on the Welsh border, The Beaufort Park Hotel, Mold, is a friendly and relaxing place to stay, within easy reach of North Wales's attractions. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant and bar. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Minimum 2 Nights' Entertainment
- ◆ 4 Drinks Vouchers Per Person, Per Night (some premium brands may be excluded)
- ◆ Ness Botanic Gardens
- ◆ British Ironwork Centre & Sculpture Park

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

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- ◆ Wednesday is Market Day in Mold. Over 70 stalls on the high street through to Daniel Owen Square offer a variety of produce. Later, we visit Ness Botanic Gardens. As the last of the snowdrops finish flowering, Crocuses and Daffodils start appearing with their fine displays in the lawns by the Visitor Centre and in the Rock Garden.
- ◆ If we told you there was a place where you can put your arm in the mouth of a shark, walk with the elephants, and meet Spongebob Squarepants and Spiderman, all in the same day, whilst following up with a delicious home baked delicacy, you may think we are getting confused with a dream we had. But you can do all this and more at the British Ironworks Centre & Sculpture Park. Later, we visit Llangollen, renowned for the surrounding hills and River Dee, with its range of cafes and bars, and independent shops to browse.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 11th March 2024	5 Days	£379 pp	£80	£20

Landlubbers Cruise at the Tynedale Hotel

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Tynedale Hotel

Situated in a prime sea-front position on Llandudno's iconic Victorian promenade, The Tynedale Hotel is bright, modern, and welcoming, and just 20-metres from the beach and a short walk from the high street and the town's well-preserved pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Themed Dinner on 3 Evenings
- ◆ Captain's Dinner on Last Evening
- ◆ Special Cruise Breakfasts
- ◆ Entertainment Each Evening
- ◆ Late night Finger Buffet Each Evening

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ In addition to its architectural heritage, its stunning setting, and sub-tropical gardens, Portmeirion has two stylish hotels, shops, a spa, cafes and restaurants and an authentic Italian style gelateria. Portmeirion Village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series The Prisoner. It comprises a cluster of colour-washed buildings around a central piazza, scenic surroundings, and extensive woodlands.
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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Wednesday 20th March 2024	? Days	£489 pp	NIL	£29

Llandudno

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Llandudno

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Marlborough Hotel

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Conwy
- ◆ 1 Free Day in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.
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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 12th April 2024	4 Days	£329 pp	NIL	£20

Marlborough Hotel

A family-run hotel where a warm welcome awaits, located on the South Parade, just off the Promenade, opposite the Pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, and evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Portmeirion
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Gardens & Beaumaris
- ◆ 1 Free Day in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ In addition to its architectural heritage, its stunning setting, and sub-tropical gardens, Portmeirion has two stylish hotels, shops, a spa, cafes and restaurants and an authentic Italian style gelateria. Portmeirion Village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series The Prisoner. It comprises a cluster of colour-washed buildings around a central piazza, scenic surroundings, and extensive woodlands.
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens is an historic garden under restoration, situated between Menai Bridge and Beaumaris on the Isle of Anglesey. Described as one of North Wales best kept secrets. Later, we visit the captivating seaside town of Beaumaris, with its mix of medieval, Georgian, Victorian, and Edwardian architecture. A 'must' is to take a walk through the town starting with a stroll along the seafront, taking in the pier and the views over the Menai Strait and Snowdonia.
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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 29th April 2024	5 Days	£389 pp	NIL	£29

Pembrokeshire Coastlines & Tenby

Experience stunning sea views, Britain's only coastal National Park, an enchanting castle, and the seaside resort of Tenby.



Llandudno

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Tynedale Hotel

Situated in a prime sea-front position on Llandudno's iconic Victorian promenade, The Tynedale Hotel is bright, modern, and welcoming, and just 20-metres from the beach and a short walk from the high street and the town's well-preserved pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Portmeirion
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens & Beaumaris
- ◆ 2 Free Days in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ In addition to its architectural heritage, its stunning setting, and subtropical gardens, Portmeirion has two stylish hotels, shops, a spa, cafes and restaurants and an authentic Italian style gelateria. Portmeirion Village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series The Prisoner. It comprises a cluster of colour-washed buildings around a central piazza, scenic surroundings, and extensive woodlands.
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The Cliff Hotel & Spa

The Cliff Hotel & Spa is a family-owned hotel where a warm, friendly welcome awaits. With expansive, beautiful hotel grounds, the Cliff Hotel & Spa is located on the coast of Cardigan Bay overlooking Poppit Sands and Cardigan Island. Hotel facilities include lift, Spa, restaurant, and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, ironing facilities, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Picton Castle & Gardens
- ◆ National Wool Museum
- ◆ Entertainment on 3 nights
- ◆ Tenby

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Surrounded by some of the finest coastline in Europe is St David's, the smallest cathedral city in Britain and a popular location for pilgrims and artists alike. Adjacent to its 12th century cathedral stand the magnificent ruins of the medieval Bishop's Palace. Following free time here, we continue to enchanting Picton Castle & Gardens for our included visit. Picton is half fortified manor house and half medieval castle, set in 40 acres of stunning gardens.
- ◆ Our excursion takes us through the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park to Tenby, one of the UK's finest coastal holiday resorts, which has retained its natural charm, narrow streets, harbour, and beautiful beaches. Tenby is steeped in ancient history and surrounded by an imposing medieval stone wall. If time allows, we continue to the picturesque seaside village of Saundersfoot, with its historic harbour.
- ◆ We visit the lovely market town of Cardigan, with its unspoilt townscape and rich heritage, before continuing through the picturesque Teifi Valley to the National Wool Museum. Let the story of wool, once the most important industry in Wales, weave its magic in this unique museum.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 15th April 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	£?48	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Saturday 18th May 2024	6 Days	£619 pp	NIL	£35

Heart of Wales

Mid-Wales is the green heart of Wales. The clear seas, bright harbours and hidden coves of the Ceredigion coastline give way to Red Kite filled skies, busy market towns and dramatic hills.

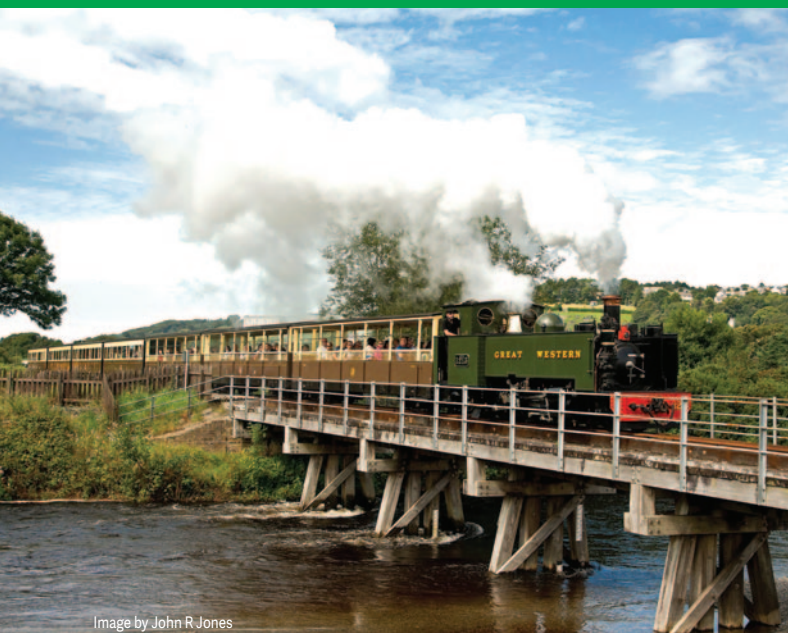


Image by John R Jones

The Metropole Hotel

Located in the heart of Llandrindod Wells, this hotel has been owned by the same family for over 100 years. En-suite bedrooms are furnished to a high standard and feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, spa facilities with indoor swimming pool, sauna, & hot tub, garden, and terrace.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Guided Coach Tour of the Elan Valley Estate
- ◆ Single Journey on the Vale of Rheidol Railway
- ◆ Cruise on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal
- ◆ Seaside Resort of Aberystwyth

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our ranger will join our coach for a 90-minute tour of the Elan Valley Estate. Discover some of the Valley's hidden secrets and learn more about the wide range of wildlife. Later, we explore the Visitor Centre before returning to Llandrindod Wells with the rest of the day to relax.
- ◆ We head to Ceredigion Heritage Coast and the Victorian seaside resort of Aberystwyth, home to the National Library of Wales. This is one of the biggest towns in Mid-Wales, and the town centre is spread around a variety of interesting roads – the street names and architecture reflect the history and growth around the town since the Middle Ages. We then enjoy a nostalgic journey through some wonderful scenery on the Vale of Rheidol Railway to Devil's Bridge where we re-join our coach.
- ◆ Experience the beautiful and diverse scenery of the Brecon Beacons National Park as we make our way to Brecon with its Medieval Cathedral and narrow streets full of craft & antique shops. While here, we enjoy a relaxing cruise through a lock and over an aqueduct on the historical Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, a fantastic feat of engineering which was built before roads and railways. We return to the hotel via Hay-on-Wye.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 2nd June 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£48	£29

Llandudno

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



Marlborough Hotel

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Portmeirion
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Gardens & Beaumaris
- ◆ Snowdon Mountain Railway & Caernarfon
- ◆ Conwy
- ◆ 2 Free Days in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ In addition to its architectural heritage, its stunning setting, and sub-tropical gardens, Portmeirion has two stylish hotels, shops, a spa, cafes and restaurants and an authentic Italian style gelateria. Portmeirion Village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series The Prisoner. It comprises a cluster of colour-washed buildings around a central piazza, scenic surroundings, and extensive woodlands.
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- ◆ Take a once-in-a-lifetime adventure on the Snowdon Mountain Railway which has been described as one of the most scenic railway journeys in the world. Trains depart from Llanberis Station and begin their climb up Snowdon, Yr Wyddfa. With stunning scenery and awe-inspiring views, you'll be glad you came. Later, we visit Caernarfon, home to Wales's most famous castle and UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ◆ We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.
- ◆ In a nutshell, everyone loves Llandudno. Who could possibly argue with that while strolling along Llandudno's elegant promenade past pastel-coloured hotels and impeccably authentic seafront architecture just like the Victorians did? All that's needed to complete the picture is a frilly parasol (for the ladies) and a straw boater (for the gentlemen). Llandudno's appearance is down to the fact that, unlike most other resorts, it has remained largely unchanged for over a century. There's a pier, the longest in Wales, and Punch & Judy, donkey rides on the beach, and canopied shopping streets just behind the prom. Put simply, Llandudno is a classic of its kind.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 14th June 2024	8 Days	£639 pp	NIL	£35

Great Little Trains of Snowdonia

The Great Little Trains of Wales are a very special way of seeing some of the best scenery in the British Isles. All are narrow gauge steam railways, some over 100 years old. All have in common the charm of steam strains with polished paintwork and brass. Most originally served to carry Welsh slate from the quarries to the sea.



©Flickr - Tom Parnell

The Royal Victoria Hotel

The Royal Victoria Hotel stands in a delightful setting in its own grounds at the foot of Llanberis Pass. Pretty gardens and grounds make it an attractive location. The hotel has a lift, spacious lounges and bars, and the Padarn Restaurant overlooking the hotel gardens with distant views of Llanberis's iconic lake. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, and tea/coffee making facilities.



© Llanberis Lake Railway

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our first visit today takes us to the shores of Cardigan Bay and Portmeirion, setting for the cult TV series 'The Prisoner'. Visit the Village, with its variety of shops, cafes, colourful buildings, and picturesque piazza. Then explore the 70 acres of exotic woodlands with 19 miles of pathways which cut through forests, secret spaces, and coastal coves. From here we drive to Betws-y-Coed where we have a break and time for lunch before heading to Bala for our ride on the Bala Lake Railway. Enjoy a delightful 9-mile journey alongside Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake), through the beautiful and natural Snowdonia National Park.
- ◆ This morning we join the Llanberis Lake Railway for a delightful ride along the lake shore followed by time to explore and obtain lunch in Llanberis. Later, we take 'A Majestic Mountain Adventure' and have a ride on the Snowdon Mountain Railway. This world-famous little train takes you on a breath-taking ride to the top of Snowdon, at 3560ft (1085m) the highest mountain in England and Wales. The views are stunning, and this is not to be missed.
- ◆ We begin with a drive through the beautiful National Park of Snowdonia to Blaenau Ffestiniog. Here, we catch the Ffestiniog Railway for an exhilarating ride across the mountains, descending to the sea at Porthmadog. We have time here to explore and have lunch before catching the Welsh Highland Railway train which takes us through Beddgelert and all the way back to Caernarfon.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ffestiniog Railway
- ◆ Bala Lake Railway
- ◆ Welsh Highland Railway
- ◆ Llanberis Lake Railway
- ◆ Portmeirion Italianate Village

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 17th June 2024	5 Days	£599 pp	NIL	£29

Llandudno

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



Tynedale Hotel

Situated in a prime sea-front position on Llandudno's iconic Victorian promenade, The Tynedale Hotel is bright, modern, and welcoming, and just 20-metres from the beach and a short walk from the high street and the town's well-preserved pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Snowdon Mountain Railway & Caernarfon
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens & Beaumaris
- ◆ 1 Free Day in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Take a once-in-a-lifetime adventure on the Snowdon Mountain Railway which has been described as one of the most scenic railway journeys in the world. Trains depart from Llanberis Station and begin their climb up Snowdon, Yr Wyddfa. With stunning scenery and awe-inspiring views, you'll be glad you came. Later, we visit Caernarfon,
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens is an historic garden under restoration, situated between Menai Bridge and Beaumaris on the Isle of Anglesey. Described as one of North Wales best kept secrets. Later, we visit the captivating seaside town of Beaumaris, with its mix of medieval, Georgian, Victorian, and Edwardian architecture. A 'must' is to take a walk through the town starting with a stroll along the seafront, taking in the pier and the views over the Menai Strait and Snowdonia.
- ◆ In a nutshell, everyone loves Llandudno. Who could possibly argue with that while strolling along Llandudno's elegant promenade past pastel-coloured hotels and impeccably authentic seafront architecture just like the Victorians did? All that's needed to complete the picture is a frilly parasol (for the ladies) and a straw boater (for the gentlemen). Llandudno's appearance is down to the fact that, unlike most other resorts, it has remained largely unchanged for over a century. There's a pier, the longest in Wales, and Punch & Judy, donkey rides on the beach, and canopied shopping streets just behind the prom. Put simply, Llandudno is a classic of its kind. We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Tuesday 2nd July 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	NIL	£29

Steam, Gardens & Whiskey of South Wales

A delightful tour to South Wales taking in some of the highlights of the region. We include the picturesque Gower Peninsula, take a steam train ride through the scenic Brecon Beacons, visit the award-winning Botanical Gardens of Wales, and tour Wales' most famous whiskey distillery.



Best Western Aberavon Beach Hotel

Our hotel is situated on the seafront of Aberavon Beach in the beautiful Swansea Bay. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, heated indoor swimming pool, sauna, heated spa, and sun patio. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, trouser press, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Gower Peninsula
- ◆ National Botanic Garden of Wales
- ◆ Brecon Mountain Railway
- ◆ National Waterfront Museum
- ◆ Swansea, Carmarthen & Mumbles

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel across Swansea Bay to the city of Swansea where we visit the famous traditional market in the city centre. Browse among 100 stalls offering everything from fresh local produce to traditional Welsh gifts, maybe try some hot Welsh cakes. Later, we head for the marina for our visit to the National Waterfront Museum and learn the human story of Welsh industry and innovation now, and over the past 300 years. This afternoon we travel to the picturesque Gower Peninsula, Britain's first designated 'Area of Outstanding natural Beauty' and make a stop in the Victorian seaside resort of Mumbles. We continue our picturesque drive through the park to view the nature reserve of Worm's Head, and Rhossili Bay where the 250ft cliff drops steeply to the beach below.
- ◆ We travel to Carmarthen, Wales's oldest city, for some free time. Later, we make our way to the internationally award-winning National Botanic Garden of Wales and see an inspiring range of themed gardens that incorporate a blend of modern and historical, all set in a Regency landscape with Lord Fosters Glass House the centrepiece.
- ◆ Our day takes us northeast to the small village of Pant where we board the Brecon Mountain Railway, one of the Great Little Trains of Wales, for a scenic ride through the Brecon Beacons National Park. There is time for lunch in Brecon before we continue to Penderyn Distillery, home to Wales's most famous whiskey. We enjoy a guided tour of the distillery followed by a tasting of their whiskey.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 8th July 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	£80	£29

Picturesque Pembrokeshire Heart of Wales

The natural beauty of the Pembrokeshire Coast is famed all over the world. Glorious sandy beaches and seemingly endless rugged coastlines give way to the Preseli Hills, historic towns, and little villages.

Mid-Wales is the green heart of Wales. The clear seas, bright harbours and hidden coves of the Ceredigion coastline give way to Red Kite filled skies, busy market towns and dramatic hills.



