

## MANSIONS, MILLS AND MASTER GARDENERS

## JUNE 1st - 9th 2018

The Peak District National Park covers 555 square miles right in the center of Britain, straddling the Pennine Mountain range, known as the "Backbone of England." Created in 1951 it was the first National Park in the country and is remarkable not only for its natural beauty, but also because it exists in the midst of the country's industrial heartland.

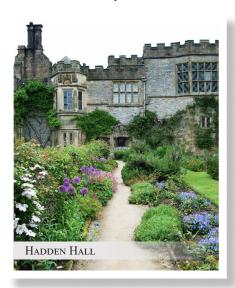
We make our base for this tour in the charming town of Buxton, a Victorian spa town, in the very center of the park and famous for its annual opera festival. Buxton is also within easy striking distance of Manchester International Airport, and its central location means that we can do the whole tour from this one base, with daily excursions to sites all around.

We have included a fascinating array of visits that highlight the contrast between the natural beauty of the countryside and the

industrial heartland that surrounds it. From the variety of gardens of the stately homes spanning several centuries, to one of the country's foremost industrial heritage sites, the Quarry Bank Mill at Styal and the Wedgwood factory museum in the heart of the Potteries, we will explore the region in depth – "warts and all," as they say.

For many though, the highlight of this tour will be the day we spend at the home of the Dukes of Devonshire - Chatsworth House, known as the Palace of the Peaks. Chatsworth has recently become the stage for the Royal Horticultural Society's latest flower show that, some say, rivals The Chelsea Flower Show! We'll have a private tour of the house and we have included membership in the RHS in the tour cost, so that we can attend the member's only day at the show.

This spring, come join Barrington Community School Director, Sandi Tinyk, and Discover Europe's own David Phillips, for an adventure in the heart of England and explore a region that sees few American tourists, but is dear to the heart of many a Brit!





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

Barrington, via Boston departure: \$4980 Land only (no airfare included): \$3760 Single supplement: \$680

## THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

AIRFARE: Round trip air from Boston to Manchester, all airport taxes and

customs charges included

**HOTELS:** 7 nights accommodation in first-class hotels, all hotel taxes and

service charges included

**COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary

**MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 4 dinners

GUIDES: Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guides at

Chatsworth, Hardwick Hall and Haddon Hall Porterage of one large suitcase per person

Entrances: Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary RHS memberships and tickets for members only of the state of the state

RHS memberships and tickets for members only day at the Chatsworth Flower Show. Best seats for a performance at the

Buxton Opera House.

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.

Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.

EXPENSES:

FRIDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> - Afternoon departure from Barrington by private coach to Boston, Logan Airport, where you board your overnight flight to London. **OVERNIGHT:** 

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> -** Connecting through London Heathrow Airport you board the short onward flight to Manchester. Your tour guide, David Phillips, will meet your arrival and escort you to our hotel in the town of Buxton, just an hour's drive away. Upon arrival, you will check in and have free time for lunch at a local pub, or just relax and rest up from the journey. This evening we will gather for dinner at the hotel. (D) OVERNIGHT: BUXTON

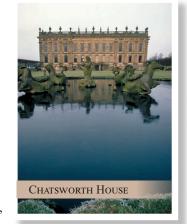
SUNDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> - Departing our hotel this morning, we'll explore the northern Peak District. We'll pass under the shadow of Kinder Scout, the highest peak in the Peaks (2087 feet) and stop in the town of Castleton, a center for the many walkers and hikers who enjoy the park. This morning we'll visit Peveril Castle for the wonderful views down over the town and the surrounding countryside. It is a fairly short and gentle climb up to the top of the castle from the nearby road. After time for lunch in Castleton, we'll visit the Blue John Cavern, a source of the local Blue John Stone, for which the area is famous. This will require a little more effort and energy, as well as sturdy footwear – anybody who doesn't feel up to it can spend a couple of hours shopping in the town. We return to our hotel, where the evening is free to explore one of the local restaurants in the town. (B) OVERNIGHT: BUXTON

MONDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> - Our excursion today shows us the stark contrast between the National Park and the industrial cities that surround it. Our first stop will be Stoke-on-Trent, the center of the pottery industry, where we'll visit the Wedgwood Museum. After a stop for lunch we'll continue to Biddulph Grange Garden, a wonderful example of a high Victorian garden that has remained remarkably intact from the 19th century. We'll return to our hotel and have dinner in Buxton this evening. (B, D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> - Heading west out of the park this morning we'll visit the neoclassical mansion at Tatton Park, with its 50 acres of gardens providing an almost exact picture of what an

Edwardian garden would have looked like 100 years ago. This afternoon we'll visit the Quarry Bank Mill at Styal, a living museum showing every aspect of the life of mill workers during the heyday of the industrial revolution. We return to our hotel for a free evening. (B) OVERNIGHT: BUXTON

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> - A short drive this morning through the glorious Peak District National Park, brings us to Chatsworth House, "The Palace of the Peaks."



Today is the first, members-only, day of the Royal Horticultural Society's recentlyinaugurated, annual Chatsworth Flower \* MANCHESTER Show. We'll begin with a private tour of the house, which contains a boundless collection ranging from Old Master paintings to the geological specimens brought by the last Duke, and then have the rest of the day free to stroll around the flower show.

We return to Buxton for dinner at a local restaurant.

(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BUXTON

Buxton★

THURSDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> - Our first stop this morning will be to Thornbridge Hall Gardens. Thornbridge contains 12 acres of quintessentially English gardens - set in a parkland that encompasses over 100 acres. Areas of the garden include an Italian garden, a water garden with grottoes, a koi lake, and a 100' herbaceous border, amongst others. Just down the road from Thornbridge, we'll stop in the beautiful village of Ashford in the



Water, a tiny village that boasts 62 buildings listed for their historic and/or architectural interest. We continue on to Haddon Hall where we'll have lunch (included). Haddon Hall is the home of Lord Edward Manners, brother of the Duke of Rutland. We'll take a tour of this 14th-century manor house, which has been beautifully revived, with

some exquisite tapestries on display, and then have time to stroll through the delightful gardens. We return to Buxton for a free evening. (B, L) OVERNIGHT: BUXTON

FRIDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> - Another excursion to the east of Buxton today takes us first to Hardwick Hall. Hardwick Hall was built by the redoubtable Bess of Hardwick, and is possibly the finest example of an Elizabethan country house remaining today. On arrival, we will explore the gardens and then take a tour of the house. Leaving Hardwick, we'll stop in nearby Chesterfield for lunch - and to visit the Crooked Church of St. Mary! On our way back to Buxton this afternoon, we'll make stops in the "plague village" of Eyam and at Tideswell Parish Church, known as the "Cathedral of the Peaks." This evening, after dinner at the hotel, we plan to attend a performance at the Buxton Opera House; the season's performance schedule has not yet been announced, but registrants will be apprised of the specific opera selection when it is available. (B, D) OVERNIGHT: BUXTON

SATURDAY, JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> - Morning transfer to Manchester Airport for returning flights to Boston. On arrival at Logan Airport, our private coach will be waiting to take us back to Barrington. (B)

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

