

NATIONAL TRUST



The National Trust Way to The Stately Homes of Oxford & The Cotswolds - Meet The Owners

Monday 3rd June - Thursday 13th June 2019



National Trust Tour Leader - Lorraine Collins

presented by

TRAVEL
ON CAPRI

The National Trust Of Australia (NSW) presents The Stately Homes of Oxford & The Cotswolds - Meet The Owners

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Dear Member

We all dream of living in a stately home but what is the reality actually like? On this unique tour, we meet some of the owners who are lucky enough to call these historic houses their homes, situated in one of the most quintessentially English regions of Britain. We are also given special access to other impressive properties as we take in the best of the Cotswolds, an area known for idyllic, honey-coloured stone towns and villages set against a picturesque rural backdrop of gently rolling hills. These are complemented perfectly by some magnificent stately homes around Oxford, the city of Dreaming Spires as well as a detour into Bath and the South West. Join us on this unique and exclusive small group tour which is restricted to a maximum of 12 people.

Lorraine Collins National Trust Tours Committee

Itinerary

DAY ONE - MONDAY 3 JUNE: Arrival (D)

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel. In the evening you are invited to join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

DAY TWO - TUESDAY 4 JUNE: Hughenden and Basildon Park (B, D)

Today we head first to the stunning Hughenden, previously home to an unlikely Victorian Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, from 1848 to 1881. This impressive manor provides a fascinating insight into the world of this colorful former-parliamentarian, who is described as Queen Victoria's 'favourite Prime Minister'.

We then head to Basildon Park, built between 1776 and 1783 for Sir Francis Sykes and designed by John Carr in the Palladian style at a time when Palladianism was giving way to the newly fashionable neoclassicism. Thus, the interiors are decorated in what is known as a neoclassical "Adamesque" style. Today, Basildon Park is as notable for its mid-twentieth-century renaissance and restoration, by Lord and Lady Iliffe, as it is for its architecture. In 1978, the Iliffes gave the house, together with its park and a large endowment for its upkeep, to the National Trust in the hope that "The National Trust will protect it and its park for future generations to enjoy."

Later, we check in to the Macdonald Randolph Hotel in the heart of Oxford, where we stay for the next six nights. Tonight we enjoy dinner together at the hotel.

DAY THREE - WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE: Bruscot Park and Broughton Castle (B)

Built in the late 18th century in Neo-classical style, Buscot Park is the family home of Lord Faringdon, who looks after the property on behalf of the National Trust. Subject to availability, Lord Faringdon will show us around the house where we can admire the family collection of pictures, furniture, ceramics and objets d'art, known as the Faringdon Collection.

Our next visit is to Broughton Castle, a moated and fortified

manor house set in lovely gardens and parkland, where we enjoy a private tour. Much of the original 14th-century house remains including the Great Hall, but most of what we see today dates from the 1550s including magnificent plaster ceilings and splendid panelling. Home to the 21st Lord and Lady Saye&Sele, Broughton has remained in the same family since 1447.

The evening is left free to make your own dinner arrangements.

DAY FOUR - THURSDAY 6 JUNE: Manor and Upton House (B, D)

We head to Waddesdon Manor this morning. Built by the wealthy Rothschild family, Waddesdon is a renaissance-style chateau that looks as though it's been transported to the gentle Buckinghamshire countryside from France's Loire Valley. Along with a guided tour of the sumptuous interiors, we also enjoy lunch here.

We continue on to Upton House, the 1930s country residence of millionaire oil magnate Lord Bearsted. Set among stunning terraced gardens and with sparkling Art Deco interiors, the house was acquired for entertaining and to house Lord Bearsted's important collections of art and porcelain, one of the finest private art collections in England. This evening we enjoy dinner together in a local Oxford restaurant.

DAY FIVE - FRIDAY 7 JUNE: Chenies Manor House and Stonor Park (B)

Chenies Manor House is an enchanting Tudor manor house with fortified tower and stepped gables. Originally the home of the Russell family, the manor was bought in the 1950s by the present owners, the MacLeod Matthews family, who take us on a guided tour of their enchanting property. Winner of the HHA/Christie's Garden of the Year Award 2009, the gardens are divided into a series of compartments, including a sunken garden, a parterre with a yew maze and a Victorian kitchen garden.

