



KENT: The Garden of England

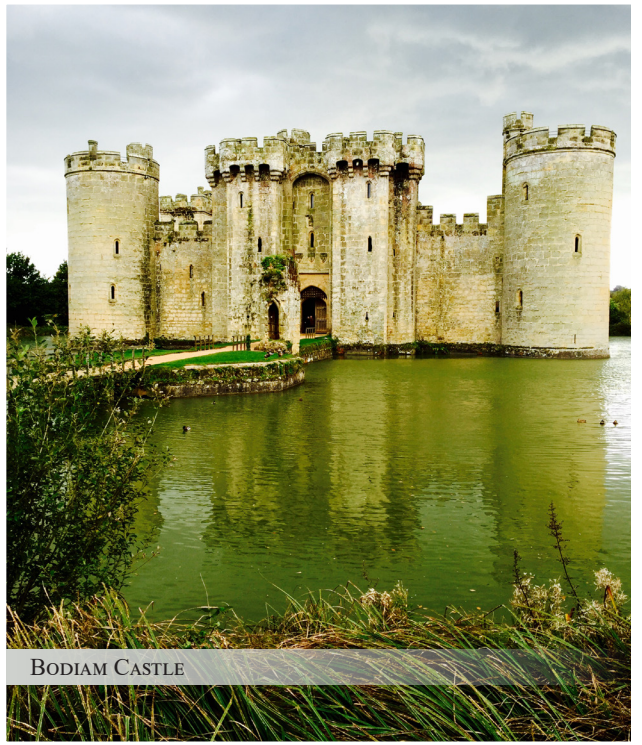
ADVENTURES IN SOUTHEAST ENGLAND OCTOBER 5th - 14th, 2023

The County of Kent takes up most of the southeastern tip of England, the closest point to the continental mainland. The gentle slopes of its chalk hills and the rich clay soils of its central valleys, combine with the mild climate found in the south of England and provide such a uniquely fertile environment that the area has been known for centuries as the Garden of England.

Its proximity to the continent has endowed this region with millennia of rich history. We'll see the Roman lighthouse at Dover and visit Canterbury, where St. Augustine first stopped on his mission to bring Christianity from Rome to the barbarian Saxons. We'll stay in Battle, where William of Normandy defeated King Harold in 1066, and see the remains of defenses against further invasions spanning the centuries from Henry VIII, (who first met Anne Boleyn at Hever Castle) to the second World War.

Part of the beauty of exploring this area of England is that there is so much of interest crowded into such a relatively small area. This translates into more time spent on visits and less time spent on the bus. Our problem designing the itinerary was really what to leave out rather than what to include! We have opted for a mixture of sites, ranging from the historic to the scenic, from the literary to the whimsical, that will leave an indelible impression of this pastoral region.

Our adventure deliberately avoids London, but remember that you are always welcome to extend your tour with a few days in the capital should you so desire.



BODIAM CASTLE



HEVER CASTLE

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$4590
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 880

Airfares are available from most U.S. departure 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, 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 registrant on receipt of deposit.





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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH - Your morning arrival at either London Heathrow or Gatwick Airport will be met for the transfer to your hotel in the Surrey countryside. After checking in, you have time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood. This evening, dinner at the hotel welcomes you to England. **(D) OVERNIGHT: SURREY**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH - A leisurely start this morning takes us on a short drive through the Surrey countryside, crossing the border into the county of Kent. Our first stop of the day is to Hever Castle, the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. We'll have plenty of time to visit the castle, explore the gardens and have lunch before continuing on to Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill. We'll see the fabulous collection of Sir Winston's own paintings and enjoy the rose garden, with its wonderful views over the Weald, before we return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SURREY**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH - Two very contrasting visits today; the first is to Knole House. Knole is one of the great treasure houses of Britain and was the home for generations of the Sackville family. It is the birthplace of Vita Sackville-West, poet, novelist, and garden designer. We'll stop at a nearby country pub for lunch before continuing to our second visit of the day – 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! Our day continues deep into the heart of Kent, to the city of Canterbury, where we'll have time to relax and settle into our new neighborhood before dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CANTERBURY**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH - This morning, we take a walking tour of this ancient city, rich in atmosphere and dominated by its remarkable cathedral, the final destination on the Pilgrims' Way, and the infamous scene of Thomas Becket's demise. We'll view its mysterious crypt and marvelous medieval stained glass; investigate the dramatic ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey, founded in 597; and explore the vestiges of St. Pancras church, a one-time pagan temple. With literary allusion and inspiration all around us (let's not forget Chaucer!), we'll enjoy an afternoon and evening at leisure in this historic city. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CANTERBURY**

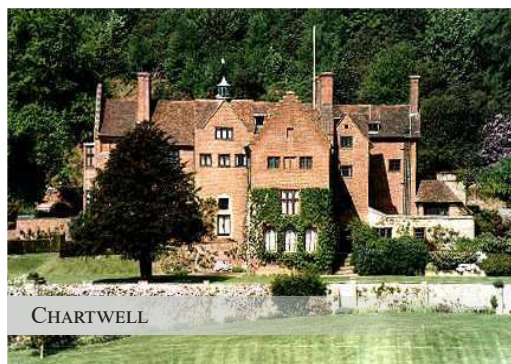


CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH - A full day's excursion from Canterbury brings us to the busy harbor town of Dover, Britain's gateway to the Continent. Characterized by the famous White Cliffs, this is the starting point of the great Roman road to London. Dover has been besieged and pillaged throughout its history, more recently during WWII, enduring constant shelling between 1940 and 1944. After a tour of WWII bunkers, we'll turn our attention to the Castle, where our exploration encompasses the Pharos (remains of a 50 AD Roman lighthouse that may be the oldest standing building in England) and Henry II's splendid Keep. Returning to Canterbury for the evening, you are free to try out one of the local restaurants for dinner. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CANTERBURY**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH - Heading southwest, we cross the North Downs into the Weald and continue through Romney Marsh to the attractive village of Rye, perched on a hill overlooking the salt marshes. We'll stop here for lunch before continuing to the breathtaking ruins of Bodiam Castle. We end the day at our hotel near Battle, where dinner awaits us. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BATTLE**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH - We begin the day in Battle, named for the Battle of Hastings in 1066, and visit the Abbey, founded by William the Conqueror to give thanks for his victory over the Saxons. It's a short drive this afternoon to the seaside town of Hastings, where we'll take the cliff railway to visit Hastings Castle and its 1066 exhibition. We'll return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BATTLE**



CHARTWELL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13TH - Our drive this morning takes us past the intriguing Long Man of Wilmington, a 240-foot-tall figure carved into the chalk downs and on to the county town of Lewes. We'll stop here for a morning tea or coffee break before continuing to Sheffield Park Garden, one of the masterpieces of Lancelot "Capability" Brown. After time for lunch, we drive north through the Weald to Standen. Designed by William Morris and Philip Webb, Standen is a gem of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late Victorian age. We round off our adventure with a farewell dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SURREY**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH - Morning transfers to either Heathrow or Gatwick airports for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

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