The Diplomat Hotel

This is a family-run hotel, operated with charm, warmth, generous hospitality, and courteous, professional staff are on hand to help make your stay as enjoyable as possible. This iconic Llanelli hotel was built in 1810, and today its bedrooms feature stylish décor and modern features, TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, and spa with swimming pool. A lift serves most rooms. Please note, there are several steps from the coach drop-off point to the main entrance of the hotel.

© 2020 Welsh Government

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Lovespoon Workshop & Beautiful Seaside Town of Tenby
- ◆ Picton Castle & Gardens & Saundersfoot
- ◆ Mumbles & The Gower Peninsula

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We stop at the Lovespoon Workshop for a talk and demonstration based around the Welsh Lovespoon Tradition. The Thomas family has been hand-carving genuine Welsh Lovespoons since 1975, continuing the 17th Century tradition in Wales. We continue to the popular holiday resort of Tenby with its old town walls, interesting little side streets and alleyways to explore, and superb beaches.
- ◆ Picton Castle & Gardens is Pembrokeshire's finest stately home, surrounded by 60 acres of some of the most beautiful woodland gardens and grounds in West Wales. Picton Castle is a most unusual ancient building being as it is a fully developed Medieval castle that was transformed into a stately home in the 18th Century. From the outside with its four symmetrically spaced half round towers and gatehouse entrance flanked by two narrower towers it is based upon patterns of Irish castles of the period and is the only one of this type in mainland UK. As you enter inside it is revealed not to have an inner courtyard and keep but rather a series of finely planned rooms typical of the grand country house that it is. In the Gardens discover rare trees and plant collections from around the world and enjoy the magnificent Rhododendrons, shady woodlands, an exotic jungle garden and colourful walled garden alongside living willow dens, family trails, and an engaging adventure playground. Later, we stop at Saundersfoot with its beautiful scenery. The village has an increasing reputation as a gourmet resort, thanks to the high-quality restaurants and cafes serving local Pembrokeshire produce.
- ◆ Heading south, we visit the picture-postcard resort of Mumbles, delightfully located on Swansea Bay. Later, we visit the Gower Heritage Centre, where we meet our guide for a tour of the Gower Peninsula, designated as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. After the tour, we return to the Heritage Centre for a delicious Gower Cream Tea.

The Metropole Hotel

Located in the heart of Llandrindod Wells, this hotel has been owned by the same family for over 100 years. En-suite bedrooms are furnished to a high standard and feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, spa facilities with indoor swimming pool, sauna, & hot tub, garden, and terrace.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Guided Coach Tour of the Elan Valley Estate
- ◆ Single Journey on the Vale of Rheidol Railway
- ◆ Cruise on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal
- ◆ Seaside Resort of Aberystwyth

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our ranger will join our coach for a 90-minute tour of the Elan Valley Estate. Discover some of the Valley's hidden secrets and learn more about the wide range of wildlife. Later, we explore the Visitor Centre before returning to Llandrindod Wells with the rest of the day to relax.
- ◆ We head to Ceredigion Heritage Coast and the Victorian seaside resort of Aberystwyth, home to the National Library of Wales. This is one of the biggest towns in Mid-Wales, and the town centre is spread around a variety of interesting roads – the street names and architecture reflect the history and growth around the town since the Middle Ages. We then enjoy a nostalgic journey through some wonderful scenery on the Vale of Rheidol Railway to Devil's Bridge where we re-join our coach.
- ◆ Experience the beautiful and diverse scenery of the Brecon Beacons National Park as we make our way to Brecon with its Medieval Cathedral and narrow streets full of craft & antique shops. While here, we enjoy a relaxing cruise through a lock and over an aqueduct on the historical Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, a fantastic feat of engineering which was built before roads and railways. We return to the hotel via Hay-on-Wye.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 22nd August 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£92	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 1st September 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£48	£29

Llandudno

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



© Flickr - Jim Linwood

Tynedale Hotel

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Snowdon Mountain Railway & Caernarfon
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens & Beaumaris
- ◆ 1 Free Day in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Take a once-in-a-lifetime adventure on the Snowdon Mountain Railway which has been described as one of the most scenic railway journeys in the world. Trains depart from Llanberis Station and begin their climb up Snowdon, Yr Wyddfa. With stunning scenery and awe-inspiring views, you'll be glad you came. Later, we visit Caernarfon,
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens is an historic garden under restoration, situated between Menai Bridge and Beaumaris on the Isle of Anglesey. Described as one of North Wales best kept secrets. Later, we visit the captivating seaside town of Beaumaris, with its mix of medieval, Georgian, Victorian, and Edwardian architecture. A 'must' is to take a walk through the town starting with a stroll along the seafront, taking in the pier and the views over the Menai Strait and Snowdonia.
- ◆ In a nutshell, everyone loves Llandudno. Who could possibly argue with that while strolling along Llandudno's elegant promenade past pastel-coloured hotels and impeccably authentic seafront architecture just like the Victorians did? All that's needed to complete the picture is a frilly parasol (for the ladies) and a straw boater (for the gentlemen). Llandudno's appearance is down to the fact that, unlike most other resorts, it has remained largely unchanged for over a century. There's a pier, the longest in Wales, and Punch & Judy, donkey rides on the beach, and canopied shopping streets just behind the prom. Put simply, Llandudno is a classic of its kind. We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 6th September 2024	5 Days	£539 pp	NIL	£29

Great Little Trains of Snowdonia

The Great Little Trains of Wales are a very special way of seeing some of the best scenery in the British Isles.



© Ffestiniog Railway Company

The Royal Victoria Hotel

The Royal Victoria Hotel stands in a delightful setting in its own grounds at the foot of Llanberis Pass. Pretty gardens and grounds make it an attractive location. The hotel has a lift, spacious lounges and bars, and the Padarn Restaurant overlooking the hotel gardens with distant views of Llanberis's iconic lake. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ffestiniog Railway
- ◆ Bala Lake Railway
- ◆ Welsh Highland Railway
- ◆ Llanberis Lake Railway
- ◆ Portmeirion Italianate Village

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our first visit today takes us to the shores of Cardigan Bay and Portmeirion, setting for the cult TV series 'The Prisoner'. Visit the Village, with its variety of shops, cafes, colourful buildings, and picturesque piazza. Then explore the 70n acres of exotic woodlands with 19 miles of pathways which cut through forests, secret spaces, and coastal coves. From here we drive to Betws-y-Coed where we have a break and time for lunch before heading to Bala for our ride on the Bala Lake Railway. Enjoy a delightful 9-mile journey alongside Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake), through the beautiful and natural Snowdonia National Park.
- ◆ This morning we join the Llanberis Lake Railway for a delightful ride along the lake shore followed by time to explore and obtain lunch in Llanberis. Later, we take 'A Majestic Mountain Adventure' and have a ride on the Snowdon Mountain Railway. This world-famous little train takes you on a breath-taking ride to the top of Snowdon, at 3560ft (1085m) the highest mountain in England and Wales. The views are stunning, and this is not to be missed.
- ◆ We begin with a drive through the beautiful National Park of Snowdonia to Blaenau Ffestiniog. Here, we catch the Ffestiniog Railway for an exhilarating ride across the mountains, descending to the sea at Porthmadog. We have time her to explore and have lunch before catching the Welsh Highland Railway train which takes us through Beddgelert and all the way back to Caernarfon.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 16th September 2024	5 Days	£599 pp	NIL	£29

South Wales's Undiscovered Stories

Cross off your Pembrokeshire bucket list with South Wales's most fascinating sights and stories. Circumnavigate the shores of Tenby on a boat trip around Pembrokeshire's most dramatic offshore islands and hear tales of famous pirate Paul Jones's Bay – now frequented by local seals and the UK's largest colony of Cormorants. Traverse an 800-acre estate at Dinefwr, one of the most illustrious places in Welsh history, and a site of special scientific interest, and get acquainted with the cosy-yet cosmopolitan Mumbles Pier.



Grand Hotel, Swansea

The Grand Hotel Swansea is in the heart of Swansea city centre, within walking distance of Swansea's many attractions. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We cruise through a notorious pirate area, Paul Jones's Bay and meet its modern-day occupiers – local seals and 1000s of resident and visiting birds including Puffins, Razorbills, gannets, and the UK's largest colony of Cormorants. As you sail around the picturesque offshore islands, peer into hidden coves and gaze at sandy shores. As one of the UK's holy islands, this is definitely one to cross off your Pembrokeshire bucket list. Later, take a breezy walk along Tenby's breath-taking beaches and through its history-drenched streets.
- ◆ Today we hear the secret stories of a magical land of power and influence for more than 2000 years, at one of the most illustrious places in Welsh history. Dinefwr is an 800-acre estate to explore, the 1st Parkland National Nature Reserve in Wales and notably a site of special scientific interest. Informally sat within the parklands, you'll find the Grade 2 Listed Newton House – a family home for over 300 years to the descendants of Lord Rhys, the powerful prince of the Welsh kingdom of Deheubarth. Be in awe of its original 17th Century features, including a magnificent grand staircase and ornate ceilings.
- ◆ The Gower Peninsula is Britain's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Step inside the 12th Century water-powered corn mill and saw, delve into the Miller's cottage and Blacksmith's shop, and learn the tricks of the trade – milling, wood turning and blacksmithing. Gaze at the Gower's UNESCO accredited and unmistakable panoramas as the coach takes a whistle-stop tour from the heights of Cefn Bryn and the historic 'Arthur's Stone' to the breath-taking beauty of Rhossili Bay beach and the Worm's head.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Tenby Boat Trip
- ◆ Newton House – Dinefwr – Private House Tour, Tea/coffee & Cake
- ◆ Gower Heritage Centre – Guided Tour of the Mill, Light Lunch and Coach Tour

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 9th September 2024	5 Days	£519 pp	£120	£29

Llandudno

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



Marlborough Hotel

A family-run hotel where a warm welcome awaits, located on the South Parade, just off the Promenade, opposite the Pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, and evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Portmeirion
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Gardens & Beaumaris
- ◆ 1 Free Day in Llandudno

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ In addition to its architectural heritage, its stunning setting, and sub-tropical gardens, Portmeirion has two stylish hotels, shops, a spa, cafes and restaurants and an authentic Italian style gelateria. Portmeirion Village is well known as the location for the 1960s cult TV series *The Prisoner*. It comprises a cluster of colour-washed buildings around a central piazza, scenic surroundings, and extensive woodlands.
- ◆ Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens is an historic garden under restoration, situated between Menai Bridge and Beaumaris on the Isle of Anglesey. Described as one of North Wales best kept secrets. Later, we visit the captivating seaside town of Beaumaris, with its mix of medieval, Georgian, Victorian, and Edwardian architecture. A 'must' is to take a walk through the town starting with a stroll along the seafront, taking in the pier and the views over the Menai Strait and Snowdonia.
- ◆ In a nutshell, everyone loves Llandudno. Who could possibly argue with that while strolling along Llandudno's elegant promenade past pastel-coloured hotels and impeccably authentic seafront architecture just like the Victorians did? All that's needed to complete the picture is a frilly parasol (for the ladies) and a straw boater (for the gentlemen). Llandudno's appearance is down to the fact that, unlike most other resorts, it has remained largely unchanged for over a century. There's a pier, the longest in Wales, and Punch & Judy, donkey rides on the beach, and canopied shopping streets just behind the prom. Put simply, Llandudno is a classic of its kind.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 30th September 2024	5 Days	£389 pp	NIL	£29

Picturesque Pembrokeshire

The natural beauty of the Pembrokeshire Coast is famed all over the world. Glorious sandy beaches and seemingly endless rugged coastlines give way to the Preseli Hills, historic towns, and little villages.



The Diplomat Hotel

This is a family-run hotel, operated with charm, warmth, generous hospitality, and courteous, professional staff are on hand to help make your stay as enjoyable as possible. This iconic Llanelli hotel was built in 1810, and today its bedrooms feature stylish décor and modern features, TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, and spa with swimming pool. A lift served most rooms. Please note, there are several steps from the coach drop-off point to the main entrance of the hotel.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Lovespoon Workshop & Beautiful Seaside Town of Tenby
- ◆ Picton Castle & Gardens & Saundersfoot
- ◆ Mumbles & The Gower Peninsula

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We stop at the Lovespoon Workshop for a talk and demonstration based around the Welsh Lovespoon Tradition. The Thomas family has been hand-carving genuine Welsh Lovespoons since 1975, continuing the 17th Century tradition in Wales. We continue to the popular holiday resort of Tenby with its old town walls, interesting little side streets and alleyways to explore, and superb beaches.
- ◆ Picton Castle & Gardens is Pembrokeshire's finest stately home, surrounded by 60 acres of some of the most beautiful woodland gardens and grounds in West Wales. Picton Castle is a most unusual ancient building being as it is a fully developed Medieval castle that was transformed into a stately home in the 18th Century. From the outside with its four symmetrically spaced half round towers and gatehouse entrance flanked by two narrower towers it is based upon patterns of Irish castles of the period and is the only one of this type in mainland UK. As you enter inside it is revealed not to have an inner courtyard and keep but rather a series of finely planned rooms typical of the grand country house that it is. In the Gardens discover rare trees and plant collections from around the world and enjoy the magnificent Rhododendrons, shady woodlands, an exotic jungle garden and colourful walled garden alongside living willow dens, family trails, and an engaging adventure playground. Later, we stop at Saundersfoot with its beautiful scenery. The village has an increasing reputation as a gourmet resort, thanks to the high-quality restaurants and cafes serving local Pembrokeshire produce.
- ◆ Heading south, we visit the picture-postcard resort of Mumbles, delightfully located on Swansea Bay. Later, we visit the Gower Heritage Centre, where we meet our guide for a tour of the Gower Peninsula, designated as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. After the tour, we return to the Heritage Centre for a delicious Gower Cream Tea.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 28th October 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	£92	£29

Warners



Warners – Nidd Hall



Nidd Hall

Built in the 18th Century by a wealthy Bradford wool merchant Nidd is a potpourri of architectural styles. Rumour has it that Edward VIII met Wallis Simpson at a party here – and we've maintained the tradition by giving guests a party every night with first class live music, comedy and dancing. Nidd Hall is set in 45 acres with award-winning gardens. You can cast a rod on the fishing lake or, from some of the rooms, cast your eyes over the spectacular Yorkshire countryside. Ensuite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, comfy chairs & reading lights, and tea/coffee making facilities. From outdoor sports like archery and fishing, to cosy afternoons indoors playing games or teaming up for a quiz, there's plenty to do.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Himalayan Garden & Sculpture Park & Ripon
- ◆ Knaresborough Market & Harrogate

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 8th April 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	NIL	£29

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The Himalayan Sculpture Garden is a rare gem, nestled in the heart of the North Yorkshire countryside. Take time to explore 45 acres of beautifully planted woodland gardens, lakes, and an arboretum dotted with 85 striking sculptures and enhanced by the sounds of wildlife. Widely considered to have the North's largest collection of rhododendrons, azaleas and magnolias, there are nearly 20,000 plants including some 1,400 rhododendron varieties, 250 azalea varieties, and 150 different magnolias. An exciting primula meadow enriches the stunning lakeside walks and the mass plantings of glorious hybrids and drifts of spring bulbs, provide fantastic seasonal interest. Also discover 85 striking sculptures in this open-air gallery. From a bronze leopard stalking a roe deer, to a giant floating magnolia and a mini-Stonehenge there is something for everyone to enjoy. Each sculpture has been chosen and positioned within the landscape in a way that relates to everything around them, the weather, light, vegetation, and the close and long-distance views. Later, we visit the unspoilt cathedral city of Ripon with its imposing cathedral, fascinating museums, and bustling market square.
- ◆ Steeped in history and cloaked in natural beauty, Knaresborough is a quintessential Yorkshire town. It is a treasure trove of ancient architecture, vibrant culture, and picturesque landscapes. Wednesday is Market Day and Knaresborough Market offers a range of goods. We return to Harrogate for the afternoon at leisure before returning to the hotel. The reputation of the shopping streets for exquisite retail opportunities is well deserved.

Warners – Studley Castle



Studley Castle

A beautiful hotel curating more than 180 years of history, but utterly modern in outlook. It's the perfect setting for a short break exploring and relaxing in rural Warwickshire. There's a lot to do ... and lots of ways to do nothing. An oasis of calm in the middle of the action, most of our rooms are in the contemporary Studley Wing, close to the restaurants, bars, and Guest Services at the heart of the hotel. Arranged over three floors (with lift access) the rooms are classically elegant and thoughtfully designed with king-size beds and contemporary bathrooms. Make the most of the outdoors around Studley Castle on foot or on two wheels. The hotel has teamed up with Outdoor Active to provide maps of local walking and cycling routes or you can take a spin on one of the Pashley bikes, available to borrow. Designed to make the most of the natural setting, archery and shooting hint at the country sports that would have taken place on the estate in days gone by. For a moment of calm, opt for a yoga or Pilates class, which run daily in The Stables Spa. If you'd rather just curl up with a good book, there are plenty of corners in the lounges.

