TOURING GREAT BRITAIN

Customised Tours • Private Access • Unique Places to Stay
WELCOME

The reason our clients come back to us year after year is not just because we have the finest fleet of vehicles or that we can offer private access and superb value, it is because we pay particular attention to the character of the people who work with us and look after you during your stay in Britain.

We are in the business of creating great travel memories. The most important ingredient of your vacation is the people you will meet. This is why I have personally selected an office based team and expert guiding team who not only have superior knowledge and experience, but more importantly have the likeability factor.

I would be delighted if you choose Luxury Vacations UK to take care of all the arrangements for your next visit.

Andrew Stevens
Managing Director
Since 2002, we have created British travel experiences for individuals, families, groups and corporations.

- Driver-Guided Tours, Chauffeur-Driven Transfers and Behind-the-Scenes Tours
- Unique Accommodation, Customised Group Programmes and VIP Experiences
- Premium Tickets to Theatres, Sporting and Cultural Events

And why we do it!

Our aim is always to be an ‘upgrade’ to anything else available, but without going ‘over the top’ with our prices. We started our business by offering simple day tours and deliver them well. It was not long before our clients were asking us to include more services and events — this we took as a compliment and felt it showed they trusted us and had confidence that we would deliver to a high standard, without the fuss.
THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Your Team

Our UK office based staff will listen to what you want to see and experience. Whether you are a honeymoon couple, a family or a corporate incentive group, our team’s collective resources will be brought together to build the experience that’s right for you.

Your Tour Itinerary

Each itinerary is designed to match your particular interests and pace of travel. Your tour can also include a stay in a historic house and use of an accessible vehicle.

Your Tour Events

We can book all your entrance and theatre tickets as well as arranging special experiences, perhaps dinner in a great English Country House or a private viewing of the Crown Jewels.

Your Documentation

You will receive a detailed itinerary, including the services and events you have booked. Throughout your stay, our office is contactable 7 days a week to provide support, advice and booking service.
Our driver-guides, chauffeurs and office based team may have different personalities but they all share the same great attitude and commitment to customer care.

We have a large team of experienced and professional guides and driver-guides, some of whom speak another language apart from English. All have received training to match the expectations of our clients.

Not only do we look for people who are knowledgeable and professional, we also want people who have those elusive, combined ingredients of empathy, likeability and character. These are the personality types who go the extra mile and make your vacation special.
HOW TO GET THERE

Our fleet of fine vehicles includes sedans, SUVs, passenger vans and coaches. We pride ourselves on having the very best luxury vehicles to make every journey comfortable.

Sedan

Our luxury sedans are extremely comfortable for up to three passengers. Our Mercedes-Benz and BMW limousines have their wheelbases extended for extra comfort.

SUVs

Our new SUVs are perfect for city and countryside touring. Panoramic roof, large seats and easy access are all key features of our fleet.

Passenger Vans

Our range of passenger vans are suitable to fulfil a number of different roles, depending on the number of people travelling, the amount of luggage and the length of the journey.

Mini Coaches

This vehicle is ideal for small corporate groups and large families. Large windows, cool boxes and quiet modern engines will enhance the touring experience.

Luxury Motor Coaches

Our luxury motor coaches can cater for every group size from 21 to 49 passengers. All of our luxury coaches are air-conditioned, have radio/pa systems and are fitted with seat belts. Some have a refrigerator, TV/Video/DVD and washroom facilities.
WHERE TO STAY

Let us help you choose the accommodation to match your personal style

Guest Houses and Unique Historic Properties
Guest houses have that lovely homely feel. Our unique historic properties are forts, follies and towers – restored to their former glory. These properties are often just a short walk from a lovely country pub.

Castles and Manor Houses
There’s nothing quite like staying in an authentic medieval castle or manor house. Every painting, room and corridor has a tale to tell. Each bedchamber is genuinely unique.

Town House and Boutique Hotels
For those who want quality accommodation in great locations, sometimes with a touch of quirkiness. Centrally located, these hotels are usually a short hop from local pubs, shops and restaurants.

Contemporary and Designer
Modern and elegant, setting new standards of luxury in British cities. Hotels where every last detail has been individually created by the designer to provide a ‘walk-in work of art’ experience.

Classic and Britain’s Finest
Start and end your day in a luxurious place. These are some of the best known hotels boasting a wide range of facilities and world-class restaurants.
What our guide says…

‘London is the most exciting city in the world. When I ask clients what their particular interests are, it is so rewarding to be able to respond by showing them sights and telling them stories that relate to their interests – whatever they might be’.

Ian, Driver - guide

What our client says…

‘Our guide was not only an encyclopaedia of knowledge but very entertaining with it. It was great to be dropped off at or near all the entrances and not have to worry about parking, maps or accommodation’.

Neely, J.
Westminster
The City of Westminster is the centre of religious, royal and political life.
Westminster is also the centre for shopping, entertainment and live theatre. Visit the National Gallery, Westminster Abbey and Winston Churchill’s Cabinet War Rooms.

The City
The old City of London is the original development founded by the Romans. Today it is one of the most important financial centres in the world.
Within the city, popular places to visit include St Paul’s Cathedral, Guildhall, the Tower of London and the Museum of London. Just over The Thames there is Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre.

Markets
London has many legendary markets and exciting neighbourhoods such as Portobello Road, Camden, Notting Hill and Borough Market.
The markets are full of antiques, exotic fruit and vegetables and traditional crafts.

River
Roman London was established near the site of the present day London Bridge.
A great way to explore London is from the River Thames as many sights can be seen from different view points, including the Tower of London and St Paul’s Cathedral.
CLASSIC TOUR OF LONDON

Our Classic Tour is the perfect way to introduce you to the historical sights and popular attractions of the city. We'll also take you ‘off the beaten track’ to explore some fascinating parts of London. It is our highest rated and most popular tour for first-timers to London.

Part I: With Driver-Guide

An experienced and qualified driver-guide will collect you from your hotel.

• Take a flight on the London Eye and see the historical and modern sights
• Stop by Buckingham Palace and watch Changing of the Guard
• Privately tour inside St Paul’s Cathedral and see the beautiful interior of the dome
• Experience lunch where the locals go; a traditional London pub
• See the highlights of the British Museum – one of the greatest museums in the world

Part II: With Guide-Only

Boats, buses, taxis and tubes... and your own two feet – with your guide by your side.

• Privately tour inside Westminster Abbey, famous for the coronations and royal weddings
• See views of Big Ben and Houses of Parliament
• Take a Thames River Cruise to the Tower of London
• Visit Tower of London – an ancient royal palace and castle
• Also see the collection of the Crown Jewels which are on display inside

BOOK NOW +44 (0)20 8669 3666 www.luxuryvacationsuk.com
BUILD YOUR ULTIMATE TOUR OF LONDON

With hundreds of sights and experiences to be enjoyed, you may want our help to put together your own ultimate tour of London.

Here are some ideas of what you could include:

Services
• **Private guided tours** inside London’s greatest places of religious worship – Westminster Abbey and St Paul’s Cathedral
• **Behind-the-Scenes** and private tours of art galleries and museums including the British Museum and Churchill War Rooms
• Chauffeur driven shopping sprees to Harrods, Selfridges, Covent Garden and Fortnum & Mason
• Themed tours: The Beatles, Charles Dickens, Shakespeare, James Bond and Harry Potter film locations
• Neighbourhood guided walking tours of the old Jewish Quarter and London’s markets

Events
• **Private viewing** of the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London, a world heritage site
• Helicopter rides over the city or a high speed boat journey on the River Thames
• Fast track tickets on the London Eye in your own private ‘capsule’
• Tickets to live theatre including opera, ballet and pop concerts
• Reservation services for afternoon tea and renowned restaurants

What the guide says…
‘A particularly rewarding experience as a guide was introducing an Orthopaedic Surgeon and his daughter (a medical student) to the Old Operating Theatre Museum. Coming from a medical family, I was privileged to be able to show them London’s medical past’.

Ian, driver-guide

What the client says…
‘It was a wonderful trip and I can’t thank you enough for arranging our guide. We took the underground to Greenwich to see an art exhibit Turner at Sea. I love Turner paintings and she knew all about this special exhibit – plus gave us an amazing history lesson on Greenwich. I really can’t say enough good things about her’.

