The Classic Tour of Britain

The grand tour of the British Isles
The famous places with lesser known gems, we do not want you to miss

12 Nights
The British Isles is famous for Castles, Gardens and its Royal History. Our Classic Tour of Britain hits those famous places along with getting off that main road and exploring those places that most visitors either miss or do not know they are there – such as glorious Fountains Abbey, the lost castle in Wales and unknown hamlets in the Cotswolds.

We like to also show the famous places with style, avoiding the crowds and allowing you time to enjoy each location.
Meet and greet London Heathrow plus tour of Windsor Castle

Your chauffeur will meet you inside the arrivals hall, assist with luggage and escort you to the vehicle.

Windsor Castle is a working palace, weekend home to the Queen and the largest and oldest continuously inhabited castle in the world. Visit the opulent State Apartments and enjoy a personal guided tour of the magnificent St George’s Chapel, the last resting place Britain’s Kings and Queens. Learn more about the Tudor monarchs and connections to the tales of the “Game of Thrones” and “The Crown” Net Flix TV drama.

See the exquisitely constructed details of the one twelfth scale Queen Mary’s Dolls’ House. This gift and work of art for Queen Mary was displayed at the festival of Britain in 1924.

Overnight: London
Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral and Bath

Enjoy a private guided tour of the mysterious site of Stonehenge. This ancient temple was built around 5,000 years ago, making it older than the pyramids of Egypt. It is now classed as a World Heritage Site. It was thought to be a place of healing, as well as an astronomical clock and a religious site.

Visit 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. Built over 2,000 years ago, the Romans harnessed the hot local springs and were able to engineer a magnificent complex of plunge pools, steam rooms and saunas. See Bath Abbey. The Gothic fan vault over the nave in the abbey is quite simply majestic.

Visit Salisbury Cathedral, (guided tour included) one of Europe’s great places of Christian worship, an architectural gem in its own right with a spectacular 404 spire. See the Magna Carta and beautifully preserved stone frieze depicting scenes from the old-testament.

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide

**Overnight:** Bath
City of Cardiff, Chepstow Castle, Tintern Abbey & Wye Valley

We head west on a modern freeway before getting off the main road and join the old coaching road to Bath. The Bath road as it was once known passes through various towns equipped with stables and inns for weary travelers. Then see views of Chepstow Castle, the first stone castle in Britain which was constructed during the 11th century. Playing a major part in the Civil War, the castle is now a dramatic cliff top monument within the town. The 800-year-old castle door is the one of the oldest in Europe.

On the border of England and Wales, the views from Symonds Yat Rock are simply incomparable. Look down to see the River Wye or above to see rare raptors circling overhead.

Visit Tintern Abbey. The abbey suffered at the hands of Henry VIII during the dissolution of the monasteries. After the roof was stripped of its lead, the abbey fell into ruin and consequently became a source of romanticism for the painter JMW Turner, William Wordsworth and other poets.

Dinner: 7.30pm at the hotel
Overnight: Bath
Blenheim Palace and Oxford

Oxford is home to the oldest university in England. Oxford was home to C.S Lewis, JRR Tolkien and the birthplace of Stephen Hawking. Twenty-six British Prime Ministers were 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. Have lunch in a traditional country pub serving local ales and food, prepared with Cotswolds sourced ingredients. When the weather is inclement, pubs usually have roaring log fires to keep everyone warm.

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. This Baroque masterpiece was built to impress; the long drive up to the great court provides splendid views of Capability Brown’s world famous landscaped grounds. Time-permitting, tour the magnificent state rooms. Walk around the formal gardens and stroll through the collection of Italian, secret, rose and pleasure gardens along with the water terraces.

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide

Overnight: The Cotswolds
Fly from Bristol to Glasgow – Tour the Trossachs National Park and Stirling Castle

Perched high and proud on the impressive cliffs of Castle Hill, Stirling Castle may have been built in the 11th Century but the additional buildings have placed this Renaissance-style palace on the map. The Great Hall has no less than five fireplaces and is one of the earliest Renaissance buildings in Scotland. Fought by William Wallace, Edward I and Robert the Bruce, Stirling Castle is steeped in history dating back to the reign of James V. During the War of Independence a large part of the castle was destroyed and rebuilt after many attacks.