(Please note some activities may incur an additional cost.)



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Stratford-upon-Avon is a market town with more than 800 years of history, containing not only many buildings that survive today and would have been familiar to Shakespeare, but also a thriving community offering a wide variety of dining and shopping experiences. From Afternoon Tea to the finest restaurants, Stratford-upon-Avon caters for every taste. You'll be spoilt for choice by the diverse array of shops. Whether you're treating yourself to something new or buying a gift for someone special, you can be sure to find it here. There are many fantastic areas of Stratford-upon-Avon to explore, from quaint side streets with unique and individual shops to open parklands along the river, there's something for everyone. Later, we visit Shakespeare Distillery for a fun and informative tour around the working distillery. Discover how gin & rum is made, learn about its history, and experience the many different ingredients used. The tour is followed by a tutored tasting of at least 3 Shakespeare Distillery spirits, finishing with a Gin & Tonic.
- ◆ The Cotswolds covers a huge area – almost 800 square miles – and runs through five counties and one of the delights of visiting is exploring the different areas, each with its own identity, yet all with those defining Cotswold features: golden stone and rolling hills, the 'wolds'. Explore quintessentially English villages of honey-coloured stone, and take in splendid, lively market towns. Our Guide will take us to the very best, giving us a fun & informative commentary along the way.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Stratford-upon-Avon & Shakespeare Distillery Tour & Tasting
- ◆ Guided Tour of The Cotswolds

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 15th July 2024	5 Days	£609 pp	NIL	£29

Warners – Littlecote House



Littlecote House Hotel

Built in the 1500s, this beautiful Grade I listed Tudor manor has a truly unique story. History is literally on your doorstep: the stunning location has played host to occupying Romans, a Tudor tryst, and even a Civil War army. The grounds contain an ornate Roman mosaic floor and settlement remains. Henry VIII courted Jane Seymour here, and the D-Day Landings were planned within the house. England's last remaining Cromwellian Chapel in a private house is also here, and the property offers many more historical jewels for you to explore at your leisure. All of this comes with outstanding service, delicious food in the spacious restaurant, live entertainment every night, and a host of activities from tennis to air-rifle shooting. (Please note some activities may incur an additional cost). En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, comfy chairs and reading lights, and tea/coffee making facilities. Most of the accommodation is in Kennet Hall, the newest wing and furthest from the main facilities.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Lacock Village, Abbey & Fox Talbot Museum & Corsham
- ◆ Bowood House & Gardens with Guided House Tour & Marlborough

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Lacock Abbey is a quirky country house, developed over the centuries around a former 13th Century nunnery, and the birthplace of modern photography. It is set in spacious wooded grounds and is now recognisable from films varying from *Pride & Prejudice* to *Harry Potter*. It was home to the Fox Talbot family. In the early 19th Century polymath William Henry Fox Talbot invented the photographic negative, a cornerstone in the rise of photography as both an art and a popular hobby. His achievements are celebrated in the Abbey itself and in a museum of photography, which also hosts a rolling programme of photography exhibitions. Beyond the grounds is a quintessential English village with independent shops to discover along its medieval streets. Later, we visit historic Corsham with its independent shops and restaurants, peacocks roaming freely from their home at Corsham Court, and *Poldark* – the BBC's hit drama was filmed in the High Street.
- ◆ We visit Marlborough, the archetypal English market town. In 1086 Marlborough was recorded in the Domesday Book and in later years it was a place where coins were minted, Tudor kings hunted for deer and coaches heading west from London stopped to feed and water their horses. Although Britain's coins are now manufactured in Wales, the coaches fill up with diesel and venison comes straight from the town's splendid butchers, Marlborough still has something of a cosmopolitan buzz about it. Wednesday is Market Day and the High Street hosts a market selling all kinds of stuff from locally produced meat & vegetables to pots, plants, pashminas and pottery. Later, we enjoy a beautiful afternoon visiting Lord & Lady Lansdowne's family home, surrounded by acres of 'Capability' Brown landscape and stunning gardens. Bowood House, home to the Lansdowne family since 1754, has a fascinating history. The Big House as it was known, was demolished in 1955, leaving the most perfectly balanced Georgian structure, full of fascinating family memorabilia including the room in which Dr. Joseph Priestley discovered Oxygen Gas on 1st August 1774

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 7th October 2024	5 Days	£529 pp	NIL	£29

Continental Holidays



Little Railways of the Rhine

Our exciting itinerary features journeys on some of the most charming little railways of the Rhine as well as relaxing cruises along the Rhine and Moselle rivers, all of which offer panoramic views and spectacular scenery – jump on board, relax and watch the beautiful scenery gently pass you by.



Belleview Rheinhotel Boppard

The elegant, family-run Belleview Rheinhotel is beautifully decorated in a Belle Epoque style and is situated on the main riverside promenade, only a stone's throw from the centre of Boppard. All bedrooms are bright, elegant and equipped with TV and hairdryer. There is a beautiful wood-panelled restaurant with views over the river and a relaxing, traditional bar. Leisure facilities include a sauna, steam bath and Romanesque style indoor swimming pool. The hotel has a lift.



© Brohital narrow-gauge railway operating GmbH

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ One-way River Cruise – Boppard to Oberlahnstein
- ◆ Drachenfelsbahn Return Rail Trip – Drachensfels Station to Summit
- ◆ 1 Hour Circular Cruise on the Moselle from Cochem
- ◆ One-way Journey on the Vulkan Express – Brohl to Engeln

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Saturday 22nd June 2024	7 Days	£929 pp	£162	£72

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel to Hull where we board our overnight ferry to Rotterdam. Dinner will be served on board.
- ◆ Following breakfast on board, we continue our journey to Boppard, arriving at the hotel in time for dinner.
- ◆ Today, we spend some free time in Boppard before hopping on board for a one-way river cruise from Boppard, upstream through the northern section of the UNESCO protected Upper Middle Rhine Valley, to Oberlahnstein. We continue by coach to Königswinter, an historic Rhine Valley town located at the foot of the Siebengebirge Hills. Here we join the Drachenfelsbahn, Germany's oldest cog railway, for a return journey. From the Valley Station to the summit, we cover a height difference of 220 metres, and at the top we see the ruined medieval Drachenfels ('dragon's cliff') Castle with great views across the River Rhine. After our time in Königswinter, we return to the hotel by coach.
- ◆ This morning we head to the Moselle Valley and the pretty riverside town of Cochem, from where we embark on a circular cruise along the Moselle River, enjoying views of Reichsburg Castle and the surrounding vineyards. After our cruise, we spend the rest of the day in Cochem at leisure, giving us time to explore the Old Town, made up of quaint squares, winding alleys, half-timbered buildings, and imposing town gates, watched over by its magnificent 11th Century Reichsburg Castle, a Gothic masterpiece perched on a rocky outcrop from where there are fantastic views.
- ◆ Today, we travel to Brohl for a one-way journey on the Vulkan Express, a unique narrow-gauge railway. The line meanders up through the Brohl Valley into the Eifel Hills, where dramatic rock formations were created during a period of volcanic activity. Opened in 1901, the 11-mile journey takes 90 minutes as the locomotives reach a speed of 20 kilometres, climbing around 1,310ft! This afternoon, we continue to Koblenz for some free time. Situated where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet, the historic Old Town of Koblenz has plenty to offer.
- ◆ After breakfast this morning, we begin our journey homeward, making our way to Rotterdam for our overnight sailing to Hull. Dinner will be served on board.
- ◆ Breakfast on board before we re-join our coach for the final journey home.

Lille & Brugges Christmas Markets

Intro



Mercure Roeselare Hotel

Located in the heart of West Flanders, the Mercure Roeselare Hotel is an ideal base for our festive break. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.



© Visit Bruges | Jan D'Hondt

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Return Overnight Ferry from Hull to Rotterdam
- ◆ Breakfasts & Dinners on Board
- ◆ Lille Christmas Markets
- ◆ Bruges Christmas Markets



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel to Hull where we board our overnight ferry to Rotterdam. Dinner will be served on board.
- ◆ Following breakfast on board, we continue our journey to Roeselare, making a stop in Ghent. Quirky Ghent offers a fascinating cultural cocktail brimming with trendy, modern, urban life. There's a huge array of restaurants, bars, and cafes in Ghent – foodies will be right at home here. We continue to the hotel, arriving in time for dinner.
- ◆ After breakfast, we cross the border into France to visit the Lille Christmas Markets. More than 900,000 visitors every year come to Lille's Christmas Markets to discover lights and decoration of the city, marvellous stalls but also the magic of the 'Grande Roue' at the heart of the Grand Place. The whole city is full of colour and happiness. Follow the irresistible aroma of cinnamon and roasted chestnuts to Place Rihour where you can find more than 80 decorated chalets. Here, merchants and craftspeople offer original and delightful gift ideas, regional products, gingerbread, and other delicacies.
- ◆ Today, we visit Bruges to experience a wonderful winter experience. There's ice-skating, a cosy winter bar, two Christmas markets, shopping fun during the day and a lovely walking trail to wander through the historic centre with its beautiful lights and Christmas decorations. Later, we return to Rotterdam for our return ferry to Hull. Dinner will be served on board.
- ◆ Breakfast on board before we re-join our coach for the final journey home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 28th November 2024	5 Days	£529 pp	£119	£61

Festive Breaks



Llandudno

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



Cornish Mistletoe & Wine

Cornwall is on a beautiful peninsula tumbling into the vast Atlantic Ocean, almost completely surrounded by the sea. Cornwall is loved for its dramatic coastlines, captivating fishing harbours, and of course, its pasties and cream teas!



© Flickr - helen@littlithorpe

© piqsels.com

Marlborough Hotel

A family-run hotel where a warm welcome awaits, located on the South Parade, just off the Promenade, opposite the Pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, and evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Conwy
- ◆ 1 Free Day in Llandudno
- ◆ Turkey & Tinsel Theme in the Hotel

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.
- ◆ In a nutshell, everyone loves Llandudno. Who could possibly argue with that while strolling along Llandudno's elegant promenade past pastel-coloured hotels and impeccably authentic seafront architecture just like the Victorians did? All that's needed to complete the picture is a frilly parasol (for the ladies) and a straw boater (for the gentlemen). Llandudno's appearance is down to the fact that, unlike most other resorts, it has remained largely unchanged for over a century. There's a pier, the longest in Wales, and Punch & Judy, donkey rides on the beach, and canopied shopping streets just behind the prom. Put simply, Llandudno is a classic of its kind.

The Rosemudy House Hotel

This elegant 3-star standard hotel is set in over 4 acres of secluded gardens and woodlands and yet only 100 yards from the main street in the quaint village of St Agnes. The Queen Ann style hotel is family run and has been tastefully extended and converted. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, lounge, bar, and some evening entertainment. Sorry, there is no lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ St Ives & Porthleven
- ◆ Bodmin Jail & Padstow
- ◆ Sherry Reception, Visit & Gift from Santa, Mince Pies at the Bar on the Last Evening

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Discover Cornwall's most haunting and dark history in the world-class immersive experience at Bodmin Jail. Delve into the depths of the jail's state-of-the-art 'Dark Walk' where your perceptions between the past and present will be blurred and provoked. Take 90-minutes to walk in the footsteps of the condemned! Later, we visit Padstow, a working harbour, surrounded by glorious beaches. In the town you'll find boutique shops and galleries at every twist and turn, showcasing the very best of Cornwall's makers & shakers! You'll always be led back to the harbour, at the very heart of this coastal town.
- ◆ St Ives – the dazzling jewel in Cornwall's crown is a picturesque fishing harbour and seaside town. Wander through the maze of narrow cobbled streets, independent shops, and fishermen's cottages in the heart of St Ives. St Ives has been attracting artists for decades and is a seemingly subtropical oasis where the beaches are golden, the vegetation is lush and the light piercingly bright. Later, we visit Porthleven, the most southerly working port in the UK, boasting a picturesque harbour, with some interesting old buildings. Porthleven retains the character of an unspoilt fishing village with its granite harbour and pier, and famous clock tower.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 1st November 2024	4 Days	£299 pp	NIL	£29

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 4th November 2024	5 Days	£399 pp	NIL	£29

Thursford Christmas Spectacular

The Thursford Christmas Spectacular is the largest Christmas Show in the country! Set in the magical surroundings of mechanical organs and fairground carousels, with a cast of 130 professional singers, dancers, and musicians – many of whom are West End performers. The 3-hour performance delivers an extravaganza of non-stop singing, dancing, music, humour, and variety. It's a fast-moving celebration of the festive season, featuring an eclectic mix of both seasonal and year-round favourites, with famous and much-loved chart toppers being sung alongside traditional carols.



Sidmouth Winter Break

Sidmouth is probably the most unspoilt resort in the country and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful. Quiet and unhurried, Sidmouth has preserved the natural beauty of the countryside with colourful gardens, open spaces, and tree-covered hills.



The Mercure Hotel Norwich

This superbly located hotel is just 3 miles from Norwich and close to the Norfolk Broads and Great Yarmouth. The hotel has a lift, Bar & Brasserie, and all en-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ticket for the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- ◆ 2 x Breakfasts and Either 2 x Evening Meals OR 1 x Lunch & 1 x Evening Meal in the hotel (depending on the time of the show)
- ◆ Free Time in Norwich

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel into Norwich where we have the morning at leisure to explore the city, all trimmed up for the festive season. Pay a visit to the Cathedral, cobbled Elm Hill, or just enjoy some retail therapy. We return to the hotel to freshen up before leaving for Thursford and its Christmas Spectacular. This Norfolk show is the largest Christmas production in the England and is a celebration of Christmas with choirs, carols, and the best organs including the mighty Wurlitzer playing.



DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday, 8th November 2024	3 Days	£399 pp	£50	£27

Royal York & Faulkner Hotel

The Royal York & Faulkner is a fine example of Regency architecture and forms a modern, spacious hotel. Situated in an unrivalled position at the centre of the Esplanade, the hotel directly overlooks the sea and is adjacent to the picturesque shopping centre. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, Aspara Spa with Hydrotherapy Pool, sauna & steam cabin, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ River Exe Cruise, Exmouth & Donkey Sanctuary with Cream Tea
- ◆ Okehampton, Dartmoor National Park & Tavistock

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Our day begins with a scenic cruise on the River Exe from Exmouth. We travel along the peaceful waters of the river, up near Powderham Castle, and along to where the river opens out into the English Channel on Exmouth's traditional seafront. Heated lower decks have large windows for great viewing. Time then for lunch in Exmouth, reputedly the oldest seaside resort in Britain, a lively town with a diverse selection of shops places to eat and things to do. Later, we stop at the Donkey Sanctuary. Besides the furry residents, explore exciting indoor attractions and find out just why donkeys matter through interactive displays in the Exhibition Barn and Understanding Donkeys Zone.
- ◆ Okehampton is a bustling market town on the very edge of Dartmoor National Park. There is a wealth of pubs, cafes, tea rooms, and restaurants where you will find delicious homemade, locally produced food. Shopping on Okehampton is easy as you'll be able to find pretty much everything you could ever need. We also visit Tavistock. Situated in the heart of an area of tremendous natural beauty, Tavistock is a vibrant world heritage town, worthy of any visitor. Weather permitting, we return to Sidmouth via haunting Dartmoor.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 10th November 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	NIL	£29

The Highlands Turkey & Tinsel

The Scottish Highlands is really the Scotland of your imagination and the perfect backdrop for your next adventure. We explore mysterious Loch Ness, pass through the Cairngorms National Park, marvel at iconic Dunrobin Castle, and be wowed by the stunning scenery on one of the most scenic rail journeys in the world.