Holler, C.

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TOURING GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON – CULTURAL & FAMILY TOURS

Whether it’s a visit to a museum or a family day out, your guide will make it a day to remember. Our guides, who specialise in Britain’s cultural treasures, are world experts in their chosen fields.

Cultural London Tour

- Visit the famous National Gallery, containing 2,300 works of art dating from the 12th to the 20th century
- Make the short hop to Tate Britain and enjoy a private tour which includes the ‘Turner Bequest’ comprising 300 oil paintings and 30,000 sketches and watercolours
- Tour the British Museum and see the Elgin Marbles, the mummies of ancient Egypt and the Rosetta Stone

The Family Tour of London

- Tour inside the Tower of London with 900 years of Royal history
- See the collection of the Crown Jewels which includes the largest diamond in the world
- Take a flight on the London Eye, one of the tallest observation wheels in Europe
- Visit the British Museum and see the Egyptian collection which includes a 5,000 year old mummy
- Stop by the Harry Potter film locations such as Diagon Alley and platform 9 ¾ at King’s Cross

BOOK NOW +44 (0)20 8669 3666 www.luxuryvacationsuk.com
Discover the dangerously exciting world of James Bond on a fascinating, private guided tour experience. Visiting film locations and places familiar to the author, Ian Fleming, you will see London through the eyes of the world’s most famous secret agent. You’ll take part in a real-life spy story and help track down an evil villain who wants to take over the world!

**Itinerary**

- Visit the movie locations and sites linked with Ian Fleming and 007
- Throughout the day you will receive clues from well-known Bond movie characters to help you **track down the evil villain**
- Experience a **high speed boat ride** along The Thames – just like James Bond in ‘The World is Not Enough’
- Climb the **roof of the O2 Dome** – just like 007 in ‘Tomorrow Never Dies’
- Learn about how the films were made, get an insight into the secret world of spies
- Walk in the footsteps of Ian Fleming, Sean Connery, Daniel Craig and real-life spies

**What our guide says…**

‘London mirrors the class, sophistication, sense of humour and spirit of adventure that James Bond never fails to exhibit. Visit the London locations where Ian Fleming told stories about the world’s most famous secret agent. You’ll end the tour feeling you know the real James Bond’.

Graham, driver-guide

**What our client says…**

‘We love James Bond and everything to do with him. This was great fun experience and not just for our kids!’

Goldsmith, M.

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LONDON – DISCOVERY WALKS

Explore the city like a real Londoner with an expert tour guide by your side.
Boats, buses, taxis and tubes... and your own two feet!

**Classic London Safari** FULL DAY

Enjoy a private tour inside Westminster Abbey, burial place of kings and queens including Queen Elizabeth I and her sister, Queen Mary I. Travel to the vibrant heart of London and view the traditional and modern landmarks such as Big Ben and the London Eye. Finish your day with a tour of the Tower of London and see the world-famous Crown Jewels.

**Sir Winston Churchill and Cabinet War Rooms** HALF DAY

Wander the corridors of power, from Whitehall to Westminster, so familiar to Winston Churchill. Uncover the stories behind the great man himself. Afterwards, enjoy a tour of the Cabinet War Rooms where Churchill conducted operations during World War II, which includes the first museum dedicated to the world statesman.

**The Underworld and the Old City of London** HALF DAY

All great cities have their dark side, including London. Discuss with your guide the facts about Jack-the-Ripper and the ‘Whitechapel Murders’. Discover hidden gardens and atmospheric alleyways as we explore the 2,000 year old ‘City’. Hear how the Great Fire shaped the City and see some of London’s striking modern structures.

**Greenwich and Thames River Cruise** FULL DAY

Explore this World Heritage Site with its unique atmosphere, fascinating history and some of London’s most impressive buildings. Your day will include a walking tour of Greenwich and a visit to the incredible Painted Hall and the Royal Observatory and return to Central London by riverboat.

**The Bloomsbury and British Museum** HALF DAY

Stroll through the area with so many literary links, such as the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, Virginia Woolf and Charles Dickens. Afterwards, enjoy a personal guided tour of the British Museum or discover one of London’s many smaller museums such as the Hunterian Museum, with its fascinating human specimens.

**The Old Jewish Quarter and London Markets** HALF DAY

Visit Spitalfields, a district with a vibrant and contemporary attitude. Explore the bustling streets filled with boutique and designer shops. Your guide will talk to you about London’s Jewish history and discuss intriguing stories on the survival and living conditions of the community during the 19th and 20th century. Experience the tastes and smells of Borough Market, one of the oldest markets in London.
LONDON – WHERE TO STAY

Take advantage of the partnerships we have with some of London’s best hotels. You can enjoy free upgrades, room amenities and late check-out.

TOWN HOUSE AND BOUTIQUE HOTELS

The Stafford
Located in the heart of St James’s and close to The Royal Palace of St James, the hotel’s 380 year old wine cellar hosts private dinner parties and wine tastings.

Number Sixteen
The location, seconds from South Kensington Tube Station and the Old Brompton Road, makes this elegant boutique hotel a great base for shopping and sightseeing.

The Egerton House
A stylish townhouse with lavish rooms full of original artwork and antiques. Situated in Knightsbridge, near to Harrods, Egerton House is an intimate and charming place to stay.

The Milestone
Close to Kensington Palace, home of The Duke & Duchess of Cambridge (William & Kate) – this luxury, boutique hotel is voted best in London by Condé Nast Traveler.

CONTEMPORARY AND DESIGNER HOTELS

ME London
A unique place to stay, ME is a modern hotel overlooking The Thames. The hotel roof bar has wonderful panoramic views of the city, including St Paul’s Cathedral.

The Corinthia
Close to the River and moments from Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden – this grand Victorian building, dating from 1885, has fine rooms, stylish suites and imaginative penthouses offering state-of-the-art 21st century luxury.

The Bulgari
At the edge of Hyde Park, close to Harrods, the elegant contemporary architecture and Bulgari’s legendary flair for design are evident in every detail.

St Martins Lane
Designed to make a bold statement, St Martins Lane offers a mixture of a dramatic and striking decoration including individual lighting displays.

CLASSIC AND BRITAIN’S FINEST

The Goring
A stone’s throw from Buckingham Palace. The Goring has received a Royal Warrant of Appointment to HM The Queen for Hospitality Services.

St Pancras Renaissance
The Victorian decoration of The St Pancras Renaissance is an architectural masterpiece. This is the perfect location for Eurostar train services to Paris.

Claridge’s
London’s original luxury hotel in Mayfair – Claridge’s is an art deco jewel. Movie stars, kings and queens have all chosen this hotel for their stay in London.

The Langham
One of London’s classic, grand hotels. Close to London’s major shopping areas of Oxford Street, Regent Street and Bond Street and right next door to BBC’s headquarters.

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We have put together a range of sample itineraries for people with a variety of interests. Alternatively, we can customise any existing tour or create a brand new tour – just for you.

What our guide says…

‘Heading to Bath from Stonehenge and seeing the architecture of the city from a distance certainly has the wow factor’.

John, Guide
DAY TOURS FROM LONDON

Bath, Salisbury and Stonehenge Tour

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.

Not far from Stonehenge is Salisbury Cathedral, a medieval sky scraper with the tallest church spire of its kind in the world. The Chapter House is home to one of the four original copies of Magna Carta, sealed by King John in 1215 and regarded by some as the foundation of our basic human rights.

Enjoy lunch at a real ‘local’s’ pub in a classic English village. Visit the world heritage city of Bath with its grandiose architecture, boasting more listed buildings than London. The Circus and Royal Crescent represent Georgian architecture at its finest.

Tour the ancient 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. End your visit to Bath with a visit to the impressive abbey.

This is one of our most successful and highly rated day trips. The variety is incredible – from ancient monuments, to a medieval Cathedral City, from the best preserved 18th century city in Europe (that happens to have Roman Baths!) to a pub lunch in a beautiful English village.

