



THE STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND

JULY 1ST - 10TH 2016

Following on from our highly successful series of STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND tours, we are pleased to present this latest episode telling the tales and traditions of the English aristocracy in the 20th century. The English class system really exists nowhere else in the world, mainly because England has never had the kind of violent social revolution that has taken away the ownership of the land from the families that have ruled it since medieval times. Vast areas of the country are still owned by families that can trace their heritage back to the Norman knights who accompanied William the Conqueror. Here is our invitation to you to come and try to understand how this system has come about and to experience the fabulous legacy that it has bequeathed the nation.



BLenheim PALACE

We have included a fascinating array of visits, to houses both great and small, spanning the centuries from the Norman invasion to the Victorian era. This fall join leading small-group tour operator, Discover Europe, and like-minded friends, for a look behind the scenes of THE STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND.



IGHTHAM MOTE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$4560
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 960

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- MEALS:** Full breakfast daily, 4 dinners.
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout.
- EXPENSES:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.

DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.
95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431, USA
Toll Free (866) 563-7077
Tel: (603) 563-7077, Fax: (603) 563-7137


www.discovereuropeltd.com

DISCOVER EUROPE (UK)
158 Kentish Town Road
London, NW5 2AG, England
Tel: (020) 7240-3979, Fax: (020) 7379-6878



FRIDAY, JULY 1ST

Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city.

OVERNIGHT: PLANE

SATURDAY, JULY 2ND

Your morning arrival at London's Heathrow Airport will be met for the transfer to our hotel in Dorking, Surrey. After checking in there will be time to unpack and rest up from the overnight flight and to have lunch. This afternoon your tour guide will lead an excursion for those who want to participate to nearby Polesden Lacey, an exquisite Edwardian country home. We will return to our hotel in time for cocktails before dinner. **(D)**

OVERNIGHT: DORKING

SUNDAY, JULY 3RD

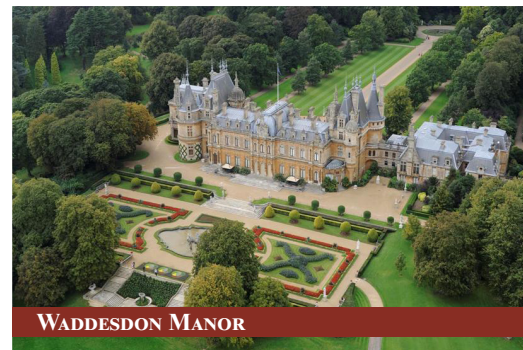
A leisurely start this morning for a short drive through the Surrey countryside takes us over the border into the county of Kent to Hever Castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. We'll have a private tour of the castle and plenty of time to explore the gardens and have lunch before continuing on to Ightham Mote, a 14th-century moated manor house, complete with a hand-painted ceiling in the Tudor chapel and a grade 1 listed dog kennel! We return to our hotel in Dorking for a free evening. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: DORKING

MONDAY, JULY 4TH

Leaving Dorking, we head for the beautiful city of Oxford, astride the River Thames, its historic buildings clustered within easy walking distance around the medieval core. The real treasure is the architectural beauty of Oxford University and its diverse buildings, many of which date back to the 13th and 14th centuries. After our walking tour, you'll have free time to explore— investigate the spire at St. Mary the Virgin with its superb view; admire the circular dome of the Radcliffe Camera; check out the Ashmolean Museum; visit Carfax Tower; or stroll Oxford Botanic Gardens, the oldest botanic garden in Britain. And don't miss Blackwell's, with the largest single room devoted to book sales in Europe—the cavernous Norrington Room (10,000 sq. ft.). We'll continue on to our hotel in the nearby village of Woodstock and settle in before gathering for dinner. **(B, D)**

OVERNIGHT: WOODSTOCK



WADDESDON MANOR

TUESDAY, JULY 5TH

This morning we begin with a private tour, with the head gardener, of the gardens at nearby Waddesdon manor, the home of Lord Rothschild. Bequeathed to the National Trust in 1957, the property is still administered by a Rothschild charitable trust. This afternoon we visit Greys Court, a lovely 16th-century house that was, until recently, the home of the Brunner family, and is now part of the National Trust. Greys Court was used as the setting for the Crawley family picnic in an episode of *Downton Abbey*. A free evening in the village of Woodstock to sample a local pub - or two. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: WOODSTOCK



HEVER CASTLE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6TH

Our day begins with a visit to Upton House and gardens, the home of Lord and Lady Bearsted, and now administered by the National Trust. The gardens of the house are justly famous and the interior contains exquisite collections of porcelain and silver, as well as some magnificent paintings. From here it is a short drive to Sezincote where we'll visit the house and gardens and have tea. The house at Sezincote is a product of the fashion during the Regency period for "Orientalism," while the gardens were laid out in the English style by Repton. From here we return to our hotel in Woodstock for a free evening. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: WOODSTOCK

THURSDAY, JULY 7TH

This morning we will have a private tour of neighboring Blenheim Palace. Designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, Blenheim is the family seat of the Churchills, the Dukes of Marlborough, and was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Our tour will be hosted by Lord Charles Spencer Churchill, the uncle of the current Duke (subject to his availability). The afternoon is free in Woodstock to browse the antique shops for which the village is famous. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D)**

OVERNIGHT: WOODSTOCK

FRIDAY, JULY 8TH

Heading south, we begin the day at Basildon Park, a Georgian mansion surrounded by parkland, it was lovingly rescued by Lord and Lady Iliffe in the mid 1950s. The house you see today is a re-creation and restoration of the 18th-century mansion. They restored the elegant interior and scoured the country salvaging 18th-century architectural fixtures and fittings. We continue on

OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR

from here to the Vyne. An intimate family home, the history of The Vyne spans the centuries. From its royal beginnings in Tudor times to its place today as a intriguing retreat for you to explore, you can lose yourself in the surroundings that inspired great authors such as Jane Austen. It's a short drive from here to our hotel in Windsor where we will enjoy a free evening. **(B)**

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH

This morning we will visit what is possibly the stateliest home of all - Windsor Castle. The Castle has been a royal residence since its founding by William the Conqueror shortly after the Norman invasion in 1066 and is still one of the primary homes of HM Queen Elizabeth. We'll tour the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel and then spend a free afternoon in the town of Windsor. You can make your way back to the hotel at your leisure. This evening we will meet up on the hotel terrace for drinks before our farewell dinner. **(B, D)**

OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR

SUNDAY, JULY 10TH

Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

OVERNIGHT: HOME

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **D** - dinner