



Tuesday, September 30th

Overnight: Plane

Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city.

Wednesday, October 1st

Overnight: Woodstock

Your morning arrival at London's Heathrow Airport will be met for the transfer to our hotel just outside Oxford in the town of Woodstock. After checking in there will be time to unpack and rest up from the overnight flight and to have lunch in the town. This afternoon we will have a tour of neighboring Blenheim Palace. Greeted by Lord Charles Spencer Churchill, we will tour

Blenheim privately and be entertained by His Lordship for a private tea before he accompanies us to Bladon church, to view the family graves, including that of Sir Winston Churchill. We return to our hotel for dinner. **(D)**

Thursday, October 2nd

Overnight: Woodstock

This morning we will leave with Alexandra for a private tour of 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 Bletchley Park, a Victorian mansion that achieved fame during World War II as the headquarters of the Government Code and Cypher School. This was where the enigma machine was housed that helped to crack the German wartime codes. We will have dinner tonight at a local inn close to our hotel. **(B, D)**

Friday, October 3rd

Overnight: Woodstock

We'll begin the day with a private tour of Holdenby House (pronounced Holmby), originally (before it was largely demolished) one of the largest Elizabethan palaces in the country and once the home of the Dukes of Marlborough. From here it is a short driver to Kelmarsh Hall where we enjoy a private tour. Built for the Hanbury family in the 1730s by virtuoso architect, James Gibbs and builder, Francis Smith of Warwick, Kelmarsh Hall was praised by historian Nikolaus Pevsner as, "a perfect, extremely reticent design, done in an impeccable taste." From here we return to our hotel in Woodstock for a free evening. **(B)**

Saturday, October 4th

Overnight: Woodstock

Alexandra rejoins us today for our morning visit to Cliveden where we will explore the grounds but not the interior. Designed to impress and impose, Cliveden is an Italianate mansion set on the banks of the River Thames and was the home of the Astors. At noon we continue on to 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* and we have arranged a private tour of the property. The friendly intimacy of Greys Court, is in stark contrast to overpowering opulence of Cliveden. We'll spend the rest of the afternoon in nearby Bampton, used as Downton Village in the filming of the series. Much of the village will look familiar from the parish church to the library (used as the hospital in the show). We return to our hotel for dinner this evening. **(B, D)**



Greys Court

Sunday, October 5th

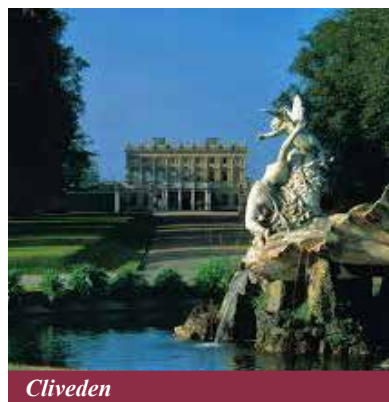
Overnight: Audley's Wood

We'll begin the day with a tour of Buscot Park, home of the Faringdon collection, one of the major private art collections in the country with works by Rembrandt, Reynolds, Rubens, Van Dyck, Murillo and a fine representation of the English pre-raphaelites, including Rossetti and Burne-Jones. We'll then stop for lunch in the lovely, picturesque village of Burford, and then visit Kingston Bagpuize House for tea and a private tour. It is a short drive to our final destination, the award-winning hotel at Audley's Wood, where dinner awaits us. Alexandra will join us for dinner this evening. **(B, D)**

Monday, October 6th

Overnight: Audley's Wood

A highlight for many will be a private visit this morning to Spencer House, the ancestral home of Diana, Princess of Wales. Rarely open to the public, we have obtained special permission from his Lordship for a private tour. We'll then adjourn to the Carlton Club for a private lunch hosted by a former Lady Ambassador, Contessa Angela Harwood Postiglione, and will be joined by jewellery designer Andrew Prince and noted fashion expert Lara Brotherton. Andrew has designed several period pieces for the award winning television series of *Downton Abbey* and has a current collection at Bergdorf Goodman. He is lecturing at the Wintertur this fall and in Williamsburg, VA. We return to Audley's Wood for a free evening. **(B)**



Cliveden

Tuesday, October 7th

Overnight: Audley's Wood

Our first visit today will be to Highclere Castle, the home of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and now the famous location for *Downton Abbey*! We'll have a private tour of the Castle and collections, including the treasures of Ancient Egypt and Howard Carter's expedition with Lord Carnarvon. Although we cannot promise anything, our last group was regaled with tales of the filming by Lady Carnarvon herself. Our afternoon visit will include a private tea at West Green, formerly the home of Lord Sainsbury and currently the home of Marilyn Abbott, who recently won a silver medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show! We round off our tour with a fabulous farewell dinner at our hotel. **(B, D)**

Wednesday, October 8th

Overnight: Home

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