Made up of mountains, forests, rivers and lochs, the Trossachs National Park is a miniature version of the Highlands with historic connections to Rob Roy. The Corbetts, mountains between 2,500 and 3,000 feet, break the horizon in a zigzag manner. Home to a wide variety of wildlife, including the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, red deer and the wildcat, the Trossachs have inspired numerous writers.

Overnight: Oban
The Glorious Highlands and beauty of the west coast

This day you will truly discover the beautiful scenery of Scotland’s west coast, driving along a coastal landscape of lochs, inlets and lovely viewpoints. Enjoy a Sea-Safari boat trip and discover the wildlife in the sheltered sea lochs of Scotland’s glittering west coast. It has several interesting islands to explore by boat. Look out for sea eagles, seal colonies and other wild animals that live on the islands. Discover whirlpools in the water, formed when two opposing currents meet.

The drive to the harbour where you take the boat is very scenic. You see Scotland’s nature at its best, driving along the many beautiful lochs on the one side and the mountains on the other side. After your boat trip, have lunch at the small port of Appin and see the beautiful Castle Stalker. This charming castle, standing on an island in Loch Laich is surrounded by water, so only accessible by boat. Therefore, we can arrange a special trip, please ask.

**Overnight:** Lake District
Jacobite Express, Glen Coe and the Silver Sands of Morar

Follow the scenic routes along the west coast and take the Jacobite Steam Train. Described as one of the loveliest railway journeys in the world, you will see the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis and breath-taking scenery. Cross the 21-arched Glenfinnan viaduct, well known from the Harry Potter movies.

Your driver-guide will meet you at the end of your train journey and take the road back to into the Highlands. One of the most intriguing features of Morar are The Silver Sands, a white sandy beach next to the wee estuary of the River Morar. Blue skies and white sands give this part a tropical look. Camusdarach beach is famous for its stunning sunsets and views towards the Isles of Skye, Muck, Eigg and Rum.

Glencoe is a place of gruesome historical events, wildlife, adventure and myths. The mountains were formed through violent volcanic eruptions, and then sculpted by massive glaciers. The views of these mountains are a must see when visiting the Highlands. The beauty of this place has inspired great poetry.

Overnight: The Highlands
Royal Scotland: Castles and Gardens

It can clearly be seen why Glamis Castle draws so many to its gates. The famous grounds are listed on the Inventory of Gardens making it a ‘must see’ on your visit to Scotland. King Malcolm II is said to have been murdered in the middle ages. Legends and fables are bountiful here. Known as one of the most haunted castles in Britain, this medieval fortress had substantial restorations made in the 17th and 18th Century, but the original historical architecture is still largely visible.

Situated by the River Tay, the ancient and charming village of Dunkeld was all but destroyed in the Battle of Dunkeld, a Jacobite defeat, in 1689. The ruins of the 14th-century cathedral enjoy an idyllic setting on shady lawns, against a backdrop of steep and wooded hills.

A little further down the river lies the city of Perth. This city is a pleasantly liveable city with large tracts of parkland surrounding the centre. The elegant Georgian townhouses, cobbled streets and medieval spires show Perth’s long and prosperous past. Next to plenty of ancient monuments, the city also boasts a lot of outstanding art galleries and museums.

Overnight: Edinburgh
Scotland’s capital has the historic Old Town with its medieval castle where events such as Hogmanay (New Year), the Military Tattoo and the Edinburgh Festival are held and New Town, the elegant Georgian streets built in the 18th century.

Tour the official residence of Her Majesty The Queen, the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The Palace was once home to Mary, Queen of Scots and the setting for many dramatic episodes in her short life. The state-of-the-art Queen’s Gallery opened in 2002, which enable exhibitions of the most delicate works from the Royal Collection to be shown.

Enjoy a walking tour up the famous Royal Mile with your guide - cobbled streets, tiny shops, mysteries and the stories of Scotland’s great figures of literature. Tour Edinburgh Castle, dominating Edinburgh’s skyline and giving stunning views across the city and countryside. Home to the Scottish Crown Jewels, the legendary Stone of Destiny and Mons Meg - a giant cannon. Tour the New Town and visit the Georgian house, built in the late 18th century and furnished as it would have been in 1796, presenting a fascinating insight into the past. Get-off-the beaten path with your guide and see a side of Edinburgh the tourist do not normally see.

**Overnight:** Edinburgh
Northumberland coast and York

The Northumberland Coast Path follows this stunningly beautiful coastline for 100 kilometres (60 Miles) from Cresswell in the south to Berwick-upon-Tweed in the north.

