



# Wales and England

7 night driver-guided tour



Customisable itinerary  
Luxury vehicles  
Private driver-guide



# LUXURY VACATIONS UK

SINCE 2002



You will experience two countries with contrasting landscapes, two languages, two cultures, and the Welsh and English legendary sporting rivalry, which manifest its self in rugby. Your driver-guide will tell you stories of the great games of the past.

Wales is off-grid in many ways, much lesser known as a destination. We adore introducing Wales to people, the landscapes are emerald mountains and deep valleys, vast numbers of ancient castles perch on hilltops, like dramatic film sets. England is known for stately homes, rolling farmland, pubs and villages.

This seven-night suggested tour can be customised to match your interests, pace of travel, and preferred hotel style.



Day 1

## Arrival at Heathrow, tour Stonehenge and Bath

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. Your private guide will reveal the mystery around this world-famous stone circle, explaining how experts have exposed the secrets of this enigmatic site.

Come and discover 2,000 years of history, all in one golden-stoned spa town. See how the Romans unwound in their state-of-the-art health club and spa, complete with saunas, steam rooms and plunge pools, dating as far back as 60 AD.

Stroll through the grand Georgian streets of **Bath** with your guide, taking in the architectural majesty of the Royal Crescent and Circus. Stand beneath the exquisite fan vault ceiling of Bath Abbey, known as the Lantern of the West and see the space where the first modern-day coronation took place.

Overnight: Bath.









## Day 2

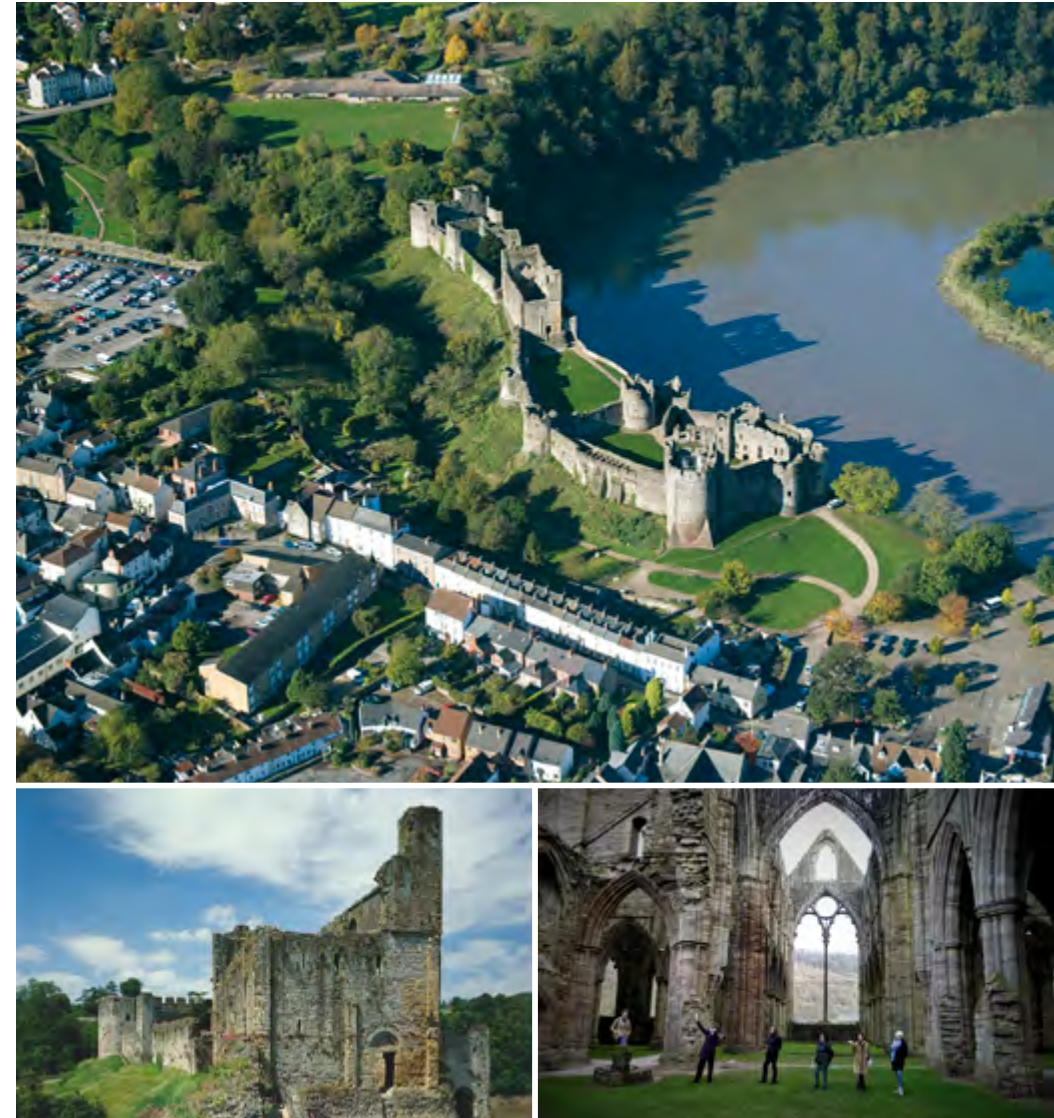
### Chepstow Castle, Tintern Abbey and Symonds Yat