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TOURING GREAT BRITAIN

Day Tours from London | Windsor Castle and Hampton Court

Windsor Castle is a working palace, home to the Queen and the largest and oldest continuously inhabited castle in the world. This tour is a must for royal enthusiasts. Visit the opulent State Apartments and enjoy a personal guided tour of the magnificent St George’s Chapel, the last resting place of Royalty. See Queen Mary’s Dolls’ House which was completed in 1924 as a gift for Queen Mary. It took 1500 workmen 3 years to build.

From the castle, see Eton College, the exclusive and famous boys’ school once attended by Prince William and Harry.

Lunch can be taken in a ‘gastro’ style, riverside pub.

Tour inside Hampton Court Palace, with architecture reflecting the tastes of kings and queens over a period of some 300 years. Visit the authentic Tudor kitchens; your guide will describe these great kitchens which fed 1200 people at the court of King Henry VIII. Visit the great hall with its hammer-beamed roof and priceless tapestries. Travel into another century and see the Baroque State Apartments, built during the reign of King William and Queen Mary.

Negotiate the maze and explore the world famous gardens, impressive at any time of year. The Great Grape Vine is the oldest in the world.
The City was home to C.S Lewis, JRR Tolkein 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. Oxford is home to the oldest university in England.

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.

A grand baroque palace, the home of England’s oldest University and lunch in a country pub – this beautiful part of England is a delight to explore.
**Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon Tour**

Tour the rolling hills and the pretty villages of the Cotswolds before arriving at the market town of Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of the famous poet and playwright, William Shakespeare.

Visit Anne Hathaway’s cottage, the marital home of Shakespeare. Stop by Holy Trinity Church which is where the famous writer was baptised and buried.

Warwick Castle is an elaborate medieval fortification situated dramatically above the River Avon. Warwick is fun and educational – it’s very family-friendly with various shows and exhibitions. During the holidays see the birds of prey and watch a mighty medieval siege engine launch its deadly cargo!

**Ancient Burial Chambers, Avebury and Stonehenge**

Enjoy a private guided tour of the ancient temple of Stonehenge, one of the most famous prehistoric structures in the world. Explore the visitor centre and see the objects discovered in the local area, such as axes and arrows.

Avebury is one of the most important Megalithic monuments in Europe. It covers 28 acres of stone circles enclosed by a huge ditch and has stones weighing over 75 tons. Explore the ‘Long Barrow’, a dark communal burial chamber, dating from around 2000 BC.

See Silbury Hill, the largest man-made mound in Europe, dating back 5,000 years. Could it be the burial place of an ancient warrior king? Visit a village pub and discuss the theories with your guide.
Stourhead, Old Wardour Castle and Longleat House & Safari Park

Old Wardour Castle is isolated, forgotten and great fun to get lost in! Your guide will explain the fascinating history of this very unusual place.

Stourhead House is regarded as being one of Europe’s greatest landscaped gardens, featuring grottos, lakes and temples on a grand scale.

Opened in 1966, Longleat is the first ever safari park located outside of Africa. The drive-through safari park features mischievous monkeys, rhinos, tigers, wolves and a large pride of African lions along with a penguin island and a bat cave.

Cotswold Country Tour

Take a journey through England’s timeless countryside. Visit the village of Burford and Chipping Campden which are lined with antique shops and tearooms. Stop at the villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter and visit the old mill to pick up a souvenir.

During the afternoon tour Hidcote Manor Gardens, one of England’s finest gardens, a complete dream set high in the Cotswold Hills.

Visit Kiftsgate Gardens, magnificently situated on the edge of the Cotswolds escarpment with views across to the Malvern Hills which famously inspired the composer Edward Elgar.

Brighton, Arundel Castle and the Sussex Downs

See the quaint villages of Amberley with thatched cottages and ancient castle, set in the beautiful Sussex Downs, completely off the tourist trail.

Visit Brighton, the famous Victorian seaside resort that has evolved to become an exciting and lively city. Enjoy exploring the narrow shopping streets known as ‘The Lanes’.

Tour The Royal Pavilion, acclaimed as one of Europe’s most exotic royal residences and one of England’s best kept secrets.

Finally, your guide will show you around Arundel Castle which features a fine collection of paintings, furniture and the amazing Baron’s Hall.

These tours are great for both couples and families. Each one features picturesque villages and outstandingly beautiful English countryside. Have lunch in a Sussex village and try the local produce supplied from nearby farms.

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DAY TOURS FROM LONDON

Country Homes and Garden Tours — It may be possible to visit two to three places in one FULL DAY depending on location. Call our helpful travel consultants for expert itinerary planning.

**Chartwell**
Home of Sir Winston Churchill for over 40 years, Chartwell has gardens, lakes and buildings designed by the great man himself. See Churchill’s study and exciting exhibition of gifts bestowed by world leaders.

**Hever Castle**
Hever Castle is the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, the ill-fated second wife of King Henry VIII. See the award-winning gardens featuring rose and Italian sunken gardens and the Roman statues. Also see the chamber with real medieval instruments of torture.

**Penshurst Place**
One of England’s greatest family-owned stately homes with a history going back over 6 centuries. See the impressive ceiling of the Baron’s Hall. The gardens are made up of yew hedge rooms, each complimenting the different seasons. There is also an adventure playground.

**Bodiam Castle**
A picturesque castle ruin, Bodiam Castle is a 14th century moated fortress, great for children to explore. The spiral staircases and portcullis add to the overall theme of the fortified castle. Unusually, Bodiam once had 33 fireplaces.

**Dover Castle**
A huge fortress perched high on the cliffs. Journey deep into the white cliffs and discover the top secret World War II tunnels. Relive the wartime drama of the underground hospital and enjoy views of France from the castle battlements.

**Sissinghurst Castle Gardens**
One of the world’s most celebrated gardens, Sissinghurst was created by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Sir Harold Nicolson. See the famous ‘white’ garden and climb the ancient Elizabethan tower to Vita’s secret hideaway.

**Stowe House and Gardens**
Now a public school, Stowe House is an 18th century mansion with superb architecture. The gardens are one of the first and finest in England, with photographic landscapes for all seasons. The parkland contains 6 lakes and 32 garden temples covering some 325 acres.

**Leeds Castle**
Described as the loveliest castle in the world, Leeds Castle is surrounded by beautiful landscapes and encircled by lakes created by the River Len. Stop by the maze which consists of 2,400 yew trees.

**Leonardslee Gardens**
One of the most spectacular woodland gardens in England. Stretching over 200 acres with several lakes within the valley. The famous display of rhododendrons is one of a kind. See the fascinating miniature village complete with a parish church and village pub.

**Broughton Castle**
Broughton Castle is the romantic setting where ‘Shakespeare in Love’ was filmed. The garden area consists of a mixed herbaceous and shrub borders, containing many old fashioned roses. The streams around the manor link up to create a moat.
EXTENDED LUXURY TOURING

Your Guide to Bespoke Touring
Great Britain
An introduction to exploring these Fair Islands

The British Isles consists of the United Kingdom of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Northern Ireland, together with the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. It is a diverse nation full of contrasts; whichever direction you travel you will find a wide variety of landscapes and differing cultures to explore.

What our guide says...
‘The beauty and sheer magnificence of Great British landscapes and historic sites will take your breath away. There is no other place on earth which has such a variety of experience to suit every taste. One of the beauties of a private guided tour with us, is that we love to explore as much as you do!’

Andrew, Guide
GREAT BRITAIN – AN INTRODUCTION

Britain has a rich and fascinating history dating back to around 6500BC, and all over Britain you’ll find monuments marking its history – from Stonehenge to Buckingham Palace. Britain is also home to over 25 cultural and natural UNESCO World Heritage Sites and 7 Heritage Cities: Bath, Canterbury, Chester, Durham, Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon and York.

In total, the area of Great Britain is about one third the size of Texas. Although, first time visitors quickly discover that there is much more to Britain than can ever be explored in a single trip. This is why many of our clients return time after time to explore different regions. When planning an extended luxury tour of Britain for a family, couple, individual or group you really do need a team of experts on the ground to help meet your requirements. Our local knowledge is vital to the success of your tour. We can tailor every aspect of your vacation, from the route to the accommodation to booking tickets for special events and making dining arrangements.

