

ACTION TOURS

25
YEARS OF TRAVEL • 1992-2017

IRELAND • EUROPE • ISLE OF MAN • UK
TOURS FOR 2018

Introducing... THE BIG SILVER ONE!

Action Tours is 25 years old this year so we thought we'd celebrate with a silver lining. In 1992 we began arranging tours to Ireland and since then have grown to encompass the UK, Isle of Man and key destinations in Europe.

As specialists in tailor-making tours for groups, we're able to combine precise, personal service with the experience and knowledge to help guide you in the right direction. If you're a coach operator or private group organiser looking for an inventive, affordable tour, do get in touch as we have plenty to offer:

- Hotels & attractions carefully selected & quality controlled
- Free single room for your driver (minimum of 25 paying passengers)
- No deposit required
- Emergency assistance 24 hours / 7 days a week on all tours
- Complimentary marketing support, images and itineraries
- A friendly, reliable and highly experienced team
- We give you peace of mind and save you time

With Best Regards
All the team at Action Tours



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We would like to thank all the regional tourist boards and visitor attractions that have supplied photographs included in this brochure.

Special Note: The prices detailed in this brochure are for guidance only and were calculated on the basis of the exchange rate quoted at the time of going to print, and include VAT at the current rates. Accordingly there may be some variation in price so for an up-to-date quotation please contact us.

E & O E





Austria's Lake District

Stunning scenery awaits you around every corner of this fabulous tour. The region is awash with pretty alpine resorts set against spectacular mountain scenery and crystal clear lakes. You are ideally placed to visit the famous resorts of St Wolfgang, Mondsee and the enchanting city of Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace and where much of the renowned "Sound of Music" was filmed.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: From Dover to Calais and onto your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Travel to Austria today, arriving at your destination in time for your evening meal.

Day 3: Free day in St Georgen im Attergau with your included train and boat trip. After a leisurely breakfast make your way to the local train station and catch the **little train** down to the lake of **Attersee**, before a **cruise** on the north part of the lake. Free time in the afternoon for you to explore the village or just relax around the hotel's outdoor swimming pool.

Day 4: First we head to **Bad Ischl** a Spa Town and home to Emperor's and Composer's. You could visit the lovely Kaiser Villa which is situated here where the Emperor Franz Joseph spent most of his summers. It was also where he signed the declaration of war against the Kingdom of Serbia, signaling the start of WW1. In the afternoon we make our way to the World Heritage Site of **Hallstatt**,

considered one of the most beautiful villages in Austria. Hallstatt is a salt town full of old world charm and built on the side of Lake Hallstattersee.

Day 5: Salzburg known as the 'Sound of Music' city is said to be one of Europe's most beautiful and historic cities, set in a spectacular mountain setting. Squeezed between the River Salzach and the mighty Hohensalzburg Fortress there is much to see during your visit here. Palaces such as The Hellbrunn with its water gardens, castles, art collections and many churches, a number of which featured in the film 'The Sound of Music'. Salzburg is probably most famous as the birthplace of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1756, and his impact on the world stage has transformed the city into an international centre for music. You can visit his birthplace situated in the famous pedestrian street called 'The Getreidegasse'.

Day 6: Full day tour of some of the nearby lakes which this area is famous for. A short drive takes you to **Mondsee** a beautiful village where the church

was used for the wedding of Maria and Von Trapp in the Sound of Music and sits on the shores of the lake. Take the spectacular drive through the mountains and lakes and onto **St Wolfgang** another beautiful village in the area and also the home to the famous White Horse Inn. From St Wolfgang make your way home via the **Traunsee** making a short stop at **Traunkirchen**. Time permitting a visit can be made to the Baroque Church with the unusual pulpit in the shape of a boat.

OR: Other day options available: Travel into Germany to visit the town of **Berchtesgaden**, one of the most romantically scenic places in the Bavarian Alps. Nearby is the infamous Eagle's Nest which was given to Adolf Hitler as a birthday present.

Day 7: Depart Austria today and travel north to your final overnight stay.

Day 8: Travel back to Calais then Dover and home.

North Sea Ferry options available – call us for details.



Hotel Tirolerhof

3★ • 48 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A charming family run hotel offering a warm welcome to all of its guests.

Situated in the town of St Georgen in Attergau a short distance from the lake of Attersee. The hotel is furnished in typical Austrian Style with superb home-made cuisine.

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 7 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Return train journey from St Georgen to Lake Attersee
- ▶ Boat cruise on Lake Attersee
- ▶ Welcome drink
- ▶ 5 course candlelit farewell dinner
- ▶ Entertainment most nights in resort
- ▶ Use of outdoor swimming pool in resort

May to Sep: Prices from: **£359**



Bruges



Chateau de Champ de Bataille

Belgium, Bruges & the Battlefields

Our tour is based in the centre of Ypres which during the First World War was reduced to ruins. Visits include the beautiful medieval town of Bruges.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from Dover to Calais and on to your hotel in **Ypres**, the excellent 3 star Novotel Ypres Centrum for a 3 night stay on bed and buffet breakfast basis.

Day 2: Why not begin with a visit to the In Flanders Field Museum located within the Cloth Hall in the centre of Ypres. The Cloth Hall was for a time the largest building in Europe and has been painstakingly rebuilt after its complete destruction during the First World War. In the afternoon why not take a guided tour of some of the key battlefield sites of the Ypres Salient. At 8pm each evening the Last Post is played at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres an expression of the Belgian people's gratitude to those who died for their country's freedom.

Day 3: A full day to explore the medieval city of **Bruges**. Why not take a horse-drawn cab ride through the cobbled streets, visit art galleries, museums, or stock up on some luxurious Belgian chocolates. Alternatively, travel to the seaside town of Ostend. It's a firm favourite with the Belgian Royal Family and the rest of the country given its individual charm, enticing stretch of seafront, offering not less than five beaches, yacht harbour and gleaming, well landscaped parks.

Day 4: Retrace your steps to Calais for the return ferry to Dover, and home.

Other options are available, staying at the Best Western Plus Alize in Mouscron on 3 or 4 night packages on BB or HB basis from £179.

North Sea Ferry options available – call us for details.

Novotel Ypres Centrum

3★ • 122 Bedrooms
• Lift

The hotel is just a short stroll from the Menin Gate and the Grote Markt.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 3 nights BB
- ▶ Tea/coffee making facilities in the bedrooms
- ▶ Return ferry

Chateaux & Gardens of Normandy

Beautiful gardens abound throughout this fertile region within the many chateaux & manor houses. Our popular tour features some of the very best.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: From Dover to Calais and onto your hotel near Lisieux.

Day 2: Travel to **Rouen** with time to explore this captivating city. Enjoy a fascinating walk through the architectural styles of the last 800 years: from the half timbering of the Middle Ages to the Renaissance and the classical era. Notoriously known for where Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake in 1431, today a visit can be made to the St Joan of Arc Church which was completed in 1979 in the same location where she was burned alive – a large cross outside the church marks the exact spot. The old marketplace is a good lunch stop before making your way to the **Chateau de Champ de Bataille**, near Le Neubourg for your included afternoon visit. Known as the 'Norman Versailles', it has recently been restored to its 18th Century splendour, with parks and gardens in the style of Louis XIV.

Day 3: Spend a relaxing morning in the charming market town of Lisieux before continuing in the afternoon to the Normandy Jewel **Chateau Vendeuvre** for our included visit to the Chateau, Museum and Gardens.

Day 4: If staying for 3 nights depart the hotel after breakfast and make your way back to the port of Calais and home.

OR if staying for 4 nights

Day 4: Giverny has been carefully restored in its original style, to reflect the scene that Monet captured in his world famous watercolours. The wisteria-clad bridges, water lilies, and weeping willows were his inspiration for more than twenty years remain as popular as ever. This afternoon visit La Roche-Guyon with its spectacular chateau.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Mercure Hotel Lisieux

3★ • 69 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A comfortable hotel with swimming pool, conveniently placed on the outskirts of Lisieux.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 3 or 4 nights DBB (choice of main) followed by tea/coffee
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Welcome drink
- ▶ Entrance to Chateau de Vendeuvre House and Gardens
- ▶ The Gardens at Chateau de Champ de Bataille

May to Oct: Prices from: **£229**

May to Sep: Prices from: **£269** (3 nts) **£329** (4 nts)



Keukenhof Gardens

Dutch Delight: Trams, Boats & Bulbfields

Enjoy a delightful spring weekend break visiting the magnificent, world-famous bulb fields at Keukenhof. Also includes a trip through time by steam tram and museum boat.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from Dover to Calais and onto Holland and the Amersfoot Area for your 3 night stay at the Kontakt der Kontinenten Hotel.

Day 2: After breakfast, it's a full day excursion to the Dutch Bulbfields and your included visit to the **Keukenhof Gardens** named 'The Greatest Flower Show on Earth', with over 70 acres of parkland and 10 miles of walkways. Admire a vast collection of hundreds of thousands of flowers displayed in the beautifully landscaped gardens, which adorn the estate.

Day 3: Head north to Hoorn and board the **famous tram** for our included journey through the lovely Dutch countryside to Medemblik, with coffee and a local pastry served on board. On arrival you have free time to explore **Medemblik** with its beautiful historical centre before boarding the **museum ship Friesland** for the cruise to Enkhuizen. From here make your way home across the **Houtribdijk** - a 27km dike, built between 1963 and 1975. It crosses what used to be the Zuider See and is now the IJsselmeer, the largest inland lake in Western Europe. Look out for the radio station half way, before joining a polder "**Flevoland**" - reclaimed land from the former sea. From here make your way to the mainland and back to the hotel. OR if you're looking for other options: visits can be made to the magnificent Het Loo Palace & Gardens nearby, the city of Arnhem where the famous WW2 battle was held and which inspired the film A Bridge Too Far, and Arnhem War Cemetery in Oosterbeek plus the Arnhem Airborne Museum.

Day 4: Retrace your steps to Calais for the return ferry to Dover and home.

Kontakt der Kontinenten

3★ • 125 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A former mission house and monastery, ideally situated in Holland for the above tours.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 3 nights DBB ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Free tea/coffee in the hotel
- ▶ Entrance to Keukenhof Gardens
- ▶ One way trip on Tram Train from Hoorn to Medemblik (including coffee and pastry)
- ▶ Cruise on the museum ship from Medemblik to Enkhuizen

Mar, Apr & early May: Prices from: **£259**



Vianden Castle

Luxembourg & Trier with wine tasting

A real European treat staying in this charming medieval town, perfectly suited as a base for touring Luxembourg & Germany's oldest city of Trier.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry from Dover to Calais, then continue to **Vianden** in Luxembourg.

Day 2: Free day to explore **Vianden**, which has captivated visitors for many years. Why not visit the nearby Victor Hugo Museum or take time to explore the historic churches and gothic architecture of this historic town. Also well worth a visit is Vianden castle which is considered the most impressive fortress in Luxembourg, a country which has over 60 castles but is only the size of Oxfordshire.

Day 3: Take a trip to **Luxembourg City**, the cultural and political centre of this modest country that plays a significant role in the administration of the European Community. There is plenty to discover including Grand Ducal Palace, Luxembourg Castle, and the National Museums of Art and Natural History.

Day 4: Today we visit Germany's oldest city **Trier**, which lies on the banks of the River Mosel and still retains its picture book quality. The city has many Roman monuments and remains which can still be seen today including Trier Cathedral, the Basilica of Constantine and the impressive Porta Nigra. After lunch continue along the Moselle Valley for your **included tour and tasting of wines** at one of the local vineyards.

Day 5: Travel back to Calais for the ferry to Dover, and home.

North Sea Ferry options available - call us for details.

Grand Hotel de Vianden

3★ • 57 Bedrooms
• Lift

Ideally situated, this charming family run hotel is close to the Victor Hugo Museum and the impressive castle.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB (choice menu)
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Welcome drink
- ▶ Vineyards Tour & Wine Tasting (including 3 glasses of wine)

Apr: Prices from: **£226** May to Sep: Prices from: **£266**



Lake Garda



Portofino

Italy's Lake Garda & the Dolomites

Italy's largest lake, its shores are dotted with fascinating old towns, castles and picturesque villages set against a backdrop of towering mountains.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Dover for your short channel crossing to Calais and onto your overnight hotel in France.

Day 2: Depart after breakfast and make your way to Italy arriving in time for dinner at the excellent Hotel Sole in the centre of **Riva del Garda**.

Day 3: Free day to relax and enjoy **Riva Del Garda**.

Day 4: The **Italian Dolomites**, or 'pale mountains', is a breath taking mountain range. With a mixture of Italian and Austrian architecture the Dolomites are said to be one of the most scenic regions in Italy.

Day 5: Spend a day exploring Lake Garda. Along its shores lie pretty villages such as **Malcesine**, **Bardolino** and **Sirmione**. **Sirmione** is set in a picturesque headland jutting into the lake at its southern tip.

Day 6: Another free day in Riva del Garda or why not visit the stunning city of **Verona**, this city is rich in history and culture and is also the setting for Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Take time to visit the famous balcony or wander around the beautiful market piazzas and shops, or visit the famous Amphitheatre, where famous operas are held during the summer months.

Day 7: Depart after breakfast and enjoy the Alpine views en route back to your overnight hotel.

Day 8: Depart the hotel after breakfast and make your way up to Calais for your return sailing.

Hotel Sole

4★ • 63 Bedrooms
• Lift •

Hotel Sole is ideally situated in the centre of Riva del Garda with stunning views over the lake and the piazza.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 7 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Porterage
- ▶ Choice of dinner menu in Italy
- ▶ Welcome drink (at resort hotel)
- ▶ Wine tasting (in Riva del Garda)
- ▶ Gala dinner on one evening

Italy's Alassio – Riviera of Flowers

Alassio on the Italian Riviera is ideally situated to combine a relaxing beach holiday with a wonderful base for exploring this region's amazing coastline.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: From Dover to Calais and onto your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Continue south into Italy, arriving in **Alassio** in time for your evening meal and welcome drink.

Day 3: Day at leisure in **Alassio**. This former feudal town which belonged to the monks of nearby Isola Gallinara is now one of Italy's most popular holiday centres. Visits can be made to Alassio's busy morning market which sells clothing, fruit and vegetables, the town's famous muretto (little wall) or visit the many shops and boutiques in the pedestrian area of the town.

Day 4: Take the coastal road visiting the nearby coastal towns of **Diano Marina** and **San Remo**, the glittering capital of the "Riviera of Flowers".

Day 5: Another day at leisure in Alassio OR head to **Rapallo** in the heart of the Riviera, surrounded by a lush, green landscape. From here you have the option to take a boat cruise to exclusive **Portofino**, with its pastel coloured houses and multi-millionaires yachts lining the bay.

Day 6: Today we visit **Ventimiglia** a popular summer destination for tourists and particularly popular all year with visitors on Friday due to the excellent street market. You can shop for great bargains in Ventimiglia's market before we continue to **Menton** in the afternoon, the 'Lemon Festival Capital of the World'. Located very close to the border of France and Italy, Menton is, in many ways, more Italian than French. It has its own microclimate, pretty architecture and wonderful scenery.

Day 7: To France for your final overnight.

Day 8: Calais to Dover, then home.

Hotel Toscana

4★ • 64 Bedrooms
• Lift

This excellent family-run hotel is ideally situated near to Alassio beach and the main shopping area.

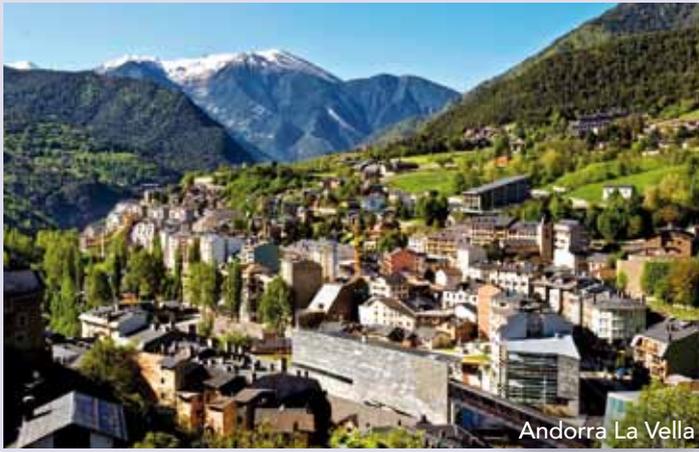


Tour Includes:

- ▶ 7 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Porterage (in Alassio)
- ▶ American buffet breakfast and choice dinner in Alassio
- ▶ Live music on one night during your stay in Alassio
- ▶ Welcome & farewell drink

Apr, May, Sep & Oct: Prices from: **£379**

May & Sep: Prices from: **£449**



Andorra La Vella

Andorra & the Three Countries Tour

Andorra is a tiny independent principality situated between France and Spain in the Pyrenees mountains. Our tour includes a guided visit to nearby Spain and France.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Following your Channel crossing we continue to our overnight hotel on bed and breakfast basis.