Our next stop is Stonor Park, situated in a valley in the Chiltern Hills. Home to the Stonor family for 850 years, it is one of the oldest family homes still inhabited today. The owners take us on a guided tour of the house which contains an impressive collection of art and artifacts amassed from across the globe. Highlights of the house also include the Gothic revival hall, atmospheric 17th-century library and dramatic long gallery opening on to beautiful Italianate gardens.

Tonight, the evening is left free for you to make your own dinner arrangements.

DAY SIX - SATURDAY 8 JUNE: Oxford Walking Tour with Colleges and Rousham House and Garden (B, D)

Today we explore historic Oxford, famous seat of learning. On our bespoke walking tour, we discover the history and many of the magnificent buildings of the city including the colleges of the famous Oxford University. Following our guided tour, we have free time to enjoy the city at leisure. The University of Oxford Botanic Garden, the Ashmolean (the world's first public museum) and Bodleian Library are just some of the attractions here.



Upton House

Next we explore Rousham House and its magnificent landscaped garden, which has remained almost unaltered since it was designed in the early 18th century by William Kent. Kent also redesigned the Jacobean interiors at Rousham which we discover on our private tour, led by a family member. The house retains some 17th century panelling and the original staircases, furniture, pictures and bronzes.

The evening we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

DAY SEVEN - SUNDAY 9 JUNE: Blenheim Palace and Woodstock (B, D)

We head to Blenheim Palace, set in beautiful parkland landscaped by 'Capability' Brown where we enjoy a guided tour. As the seat of the Dukes of Marlborough, the palace is synonymous with the Churchill family and is the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. A permanent exhibition commemorates the life of this famous wartime Prime Minister, whilst the magnificent State Rooms reveal a superb collection of tapestries, paintings, porcelain and furniture. We enjoy afternoon tea after our visit.

We also make a short stop in Woodstock, a picturesque, historic market town on the edge of the Blenheim estate. Here, we have some free time to explore the antique shops, art galleries and tea rooms.

We enjoy dinner together at the hotel this evening and we are treated to a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

DAY EIGHT - MONDAY 10 JUNE: Lacock Abbey, Bath Walking Tour, Pump Rooms and Roman Baths (B, D)

Checking out of our Oxford hotel we travel to Bath. En route we head to the village of Lacock with its picturesque streets of timber-framed cottages. Lacock Abbey sits at the heart of the village with golden stone cloisters and a Great Hall. Once a medieval nunnery, the abbey was turned into a family home by William Henry Fox Talbot who invented the first photographic negative.

We arrive in Bath and continue to explore with our guided Jane Austen themed walking tour to view the highlights of the city that features so much in her writing as well as her former homes. Afterwards, we head to the Pump Rooms – once the hub of the Georgian social calendar and an important location for Jane Austen's novels, where we enjoy Afternoon Tea. We then visit the famous Roman Baths, a site of historical interest and a well-preserved Roman site for public bathing. The Roman Baths themselves are below the modern street level. There are four main features: the Sacred Spring, the Roman Temple,



Waddesdon Manor



Oxford

the Roman Bath House and the museum, holding finds from Roman Bath. The buildings above street level date from the 19th century.

We then check in to our hotel, 16 Royal Crescent, where we enjoy dinner together.

DAY NINE - TUESDAY 11 JUNE: No 1 Royal Crescent, Bath Abbey, afternoon walk to Prior Park Gardens (B, D)

We begin our day at No.1 Royal Crescent, a Georgian town house that creates a wonderful picture of life for both the wealthy and their servants in Georgian Bath. Here we enjoy a fascinating talk upon arrival.

Pilgrims and visitors have been made welcome at Bath Abbey for hundreds of years. Founded in the 7th century, Bath Abbey was reorganised in the 10th century and rebuilt in the 12th and 16th centuries; major restoration work was carried out by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 1860s. It is one of the largest examples of Perpendicular Gothic architecture in the West Country.