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The counties which make up the South of England are dominated by the North and South Downs, separated by the wooded Weald Valley. Prosperous commuter towns and historic houses, castles and gardens dot the countryside and can be easily accessed from London.

To fully experience life in England’s ‘home counties’, pull on your wellington boots and wax jackets to participate in one of the many country pursuits.
**WHERE TO GO**

**Royal Pavilion**
The domes of the Royal Pavilion in Brighton represent a fusion of Chinese and Indian architecture, giving it an exotic and foreign feel. The visit includes the banqueting room, music room and royal bedrooms which are soaked in exquisite colour and fabric.

**South Downs National Park**
With over two decades of experience, Ridgeview Vineyard produces world class sparkling wines using grapes grown on the South Downs. After a tour of the vineyard, head to Arundel Castle, with its magical exterior and Victorian architecture.

**Leeds Castle**
Described as the loveliest castle in the world, Leeds Castle is surrounded by beautiful landscapes and encircled by lakes created by the River Len. Stop by the maze which has been created using 2,400 yew trees.

**Canterbury Cathedral**
Canterbury Cathedral is today the mother church of the world wide Anglican community. The original foundations date back 1,400 years and there was a succession of rebuilds from the site where Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered.

**Wisley Garden**
Whatever the season, Wisley Garden is a special place to visit. Headquarters of the Royal Horticultural Society, the garden is continually developing with fresh ideas and new specimens. The glasshouse has special tropical displays within the desert climate setting.

**Dover Castle**
Visible from the English Channel, Dover Castle is one the largest castles in England and has proved to be a worthy defence structure for the last 1,000 years. Explore the top secret World War II tunnels; you may also be able to see views of France on a clear day.

**Penshurst Place**
One of the greatest family-owned stately homes in England, Penshurst Place is celebrated for both its impeccable gardens and significant early Tudor buildings. The state dining room, tapestry room and the Nether Gallery display a vast collection of paintings, armoury and artefacts.

**Cliveden House Hotel**
Surrounded by 376 acres of garden and woodland, Cliveden House is set in the heart of Berkshire. Bought by America’s richest family, the Astors in 1893, it has been often visited by royalty over the years.

**Stoke Park**
With a 27 hole golf course and an award-winning spa, Stoke Park is a classic 18th century mansion but with contemporary facilities. You’ll recognise the hotel from its appearance in James Bond’s Goldfinger and Bridget Jones Diary.

**Amberley Castle**
A magical castle with a wealth of history which is now a luxury hotel. Through the portcullis and 60 feet curtain walls are beautiful landscape gardens.

**Ockenden Manor Hotel & Spa**
The Elizabethan manor house of Ockenden is a charming and characteristic place with roaring log fires, spa and a Michelin-starred restaurant. The hotel is close to Gatwick Airport, Hever Castle, Arundel Castle and Brighton.

**WHERE TO STAY**

**Cliveden House Hotel**
Accommodation category: Classic & Britain’s Finest

**Stoke Park**
Accommodation category: Classic & Britain’s Finest

**Amberley Castle**
Accommodation category: Castles & Manor Houses

**Ockenden Manor Hotel & Spa**
Accommodation category: Castles & Manor Houses

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SOUTH OF ENGLAND

The country’s first permanent inhabitants settled here, clearing beech forest to start farming. The beautiful countryside is dotted with historic houses clad with hanging tiles, castles, oast houses and formal gardens. Elegant seaside resorts, orchards and the largest sparkling wine vineyards in the world await your discovery.
From pre-historic wonders to remote country houses and rich arable land, the south west has a fascinating mix of history and culture.

World famous Stonehenge is high on Salisbury Plain. The magnificent Roman spa town of Bath boasts the finest of Georgian architecture. Winchester, Glastonbury and Stourhead Garden, will fascinate you.
WHERE TO GO

Bath
Visit Bath Abbey and the Roman Baths as part of the city experience. See the Circus and Royal Crescent which represent 18th century Georgian architecture at its best.

Winchester Cathedral
Spanning over 1,5 centuries, Winchester Cathedral is where you will see the tomb of Jane Austen, the famous mortuary chest containing bones of Saxon kings and the 12th century Winchester Bible.

Glastonbury Abbey
Glastonbury Abbey is one of Europe’s oldest Christian foundations in England. Myths state it is possible the abbey was the last resting place of King Arthur and the Holy Grail…

Wells Cathedral
The present cathedral of Wells was constructed in the 13th and 13th century and takes on a Gothic architectural style. The west front of the cathedral has over 300 statues. See the ancient Vicar’s Close and the Bishop’s Palace, the home of Bishops for 800 years.

Longleat House
Longleat House, the home of Marquess of Bath is one the greatest Elizabethan homes in the country, with fabulous State Apartments, grand staircases, great hall, and library add to the grandness of this stately home.

Stourhead Gardens
Stourhead is an 18th century grand landscaped garden and England’s finest. This style of garden is the country’s greatest contribution to European culture.

Stonehenge
Visit Stonehenge and see the ancient temple which has been classified as one of the ancient wonders of the world. For an exclusive visit, experience Stone Circle Access which allows you to walk in between the stones.

Old Wardour Castle
Down narrow, winding country lanes, stands Old Wardour Castle. The Hexagonal castle ruin is a firm favourite with children as it’s the best place for a picnic and to play hide and seek!

WHERE TO STAY

Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa
Bath is the finest example of Georgian architecture, anywhere in the world. Its location in The Royal Crescent means you can experience the elegant, high society living Bath was renowned for.
Accommodation category: Town House & Boutique Hotels

Thornbury Castle
With Tudor architecture, four-posted beds and a 500 year old vineyard, Thornbury Castle is the place to escape from modern life. The castle is warm, cozy and inviting.
Accommodation category: Castles & Manor Houses

Lucknam Park Hotel
Surrounded by the English countryside, Lucknam Park is unspoilt Country House living at its best, with Gourmet restaurants, equestrian centre and a cookery school.
Accommodation category: Classic & Britain’s Finest

The Paradise
A stunning Georgian house, dating back to 1735, built of classic honey coloured Bath stone. The dignified exterior conceals more than half an acre of magnificent walled gardens with splendid views out over the City of Bath.
Accommodation category: Guest Houses & Unique Historic Properties

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THE SOUTH WEST

This region was home to Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy and (perhaps) King Arthur

TOURING GREAT BRITAIN

Great Britain | The South West
DEVON & CORNWALL

With its dramatically beautiful coastline and countryside, Cornwall’s beaches and Devon’s gently rolling moors are heaven for anyone who loves the great outdoors. Artist’s colonies have exploited the extraordinary light for nearly a century.
WHERE TO GO

Dartmoor National Park
Covering 370 square miles of wild moorland, Dartmoor National Park was the setting for Sherlock Holmes in The Hound of Baskervilles. Explore villages of thatched cottages and find Dartmoor ponies on the misty moors.

St Michael’s Mount
St Michael’s Mount is a granite crag just off shore from the town of Marazion. Low tide reveals a man-made causeway which links the mainland to the mount. Below the medieval castle lies subtropical gardens, tended by the community who live in the island’s cottages.

Eden Project
One of the enormous greenhouse ‘biomes’ at the Eden Project is home to the world’s largest jungle in captivity. The other houses flora from temperate regions of the world, including the Mediterranean and South Africa.

Trebah Gardens
A sub-tropical retreat, Trebah Gardens is a delightful place to visit, regardless of season. Every corner turned is a different view, with over 4 miles of path to walk upon – it is simply a delightful day out.

WHERE TO STAY

The Nare Hotel
Overlooking Carne beach and surrounded by subtropical gardens, The Nare’s peaceful seclusion and traditional English country house style make it ideal for lazing around or exploring the coastline and villages of the glorious Roseland Peninsula.

Accommodation category: Classic & Britain’s Finest

Hotel Tresanton
Situated on the edge of St Mawes, Hotel Tresanton is a cluster of houses in one of the prettiest fishing villages in Cornwall. Originally created as a yachtmen’s club, all rooms have stunning views across the sea towards St Anthony’s lighthouse.

Accommodation category: Town House & Boutique Hotels

Bovey Castle
In the heart of Dartmoor, Bovey Castle is a place of adventure and excitement. Where else can you wear your wellington boots in the morning and your Manolo Blahniks for dinner? You can live out your dreams and then put your feet up!