Day 2: After breakfast we continue south and complete the journey to **Andorra** and our hotel for the next 4 nights.

Day 3: At leisure in **Andorra la Vella**. Andorra's capital can be split in two, both easily accessible, the newer part has an open-air, modern shopping centre while the historic centre has changed little over time with its intriguing architecture, narrow streets, small squares and low houses.

Day 4: A guided three countries tour visiting **Andorra, France** and Catalonia in **Spain**. We travel to **La Seu d'Urgell** with its historic Cathedral, a beautiful example of the Italian-influenced Romanesque style of Catalonia in the 11th and 12th centuries before arriving at **Puigcerdà**, with its spectacular views to the craggy peaks of the surrounding Pyrenees with free time for lunch. In the afternoon we continue to **Mont Louis** where the city walls are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site before finishing the tour at the winter ski resort of **Font Romeu**.

Day 5: Today we enjoy a half day excursion to a **local vineyard** where you'll enjoy a **wine-tasting** as part of the visit.

Day 6: Travel to our last overnight hotel on bed and breakfast basis.

Day 7: Depart the hotel after breakfast and make your way to Calais and your return sailing to Dover and home.

Hotel President Andorra La Vella

4★ • 100 Bedrooms
• Lift • Indoor pool & sauna

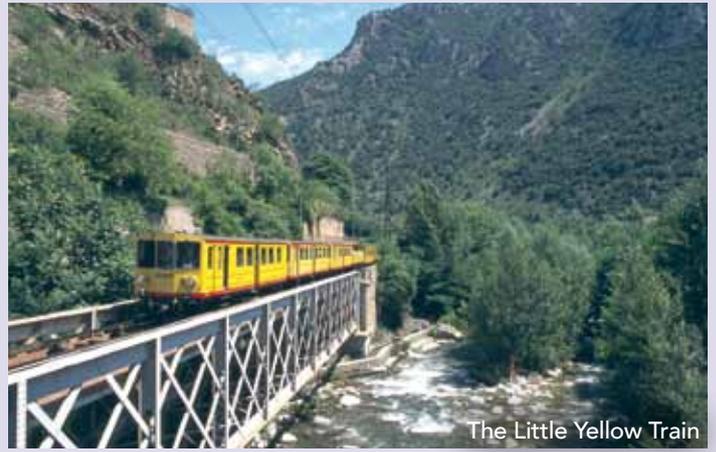
Situated in the heart of Andorra la Vella, the hotel is near the historical centre and shops.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 6 nights (2 nights on BB basis o/n, 4 nights HB)
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Wine tasting at local vineyard
- ▶ Guide for 3 countries tour (Andorra, France & Spain)
- ▶ Welcome drink
- ▶ Free drinks package
- ▶ Portage ▶ Leisure facilities

May to Oct: Prices from: **£336**



The Little Yellow Train

Spain & the Little Trains

Our base for this very popular tour is the lovely Spanish resort of Roses and includes the below train journeys & visits in Spain and France.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: From Dover to Calais and onto your overnight stay.

Day 2: Drive through France, into Spain, and on to **Roses** for the next 7 nights.

Day 3: Free morning at leisure. In the afternoon join the **Roses Express**, a tourist train which allows your passengers to see the lovely countryside and Cap de Creus Nature Park.

Day 4: Day in France. This morning join your included visit to a **vineyard** in **Thuir** for your **wine tasting**. Lunch can be taken in the village of **Thuir** before making your way to **Villefranche-de-Conflent** for your trip on the **Little Yellow Train to Mont Louis**. From here the coach will pick up the group to return to Roses.

Day 5: Free day at leisure to enjoy all **Roses** has to offer or just sit and relax at the hotel or on the beach.

Day 6: A day trip to **Nuria** and your included return trip on the **rack railway** up to the Sanctuary of Nuria.

Day 7: Another day trip to **France**. Make your way to **Rivesaltes** where you will join the **TPCF train to Axat**. On arrival free time will be given in Axat where you can take lunch. In the afternoon on our way back to Roses we can make a stop at **La Jonquera** time permitting.

Day 8: In the morning make your way to **Figueres** with your included entrance to the **Dali Museum**. This afternoon enjoy free time at leisure back in Roses and say a fond farewell to this enchanting destination.

Day 9: Leave Spain today and head back into France to your overnight hotel.

Day 10: Up to Calais, then Dover and home.

Coral Platja

3★ • 167 Bedrooms

- Lift
- Outdoor swimming pool

A seafront hotel with swimming pool, ideally located for easy access to the resort of Roses.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 9 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Wine with dinner (Roses)
- ▶ Entertainment most nights
- ▶ Wine tasting
- ▶ Four rail journeys
- ▶ Dali Museum
- ▶ English speaking Guide (3 days)

May to Sep Prices from: **£519** Oct: Prices from: **£489**



Traditional Spain & Barcelona

A wonderful combination of touring and relaxation is on offer in our Traditional Spain tour. Our tour includes a seafront hotel, welcome drink, entertainment, **wine tasting**,

boat trip, train ride, Flamenco Show and not forgetting a half day **guided tour to Barcelona** - the principal attraction and a must see for anyone visiting the Costa Brava.

Coral Platja, Roses
3★ • 167 Bedrooms
• Lift

Tour Includes:
▶ 7 nights DBB
▶ Return ferry
▶ Inclusions as above

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£416**



Going Dutch 'Singles Tour'

This very popular tour to Holland offers 34 single rooms on selected dates in July and August. Why not include some of these leading attractions for a perfect Summer mini-break:

- Amsterdam - Holland's largest city & Volendam fishing village
- Het Loo Palace & Gardens
- Famous tram & boat trips
- Arnhem • Free tea/coffee

Kontakt der Kontinenten Hotel
3★ • 125 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:
▶ 3 nights DBB
▶ Return ferry
▶ Welcome drink

Jul & Aug: Prices from: **£219**



Luxembourg Autumn Colours

Embedded in a landscape typical of the Ardennes – rolling hills and heavily wooded valleys, this area is a delight in the autumn time. Our base for this tour is Vianden which

has charmed visitors for many years. Included in the tour is a welcome drink, a **walking tour of Vianden** and **guided tour of Luxembourg**.

Grand Hotel Vianden
3★ • 57 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:
▶ 3 nights DBB
▶ Return ferry
▶ Inclusions as above

Oct & Nov: Prices from: **£169**



Austrian Christmas Markets

In December, traditional Christmas Markets are held not only in the beautiful city of **Salzburg** but also in the surrounding villages of **St Gilgen, Strobl** and **St Wolfgang**

situated in the idyllic setting of the Austrian Lake District. Staying at the charming Hotel Tirolerhof, you'll enjoy fine home-cooked food and warm hospitality.

Hotel Tirolerhof
3★ • 48 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:
▶ 6 nights DBB ▶ Return ferry
▶ Boat cruise ▶ Welcome drink
▶ Entertainment

Dec: Prices from: **£309**



Italy's Christmas Markets

The beautiful setting of the **Lake Garda Christmas Market** is held in the main piazza overlooking the northern part of Italy's largest lake. Our hotel is the characterful 4 star Portici

Hotel, which was completely renovated in 2012. During your stay visits can be made to the nearby Christmas markets of **Arco, Rovereto, Trento** and **Levico**.

Portici Hotel
4★ • 63 Bedrooms
• Lift

Tour Includes:
▶ 7 nights DBB
▶ Return ferry
▶ Porterage

Dec: Prices from: **£369**



Three Countries Christmas Markets

Popular in Europe since the Middle Ages, these Christmas markets remain a huge attraction for visitors in search of Christmas shopping and culture. Our tour is based in the

fairytale setting of Valkenburg which is well placed for visiting the nearby markets in Germany & Belgium.

North Sea Ferry options, plus 4 night packages, also available.

Hotel Schaepekens
3★ • 130 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:
▶ 3 nights DBB (choice buffet)
▶ Return ferry

Nov & Dec: Prices from: **£196** (Mon x 3nts) **£236** (Fri x 3 nts)



The Grand Ireland Tour – An 11 day Irish Extravaganza

It's the big one! The chance to see Ireland from top to bottom, from the Antrim Coast & the Giants Causeway, Donegal and Galway to fabulous Killarney & the Ring of Kerry. Begin in Belfast and finish in Dublin or Wexford, with 3* & 4* packages available.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head to **Belfast** for a 2 night stay, via Holyhead & Dublin or from Cairnryan.

Day 2: We recommend a guided city tour to explore Northern Ireland's buzzing capital city that stands on the banks of the River Lagan, and where history's most famous ship – RMS Titanic – was born. (Coach hire can be added here to create an extra driver's free day.)

Day 3: Drive the breathtaking **Antrim Coast Road** to the world-famous Giant's Causeway. Continue along the scenic north coast and then down via Derry to Co. Donegal for 2 nights.

Day 4: Either enjoy a free day in **Donegal** town with its castle, abbey ruins, traditional shops and boat trip around the bay, or drive through glorious Glenveagh National Park to the Atlantic Coast.

Day 5: Next to **Sligo**, the 'Land of Heart's Desire' according to local poet WB Yeats, then into Co. Mayo where there's time to visit the Marian Shrine at Knock, before arriving in Galway for a 2 night stay.

Day 6: Galway, known as the 'City of Tribes', has a fascinating cultural and maritime history. Spend time exploring the city, board the Corrib Princess for a lake cruise, discover the Connemara National Park, or head into Co. Clare to discover the Cliffs of Moher and The Burren National Park.

Day 7: You'll find the medieval masterpiece of Bunratty Castle en route to **Limerick**, birthplace of broadcasting legend Terry Wogan and actor Richard Harris. Foynes Flying Boat Museum is well worth a visit before reaching Killarney, your base for the next 3 nights.

Day 8: Enjoy a free day in **Killarney**, where you can ride on a traditional jaunting car and take a pleasure cruise on Lough Leane. Muckross House is delightful, and once played host to Queen Victoria. (Driver's free day.)

Day 9: The Ring of Kerry, with its magnificent coast and countryside, is the best-known scenic drive in Ireland. The Beara and Dingle peninsulas offer excellent alternatives and the scenery is

equally spectacular; each can be easily reached from Killarney.

If you require a Weekly Rest Period for your driver during this tour, we can organise coach hire to cover the Ring of Kerry trip on Day 9. Call us for details and prices.

Day 10: It's a short drive to Co. **Cork**, with the chance to kiss the Blarney Stone or visit Cobh Harbour, the final port of call for RMS Titanic. Head north to **Tipperary**, with its imposing fortress, the Rock of Cashel, and on to the Fair City of **Dublin** with a host of landmarks, shops and eateries to suit all tastes and appetites. Enjoy a final overnight close to the city centre.

Day 11: All aboard the Dublin ferry for your return journey to Holyhead, and home.

OPTION: If South Wales is your preferred route home, why not spend your final overnight in Wexford instead, allowing more time to explore Ireland's southern coast: the choice is yours.

3★ Tour Includes:

- ▶ 10 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Porterage
- ▶ Full Irish breakfast
- ▶ 3 Course/3 Choice dinner & tea/coffee
- ▶ Entertainment (Donegal, Killarney)
- ▶ Leisure facilities (Donegal, Killarney)

4★ Tour Includes:

- ▶ 10 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Porterage
- ▶ Full Irish breakfast
- ▶ 3 Course/3 Choice dinner & tea/coffee
- ▶ Entertainment (Killarney)
- ▶ Leisure facilities (Letterkenny, Killarney)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£525**
May to Sep: Prices from: **£567**

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£549**
May to Sep: Prices from: **£611**





Giants Causeway



Hillsborough Castle

The Very Best of Northern Ireland

Our popular tour to Northern Ireland takes you to Belfast, a thriving capital city, the Giants Causeway, the spectacular Antrim Coast and the delightful scenery of County Down.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from either Cairnryan or Holyhead, and make your way to **Belfast** for a 4 night stay at the Stormont Hotel.

Day 2: Northern Ireland's capital has become increasingly popular as a touring destination for groups. Begin with a **guided tour through the city's four 'quarters'**, taking in the many highlights including City Hall, Queens University, the Opera House and the Botanic Gardens. This afternoon either enjoy free time to explore the city for yourself, or why not visit one of the leading local attractions such as Crumlin Road Gaol, Titanic Belfast or the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum.

Day 3: For one of the most remarkable ocean drives take the **Antrim Coast Road** with its unspoilt views of the Irish Sea and Glens of Antrim. Arrive at the **Giant's Causeway**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its unique volcanic stone pillars and shrouded in folklore and fairytales.

Day 4: Begin your **day tour of Co. Down** with a drive through the Ards Peninsula. A visit to Mount Stewart House & Gardens is recommended, or head straight down to Portaferry for the quick ferry crossing to Strangford. Spend time in **Downpatrick** visiting the St Patricks Centre, museum and impressive cathedral, the official burial site of Ireland's Patron saint, or discover the Mountains of Mourne and Slieve Donard, the country's highest peak.

Day 5: Time for the return ferry either from Belfast or Dublin, and your journey home.

Stormont Hotel

- 4★ • 105 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

A stylish hotel opposite the grounds of the Parliament Building.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Guided Belfast City Tour
- ▶ Giants Causeway

Northern Ireland's Tapestries & Thrones

Includes a unique invitation to morning tea & scones at Hillsborough Castle, an absorbing Irish Linen tour, Glenarm Castle Gardens or the Giants Causeway, and a free day in Belfast.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Catch the ferry from Holyhead or Cairnryan, and head on to the Dunadry Hotel near Antrim for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: There's a treat in store today with a rare visit to **the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland, Hillsborough Castle**. After a guided tour of this elegant mansion and gardens including the majestic throne room, morning tea and scones will be served in one of the staterooms. Then explore Hillsborough town itself with its Georgian architecture and visitor's centre with an original courtroom exhibit. Finish the day with a tour of **Thomas Fergusons Irish Linen at Banbridge**, producers of the finest damask table linen as used in Buckingham Palace.

Day 3: A day in the fascinating and industrious city of **Belfast** offers a wide range of attractions to suit all tastes. Choose from City Hall, the Botanical Gardens, Ulster Museum, HMS Caroline, the Albert Memorial Clock, the Big Blue Fish, the National Trust owned Crown Liquor Saloon and many more.

Day 4: Head up through the **Glens of Antrim** to visit the delightful Walled Garden at **Glenarm Castle**. Originally designed to supply produce for the castle table, the garden is now filled with exciting flowers and specimen plants adding great colour to this charming setting. Continue along the Antrim Coast Road for magnificent sea views. If preferred you could include a visit to the **Giant's Causeway** instead.

Day 5: Ferry from Belfast or Dublin, and complete the journey home.

Dunadry Hotel

- 4★ • 83 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Once home to paper and linen mills, this elegant and modern hotel has a fascinating past.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Hillsborough Castle - guided tour and morning tea
- ▶ Thomas Ferguson Irish Linen
- ▶ Glenarm Castle Gardens or Giant's Causeway
- ▶ Entertainment
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£299** May to Sep: Prices from: **£307**

Jul to Sep: Prices from: **£283** Oct: Prices from: **£273**



The Causeway Coaster

A fine tour to the very north of Ireland combining the beautiful scenery of the Inishowen Peninsula, the Walled City of Derry and a classic coastal rail journey to the Giants Causeway.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from Holyhead to Dublin, and overnight accommodation.

Day 2: Drive north through the counties of Meath, Louth and Monaghan to Tyrone. Enjoy the beauty of the lake scenery that surrounds Enniskillen or the wooded landscape of The Sperrins before arriving in Buncrana for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Today's guided tour starts with a scenic drive around the **Inishowen Peninsula** to **Malin Head**, the northernmost point in Ireland. Then head to **Derry** on the banks of the River Foyle, the only completely walled city in Ireland and enjoying its recent status as UK City of Culture.

Day 4: Spend today exploring **Donegal**, beginning with a trip through the **Glenveagh National Park** under the shadow of imposing Mount Errigal. The county is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on three sides, providing spectacular sea views as you drive along its coastline. The west of Donegal has a significant Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) region where customs, traditions, skills and language have existed for centuries.