© VisitScotland - Kenny Lam

Ben Wyvis Hotel

Placed in the heart of the stunning Victorian spa town of Strathpeffer, the Ben Wyvis has an imposing façade yet indoors a friendly welcome awaits you. The Ben Wyvis Hotel is a grand Victorian hotel full of character and charm, surrounded by 5 acres of woodland and landscaped mature gardens with stunning views of Ben Wyvis itself. The hotel has a lift, Strathview Lounge & Bar, and the Jacobite Restaurant. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Beaulieu & Inverness
- ◆ Loch Ness & Fort Augustus
- ◆ Ullapool & Strathpeffer
- ◆ Turkey & Tinsel Theme in the Hotel

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Centred around a pretty square, Beaulieu's award-winning independent shops and great places to eat make it a great place to visit. Later, we visit Inverness, capital of the Highlands, for shopping and a bite to eat.
- ◆ We enjoy a scenic drive along Loch Ness, making a short stop at Drumnadrochit. Located at the head of Urquhart Bay on the northern shore of Loch Ness, the lovely village of Drumnadrochit is popular with Loch Ness Monster hunters! The village is surrounded by the glens, Glen Urquhart and Glen Moriston, as well as the Great Glen that reaches across from Inverness in the east to Fort William in the west. Later, we visit Fort Augustus. Lying on the impressive 60-mile long Caledonian Canal, halfway between Inverness and Fort William, Fort Augustus offers spectacular views down Loch Ness. Sit and watch the boats navigate the locks or explore the Clansmen Centre, where appropriately attired guides demonstrate 17th Century clan weaponry.
- ◆ We enjoy a scenic drive today and make our way to the picturesque fishing town of Ullapool, nestled on the shores of Lochroom. Situated in one of the least spoilt natural environments in the UK, the town boasts a wealth of things to see and do. We return to Strathpeffer with time to relax in the hotel before dinner.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 11th November 2024	5 Days	£349 pp	£64	£29

Llandudno Holly & Mistletoe

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore, and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



© piqsels.com

Tynedale Hotel

Situated in a prime seafront position on Llandudno's iconic Victorian promenade, The Tynedale Hotel is bright, modern and welcoming, and just 20 metres from the beach and a short walk from the high street and the town's well-preserved pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Tea & Hot Mince Pies on Arrival
- ◆ Entertainment & Late-Night Finger Buffet Each Evening
- ◆ Sherry, Brandy or Malt Happy Hour
- ◆ Fun & Games

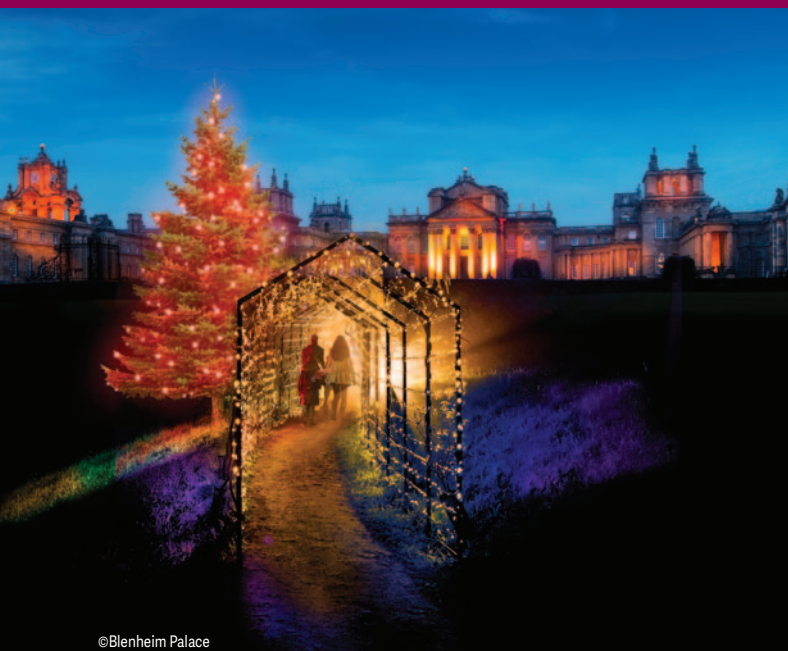
EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ 'Christmas Eve' – Tea & Hot Mince Pies on arrival, Sherry Reception & Canapes, 4-course Dinner, Entertainment & Cabaret, late-night finger buffet
- ◆ 'Christmas Day' – Conwy is one of Britain's best-preserved medieval towns with narrow cobbled streets nooks, and crannies chock-full of historic buildings. Back at the hotel, enjoy Christmas Carols and Tea this afternoon. Dinner this evening will be served with a complimentary glass of wine, Christmas Crackers, and a wonderful, warm atmosphere. entertainment till late and Late-Night Finger Buffet.
- ◆ 'Boxing Day' – We enjoy a run out into the Snowdonia National Park, making a stop at Betws-y-Coed. At 6pm, the Fire & Ice Evening begins with an Ice Bar & Special Drinks. The restaurant opens with an amazing tasting menu with a Tour of Theatre, followed by entertainment & of course, the late-night finger buffet.
- ◆ 'New Year's Eve' – The day is at leisure in Llandudno. At 4pm, afternoon tea/coffee is followed by a Haggis Rolling Competition. Your New Year's Eve Celebration Dinner is followed by a great evening of entertainment.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Wednesday 13th November 2024	5 Days	£489 pp	NIL	£29

Festive Blenheim & The Cotswolds

A lovely festive tour with a visit to Blenheim Palace, which will be transformed into a magical fairy tale fantasy world with the State Rooms being adorned with seasonal decorations. During our visit there will also be a Christmas Market held in the Great Court with over 70 chalets adding to the festive atmosphere. We also visit the lovely Cotswolds towns of Cirencester and Tetbury.



©Blenheim Palace

Blunsdon House Hotel

Set in 30-acres of beautiful Wiltshire countryside, this 4-star family owned and run hotel has extensive leisure facilities including indoor swimming pool and gym, two restaurants and three, comfortable bars. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Market Town of Marlborough
- ◆ Quintessentially English Lacock Village
- ◆ Admission to Blenheim Palace & Christmas Market
- ◆ Cirencester & Tetbury

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel to the lovely market town of Marlborough, with its High Street being one of the widest in the UK and lined on both sides with characterful old buildings housing an array of high-quality shops. We continue to the quintessentially English village of Lacock and take a step back in time before returning to the hotel.
- ◆ The highlight of this tour is a day spent at Blenheim Palace, transformed into a magical fairy tale fantasy world with the State Rooms being adorned with seasonal decorations. Wander beneath the garlands into rooms filled with glistening ornaments, ribbons, baubles, holly & mistletoe. Also, visit the Christmas Market in the Great Court with over 70 chalets adding to the festive atmosphere.
- ◆ We travel to Cirencester, the 'Capital of The Cotswolds' and the second largest town in England during Roman times. We continue to Tetbury, an historic well town well known for its independent shops, including antiques, vintage, boutiques, and The Highgrove Shop.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Thursday 14th November 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	£120	£29

Scarborough

Scarborough enjoys an unrivalled position as one of Britain's premier coastal resorts, yet also lies tantalisingly close to North Yorkshire's rugged national park. You can enjoy golden beaches, superb parks and gardens, and a wide range of leisure amenities, which have given Scarborough its justifiable reputation.



© Flickr - alh1.

Crown Spa Hotel

The 4-star Crown Spa Hotel is the oldest purpose-built hotel in Scarborough, with many of the original features still in their prime. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, safe, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and Spa with swimming pool.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Christmas at Castle Howard
- ◆ York Christmas Markets

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Castle Howard is a place like no other. The Howard story is one of ambition, public service, liberal politics, and artistic endeavours. Today, above all, it is about the challenge of preserving the family home as a national treasure for family and visitors alike to enjoy. Castle Howard's friendly and knowledgeable guides are on hand to share stories with you as you tour the house at your own pace exploring a treasure trove of inspiring architecture and interiors, as well as world-renowned collections. The house has been transformed into a beautiful winter wonderland, adorned with colourful garlands and traditional Christmas decorations. The theme has yet to be announced but we are confident you will be delighted & dazzled by it.
- ◆ Enjoy the Christmas cheer on offer in one of the UK's most festive cities as York's restaurants, shops, and attractions are beautifully decorated and provide a wonderful winter experience with an incredible range of festive events. Discover the delights of the iconic St Nicholas Fair. Meander through the alpine chalets and discover a treasure trove of festive goodies. Each chalet is adorned with twinkling fairy lights and stocked with everything from original gifts to extra special treats and handmade crafts. Indulge in mouthwatering street food, pick up some unique stocking fillers, and tuck into some seasonal produce from an array of local traders.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 17th November 2024	5 Days	£469 pp	£100	£29

Great Yarmouth Turkey & Tinsel

Enjoy a Winter Warmer in Norfolk, with festive entertainment provided each evening at the hotel. We include visits to the city of Norwich and the seaside resorts of Southwold and Great Yarmouth.



© Pixabay_Buzukis

The Palm Court Hotel

The family owned and run Palm Court Hotel stands in a quiet location on Great Yarmouth's seafront, overlooking the sea. Hotel facilities include lift, heated, indoor swimming pool, a good range of seating areas and two bars. The en-suite bedrooms are pleasantly decorated and well-equipped with TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Festive Entertainment each Evening
- ◆ Great Yarmouth
- ◆ Southwold
- ◆ Norwich

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We head west into Norwich, the capital city of Norfolk. A key landmark is the medieval Norwich Cathedral, a Romanesque building with ornate cloisters. Two imposing gates, St. Ethelbert's and Erpingham, lead to the Tombland area, once a Saxon marketplace. A visit to the Cathedral is a must, also cobbled Elm Hill and the Castle Mall shopping complex. We have time here for lunch and to explore before returning to the hotel via the charming Norfolk Broads. Dinner this evening will be followed by an evening of festive entertainment.
- ◆ Today's excursion takes us first down the coast and into Suffolk to the timeless and delightful seaside resort of Southwold, little changed since Victorian times. Sample the Southwold sea air! Later, we head north to Oulton Broad and Lowestoft, the most easterly point in England.



DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 18th November 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	NIL	£29

Delightful Corner of Wales

The natural beauty of the Pembrokeshire coast and southwest Wales are famed all over the world and are a delight to visit at any time of year. Glorious sandy beaches and seemingly endless rugged coastline give way to the Preseli Hills, historic towns and little villages. We stay in Carmarthen for our tour, ideal for visiting this delightful corner of Wales.



The Ivy Bush Royal Hotel

The Ivy Bush Royal Hotel is with walking distance of Carmarthen town centre and was once a favourite retreat for Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton. Sympathetically modernised, the hotel retains its old-world charm blended with modern-day facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant and bar, and all en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Festive Entertainment on Two Evenings
- ◆ Tenby and Saundersfoot
- ◆ Newcastle Emlyn, Cardigan & Teifi Estuary
- ◆ City of Swansea & The Mumbles

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel west to the popular small seaside resort of Saundersfoot, where we stay awhile with time to explore the little harbour. From here, we make the short journey to Tenby. With old town walls, interesting little side streets and alleyways to explore, and superb beaches, Tenby is South-west Wales's main holiday resort and is always a pleasant and friendly place to visit. Our return to the hotel takes us via Pendine Sands and Laugharne, former home of Dylan Thomas.
- ◆ Today, we travel to the city of Swansea. We visit the Welsh National Waterfront Museum on Swansea's historic dockyard, which tells the story of industry and innovation in Wales, now and over the last 300 years. We have a break in cosy, cosmopolitan Mumbles, one of Dylan Thomas' many stomping grounds and home to some world class ice cream too! We return to the city for an afternoon of exploration and maybe a stroll around Swansea's beautiful marina.
- ◆ Today's excursion takes us first to Newcastle Emlyn, a delightful historic market town nestled within the stunningly beautiful Teifi Valley, for a short break. We continue to Cardigan, at the mouth of the Teifi River, which flows into Cardigan Bay. We have time for lunch and a look around before we head around the Preseli Mountains and make our way back to Carmarthen.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 18th November 2024	5 Days	£379 pp	NIL	£29

Festive Devon & Exeter Christmas Markets

The winter season is full of cheer and magic, even at the seaside! While you might not think that being by the sea when the weather gets a bit wild but there's still plenty going on, as you can see in our Festive Itinerary.



Devon Hotel, Exeter

The Devon Hotel has always had a reputation for outstanding cuisine and luxury accommodation. Centred around a Georgian manor house, The Devon Hotel oozes warmth and charm. The hotel has a restaurant & bar. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Exeter Christmas Markets
- ◆ Festive Cruise on the River Exe
- ◆ Plymouth
- ◆ Sidmouth

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We take time out of the busy festive season to sit back, relax and enjoy Christmas in Devon on the calm and sheltered waters of the River Exe. The festively decorated boats have covered and heated lower decks, with cosy blankets plenty of fresh air and great views on the upper outside deck. You will have a warm welcome with a glass of proper homemade mulled wine and a tasty, warmed mince pie to enjoy as we sail. Later, make it a day out to remember at Exeter Cathedral Christmas Market. Discover something for everyone, with over a hundred twinkling festive chalets, local gifts, and produce, themed bars, global street food, seasonal entertainment and free entry into the awesome Exeter Cathedral, including the Light of Hope Star installation by artist, Peter Walker.
- ◆ Come rain or shine, Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City offers a stunning coastal experience home to breath taking views, plenty to see and do, delicious food & drink, and of course, lots of fresh sea air. Explore the scenic waterfront indulge in retail therapy, there's nowhere quite like it.
- ◆ Hidden in plain view along the beautiful Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Sidmouth is a seaside town like no other. Sitting along an impressive coastline and surrounded by spectacular countryside, Sidmouth allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds. The lovely seaside town is nestled beneath majestic red cliffs, which, along with the green hills of the Sid Valley will captivate you too.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 24th November 2024	5 Days	£449 pp	£80	£29

All Inclusive Turkey & Tinsel at The Winnock

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs are just as stunning in the winter as in the summer. There's lots included in our Scottish Turkey & Tinsel package and lots of opportunity to cosy up in front of a warm fire with a warming drink. So, get ready for Christmas on our All-Inclusive holiday.



The Winnock Hotel

The Winnock Hotel is Drymen's landmark building. A former 18th Century coaching inn, The Winnock takes centre stage in the conservation village and sits on the village green looking out over spectacular surroundings. En-suite bedrooms are sympathetically decorated with TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a spacious lounge & bar, covered and heated outdoor decking area, and restaurant. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms can be requested and are subject to availability.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Packed Lunch or Soup & Sandwich Lunch on 3 days
- ◆ Christmas Dinner with All the Trimmings
- ◆ Scottish Weaponry Display with Swords, Kilts & Storytelling
- ◆ Traditional Scottish Dinner & Scottish Show on 'Hogmanay'
- ◆ Free Bar from 19:30-22:30 each night (selected drinks)
- ◆ Edinburgh & Three Bridges Cruise with Cream Tea
- ◆ Glasgow Christmas Shopping
- ◆ Scenic Loch Lomond & The Green Welly Stop

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ First stop is Edinburgh – with the city's skyline, cobbled streets, and colourful characters as your backdrop. Most popular is the Royal Mile based in the Old Town and within a World Heritage Site, jam packed with things to see and do. Later, we join Forth Boat Tours for a Three Bridges Cruise with delicious Cream Tea. Take in spectacular views of the Three Bridges, the beautiful panoramas of the Edinburgh skyline to the south and the Kingdom of Fife to the north, the island of Inchcolm with its medieval abbey, and the islands of Inchgarvie, Inchkeith, and Inchmickery.
- ◆ Glasgow plays host to a huge range of things to do and is home to some of Scotland's best cultural attractions. Enjoy amazing shopping, take a walking tour, or uncover countless treasures inside fantastic museums and art galleries.
- ◆ We take a scenic tour today travelling along the banks of Loch Lomond, stopping at the pretty conservation village of Luss. With its prim, identical sandstone and slate cottages and narrow, pebbly strand the village became the setting for the successful TV soap High Road. We return to the Winnock Hotel for a delicious Soup & Sandwich lunch.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 25th November 2024	5 Days	£499 pp	£76	£29

Isle of Wight – Taste of Christmas

Boasting award-winning beaches, unspoilt and spectacular scenery, and a rich, historical heritage, the Isle of Wight has something for everyone to enjoy. Discover picturesque villages, spectacular cliffs, and sandy beaches. Our base in Sandown, a traditional seaside resort with long stretches of beach and a Victorian pier.



The Trouville Hotel

Situated centrally on Sandown's seafront, opposite the golden beach, and with views over the sweep of Sandown & Shanklin Bay, is the Trouville Hotel. Well-appointed, en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, ballroom, function room, and some live entertainment during your stay.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ryde & East Cowes
- ◆ Godshill, Alum Bay & The Needles
- ◆ Christmas Eve - Arrival Tea/Coffee & Mince Pies, Evening of Music & Dancing
- ◆ Christmas Day – Afternoon Tea/Coffee & Biscuits with a Christmas Quiz, Traditional Christmas Dinner, Evening of Music & Dancing
- ◆ Boxing Day – Afternoon Tea/Coffee & Cake with Bingo, Evening of Music & Dancing
- ◆ New Year's Eve – Tea/Coffee & Stollen with General Knowledge Quiz, Farewell Dinner, Party Night with Dancing & Entertainment



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We visit Ryde. Paul McCartney recently confirmed what the town already 'knew' ... The Beatles hit Ticket to Ride was inspired by a trip to Ryde made by Macca and John Lennon in the early sixties! It's a fantastic place that combines shopping centres, golden sands and creative hearts. We also visit Cowes, home to the oldest and biggest sailing regatta in the world. Stroll through the vibrant town and enjoy independent shops and well-known yachting clothing stores, sit at a pavement café, or have lunch and people watch.
- ◆ Godshill is the quintessential English village and boasts some of the oldest architecture on the Isle of Wight. With its delightful medieval church and winding main street lined with traditional tea rooms, Godshill is as picturesque as it is popular. We also visit Alum Bay for views of The Needles, one of the most photographed groups of rocks in the world.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 25th November 2024	5 Days	£389 pp	NIL	£29

Thursford Christmas Spectacular

The Thursford Christmas Spectacular is the largest Christmas Show in the country! Set in the magical surroundings of mechanical organs and fairground carousels, with a cast of 130 professional singers, dancers, and musicians – many of whom are West End performers. The 3-hour performance delivers an extravaganza of non-stop singing, dancing, music, humour, and variety. It's a fast-moving celebration of the festive season, featuring an eclectic mix of both seasonal and year-round favourites, with famous and much-loved chart toppers being sung alongside traditional carols.



