



VICTORIA & THE CROWN

AUGUST 25TH - SEPTEMBER 3RD 2021

2019 marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria. Until very recently, Victoria was the longest-reigning monarch in British History. Born in 1819, she acceded to the throne in 1837, at the tender age of eighteen, and ruled for 63 years. Such was her impact on world history that almost a whole century is named the Victorian Age in her memory.

The recent television series charting the reign of Queen Victoria and latterly *The Crown* have become some of the most popular in recent times, and, as our own wonderful Queen approaches her 68th year as British monarch, we look back at Queen Victoria's reign with a view to the modern history of today.

Our tour follows in the great Queen's footsteps from her birth at Kensington Palace, through her coronation in Westminster Abbey, to her final years in Windsor Castle. We'll spend two days on the Isle of Wight, where she and Albert built Osborne House - their "little paradise" - and also visit other country homes and estates with connections to her life and times (several of which were used in recent films about Victoria).

The tour was designed by Alexandra Messervy, who was formerly a member of the Royal Household of Her Majesty The Queen and was part of the team which organized state events and private family occasions such as the Royal Wedding. She latterly served as Private Secretary to a member of the Royal Family. Alexandra has a wealth of Royal knowledge, soundly backed up with exemplary attention to detail and protocol tips, and our guests will learn much from her of the 'behind the scenes' that we all love to know about, as she makes guest appearances during the tour.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **Overnight: Plane**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26TH - Your arrival at London Heathrow Airport will be met for the transfer to your hotel in London, your base for the next 3 nights. After free time for lunch, you will be welcomed by Alexandra Messervy, and make an early afternoon visit to the State Apartments of Kensington Palace. We'll



WINDSOR CASTLE



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED)	\$4980
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$1280

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, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 tea, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** Fully qualified Discover Europe tour guide throughout and special visits with Alexandra Messervy in London
- EVENTS:** All private tours, special guests, events and meals as described in the day by day itinerary
- BAGGAGE:** Portage 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.





also visit the Princess of Wales Memorial Garden before walking through Kensington palace Gardens to view the Albert Memorial. Crossing over the road we'll then take a short tour of the Royal Albert Hall. Tonight we will have a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27TH - This morning we'll visit the state apartments at Buckingham Palace, stroll in the gardens and view the collection in the Queen's gallery. After a break for lunch, we'll visit Syon House. This was the home of Lady Charlotte Percy, Duchess of Northumberland, who was governess to Princess Victoria as a child. We'll return to our hotel with time to freshen up and change before we head to the Goring Hotel for drinks and dinner. The Goring is the only hotel to hold a Royal Warrant from Her Majesty and was an old favourite of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. Here, the family of

Catherine Middleton chose to stay and congregate before her marriage to Prince William in April 2011. The Goring is set in a tranquil private backwater behind the Palace, and if the weather is fine, we'll enjoy drinks in the garden before dinner in the main dining room (designed by The Queen's nephew, Lord Snowdon). **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28TH - After breakfast, we will see St. James's Palace where Victoria was married and a visit Clarence House next door. After this, we will visit Westminster Abbey, where Her Majesty was crowned. We will have a guided tour, with an emphasis on the Monarchy. The Queen, The Princess Royal and Prince William were all married here, and many monarchs are buried within the walls. We will specifically look at the monarchs in the Abbey and the traditions of the coronation. Later this afternoon, we'll depart for a special Director's Tour of the Guards' Museum and the Household Cavalry Afternoon Salute, accompanied by Lord Fermoy, cousin to TRH Princes William and Harry and a former Page to Her Majesty The Queen. We will then join Lord Fermoy for drinks at the Army & Navy Club. The rest of the evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**



ALBERT MEMORIAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH - Leaving London early this morning, our first stop will be a visit to Wilton House, just outside Salisbury, which was used as Buckingham Palace in the TV series. We will have a guided tour here, as well as time for lunch, before making our way to Beaulieu Palace House, in the New Forest. From here, we will continue on to Lymington, where we'll board the ferry to the Isle of Wight. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ISLE OF WIGHT**

MONDAY, AUGUST 30TH - Our first stop today will be at Carisbrooke Castle. Built on the site of a Roman Fort, the present castle is of Norman origin and is famous as the place of imprisonment of King Charles I in 1648, the year prior to his execution. From here we will spend the rest of the day at Osborne House, a favorite residence of Queen Victoria. Originally built as a "holiday home" it was designed in the Italianate style by Thomas Cubitt, and, it is said, with help from Prince Albert. Victoria spent her last years here and died at Osborne House in 1901. We return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ISLE OF WIGHT**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31ST - Returning to the mainland, taking the ferry from Yarmouth to Lymington, we'll stop in Lyndhurst, the central town of the New Forest. There will be time to visit the New Forest Visitor Centre, explaining the history of the forest from its creation by William the Conqueror in 1079 as a hunting preserve, and to have lunch, before we continue to Windsor. We'll stop in Windsor Great Park to visit Cumberland Lodge, not normally open to the public. We'll have a private tour of this magnificent house, built in 1650, and the home of many members of the royal family over the subsequent centuries, and be treated to tea and a glass of the local sparkling wine from the Windsor estate. We will have dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST - The morning we visit Hughenden Manor, the home of Queen Victoria's favourite prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli. We'll have a private introductory talk and a tour of the property. After time for lunch, we'll continue to nearby Cliveden. Queen Victoria was a frequent visitor to Cliveden as it was the home of her dear friend and "Mistress of the Robes," the Duchess of Sutherland. Now leased to a luxury hotel and owned by the National Trust, we will visit the magnificent gardens at Cliveden and then have tea in the Great Hall. This evening is free in Windsor to sample a local restaurant. **(B, T) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**



OSBORNE HOUSE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND - After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we will wander over to Windsor Castle for a guided tour. The longest continuously inhabited royal residence in the world, Windsor Castle was started by William the Conqueror in 1070 AD. After the death of her husband, Victoria spent so much time here that she became known as the "Widow of Windsor." We'll be able to visit the State Apartments, St. George's Chapel and much more. The rest of the day will be free to explore the town. This evening we will gather for our farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - This morning, transfers are included to nearby Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, T - tea, D - dinner