



QUEEN ELIZABETH II

- An Emblem of our Time

The CULTURE CONCIERGE

Accessing the Inaccessible

Formerly the English Manner

SEPTEMBER 4th - 14th, 2023

Just a few short months ago, Britain was joined by much of the world in celebrating the longest reigning monarch with the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Whilst everyone understood her significant age, no one believed that one day we would be without her wise counsel and guiding presence, yet at the beginning of September, that period of readjustment and reconfiguration began abruptly when the late Queen finally gave in to anno domini and passed the baton of the British crown to her son, His Majesty King Charles III.

A press article commented after the events of 8th September that Her Majesty was an ‘emblem of our time’ which has never been so true. Queen Elizabeth lived through a World War, an abdication and the early death of her father which in itself brought about huge social and economic changes. From the British car industry to aircraft manufacture and the rise of technological advances in every sector, to the strengthening of Commonwealth ties and the advancement of education, there have probably been more significant changes in the last 70 years in terms of society than ever before.

There will not be many amongst us who can remember anyone other than the late Queen and some significant changes may well be on the cards in terms of Royal residences, who lives where and who does what! However, the fundamental principles and traditions of our monarchy remain, and we are delighted to be able to give guests a glimpse of history together with an insight into what may be to come. Curated by Alexandra Messervy, a former member of The Royal Household of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, we have put together a programme which celebrates the history and traditions of the British Monarchy and will commemorate the events to come. Guided by our superb experts throughout, visits include hosting by a cousin of The Prince of Wales, our own Alexandra Messervy who gives insight into Royal service, and some of London’s finest history and art guides.

Accommodation will be at the celebrated Rembrandt Hotel located close to the Victoria and Albert Museum, or the prestigious Sloane Club, a delightful private members’ haven in Chelsea close to the River Thames.



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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$ 6490**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 1560**

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 10 nights’ accommodation at a first class hotel, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- GUIDES:** Host, Alexandra Messervy, along with a Discover Europe tour guide throughout
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 tea, 4 dinners
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- EXPENSES:** Portrage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

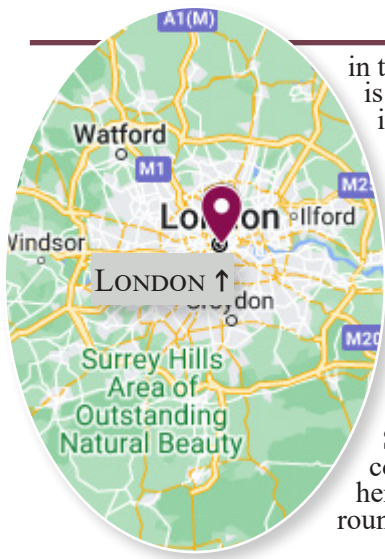
Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER - Arrival at London airports. You’ll be met by a Discover Europe representative for transfers to your hotel where you’ll have a free day to unpack and relax. A group dinner at the hotel to welcome you to London. **(D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER - After breakfast, welcome with Alexandra. 10 a.m. departure to visit **Fulham Palace**, the seat of the Bishops of London for 1300 years. Here guests will view the beautiful Tudor Hall where councils of Bishops sat in judgment and deliberation over King Henry VIII and his marital strife. An afternoon visit to the **Royal Hospital Chelsea**, home of the retired service men and women who have guarded the monarch and safety of the British Isles throughout their careers. There have been many Royal visits over the years and Queen Elizabeth as Patron held it in special affection. If the weather is fine, we can then stroll down the road to the interesting **Physic Garden** which is the apothecaries garden of old and contains many rare medicinal plants of centuries. A chance to take a cup of tea and perhaps a piece of home made cake





in the café and peruse the wonderful book and gift shop, before we head back home. The evening is free for dining as you may wish; there are plenty of local restaurants to choose from, the Club itself and also the Sloane Hotel brasserie next door.

