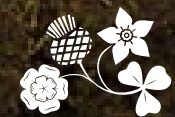




Town and Country

8 night driver-guided tour



Customisable itinerary
Luxury vehicles
Private driver-guide

LUXURY
VACATIONS UK

SINCE 2002



Tour London, England with a private-guide and see those famous places and a few little off-the-tourist-trail gems your private guide can share with you. Then get into the English countryside and tour Stonehenge, Oxford, Windsor Castle, and more.

The Classic Town and Country tour is the perfect itinerary for a first-time visit to England. This two-centre private tour of England will give you a good overview of Southern England's heritage, culture and environment.

You will be looked after from the very start to the last moment you leave our shores. This eight-night suggested tour can be customised to match personal interests, the pace of travel, and style of hotel.

Day 1

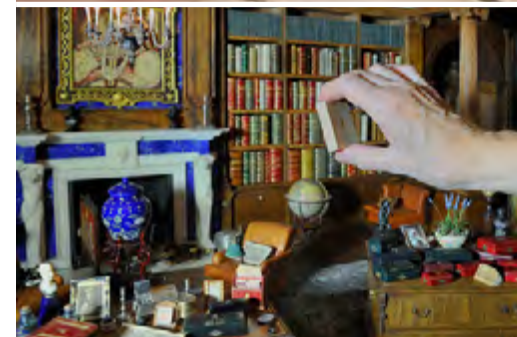
Arrival at Heathrow, tour Windsor Castle

Your chauffeur will meet you inside the arrivals hall at Heathrow airport, assist with luggage and escort you to the vehicle. Come and explore **Windsor Castle** with your guide and discover the story of the Kings and Queens of England.

For almost 1000 years this vast castle has been home to 39 monarchs and royal families. From conquering Kings to royal princesses sheltering from enemy bombs to imperial Queens, the stylistic evolution of this castle dramatically reflects the personalities, ticks, and ambitions of these royal creators. Approach this intimidating fortress, with its substantial stone battlements and forbidding towers and you might feel a little nervous. Follow your guide into the heart of the castle, and you will discover that behind this hostile facade is a palace with interiors of the utmost elegance and opulence. It's fortified walls and dominating towers are Windsor's armour, protecting the treasures within, and of course, the most valuable jewel in the land was the monarch! Today the exotic, extravagant and enticing treasures are from the Royal collection and are not to be missed. Get a taste of Royal life and find out why this is **Queen Elizabeth II's** favourite weekend retreat.

Head to a riverside pub for lunch before reaching London. Your hotel room will be ready for you to flop into, relax and sleep before dinner. You will feel ready to continue your Town and Country tour tomorrow.

Overnight: London.





Day 2

The Royal London tour

Tour the **Churchill War Rooms** where Sir Winston Churchill conducted operations during wartime London when London received massive a bombing campaign, known as The Blitz. The Prime Minister and his team of government officials, secretaries and military personnel sort refuge beneath the streets of London. You will experience the sights and sounds of this perfectly preserved world war two bunker, see operations rooms, map and the PM's bedroom left as if the war ended only yesterday. See the guard change at Buckingham Palace, subject to army schedules.

Private guided tour of Westminster Abbey

Enjoy a private tour inside Westminster Abbey, famous for coronations and weddings of Royalty. The Abbey is one of Britain's most iconic historic buildings, a Royal church with the tombs of Kings and Queens. The Abbey has become a place of burial for the great and the good of British history. See the coronation chair and the spectacular King Henry VII chapel.

Private guided walking tour of Royal St. James

Strolling through aristocratic London is characterised by elegant squares, specialist shops and smart restaurants. Before large department stores, ladies and gentlemen had a tailor, a hatter, shoemaker, cheese-monger, wine merchant and so on. These specialist stores can still be seen in the small streets of Mayfair and St James today. An opportunity to taste local cheese, buy beautifully crafted shoes, shirts, and have lunch.

Overnight: London.





Day 3

Lazy day, shopping and theatre

Free day to enjoy museums, parks and go for a stroll. Options include: Private guided tour of the **British Museum** and Bloomsbury area – ask for further details if required.

See our VIP tours:

1. Gastro tour of London.
2. Private tour of Kensington Palace.
3. Private tour of the Tower of London and evening ceremony of the Keys.
4. Private tour of Churchill's war rooms.
5. Private tour of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.
6. Private tour of the Crown Jewels and the Tower of London.