After some free time for lunch we take a walk to the outskirts of Bath to visit Prior Park Gardens. Set within a sweeping valley with magnificent views over the city this intimate eighteenth-century landscape garden was created by Bath entrepreneur and philanthropist Ralph Allen with advice from the poet Alexander Pope, and landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. From the grotto, designed by Alexander Pope, follow the winding paths through the wooded valley and you will find hidden architecture from the garden's Georgian past. From a ruined thatched cottage and ice house with an unexpected history to a reconstructed summerhouse and the structure of a gothic temple, there are plenty of surprising features. At the bottom of the valley you can walk over the famous Palladian bridge, one of only four in the world.

Back at the hotel this evening, we enjoy dinner together.

DAY TEN - WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE: Bath free time and Greys Court and Henley on Thames (B, D)

Following some time at leisure this morning to complete any sightseeing or retail therapy we board the coach for our return journey to Windsor.

On the way we stop at Greys Court, the name derives from an old connection to the Grey family, descendants of the Norman knight Anchetil de Greye. The mainly Tudor-style house has a courtyard and gardens. The walled gardens contain old-fashioned roses and wisteria, an

ornamental vegetable garden, maze and ice house. Within its grounds are the fortified tower built circa 1347, the only remains of the medieval castle, overlooking the gardens and surrounding countryside, as well as a Tudor wheelhouse. The house remains furnished as a family home, with some outstanding 18th-century plasterwork interiors.

We then enjoy a brief stop in Henley on Thames, a pretty riverside town with charming shops and buildings to uncover. Henley is a world-renowned centre for rowing. Each summer the Henley Royal Regatta is held on Henley Reach. The event became "Royal" in 1851, when Prince Albert became patron of the regatta.

We then continue on to our hotel, the Macdonald Windsor Hotel and enjoy a farewell dinner together.

DAY ELEVEN - THURSDAY 13 JUNE: Departure

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

YOUR HOTELS

Nights One and Ten - Macdonald Windsor Hotel

The Macdonald Windsor Hotel is situated in the heart of the historic town of Windsor, opposite the famous Windsor Castle. The classic interiors, with a contemporary edge, fit perfectly with the Georgian elegance of this townhouse hotel. The luxury bedrooms are individually-designed and the hotel also offers a stylish bar and restaurant.

Nights Two to Seven-Macdonald Randolph Hotel

The Macdonald Randolph Hotel is an elegant, luxury hotel right in the heart of the city of Oxford. A landmark hotel with charm aplenty, it has recently celebrated its 150th birthday. The hotel's architecture is Victorian Gothic in style and features rich furnishings and a warm palette of burgundies and sophisticated creams. The hotel also benefits from a recently opened restaurant and stylish bar.

Nights Eight to Nine- Sixteen Royal Crescent Hotel

Situated in Bath's Royal Crescent, this magnificent 5-star hotel offers a fully equipped gym and a stunning spa, leading out onto a picturesque landscaped garden. It also offers an award-winning restaurant and a cocktail bar. Each bedroom at The Royal Crescent has an 18th-century-style décor, luxury bedding and flowers. There is free WiFi and paintings from period artists such as Gainsborough.



Buscot Park

Booking Conditions

TOUR PRICE

COST (Land only) \$8990.00 per person twin share
Single Supplement \$1790.00

INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES

To book airfares or request upgrade prices for business or first class seats through Travel on Capri, please contact reservations. A quote for the airfare will be provided upon request, however please note, given the fluctuating airline prices, airfares are only guaranteed when full payment is made.