Day 5: Michael Palin described the **train journey from Londonderry to Coleraine** as "...one of the most beautiful rail journeys in the world". The track runs alongside beautiful beaches, through Ireland's longest railway tunnels and past historic landmarks. The **Giants Causeway**, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is then just a short drive away. Complete the route to Belfast for an overnight stay.

Day 6: Catch the ferry to Cairnryan, and home.

Inishowen Gateway Hotel

3★ • 80 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A modern hotel with panoramic sea views over Lough Swilly and the fabulous beach.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Full Day Guided Tour of Inishowen & Derry
- ▶ Scenic Rail Journey (Derry to Coleraine)
- ▶ Giants Causeway
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ Leisure facilities



Fabulous Fermanagh Lakelands

Revive your senses and enjoy Ireland's great lakes with our popular Fermanagh tour staying in an elegant 18th Century manor house, and with a sunset dinner cruise on Lough Erne.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Take the afternoon ferry from Holyhead to Dublin, and an overnight close to the city.

Day 2: Spend this morning exploring **Dublin** before heading north through the ancient landscapes of Navan and Cavan, to the lakeland county of Fermanagh for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Relax in the hotel before a visit to the **Ulster American Folk Park**, one of the country's major museums. Here you'll experience the epic story of Ireland's emigration from the thatched cottages of Ulster to the American Frontier, brought to life through costumed re-enactments. This evening enjoy one of the highlights of the tour, a sunset dinner cruise on lovely Lough Erne.

Day 4: Take a scenic drive through the beautiful surroundings of the **Fermanagh Lakelands** - a favourite holiday destination for the Irish themselves. Head along the shores of Lough Melvin and Lough Macnean to **Florence Court**, a fine 18th century stately home and gardens overlooked by the magnificent Cuilcagh Mountains.

Day 5: **Enniskillen** is built on a natural island between Upper and Lower Lough Erne. Include a visit to its prominent castle, home to the Royal Fusiliers, or discover a collection of arts and crafts boutiques in the Buttermarket. Travel back to Dublin for a final overnight.

Day 6: Catch the morning ferry from Dublin back to Holyhead and home.

Manor House Country Hotel

4★ • 81 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A former manor house combining traditional elegance with modern facilities.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Sunset dinner cruise
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night
- ▶ Ulster American Folk Park
- ▶ Florence Court
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£271** May to Sep: Prices from: **£311**

May to Sep: Prices from: **£339**



Ireland's Coasts & Castles

Capture the unique beauty and history of Ireland with our tour of the north combining the fabulous coastal scenery from Antrim to Donegal, with great castles and excellent hotels.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Ireland from Holyhead or Cairnryan and complete the journey to your very own castle by the sea, for an overnight stay at the Ballygally Castle Hotel.

Day 2: Begin today with one of the most rewarding coastal drives in Ireland as you travel up the **Antrim Coast** to the legendary **Giants Causeway**. Discover Dunluce Castle, precariously perched on a cliff edge, before heading down to Co. Donegal for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: A day in **Donegal** can include a visit to the well-preserved castle, abbey ruins or the shops and cafe's in the town's 'Diamond', followed by a water-bus boat trip around the bay. Alternatively head to Co. Sligo, eulogised in the poetry of WB Yeats.

Day 4: Discover the delightful coast and countryside of Co. Donegal, beginning with a trip to **Glenveagh Castle**. It lies half hidden in woodland at the edge of a lake in a protected national park that is home to the largest herd of red deer in Ireland. Head on to the dramatic west coast then down through the **Blue Stack Mountains** before returning to the hotel for dinner.

Day 5: From Letterkenny head to Enniskillen which was built on a natural island between Upper and Lower Loch Erne. Continue to Trim, crowned by its striking Norman Castle that featured prominently in the film 'Braveheart'. Head on to Dublin and a final overnight close to the city.

Day 6: Morning ferry to Holyhead and complete your journey home.

Clanree Hotel

4★ • 120 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A modern hotel on the outskirts of the commercial centre of Letterkenny.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Giants Causeway
- ▶ Glenveagh National Park Visitor Centre, castle tour and transfers
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£315** May to Sep: Prices from: **£335**



Donegal, Glenveagh & a Musical Medley

A tour based in the heart of Donegal town with visits to Glenveagh National Park, the Atlantic Coast and Ireland's oldest pottery, plus generous entertainment including live Irish music.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry to Dublin and an overnight stay close to the city.

Day 2: Head through historic **Co. Meath**, home to the High Kings of Ireland in the 12th Century, and on to Enniskillen. Continue to **Belleek Pottery** for a tour of the factory that has produced delicate Parian china since 1857. Arrive in Donegal for a 3 night stay. *Tonight: enjoy a welcome drink followed by traditional Irish music at the hotel.*

Day 3: Spend a day in **Donegal** exploring the ruined Abbey of the Four Masters and Donegal Castle on the banks of the River Eske, or try on some Irish tweeds at Magee's. After lunch why not take a scenic cruise around Donegal Bay. *Tonight: bingo in the hotel followed by live music.*

Day 4: A full day excursion around Co. Donegal begins with a scenic drive through **Glenveagh National Park** to the Atlantic Coast. Ireland's North West contains an official Gaeltacht region with proud cultural traditions and a strong musical heritage. Local artists include Clannad, Enya, Westlife and Daniel O'Donnell who has a visitor centre in Dungloe that celebrates his record-breaking career. The surrounding coastal scenery is breathtaking including some of the world's tallest sea cliffs. *Tonight: a candlelit dinner awaits followed by live musical entertainment.*

Day 5: Head to **Dublin**, Ireland's capital city, for shopping, sightseeing or more live entertainment from the street performers and buskers at Temple Bar; overnight nearby.

Day 6: Morning ferry to Holyhead, and home.

Central Hotel

3★ • 115 Bedrooms
• Lift

Family-run hotel overlooking the main square in Donegal.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Belleek Pottery
- ▶ Welcome drink
- ▶ Entertainment on 3 nights
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£289** May to Sep: Prices from: **£299**



Slieve League

Wild Atlantic Way - Northern Shores

Our new tour to Ireland's North West offers a slice of the Wild Atlantic Way in Co. Donegal, including the chance to stand on top of Ireland and visit Europe's tallest sea cliffs.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry crossing from Holyhead to Dublin and an overnight stay close to the city.

Day 2: Drive up through Cavan and Navan into the fabulous **Fermanagh Lakelands**, then head on into Co. Donegal and the attractive town of Ballybofey, for a 3 night stay at the lovely Kees Hotel.

Day 3: Head west around the Blue Stack Mountains and down to **Donegal Bay**. At Teelin join a **scenic tour up to the viewpoint on Slieve League** for panoramic views of these sensational sea cliffs, standing nearly 2000 feet above the Atlantic. Then why not visit the folk village at Glencolumbkille for a taste of traditional Irish life, or spend free time in Donegal town with the chance of a boat trip around the bay.

Day 4: Travel up to the **Inishowen Peninsula** today to stand on top of Ireland at **Malin Head**, a striking feature of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. History, ocean views and pretty countryside combine beautifully. Why not combine this with a visit to the Walled City of Derry.

(This day can also be done as a guided tour – please ask for details)

Day 5: Travel down the west coast and through Yeats Country to Sligo, or inland via Omagh and the fascinating Ulster American Folk Park, before heading on to Dublin for a final overnight stay.

Day 6: Return ferry from Dublin to Holyhead and home.

Kee's Hotel

3★ • 53 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Family-owned since 1892, this award-winning hotel offers style, character and great service



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Slieve League Cliffs Tour
- ▶ Welcome reception
- ▶ Entertainment on 3 nights
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£295** May to Sep: Prices from: **£307**



Wild Atlantic Way - Western Isles

Experience the untamed majesty of Ireland's West Coast with striking seascapes, maritime history, and an island adventure with a day trip to the largest of the Aran Islands, Inis Mor.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry crossing from Holyhead to Dublin and an overnight stay close to the city.

Day 2: Drive through the heart of Ireland to **Athlone** situated on the banks of the River Shannon, Ireland's longest waterway. Continue into **Galway** for a 3 night stay at the Menlo Park Hotel.

Day 3: Explore one of the highlights of the Wild Atlantic Way today with a **trip to the mystical Aran Islands**. Take the ferry from Rossaveal to Inis Mór, the largest of the three islands but with less than 1000 inhabitants. A minibus tour explores the island with its fabulous coastal scenery, ruins of early Christian monasteries and **Dun Aengus**, the finest example of a stone fort in Europe which stands on a cliff edge. Time to visit the Aran Sweater Market and Museum, featuring the islands most famous export, before returning to the mainland.

Day 4: Choose from other **Wild Atlantic Way** highlights such as the magnificent Cliffs of Moher and precious Burren National Park, the wonderful wilderness of Connemara National Park or a day trip to bohemian Galway with its maritime history, galleries and museums.

Day 5: To toast your tour why not visit the Kilbeggan Distillery Experience for a tour and tippie of traditional Irish Whiskey, or head straight to Dublin for time in this grand capital city before a final overnight stay.

Day 6: Ferry from Dublin to Holyhead and home.

Menlo Park Hotel

4★ • 70 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

An excellent hotel combining old-fashioned hospitality with a delightful modern touch.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Aran Islands Day Tour: includes ferry crossing, guided mini-bus tour of Inish Mor and admission to Dun Aengus Fort

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£313** May to Sep: Prices from: **£349**



Westport House

Westport: An Irish Favourite

Award-winning Westport, one of Ireland's most beautiful towns, stands on the edge of Clew Bay combining magnificent scenery with great day tours and excellent entertainment.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Afternoon ferry from Holyhead to Dublin and overnight close to the city centre.

Day 2: Travel west via Mullingar and Longford, possibly breaking the journey at Strokestown Park House, a 19th century estate containing the Irish National Famine Museum and a charming walled pleasure garden. Continue to the Castlecourt Hotel in Westport for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Take a scenic drive through Co. Mayo past **Croagh Patrick (the Holy Mountain)** and down through eerie Doo Lough Valley. At Killary Harbour why not enjoy a picturesque cruise on the sheltered waters of Ireland's only fjord or continue to **Connemara National Park**. Return home mid-afternoon to spend time exploring Westport or enjoying the hotel's leisure facilities.

Day 4: Begin today with a visit to **Foxford Woollen Mills**, traditional wool manufacturers since 1892. Then head past Clew Bay to **Achill Island**, a region of ancient forests and boglands that emerges at the Atlantic coast to dramatic effect. Immense cliffs shelter nesting seabirds, and the sea views are magnificent.

Day 5: From Westport, call in at the **Museum of Country Life** with its collections set in the grounds of Turlough Park House and surrounded by delightful gardens. Complete the journey to Dublin with time to take in the city sights.

Day 6: Morning ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and home.

Full entertainment programme at the Castlecourt Hotel: includes live music each evening plus other events such as cookery demonstrations, historical talks, quizzes and bingo.

Castlecourt Hotel

- 4★ • 148 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

A family-run hotel well known for its great facilities and entertainment.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Daily entertainment & activities at the hotel
- ▶ Foxford Woollen Mills
- ▶ National Museum of Country Life
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£293** May to Sep: Prices from: **£331**



Galway, Connemara & a Lake Cruise

Our classic tour to Galway combines the artistic 'City of Tribes' with the precious wilderness of Connemara, elegant Kylemore Abbey and a relaxing lake cruise on Lough Corrib.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel by ferry to Rosslare, and on to an overnight stay in the centre of **Waterford**.

Day 2: If time allows why not include a quick visit to the Waterford Crystal Visitors Centre or the Museum of Treasures that charts the city's fascinating history from the Viking invasion. Then travel north via **Tipperary** and **Limerick** to Galway for a 3 night stay at the Menlo Park Hotel on the outskirts of the city.

Day 3: Spend free time in **Galway City**, famous for its maritime history and boasting a full calendar of festivals and events. This afternoon enjoy one of the highlights of the tour: a lovely **lake cruise aboard the Corrib Princess**, with a full commentary and tasty tea and scones.

Day 4: Explore **Connemara National Park** with its wild ponies and mountain scenery then head on to the thriving town of Clifden. Idyllic **Kylemore Abbey**, a neo-gothic castle with immaculate Victorian walled garden, makes an excellent addition to the day.

Day 5: From Galway travel across to your final overnight in Dublin, breaking your journey at Athlone, home to the famous Irish tenor John McCormack and its historic Norman castle. Here it's also possible to take a scenic river cruise on Ireland's longest waterway - the River Shannon.

Day 6: After breakfast, travel by ferry from Dublin to Holyhead and head for home.

Menlo Park Hotel

- 4★ • 70 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

This award-winning hotel combines old-fashioned hospitality with a modern touch.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Lough Corrib Cruise
- ▶ Kylemore Abbey

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£299** May to Sep: Prices from: **£335**



Western Ireland's Coastal Delights

Enjoy the best of the west including a sea cruise under the mighty Cliffs of Moher, scenic drives around Black Head and through the The Burren, and a trip to glorious Galway.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel by ferry from Holyhead to Dublin, and overnight accommodation near the city.

Day 2: Head through the rich pastures of **Kildare**, home to the Irish National Stud, lyrical Limerick and Bunratty, home to Ireland's oldest pub 'Durtu Nellies', before arriving in Ennistymon, Co. Clare for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: A truly memorable day begins with a **Cliffs of Moher Cruise**, sailing beneath the sheer faces of these colossal cliffs that are home to the country's largest seabird colony and have become an iconic image for Ireland's West Coast. Then head over to the **official visitors centre** for breathtaking views 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. This afternoon take the wonderful ocean drive past the Aran Islands as you head around Black Head and on to Ballyvaughan Bay.

Day 4: First stop is the **Burren Visitor Centre**, where the natural history of this enchanting region is revealed. Drive through the park to discover prehistoric limestone landscapes sheltering rare species of flora and fauna. Then on to **Galway**, for free time exploring the 'City of Tribes' originally founded by medieval merchants.

Day 5: From Co. Clare it's not a long way to **Tipperary** and a visit to Cahir heritage town with its well-preserved castle built on a rocky island on the River Suir. Continue to **Waterford** for time in Ireland's oldest city before a final overnight close to Wexford.

Day 6: Ferry from Rosslare to South Wales, and home.

Falls Hotel

3★ • 144 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

This former manor house overlooking the river provides a haven of peace and tranquillity.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Welcome drink with dinner
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night
- ▶ Burren Visitors Centre
- ▶ Cliffs of Moher Cruise
- ▶ Cliffs of Moher Visitors Centre
- ▶ Leisure facilities



Loch Derg Cruise

Tales of Tipperary & a River Cruise

Explore timeless Tipperary & the Shannon Region on a guided river cruise plus day tours to Limerick and Clare, with traditional Irish storytelling, live music & local entertainment included.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry from South Wales to Rosslare and on to Waterford for an overnight stay.

Day 2: Discover **Co. Tipperary** today, with its historic walled towns, fabulous fortresses and riverside scenery. Find Cahir, a delightful heritage town or explore the dramatic Rock of Cashel. Continue to the Lakeside Hotel in Killaloe, your base for the next 3 nights.

Day 3: Visit the unique **Foynes Flying Boat Museum** in Co. Limerick, a unique chapter in the country's aviation history. Enjoy the attached Maritime Museum and if it's to your taste why not sample a traditional Irish Coffee, invented here at Foynes. This afternoon **board the Spirit of Killaloe at the hotel's private jetty** for a scenic cruise on lovely Loch Derg. Before dinner, why not take a stroll around the hotel's pretty garden with its panoramic mountain views.

Day 4: **Co. Clare** has so much to recommend it, starting at Bunratty with its beautifully preserved medieval castle & adjoining folk park, and Blarney Woollen Mills for shopping and refreshments. Continue to the coast to discover the mighty Cliffs of Moher, standing 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean and if time allows there's the Burren National Park or the spa town of Lisdoonvarna, famous as the venue for the country's very own Matchmaking Festival!

Day 5: Time for a look at **Limerick** City this morning, birthplace of Sir Terry Wogan and Richard Harris and that famous 5 line poem! Or head straight to **Dublin** for the chance to explore Ireland's capital before a final overnight stay.

Day 6: Ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and home.

