



ARTISTRY IN THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE

MAY 6TH - 14TH 2023

EXPLORING THE OLD & THE ANCIENT
IN SOUTHERN ENGLAND

History comes to life as we embark on this exploration of the *Artistry in the English Countryside*—A collection of magnificent stately homes, private houses, and breathtaking scenery.

Each edifice has its own unique charms, offering visitors a glimpse of living history; taken as a whole, the structures combine to provide a fascinating insight into English life over the centuries. Some of the great houses we visit are still home to the same families that have owned them for generations. Many of these homes contain some of the most important art collections in the world, with works from such artists as Van Dyck and Gainsborough. Connoisseurs of fine furniture, porcelain, and china will find priceless examples of Chippendale, Wedgwood, and Meissen.

After arriving at London's Heathrow Airport, you'll be transferred to Salisbury, our base of explorations for the coming week. From this city and its glorious cathedral, we'll take day trips to a variety of spectacular locations that either contain magnificent art collections or have inspired artists throughout the centuries. From Highclere Castle (of Downton Abbey fame) to Wilton House, from Stourhead Gardens to Stonehenge and Jane Austen's house at Chawton to Sally Lunn's Tea Room in Bath, we have assembled a wide variety of visits all within a short coach ride from our base.

Together our small group (maximum 15 participants) will explore the hills and dales, villages, and towns at a relaxed pace that will allow you to appreciate the full glory of some of Britain's Stately Homes, set against the backdrop of a glorious full-blown English spring.

Why not join us in discovering the *Artistry in the English Countryside*?



HIGHCLERE CASTLE



SHAFTESBURY

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): \$3690
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$ 890

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS: 7 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 lunch, 4 dinners
GUIDES: Discover Europe tour guide throughout
BAGGAGE: Portorage 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.
122 Island Street
Keene, NH 03431
USA



info@discovereuropeltd.com
www.discovereuropeltd.com
(toll free) 866-563-7077
(fax) 603-563-7137



SATURDAY, MAY 6TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH - Your morning arrival at Heathrow Airport will be met for the transfer to our hotel in Salisbury (1hr. 30 min. drive). After checking in, there will be time to unpack and relax before your tour guide leads a walking tour to introduce you to Salisbury. We will return to our hotel in time for cocktails before dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: SALISBURY**

MONDAY, MAY 8TH - This morning, we visit magnificent Highclere Castle, better known as *Downton Abbey*, from the television series of the same name. We will have a tour of the house and time to explore the gardens. A short drive from Highclere brings us to the ancient market town of Marlborough, nestled in the Marlborough Downs, where we will have time for lunch before continuing on to Avebury. The neolithic stone circle at Avebury, is so large that the whole village fits inside it! After time to explore the stones we will pay a visit to the 16th-century Avebury Manor. There will be free time to shop and explore before we return to Salisbury for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SALISBURY**

TUESDAY, MAY 9TH - After breakfast this morning, we drive the short distance to the majestic and mysterious World Heritage site of Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain. We'll spend some time admiring the monument, and the exhibition in its modern visitor facilities before continuing to nearby Wilton House, an English stately home that has been the country seat of the Earls of Pembroke for over 400 years. We'll tour the house and have time to wander the gardens and to find lunch before we return to Salisbury. On arrival, we'll take a tour of Salisbury Cathedral and then have free time to explore the city. You may like to stay at the cathedral for a choral evensong or explore the nearby Mompesson House, where *Sense and Sensibility* was filmed. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SALISBURY**



WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH - Our excursion today takes us first to Jane Austen's home, an attractive 17th-century house in the pretty village of Chawton, where Austen wrote and revised her novels, including *Pride and Prejudice*. The museum houses an interesting collection of furniture, jewelry, and needlework, and the lovely garden contains various plants and herbs common to the late 18th century. After touring the grounds we continue to Winchester, once the Saxon capital of the kingdom of Wessex. After time for lunch here, we'll visit Winchester Cathedral, where Jane Austen is buried, and take a short walking tour of the charming medieval town center. Tonight we will gather for dinner as a group at a restaurant in Salisbury. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SALISBURY**



THURSDAY, MAY 11TH - Our first stop this morning is to the charming town of Shaftesbury. Thursday is market day in Shaftesbury, so we will have time to explore the market before visiting the Gold Hill Museum & Garden. After time to enjoy this charming, small museum and its award-winning cottage garden, we'll take in the view over Blackmore Vale, described as "one of the most romantic sights in England." There will be time for lunch in the town before we visit nearby Stourhead Gardens, one of the most beautiful English landscaped garden in the country. We return to our hotel for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: SALISBURY**

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH - We travel northwest this morning, to the city of Bath, where we'll visit the Roman Baths, perhaps the best-preserved Roman remains in Britain, and the Jane Austen Center. After lunch at historic Sally Lunn's, Bath's oldest house (c.1482) we continue this afternoon to the town of Lacock. Lacock has been featured in many British movies, including *Downton Abbey*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Cranford*. Upon arrival, we will visit the Abbey as a group before free time to explore on your own. The evening is free in Salisbury, to sample a local restaurant. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: SALISBURY**

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH - After breakfast, a short drive will bring us to Montacute House. We'll have time to explore the formal gardens, visit the Orangery, and wander down the Lime Avenue before we turn our attention to the inside of the house. This beautiful Elizabethan country home was featured recently in the BBC production of *Wolf Hall* and also houses a part of the collection of the National Portrait Gallery. After time to visit the Courtyard Café for a bite to eat, we'll head to nearby Tintinhull Gardens. This Arts and Crafts style garden is divided into 7 rooms by clipped yew hedges and walls. Each garden room has its own character but joins together in complete harmony. We return to Salisbury for our final evening dinner together as a group. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: SALISBURY**

SUNDAY, MAY 14TH - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for return flights to the US. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

PLEASE NOTE: Do not book flight departures prior to 11:00 am - doing so will result in a very early departure from Salisbury! We are happy to book any additional nights or to help arrange extra activities after the tour, if needed.

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