Tour the borders of England and Wales and discover an impressive fortress and romantic ruin. **Chepstow** is a wonder to explore, discover and dream of the Medieval world. Erupting out of the jagged limestone cliff, it towers over the river wye, the guardian of the main river crossing from England to Southern Wales. Wales is the land of dragons and castles. The principality has a turbulent past; raids have come from both sides of the border, invasion by the Anglo-Normans and English Kingdoms eventually made Wales part of an Anglo-Welsh dominion; This is a story of rebellion, power, and Royal politics, enjoy the tales.

Cistercian monks founded **Tintern Abbey** in 1131. Now all that remains of this once-thriving monastery is a romantic ruin, lost in time. The ecclesiastical architecture is a skeleton of the Abbey, intricate and fragile. Its ethereal elegance, perhaps, more beautiful ruined than whole, and indeed more poignant.

End your day with views from **Symonds Yat Rock** that is breathtakingly beautiful. far below see the River Wye and above Peregrin Falcons hurtle towards their prey.

Overnight: Brecon Beacons.









Day 3

## Brecon Beacons, Carreg Cennen, and raptor feeding

The beautiful **Brecon Beacons National Park** covers 520 square miles from the Wales-England border. It feels like you've stepped into Tolkein's middle earth. The folds of giant mountains frame emerald green vistas. This place is every outdoor lover's paradise! Where you can experience epic mountain bike adventures, hiking in an environment where you will meet more sheep than people. It's glorious isolation with breathtaking scenery.

Discover a hidden Castle with a secret, a fortification with Iron age origins. The earliest structure was probably the work of a Welsh prince - Lord Rhys, ruler of South Wales. The isolated imposing ruins we see today bear all the hallmarks of a border Lord demonstrating his power, wealth and influence. This spectacularly located Castle built as a symbol of control. **Carreg Cennen** was part of a series of such fortresses built by Marcher lords throughout Wales after the Edwardian conquest. There is a dark secret to discover deep below its ramparts, be brave and explore the dungeon and cave with your guide.

Stop for lunch and sample local cheese before heading back into the Brecon Beacons. Stop at the **Red Kite feeding station**. This successfully re-introduced raptor will be seen in high numbers when feeding begins. We watch quietly from a bird hide as they circle above, they then dive and battle in mid-air for flesh. It is an impressive sight to see.

Overnight: Brecon Beacons.









