The Classic Tour of England

The English countryside, Stately homes and ancient villages

7 Nights
Explore some of England’s National Parks, visit Stately homes and have a taste of life in an English village. The country pub is the meeting place for locals, a place to make friends, eat and drink ale. Visit some of the great gardens and enjoy regions designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
Meet and greet London Heathrow and Transfer to Bath via Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral

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.

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.

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide

Stop in a traditional country pub for Sunday lunch.

Overnight: Bath
Stourhead Landscape Gardens, The Roman Baths, Old Wardour Castle and Rural villages

Take a stroll around the world heritage city of Bath with its grandiose Georgian architecture, boasting more listed buildings than London. The Circus and Royal Crescent represent Georgian architecture at its finest. Tour the ancient Roman Baths. 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.

The great advantage of having your own professional driver-guide is to be able to take scenic routes that are off-the-beaten-track and explore England’s country lanes, hamlets and lesser known villages. Stop for a rest at a real local’s pub in a proper English village.

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

Visit Old Wardour Castle, a real secret tucked away down a narrow series of country lanes, almost forgotten in time. Built in the 14th Century, the hexagonal castle was brought to ruin during the Civil War. Your driver-guide will take you around the castle rooms and up the circular stairs to see the panoramic landscape of Wiltshire. This is the perfect place for a picnic lunch. Wardour is truly magical.

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide

Overnight: Bath
The Cotswolds
Cotswolds Country

Take a journey through England’s timeless countryside and visit the pretty villages surrounded by the Cotswold Hills. See traditional thatched cottages and delightful shops full of unusual and unique items.

Stop at Chipping Campden, the perfect Cotswolds market town, with its old pubs, tea rooms and a quaint market hall. Bibury first earned its title of ‘the most beautiful village in England’ from the artist and craftsman, William Morris.

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

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide

Overnight: The Cotswolds
Oxford is home to the oldest university in England. Oxford was home to C.S Lewis, J.R.R. 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
Transfer to the Lake District via Liverpool – private Beatles walking tour

See the brand new lifelike statues of the Beatles in front of the iconic waterfront buildings. Your guide will show you the “Dazzle ship” ferry the colourful design was by Sir Peter Blake who designed the cover for the Sergeant Pepper Album. Your guided walking tour continues in the Albert Docks passing the Billy Fury statue through the rejuvenated town centre passing the Queen Victoria Monument to Castle Street and the Town Hall with its balcony where the Beatles made their homecoming after their world tour in 1964.

You’ll see the brand new £1 billion shopping area called Liverpool One and the former site of Brian Epstein’s record store NEMS (North End Music Stores) and see the Eleanor Rigby and the fabulous new Cilla Black Statue and learn how John Lennon was introduced to Paul McCartney for the first time on 6th July 1957.

The tour will finish outside the Cavern Club where the Beatles played 292 times as the residential house band from 1961 to 1963. After lunch we continue to the Lake District.

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide

Overnight: Lake District
The English Lakes have been photographed, painted and had poetry written about its natural beauty. Its natural features are the result of geological upheavals over millennia and four of its peaks are more than 3,300 feet. Human influences have left their mark too: the main activities are quarrying, mining, farming and tourism.

There is more to the Lakes District than its world famous natural environment. There are many towns and villages to explore, whether nestled in valleys or on the side of a lake. Coniston, Windermere, Ambleside and Grasmere each have their own story to tell.

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide

**Overnight:** Lake District
The Yorkshire Dales National Park, Fountains Abbey and City of York

Enjoy the Yorkshire Dales with its outstanding scenery of deep valleys, rich hay meadows and grassy hills as well as working farms. Known ‘James Herriot Country’ after the veterinary surgeon and writer, the national park covers 680 square miles and is home to castles and ancient monasteries.

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.

In the afternoon, tour York Minster, one of the world’s most magnificent places of Christian worship, the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe. Constantine the Great proclaimed Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire while in York. More than half of England’s medieval glass is in the Minster’s 128 windows the great east window is the size of a tennis court.

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide

**Overnight:** York
Cambridge and transfer to Heathrow

Tour the University City of Cambridge and learn about the origins of the city. Various architectural styles can be seen, including work from the Gothic and the Renaissance movements. Discover the secrets of the city and listen to your driver-guide talking about the archaeological evidence which links the area to the Roman and Bronze Age. In the 11th century religious orders began to be established in the town and, in 1209, a group of religious scholars broke away from Oxford University after academic and religious disputes and came here. Student life dominates the city but it is also a thriving market centre serving a rich agricultural region.

Take a stroll past the perfect lawns and the River Cam, which flows through the city.

Visit Kings College Chapel, one of the most impressive Gothic buildings in England. The stained-glass windows are simply magnificent, in fact, the whole interior of the chapel is awe-inspiring. The chapel is still a working place of worship.

Chauffeur-driven tour with a Driver-Guide
Transfer to London Heathrow airport
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.

The Cotswolds | Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa

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.
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.
Your Fleet

Luxury sedans for tours include BMW Grand Tourer, BMW X5 and Mercedes Saloons.

Luxury Vans and Mini/Coaches can also be provided for larger family of groups.

Your guides

Our guides are selected for their sense of humour, knowledge and considerate attitude, and the ability to make you want to come back and tour with us again!
We look forward to seeing you soon!