Accommodation category: Castles & Manor Houses

The Rick Stein Collection
A choice of 6 unique places to stay in Padstow, the Rick Stein collection offers comfortable and refreshing bedrooms with a real seaside feel. St Edmunds House, The Seahorse Restaurant, St Peter’s Hotel, Prospect House, Rick Stein’s Cafe and Bryn Cottage.

Accommodation category: Town House & Boutique Hotels

Trebah Gardens
A sub-tropical retreat, Trebah Gardens is a delightful place to visit, regardless of season. Every corner turned is a different view, with over 4 miles of path to walk upon – it is simply a delightful day out.
Honey-coloured limestone cottages, antique shops, exquisite village ‘gastro’ pubs and tea rooms are just part and parcel of the whole Cotswold experience. Wool production made this one of the wealthiest regions in medieval times and left a legacy of grand churches and manor houses.

Historic Gloucester, Oxford and Warwick can all be reached easily when staying in the Cotswolds.
WHERE TO GO

**Cotswolds Villages**
To fully appreciate the Cotswolds, you must get 'off the beaten track', driving narrow country lanes through peaceful villages. Burford, Bibury, Chipping Campden and the villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter are just a few of the places to explore.

**Gloucester Cathedral**
The cloisters of Gloucester Cathedral are regarded as the finest in Britain. With its medieval stained glass windows, this architectural gem forms the backdrop for several scenes in the Harry Potter films. The mysterious crypt reveals some of the cathedral's secrets.

**Oxford**
The city of Oxford is home to the oldest University in England. J.R.R. Tolkien studied here and C.S. Lewis lived here. The medieval buildings of Christ Church College were used to recreate Hogwarts Hall and other scenes from Harry Potter.

**Blenheim Palace**
Blenheim Palace is a remarkable stately home in the county of Oxfordshire. Built to a vast scale, the great hall is 20 metres high with Corinthian columns and a richly painted ceiling. Home to The Duke's of Marlborough for 300 years, it is where Sir Winston Churchill was born.

**Hidcote Manor Gardens**
Hidcote is an Arts and Crafts garden. Created by the talented horticulturist, Major Lawrence Johnston, it's colourful and intricately designed outdoor 'rooms' are always full of surprises. It's a must-see during your stay in the Cotswolds.

**Kiftsgate Gardens**
Home to the Kiftsgate Rose, one of the largest roses in England. Kiftsgate is made up of a stunning set of individually created gardens with a beautiful backdrop of the grand Malvern Hills. The tearooms are a special treat to finish your visit.

**Warwick Castle**
The Medieval walls of Warwick Castle tower over the River Avon; appearing twice as big due to the reflection in the water. See the great hall and the state apartments, then venture outside to watch a display of falconry and the firing of a huge, medieval style trebuchet.

**Gloucester Cathedral**
The cloisters of Gloucester Cathedral are regarded as the finest in Britain. With its medieval stained glass windows, this architectural gem forms the backdrop for several scenes in the Harry Potter films. The mysterious crypt reveals some of the cathedral's secrets.

**Le Manoir Aux Quat’ Saisons**
One of the most illustrious gastronomic and luxury hotel experiences in Britain. Created from the vision of celebrated French chef, Raymond Blanc. Individually designed bedrooms and an unbeatable dining experience with two Michelin stars.

**Ellenborough Park**
An ancient house on the original Cheltenham racecourse estate which has been restored as an exceptional luxury Cotswolds hotel.

WHERE TO STAY

**Cotswold House Hotel & Spa**
Set in the charming location of Chipping Campden, this hotel is a firm favourite amongst our customers. An ideal base to explore the village before relaxing in the spa.

**Le Manoir Aux Quat’ Saisons**
One of the most illustrious gastronomic and luxury hotel experiences in Britain. Created from the vision of celebrated French chef, Raymond Blanc. Individually designed bedrooms and an unbeatable dining experience with two Michelin stars.

**Ellenborough Park**
An ancient house on the original Cheltenham racecourse estate which has been restored as an exceptional luxury Cotswolds hotel.

**Seymour House**
The house was built in the early part of the 18th century and has variously been a private house, a boarding school for girls during WWII and a guest house, offering superb accommodation.

BOOK NOW +44 (0)20 8669 3666 www.luxuryvacationsuk.com
The heart of England features dramatic landscapes, grand country homes and cathedral cities. This region has numerous ancient coaching inns and played a part in Britain’s industrial revolution.

The Peak District and historic city of Chester make wonderful overnight stays whilst exploring the surrounding areas.
The Heart of England

From blockbuster Hollywood movies to popular TV series; due to outstanding natural beauty, the Heart of England has proved a popular destination for film makers for decades. It is also home to some of England’s grandest country homes, such as Chatsworth House and Burghley House.

Where to Go

Chatsworth House
One of Britain’s greatest treasure houses, renowned for the quality of its paintings and sculptures. The gardens feature a maze, 200 metre cascade and the Emperor Fountain, one of the tallest gravity-fed fountains in the world.

Burghley House
Perhaps one of the grandest country houses during the Elizabethan period, Burghley House has some of England’s finest 16th century architecture.

Lincoln Cathedral
Lincoln Cathedral is a Gothic triple-towered building that stands out magnificently above the surrounding countryside. The famous stone carved ‘Lincoln Imp’ sits above the Angel Choir.

Cambridge
The university city of Cambridge is full of different architectural styles; Kings College Chapel was founded by King Henry VI and is one of the most impressive Gothic buildings in England. Archaeological evidence links the city to the Roman and Bronze Age.

Imperial War Museum of Duxford
The museum features World War I and II aircraft including modern fighters, bombers and Spitfires. It was the headquarters of the US Army Air Force during the World War II. The Operations Room shows how things looked in 1940 when Allied fighter aircraft were being directed from here.

Peak District National Park
The Peak District was the first National Park to be established in Britain and one of the most visited in the world. From upland peaks, covered in peat to rolling lowland hills, the scenery is a patchwork landscape of moors, woods, and pastoral valleys.

Chester
Chester is arguably the richest city in Britain for archaeological and architectural treasures preserved to this day from the time of the Roman occupation. The most distinctive medieval feature is The Rows – double-level walkways with street and first-floor levels.

Lichfield Cathedral
The only cathedral with 3 spires in England, Lichfield Cathedral has been a place of worship for 1,300 years. See the Sleeping Children statue, a monument dedicated to two sisters who tragically died in the 19th century.

Where to Stay

The Cavendish Hotel
The Cavendish Hotel is a hidden gem within the Chatsworth estate. With comfortable rooms and jaw-dropping views, this hotel is a delightful place to stay in the heart of Derbyshire, particularly if you’re interested in touring the Peak District National Park.

The Chester Grosvenor
Owned by the Duke of Westminster, The Chester Grosvenor is decorated to perfection. No expense has been spared with the interior of the hotel, with its rich fabrics and the finest furnishings.

Elizabethan Hall
Imagine staying in your very own, secluded, Elizabethan Hall. This Tudor home is set in the rural heart of the Peak District. Widely believed to be the inspiration for Charlotte Bronte’s Thornfield Hall in her Jane Eyre novel, this is an ideal retreat for couples and families.

Hambleton Hall
One of Britain’s finest country house hotels, spectacularly located on the edge of Rutland Water. The restaurant is a haven for gourmets and wine lovers and the rooms combine comfort with style.

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The Welsh landscape is made up of mountain ridges, river valleys, woodland, waterfalls and National Parks. Bountiful in myths and legends, Southern Wales has a mixture of natural and historical hotspots including the Brecon Beacons National Park and Tintern Abbey.

The turbulent history between England and Wales has manifested itself in the highest concentration of mediaeval castles in the world. From its capital, Cardiff, you can tour the old mining valleys where a traditional Welsh choir and talk of rugby can be heard.
WHERE TO GO

Chepstow Castle
Built to be the first stone castle in Britain, Chepstow Castle 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 oldest in Europe.

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.

Symonds Yat Rock
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.

