



## TREASURE HOUSES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

### BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE STATELY HOMES OF ENGLAND

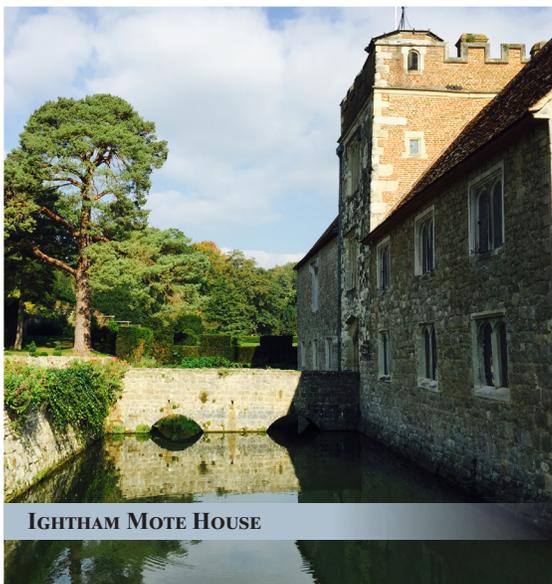
MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> 2019

We are pleased to present the first in a two-part series that delves into the tales and traditions of the English aristocracy in the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



BLenheim PALACE

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. This spring, join Discover Europe, and like-minded friends, for a look behind the scenes of TREASURE HOUSES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND.



IGHTHAM MOTE HOUSE

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$4980
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 960

*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, 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.*

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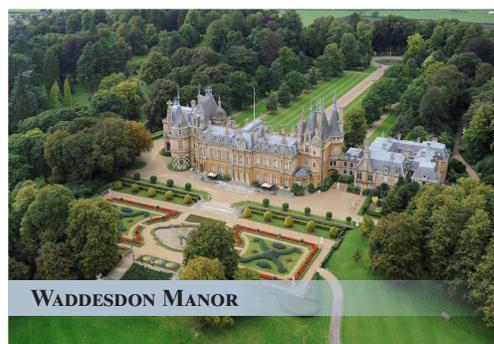


**SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>th</sup>** - Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**MONDAY, MAY 6<sup>th</sup>** - 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**

**TUESDAY, MAY 7<sup>th</sup>** - 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 14<sup>th</sup>-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**

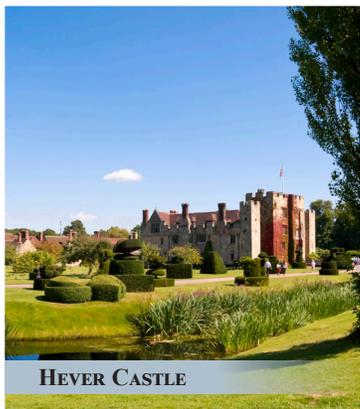
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8<sup>th</sup>** - Leaving Dorking, we head for the beautiful city of Oxford. Astride the River Thames, its historic buildings are clustered within easy walking distance around the medieval core. The real treasure is the architectural beauty of Oxford University and its diverse buildings, many of which date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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**



**THURSDAY, MAY 9<sup>th</sup>** - This morning we begin with 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 afternoon we visit Greys Court, a lovely 16<sup>th</sup>-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*. This evening is free in the village of Woodstock to sample a local pub or two. **(B) OVERNIGHT: WOODSTOCK**

**FRIDAY, MAY 10<sup>th</sup>** - Our day begins with a visit to Upton House and gardens, the home of Lord and Lady Bearsted, and now administered by the National Trust. The gardens of the house are justly famous and the interior contains exquisite collections of porcelain and silver, as well as some magnificent paintings. From here it is a short drive to Sezincote where we'll visit 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 return to our hotel in Woodstock for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: WOODSTOCK**

**SATURDAY, MAY 11<sup>th</sup>** - 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**



**SUNDAY, MAY 12<sup>th</sup>** - 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 1950s. The house you see today is a re-creation and restoration of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century mansion. They restored the elegant interior and scoured the country salvaging 18<sup>th</sup>-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**

**MONDAY, MAY 13<sup>th</sup>** - This morning we visit what is possibly the stateliest 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 Queen Elizabeth. 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**

**TUESDAY, MAY 14<sup>th</sup>** - Morning transfers to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**