Lakeside Hotel

3★ • 43 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A family run, independent hotel with leisure facilities and landscaped gardens on the edge of Lough Derg.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Welcome reception
- ▶ Entertainment on 3 nights
- ▶ Lough Derg Lake Cruise
- ▶ Foynes Flying Boat Museum
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£281** May to Sep: Prices from: **£323**

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£313** May to Sep: Prices from: **£329**



Delightful Dingle Bay with Dolphins

A return of this popular tour to Co. Kerry combining entertainment with exciting day tours including a unique boat cruise and dolphin watching experience around Dingle Bay.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel by ferry from Fishguard to Rosslare and head on to **Waterford** for an overnight stay at Dooleys Hotel, located on the quayside in the centre of town.

Day 2: Travel on to Co. Cork, home of legendary Blarney Castle where folklore dictates it's possible to kiss the Blarney Stone and inherit the gift of eloquence. Continue into **Co. Kerry** and on to the market town of **Castleisland**, your base for the next three nights.

Day 3: Today the choice is yours. Spend the day in Killarney with its many excellent tourist attractions, or if the sun's shining discover more of Co. Kerry's beautiful scenery; the Ring of Kerry and Beara Peninsula are both well worth exploring.

Day 4: A full day on the **Dingle Peninsula**. Take a scenic drive through this precious Irish landscape with ancient beehive huts surrounded by an intricate coastline - a region that has captivated poets, writers and filmmakers for generations. This afternoon there's a special treat in store: **a scenic boat tour and dolphin-watching excursion around Dingle Bay**.

Day 5: From Kerry, travel up to **Dublin** with time to get a good taste of Ireland's cosmopolitan capital with excellent sightseeing, museums and galleries, shops and cafes to enjoy. If time allows why not take a scenic boat trip along the River Liffey. Finish your tour with a final overnight stay just north of the city centre.

Day 6: Catch the morning ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and continue your journey home.

River Island Hotel

3★ • 52 Bedrooms
• Lift

A family-run hotel at the heart of a typical Kerry market town.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Dingle Bay Boat Cruise & Dolphin Watching Experience
- ▶ Nightly entertainment (Castleisland)
- ▶ Free drink with dinner (Castleisland)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£273** May to Sep: Prices from: **£313**



Killarney & the Ring of Kerry

If you are looking for just one tour to Ireland, make it Killarney: a thriving holiday destination surrounded by spectacular scenery, many exciting day trips and plenty of great entertainment.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Take the ferry from South Wales to Rosslare, and overnight in Waterford.

Day 2: Why not allow time to explore the Viking City of Waterford with its impressive collection of museums and Waterford Crystal. Alternatively head straight on to Co. Cork, with the chance of a tippie at Old Jameson's Whiskey Distillery, a taste of Titanic history at Cobh Harbour or a kiss of the Blarney Stone, before arriving in **Killarney** for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Of the many highlights to enjoy on a free day in Killarney, **a traditional jaunting car ride through the National Park followed by a scenic lake cruise** is the pick of the bunch. A regular winner of Ireland's Tidy Town competition, Killarney makes a great place to explore, or you could include nearby Muckross House, a handsome hunting lodge with a royal history that is well worth a visit.

Day 4: For many visitors, **the Ring of Kerry** is the highlight of their tour. Formed during the last ice age, this picturesque peninsula with its traditional villages, lush countryside and ocean views makes a wonderful coastal drive.

Day 5: From Killarney it's possible to visit the beautiful thatched cottages at Adare, Bunratty Castle & Folk Park or the Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens, before arriving in **Dublin** for your final overnight stay.

Day 6: Catch the morning ferry from Dublin port to Holyhead, and complete the journey home.

Looking for a 3 hotel? The same package at the Holiday Inn, Killarney, starts from £289.*

Killarney Towers Hotel

4★ • 182 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A superbly appointed hotel with a great reputation, occupying a prime position in Killarney.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Nightly entertainment (Killarney)
- ▶ Jaunting car ride
- ▶ Lake cruise
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£293** May to Sep: Prices from: **£339**



Bantry House

Bantry & the Wonders of West Cork

Explore West Cork's coast and countryside while staying in the charming harbour town of Bantry. Take a boat trip to Garinish Island and visit Mizen Head, Ireland's southernmost point.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry to **Dublin**, and stay overnight close to the city.

Day 2: Head down to Bantry via Co. Kildare with its rich pastures and record-breaking racehorses, and Co. Tipperary with its heritage towns and historic sites. Enjoy a 3 night stay at the Maritime Hotel in the centre of Bantry.

Day 3: **Bantry** is a popular fishing harbour renowned for its mussels and watched over by the Georgian splendour of Bantry House with its panoramic views of the bay. Take the pretty drive down to the coast at **Mizen Head** where it is possible to visit the signal station, and try to spot Fastnet Rock, known as 'Ireland's Teardrop' as it symbolised the final piece of Ireland visible to those who emigrated by sea.

Day 4: The gorgeous scenery of **Beara Peninsula** is steeped in myth and legend. From colourful Kenmare the Ring of Beara coastal route passes traditional fishing villages and sandy bays from Kenmare Bay round to Bantry Bay. At Glengarriff catch the **ferry to Garinish Island to find its idyllic Italianate garden.**

Day 5: Discover more of Ireland's southern shores as you travel east via Cork and Youghal towards Waterford, then on into Co. Wexford to find the Dunbrody Famine Ship, the JFK Arboretum or even enjoy a scenic river cruise. Take an overnight stay close to **Wexford**, conveniently located for Rosslare Port.

Day 6: Ferry to South Wales, and head for home.

Looking for a 3 hotel? The same package at the Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, starts from £275.*

Maritime Hotel

4★ • 110 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

This hotel offers stylish, contemporary accommodation overlooking Bantry Bay.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Bantry Bay boat trip
- ▶ Garinish Island
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£289** May to Sep: Prices from: **£327**



Mount Congreve Gardens

Irish 'Rails, Sails & Secret Gardens'

Ireland's South Coast in all its glory with a scenic train ride to the rediscovered gardens at Mount Congreve, Regency splendour at Fota House, plus Cobh, Kinsale & much more.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head to South Wales for the afternoon sailing to Rosslare. Travel the short distance to **Waterford** for overnight accommodation.

Day 2: Join the **Waterford & Suir Valley Railway** for a pretty journey along the banks of the River Suir. Arrive at Mount Congreve, **one of the world's largest private gardens** whose owner Ambrose Congreve won 13 gold medals through his exhibitions at the Chelsea Flower Show. Why not include a whiskey tour at the Jameson Experience before 3 nights at the Midleton Park Hotel, Co. Cork.

Day 3: Discover **Fota House**, a Regency-style great country house surrounded by its own arboretum, a beautiful orangery and formal walled gardens. Then head to Cobh, a tiny fishing village with a big history made famous as the last port of call for RMS Titanic.

Day 4: Enjoy the spectacular scenery and pretty towns of the **Gulf Stream Coast**, sculptured by the Ice Age and lapped by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. Include Kinsale, Ireland's 'gourmet capital' and a popular centre for sailing overlooked by dramatic Charles Fort.

Day 5: Another impressive scenic drive along the **Copper Coast**, a protected Geo Park with sweeping ocean views. Visit the seaside resort of Tramore or continue to **Waterford** for free time in Ireland's oldest city before a final overnight stay.

Day 6: Following breakfast, travel to Rosslare for the return ferry crossing to South Wales, and home.

If preferred, the itinerary can be changed to allow a return via Dublin Port – ask us for details.

Midleton Park Hotel

3★ • 79 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Only ten miles from Cork City, the Midleton Park Hotel is elegant and warm-welcoming.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Waterford & Suir Valley Railway
- ▶ Mount Congreve Gardens
- ▶ Fota House & Gardens

Apr: Prices from: **£295** May to Sep: Prices from: **£335**



New Ross

Waterford & the Copper Coast

Take an ocean drive along the Copper Coast, explore Waterford with its classic crystal and Museum of Treasures, and take to the water on a river cruise with afternoon tea.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from South Wales to Rosslare, and continue on to Waterford for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Spend the morning in **Waterford**, home of the Museum of Treasures and internationally-famous Waterford Crystal. After lunch, head over to nearby **New Ross** for a **scenic river cruise with afternoon tea** served on board.

Day 3: Begin with a visit to the resort of **Tramore** with its miles of flat sandy beaches, before driving along the magnificent **Copper Coast** – a protected national Geopark with wide ocean views, curious rock formations and home to traditional fishing villages. From the market town of **Dungarvan** carry on to the heritage town of **Lismore** with its prominent castle that overlooks the River Blackwater and where you can visit its 17th Century walled gardens.

Day 4: The choice is yours today: why not travel north to Kilkenny, Ireland's foremost medieval city with cobbled streets and traditional 'slip' alleyways filled with shops and cafes, and many landmarks that can be discovered at ease aboard the local tourist road train. Alternatively why not head west into Co. Cork with the opportunity to visit the heritage town of Cobh and its historic harbour and the Old Middleton Distillery for a taste of triple-distilled Irish whiskey.

Day 5: Following breakfast, travel back to Rosslare Port for the return crossing to South Wales and home.

Dooleys Hotel

3★ • 113 Bedrooms
• Lift

A family-owned, modern hotel well positioned on the city's waterfront.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Welcome drink
- ▶ Scenic river cruise & afternoon tea
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£219** May to Sep: Prices from: **£239**



Kilkenny castle

Carlow & Kilkenny Cracker

A perfect short break at Celtic Carlow's excellent Seven Oaks Hotel, with Altamont's garden delights, a road-train trip & beer tour in Kilkenny and musical entertainment on three nights.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel by ferry to Dublin, before a short journey to **Carlow** for a 3 night stay. *Tonight's Entertainment: Traditional Irish music in the hotel bar.*

Day 2: Time to explore this peaceful riverside town boasting a strong Celtic heritage, with its cathedral, courthouse, museum and Visual Arts Centre. After lunch discover delightful **Altamont Gardens**, one of the most romantic settings in Ireland. It's a charming blend of formal and informal styles, with an impressive rose collection and a parade of ancient oaks leading to an Ice Age Glen. *Tonight's Entertainment: Free admission to the hotel's dancing club.*

Day 3: For many people **Kilkenny** is the greatest city in Ireland, a medieval time capsule built around its magnificent castle and recently named Ireland's Tidiest Town. Get your bearings and see the sights aboard the **local road train** which winds its way through the city, before a refreshing visit to **Smithwicks Brewery** for a tour and tasting of this favourite Irish beer. *Tonight's Entertainment: Candlelit Dinner Dance at the hotel.*

Day 4: Leaving Carlow today, either spend time exploring the many highlights of Co. Kildare or travel on to Dublin for a day in Ireland's absorbing capital city. Indulge in sightseeing, shopping or discovering the many museums and galleries on offer before heading on to your final overnight stay close to the city.

Day 5: Catch the morning ferry back to Holyhead, and home.

Seven Oaks Hotel

3★ • 89 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A magnificent, independently-owned hotel retaining its old world character.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Entertainment on 3 nights
- ▶ Kilkenny Road Train
- ▶ Altamont Gardens
- ▶ Smithwicks Brewery
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£233** May to Sep: Prices from: **£271**



Dart Railway

Dublin & Wicklow 'River & Rail'

Our popular themed break to the East Coast brings you an exciting look at Ireland's city, seaside and countryside with a guided scenic railway journey, river cruise and entertainment.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Holyhead for the ferry to Dublin, and on to Bray for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: A day exploring Co. Wicklow could start with a visit to Powerscourt House and Gardens, considered one of the world's greatest gardens, with international collections, ornate statuary, inspired designs and magnificent views of Sugarloaf Mountain or head through the Wicklow National Park to the enchanting monastic site at Glendalough. Avoca Handweavers, Ireland's oldest mill established in 1723, is also well worth visiting.

Day 3: Begin today with a **journey on Ireland's oldest railway, following the coast from Bray to Dublin** accompanied by a local tour guide who brings the history of the region to life. Enjoy a panorama of city, coast and countryside as the DART train carries you to the seaside resort of Malahide, where tea and scones will be served. This afternoon, you could include a visit to Malahide Castle or head into Dublin for time in the city.

Day 4: What better place to begin a day in **Dublin** than on the River Liffey, with a **boat cruise through the heart of the capital**. A detailed commentary brings the city's past to life as you discover some of the major landmarks including Ha'penny Bridge and Customs House. Enjoy a free afternoon in Dublin's many galleries, museums, shops and cafes.

Day 5: Wave goodbye to Ireland on the morning ferry back to Holyhead, and home.

This itinerary can also be based at the Royal Hotel in Bray - call us for package details and prices.

Esplanade Hotel

3★ • 94 Bedrooms
• Lift

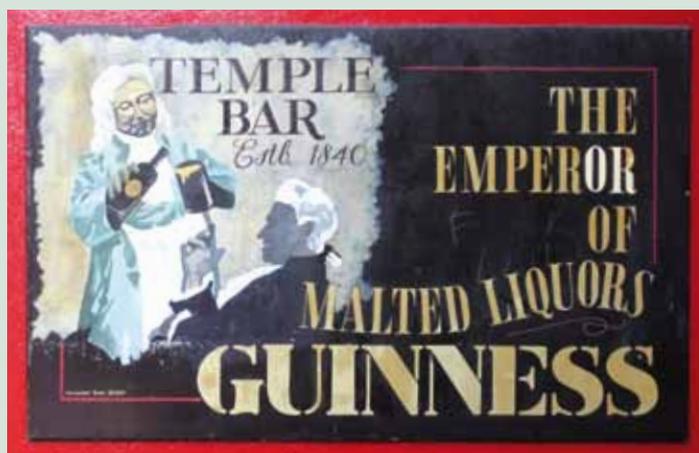
A seafront hotel located in Bray and restored to its Victorian elegance.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Welcome drink
- ▶ Irish coffee on final night
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ Coastal rail journey
- ▶ Tour guide & tea/scones
- ▶ River Liffey cruise
- ▶ Hotel table quiz

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£273** May to Sep: Prices from: **£295**



The Dublin Tour & Canal Cruise

"Three Cheers" for Dublin with this popular short break to Ireland's capital, including a guided city tour and a picturesque two hour canal cruise on a traditional Guinness barge.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Holyhead for the afternoon ferry to Dublin, and on to the Regency Hotel for a 3 night stay on bed & breakfast basis.

Day 2: Get your bearings in **Dublin** with a **guided tour of the major landmarks** and highlights of this bustling city, including Kilmainham Gaol, the Millennium Spire and Trinity College. Established by the Vikings next to its main water source, Ireland's capital became known as 'Dub-Linn' or 'Black Pool'. Nowadays liquid refreshment is enjoyed in the form of the 'Black Stuff', and Guinness' popularity at home and abroad is incredible. If it's to your taste, why not visit the **Guinness Storehouse**, Ireland's most popular tourist attraction, which tells the story of this success with guided tours, interactive exhibitions and all those famous advertisements. There are panoramic views of the city from its rooftop Gravity Bar.

Day 3: There's a treat in store, when you board a traditional Guinness barge for an extended scenic cruise along the Dublin Canal. It follows the route taken by these vessels in the 18th Century as they transported their precious cargo of Guinness from brewery to port and on to thirsty customers overseas. Enjoy a commentary and complimentary tea/coffee on board. Afterwards there's plenty of free time to see the sights or shop for essential souvenirs.

Day 4: Head to Dublin Port for the return ferry to Holyhead and continue your journey home.

If preferred, we can quote this package using other hotels in and around Dublin, or on Dinner, Bed & Breakfast basis, so please call us for details and prices.

Regency Hotel

3★ • 282 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Recently refurbished hotel with modern facilities just north of the city centre.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 3 nights BB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Guided City Tour of Dublin
- ▶ 2 hour canal cruise & tea/coffee

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£183** May to Sep: Prices from: **£205**



Killarney Spring Special

A special spring break in enchanting Killarney surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery in Ireland; explore the coast and countryside by day, and enjoy nightly entertainment.

- Highlights include**
- The Ring of Kerry or Dingle Peninsula
 - Jaunting car ride
 - Lake cruise on Lough Leane
 - Killarney Town

Killarney Towers Hotel
4★ • 182 Bedrooms
• Lift

- Tour Includes:**
- ▶ 5 nights DBB
 - ▶ Return ferry
 - ▶ Inclusions as above

Mar: Prices from: **£275** Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£285**



Waterford House Party 2018

A new seasonal short break with a spin on the 'house party' theme. Staying in Waterford you'll discover hidden gems at the House of Waterford Crystal, uncover fascinating history at

elegant Wells House & Gardens, then enjoy a drink 'on the house' at the new Smithwicks Experience in Kilkenny. That's what we call a 'full house'!