Cumbria Mistletoe & Markets

Nobody does Christmas quite like the Lake District. Put a warm cup of mulled wine into your mittened hands, explore the wonderful winter markets, or find a roaring fire in a country pub and enjoy a glass or two of local ale.



Cumbria Grand Hotel

The Cumbria Grand Hotel was built in 1880 and is set in 20 acres of private gardens and woodland, overlooking Morecambe Bay. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, outdoor garden area, free Wi-Fi in public areas and 2 nights' entertainment.

The Mercure Hotel Norwich

This superbly located hotel is just 3 miles from Norwich and close to the Norfolk Broads and Great Yarmouth. The hotel has a lift, Bar & Brasserie, and all en-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Ticket for the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- ◆ 2 x Breakfasts and Either 2 x Evening Meals OR 1 x Lunch & 1 x Evening Meal in the hotel (depending on the time of the show)
- ◆ Free Time in Norwich

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We travel into Norwich where we have the morning at leisure to explore the city, all trimmed up for the festive season. Pay a visit to the Cathedral, cobbled Elm Hill, or just enjoy some retail therapy. We return to the hotel to freshen up before leaving for Thursford and its Christmas Spectacular. This Norfolk show is the largest Christmas production in the England and is a celebration of Christmas with choirs, carols, and the best organs including the mighty Wurlitzer playing.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Glass of Bubbly
- ◆ Coffee & Mince Pies on the Second Evening
- ◆ 2 Nights' Entertainment
- ◆ Ulverston Dickensian Festival

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ The Ulverston Dickensian Festival is one of the country's favourite Christmas festivals. As well as Ulverston's fantastic specialist shops, great pubs and cafes, cobbled streets and great atmosphere, there is a huge variety of free entertainment, costume competitions, balloon modelling, horse drawn carriages, music, and dancing. There's also a fabulous Christmas Market with lots of unusual gifts and festive food.



DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday, 29th November 2024	3 Days	£399 pp	£50	£27

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 29th November 2024	3 Days	£249 pp	£36	£27

St Annes Turkey & Tinsel

St Annes on Sea, on the Fylde Coast, offers a gentle and peaceful way of life. St Annes boasts a beautifully restored Victorian Pier, promenade with views across to North Wales, multi award-winning beach huts, a wide-open sandy beach, plenty of places to eat, and wonderful seaside charm.



Harrogate Fizz & Fayre

Welcome to Harrogate, a Victorian spa town and rural district in the heart of Yorkshire. A beautiful location to use as our base for this Festive tour.



The St Ives Hotel

A warm welcome awaits you at the St Ives Hotel, which is located close to the beach and the pier. Tastefully decorated en-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, bar, indoor swimming pool, and some evening entertainment during your stay.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Fleetwood Market
- ◆ Cleveleys
- ◆ Southport
- ◆ 3 Nights' Evening Entertainment

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ A busy traditional coastal market offering a great seaside shopping experience, Fleetwood Market has over 150 stalls within three indoor halls and a selection of outdoor stalls. A true shopper's paradise you'll find a variety of stalls including jewellery, clothing and household goods, all at great prices. Later, we continue to the friendly seaside resort of Cleveleys. With great access, public artworks, clean beaches and public facilities, Cleveleys Seafront is worth a visit. The town centre is compact but has everything you need, plenty of cafes and places to meet.
- ◆ Southport's Lord Street is lined with sparkly lights, an ideal place to start your Christmas Shopping. There's an abundance of independent restaurants and bars making Southport a foodie's haven, and it's full of culture. Whether it's the historic Victorian architecture or Iron Pier there's plenty on offer. For the culture vultures there's The Atkinson – be inspired in the Art Gallery, see Anne Goodison's personal artefacts in the stunning Egyptology Museum, and learn the history of Sefton from prehistoric times to the present day in the Local History Museum.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 2nd December 2024	5 Days	£369 pp	NIL	£29

The Cairn Hotel

The Cairn Hotel was built during Harrogate's period of a spa town when people came from far & wide to take the waters. Carefully modernised, grand original features still welcome you to this charming Victorian hotel. The hotel is located just a 5-minute walk to the centre of town. Due to the age and nature of this old building, en-suite bedrooms are individual in size & shape and feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, lounge, and bar.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ York Christmas Festival
- ◆ Leeds German Christmas Markets
- ◆ Mini Afternoon Tea & Fizz Drinks Reception
- ◆ Live Entertainment Each Evening

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Enjoy the Christmas Cheer on offer in one of the UK's most festive cities as York's restaurants, shops, and attractions are beautifully decorated and provide a wonderful winter experience, with an incredible range of festive events. The annual Christmas Fayre, set in the historic square, has continued since Medieval times. The city comes alive with Victorian costumed traders, carol singers, and delicious smells of roasted chestnuts and hot chocolate laced with brandy. The charming alpine chalets that line the streets offer everything from handmade gifts to delicious treats.
- ◆ Leeds Christmas Market promises to be bigger and better than ever. Streets and spaces all across the city centre will be hosting around 120 Bavarian-style, traditional timber market stalls decked out in festive lighting and will include international, UK, Yorkshire, and Leeds traders. There will be lots of events and experiences which will run alongside the market, complementing the city's long established traditional Christmas offer on Millennium Square and Victoria Gardens including the popular Ice Cube outdoor skating rink, market stalls and other themed attractions.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 2nd December 2024	5 Days	£389 pp	£64	£29

Perthshire Gingerbread & Gin

Perthshire is a region of breath-taking variety, from its serene glens and endless expanse of lush forest to its bleakly beautiful moors, running rivers and tumbling waterfalls.



Salutation Hotel

Reputed to be one of the oldest hotels in Scotland, the Salutation Hotel has been welcoming guests since 1699. Situated in the heart of the historic city of Perth, the hotel offers a warm welcome. En-suite bedrooms are individual in style, shape and size and feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar & lounge.



Courtesy Shakespeare Distillery

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Edinburgh Christmas Markets
- ◆ Picturesque Pitlochry
- ◆ Festive Themed Afternoon Tea & Gin Cocktail
- ◆ Festive Fizz Drinks Reception
- ◆ 2 Nights' Entertainment



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EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Edinburgh at Christmas time is truly magical. Practice your moves on the ice at the popular ice rink on George Street. Or spectate clutching a warm hot toddy from the comfort of the nearby cabin bar. Nestled in the heart of the city, the traditional Christmas Market on Princes Street has a range of European and Scottish food & drinks, unique crafts, clothing, and gifts for the home and is a lovely place to browse for some special Christmas gifts.
- ◆ Pitlochry is one of Scotland's most beautiful and vibrant places to visit. In the heart of Scotland with real hospitality, clear sparkling air, beautiful scenery rich clan history, fine food, plenty of space and lots to see and do. Pitlochry has a great range of shops to choose from, located along the main street, Atholl Road, also West Moulin Road and Bonneathill Road.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 2nd December 2024	5 Days	£339 pp	£64	£29

Eastbourne Turkey & Tinsel

Eastbourne is a town with grace and elegance, that has something for everyone – a landscaped, pedestrianised town centre, bordered by a large range of shops, a clean, well-managed beach and seafront renowned for its attractive three-tier flower decked level promenade.



The Haddon Hall Hotel

The Haddon Hall Hotel is enviably situated at the seafront end of Devonshire Place, a broad tree-lined avenue which links the main promenade with the town centre. The Bandstand is located across the road from the hotel. All the well-furnished, ensuite bedrooms have TV, telephone, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, spacious lounge, ballrooms, cocktail bar, and some entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Entertainment Each Evening
- ◆ Afternoon Fun & Games on 3 Afternoons
- ◆ Brighton Christmas Festival
- ◆ Hever Castle – Dressed for Christmas

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ Brighton is a cosmopolitan town with its majestic Regency squares and crescents, iconic Royal Pavilion, and famous piers. There's an abundance of independent shops, boutiques, and award-winning restaurants. Our visit coincides with Brighton Christmas Festival featuring a large Christmas market, a 50m observation wheel, and a variety of festive events.
- ◆ At Hever Castle you will be met with beautiful traditionally decorated rooms, welcoming log fires and twinkling Christmas trees. In front of the Castle, ride the gallopers then head to the Big Wheel and have a go at 'hook a duck' (additional charges apply). Appreciate relaxed Christmas shopping in the Gift Shops, and feast on delicious seasonal food in the cafes and kiosks.



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DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Friday 6th December 2024	5 Days	£409 pp	NIL	£29

Heart of England

The Heart of England is a place steeped in history, art and culture. Based in Great Malvern with the beautiful Malvern Hills overlooking the town, we take you on a lovely sightseeing holiday showcasing some of the very best the region has to offer.



The Abbey Hotel

The setting of the Abbey Hotel is by far one of the most perfect in the country, situated right at the heart of the countryside at the foot of the Malvern Hills. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, ironing centre, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Priory View Restaurant, 1848 Lounge Bar, and the Courtyard Café.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Gloucester Cathedral & Gloucester Quays
- ◆ Ledbury & Monmouth
- ◆ Hereford & Ross on Wye

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We discover fascinating stories, breath-taking architecture and hidden spaces on our Guided Tour of beautiful Gloucester Cathedral. On our Highlights Tour we will hear about the fascinating world of monks who used to live here, see how the architecture has evolved over the last 1,000 years, and visit where Harry Potter was filmed. Free time then at Gloucester Docks, set in a stunning waterside location with top brand outlets and quality dining options.
- ◆ First stop is Ledbury, with historic streets lined with brilliant independent shops, plus plenty of places to refuel. The town is surrounded by woods, orchards and hills, with footpaths winding up to the Malvern Hills. Soak up the town's history as you stroll the streets. See the unusual, stilted 17th Century Market House and walk up the cobbles of Church Street, home to the 16th Century Painted Room the Heritage Centre, the Butcher's Row Museum and St Michael's and All Angels Church. Monmouth next, well-known for its iconic 13th Century gatehouse bridge and famous past with connections to Henry V. Time here for lunch as Monmouth has restaurants to suit all tastes and plenty of opportunities for coffee in a quiet courtyard.
- ◆ We visit Hereford, which sits on a loop of the River Wye. The golden-stone cathedral, with its medieval Mappa Mundi and Chained Library, is a huge draw, but you can also wander among half-timbered houses and stroll along the Wye. Browse independent shops across the city – they're clustered along quirky Church Street – and explore the Old Market, transformed into an open-air destination for shopping and dining. Later, our attention turns to Ross-on-Wye, an inviting place to potter. When William Galpin wrote Britain's first travel guidebook about the Wye Valley in 1782, he sparked a trend for 'picturesque tourism'. Today, you can browse independent shops, saunter the historic streets, and track down treasures, from curios and collectables to jewellery and furniture.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 8th December 2024	5 Days	£479 pp	£60	£29

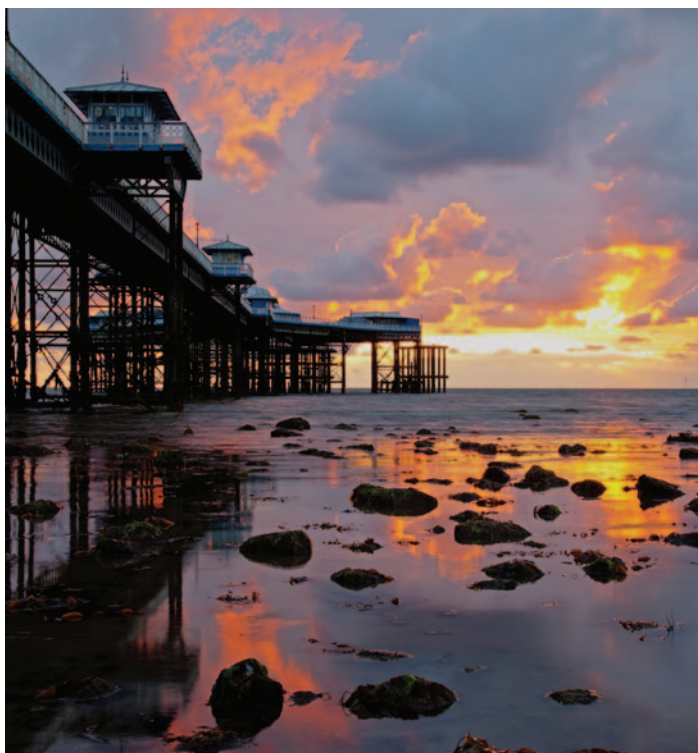
Llandudno

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches, the award-winning North Shore and the quiet, sand-duned West Shore.



Marlborough Hotel

A family-run hotel where a warm welcome awaits, located on the South Parade, just off the Promenade, opposite the Pier. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, and evening entertainment.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Conwy
- ◆ 2 Free Days in Llandudno
- ◆ Turkey & Tinsel Theme in the Hotel



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ We enjoy a half-day trip out to Conwy, one of the best-preserved medieval towns. Well preserved ancient walls enclose a town of narrow cobbled streets, nooks, and crannies, chock-full of historic buildings. The walls radiate out from a gritty, dark-stoned castle that, even after all these years, still preserves an authentic medieval atmosphere – and still has the power to dominate.
- ◆ In a nutshell, everyone loves Llandudno. Who could possibly argue with that while strolling along Llandudno's elegant promenade past pastel-coloured hotels and impeccably authentic seafront architecture just like the Victorians did? All that's needed to complete the picture is a frilly parasol (for the ladies) and a straw boater (for the gentlemen). Llandudno's appearance is down to the fact that, unlike most other resorts, it has remained largely unchanged for over a century. There's a pier, the longest in Wales, and Punch & Judy, donkey rides on the beach, and canopied shopping streets just behind the prom. Put simply, Llandudno is a classic of its kind.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 16th December 2024	5 Days	£369 pp	NIL	£29

Christmas in Blackpool

Spend your festive holiday in the fresh seaside air. With plenty of things to do, special added extras and a beautiful backdrop just waiting to be explored, this is sure to be your most magical Christmas yet. Let us help you capture the spirit of Christmas and make the festivities truly memorable.



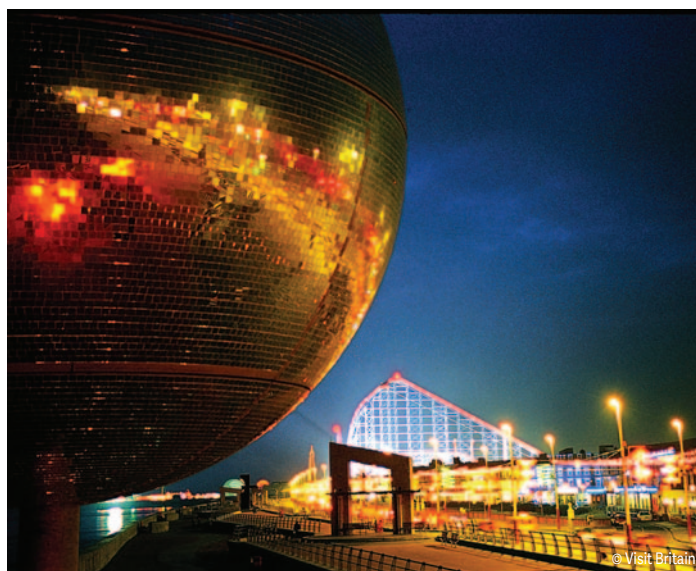
The Doric Hotel

Situate on the Queen's Promenade, with breath-taking views over the Irish Sea, Morecambe Bay and the Isle of Man, The Doric Hotel is a firm favourite. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor swimming pool, and incredible entertainment each evening.



SAMPLE OF INCLUSIONS YET TO BE FINALISED BY THE HOTEL

- ◆ Morning Entertainment, Buffet Lunch, Afternoon Entertainment, Banquet Dinner, Evening Entertainment of Christmas Eve
- ◆ Morning Entertainment, Gala Lunch, Gift from Santa, King's Speech with Tea/Coffee & Cake, Afternoon Entertainment, Hot Barm, Evening Entertainment on Christmas Day
- ◆ Morning Entertainment, Buffet Lunch, Afternoon Entertainment, Banquet Dinner, Evening Entertainment on Boxing Day



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ A pool of highly professional entertainers awaits you at The Doric. A full all-year-round entertainment with Tribute Acts, performances, and fabulous vocal talent are all waiting in the spotlight to entertain you.
- ◆ Please note our coach & driver do not stay with you in resort on these tours and there are no excursions included.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 23rd December 2024	5 Days	£599 pp	NIL	£29

Christmas in Harrogate

We invite you to spend Christmas in the Victorian spa town of Harrogate with thriving streets busy with shops and eateries. Possibly the most distinctive feature of Harrogate is its vast open space that surrounds the town centre, known locally as The Stray, at 200 acres this gives Harrogate town centre a green and spacious feel, unique to the town.