Alongside sandy beaches, over rocky headlands, past dramatic castles and through attractive coastal villages, the Northumberland Coast Path offers a constantly changing landscape which is a pleasure to explore.

York is one of England’s finest and most beautiful historic cities. The Romans knew it as Eboracum. To the Saxons it was Eoforwic. The Vikings – who came as invaders but stayed on in settlements – called it Jorvik. Its more recent history also characterises the city – its Minster and medieval architecture, its Georgian town houses, and its wonderful Victorian railway station.

York Minster is the second largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe. York has been a religious site since the 4th Century, however the present cathedral building dates back to 1472, being the completion date. Portions of the cathedral’s stained glass dates back to the 12th Century. The Great East Window is the largest medieval stained glass in Britain.

Overnight: York
Yorkshire Dales National Park and Fountains Abbey

Uphill and down dale, touring the Yorkshire Dales National Park is a true wonder. With spectacular limestone valleys, picture postcard villages and historic castles, it’s a place that stirs the emotions and stimulates the senses of everyone that visits. Enjoy the outstanding scenery of deep valleys, rich hay meadows and grassy hills as well as working farms in the Yorkshire Dales.

Fountains Abbey was established in 1132. Within 50 years Fountains had become the most important monasteries in England. The abbey is now a romantic ruin surrounded by an awe-inspiring green water garden. Fountains Abbey has UNESCO World Heritage status.

Overnight: York
Day 12

Transfer to Liverpool and guided “Beatles” inspired guided tour

Liverpool is a city with unique attractions, exciting events, world class sport offerings, unrivalled musical heritage and famously warm welcomes, Liverpool is the ideal destination to visit and explore while it is bursting with pop and culture.

Visit the Cathedral, the biggest cathedral in Britain and the 5th largest in Europe. Travel to the top of the tower and enjoy unrivalled panoramic views of the city and beyond. Explore the British Music Experience and get to know everything about British Music through costumes, instruments, performance and memorabilia.

Every Beatles fan is going to love a visit to Liverpool. As the city where it all began for the four boys, a true Beatles experience is up for grabs at every single turn you take. A Beatles highlight is The Beatles Story on the Albert Dock. Here you can discover their whole story.

Overnight: Liverpool
Day 13

Transfer to Manchester airport

Chauffeur-driven transfer to Heathrow airport.
Afternoon flight is preferable
11 Cadogan Gardens was built by Lord Chelsea in the late 19th century and originally comprised four separate Victorian town houses. With a fabulous location in such a prestigious area, the hotel became vastly popular as a home from home for travelling Victorian aristocrats, politicians and bon viveurs. In that progressive era, the area was known as something of a bohemian quarter, attracting notable personalities including radicals, artists and poets.

More recently 11 Cadogan Gardens was home to a private members club, and a sense of privacy and exclusivity remains. If the walls could talk, we feel sure they would regale us with tantalising tales and glamorous gossip from days gone by.

The distinctive style is unparalleled and the staff at “11” are proud to serve guests to the highest possible standards. Intriguing, evocative and unmistakably unique – we urge you to discover 11 Cadogan Gardens for yourself. The hotel is now part of Mews style “village” with a real local feel, cheese mongers, wine merchants, cafes and restaurants. You can get to know the locals at 11.

Your Room | Deluxe King
A very British retreat with high ceilings, feature fireplaces, and wonderfully comfy beds, the Deluxe Rooms are ideal for couples. Lavishly decorated and brimming with luxury, including a pristine marble bathroom and the finest linen bedsheets, guests can relax and rejuvenate in this quiet city haven.

Need to know
- Size: 22-25sqm
- Double or twin beds
- Marble bathroom
- Your choice of English or continental breakfast
- Period features
- Complimentary Wi Fi
- Nespresso machine
- Still & sparkling water
The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa

A warm welcome to The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa, a five-star haven of elegance and tranquillity just minutes from the historic centre of Bath.

This Iconic and historic Hotel is located on one of the most famous crescents in the world. Built between 1767 and 1775 and designed by John Wood the Younger, it remains to this day one of the greatest pieces of Georgian architecture in the world. Once complete, The Royal Crescent rapidly established itself as Bath’s most desirable address. Seasonal residents, invariably rich and even royal, fell for the uninterrupted views over the River Avon and the proximity of the newly opened Upper Assembly Rooms, the most fashionable of Bath’s concert, dancing and gambling venues.