Day 4

The Old City of London

Private tour of St Paul's Cathedral

Go inside St Paul's Cathedral, enjoy a highlights tour with your guide. One of the most important places of Christian worship in the world, and architecturally a masterpiece of baroque grandeur. Vast amounts of the pure white stone contrast with the colourful mosaics within the saucer domes, giant statues of British heroes stand to watch like oversized historical ghosts – it is an overwhelming experience. The central dome of St Paul's is an excellent engineering wonder; people draw breath when seen. If you are feeling energetic, climb the 533 steps into the superstructure of the said dome, stop at the famous Whispering Gallery before reaching the outside for incredible views of London.

Private tour of the tower of London.

Enjoy a private tour Tower of London, an ancient royal palace, castle, and infamous prison. The Tower of London is quite rightly famous for being a jail of sorts, not an ordinary one, a super VIP prison. The incarceration of Queens, Kings, and government officials, such as Queen Anne Boleyn, Thomas Cromwell, Princess Elizabeth and Saint Thomas More. See the English Crown Jewels, including the Imperial State Crown, the Crown of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the First Star of Africa, the largest diamond in the world.

Take a walk-through-time and discover London's layers of history. Stroll the old alleyways, and your guide will reveal hidden squares, ancient chapels and fragments of the Roman wall. Go below ground and see those layers of time, hear tales of fire, buried treasure, and gladiatorial combat. The Old City of London has many secrets; in fact, two thousand years of stories, buildings, and culture. Leave London feeling like you know its origins, its soul, and culture.

Overnight: London.



Day 5

Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral and Magna Carta

Older than the Pyramids of Egypt, **Stonehenge**, Europe's most famous prehistoric monument is around 5,000 years old. A temple to the sun, moon and stars, this mystical and magical site holds within its stones, the key to understanding the cultures and rituals of the Neolithic people that built it. The story of Stonehenge is not one to be missed. Your private guide will reveal the mystery around this world-famous stone circle, explaining how experts have exposed the secrets of this enigmatic site. The interactive experience doesn't stop at the stone circle. Your guide can also take you to meet a 5,500-year-old man and discover the tools and domestic artefacts handled by these people who lived 1000's of years ago.

The last stop is one of Britain's most magnificent cathedrals and one of the world's most excellent examples of early English gothic architecture. Salisbury was built-in 1220, its spire boasts a height of 404 feet and is the tallest medieval structure in the world. **Salisbury Cathedral** commemorated its 800th birthday in 2020 and has seen some things in its time. Plague, royal feuds ravaged the city, and secret WW2 operations took place. Come and discover all this and more with your guide. See the Magna Carta and a beautifully preserved stone frieze depicting scenes from the old testament.

Overnight: Bath..





Day 6

Stourhead Gardens, Bath and Old Wardour Castle

Take a stroll around the world heritage **City of Bath** with its grandiose Georgian architecture, boasting more listed buildings than London. The Circus and Royal Crescent represent Georgian architecture at its finest. Tour the ancient **Roman Baths**. Two thousand years ago, the Romans harnessed the local hot springs and were able to engineer a magnificent complex of plunge pools, steam rooms and saunas. See how the Romans unwound in their state-of-the-art health club and spa, dating as far back as 60 AD!

Visit **Bath Abbey**; The Gothic fan vault over the nave in the abbey is quite simply majestic. The great advantage of having your professional driver-guide is to be able to take scenic routes that are off-the-beaten-track and explore England's country lanes, hamlets and lesser-known villages. Take a break at a real local's pub in a proper English village.

Considered to be one of England's most exceptional gardens, **Stourhead** is one of the most remarkable landscaped gardens in Europe. The garden is a living work of art, perfect to see at any time of the year. See the dark and mysterious volcanic rock Grotto and come face to face with the river god.

Visit **Old Wardour Castle**, a real secret tucked away down a narrow series of country lanes, almost forgotten in time. This 14th Century fortification came under attack during the English Civil War, ruined by the 17th Century canon fire. Your driver-guide will take you around the castle rooms and up the circular stairs to see the panoramic landscape of Wiltshire. The perfect place for a picnic lunch; Wardour is genuinely magical and mostly unknown.

Overnight: Bath.