The Doubletree by Hilton Harrogate Majestic Hotel

Built in 1889, our hotel sits on eight acres of landscaped gardens in the heart of Harrogate, just half a mile from Betty's Tea Rooms. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, safe, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, Carter's Champagne Bar & Grill, Frederick's Piano Lounge, and The Harrogate Spa with spa treatments, indoor swimming pool, sauna, and steam room.



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SAMPLE OF INCLUSIONS YET TO BE FINALISED BY THE HOTEL

- ◆ Bottle of Wine, Welcome Hamper & Chocolates in your room on arrival
- ◆ Afternoon Tea, 3-Course Xmas Eve Dinner with Live Singer, Professional Photos in front of the Christmas Tree
- ◆ 4-Course Christmas Day Lunch in Carters Champagne Bar & Grill with Live Pianist, King's Speech with Christmas Cake, Artisan Buffet Dinner with Pre-Dinner Cocktail



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ **Christmas Eve** A scenic drive takes us to the unspoilt cathedral city of Ripon. With its thriving marketplace and magnificent cathedral this busy little city will earn a place in your heart. Reaching out from the market square are small streets and snickets that are home to the eclectic and specialist shops for which Ripon is so loved. Later, we return to Harrogate to enjoy Afternoon Tea in the hotel. This evening, enjoy dinner with a live singer followed by professional photographs in front of the Christmas Tree.
- ◆ **Christmas Day** Merry Christmas! The morning is at leisure to relax in the hotel and open your presents or perhaps take a stroll in Harrogate. Our four-course traditional Christmas lunch will be served in Carter's Champagne Bar & Grill and will be accompanied by a live Pianist. Later, settle down for the King's Speech with a slice of delicious Christmas Cake. This evening, we have an Artisan Buffet Dinner with a pre-dinner Cocktail.
- ◆ **Boxing Day** Leeds is our destination today for a little retail therapy. Leeds is a shopper's paradise with a compact, walkable centre. You're never far away from the biggest brands, the best boutiques, and those cool, quirky finds that independents are renowned for. (Please note, not all shops may be open). In the afternoon, we take our seats for the matinee performance of the Pantomime – oh yes we do! This evening we enjoy a delicious 3-course Boxing Day dinner.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 23rd December 2024	5 Days	£599 pp	£180	£29

Christmas in Perthshire

Perthshire is a region of breath-taking variety, from its serene glens and endless expanse of lush forest to its bleakly beautiful moors, running rivers and tumbling waterfalls.



Salutation Hotel

Reputed to be one of the oldest hotels in Scotland, the Salutation Hotel has been welcoming guests since 1699. Situated in the heart of the historic city of Perth, the hotel offers a warm welcome. En-suite bedrooms are individual in style, shape and size and feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar & lounge.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Arrival Tea & Cakes
- ◆ Lunches
- ◆ Themed Dinners
- ◆ Entertainment

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ **Christmas Eve** Start the day with a hearty Scottish breakfast, followed by some free time in the historic city of Perth for some last-minute shopping. A Soup & Sandwich lunch will be served in the Adam Restaurant then join your fellow guests for Tea & Cakes in the Moncrieff Suite. Pick up your Christmas Cryptic Quiz forms from Reception. In the evening, enjoy a Glass of Wine before tucking into a traditional 3-course Scottish themed dinner followed by Scottish Music. For those attending Midnight Service, tea & mince pies will be served by the fire on your return.
- ◆ **Christmas Day** Merry Christmas! After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely stroll down the banks of the River Tay then, appetites stimulated, make your way back for a traditional Christmas Day Carvery Lunch, a glass of bubbly, and a visit from Santa's helpers with a small gift for all! The King's Speech is followed by Tea & Christmas Cake. This evening, there will be a cold buffet, then relax in the bar with friends and enjoy some traditional TV favourites.
- ◆ **Boxing Day** We enjoy a scenic drive to beautiful Pitlochry with time for a stroll before we return to the hotel for Broth and Sausage Rolls. Then join your fellow guests for Tea & Cakes late afternoon. A delicious dinner will be followed by entertainment in the Moncrieff Suite.



DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 23rd December 2024	5 Days	£569 pp	£64	£29

A Warm Welcome to Wales

This Christmas tour combines the imposing scenery of North Wales, amidst the valleys and hillsides, with the vibrant life of Chester. Our base in on the outskirts of the friendly market town of Mold, which has a tradition of a welcome typical of this part of Wales with its proud heritage and strong family connections.



The Beaufort Park Hotel

The Beaufort Park Hotel, on the outskirts of the pleasant market town of Mold, is the ideal centre for our tour. The welcome you will receive will make you feel that you never want to leave. The Scandinavian-style reception and mezzanine lounge provide an oasis of peace to relax, read or enjoy a coffee with friends. The hotel has a restaurant, and bar. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request. All en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ **Christmas Eve** After a hearty Welsh breakfast, pick up your packed lunch, then we travel to the historic city of Chester with its Roman walls and famous 'Rows', a medieval shopping complex, dating from the Middle Ages, with all the famous high street names to be found on two levels. It is famous for its many half-timbered houses and its two-mile path around the top of the red sandstone battlements. You will have plenty of time for shopping, sightseeing or simply soaking up the atmosphere. In the evening, there will be festive entertainment after dinner. If you wish to visit a local church for mass, please ask at Reception for details.
- ◆ **Christmas Day** A hearty breakfast, then time to open your presents, and relax! Join fellow guests in the Westminster Suite for a glass of Bucks Fizz and Christmas Carols before your traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. Make a toast to absent friends and await Santa who will no doubt be dropping by. This afternoon, watch the King's Speech, enjoy a film and play 'Guess the Weight of the Christmas Cake'. In the evening, there will be a buffet dinner followed by entertainment.
- ◆ **Boxing Day** We start the day with breakfast then take a jaunt through the scenic Clwydian Range in the Dee Valley with scenic landscapes, dramatic summits, and historic towns and villages. We return to the hotel with time to relax before an afternoon of fun and games, with a break for Afternoon Tea. Our final dinner will be followed by musical entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ A Welsh Evening
- ◆ Festive Entertainment
- ◆ Historic Chester

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 23rd December 2024	5 Days	£509 pp	NIL	£29

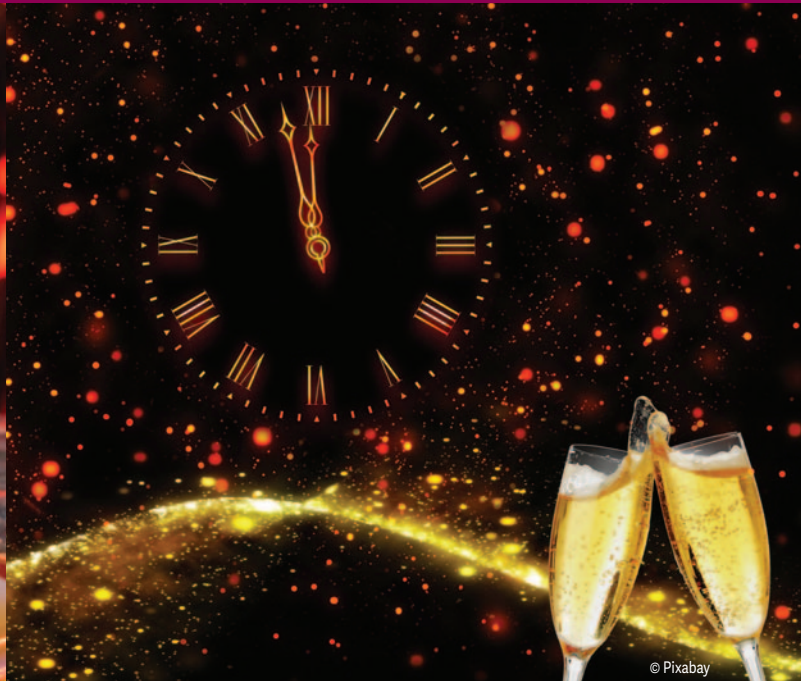
Twixmas at The Tynedale

Ever popular, we are delighted to feature this fantastic Twixmas break to The Tynedale Hotel, Llandudno.



New Year in Blackpool

See in 2025 in the fresh seaside air. With plenty of things to do, special added extras and a beautiful backdrop just waiting to be explored, your New Year break is sure to be truly memorable.



The Tynedale Hotel

Situated in a prime sea-front position on Llandudno's iconic Victorian promenade, The Tynedale Hotel is bright, modern, and welcoming, just 20 metres from the beach and a short walk from the high street and the town's well-preserved pier. The en-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, central-heating, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, and bar.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Glass of Sherry & Designer Canapes
- ◆ Afternoon Tea
- ◆ Haggis rolling Competition
- ◆ Late Night Finger Buffet Each Evening
- ◆ Evening Entertainment

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ A Warm Welcome awaits you in the bar whilst hotel staff take care of your luggage, and you enjoy Tea & Hot Mince Pies. A glass of Sherry and 'designer' canapes are served prior to evening dinner – a fabulous 4-course meal with hats, streamers, and party poppers. Following dinner there is an evening of entertainment in the Café Bar. At 11pm, indulge in the complimentary finger buffet to end your day.
- ◆ Enjoy a leisurely breakfast with the day free to explore Llandudno independently. Stroll along the Victorian seafront and explore the pier – the longest in Wales or browse the shops along Mostyn Street and grab yourself a bargain in the Sales! At 4pm, be back at the hotel for complimentary Tea followed by a traditional Haggis Rolling competition. 'Happy Hour' at the bar takes place between 5pm & 6:30pm, followed by a candlelit dinner and entertainment in the Café Bar. The evening is rounded off with Auld Lang Syne and of course, the late-night finger buffet.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Saturday 28th December	3 Days	£319 pp	NIL	£27

The Doric Hotel

Situate on the Queen's Promenade, with breath-taking views over the Irish Sea, Morecambe Bay and the Isle of Man, The Doric Hotel is a firm favourite. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor swimming pool, and incredible entertainment each evening.

SAMPLE OF INCLUSIONS YET TO BE FINALISED BY THE HOTEL

- ◆ Afternoon Entertainment, Banquet Dinner, Evening Entertainment, Bacon Sandwiches on New Year's Eve
- ◆ Bubbly Breakfast, Afternoon Entertainment, 'Round the World' Buffet, Evening Entertainment on New Year's Day

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ A pool of highly professional entertainers awaits you at The Doric. A full all-year-round entertainment with Tribute Acts, performances, and fabulous vocal talent are all waiting in the spotlight to entertain you.
- ◆ Please note our coach & driver do not stay with you in resort on these tours and there are no excursions included.



DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 30th December 2024	4 Days	£469 pp	NIL	£29

New Year in Sidmouth

Sidmouth is probably the most unspoilt resort in the country and undoubtedly one of the most beautiful. Quiet and unhurried, Sidmouth has preserved the natural beauty of the countryside with colourful gardens, open spaces and tree covered hills.



The Royal York & Faulkner Hotel

The hotel is a fine example of Regency architecture and forms a modern, spacious hotel. Situated in an unrivalled position at the centre of the Esplanade, the Royal York & Faulkner directly overlooks the sea and is adjacent to the picturesque shopping centre. En-suite bedrooms have TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, Aspara Spa, and some entertainment.



SAMPLE OF INCLUSIONS YET TO BE FINALISED BY THE HOTEL

- ◆ Gala Dinner on New Year's Eve with Music & Dancing
- ◆ Roulette or Black Jack (Fun Money Provided)
- ◆ Grand Prize Draw
- ◆ Champagne to Toast the New Year & Auld Lang Syne



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ **New Year's Eve** A scenic drive takes us to the pretty seaside resort of Lyme Regis. Enjoy a wander through the gardens, a walk along the Southwest Coast Path or stroll along The Cobb. Not only is Lyme Regis a fantastic town to enjoy gorgeous sea views, but its eateries also feature menus filled with locally caught seafood and delicious local produce. The town is a narrow tangle of streets and shops that find their way down to the famous 13th Century Cobb harbour.
- ◆ **New Year's Day** Happy New Year! The day is free to explore Sidmouth, a town like no other, with friendly faces and beautiful scenery. The dramatic cliffs, fresh sea air and abundance of attractions make it a wonderful place to recharge the batteries.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 30th December 2024	4 Days	£459 pp	NIL	£29

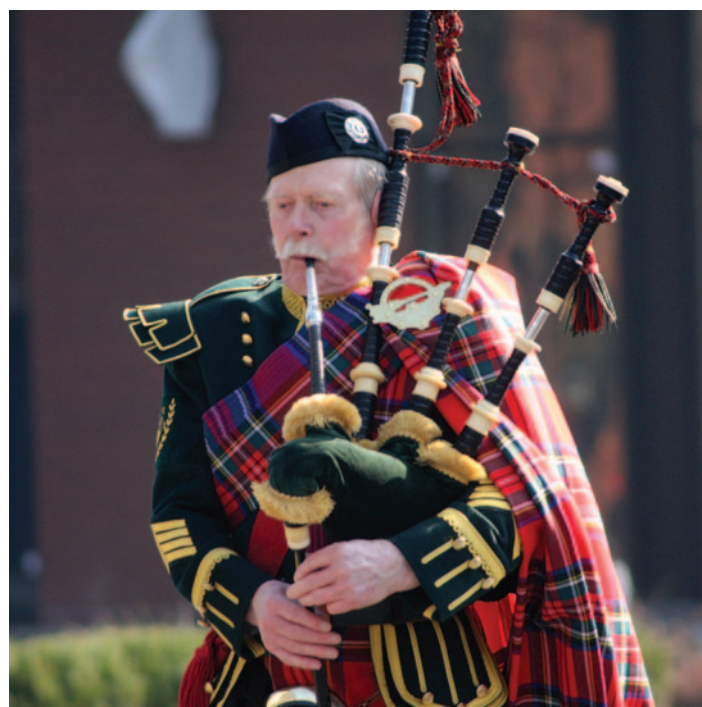
Hogmanay in the Highlands

What better way to spend the New Year than 'Scottish Style'. Join us for this traditional Hogmanay break based in Granttown on Spey in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park.



The Craigllynne Hotel

Located in Granttown-on-Spey, in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, the Craigllynne Hotel is surrounded by immaculate gardens and views across the neighbouring Cromdale Hills, overlooking Granttown-on-Spey. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, and conservatory.



SAMPLE OF INCLUSIONS YET TO BE FINALISED BY THE HOTEL

- ◆ Welcome warming glass of Mulled Wine
- ◆ Live Entertainment
- ◆ Lone Piper to welcome in the New Year
- ◆ Cairngorm Mountain Railway



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ **New Year's Eve** Inverness is the 'Capital of the Highlands' and boasts a great range of shops on the High Street and not forgetting the Eastgate shopping centre and Victorian Market. Inverness is not short of places to eat and drink, from fine dining to street food, there are options catering for all tastes and budgets. We return to the hotel to get ready for this evening's extravaganza. Enjoy Champagne, Cocktails & Canapes in the lounge to begin the celebrations, followed by a Five-Course Scottish Banquet & Traditional Entertainment in the Restaurant. A Lone Piper will Welcome in the New Year followed by the Traditional Haggis, Neeps & Tatties!
- ◆ **New Year's Day** Start 2025 with a Bucks Fizz Brunch in the Restaurant before we enjoy our scenic journey to the Cairngorm Mountain Railway for a breath-taking trip on Scotland's only funicular railway, the highest in the UK reaching the Ptarmigan building at over 1,097m above sea level. Once at the top station, enjoy Ptarmigan Restaurant with panoramic views (weather permitting!), viewing terrace, 270 degrees immersive exhibition, and The Shop at the Top. Afterwards, we make a stop in Aviemore which boasts beautiful scenery, and great selection of shops, restaurants, cafes, and bars. Back at the hotel, Chef's Grand Gala Buffet is served in the Restaurant this evening followed by live entertainment.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 30th December 2024	4 Days	£469 pp	£60	£29

New Year in the Lake District

Immortalised by artists, poets & writers, The Lake District plays host to the many visitors who return year after year to enjoy the magnificent scenery. The Winter scenery is enchanting with the chance of snow on higher ground and stunning morning frosts to admire. Enjoy winter walks followed by a warming brew by a cosy fire.



The Cumbria Grand Hotel

The Cumbria Grand Hotel was built in 1880 and is set in 20 acres of private gardens and woodland overlooking Morecambe Bay. All the en-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, complimentary Wi-Fi in public areas, and outdoor garden area.

After breakfast on the last day, we travel straight home.