INCLUDED IN COST:

- Tour Escort Lorraine Collins from the National Trust Tours Committee will accompany the tour in England
- Local tour manager
- Travel to all excursion by motor coach
- Transfers to and from Heathrow Airport
- Bed and full English breakfast accommodation at the hotels described
- Evening meals at the hotels or in local restaurants as specified with the exception of evenings described as free to make own dinner arrangements
- Welcome drinks reception and induction on arrival night
- All excursions and tours/ walking tours led by fully qualified guides as described
- Free entrance for National Trust members to National Trust properties, plus entrance costs to non National Trust properties and all costs for tours and talks at properties
- One evening guest lecture given by an expert in their field
- Porterage at hotels

*All due care will be taken to ensure inclusions will be delivered as agreed. In case of changes beyond our control, we will provide viable alternatives.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST:

Items of a personal nature such as phone calls, drinks, travel insurance, excess baggage, laundry, all extra communication charges incurred on a passengers' behalf and meals not specified in the itinerary.

SINGLE TRAVELLERS:

For travellers wishing sole use of a room, we are obliged to charge a single supplement for the hotel room rate.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Please apply for enrolment promptly. All reservations are subject to availability at the time of booking. A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 per person by cash or cheque is required within 7 days of reservation.
- Final payment is due by 24th February 2019 and is non refundable inside 90 days of departure.
- Payment by credit card will incur a surcharge of 1.3%.
- A full refund will be given if the Tour is cancelled by the Tour operator.
- Travel Insurance: This is compulsory for all tours. Insurance brochures will be sent with deposit receipts. Travel Insurance is available and recommended to cover your additional expenses caused by strikes, transport delays, or due to injury or sickness of a passenger or relative.
- Depending on weather conditions and exceptional circumstances, day trips may be cancelled or varied.
- Please note this tour will involve a reasonable amount of walking so a certain level of fitness is recommended.
- National Trust Properties: as we will be visiting a number of National Trust properties your National Trust membership card will be required at all times.
- Note at the time of going to print some visits were still to be confirmed.

HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Please contact David Smith at Travel on Capri on 1800 679 066 or (07) 5592 3349 to reserve your place on the tour. Please note that all reservations are subject to availability at the time of booking. Your booking will be held for 7 days, pending the receipt of a non-refundable \$1000.00 per person deposit, by cheque or cash, and the completed booking form.

CHANGES TO THE ITINERARY:

Tour cost is based on land costs and rates of exchange as of 2nd August 2018.

Tour price is based on minimum tour membership of 10 persons. In the event that minimum tour membership is not achieved a surcharge to the published tour price may be payable. In the event such a surcharge exceeds 10% of the published tour price the tour member may cancel his/her reservation without incurring any cancellation charges, provided such cancellation is received in writing within 7 days of the issue of surcharge advice.

CANCELLATION OR ALTERATION BY THE TRAVEL COMPANY

Whilst every care is taken in the planning and operation of the tour advertised, Travel on Capri cannot guarantee that every part of the itinerary will be followed as advised. Travel on Capri reserves the right to modify any arrangements and/or services advertised or replace or substitute the advertised tour escort without prior notice. Provided such alterations, changes and/or substitutions are made with reasonable care, Travel on Capri will be under no obligation or liability to the tour member.

RESPONSIBILITY

Travel on Capri and The National Trust of Australia (NSW) are not carriers or keepers of inns, hotels, refreshment, boarding or lodging houses. Travel on Capri will arrange tickets, bookings and reservations only as agents for its clients who accept the same subject to these terms and conditions and those of each of the concerns (hereinafter called the travel services) with whom the agent may make arrangements for their clients. Travel on Capri is not liable, however the same may arise, for cancellation of journeys, deviations, delays or the failure to provide seats, berths or facilities for carrying or storing luggage or for the failure to provide accommodation. The agents are not liable in the event of any alteration or change of any kind made by any of the travel services following the acceptance of any booking by them and clients are responsible for any increase in charges which the travel service may be entitled to require. Travel on Capri and The National Trust of Australia (NSW) (both themselves, and on behalf of their servants and agents) do not accept any responsibility for any act, omission, default or neglect of themselves, their servants and agents or of the servants and agents of the travel services for injury, damage or loss to persons or goods, whatsoever and howsoever the same may be caused; and they do not warrant and are in no way responsible for the accuracy of any information given or statement made by their servants and agents or those given or made by the travel services, their servants or agents.

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