Dooleys Hotel
3★ • 113 Bedrooms
• Lift

- Tour Includes:**
- ▶ 4 nights DBB
 - ▶ Return ferry
 - ▶ Inclusions as above

Apr & May: Prices from: **£231**



Northern Ireland's Maritime Legends

Our new themed tour sails you to Belfast. Visit award-winning Titanic Belfast for the fascinating and moving story of RMS Titanic. Then climb aboard the new arrival HMS

Caroline, a beautifully restored C-Class light cruiser and the sole surviving vessel from the Battle of Jutland in 1916. City, countryside and coast combine beautifully.

Park Avenue Hotel
4★ • 56 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

- Tour Includes:**
- ▶ 4 nights DBB
 - ▶ Return ferry
 - ▶ Inclusions as above

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£277** May to Sep: Prices from: **£283**



Ireland's Ancient East

Castles and kings, Hollywood heroes, ghosts, great gardens and a Dublin guided tour all feature in this short break, plus Irish entertainment & a welcome drink at your 4* hotel.

- Highlights include**
- Boyne Valley Battle Site
 - Malahide Castle and Gardens
 - A Day in County Kildare
 - Guided city tour of Dublin

Trim Castle Hotel
4★ • 68 Bedrooms
• Lift

- Tour Includes:**
- ▶ 4 nights DBB
 - ▶ Return ferry
 - ▶ Inclusions as above

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£257** May to Sep: Prices from: **£263**



South Coast Roller Coaster

Our new themed tour explores Southern Ireland from Waterford & Killarney to Dublin & Wicklow, combining classic transport heritage, coastal scenery and first rate Irish hospitality.

- Highlights include:**
- Waterford scenic railway
 - Mount Congreve Gardens
 - Jaunting car ride & lake cruise
 - The Ring of Kerry
 - Foynes Flying Boat Museum

River Island Hotel
3★ • 52 Bedrooms
• Lift

- Tour Includes:**
- ▶ 5 nights DBB
 - ▶ Return ferry
 - ▶ Inclusions as above

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£299** May to Sep: Prices from: **£337**



The Great Gardens of Ireland

Visit County Wicklow, the 'Garden of Ireland', where centuries of exceptional skill & soil have created a treasure trove of sensational gardens from the delicate to the wild & exotic.

- Garden visits include:**
- Powerscourt Gardens
 - Mount Usher Grdens
- Why not also add in the National Botanic Gardens, the Japanese Gardens in Kildare, or Kilruddery?*

Esplanade Hotel
3★ • 94 Bedrooms
• Lift

- Tour Includes:**
- ▶ 4 nights DBB
 - ▶ Return ferry
 - ▶ Inclusions as above

Jun to Aug: Prices from: **£279**



Irresistible Isle of Man
Our popular highlights tour combines coast, countryside and the capital.

Island Classic Journeys
Explore the Isle of Man from top to bottom on its heritage trains & trams.

'Manx Madness'
This fabulous entertainment package runs throughout April and October.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Take the ferry from Heysham to Douglas for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Board the **Steam Railway** as it carries you through the Manx countryside to the popular resort of **Port Erin**, before continuing to **Cregneash Folk Village**, an historic chapter in island life. At the **Sound Café** down on the coast there are wonderful views of the Calf of Man.

Day 3: Spend the morning exploring the island's capital, **Douglas**, home to the award-winning Manx Museum. After lunch why not visit the iconic Lady Isabella – the world's largest working waterwheel, or catch the mountain railway up to the summit of Snafell.

Day 4: Follow the **Isle of Man's famous TT course**, stopping at '**Royal**' **Ramsey**, before travelling across the island to **Peel**. Sitting grandly at the mouth of the harbour is an attractive seaside resort complete with castle, flat sandy beach, and harbour. Make time to visit **Tynwald Hill, ceremonial home of the 1000 year old Manx Parliament**.

Day 5: Ferry to Heysham and home.
This package is available at our other hotels.

Suggested Itinerary:

This popular tour is a wonderful way to discover the island's countryside, coast and attractions while travelling on its fabulous heritage railways, local bus services and the adorable horse trams.

Your tour includes a **3 day Explorer Pass**, allowing you free access to all these:

- **Isle of Man Steam Railway**
The age of steam from Douglas to Port Erin
- **Manx Electric Railway**
A scenic journey up the East Coast through Laxey to Royal Ramsey
- **Snafell Mountain Railway**
Climb to the island's highest point - the summit of Snafell Mountain
- **Isle of Man Buses**
Complimentary use of all island bus services
- **Douglas Horse Trams**
Experience Victorian grandeur on the promenade aboard these traditional horse-drawn carriages

This package is available at our other hotels.

Suggested Itinerary:

Try our popular seasonal break to the Isle of Man, lying just 60 miles off the Lancashire coast and known as the 'Treasured Isle'. It is small and perfectly formed with a delightful coastline, and irresistible curiosities such as the famous Fairy Bridge and ghostly Moddey Dhoo.

Discover the capital **Douglas** with its Victorian promenade and excellent Manx Museum, the charming harbour towns of Peel, Port Erin, Castletown and Ramsey, a collection of absorbing attractions maintained by the Manx National Heritage and the island's classic railways.

Relax at your seafront hotel where you'll be treated to musical entertainment on two nights and a free drink with dinner each evening!

This entertainment package is also offered at the Rutland Hotel at the same price. Call us to check availability.



Empress Hotel
3★ • 102 Bedrooms • Lift
An elegant hotel enjoying a central location on the promenade in Douglas.

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ Cregneash Folk Village
- ▶ Isle of Man Steam Railway to Port Erin

Rutland Hotel
3★ • 64 Bedrooms • Lift
A modern hotel enjoying stunning sea views over Douglas Bay.

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ 3 day Explorer Pass

Chesterhouse Hotel
3★ • 67 Bedrooms • Lift
Perfectly positioned to explore Douglas and just a short distance from the port.

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return ferry
- ▶ A free drink with dinner each evening
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£277**
May to Sep: Prices from: **£333**

May to Sep: Prices from: **£323**

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£243**



Hebridean Highlights

Experience a striking mix of landscapes from golden sands to mountains and moonscapes on the wonderful Outer Hebrides.

Suggested Itinerary:

- Day 1:** Head into Scotland to your overnight hotel.
- Day 2:** Take the ferry from Ullapool to the **Isle of Lewis** and if time, explore Stornoway's town, harbour, marina and Lews Castle, before continuing to the Cabarfeidh Hotel for a 2 night stay.
- Day 3:** Explore the Isle of Lewis, home to the Callanish Stones, one of the finest prehistoric sites in Scotland, the historic Broch at Carloway and the Gèarrannan Blackhouse Village, which consists of traditional thatched croft houses. *Please note that a guide and/or coach hire can be arranged on Lewis if required.*
- Day 4:** **Harris** beckons today with its ever-changing kaleidoscope of striking landscapes. Visit **Tarbert**, home to the Harris Tweed Shop and the Isle of Harris Distillery. Travel via stunning coastal beaches to the 16th century **St Clement's Church at Rodel**, before boarding the ferry from Leverburgh to Berneray and continue to the Dark Island Hotel for a 2 night stay.
- Day 5:** Explore the islands of **Benbecula** and **Uist**, home to 'Our Lady of the Isles' 30ft high statue and call in at the Kildonan Craft Shop and Museum for a tantalising insight into island life. Alternatively, you could head to Eriskay, of 'Whisky Galore' fame for the ferry across to **Barra** and experience the beauty of this small island, where the very popular BBC TV series 'Tales of an Island Parish' was filmed.
- Day 6:** Board the ferry from Lochmaddy to Uig on the Isle of Skye and continue onwards to your overnight hotel.
- Day 7:** Homeward bound.

Cabarfeidh Hotel

4★ • 46 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking
Rightly known as 'Stornoway's finest hotel', experience a genuine warm island welcome.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 6 nights DBB
- ▶ All ferry crossings



Callanish Standing Stones

Lewis & Skye Hebridean Experience

Enjoy quite spectacular coastal scenery and absorbing heritage on a tour to the Hebridean islands of Lewis and Skye.

Suggested Itinerary:

- Day 1:** Head into Scotland to your overnight hotel.
- Day 2:** Take the ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis and continue to the Cabarfeidh Hotel for a 2 night stay.
- Day 3:** Explore the **Isle of Lewis**, home to the Callanish Stones, the historic Carloway Broch and the Gèarrannan Blackhouse Village, which consists of traditional thatched croft houses. If time allows, visit **Stornoway** with its harbour, marina and Lews Castle, which is now a museum and archive centre. *Please note that a guide and/or coach hire can be arranged on Lewis if required.*
- Day 4:** Head south into Harris to Tarbert for the ferry to Uig on the **Isle of Skye**. Visit the **Skye Museum of Island Life**, a preserved township of thatched cottages, before continuing via the Trotternish Peninsula, famous for its spectacular geological features and past the Old Man of Storr on your way to the Balmacara Hotel for a 2 night stay.
- Day 5:** Travel via the Cuillin Hills into the heart of the Isle of Skye and enjoy a visit to **Dunvegan Castle & Gardens**, the seat of the Clan Macleod and the oldest continually occupied castle in Scotland. This afternoon, you could visit the island's 'capital', Portree, with its Aros Centre and picturesque natural harbour or enjoy a wee dram at Talisker Distillery.
- Day 6:** Don't miss a photo opportunity at Eileen Donan Castle, before reluctantly heading for home.

Balmacara Hotel

3★ • 28 Bedrooms
• Ground floor bedrooms
• Coach parking
Stunningly situated on the shores of Loch Alsh, with views to the Isle of Skye.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ All ferry crossings
- ▶ Skye Museum of Island Life
- ▶ Dunvegan Castle & Gardens

May to Sep: Prices from: **£494** Oct: Prices from: **£419**

May: Prices from: **£434** Jun to Sep: Prices from: **£450**



Castle of Mey

Orkney & the Castle of Mey

Discover the hidden gems of this magical and mystical region, with visits to Orkney and the Castle of Mey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head North into Scotland to your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Marvel at spectacular Highland scenery before arriving in Thurso, Britain's most northerly mainland town, for a 3 night stay. If time allows, why not include a visit to the spectacular setting at Dunrobin Castle en route.

Day 3: Enjoy the highlight of the tour, a voyage of discovery through time itself on a coach guided tour of the magical **Orkney Islands**. Here, you will have the chance to see the **World Heritage sites** of Skara Brae, the Standing Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar, plus Scapa Flow, the Churchill Barriers, the Italian Chapel and the Island's capital, Kirkwall, with its magnificent Cathedral.

Day 4: Explore Thurso, home to Caithness Horizons, a fascinating museum that tells the story of this region's past and present, before continuing to the **Castle and Gardens of Mey**, once the much-adored home of the Queen Mother, who saved it from ruin in 1952. With glorious views across the Pentland Firth towards Orkney, the castle is kept as it was when the Queen Mother was in residence. No visit to this region would be complete without a visit to the famous landmark, **John O'Groats**.

Day 5: Relax and enjoy the stunning Highland scenery en route to your overnight hotel.

Day 6: Time for home.

Please note that entrance fees to attractions on Orkney are not included in the prices shown below, but can be added on if required.

Pentland Hotel

3★ • 41 Bedrooms

Located in the heart of Thurso, this popular family-run hotel uses the freshest local Caithness produce.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 5 nights DBB
- ▶ All ferry crossings
- ▶ Guided Tour of Orkney
- ▶ Castle & Gardens of Mey

May to Sep: Prices from: **£386**



Highlands, Railways and Dolphins

A wonderful Scottish Highlands tour with delightful scenery, a memorable rail journey and the chance to discover dolphins!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the village of Beaulieu for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a memorable trip on one of the world's most scenic rail journeys on the **Kyle Line, the 'Great Highland Railway Journey'**. The train weaves its way through the Highlands and down to the Kyle of Lochalsh, close to the Isle of Skye. Crystal clear lochs mirror the forests and mountains on this wonderful journey. The views from the carriage windows are worth the fare alone, but the experience is thankfully repeated on the return to Beaulieu by coach.

Day 3: The choice is yours. Head over the Cromarty and Dornoch Firths to **Dornoch**, with its 13th century cathedral, and onto the spectacular **Dunrobin Castle** with its fairytale spires, turrets and one of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses. Alternatively, enjoy a wonderful circular tour of Wester Ross to the harbour village of **Gairloch** and **Inverewe Garden**, a historic botanical garden famous for its exotic plants and one of the most beautiful gardens in Scotland. If a day of rest is required, explore Beaulieu and head to Inverness on the local train.

Day 4: Experience an **unforgettable boat cruise on the Moray Firth** to see the world's most northerly population of Bottlenose dolphins, along with other marine wildlife including seals and otters. Visit **Inverness**, the 'Capital of the Highlands', a thriving city with its historic Old Town, bustling centre and riverside setting, or if you prefer, head to the leafy Victorian spa town of Strathpeffer or enjoy a wee dram and tour at the Glen Ord Distillery.

Day 5: Time for home.

The Priory Hotel

3★ • 39 Bedrooms
• Lift

Experience true Highland hospitality at this lovely hotel situated in the village square of Beaulieu.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Kyle Line rail journey
- ▶ Moray Firth boat cruise
- ▶ Dunrobin Castle or Inverewe Garden

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£271** May to Sep: Prices from: **£294**



Jacobite Steam Train

Jacobite Steam & Cruise

Spectacular Highland scenery awaits on one of the world's most famous rail journeys and on the most infamous of lochs.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Fort William for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: All aboard the **Jacobite Steam Train**, regarded as one of the world's greatest rail journeys, on a single journey between Fort William and Mallaig and follow in the footsteps of Harry Potter along the route used by the Hogwarts Express. From views of mighty Ben Nevis, your memorable journey leads past the deepest freshwater loch in Britain, Loch Morar, and over the famous 21 arch **Glenfinnan viaduct** - a truly magical experience!

Day 3: Excursion to **Inverness**, the 'Capital of the Highlands' with its host of historic buildings or **Fort Augustus**, a lovely town where the Caledonian Canal meets Loch Ness, before a wonderfully relaxing **one hour cruise on Loch Ness** (longer cruise options available) under the shadow of the ruins of Urquhart Castle and maybe catch a glimpse of Nessie! If time allows, why not visit the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Relax and explore **Fort William**, enjoy a cruise along Loch Linnhe and experience some of Scotland's wildlife, take a trip on the Caledonian Canal or venture further afield and travel to the lovely resort of Oban. If you wanted to incorporate another scenic rail journey, then why not include a trip on the Kyle Line between Dingwall and the Kyle of Lochalsh, as the views from the windows are worth the fare alone!

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.

Alternative tours based in Fort William include 'West Coast Rail Journeys' - call us for details and prices.

Alexandra Hotel

3★ • 93 Bedrooms
• Lift

Traditional and characterful Victorian hotel in the heart of Fort William.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Loch Ness Cruise
- ▶ Jacobite Steam Train
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights

May to Sep: Prices from: **£287** Oct: Prices from: **£256**



Iona

Isles of Mull, Iona & Gigha

Experience Scotland's mountains, lochs and glens and the enchanting and tranquil islands of Mull, Iona and Gigha.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Oban for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Relax on the ferry from Oban to Craignure on the enchanting **Isle of Mull**. Visit the **colourful harbour town of Tobermory** and **Duart Castle**, the magical 13th century fortress and home of the Clan Maclean or head via Glen More to Fionnphort, to board a foot passenger only ferry for the short crossing to the tranquil **Isle of Iona**. Discover its Abbey (admission not included) and the burial place of Scottish Kings. Although a tiny island, Iona is full of history and heritage, with Christianity at its heart.

Day 3: Enjoy the short ferry crossing from Tayinloan, on Kintyre (please note there is a length restriction for coaches on this ferry route), to the breathtaking **Isle of Gigha**, home to sandy beaches, a host of wildlife and **Achamore Gardens**. The mysterious and beautiful gardens are home to a dazzling array of plants and flowers which thrive in Gigha's warm microclimate. You have to visit Gigha to truly appreciate the island's beauty and tranquillity.

Day 4: Explore the **coastal resort of Oban**, which is known as the 'Gateway to the Isles'. Whilst in Oban, why not stroll along the Esplanade, visit McCaig's Tower which overlooks the town, enjoy a wee dram at the distillery and visit the War & Peace Museum. Alternatively, visit Fort William and take a cruise on the Caledonian Canal; visit the picturesque harbour village of Tarbert and coastal garden at Arduaine or head across the 'Atlantic Bridge' to Seil Island.