Your Room | Deluxe King

Decorated in warm, relaxing tones, our popular Heritage Bedrooms are both elegant and stylish. Many have views across the secluded gardens or the beautiful Royal Crescent Lawns and are a popular choice for couples planning a romantic break or those with a young child.

Need to know

- King or queen size bed
- Your choice of English or continental breakfast
- Views overlooking the gardens, The Royal Crescent Lawns or the City of Bath
- Floris toiletries, slippers and bathrobes provided
- Baby cots and toy boxes available on request
- Baths and showers with option of shower-only rooms
- Maximum occupancy – 2 adults + child
Whatley Manor is a grown-up getaway in the heart of the Cotswolds. Set in 12 acres of gardens with 26 distinctly different areas. Come on in and discover a whole new relaxed and very enjoyable experience.

Try Grey’s Brasserie for a leisurely lunch, dinner or chilled glass of wine. Or the innovative tasting menu with specially selected wines by our sommelier in The Dining Room. Discover The Green Room where chefs prepare small plates of expertly crafted food in front of you.

Immerse yourself in tranquillity at Aquarias Spa featuring Natura Bissé Pure Air Bubble Suite and Cosy up watching a film in the cinema.

Need to know

- Full access to Aquarias Spa throughout the day on the day of your arrival, and throughout the day following check-out
- Tea and coffee making facilities in your room
- Complimentary soft drinks and refreshments from the minibar
- A newspaper of your choice
- Your choice of English or continental breakfast
- A selection of magazines
- Complimentary hire of DVD’s from our in-house library
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel
- Mineral water
- L’Occitane ‘in-room’ amenities featuring the distinctive ‘Verbena’ fragrance

**Your Room | Junior Suite**

There are three junior suites to choose from. These are situated in the main part of the house and one of the rooms may be prepared as a twin. First floor junior suites have superb garden views and features include a walk-in wardrobe or a four-poster bed. One of the junior suites on the ground floor in the Tudor Wing has a private patio garden.
At the heart of Gilpin is a very passionate family and team, dedicated to creating lasting memories for their guests, who return time and again for romance, celebrations and escapes. For them, hospitality starts with a very warm welcome and ends with a friendly goodbye, with extraordinary service, exquisite décor and stunning culinary experiences in between.

At Gilpin Hotel all 25 bedrooms have lovely Lakeland views, most leading directly onto the gardens – 6 with their own cedarwood hot tubs, and 5 fabulous new detached Spa Lodges, each with their own ensuite spa (rainmaker showers and steam rooms inside, hydrotherapy hot tubs and saunas outside) for a very special, private experience. If on the other hand you are staying at Gilpin Lake House (a mile away on a separate estate), you can choose from one of the 6 rooms that exclusively enjoy 100 acres of grounds.
Inverlochy Castle Hotel is a beautiful 19th century castle surrounded by the luscious green of the evergreen trees and the sparkling blue from the nearby loch. Being in Scotland's finest Country Hotel, you will enjoy the holiday of a lifetime, where every detail for your comfort and enjoyment has been carefully considered and one which you are sure never to forget.

Dining at 'Albert and Michel Roux Jr at Inverlochy Castle' is a culinary experience to savour, with the legendary father and son taking the helm of the kitchen and offering the finest dishes using local produce. Dining is in any of our three dining rooms, each decorated with period and elaborate furniture presented as gifts to Inverlochy Castle from the King of Norway, creating a unique experience in unrivalled surroundings.
For over a century, The Balmoral hotel has found a home at Edinburgh’s most prestigious address, No. 1 Princes Street. A landmark in the centre of the city, the historic building’s grand clock still dominates the skyline, while its enviable location, stunning views, warm hospitality and world-class facilities provide the perfect retreat.

Enjoy dinner in our Michelin-starred Number One restaurant, unwind in our award-winning spa and enjoy views of Edinburgh Castle from your suite.
Experience the luxury, opulence and style of the golden age of travel at The Grand Hotel & Spa, housed in the iconic former headquarters of the North Eastern Railway Company.

The Grand is the only 5 Star Hotel in York. The very best in traditional English style and service, set off with a friendly Yorkshire welcome.

Spa at The Grand is located in the atmospheric vaults of our historic building in a setting which needs to be seen to be believed.

Stay in one of our 107 elegant guestrooms, experience our luxury Afternoon Tea or enjoy a feast of small plates alongside eclectic drinks in The Rise Restaurant, Terrace and Bar.
We look forward to seeing you soon!