Day 7

Cotswolds Countryside

Take a journey through England's timeless countryside and visit the pretty villages surrounded by the **Cotswold Hills**. England's largest Area of **Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**.

See traditional thatched cottages and delightful shops full of unusual and unique items. Stop at Chipping Campden, the perfect Cotswolds market town, with its old pubs, tea rooms and a quaint market hall. Bibury first earned its title of 'the most beautiful village in England' from the artist and craftsman, William Morris.

During the afternoon you may wish to tour some of the quintessentially English gardens of the Cotswolds region. Tour **Hidcote Manor Gardens**, one of England's finest gardens, a complete dream set high in the Cotswold Hills. The herbaceous borders and chambers of hedges add to the theme and character of the garden – every corner turned brings a smile to the face.

Overnight: The Cotswolds.



Day 8

Blenheim Palace and Oxford

Oxford is home to the oldest university in England, home to C.S Lewis, JRR Tolkien and the birthplace of Stephen Hawking. Twenty-six British Prime Ministers all educated at **Oxford University**, along with many famous individuals such as Tim Berners Lee, computer scientist and inventor of the World Wide Web. Enjoy a walking tour with your guide and visit Christ Church College with its vaulted staircase and elegant Tudor dining hall, the inspiration for locations in the Harry Potter films.

One of England's 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' with picturesque towns and villages made of honey-coloured limestone; the Cotswolds are a delight to explore. Once a wealthy wool-producing area, this region is now a film maker's dream.

Home to the Duke of Marlborough and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace is a grand aristocratic home befitting the high status of a Dukedom. There is one way to arrive at the Palace, and that is to drive through the victory gate into Capability Brown's world-famous landscaped grounds.

Time-permitting, tour the magnificent staterooms. Stroll around the formal gardens and stroll through the collection of Italian, secret, rose and pleasure gardens along with the water terraces.

Overnight: the Cotswolds.



Day 9

Chauffeur-driven transfer to London Heathrow

While in the UK extend your trip and head to Scotland. Bolt on extra days and make that transatlantic flight work for you.



"I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for all your help in making our trip to London a "once in a lifetime" trip. The itinerary was superb and the accommodations were perfect. I would not change a single thing."

ORIHIL, T.





Hotels, restaurants and
travel information



Guest Houses and historic places



Guesthouses and B&B's have come a long way in the past 20 years. High-end bedding, luxurious surroundings, and refined touches are now much more common.

You get a massive bang for your buck with this category of accommodation. Stay in a private castle, gatehouse, folly, fort, lighthouse or historic country cottage is the way the British enjoy Britain. Be surrounded by glorious countryside, walking distance to a genuine village pub, and be intrigued by living if but for a short time somewhere special.

Castles & Manor House Hotels



There's nothing quite like arriving at an authentic medieval castle or manor house and knowing you are staying the night. Every portrait, grand staircase and corridor has a tale to tell.

Each chamber will be unique, have quirks and exciting features. This style of hotel will have historic landscaped grounds, gardens, and produce grown onsite. Some have golf courses and other leisure facilities such as spas.



Town House & Boutique Hotels



Location, location, location, your traditional townhouse hotel will be centrally situated right in town. Walk out the door and be surrounded by shops, cafes, restaurants and historical landmarks.

The boutique versions of these town centre locations will have a contemporary feel with designer bars and lounges. There is a choice of out of town boutique hotels too.

Contemporary & Designer Hotels



Cutting edge design with elegance, setting new standards of luxury. Contemporary British hotels embody comfort, style and tech. Britain's designer hotels are just that.

Every last detail created for that place to stay and that place only. Door handles, keyholes, wine glasses and spa have seamless themes and motifs, generating the feeling of being inside a work of art.

Classic & Britain's finest Hotels



Start and end your day in a refined and grand hotel with the best service. Known as Britain's finest Hotels, enjoy the grandeur, history, architecture along with high-end facilities.

The Classic British, five-star hotel, has world-class restaurants, up to date spas, and beautifully designed golf courses. These hotels will have manicured gardens and extensive grounds to explore. Rooms tend to have antiques and valuable works of art.

LUXURY VACATIONS UK

SINCE 2002

Town and Country

Additional Information



Virtuoso on-site | Visit Britain Partner | European Tour Operator Association Member | UK-Inbound Member



We look forward to seeing you soon!