(B) OVERNIGHT: LONDON

THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER - Morning visit to **Kensington Palace** and tour with Alexandra and David Philips, one of our best loved guides. The birthplace of Queen Victoria and home of The Prince and Princess of Wales this very special and historic building allows a glimpse of the Stuarts as well as Queen Victoria's childhood and accession. There is a superb exhibition 'From Crown to Couture' for this summer. Afterwards a visit to the Albert Memorial before a private guided tour of the **Royal Albert Hall**. An afternoon visit to Number One London at **Apsley House** to see the treasures of Robert Adam and the Duke of Wellington's battles in his London home, before a visit to the Wellington Arch, where the coffin of Queen Elizabeth was transferred from gun carriage to hearse for her final journey to Windsor on the day of the State Funeral in September. Here you will be able to imagine the gun salutes being fired to commemorate her 96 years, with views across Green Park where a sea of flowers were laid in her memory. Afterwards, a Royal Tea in the Salon at the Royal Grocer, **Fortnum and Mason**, to round off the day. **(B, T) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER - The first anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. This morning we will visit the Royal Savill Garden and Windsor Great Park for a special private tour. After a chance to take lunch if wished under own arrangements, we will take an afternoon guided tour of the historic and striking **Eton College**. King Charles was educated in the wilds of Scotland but in latter years, his sons were sent to Eton. Afterwards, a very special private tour and tea with the owners of perhaps the only house with a secret passage to Windsor Castle, a **16th Century** masterpiece of history close to the River Thames! Pimms is served to round off your visit, and return to London for dinner arrangements at leisure but note that return will not be until around 8.30 p.m. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER - For those who are interested in gardens, there can be no better place to visit than Queen Anne's Palace at Kew this morning before we meet our favourite guide on her home turf for a private tour at **Hampton Court Palace**. We will be granted rare public access to the Courts to learn about King Henry VIII's favourite game! Dinner together. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**



SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER - A leisurely start this morning before an afternoon visit to the delightful country house and gardens at **Polesden Lacey**, where King George VI and his bride honeymooned and spent many happy weekends entertained in tremendous style by their hosts. Dinner under own arrangements. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER - Coronation commemoration – a visit to Westminster Abbey. Processional route for the funeral, Royal weddings and the Coronation of 1953, and the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May 2023 to take in BP and up the Mall, down Whitehall or across Horseguards, past the Cenotaph and on to the Abbey. Boat trip then along Thames to Tower Bridge and tour Tower of London, Crown Jewels, etc. *or* possibly a private tour of St James's Palace: On selected dates it is possible to join a private guided tour of the five hundred year old **St James's Palace**, which was the official seat of the monarchy of King Henry VIII and has played a key role for half a millennium. It was here that the Accession Council of King Charles III took place on 10th September 2022 and has been the focus for many key Royal events over the years including receptions and State Visit audiences. Marlborough House, a Grade I listed Royal Palace has been leased to the Commonwealth Secretariat since 1965 but is open during this time for group tours by arrangement, and we may be able to participate. It accommodates offices and also the private homes of Members of the Royal Household and is part of St James's Palace. Dinner together. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**



TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER - Today a visit to **Windsor Castle**, to include Windsor Great Park, the **Long Walk** seen by many as the location for the carriage procession carrying Queen Elizabeth's coffin. The spectacular **St George's Chapel** is within the Castle precincts and here guests may view the final resting place for Her Majesty, Prince Philip, Princess Margaret and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and King George VI, all together in a beautiful and serene side chapel. This Royal place of worship is truly breathtaking, filled with the coats of arms of the Knights of the Order of the Garter of St George, the honour personally in the gift of the sovereign. Each June there is a commemorative service of thanksgiving for members of the Order attended by the monarch and

the Royal Family, traditionally held on the Monday of Royal Ascot week. Lunch at the popular Ivy restaurant or take a trip to the Royal Farm Shop and café which was orchestrated and overseen by Prince Philip, setting the standard for other farm shops and restaurants to follow over the years and home to the Royal Dairy. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER - This morning, an early start. Her Majesty's first Prime Minister (of many!) was Sir Winston Churchill and we will enjoy a private tour of the **Cabinet War Rooms** and Churchill's wartime bunker to learn first hand of the wartime challenges and protocols, some of which were still in place when Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne. Raffles Hotel; the former War Office, re-opens this year and promises to be not only a luxurious haven of a hotel but will also serve as a historical museum of some of the most important moments of British history, not least the abdication of King Edward VIII. We will take some morning refreshment here after our visit to the War Rooms, before we make our way to the State Rooms of **Buckingham Palace** for a visit to the official seat of Monarchy since 1837. After a chance to visit the Royal Collection shop and take some refreshments, guests will be able to visit The Queen's Gallery and exhibition, before an afternoon visit joined by a cousin of The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Sussex, who was a Page to Queen Elizabeth and an officer with the Household Cavalry. A visit to the **Royal Mews** to see some of the Carriages and Cars used by the Royal Family and learn about the transportation from residence to residence. A brief stroll past the Barracks to Horseguards Parade and the Old Admiralty, to the **Museum of the Blues and Royals, the Household Cavalry** who guard the Monarch. A private guided tour of the museum and a chance to see the daily teatime ceremony of changing the guard and putting the horses to bed, a ritual instigated by Queen Victoria and continued today. Farewell Dinner at the Sloane Club with Alexandra. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER - Transport to London airports for flights to the U.S. **(B)**

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