Day 5: Head for home.

Please see page 47 for a 'Drams & Dances' themed break at this hotel.

Royal Hotel

3★ • 91 Bedrooms
• Lift

In the heart of Oban, it is a traditional Victorian hotel with plenty of character.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Duart Castle or the ferry to the Isle of Iona
- ▶ Ferries to the Isles of Mull and Gigha
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ Achamore Gardens

May & Jun: Prices from: **£277** Jul to Sep: Prices from: **£297**



Balmoral Castle

Royal Deeside & Perthshire

Follow in Royal footsteps to the Balmoral Estate and Glamis Castle, the childhood home of the late Queen Mother.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Blairgowrie in Perthshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Marvel at the spectacular mountain views as you pass through Glenshee into **Royal Deeside** to visit the famous village of **Braemar**, the town of **Ballater**, where many Royal Warrants are displayed by suppliers to the Queen, **Crathie Church**, where the Royal Family worship, and **Balmoral Estate** (April to July only), where you will be able to visit the gardens, audio visual exhibitions and the largest room in the Castle, the Ballroom.

Day 3: Explore **Glamis Castle**, the childhood home of the late Queen Mother, where you can admire the rich furnishings, tapestries and works of art, whilst the story of Glamis entices you into a world of history, legends and royalty. Visit the **historic city of Dundee**, with its famous Tay rail and road bridges, which is home to RRS (Royal Research Ship) Discovery, the ship built in Dundee specifically for Captain Scott's heroic voyage to Antarctica.

Day 4: Excursion to the small historic cathedral town of **Dunkeld**, the popular Victorian town of **Pitlochry**, famous for its salmon ladder and onto **Queen's View at Loch Tummel**, which is one of the most photographed views of Scotland. Alternatively, explore the fair city of Perth, a former capital of Scotland, and Scone Palace, with its treasury of fine furniture, paintings and porcelain, where many Scottish kings were crowned on the Stone of Destiny.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time for home.

Alternative tours based in Blairgowrie include 'Three Castles & a wee dram' – call us for details and prices.

Angus Hotel

3★ • 89 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Privately owned hotel with a leisure club and indoor pool, in the heart of Blairgowrie.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Glamis Castle
- ▶ Balmoral Castle & Estate (Apr to Jul only)
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr, May & Oct: Prices from: **£203** Jun to Sep: Prices from: **£224**



Firth of Forth Steam & Cruise

Experience a nostalgic rail journey, a Firth of Forth boat trip, the Falkirk Wheel and the inspiring city of Edinburgh.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Cumbernauld for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore **Scotland's historic capital city of Edinburgh** with its imposing Castle, Royal Mile, Princes Street and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the Queen. For a panoramic view, why not include a coach guided tour of the city. Visit the **Royal Yacht Britannia**, the Royal Family's former floating royal residence board **or enjoy a boat trip on the Firth of Forth** with spectacular views of the road and rail bridges.

Day 3: Visit the **historic city of Stirling**, with its Old Town and Castle, which was once the residence of Scottish Kings. This afternoon, you could tour through the Trossachs National Park, visit Callander which is home to the Rob Roy & Trossachs Visitor Centre and enjoy a wonderful Loch Katrine cruise aboard the famous steamship 'Sir Walter Scott'. Alternatively, you could head to the Perthshire town of Crieff and enjoy a wee dram on the Famous Grouse Experience Tour.

Day 4: Step back in time and enjoy a truly memorable journey along the shores of the River Forth on the **Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway**. Take time out to visit the gift shop and the Museum of Scottish Railways. Well worth a visit, are the **Kelpies**, the world's largest equine sculptures, which tower 100 feet over the Forth & Clyde Canal, before enjoying an afternoon trip on the unique **Falkirk Wheel**, an amazing feat of engineering and the world's first and only rotating boatlift.

Day 5: Time for home.

Alternative tours based at Cumbernauld include 'Famous Scottish Waterways' and 'Tale of Two Scottish Cities' – call us for details and prices.

Westerwood Hotel

4★ • 148 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

This prestigious hotel, near Cumbernauld, has its own indoor pool, spa facilities and golf course.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Firth of Forth boat trip or Royal Yacht Britannia
- ▶ Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway
- ▶ Falkirk Wheel
- ▶ Leisure & spa facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: **£275**



Loch Katrine

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs

Let unspoiled views inspire you, relax on a loch cruise & enjoy a wee dram in the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Drymen for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: **Loch Lomond** is quite simply one of Scotland's most inspiring lochs. Visit Balloch, an enchanting town on the southern shores of the loch, home to the Loch Lomond Shores Visitor Centre. Sit back and relax on a **scenic one hour Loch Lomond cruise**, before heading to the lovely village of Luss, which was famously the location in the Scottish TV series 'Take the High Road'. This afternoon, **enjoy a wee dram and tour at the 'picture postcard' Glengoyne Distillery**.

Day 3: The **Trossachs National Park** awaits your visit today. **Callander** is home to the Rob Roy and Trossachs Visitor Centre and a fascinating toy museum. Continue to **Loch Katrine** for a wonderful **one hour cruise aboard the famous steamship 'Sir Walter Scott'**, which itself has been a landmark here for over 100 years! Enjoy the lovely scenery over Duke's Pass and through the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Alternatively, head to **Inveraray** on the shores of Loch Fyne, and the iconic and spectacular ancestral setting of **Inveraray Castle**, which was once used as a Scottish setting in ITV's Downton Abbey.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Discover the conservation village of Drymen, before heading to the Victorian resort of Helensburgh, which is home to Hill House, Charles Rennie Mackintosh's finest domestic creation. Alternatively, explore the vibrant city of Glasgow which offers a wonderful blend of internationally acclaimed museums and stunning architecture.

Day 5: Return home.

Best Western Buchanan Arms Hotel & Spa

- 3★ • 52 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Enjoy a stay in Drymen at this hotel with its own indoor pool.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Loch Lomond Cruise
- ▶ Glengoyne Distillery Tour
- ▶ Loch Katrine Cruise or Inveraray Castle
- ▶ Leisure & spa facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: **£249** Oct: Prices from: **£213**



Isle of Arran & the Ayrshire Coast

Visit Arran, 'Scotland in Miniature', which is one of Scotland's most beautiful islands, and the wonderful Ayrshire Coast.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Irvine for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: It is easy to see why the **Isle of Arran** is often referred to as '**Scotland in Miniature**', with its constantly changing landscape of highland glens and rugged mountains alongside sweeping sandy bays and picturesque coastal villages. Enjoy a scenic excursion around the island, experience some of Arran's many unique and independent retailers, enjoy a wee dram at the island's distillery or visit Brodick Castle & Gardens, before the late afternoon return ferry.

Day 3: Enjoy the Ayrshire Coast at its best with a visit to the spectacular coastal setting of **Culzean Castle**, a Robert Adam 18th century masterpiece, before continuing to the lovely resort of Troon. Alternatively, visit **Alloway** and the **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**, which consists of Burns Cottage, where the poet was born, a collection of his life and works, Burns Monument, Statue House & Gardens, the Auld Kirk and the Brig o' Doon bridge.

Day 4: The choice is yours. You could visit the Isle of Bute, a beautiful and peaceful island haven, which is home to the Victorian resort of Rothesay and Mount Stuart, Britain's most spectacular Victorian Gothic Mansion with its stunning and mysterious interiors and 300 acres of gloriously maintained gardens and grounds. Alternatively, you could visit Dumfries House, one of Britain's best kept heritage secrets or head to the cosmopolitan city of Glasgow.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Hallmark Hotel Irvine

- 4★ • 128 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Set in its own grounds, this modern hotel offers a contemporary feel.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Return Ferry to Isle of Arran
- ▶ Culzean Castle or Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ Tea/coffee & shortbread on arrival

May to Sep: Prices from: **£234**



Floors Castle

Scottish Castles, Cake & Cashmere

Discover a rich cultural heritage with stately homes, a tour of a cashmere mill and a real taste of the Scottish Borders!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Scottish Borders for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a **tour of a cashmere mill in Hawick and a freshly made cake with tea/coffee** or enjoy a unique and fascinating behind the scenes **guided tour of Lochcarron's Selkirk Mill** to discover how tartan is produced. Continue to the wonderfully picturesque setting of **Abbotsford House and Gardens**, which was the inspirational home of Sir Walter Scott, **or if you prefer, visit Traquair House**, Scotland's oldest inhabited house. If time allows, visit the lovely genteel Borders town of **Peebles**.

Day 3: The choice is yours. Head to the historic capital city of Edinburgh, with time to explore the imposing Castle, Royal Mile, Princes Street and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the Queen. Alternatively, visit the mysterious 15th century Rosslyn Chapel or travel to the impressive cotton mill village of New Lanark, which is now a beautifully restored UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 4: Visit the **historic town of Kelso**, regarded as one of the region's most charming towns with its cobbled streets, elegant Georgian buildings and French-styled cobbled market square, before enjoying an afternoon visit to the stately home of **Floors Castle**, with its collection of fine art, porcelain, tapestries, grand rooms and wonderful gardens.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

A Scottish Themed Night can be included on one evening, incorporating a Scottish piper to pipe guests into dinner and a themed Scottish menu, but an additional cost per person would apply.

Mercure Barony Castle Hotel

3★ • 78 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Set in a 25 acre estate near Peebles, this striking hotel has an indoor pool.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Tea/coffee & shortbread
- ▶ Abbotsford House & Gardens or Traquair House
- ▶ Cashmere mill tour, cake & tea/coffee or a Tartan mill tour
- ▶ Floors Castle & Gardens
- ▶ Leisure & spa facilities

May & Oct: Prices from: **£248** Jun to Sep: Prices from: **£258**



Edinburgh Tattoo

One of the world's most spectacular shows, the Edinburgh Tattoo is staged at the awe-inspiring Edinburgh Castle.

Suggested Itinerary:

The **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo**, to give it its full title, is a truly remarkable and internationally acclaimed event.

This thrilling and moving experience, against the world famous backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, will incorporate the unforgettable music of the massed pipes and drums, the massed military bands, as well as imaginative graphics, state-of-the-art lighting, singers, dancers and many other performers from around the world.

The show is finally brought to an emotional and poignant close each evening, as the Lone Piper, high on the castle ramparts, plays a haunting lament.

Tattoo tickets are based on the yellow seating areas in 2-5 or 12-15 and are subject to availability.

Please note that 2 night tours may also be available.

Holiday Inn East Kilbride

3★ • 101 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A modern hotel with an indoor swimming pool.

Tinto Hotel

3★ • 40 Bedrooms
• Ground floor bedrooms
• Coach parking

Traditional hotel set in 5 acres of grounds, near Biggar.

Mercure Barony Castle Hotel & Spa

3★ • 78 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Manor House hotel with an indoor pool, near Peebles.

Westerwood Hotel

4★ • 148 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Luxury hotel with an indoor pool, near Cumbernauld.

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 2 nights DBB, 1 night BB
- ▶ Admission to Edinburgh Tattoo
- ▶ Leisure facilities at each hotel (except the Tinto Hotel)

Aug: Prices from: **£232**



Anglesey & Snowdonia

Explore the heritage and wonderful coastline of Anglesey and the spectacular scenery of the Snowdonia National Park.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Caernarfon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Full day guided tour of Anglesey, an Island of Treasures, wrapped around by 125 miles of sandy beaches and soaring rocky cliffs. Renowned for its wildlife and maritime history, there are sleepy fishing villages, hidden coves, stately homes, picturesque gardens, ancient places of worship and megalithic monuments to behold on this island of wonders.

Day 3: Enjoy an excursion into the heart of **Snowdonia** to the lovely village of **Llanberis**, where you could visit the National Slate Museum and step back in time to uncover the secrets of slate or take a journey of exploration deep inside one of Europe's largest man made caverns at the Electric Mountain. This afternoon, enjoy either a narrow gauge steam train ride on the **Llanberis Lake Railway** or head to the summit of Snowdon, weather permitting, on the magnificent **Snowdon Mountain Railway**.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Head to Anglesey again and explore the quaint, historic streets of Beaumaris, with its 17th century courthouse and 13th century moated castle, before visiting Plas Newydd Country House and Gardens or the hidden gardens at Plas Cadnant. Alternatively, explore the medieval walled town of Caernarfon and its mighty 13th century castle, board a train for a single journey on the Welsh Highland Railway through the spectacular Snowdonia National Park to Porthmadog, or visit the historic town of Conwy and wander 'around the world in 80 acres' at Bodnant Garden.

Day 5: Time for home.

Celtic Royal Hotel

3★ • 110 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Historic hotel with leisure facilities, within walking distance of Caernarfon's walled town and impressive castle.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Guided Tour of Anglesey
- ▶ Llanberis Lake Railway or Snowdon Mountain Railway
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£219** May to Sep: Prices from: **£269**



Ffestiniog Railway

Great Little Trains of North Wales

Enjoy memorable journeys on the Welsh Highland and Ffestiniog Railways through Snowdonia's stunning scenery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Criccieth for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Marvel at the wonderful scenery on a memorable and nostalgic trip on the famous **Ffestiniog Railway**, which offers a magical combination of spectacular landscape and historic railway. Explore the resort of **Criccieth**, with its two beaches separated by a spectacular headland castle, or if you prefer, why not visit the unique Italianate village of Portmeirion, where the cult 1960's TV series 'The Prisoner' was filmed.

Day 3: Excursion into the very heart of Snowdonia to **Llanberis**, which is home to the fascinating National Slate Museum and two narrow gauge railways, one which could take you on a relaxing trip around the lake and one which could take you to the very summit of Snowdon. Continue through the 'Pass of Llanberis' to the delightful village of **Betws-y-Coed**, which literally means 'sanctuary in the wood'.

Day 4: Travel north to the **medieval walled town of Caernarfon**, with time to explore its mighty 13th century Castle, before boarding a train for a single journey on the **Welsh Highland Railway** through the spectacular **Snowdonia National Park** scenery to the historic harbour town of **Porthmadog**, which has no less than three narrow gauge railway stations.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.

Please see page 46 for a 'Rolling Back the Years' tour and page 47 for a 'Go Crackers' tour at this hotel.

Please note that 3 night packages are also available on each of these three tours.

The Lion Hotel

3★ • 46 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Family run hotel in the heart of the charming Victorian seaside resort of Criccieth.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Ffestiniog Railway
- ▶ Welsh Highland Railway
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ 4 singles - no supplement

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£214** May to Sep: Prices from: **£244**



Victoriana in the Heart of Wales

Explore the elegant Victorian spa town of Llandrindod Wells, a Victorian Gothic Hall and enjoy a scenic train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Llandrindod Wells for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit **Abbey-Cwm-Hir Hall**, a Grade II listed historic house and one of Wales' finest examples of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture. Join the owners on a personal tour of this magnificent Hall which has been restored to its Gothic splendour. Each of its 52 rooms is unique and there are stunning interiors, fascinating collections and 12 acres of beautiful gardens. Home to the National Cycle Collection, explore **Llandrindod Wells**, whose towers and ornate ironwork reflect its heyday as a Victorian spa town.

Day 3: Head to the Ceredigion Heritage Coast and the **Victorian seaside resort of Aberystwyth**, which is home to beaches, a lovely Promenade, a funicular railway, castle ruins and the National Library of Wales. Enjoy an unforgettable and nostalgic journey through some wonderful scenery on the **Vale of Rheidol narrow gauge steam railway** to Devil's Bridge, before a scenic drive past the **Elan Valley** reservoirs on your return to Llandrindod Wells.

Day 4: Experience the beautiful and diverse scenery of the **Brecon Beacons National Park**, including **Brecon**, with its medieval cathedral and narrow streets full of craft and antique shops, before continuing to **Hay-on-Wye**, which has become a world famous second-hand book centre. Alternatively, why not enjoy a cruise along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal after visiting Brecon or visit the delightful Brobury House Gardens after visiting Hay-on-Wye.

Day 5: Homeward bound.

The Metropole Hotel

4★ • 120 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

In the heart of Llandrindod Wells, it has been owned by the same family for over 100 years.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Vale of Rheidol Railway
- ▶ Abbey-Cwm-Hir Hall & Gardens
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£255** May to Sep: Prices from: **£275**



Cardiff Castle

Cultural Cardiff & the Royal Mint

Cardiff is far more than just a city break, with its vibrant bay area, imposing castle, heritage and local attractions.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Cardiff for a 3 night stay.