SAMPLE OF INCLUSIONS YET TO BE FINALISED BY THE HOTEL

- ◆ Complimentary pre-dinner drink & entertainment on 1st evening
- ◆ New Year's Eve 2-Course Lunch, Afternoon House Bingo, Pre-Dinner Chilled Champagne, Gala Dinner Dance & Evening Entertainment with Compere & Singer, and Party Band to see in the New Year
- ◆ New Year's Day Glass of Bucks Fizz & Late Brunch Breakfast, Afternoon Tea followed by Music Quiz, Evening Entertainment



EXCURSIONS INCLUDED

- ◆ **New Year's Eve** Enjoy a hearty English breakfast then why not take a stroll into Grange, before returning for a 2-course lunch. Afterwards there is a bit of fun for an hour, with house bingo in the lounge. Join us at 6pm for a glass of chilled Champagne before the New Year's Gala Dinner Dance, a candle lit plated service four course dinner, with the best in local fayre. The evening's entertainment will then commence with compere & singer, followed by the superb party band who will see in the New Year.
- ◆ **New Year's Day** Have a lie-in then enjoy a refreshing glass of Bucks Fizz & a late brunch breakfast. We enjoy a scenic Lakeland drive before returning to the hotel for Afternoon Tea followed by a music quiz in the lounge. Tonight's 3-course dinner is followed by entertainment.

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Monday 30th December 2024	4 Days	£539 pp	£54	£29

Holidays by Air



Jersey by Air

Jersey – an island of rediscovery, where landscapes are just waiting to be explored. Whether it's the view from the battlements of a 12th Century castle, a beach walk along Jersey's unspoilt coastline, or taking time to reflect while you watch the sun sink into the sea over St. Ouen's Bay, Jersey is there to be discovered. Live Island Life to the full and explore some must-see experiences and destinations from world-class conservation centres to living history locations – all in easy reach within Jersey's 45 square miles. Get a taste of Jersey and its authentic local flavour with memorable eating experiences, from beach restaurants to Michelin-starred fine dining. Shopping in Jersey is like nowhere else in the world. Enjoy top brands designer goods, department stores in the heart of St. Helier High Street or wander through charming markets, quirky antique stores, and unique local boutiques. No need to shop 'til you drop, there's plenty of places to refresh and relax along the way. Rest your feet and stop off in a nearby café for a quick espresso, or enjoy a glass of wine over a delicious, leisurely lunch.



A CHOICE OF HOTELS:

Norfolk Lodge Hotel, St Helier

Situated in one of St. Helier's best residential areas, this hotel is only half a mile away from the town, shops, and beaches. All en-suite bedrooms have TV and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, indoor swimming pool, and some evening entertainment.

Monterey Hotel, St Helier

A fine hotel with excellent facilities, an informal hotel where good value is the order of the day. All en-suite bedrooms have TV, hairdryer, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a lift, restaurant, bar, lounge, indoor & outdoor swimming pools, and some evening entertainment.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Door-to-Door Service
- ◆ Return Flight from Manchester with Easyjet to Jersey or Aurigny to Guernsey
- ◆ Meet & Greet on Arrival at Jersey & Guernsey
- ◆ Return Transfers from the Airport to your Chosen Hotel
- ◆ 5- or 6-Nights' Accommodation with Breakfasts & Dinners Daily
- ◆ Services of a Local Representative

DATE	DAYS	NORFOLK LODGE	MONTEREY	SRS	INS
Sunday 5th May 2024	6 Days	£699 pp	£739 pp	£75	£72
Sunday 19th May 2024	7 Days	£759 pp	£799 pp	£75	£72
Sunday 2nd June 2024	7 Days	£869 pp	£899 pp	£120	£72
Sunday 16th June 2024	7 Days	£859 pp	£899 pp	£120	£72
Sunday 23rd June 2024	7 Days	£859 pp	£899 pp	£120	£72
Sunday 7th July 2024	7 Days	£859 pp	£899 pp	£120	£72
Sunday 21st July 2024	7 Days	£859 pp	£899 pp	£120	£72
Sunday 18th August 2024	7 Days	£889 pp	£899 pp	£120	£72
Sunday 25th August 2024	7 Days	£879 pp	£899 pp	£120	£72
Sunday 15th September 2024	7 Days	£799 pp	£839 pp	£75	£72
Sunday 29th September 2024	6 Days	£739 pp	£769 pp	£75	£72

Guernsey by Air

Get away from it all and recharge the batteries. Embrace island-hopping and outdoor adventures on land and on sea. Dine at a multitude of eateries, from beachside kiosks and cafes to local pubs and award-winning restaurants. Delve into the past to explore the heritage on guided walks or in museums. Hike the coastline along miles of cliff paths with views. Feel the sand between your toes on one of the unspoilt beaches. Take a dip in the crystal-clear waters. Create memories to last a lifetime.



Saints Bay Hotel

Saints Bay Hotel is uniquely situated at Icart Point, an unspoilt headland on the most southerly tip of Guernsey. En-suite bedrooms feature TV, telephone, hairdryer, iron & ironing board, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea/coffee making facilities. The hotel has a restaurant, bar, swimming pool, and pool-side alfresco dining area. Sorry, there is no lift, but ground floor rooms are available on request.



© Visit Guernsey

DATE	DAYS	PRICE	SRS	INS
Sunday 2nd June 2024	6 Days	£809 pp	£275	£72
Monday 1st July 2024	6 Days	£809 pp	£275	£72
Monday 26th August 2024	6 Days	£809 pp	£275	£72

GUARANTEED NO FLIGHT SUPPLEMENT

We have secured several flight seats with Easyjet and Aurigny for all the dates listed above and therefore there will be no flight supplement on these. However, once these seats have been sold, extras are subject to availability and may carry a supplement.

Deposit: £150.00 per person,

Balance Due: 13 weeks prior to departure date

Important Information: The Jersey and Guernsey holidays by air featured in this brochure are NOT protected under our BCHG Bonding (details on page 2) and therefore DO NOT come under the Terms & Conditions of our Trading Charter. They are however ATOL Protected, as detailed below:-

Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd act as retail agents for Destination Specialists – ATOL No. 9503. Destination Specialists Terms apply. A copy of these will be sent to you with your ATOL Receipt once received by us. If you require a copy of the Destination Specialists Terms & Conditions prior to booking, please ask a member of our staff. Coaches on Jersey are not of an executive standard.

Booking Information: We have secured a number of rooms at the hotels stated together with a number of flight seats for the dates advertised in our brochure. These can ONLY be booked with our booking office staff on 01706 648126 or via our website at www.ellensmith.co.uk AND NOT THROUGH OUR AGENTS.

Obligatory Requirements for Jersey & Guernsey by Air: Please be aware that for security purposes when travelling to The Channel Islands you are required to carry some form of photographic identification (eg. Photo driving licence, passport, etc.).

HOLIDAY TRAVEL INSURANCE

Wrightsure Client Holiday Travel Insurance is available for all eligible passengers travelling on our holidays which is arranged by Wrightsure Services (Hampshire) Limited, underwritten by AWP P&C SA and is administered in the UK by Allianz Assistance. Allianz Assistance is a trading name of AWP Assistance UK Ltd. AWP Assistance UK Limited is registered in England (registration number 1710361). Registered office PO Box 74005, 60 Gracechurch Street, London, EC3P 3DS. AWP Assistance UK Limited are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

AWP P&C SA is authorised and regulated by L'Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution in France. Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Details about the extent of our regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority are available upon request.

Wrightsure Services (Hampshire) Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (their registration number is 311394) and is permitted to advise on and arrange general insurance contracts. You can check these details online using the Financial Services Register (accessible from <https://register.fca.org.uk>) or by contacting the Financial Conduct Authority Consumer Helpline on 0800 1116768.

Should you wish to take out this travel insurance please include the appropriate premium when booking your holiday.

DEMANDS AND NEEDS

This insurance policy will suit the demands and needs of an individual or group (where applicable) who have no excluded

medical condition(s), are travelling in countries included within the policy terms and who wish to insure themselves against

unforeseen circumstances/events detailed in the cover section below. Subject to the terms, conditions and maximum specified sums insured.

IMPORTANT

We will not provide you with advice about the suitability of this product for your individual needs but will be happy to provide you with factual information.

We summarise below the details of the insurance cover provided which also includes 24-hour emergency service from Allianz Assistance.

The following is a brief summary of the cover available. Full details of cover and exclusions will be forwarded with your confirmation of booking. In any event you may ask for a specimen copy of the policy wording before booking should you wish to examine this in advance.

SUMMARY OF COVER

PLEASE SEE THE POLICY WORDING FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE COVER, LIMITATIONS AND EXCESSES, A SPECIMEN COPY OF WHICH IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

COVER	SUM INSURED	EXCESS
Trip Cancellation	Up to £3,000	£75*
Trip Interruption	Up to £3,000 (Extra Accommodation Sub-Limit £500)	£75
Travel Delay	Up to £300	Nil
Baggage	Up to £1,500 (£200 High Value Item Limit)	£75
Baggage Delay	Up to £100	12 Hours
Emergency Medical Expenses	Up to £1,000,000	£75
Emergency Transport	Unlimited (Reasonable Cost)	£75
Personal Liability	Up to £1,000,000	£75
Travel Accident	Up to £10,000	Nil
Loss of Travel Documents	Up to £200	Nil
Personal Money	Up to £200	£75

* Excess only applies for cancellation of a journey over three days in duration (Nil for Loss of Deposit).

HEALTH DECLARATION AND HEALTH EXCLUSIONS

It is very important that you read the following and, where necessary, declare any pre-existing medical conditions.

For UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man trips only (except Air & Cruise Holidays)

You will not be covered under this policy for any claims arising as a direct or indirect of any pre-existing medical condition, unless you can comply with the following:

1. You are fit to travel and undertake your planned trip when you take out this policy, book your trip or at the time you travel (whichever is later).

2. Following any claim investigation, your doctor confirms they would have agreed with or recommended your travel plans when you took out this policy, booked your trip or at the time you travelled (whichever is later).

3. You are not travelling for the purpose of having medical treatment or a consultation during your trip.

4. You are not awaiting any medical tests, investigations or surgery, or the outcome of any tests or investigations when you take out this policy or book your trip (whichever is later).

For trips outside of the UK plus all Air & Cruise Holidays

You will not be covered for any claims arising as a direct or indirect result of any pre-existing medical condition if, in the 12 months before taking out this policy or booking your trip (whichever is later), you:

1. Were prescribed medication;

2. Received treatment or consulted a doctor or other medical practitioner for any medical condition;

3. Attended a hospital or a clinic as an outpatient or inpatient;

4. Were referred for tests, investigations, treatment or surgery, or are waiting for either results or a diagnosis;

5. Had any symptoms of an undiagnosed medical condition or have had a terminal illness;

unless you told us about the pre-existing medical condition and we have agreed in writing to cover it.

To declare a pre-existing medical condition(s), you should contact insurers confidential medical screening service on 02392 419063 as soon as possible after taking out this insurance policy and/or booking your trip.

Based on the medical information you provide, it will be confirmed to you if cover can be offered for your declared pre-existing medical condition (or conditions), and if an extra premium needs to be paid. Occasionally, insurers may need you to get extra medical information (at your cost) from your doctor to enable us to make a decision.

If an extra premium is required, cover will not start until this has been paid in full and we have issued written confirmation.

If we are unable to cover the pre-existing medical condition (or conditions), this will mean that you and any other person insured by us will not be covered for any directly or indirectly related claims arising from the pre-existing medical condition (or conditions). This applies even if the person with the pre-existing medical condition (or conditions) decides to buy cover from another provider.

Each person insured by us would still be covered for any unrelated (or conditions), subject to the terms and conditions of this policy.

FOR ALL TRIPS:

You will not be covered if:

- Following any claim investigation, your doctor confirms they would not have agreed with or recommended you travel as planned either when you took out this policy, booked your trip or at the time you travelled (whichever is later).

- You know you will need medical treatment or a consultation at a medical facility during your trip.

- You are travelling specifically for the purpose of having surgery, medical procedures or hospital treatment, whether medically necessary or not.

- You had been diagnosed with a terminal illness prior to the date you took out this policy or booked your trip (whichever is later).

Exclusions relating to the health of someone not insured on this policy, but whose health may affect your decision whether to take or continue with your trip:

You will not be covered for any directly or indirectly related claims (see note at the end of this section) arising from the health of a travelling companion, someone you were going to stay with, a family member or a business associate if at the time your policy was issued:

- You were aware they had undiagnosed medical condition(s) for which they were awaiting tests, investigations or the results of these;

- You were aware that their medical condition(s) were unstable, were likely to get worse in the next 12 months or they had been diagnosed as having a terminal condition.

Note: Only claims relating to a medical condition where any of the above apply will be affected. This includes indirectly related claims. For example, if someone breaks a bone and a doctor confirms it is related to an existing diagnosis of osteoporosis (brittle bone disease), this would not be covered if we have not agreed in writing to cover the osteoporosis.

Level of medical cover provided

This is not a private medical insurance policy and only gives cover for emergency medical treatment and/or transport in the event of an accident or unexpected illness occurring during your trip.

HOLIDAY TRAVEL INSURANCE (Continued)

This also means that any other person insured by us will not be covered for any directly or indirectly related claims arising from the pre-existing medical condition (or conditions). This applies even if the person with the medical condition (or conditions) decides to buy cover from another provider.

Each person insured by us would still be covered for any unrelated medical condition (or conditions), subject to the terms and conditions of this policy.

RESIDENCY

You must have your primary residence in and be registered with a doctor in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man; and

have not spent more than six months abroad during the 12 months before this policy was issued or your trip was booked (whichever is later).

SIGNIFICANT EXCLUSIONS

- Any existing medical conditions unless they have been declared to (where appropriate) and accepted by the insurer.
- Your intentional self-harm or if you attempt or commit suicide.
- An epidemic or pandemic, except when an epidemic or pandemic is expressly referenced in and covered under Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Travel Delay or Emergency Medical/Dental Cover Abroad.
- Terrorist events.
- Any travel supplier's complete cessation of operations due to financial reasons, with or without involving insolvency or bankruptcy.

For full terms and conditions and your policy contact details please refer to your policy wording.

How to make a claim

All claims should be made direct to Allianz Assistance. Please visit the website www.allianz-protection.com. This will lead you to insurers online claims notification service where claim forms can be completed directly from the site.

Alternatively, please phone and ask for a claim form or write to: Wrightsure Travel Claims c/o Allianz Assistance Claims Department, PO Box 451, Feltham TW13 9EE, telephone 0208 666 9233 or email travel.claims@allianz-assistance.co.uk

Protecting your information

We will only use your personal details in line with our Privacy Notice. This can be found on our website or is available in hard copy format upon request and you should read this carefully and contact us immediately if you have any queries. Your personal information includes all of the details you have given us to process your insurance policy (we will not ask for more information than is necessary). We may share your data with Third Parties for the provision and ongoing performance of your insurance policy. Your data may be transferred outside the UK. All of the personal information you supply to us will be handled strictly in accordance with the applicable Data Protection regulations and legislation.

Ellen Smith (Tours) Limited are an Appointed Representative of Wrightsure Services (Hampshire) Limited who are authorised and regulated by the FCA (their registration number is 311394) and which is permitted to advise on and arrange general insurance contracts. You can check these details online using the Financial Services Register (accessible from www.fca.org.uk) or by contacting the Financial Conduct Authority Consumer Helpline on 0800 111 6768.

If our chosen insurance provider, Wrightsure Services (Hampshire) Limited are unable to offer you the travel insurance cover you require, or your premium is higher than you expected because you have serious medical conditions, you may be able to get help by accessing the Money and Pensions Service travel directory or by calling 0800 138 7777 (lines are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm).

TRADING CHARTER & BOOKING CONDITIONS

1. Financial Protection

Your contract is with Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd, Globe House, Moss Bridge Road, Rochdale, OL16 5EB. When you book a holiday with us, which does not include a flight, the money you pay us for the booking will be protected by Bonded Coach Holidays (BCH) and the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), this is a Government approved consumer protection scheme. The scheme will also ensure your repatriation in the event the company becomes insolvent. Our Trading Charter and Booking Conditions set out clearly and simply the responsibility we have to you and in turn, you have with us, when a contract is made. Please see the Consumer Guarantee at <https://www.abtot.com/bch-abtot-members-directory/> There is no financial protection if you purchase just transport or accommodation-only from us. We fully comply with the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. The combination of travel services offered to you is a package holiday within the meaning of the Regulations. Therefore, you will benefit from all rights applying to package holidays. Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the holiday and providing assistance if you are in difficulty. Your key rights will be in the details of the tour which will be provided prior to booking.

2. Booking and Payment

When a booking is made, the 'lead name' on the booking guarantees that he or she is 18 or over and has the authority and accepts on behalf of the party the terms of these booking conditions and pays the deposit indicated in the brochure and as confirmed in the pre-contract information. After we receive your booking and all appropriate payments, if the arrangements you wish to book are available, we will send you or your booking agent a confirmation invoice within 14 days. This confirmation will include any special requests we have agreed. All monies paid to your booking agent are held by them on your behalf until we issue our confirmation invoice, thereafter your booking agent holds the money on our behalf. A binding agreement will come into existence between us when we dispatch this invoice to the 'lead name' or your booking agent. Please check the confirmation carefully to ensure all the information is correct. This contract is governed by English Law, and the jurisdiction of the English Courts.