Ludlow
This well-preserved medieval town is an ideal stop on the way to North Wales. Ludlow has a marvellous selection of half-timbered houses, an 11th century castle and a fine church – the perfect setting for afternoon tea.

WHERE TO STAY

Nanteos Mansion
This historic Georgian Mansion was once at the heart of a country estate covering 35,000 acres of what is today Aberystwyth. Beautiful, individually designed bedrooms are located throughout the mansion, as well as in the former Bakery and Palladian Carriage house.

Lake Vyrnwy
Lake Vyrnwy is a landscape like no other. The water reaches the lake via many routes – one course forms the Rhivargor Falls, a beautiful waterfall which creates natural music through water hitting the rocks. Many come to this area to cycle, sail and rock climb.

Stokesay Castle
Built in the 13th century, Stokesay Castle represents a medieval appearance. The characteristic castle is on the border of England, encircled by Welsh countryside creating a peaceful setting. The grand size of the great hall represents the wealth of the owner when it was built.

Powis Castle and Gardens
Powis Castle is a medieval fortress with gardens and parkland adding to the estate’s territory. The gardens are world-famous for their Italianate terraces, enormous clipped yew trees and herbaceous borders.

Monmouth
Described as an ancient place, the town was built on a Roman fort. It is also famous for being the birthplace of King Henry V and Charles Rolls, founder of Rolls Royce. Monnow Bridge is the only surviving medieval river bridge in Great Britain.

Lake Country House & Spa
This luxury spa hotel in the heart of Mid Wales is the perfect base for touring the region. There’s an indoor pool, sauna and jacuzzi overlooking the lake.

Celtic Manor Resort
Celtic Manor Resort occupies more than 1,400 acres of panoramic parkland at the gateway to Wales and is within two hours drive of London. Comprises of two hotels – a 330 room luxury resort hotel and a historic 19th century Manor House with 70 rooms.

Ynyshir Hall
Tranquility and breathtaking scenery make Ynyshir Hall a perfect place to relax. Creative flair features throughout, with stylish décor and individually styled rooms. The award-winning cuisine is often enhanced with local ingredients, such as wood sorrel.

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‘Croeso Y Cymru’ – Welcome to Wales. North Wales is dominated by the Snowdonia National Park covering 823 square miles of mountain hollows, waterfalls, secret lakes and vast moorlands. Known as the ‘land of castles’, there are many walled, fortified towns to explore.

Castles and mountains dominate the skyline, whilst the natural resource of Welsh slate is still shipped around the world and slate mines continue to transform the landscape.
WHERE TO GO

Harlech Castle
Keeping watch over Snowdonia, Harlech Castle overshadows the untouched coastline. During wartime, the stronghold had seaborne access, allowing supplies to be delivered. The fortified structure is now a ruin but still has a major impact on the landscape.

Conwy Castle
Conwy Castle and town walls are the most impressive fortresses built by King Edward I. The remarkably well-preserved town walls are over 4000 feet long and fortified with 21 towers and 3 gates.

Bodnant Gardens
Known as one of the finest gardens in Britain, not only for its magnificent collections of rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias, but also for its idyllic setting above the River Conwy. Explore the lower garden or ‘dell’ which features wooded slopes and riverside walks.

Snowdonia National Park & Mountain Railway
Covering the most beautiful unspoiled mountains and countryside in North Wales, the topography resembles The Himalayas; hence Sir Edmund Hilary trained here before successfully ascending Mount Everest in 1952.

WHERE TO STAY

Bodysgallen Hall & Spa Manor House
A grade I listed house set in an estate of 220 acres with views to Conway Castle and Snowdonia. Stay in the main house or in one of the delightful cottages nestled in the award-winning gardens.

Osborne House
Based in the Victorian seaside town of Llandudno, Osborne House is elegantly furnished as a private country house with antiques and fine paintings. The bistro/café serves brasserie-style food using food from local suppliers.

Cleffiog
With magnificent views of Snowdonia and the Menai Strait, Cleffiog Bed & Breakfast was originally a 17th century hospice. Located in the town of Beaumaris, their spacious bedrooms and hearty cooked breakfasts make it a firm winner.

Ye Old Bulls Head
This fine and historic inn, located in the centre of Beaumaris, has been welcoming guests since the 15th century. Novelist Charles Dickens and the diarist Dr Samuel Johnson are just two of its famous past guests.

BOOK NOW +44 (0)20 8669 3666 www.luxuryvacationsuk.com
Arguably the most beautiful region of England, the Lake District has remained almost untouched for 200 years.

The beauty of the lakes, with its ancient woodland, slate built villages and fast flowing rivers have inspired famous writers such as William Wordsworth, John Keats, Sir Walter Scott and Beatrix Potter.
WHERE TO GO

**Castlelrig Stone Circle**
Constructed during the Neolithic period, Castlelrig Stone Circle was a place for rituals and ceremonies. It is the ideal place for those wishing to walk around the stones and touch them. With no fencing, the stones are easily accessible; they look striking within their natural environment.

**Dove Cottage**
Dove Cottage was the family home of William Wordsworth, one of Britain’s much-loved poets. See the family’s belongings and the rooms where little has changed since Wordsworth lived there.

**Hill Top Farm and Gallery**
Beatrix Potter’s Gallery at Hawkshead contains original artwork of her most famous drawings and watercolours. Also on display are some of Beatrix’s personal possessions. Visit Hill Top Farm, the home of Beatrix, purchased after the success of the Tales of Peter Rabbit.

**Grizedale Forest Park**
In the heart of the Lake District, Grizedale Forest Park contains an assault course – fantastic for young Tarzans in the making! Both walkers and cyclists can discover the dozens of sculptures dotted around the forest which makes this park stand out from the others.

**Levens Hall Gardens**
The gardens of Levens Hall, an Elizabethan mansion, have the finest, oldest and most extensive topiary garden in the world. Laid out in the 1690’s, the garden amazingly still retains many of its original features. Three centuries of garden making have made it a magical place.

**Lakeland Mountains**
With so many spectacular walks, it’s difficult to choose which fell (hill) to walk. Some are more challenging than others, but all have wonderful views. Scafell Pike is England’s highest point whilst Helvellyn’s Striding Edge is one of the Lakes’ great walks.

**The Gondola Boat**
Initially created for the wealthy Victorians, the steam powered boat is an exciting way to explore the lakes. Listen to the crew’s commentary on the history, whilst admiring the moving landscape.

WHERE TO STAY

**Linthwaite House**
Situated above Lake Windermere with beautiful lake views and 14 acres of private gardens, the hotel is close to all the major Lake District attractions. The 3 AA Rosettes for food, puts it in the top 150 restaurants in the UK.

**The Samling**
Individually decorated, the bedrooms have views of the woodland and Lake Windermere. Awarded a Michelin Star, the restaurant has many culinary delights to suit every mood. Why not reserve the private hot tub which overlooks the lake.

**Gilpin Hotel**
The Gilpin Hotel is a charming hotel in an extraordinary place. The rooms are exquisitely designed and 6 have their own private gardens and cedarwood hot tubs. The restaurant uses local produce, including seafood from the West Coast.

**Parsonage House**
Built in 1864, this lakeland house offers an elegant mix of antique and contemporary interiors with a relaxed homely atmosphere. Set in large gardens with a natural waterfall, there are sunny views from the bedrooms in summer and cozy log fires in colder months.

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THE LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

The Lakes is a region where travelling ‘off the beaten track’ takes on a whole new meaning. The sometimes dramatic weather over the fells (hills) provides scenery that is perfect for photographs.
Yorkshire is England’s biggest county and home to many World Heritage Sites. Perfect for sightseeing by car, the castles, stately homes, abbeys, railways and museums are just a small handful of what Yorkshire has to offer.
Yorkshire

The magnificent City of York, with its history dating from the Roman and Viking occupations is the county’s capital. Yorkshire pudding is world famous, as is the Yorkshireman’s love of cricket.

WHERE TO GO

Yorkshire Dales National Park
Enjoy the outstanding scenery of deep valleys, rich hay meadows and grassy hills as well as working farms. Known as ‘James Herriot Country’, the park covers 480 square miles and is home to castles and ancient monasteries.