Day 2: Familiarise yourself with **Cardiff** on an enjoyable and informative **two hour coach guided tour** of the city, the bay, the Barrage and Penarth seafront, before returning to your hotel, from where you will be able to explore the city and its numerous attractions for yourself.

Day 3: See the heads and hear the tales, at the **Royal Mint Experience**. Go behind the scenes and see the processes that put the pounds and pennies in our pockets. Discover some surprising stories and fascinating facts about the craftsmanship that goes into each miniature work of art, and follow the journey of a coin, from a blank to a bank. If time allows, why not visit the St Fagans National History Museum, one of Europe's foremost open-air museums and Wales's most popular heritage attraction. Set in over 100 acres of parkland and with over 40 historic buildings and wonderful gardens, you can really feel the rich history of Wales and its people. Alternatively, visit the Victorian Dyffryn House with its beautiful 55 acre Grade 1 registered Edwardian gardens and its stunning collection of intimate garden rooms, formal lawns and arboretum.

Day 4: Time to head for home.

Please note that this tour can be extended to a 4 night stay.

Holiday Inn Cardiff City Centre

3★ • 157 Bedrooms
• Lift

Excellent city centre location, close to the castle and perfect for exploring this captivating city.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 3 nights DBB
- ▶ Two hour coach-guided tour of Cardiff
- ▶ The Royal Mint Experience

May to Sep: Prices from: **£178**



Gower Peninsula & Tenby

Discover Britain's first 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', the resort of Tenby, a wonderful garden or nostalgic train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Llanelli for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Experience the sheer beauty of the Gower today with a visit to the **Gower Heritage Centre**, which offers crafts, a watermill and a museum, but most of all enjoy a **coach guided tour of the Gower Peninsula**. Ensure you visit the **picturesque Victorian seaside village of Mumbles**, with its boutiques, galleries and potteries, and if time allows call in to the regenerated Swansea Bay and Maritime Quarter, home to the National Waterfront Museum.

Day 3: Excursion into Pembrokeshire to the **historic seaside resort of Tenby**, with its natural charm, narrow streets, harbour and beautiful beaches. Alternatively, you could try something completely different and head into the southern foothills of the Brecon Beacons to Penderyn Distillery, home of the one and only single malt Welsh Whisky or enjoy spectacular scenery on the Brecon Mountain Railway.

Day 4: Visit **Carmarthen, the oldest town in Wales**, with its popular Wednesday outdoor market, medieval lanes and Georgian buildings. This afternoon the choice is yours. Visit the **National Botanic Garden of Wales**, with the world's largest single-span glasshouse, **Aberglasney Gardens**, which was a garden lost in time and abandoned for fifty years or enjoy a nostalgic heritage train journey on the **Gwili Steam Railway**.

Day 5: Head for home.

Best Western Diplomat Hotel and Spa

3★ • 50 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

A family-run hotel, it combines warm hospitality, with style and sophistication.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Tea/coffee on arrival
- ▶ Gower Heritage Centre and Guided Tour
- ▶ National Botanic Garden of Wales, Aberglasney Gardens or Gwili Steam Railway
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ Leisure facilities



Pembrokeshire Coastlines & Tenby

Experience stunning sea views, Britain's only coastal National Park, an enchanting castle and the seaside resort of Tenby.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Fishguard Bay Hotel for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Surrounded by some of the finest coastline in Europe is **St Davids, the smallest cathedral city in Britain** and a popular location for pilgrims and artists alike. Adjacent to its 12th century cathedral stand the magnificent ruins of the medieval Bishop's Palace. Enjoy a visit to enchanting **Picton Castle**, near Haverfordwest, which is a half fortified manor house and half medieval castle, set in 40 acres of stunning gardens.

Day 3: Excursion through the **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park to Tenby**, one of the UK's finest coastal holiday resorts, which has retained its natural charm, narrow streets, harbour and beautiful beaches. Tenby is steeped in ancient history and surrounded by an imposing medieval stone wall. If time allows, continue to the picturesque seaside village of Saundersfoot, with its historic harbour.

Day 4: Visit the lovely market town of **Cardigan**, with its unspoilt townscape and rich heritage, before continuing through the picturesque Teifi Valley to the **National Wool Museum**. Enjoy an informative guided tour and let the story of wool, once the most important industry in Wales, weave its magic in this unique working museum. If time allows, why not call into the fascinating National Coracle Centre at Cernarh.

Day 5: Head for home.

Please see page 47 for a 50% off festive and drinks break at this hotel.

Fishguard Bay Hotel

3★ • 59 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

This grand hotel in Goodwick, has an impressive location overlooking Fishguard Bay.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Picton Castle & Gardens
- ▶ National Wool Museum Guided Tour
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ 8 singles - no supplement

May to Sep: Prices from: **£269**

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£192** May to Sep: Prices from: **£204**



Back in 'Tyne' in Northumbria

Relax on a Tyne river cruise, visit an extraordinary garden, a spectacular castle and the inspirational Holy Island.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Newcastle for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the vibrant city of **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** and enjoy an unrivalled way to experience one of the North's great cities on a **two hour 'Quay to Countryside' cruise along the River Tyne** (Jun - Sep). The cruise upriver will be accompanied by a fascinating commentary as you travel under eleven of the Tyne's famous bridges, including the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, Tyne Bridge and Swing Bridge. If time allows, take a break at the Angel of the North.

Day 3: Enjoy Northumbria's unspoilt beauty and stunning coastline on today's excursion along the North Northumberland Heritage Coast. Visit the wonderful **Holy Island, also known as Lindisfarne**, which is home to a priory and a castle and only accessible at low tide via a causeway, and the picturesque village of **Bamburgh with its spectacular coastal castle**.

Day 4: Excursion to the **historic town of Alnwick** in the heart of Northumberland, home to an impressive castle, which featured in the Harry Potter films. Enjoy a visit to **Alnwick Garden**, which is one of the world's most extraordinary, contemporary gardens, with its Rose Garden, Serpent Garden, Poison Garden and Grand Cascade. If time allows, why not visit Northumberlandia, the huge land sculpture in the shape of a reclining female figure or the Woodhorn Colliery Museum.

Day 5: Time for home.

County Hotel Newcastle

3★ • 114 Bedrooms
• Lift

A Grade II listed Victorian hotel in the very heart of Newcastle city centre.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Alnwick Garden
- ▶ Bamburgh Castle
- ▶ Quay to Countryside Tyne Cruise (Jun-Sep)
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement

Jun to Sep: Prices from: **£249**



Bowes Museum

Discover Durham and Beamish

Experience the heritage of Durham City, the living museum of the north at Beamish and a Jacobean country house hotel.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Redworth, Co. Durham for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover the captivating **medieval city of Durham**, the jewel in the crown of an extraordinary county and a wonderful place to explore with ancient winding streets packed with history, culture and stunning architecture, including the magnificent Norman Castle and Cathedral. Why not include a visit to Crook Hall, a beautiful Grade 1 listed medieval manor house and explore its gardens, described by Alan Titchmarsh as a "tapestry of colourful blooms". If you prefer, you could enjoy a full or a half day coach guided tour exploring the hidden treasures of the North East.

Day 3: Scenic excursion through the **Durham Dales**, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, via Weardale through to Alston and via Teesdale to the market town of **Barnard Castle**, with its ever-popular Wednesday market. After lunch, visit either the **Bowes Museum**, a spectacular French-style Chateau with ornate gardens that is home to the exquisite Silver Swan, **or Raby Castle**, one of England's finest medieval castles.

Day 4: Step back in time at **Beamish**, where the past is brought vividly to life. Nestling in 300 acres of beautiful countryside, visit Pockerley with its stunning manor house and railway, and take a tram ride through a real Edwardian market town with its painstakingly and lovingly rebuilt houses and shops. You can also visit Home Farm, wander around the Pit Village and enjoy a ride on an old carousel.

Day 5: Homeward bound.

The Redworth Hall Hotel

4★ • 143 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Set in 150 acres of landscaped gardens and grounds, this atmospheric hotel has excellent leisure facilities.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Bowes Museum or Raby Castle
- ▶ Beamish Open Air Museum
- ▶ Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£267**



Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway

Lake District Steam & Cruise

Be inspired by the Lake District's famous breathtaking scenery, nostalgic steam train journeys and relaxing lake cruises.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Grange-over-Sands for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Take a wonderfully scenic trip through the heart of the Lake District to the ever-popular North Lakes tourist town of **Keswick**, under the shadow of Skiddaw, before continuing to England's most beautiful lake, **Ullswater, for a cruise on a 'steamer'** from Pooley Bridge to Glenridding. Return to Grange-over-Sands via the narrow, but beautiful Kirkstone Pass.

Day 3: Enjoy a one-way steam train journey through the beautiful Leven Valley on the **Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway**, before boarding a **delightful cruise along Lake Windermere**, England's largest lake, from Lakeside to Bowness-on-Windermere. **Bowness** is popular all year round and people come here to sail on the lake or just to relax and savour the atmosphere and the town's delightful setting.

Day 4: Full steam ahead to Western Lake District for a nostalgic trip back in time on the **Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway**, affectionately known by the locals as 'La'al Ratty'. Enjoy a return trip on Lakeland's oldest and longest railway from the delightful coastal village of Ravenglass through two glorious valleys to the foot of England's highest mountains. If time, call in to the market town of **Ulverston**, which is home to the Laurel & Hardy Museum or explore the genteel Edwardian resort of **Grange-over-Sands**.

Day 5: Time to return home.

Please note that 3 and 4 night Turkey & Tinsel tours are available at this hotel.

Cumbria Grand Hotel

3★ • 120 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Set in 20 acres, this charming Victorian hotel in Grange-over-Sands has stunning views over Morecambe Bay.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Lake Ullswater Cruise
- ▶ Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway
- ▶ Windermere Lake Cruise
- ▶ Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£220** May to Sep: Prices from: **£243**



Fred Dibnah's Lancashire Steam

Full steam ahead to Fred's old house, a nostalgic steam train ride and the last steam-powered weaving mill in the world!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Mercure Dunkenhalgh Hotel for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore **Bolton, Fred Dibnah's much-loved home town**. Fred Dibnah MBE, was a famous steeplejack, engineer and eccentric, who became a TV personality and a national institution. Sadly, he passed away in 2004, but you can now step into Fred's world at the **Heritage Centre** and enjoy a thoroughly entertaining guided tour, with a cuppa in Fred's kitchen. You will see Fred's house, work yard and fantastic collection of Victorian artefacts and machinery.

Day 3: Visit the world famous **Bury Market**. For over 500 years, Bury has had a market and today it is a unique shopping experience and the biggest in the North West with 370 stalls. Take a nostalgic trip back in time and remember the sights, sounds and smells of a bygone era on a single journey through the Irwell Valley on the **East Lancashire Railway** from Bury to Rawtenstall.

Day 4: Experience Mill shopping at its best with a visit to **Oswaldtwistle Mills**, which has over 100 unique retailers, plus its own sweet factory, museum and garden centre. Discover the story of cotton production in the Victorian age on a **guided tour of Queen Street Mill**, which is home to the last surviving and operating steam powered weaving mill in the world! **Or** if you prefer, why not enjoy a half day **Pendle & Ribble Valley** or Textile Corridor guided tour.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Please note that 3 night tours are also available at this hotel.

Mercure Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa

4★ • 175 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Historic hotel mixing the grandeur of a 700 year old building with modern facilities.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Fred Dibnah Heritage Centre
- ▶ East Lancashire Railway
- ▶ Queen Street Mill or half day guided tour
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: **£227**



The Pennine Explorer

Discover the Yorkshire-Lancashire border with a relaxing cruise on a traditional canal barge and a wonderful train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Mercure Dunkenhalgh Hotel in Lancashire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a classic rail journey on the **Settle to Carlisle Railway**, which is considered the most scenic rail journey in England as it winds through moorland scenery and over the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct. Alternatively, you could explore the historic town of **Haworth**, popular for its close ties with the famous Bronte Sisters and home to the Bronte Parsonage Museum, before following in the tracks of the 'Railway Children' at the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**, which will be celebrating 50 years since it re-opened, in 2018.

Day 3: Travel into Yorkshire to **Skipton** for its ever-popular Wednesday market. Stall holders and shoppers barter with each other along the high street close to the town's impressive medieval castle. Join in the fun, before taking to the water on an historic **relaxing cruise along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal**, either from Skipton or from Foulridge.

Day 4: Why not experience an enlightening and informative full day Pendle Witches and Ribbles Valley coach guided tour and hear all about the mystical legends of these fascinating and beautiful areas of Lancashire. If you prefer, visit the historic market town of Clitheroe, a mill shopping experience at Boundary Mill or Oswaldtwistle Mills, or enjoy another rail journey with the East Lancashire or the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Please note that 3 night tours are also available at this hotel.

Mercure Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa

4★ • 175 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Historic hotel mixing the grandeur of a 700 year old building with modern facilities.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Settle to Carlisle or Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
- ▶ Leeds-Liverpool Canal Cruise
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£216**



RHS Harlow Carr

Harrogate & the Yorkshire Dales

The floral spa town of Harrogate, a heritage railway and stunning scenery, all await you in the wonderful Yorkshire Dales.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Harrogate for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover the **spa town of Harrogate**, renowned for its floral beauty, with its Victorian Pump Room, Royal Baths, curiosity shops and beautifully manicured gardens. Discover **Harewood House**, one of Yorkshire's treasure houses and its award winning gardens **or** the amazing **RHS Garden at Harlow Carr**, which is ablaze with colour and interest all year-round. Afternoon tea at Betty's will be the perfect end to the day.

Day 3: Enjoy a circular tour through the picturesque **Yorkshire Dales** scenery with a photo opportunity at the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct on your way to the lovely town of **Hawes**, which is also home to the Wensleydale Creamery, made famous by Wallace & Gromit. Continue to Leyburn for an authentic heritage railway trip on the **Wensleydale Railway** to Leeming Bar, before returning to Harrogate.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice today. Visit the small village of Esholt, home to the original Woolpack Pub, where Emmerdale used to be filmed and the charming town of Otley, the setting for Emmerdale's 'Hotton'. Alternatively, visit the cathedral city of Ripon and Newby Hall and Gardens; the historic city of York; Haworth and Bronte Country; Thirsk and Herriot Country or Skipton and a trip on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway.

Day 5: Time for home.

Please note that space is also available at the Cairn Hotel, Harrogate.

Alternative tours based in Harrogate include 'Lights, Camera, Action' and 'Bronte Country' – call us for details and prices.

Old Swan Hotel

4★ • 136 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

In the heart of beguiling Harrogate, this hotel offers elegance and old world charm.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Wensleydale Railway
- ▶ Harewood House or RHS Garden Harlow Carr
- ▶ 8 singles - no supplement

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£245**



North Yorkshire Moors Railway

York, Castle Howard & Heartbeat

Experience the ancient city of York, a river cruise, Yorkshire's finest historic house and a nostalgic rail journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Best Western Burn Hall Hotel, near York for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover **Castle Howard**, one of England's grandest Baroque mansions and the perfect setting for the hit TV series 'Brideshead Revisited'. Set within 1,000 acres of breathtaking landscape, enjoy lavishly decorated rooms, stunning architecture, idyllic gardens and lakeside walks. Continue to Yorkshire Lavender or via Sutton Bank to the **traditional market town of Thirsk**, which was home for the famous vet and author James Herriot.

Day 3: Start the day in **York** with a **relaxing cruise along the River Ouse**. Within York's towering medieval walls is a heart of rich and colourful character, with its history recorded in the streets, buildings and museums gathered around the mighty Minster. Discover as many of the treasures and architectural gems this remarkable city has to offer, its cobbled streets, the famous Shambles and the National Railway Museum.

Day 4: Explore Heartbeat Country with a wonderful nostalgic trip on the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway**, a visit to the historic coastal town of **Whitby**, with its famous cliff-top Abbey and the small village of Goathland, which was 'Aidensfield' in the Heartbeat TV series, whilst the railway station here was used as 'Hogsmeade' in the Harry Potter films.

Day 5: Time for home.

Please note that space is also available at the Queens Hotel, York, and see page 46 for a Christmas themed break to the area.

Alternative tours include 'Yorkshire Rail Journeys' – call us for details and prices.