Single occupancy of rooms, when available, may be subject to a supplementary charge and these will be shown in the brochure. You can book by paying a deposit for each person named on the booking, but our commitment is always conditional upon the balance being paid as below.

Deposit £75.00 per person.

The balance of the price of your holiday must be paid at least 8 weeks before your departure. If you book within our balance due period, you will need to pay the total holiday cost at the time of booking. If the balance is not paid in time,

we reserve the right to cancel your holiday, retain your deposit, and apply the cancellation charges set out in the paragraph below. The date of cancellation will normally be the date we receive your written confirmation that you intend to cancel or 15 days after the balance due date, whichever comes first.

Where optional items are purchased as part of the holiday, these are payable on the balance due date except where items, such as theatre tickets, have been specifically purchased for you. In this case the cost will be payable at a separate date notified to you and will not normally be refunded unless we obtain a refund from the supplier we use.

3. Brochure Accuracy

Although Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the brochure information and pricing, regrettably errors do sometimes occur. You must therefore ensure you check the price and all other details of your holiday with us at the time of booking and when you receive our confirmation invoice.

4. Our Pricing Policy

Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd endeavour to ensure that the most up to date and correct prices are shown in our brochure. Occasionally, an incorrect price may be shown, due to an error. When we become aware of any such error, we will endeavour to notify you at the time of booking (if we are then aware of the mistake) or as soon as reasonably possible. We reserve the right to cancel the booking if you do not wish to accept the price which is applicable to the holiday. Local Authorities in many towns and cities throughout Europe have introduced new tourist taxes which must be paid directly to the hotel by all guests in person. These taxes are not included in our prices, but we will notify you when applicable.

Holiday prices include all travel, hotel accommodation and meals as specified in the holiday description and VAT payable in the UK where applicable. The price of the holiday will not be subjected to any surcharges except those arising from exchange rate changes, transportation including the price of fuel, air & ferry operator fares and tolls, embarkation or disembarkation fees at terminals, duties and taxes (including the rate of VAT). Even in these cases we will absorb the cost equivalent to cost of the first 2% of the holiday price. Amounts more than this plus £1 administration fee and Travel Agents commission will be surcharged to you. If this means the total cost of the holiday increases by more than 8% then you are entitled to cancel your holiday and receive a full refund of all monies paid except any insurance premium and amendment charges. We will communicate the options with you either through email or letter, with a reminder if necessary. If you exercise the right to cancel, we must receive written notice within 20 days of the date of the surcharge invoice. The currency exchange rate used in the holiday costings are based on rates as at 31st October 2023.

TRADING CHARTER & BOOKING CONDITIONS

5. If you change your booking

If, after our confirmation has been issued, you wish to change to another of our holidays or change departure date, we will do our utmost to make the changes, but we cannot guarantee to do so. However, notification must be received in writing at our offices from the person who signed the booking form, at least 8 weeks before departures. This must be accompanied by a payment of £25.00 to cover our administrative costs, plus costs we incur in making the amendment. Alterations cannot be made within 8 weeks of departure and any such request for an alteration will be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and will be subject to the cancellation charges set out in paragraph below. Some arrangements cannot be changed without paying a cancellation charge of up to 100% of the ticket cost.

6. Transferring your booking

You can transfer your booking to somebody else, but the person must satisfy all the conditions of the holiday and you must inform us either by letter or email no less than 7 days before departure. This transfer will cost £25.00 plus reasonable costs to make the transfer. You will remain responsible for ensuring payment before the balance due date. This is in addition to (and does not affect) the separate liability of the transferee to us.

7. If you need to cancel your holiday

You or any member of your party, may cancel your holiday at any time provided the cancellation is made by the person signing the booking form and is communicated to us in writing via the office who made your original booking. You must pay cancellation charges to cover our administration costs. Your cancellation will take effect from the date on which we or our agent receive your written confirmation of your cancellation. You must also return any tickets or vouchers you have received. A reduction in room occupancy may increase the charges for the remaining passengers by the application of supplements for low occupancy of rooms. Where bought in supplies, such as ferries, hotel accommodation etc have been bought in on your behalf, and where the terms and conditions of the supplier are non-refundable, these products will be charged to you at the full retail rate. If this applies, the non-refundable items will be deducted from your holiday costs and the following scale of charges will be applied to the remainder:

Period before departure within which written cancellation of package price is received	Amount of cancellation Charge as a % of total package cost
More than 56 days	Deposit only
55 - 29 days	30% or Deposit, if greater
28 - 15 days	50%
14 - 8 days	70%
7 days and up to departure day or later, including voluntary termination during the package	Total package cost

You may cancel your holiday without paying any termination fee before the start of the holiday, in the event of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances occurring at the place of destination or its immediate vicinity, for instance, if there are serious security problems at the destination which are likely to affect the package.

8. Alterations to your holiday by us

We hope that we will not have to make any change to your holiday but, because our holidays are planned many months in advance, we sometimes do need to make minor changes. We reserve the right to do this at any time. We will let you or your booking agent know about any important changes as soon as possible, including the minimum number of passengers required on the trip. If after booking, and before departure, we make a major change to your holiday, you will have the option of withdrawing from the holiday without penalty or transferring to another holiday without any charge. In either case, we will pay you compensation, according to the scale set below. A major change includes the time of your departure or return time by more than 12 hours, a change in departure point, location of resort or type of hotel, a change in cross channel travel, or specification of the coach. If we tell you about any of these changes after we have confirmed your holiday booking (other than force majeure), you may either:

- accept the new arrangements offered by us; or
- accept a replacement holiday from us of equivalent or similar standard and price (at the date of the change), if we can offer you one; or
- cancel your holiday with us and receive a full refund of all monies.

Either way, we will pay you compensation, using the Compensation table shown,

Period before departure in which significant change is notified to you or your agent

Period before departure in which significant change is notified to you or your agent	Amount per person
More than 28 days	Nil
21 to 27 days	£10
15 to 20 days	£15
8 to 14 days	£20
0 to 7 days	£25

IMPORTANT NOTE Compensation will not be payable if the holiday is cancelled because the number of persons booked is less than the number required, or for events beyond our control, which include: war, threat of war, riots, civil disturbances, terrorist activity and its consequences, industrial disputes, natural and nuclear disasters, fire, epidemics, health risks and pandemics, unavoidable and unforeseeable technical problems with transport for reasons beyond our control or that of our suppliers; hurricanes and other actual or potential severe weather conditions and any other similar events. You are also advised to check with The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice Unit regularly at www.fco.gov.uk/travel prior to travel.

All holidays operate if the minimum number of participants is met. However, in no case will we cancel your holiday less than 4 weeks before the scheduled departure date, except where you have failed to pay the final balance or because of force majeure (force majeure means an event which we or the suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid and is therefore beyond our control).

9. Our responsibility to you

We accept responsibility for ensuring the holiday which you book with us is supplied as described in our publicity material and the services offered reach a reasonable standard and if you are in difficulty, we will assist you. If any part of our holiday contract is not provided as promised, you may terminate the contract without paying a termination fee and we will pay you appropriate compensation if this has affected your enjoyment of your holiday. We will, however, not be liable if there are any unforeseeable or unavoidable actions of a third party not connected with our travel services, or there were unavoidable or extraordinary circumstances, or the lack of conformity is due to a traveller in the party. We accept responsibility for the acts and/or omissions of our employees, agents and suppliers except where they lead to death, injury or illness. Our liability in all cases shall be limited to a maximum of twice the value of the original holiday cost (not including insurance premiums and amendment charges). We accept responsibility for death, injury, or illness caused by the negligent acts and/or omissions of our employees or agents together with our suppliers and sub-contractors, servants and/or agents of the same whilst acting within the scope of, or during their employment in the provision of your holiday. We will accordingly pay to our clients such damages as might have been awarded in such circumstances under English Law. In respect of carriage by air, sea, tunnel and rail and the provision of accommodation our liability in all cases will be limited in the manner provided by the relevant international convention.

If we make any payment to you or any member of your party for death or personal injury or illness, you will be asked to assign to us or our insurers the rights you may have to act against the person or organisation responsible for causing the death, personal injury or illness. This clause does not apply to any separate contracts that you may enter for excursions or activities during or outside of your holiday. If you or any member of your party suffer death, illness or injury whilst overseas arising out of an activity which does NOT form part of your holiday, we may offer guidance and where legal action is contemplated and you want our assistance, you must obtain our written consent prior to any proceedings (We limit the cost of our assistance to you or your party to £5,000 per party)

10. If you have a complaint

If you have a problem during your holiday, please inform your Tour Manager, your driver or the relevant supplier/resort representative immediately who will endeavour to put things right. If your complaint cannot be completely resolved locally, you must complete a Holiday Report Form which can be obtained by your driver or local representative, which you should keep. Our contact number, for unresolved complaints will be our office number on 01706 648126 (open in office hours) If you remain dissatisfied please follow this up within 14 days of your return home by writing to Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd giving your original booking reference number and all other relevant information, including the reference of the Holiday Report Form. It is therefore a condition of this contract that you communicate any problem to the supplier of the services in question AND to our representative whilst in resort and obtain a written report form. If you fail to follow this simple procedure, we cannot accept responsibility as we have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify the problem. Should you wish to pursue the complaint further, BCH ABTOT have an Alternative Dispute Resolution scheme and full details are available from them. Please contact them at ABTOT 7th Floor 69 Leadenhall Street London EC3A 2BG

TRADING CHARTER & BOOKING CONDITIONS

11. Our Coaches

We will always use our reasonable endeavours to provide a coach to the specification in our brochure or advert but reserve the right to substitute an alternative vehicle should there be unforeseen circumstances. There is a seating plan but, in some cases, operational reasons may require a coach with a different configuration. We reserve the right to alter a coach seating plan and allocate seats other than those booked. Single passengers may be required to share a double seat with other single passengers. When your booking is confirmed, you will be offered the best seats that are available at that time. If you feel that you require two seats, then these must be booked and paid for in advance, at the time of booking. If you fail to do this and it transpires that the seat allocated to you is insufficient for your needs and there is no alternative seating available, then you will be refused access to the coach and any payments made will be liable to forfeiture.

Specific seats will not be allocated on coaches operating a feeder service between joining points and main holiday departure points or on coaches that carry out transfers between airports, seaports etc.

12. Hotel Facilities

Some hotel facilities and entertainment may be withdrawn for routine maintenance or be subject to seasonal availability and provision of the facilities cannot be guaranteed. Single occupancy of rooms may be subject to a supplementary charge.

13. Health and Safety

In some foreign countries, standards of infrastructure, safety and hygiene may be lower than those to which we are accustomed in the UK. You should therefore exercise greater care for your own protection. There may be countries that we visit that have special medical requirements for tourists. These regulations are subject to change and our clients are responsible for complying with entry and current health requirements. If you are not sure of the health requirements for the country you are visiting, you are advised to check with your own GP before travelling. You are also advised to refer to the Department of Health leaflet "Health Advice for Travellers".

Some people may be at risk from discomfort or deep vein thrombosis (DVT) if they remain immobile on a journey for a long period. If you are planning to undertake a journey of more than three hours, you should consult your doctor, if you have ever had DVT, pulmonary embolism, a family history of clotting conditions, cancer or treatment for cancer, stroke, and heart or lung disease or if you have had major surgery in the past three months.

We reserve the right to refuse any booking in the absence of a doctor's certificate confirming that you are fit to travel. Where we provide comfort stops you are encouraged to walk around. Exercise reduces any discomfort, which may be caused by periods of immobility.

NO SMOKING is allowed on our coaches (including E-Cigarettes) and we do not allow pets or any other animals, although we accommodate registered assistance dogs, but not on overseas holidays.

14. Travel documents, itineraries, pick-up points and passports

For all Continental holidays, you will require a full 10-year British Passport (machine readable) valid for a further 6 months after your holiday. If you do not hold a full British Passport or have any doubts about your status as a resident British subject, you must check with the Embassies or Consulates of the Countries to be visited to confirm the Passport or visa requirements when you book. We cannot accept responsibility if passengers are not in possession of the correct travel documents. For full details on passport requirements, please contact 'the identity and passport service' on 0300 222 0000 (www.direct.gov.uk)

You are responsible for ensuring you are at the correct departure point, at the correct time and with the correct documents. Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd reserve the right to modify itineraries to conform with requests from competent authorities both within the UK and abroad.

Excursions which are included in the cost of your booking are detailed on the brochure page and refunds will not be made for excursions not taken. Optional excursions booked and paid for in resort do not form part of your booking. Admission fees to buildings may not be included in the price of the holiday, please check.

15. Special Requests

All special needs and requests, if agreed, should be entered on the booking form and be included in the confirmation of the holiday. These cannot be guaranteed except where confirmed as part of our holiday commitment to you and are detailed on your holiday booking confirmation. We are keen to ensure that we plan the arrangements for your holiday so that special needs and requests can be accommodated as far as possible. If you will need assistance or may be unable to fully enjoy all aspects of your holiday you must tell us in advance so that we can maximise your enjoyment of the holiday. We will need to know if you will need special facilities in the hotel, taking part in the excursions or have difficulty boarding and travelling on the coach or other

means of transport. Before booking your holiday, you should be sure that you and your party are both physically and mentally capable of completing the itinerary. If you need advice or further information either you or your booking agent should contact Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd. If you will require a special diet please tell us at the time of booking, or as soon as you are medically advised, together with a copy of the diet.

16. Passengers with disabilities

We want everyone to enjoy our travel arrangements. We are happy to advise and assist you in choosing a suitable holiday. But, as some of the accommodation and resorts featured may not cater for even minor disabilities, it is important that, when booking, you advise us of any disability, specific need or complex need you may have and any special requirements that will make sure the holiday is suitable. If a passenger requires personal assistance (for example, assistance with feeding, dressing, toileting, mobilising) then this passenger must travel with an able-bodied companion or carer and written confirmation that such assistance will be provided for the entirety of the holiday is required at the time of booking. Coach drivers/Tour Managers are unable to provide such assistance.

Important

You must tell us if you have an existing medical condition, disability or complex need that may affect your holiday or other group members' enjoyment of it before you book your holiday. We reserve the right to request a doctor's certificate confirming the passenger is fit to travel. If, in our reasonable opinion, your chosen holiday is not suitable for your medical condition or disability, we reserve the right to refuse your booking. You are responsible for bringing with you the proper clothing and equipment, which we advise you about in our printed trip information. We want you to enjoy your holiday and will help you select an appropriate trip.

17. Passenger Behaviour

We want all our customers to have a happy and carefree holiday. You are responsible for your behaviour and hygiene and the effect it may have on others. If you or any other member of your party is abusive, disruptive or behaves in a way that could cause damage or injury to others or affect their enjoyment of their holiday or which could damage property, we have the right to terminate your contract with us and we will have no further liability or obligation to you. The coach driver/representative, ship's captain, or authorised official is entitled to refuse you boarding if in their reasonable opinion you are unacceptably under the influence of drink or drugs or you are being violent or disruptive. If you are refused boarding on the outward journey, we will regard it as a cancellation by you and we will apply cancellation charges. If on your return journey, we have the right to terminate the contract with you. We also request that mobile telephones are not used on the coach.

18. Travel Insurance

We strongly advise that you take out personal travel insurance for the trip. We have arranged travel insurance with Wrightsure which is outlined below. You may use an alternative insurer, but you must advise us. The insurance should cover medical and repatriation costs, personal injury, loss of baggage and cancellation charges. If you do not have adequate insurance and require our assistance during your holiday, we reserve the right to reclaim from you any medical repatriation or other expenses which we may incur on your behalf which would otherwise have been met by insurers. You must advise us if you use an alternative insurer, the policy number and 24-hour contact number.

19. Luggage

Please restrict your luggage to a suitcase weighing no more than 18 kgs per person. We cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to luggage unless through our negligence. Please do not leave valuable items in your suitcase when left on the coach. Please contact us for our policy on mobility scooters.

20. General Data Protection Regulations

We comply with the GDPR 2018 Regulations, our data controller is The Managing Director and our data protection policy can be found at www.ellensmith.co.uk or you can request a copy from Ellen Smith (Tours) Ltd, Globe House, Moss Bridge Road, Rochdale, OL16 5EB

21. Emergency Contact

Our emergency contact details are
Tel: 01706 648126 during office hours, 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday, or 07870 573041 outside of office hours.
Alternatively, you can email: hello@ellensmith.co.uk

PUBLICATION DATE

This brochure was printed in October 2023.



TOURS DIARY 2024

JANUARY

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Mon 29th	5	Llandudno - Tynedale Hotel - Landlubbers Cruise	108

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DOOR TO DOOR COACH TOURS



Ellen Smith

How to Book

Ellen Smith Tours Ltd

Globe House, Moss Bridge Road, Rochdale OL16 5EB

Tel: 01706 648126



Opening Times: Mon-Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm

Visit our Website and Book On-Line to Save £10.00 per person. Join our facebook community by 'liking' our page to view latest offers, customer comments and various photographs.



ellensmithtours

www.ellensmith.co.uk