Day 4

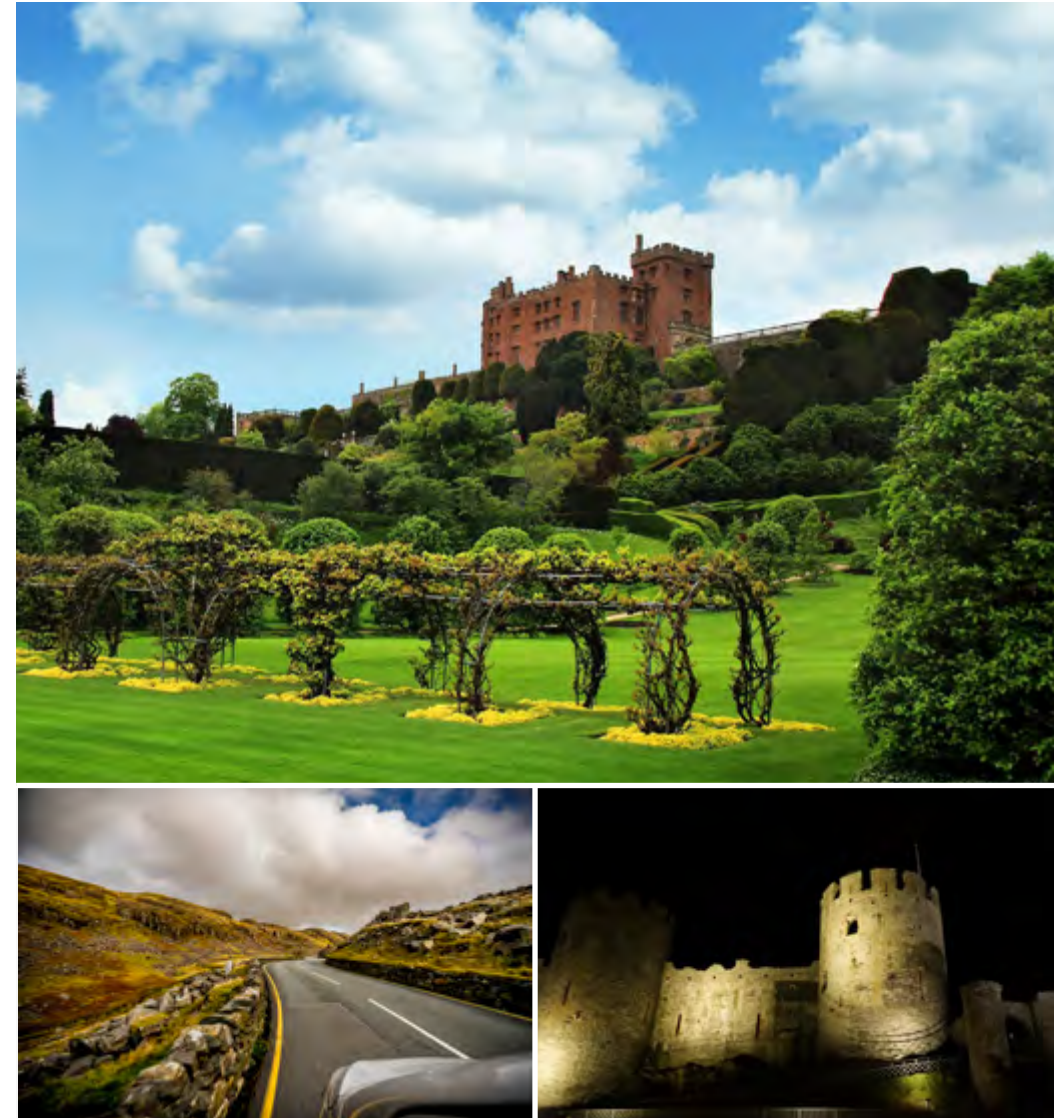
## Powis Castle Gardens and Conwy historic town

Situated on a steep rock ridge, **Powis Castle** is a medieval Welsh fortress. The gardens and parkland, include a deer park. Within Powis is the Clive Museum, home to a collection of Indian and Far East artefacts. The pieces ranged from the 17th Century and made up of a variety of material such as gold, ivory, textiles and silver. The 'Cat and Snake' marble sculpture in the museum is perhaps the most eccentric piece dating from Roman times. The coach house and stables are relatively modern were built in the 17th century and contain a grand state coach still used today for family ceremonies.