Butter Tubs Pass
Natural limestone potholes are to be found at Butter Tubs Pass. This beautiful part of Yorkshire gained its name from farmers storing their butter in the potholes to keep it cool whilst they rested on their way to market.

Bolton Castle
For 600 years Bolton Castle has been under the same private ownership. Mary Queen of Scots was held prisoner here by her cousin Queen Elizabeth I. The castle has survived as a complete medieval structure.

York
The city of York is surrounded by a medieval wall and is home to wonderful shops, museums, galleries and the National Railway Museum. York Minster is the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe and includes a unique collection of medieval stained glass.

Black Sheep Brewery
Established in 1992, the Black Sheep Brewery is for those who want to discover the taste of real ale and beers. Enjoy a guided tour of the brewery and try some Yorkshire ales.

Fountains Abbey
Nestled in a wooded valley stands the awe-inspiring ruins of Fountains Abbey, built in the 12th century by an austere order of Cistercian monks. The Abbey now forms part of an extraordinary 18th century water garden featuring moon-shaped pools, temples and cascades.

The North Yorkshire Moors National Park
This area of outstanding natural beauty is a mixture of woodland, moorland and the east coast shoreline. The remarkable landscape is scattered with rocks from the Jurassic period. Archaeologists have found evidence from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements.

Castle Howard
In a dramatic setting between two lakes, this 18th century Neoclassical palace is undoubtedly the finest private residence in Yorkshire. The painted and gilded dome reaches 80 feet into the Yorkshire sky. The extensive grounds feature waterfalls, fountains and temples.

WHERE TO STAY

Swinton Park Castle
Comfortably situated in the Yorkshire Dales, Swinton Park Castle is every bit a fairy tale castle. Picturesque turrets, towers and castle battlements make this a magical place to stay. There is a cookery school and spa to visit, along with falconry displays in the grounds.

Cedar Court Hotel
Within the medieval walls of York is Cedar Court Hotel, the only five star luxury hotel inside the city. The exterior is impressive and its location means you are a stone’s throw from all that York has to offer.

Rudding Park
The décor of Rudding Park has a modern approach, whilst still acknowledging the original structure. The Grade I listed Regency house incorporates contemporary design. Set within 300 acres of parkland is an immaculate golf course.

Medieval Gatehouse
A 15th century timber framed gatehouse, this medieval wonder sleeps two in the timber framed bed chamber. With the village pub on one side, the churchyard on the other, the gatehouse is located in an idyllic village setting.

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Northumberland, England’s most northern county, was Roman Emperor Hadrian’s chosen location for the boundary wall of his empire in Britain. Along the spectacular coastline, marvel at the Holy Island, birthplace of the 8th Century illuminated Lindisfarne Gospels.

A dark history peppered with battles, bloodthirsty attacks and cross-border wars between the English and the Scots.
THE ROAD TO SCOTLAND

Northumberland’s turbulent past is remembered in the fortified homes and castles that played a major part in England’s relationship with Scotland.

WHERE TO GO

Hadrian’s Wall
73 miles long, running from the west to east coast, the wall formed the Romans’ boundary between England and Scotland. It is considered as the greatest Roman monument in Britain: parts of the wall remain remarkably well preserved.

Alnwick Castle
Home for 700 years to the Dukes of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle was built to protect the border with Scotland. The outer walls were used for the exterior shots of Hogwarts in Harry Potter.

Dunstanburgh Castle
Situated on the Northumberland coast, 14th century Dunstanburgh Castle was built in a remote area for the baron’s own protection. The castle suffered from raids, Scottish invasion and capture, but fell into decay and now stands as an atmospheric ruin.

Bamburgh Castle
This castle built as a fortress high on a cliff overlooking the sea, still remains a formidable structure today. The beautiful and remote Northumberland coast can be viewed from the castle walls.

Lindisfarne
Also known as Holy Island, Lindisfarne is cut off from the mainland by the twice-daily tide. The monastery was founded in 635 AD by Irish monks and was an important centre of early Christianity.

Northumberland National Park
Northumberland National Park is made up of pathways for ramblers, cyclists and horse riders. Terrific for mind and spirit, the park has glorious landscapes with rushing waterfalls. If you’re lucky you may see some of the local residents such as otters and red squirrels.

The Farne Islands
Home to 37,000 puffins, the cluster of islands is a breeding ground for many species. Tour around the islands to see the nesting birds and the fluffy seal pups. Close to Lindisfarne, the islands have strong connections to Celtic Christianity.

Durham Cathedral
A Place of worship for nearly a millennium, Durham Cathedral is a spectacular early example of Norman Romanesque and early English Gothic architecture. St Cuthbert, founder of the monastery at Lindisfarne is buried here.

WHERE TO STAY

Eshott Hall
Set in Northumberland woodland, Eshott Hall is a boutique country house with a contemporary chic style. The rooms available are all individually designed with wonderful views of the surrounding area.

Fauhope House
In the heart of the Scottish Borders lies Fauhope House, an elegant country house with rich furnishings. Every little detail has been considered – even the mattresses are out of this world!

Doxford Hall
Doxford Hall is one of those places that would be considered a special indulgence. Pampered by luxury, excellent taste and good quality service. The accommodation is of an exceptionally high standard.

Slaley Hall
With a 1000 acres of Northumberland moorland, Slaley Hall is a prestigious Edwardian mansion where the exterior speaks for itself. Visit the Whisky Snug to try the finest single malt whisky.

BOOK NOW +44 (0)20 8669 3666 www.luxuryvacationsuk.com
Scotland is geographically divided into Lowlands and Highlands and has kept its Scottish traditions and heritage very much intact.

Central Scotland is an area of intensive arable and dairy farming, has a wide collection of heritage sites and the largest centres of population are in Glasgow and Edinburgh.
**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. The Palace of Holyrood House is the official Scottish residence of the Queen.

**Glasgow**
Scotland’s largest city was once a major centre of shipbuilding. Despite its industrial heritage, the city has a large collection of museums and galleries and more green space per head than any other European city.

**Drummond Castle Gardens**
A Scottish Renaissance terraced garden, Drummond Castle Gardens is like a paradise with its cherubs, fountains, statues and urns. Walking down the impressive steps, the view of the surrounding woodland and hills is magnificent.

**Jedburgh**
Jedburgh, the site of a medieval monastery is situated near the borders of Scotland and England. The abbey was founded in the 12th century and was repeatedly invaded by English armies.

**Stirling Castle**
Perched high and proud on impressive cliffs, Stirling Castle has played a key role in Scottish history; the battles of Stirling Bridge and Bannockburn were fought within its shadow and Mary, Queen of Scots lived here as a child.

**St Andrews**
St Andrews is a seaside town with a medieval street pattern and is the site of the oldest university in Scotland. Prince William and Kate met here. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club remains golf’s governing body and the 15th century course is the world’s oldest.

**Glamis Castle**
Built in the Scottish baronial medieval style, Glamis Castle was the childhood home of Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and the birthplace of the Queen’s sister, Princess Margaret.

**Rosslyn Chapel**
Owned by the St Clair family since the 15th century, the chapel has outstanding interior decorations. It has been used as a film location and is famed for its intricately carved stone faces, motifs and patterns.

**WHERE TO STAY**

**The Balmoral**
Perfectly positioned within the centre of the city with views of Edinburgh Castle and Arthur’s Seat. The Balmoral Hotel is a luxurious hotel. With a Michelin-starred restaurant, 400 whiskies in the Scotch Bar and the award winning Balmoral Spa. What a place to stay!

**Georgian Guest House**
A beautifully restored Georgian townhouse in Edinburgh. Centrally located within a short walking distance of Princes Street and the many city attractions.

**Gleneagles Hotel Golf & Spa**
The champion of hotels, Gleneagles is a leading golf and spa resort. The French chateau building is known as the ‘palace of the glens’. It offers day activities such as fishing, falconry, wildlife photography and shooting along with 3 championship golf courses.

**Medieval Tower House**
Just 2 miles outside of Edinburgh, the tower house is a well preserved secret and more importantly – the whole tower is yours for the night! The 15th century property is every bit of what a child dreams of – slit windows, a listening hole and a ladder up to the stone parapet.

