

TREASURE HOUSES *of Southern England*



BLenheim PALACE



OCTOBER 5TH - 14TH 2024

We are pleased to present the second in a two-part series that delves into 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 discover how this system has come about and to experience the fabulous legacy that it has bequeathed to the nation.

We have included a fascinating array of visits, to houses both great and small, private and public, spanning the centuries from the Norman invasion to the Victorian era. Join Discover Europe, and like-minded friends, for a look behind the scenes of *Treasure Houses of Southern England*.

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$ 5680**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 1020**

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:** Full breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 1 tea, 4 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout
- BAGGAGE:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary, including private tours of Waddesdon Manor, Blenheim Palace and Stonor Park (all subject to final availability)

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



HEVER CASTLE

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH - Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH - 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 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**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH - We start the morning with a leisurely drive through the Surrey countryside which will take us 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 I listed dog kennel! We return to our hotel in Dorking for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DORKING**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH - Leaving Dorking, we head for the beautiful city of Oxford. Astride the River Thames, its historic buildings are 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 and 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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH - Heading south, we begin the day at Kingston Bagpuize House. Here we have arranged a private tour of the estate with time for cakes and tea in the dining room. We'll break for lunch in Aylesbury with its charming town center, filled with Tudor, Jacobean and Georgian buildings. This afternoon we'll have a private tour at the 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 evening is free in the village of Woodstock to sample a local pub or two. **(B, T) OVERNIGHT: WOODSTOCK**



BASILDON PARK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH - Our day begins with a visit to Sezincote where we'll tour the house and gardens. 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 make our way to a lovely Cotswold village for lunch and then continue to Broughton Castle for a private tour. Broughton Castle was originally purchased in 1377 by William of Wykeham, the Bishop of Winchester and founder of the famous private Winchester School (the pupils are still known as Wykehamists). We return to our hotel in Woodstock for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: WOODSTOCK**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH - This morning we 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. 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**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH - Heading south, we begin the day at Basildon Park, a Georgian mansion surrounded by parkland that was lovingly rescued by Lord and Lady Iliffe in the mid 1950's. 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 from here to Stonor Park, a wonderful house that has been in the same family for 850 years. The current owner is the former Lord Chamberlain to Her Majesty the Queen and we will be his guests for lunch followed by a private tour of the house and gardens. It's a short drive from here to our hotel in Windsor where we will enjoy a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH - This morning we visit what is possibly the staliest 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 King Charles. 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 gather on the hotel terrace for drinks before our farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14TH - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

SCAN THE BELOW QR TO REGISTER FOR THIS TOUR!



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