Powis Garden attracts visitors from around the world and all year; they come to see the Italian and French baroque style garden surrounding a colossal fortification. The yew trees in the terraced gardens flow downhill like an immense wave. The drive north into **Snowdonia National Park** is genuinely stunning, forests, mountain passes, and deep valleys.

**Conwy town and Castle** surrounded by the protective outer walls of the Castle, Conwy is a market town dating from the 13th Century. Ancient houses still exist along with the well-preserved Castle, imposing and magnificent. Built by King Edward I in the 13th Century, the primary purpose was protecting the town while managing and governing the local area. The details add to the medieval charm of the Castle's decoration, whereas the arrow-slits on the towers add to the structure's serious roll. Climb the turrets and town walls for the panoramic view of the town and Snowdonia. The chapel, kitchens, and chambers are intact and demonstrate life within the Castle.

Overnight: Conwy.





Day 5

## Snowdonia National Park, mountain train and Conwy

Covering over 800 square miles, **Snowdonia National Park** breaks the horizon and clutches the skyline with the Snowdon Massif dominating the view. The most famous mountain and the highest peak is Snowdon, followed closely by Garnedd Ugain.

Many hikers train on Snowdon in preparation for climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and Everest. For those not in training, we suggest we opt to travel up the mountain by steam locomotive, operated by the **Snowdon Mountain Railway**.

Stop for a beer or afternoon tea in an authentic locals village: sample, cheese, honey, and mead. Purchase a Welsh love spoon before heading back to the hotel. Drive along river banks, and through wooded valleys.

Overnight: Conwy.









Day 6

## Chatsworth House and Peak District National Park

Chatsworth, in its golden, neo-classical splendour, is an accurate illustration of the vast power and wealth of the British aristocracy. This stately house and grounds, comprising of 126 rooms is everything you hope to experience from a stately home. It has ornately decorated interiors, the finest art, antique furniture and a rich tapestry of family history.

It is thought that Jane Austen visited **Chatsworth** in 1811 and when writing *Pride and Prejudice* and used it as her inspiration for Darcy's house, Pemberley. Discover Britain's first-ever National Park, **The Peak District National Park** - with its breathtaking and distinctive landscape. The story of the Peaks is a story of a historical connection between the land and us humans. Its dramatic geological scenery holds clues to our archaeological past - your guide will enlighten you.

Head down to the **Cotswolds**, and see picture-perfect villages, with cosy pubs and historic churches.

Overnight: Cotswolds.









## Day 7

### Oxford and the Cotswolds

Its honey-coloured cottages, and rolling hills make up the **Cotswolds**, the largest area of outstanding beauty in England.

This countryside, with its quintessentially English towns and villages, offers a peaceful escape. It's the perfect haven to relax and enjoy a charming, cosy, and unspoiled piece of rural English life. Spend your time sampling traditional **country pubs**, browsing antique shops, and taking afternoon tea in beautiful gardens. For, as Henry James said: "There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea".

The prestigious and historic university is at the heart of **Oxford**, and it's evolution as a city. An epicentre of academia and learning, it is home to the ethereal architectural skyline known as the dreaming spires. Exploring Oxford with your guide is like being on a treasure hunt, as you discover a trove of golden colleges. Follow the trail of Lewis Carrell and Alice in Wonderland, looking out for the white rabbit on the way, and track the footsteps of legendary writers such as JR Tolkein and C.S Lewis.

Overnight: Cotswolds.





Day 8

## Transfer from the Cotswolds to Heathrow

Stay an extra night, or head off to Heathrow. The journey time is around 2 hours from the Cotswolds.



*"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.



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Additional Information



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





We look forward to seeing you soon!