**BOOK NOW**
+44 (0)20 8669 3666  www.luxuryvacationsuk.com
The Islands of North West Scotland have rocky shorelines, secluded beaches, coastal pathways and a heritage found nowhere else in the world. The Gaelic language is widely spoken. A favourite area of ours to tour, but not well known to the usual trail of holidaymakers!
SCOTTISH ISLANDS

WHERE TO GO

Dunvegan Castle
Owned by the MacLeod clan since the 13th century. A wall surrounds the property, except for the sea gate entrance which was used at times of siege. The Fairy Flag is one of the castle's most notable relics, legend states it has magical properties.

Isle of Mull
Part of the Inner Hebrides. Isle of Mull is an unspoiled place to visit away from the public eye. It has the largest eagle population and one of the best places in Europe to see dolphins and whales. Explore Carsaig Arches along the rocky shoreline.

North West Coast
The seaside town of Oban is a popular destination for holidaymakers heading to the islands. Surrounded by mountains, the horseshoe bay is an escape from city life. Close to Fort William is Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain.

Isle of Skye
Isle of Skye has it all – ancient structures, natural miracles, unspoiled countryside and magnificent coastlines, broken by lochs. Portree is the main town and a working harbour, with unique shops and charming eateries. There are dinosaur footprints in the rocks at Staffin Bay.

Loch Boat Trips
A boat trip around the area to see some of Scotland's treasured wildlife. See dolphins, basking sharks and porpoises not to mention sea eagles, puffins and otters. The Corryvreckan Whirlpool is one of the largest whirlpools in the world.

WHERE TO STAY

Ardtorna
An eco-friendly, west highlands retreat. Ardtorna is set in a beautiful location, between Oban and Appin on the West Coast of Scotland. All rooms have stunning views of sea.

Kinloch Lodge Hotel & Restaurant
Charming, cosy and discreetly luxurious this is a hotel and restaurant like no other. Kinloch is a truly unique place in a magical setting, nestled at the foot of Kinloch Hill on the tranquil shoreline of the sea-loch Na Dal in Sleat on the wildly romantic Isle of Skye.

The Airds Hotel
A family run luxury hotel on the coast of Argyll, offering outstanding service, superior accommodation and gourmet dining experience. Located in on the west coast of Scotland, the hotel is set in a stunning location.

Isle of Eriska
Based on its own private island, the Isle of Eriska Hotel is set on an estate of 350 acres with bedrooms in the main building and in the stables, along with leisure facilities. Experience the secluded surroundings by walking around the many paths on the island.

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To the north and west of Stirling, the historic gateway to the Highlands, lie the magnificent mountains, glens and coastlines that are the epitome of Scottish scenery.
SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Follow the Malt Whisky Trail, visit lavish castles, play golf and cruise on Loch Ness. Visit Britain’s most rugged and dramatic, ice-sculpted mountain peaks.

WHERE TO GO

Balmoral Castle
The 14th century Balmoral Castle was purchased by Queen Victoria and rebuilt in the mid-19th century. In her journals she described Balmoral as, “my dear paradise in the Highlands”. It still is a private getaway for the Royal Family each summer.

Inveraray Castle & Jail
Made of stone, the Gothic castle of Inveraray sits alone surrounded by 16 acres of greenery. Episodes of Downton Abbey were partly filmed at Inveraray Castle. Within the town is Inveraray Jail, a 19th century prison with 3 foot thick walls.

Blair Castle
Home of the Earls of Atholl since the 13th century, Blair Castle is situated in a beautiful wooded valley. The 30 state rooms contain a unique collection of furniture and armoury. The Cummings Tower is the oldest and tallest part of the castle, making it a historic landmark.

Loch Ness
Loch Ness is a freshwater loch 23 miles long and up to 700 feet deep. Loch Ness became famous when a ‘Monster’ was photographed.

The Cairngorms National Park
The scenery of Cairngorms National Park boasts of endless activities to do such as cycling, quad biking, horse riding, archery and canoeing. Whether you’re on land or on water, there is something to do for all ages.

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park
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 are between 2,500 and 3,000 feet, break the horizon in a zigzag manner.

WHERE TO STAY

Kinloch House
A peaceful Scottish Country Hotel located in 25 acres, offers the best of Scottish hospitality and a truly fabulous dining experience. There are 18 individually decorated bedrooms, including 3 suites and 4 ground floor rooms, all with modern facilities.

Fonab Castle
Think ‘central-casting’ Scottish Baronial Castle and you’ll come up this hotel. A recent full renovation has returned this mansion to its former glory. A ‘fairy tale’ castle set in the magnificent Perthshire countryside.

Rocpool Reserve
Located in Inverness, capital of the Highlands of Scotland, Rocpool Reserve has three star Michelin chef Albert Roux behind its fine restaurant which offers Scottish ingredients with a French twist.

Glen Nevis and Glen Coe
The waterfalls of Glen Nevis and the rugged views of Glen Coe are a must-see when visiting the Highlands. Glen Coe featured in James Bond’s Skyfall. From the road you can see the legendary rocky ridge of the Devil’s Staircase.

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The Dulaig
Set in 1.5 acres of private gardens, near Grantown-on-Spey, the house was built in 1910. The Dulaig is styled in a luxurious blend of modern furnishings and Arts and Crafts antiques with gardens that are a haven for wildlife, including red squirrels and pheasants.

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ABOUT YOU

Step 1:

Our clients range from couples, families to corporations, from those needing mobility assistance and groups with special interests.

Couples
Whether you are on honeymoon or couples travelling together with friends, we will create a tour itinerary for you, including accommodation, entrance fees and tickets to special events that will be an experience of a lifetime.

Families
We have guides and driver-guides who specialise in family groups. Creating itineraries that include experiences that appeal to family members of all ages is the key to a great tour.

Mobility Assistance and other special requirements
For those that require some assistance, we’ll take care of all the arrangements. We’ll ensure that your needs are accommodated so you and your travel companions can relax and enjoy your vacation.

Groups
If you are planning a vacation as a group, no matter what the size, we can take care of every aspect of your vacation. Perhaps there is a particular interest shared by all members of the group – we can focus on this when planning the tours and events you’ll be enjoying.

Corporates
From incentive groups to company meetings in London and around the UK, we will create a unique itinerary including some amazing and memorable events. How about a tour of Scotland including visits to some world famous Whisky distilleries and a round of golf at St Andrews? Or perhaps a banquet in a castle or manor house with live music?
Food and Drink

Britain’s reputation for food and drink is well established and British restaurants now regularly feature in the top 100 places in the world to dine. As well as fine-dining experiences, your tour can feature some ‘Gastro pubs’. These uniquely British eateries serve great beers and fabulous foods and are not to be missed.

Music and Theatre

A trip to London would not be complete without taking in a show or experiencing some live music. We'll organise your tickets and make sure that we get you to the show on time. We can even take you on a private, behind-the-scenes theatre tour with an expert guide.

Sports and Sporting Venues

Britain is home to some of the world’s greatest sporting venues. How about the Rugby Museum at Twickenham, a tour of Wembley Stadium or tickets for Wimbledon? We can book your tickets for all sporting venues and occasions.

Step 2:

We want to know what you would like to see and the events you want to experience.

Castles and Gardens

There are amazing castles to explore throughout Britain. Wales and Scotland boast incredible fortresses – many date back to medieval times. Other castles are sumptuous Royal residences. The thing they have in common is they all have fascinating tales to tell.

Britain has a vast range of gardens to visit. From formal landscapes created for Britain’s aristocracy to sub-tropical paradises in remote and beautiful areas of the country.

Art and Literature

The art and literature of the UK has shaped and determined, to a large extent, the very identity of England, Scotland and Wales. To experience these aspects of British culture, you need to immerse yourself in the people, places, and the unique elements that define British culture. Our specialist guides will bring to life the works of some of the world’s best known writers and artists. We can arrange private viewings and behind-the-scenes tours of museums and art galleries.
Step 3:

We will require your arrival and departure dates, details of your personal preferences and places that you would like to visit as well as the events you would like to experience (based on answers to Step 1 – 3).

We will then prepare a draft itinerary and send it to you by email for your approval.

Once agreed, we will confirm your booking, individual itinerary and information pack via email.
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