Best Western Burn Hall Hotel

3★ • 94 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Wonderful Victorian country house hotel, set in 8 acres of gardens and parkland near York.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ York River Cruise
- ▶ Castle Howard
- ▶ North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night
- ▶ 8 singles - no supplement



Chatsworth House

Summer Wine & Peak District

Stay in an historic hall and explore Summer Wine Country, the glorious Peak District scenery and stately Chatsworth House.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Wortley Hall in Yorkshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a fascinating **tour of the house and gardens at Wortley Hall**, originally an ancestral home, steeped in history and heritage. This afternoon, you could explore Wortley village, Elsecar Heritage Centre, enjoy a private guided tour of Wentworth Woodhouse, which has the longest façade of any English country house, visit Wentworth Castle Gardens or head to the market town of Chesterfield, famous for its 'Crooked Spire'.

Day 3: Head into the **Peak District** and visit the elegant spa town of **Buxton** or the delightful town of **Bakewell**, famous for its Bakewell Pudding and Tart. If you prefer, visit one of the regular Well Dressings or the 'plague village' of Eyam, before continuing to the magnificent and stately **Chatsworth House**, with over 30 rooms and art collections in the house and 105 acres of wonderful gardens.

Day 4: Explore **Summer Wine Country** today. **Holmfirth**, a quirky and lovely market town, is home to Nora Batty's steps, Sid's Cafe and Compo's former home, which is now the Last of the Summer Wine Exhibition and Wrinkled Stocking Tea Room. Enjoy a **truly unique 45 minute TV locations tour** in and around Holmfirth on a narrow-bodied 25 seater coach. Return via the scenic 'Snake Pass' and past the reservoirs where the famous Dambusters trained in WW2.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Wortley Hall

3★ • 49 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tranquil rural setting with wood-panelling, fireplaces and 26 acres of gardens and woodland.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Chatsworth House & Gardens
- ▶ Tour of Holmfirth & Summer Wine Country
- ▶ Wortley Hall House & Gardens Tour
- ▶ Evening talk on Wortley Hall
- ▶ Quiz or bingo night
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£239** May to Sep: Prices from: **£247**

May to Sep: Prices from: **£238**



Manchester Ship Canal Cruise

Liverpool & Manchester Ship Canal Cruise

Discover Liverpool's maritime history, magnificent architecture and a memorable cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Liverpool for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a fascinating **two hour coach guided tour of Liverpool** and marvel at the history, heritage and architecture of this vibrant city. Explore Liverpool, a UNESCO World Heritage City, with its two cathedrals and an historic waterfront including the Albert Dock, the largest collection of Grade I listed buildings in Europe, Tate Liverpool, Maritime Museum, Beatles Story and Pier Head, home to the affectionately titled Three Graces and the magnificent Royal Liver Building.

Day 3: **Cruise along the Manchester Ship Canal**, one of Britain's most historic waterways between Liverpool Pier Head and Salford Quays. This fascinating six hour cruise, with a live commentary along the way, is as awe inspiring as it is relaxing. Hear the story of this magnificent waterway and enjoy wonderfully differing scenery as your cruise takes you through locks and under bridges, which have remained largely unchanged for over 100 years.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Spend more time in Liverpool and take a 'Ferry across the Mersey' or visit the traditional and elegant seaside resort of Southport with its tree-lined boulevards. Alternatively, travel through the Mersey Tunnel to the charming 19th Century village of Port Sunlight, which was built by William Hesketh Lever to house his soap factory workers, visit the wonderful Ness Botanic Gardens, the Anderton Boat Lift or head to the historic walled city of Chester, with its cathedral and unique 700 year old shopping rows.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Mercure Liverpool Atlantic Tower Hotel

4★ • 225 Bedrooms
• Lift

City centre hotel overlooking Liverpool's famous waterfront and iconic Liver Building.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Two hour coach guided tour of Liverpool
- ▶ Manchester Ship Canal Cruise

Apr to Sep: Prices from: **£268**



Arley Hall & Gardens

Cheshire Highlife

Be inspired and fall in love with Cheshire, its history, heritage, stately homes, wonderful gardens and uplifting attractions!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Frodsham for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: A full day in **Chester** is definitely required to be able to explore and fully appreciate all this wonderful historic city has to offer. Discover Chester's remarkable cathedral with Europe's finest example of medieval carvings; the unique 700 year old Rows galleries of shops; the largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain; the most complete City Walls in Britain, and if time allows, hop on and off an open top sightseeing bus or take a relaxing cruise along the River Dee.

Day 3: Head into the beautiful Cheshire countryside and visit the **medieval market town of Nantwich**, on market day. Situated on the banks of the River Weaver, you can stroll through Nantwich's atmospheric streets with its medieval timbered buildings, antique and craft shops. This afternoon, enjoy a **lift and river boat trip at the Anderton Boat Lift**, a Victorian masterpiece of waterway engineering built to connect the River Weaver and the Trent & Mersey Canal. Alternatively, visit a much cherished Victorian family home and it's lovingly created award-winning gardens at **Arley Hall and Gardens**.

Day 4: What a choice today! You could visit the historic village of Port Sunlight, created by William Hesketh Lever for his Sunlight soap factory workers; the RHS award-winning gardens and 64 stunning acres at Ness Botanic Gardens; the National Trust's Little Moreton Hall; the stately estate at Tatton Park or head into North Wales to Llangollen for a steam train journey and a horse-drawn canal boat trip.

Day 5: Time for home.

Best Western Forest Hills Hotel

3★ • 58 Bedrooms
• Ground floor bedrooms
• Coach parking

In a countryside setting with stunning views across Cheshire.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Anderton Boat Lift and river trip or Arley Hall & Gardens
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: **£225**



Severn Cruise

Shropshire & the Severn Valley

Visit Shropshire, with its remarkable heritage, a memorable train journey, the gourmet town of Ludlow and a river cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Shropshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a unique and leisurely **40 minute cruise in Shrewsbury** along the famous and very picturesque River Severn loop. **Shrewsbury**, the birthplace of Charles Darwin, is arguably the finest Tudor town in England and is home to an abbey, castle and famous half-timbered Tudor buildings.

Day 3: Full steam ahead for an unforgettable and classic rail journey on the **Severn Valley Railway** between **Bridgnorth**, which is a 'twin town' linked together by its own remarkable Cliff Railway, and Kidderminster. Continue to the historic market town of **Ludlow**, often referred to as the perfect historic town, with over 500 listed buildings and a castle at its heart, **or Church Stretton**, the only town in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Day 4: The spectacular **Ironbridge Gorge** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy an absorbing day visiting **Blists Hill, an open air museum**, where townsfolk in traditional dress re-enact life in an authentic Victorian community; the village of Ironbridge and the famous Iron Bridge itself. If time allows, visit **Much Wenlock**, a medieval town with close ties to the modern Olympics and the remains of a 12th century Priory. Alternatively, head into Wales and experience picturesque Llangollen, a horse-drawn canal boat trip and a nostalgic trip through the Dee Valley on the Llangollen Railway.

Day 5: Time for home.

Please note that space is also available at the 4 Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa.*

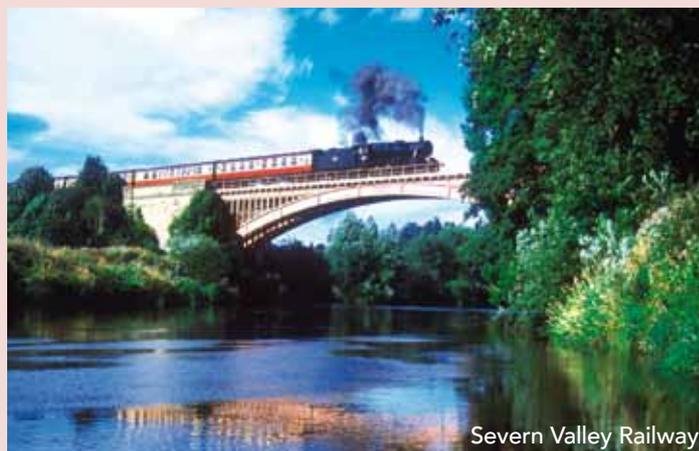
Buckatree Hall Hotel

3★ • 62 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking
Country house hotel in a peaceful rural location, with its own mature gardens.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Severn Valley Railway
- ▶ Blists Hill Victorian Museum
- ▶ Shrewsbury River Severn Cruise
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ Tea/coffee on arrival



Severn Valley Railway

Severn Steam & Cruise

Marvel at stunning scenery, amazing heritage, a nostalgic steam train journey and not just one, but two river cruises.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Stourport-on-Severn for a 4 night stay with tea/coffee with scone and jam on arrival.

Day 2: Head to Worcester and visit the **Elgar Birthplace Museum** with an introduction to the museum and exhibition. Explore the **city of Worcester**, with its magnificent cathedral, medieval townhouse, famous Porcelain, Tudor House and The Commandery, which dates back to the 13th century, before experiencing the city from a different perspective on an included **cruise along the River Severn**.

Day 3: Enjoy a memorable **Severn Valley Railway** steam train journey through beautiful scenery and over Victoria Bridge, which featured in the famous film 'The Thirty-Nine Steps'. Visit **Bridgnorth**, which is actually two towns, High Town and Low Town, connected by the steepest inland funicular railway in Britain, before returning to **Bewdley**, 'the most perfect small Georgian town in Worcestershire' and picturesque **Stourport-on-Severn**, with its historic canal basins and riverside walks.

Day 4: Discover the picturesque **medieval market town of Tewkesbury** on Wednesday market day, with its timber-framed buildings, long and fascinating history and famous 12th century Abbey. Stroll along the riverside, its network of alleyways and explore the medieval Old Town, before enjoying a **relaxing cruise along the River Severn** with light refreshments available on board, and a scenic drive through the **Malvern Hills** back to the hotel.

Day 5: Head for home.

Hallmark Hotel Stourport Manor

4★ • 68 Bedrooms
• Ground floor bedrooms
• Coach parking
Set in 23 acres, this country house hotel has an indoor pool.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Severn Valley Railway
- ▶ Elgar Birthplace Museum
- ▶ Worcester River Severn Cruise
- ▶ Tewkesbury River Severn Cruise
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night
- ▶ Themed menu on 1 evening
- ▶ Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: **£242**

May to Sep: Prices from: **£255**



Kenilworth Castle

Shakespearean Cream Tea & Cruise

Relax on a cream tea cruise in Shakespeare country and step back in time to an age of elegance, romance and treachery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Chesford Grange Hotel, near Kenilworth for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Experience the sights and ambience of **Stratford-Upon-Avon**, a town synonymous with William Shakespeare. Walk in Shakespeare's footsteps at the house where he was born and grew up, and head off on the self-guided heritage trail. His influence is everywhere and there are also cafes, shops and riverside gardens to enjoy. This afternoon, board the 'Countess of Evesham' for an included gentle **relaxing cruise and cream tea on the River Avon**.

Day 3: Discover a wealth of treasures in the charming historic town of **Warwick**, home to secret gardens, a magnificent castle - Britain's greatest medieval experience, and the Lord Leicester Hospital, a group of timber-framed buildings dating mainly from the 14th century. Continue to the fashionable and elegant town of **Royal Leamington Spa**, home to the Royal Pump Rooms and the Grade II listed Jephson Gardens. Alternatively, a full day guided tour of Shakespeare Country and the Heart of England could be arranged.

Day 4: Head to the ancient **market town of Henley-in-Arden**, with its unspoilt historic high street, and **Coughton Court**, a fine Tudor estate owned by the Throckmorton family since 1409, with an absorbing history linked to the Gunpowder Plot and a conspiracy to assassinate Elizabeth I. **Alternatively, visit Kenilworth Castle and its Elizabethan Gardens**, which have been restored to their former glory, before exploring the **historic town of Kenilworth** itself.

Day 5: Homeward bound.

Chesford Grange Hotel

4★ • 205 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Historic and characterful hotel set in 17 acres of tranquil gardens and woodland, near Kenilworth.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Stratford-upon-Avon Boat Cruise with cream tea
- ▶ Kenilworth Castle & Gardens or Coughton Court
- ▶ Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: **£249**



Wye Valley

Wye Valley & the Forest of Dean

Experience this magical borderland on a scenic river cruise, a relaxing train ride and visits to historic towns.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Coleford in the Royal Forest of Dean for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Cross the border into Wales to the **Georgian market town of Monmouth**, famous for its unique 13th century Monnow Bridge, before returning to England for a **relaxing cruise along the River Wye** from Symonds Yat West, which has long been one of the most spectacular stretches of the Wye Valley. If time allows, explore Coleford itself or enjoy the bowling and golf facilities at your hotel.

Day 3: Follow the twists and turns of the **Wye Valley** for a coffee break and photo opportunity at the magnificent ruins of Tintern Abbey, before continuing to the historic walled border town of **Chepstow**, which is dominated by the oldest surviving stone castle in Britain, on the banks of the River Wye. Return into the delightful Royal Forest of Dean for a relaxing round trip on the **Dean Forest Railway**.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Why not enjoy a full or half day guided tour of the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean; head into Herefordshire to the historic cathedral city of Hereford, the market town of Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury with its 'black & white' timber-framed buildings or discover the secrets of traditional cider making on a Westons Cider guided mill tour. Alternatively, why not head to Regency Cheltenham or Gloucester, with its cathedral and Victorian docks.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Please see page 47 for a Turkey & Tinsel tour at this hotel.

Please note that 3 night tours are also available on these two tours.

Bells Hotel & Forest of Dean Golf Club

3★ • 53 Bedrooms
• Ground floor bedrooms
• Coach parking

A warm welcome is assured at this hotel with bowling facilities.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ River Wye Cruise
- ▶ Dean Forest Railway
- ▶ Welcome drink on arrival
- ▶ Entertainment each night
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£232**



Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway

Cheltenham & the Cotswolds

Explore Regency Cheltenham, medieval Tewkesbury, charming Cotswold towns and villages and a truly wonderful garden.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Cheltenham for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit **Cheltenham**, England's most complete Regency town whose town houses, characterised by intricate ironwork balconies and painted stucco facades, line the historic Promenade, squares and terraces. Enjoy a trip on the **Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway** through the heart of the Cotswolds between Cheltenham and Toddington **or visit Sudeley Castle**, once the home of Katherine Parr, the last and surviving wife of Henry VIII, and its award-winning gardens.

Day 3: Discover the picturesque **medieval town of Tewkesbury** on Wednesday market day. Rich in timber-framed buildings, Tewkesbury has a long and fascinating history as well as being home to a famous Abbey. Enjoy a **relaxing cruise along the River Severn** from Tewkesbury or visit the rural **TV presenter Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park**, where you can experience a stunning diversity of animals, rare breeds, a farm safari tractor ride and changing demonstrations which follow the farming cycle.

Day 4: Enjoy a scenic tour of the honey-coloured limestone towns and villages of the Cotswolds. Visit **Bourton-on-the-Water**, the 'Venice of the Cotswolds'; **Stow-on-the-Wold**, with its many fine antique shops; the wonderful villages of **Broadway** and **Chipping Campden**, before an afternoon visit to **Hidcote Manor Garden**. Discover one of the country's great gardens, with its magnificent vistas and dazzling arrays of plants and flowers.

Day 5: Time for home.

The Cheltenham Chase Hotel

- 4★ • 122 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Situated at the foot of the Cotswold Hills, this stylish and contemporary hotel has an indoor swimming pool.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park or River Severn Cruise
- ▶ Hidcote Manor Garden
- ▶ Sudeley Castle & Gardens or Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway
- ▶ Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£250**



Longleat House

Bath, Longleat & the Cotswolds

Experience the awe-inspiring city of Bath, the stunning stately home of Longleat and the charming honey-coloured Cotswolds.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head into the honey-coloured scenery of the Cotswolds and visit **Bourton-on-the-Water**, the 'Venice of the Cotswolds'; **Stow-on-the-Wold**, with its many fine antique shops; the beautiful village of **Chipping Campden** and **Broadway**, often referred to as the 'Jewel of the Cotswolds'. Alternatively, visit the less discovered Oxfordshire Cotswolds or explore the captivating and famous university city of Oxford, before continuing to Swindon for a 3 night stay.

Day 2: The wonderful city of **Bath**, a protected World Heritage Site, is full of architectural wonders including the Royal Crescent and the 18th century Pulteney Bridge, which is lined with tiny shops and dubbed 'Florence on Avon'. Whilst here, do not miss the beautifully preserved Roman Baths, the Pump Room and Sally Lunn's House, which is one of Bath's oldest dwellings and home of the original and now famous Bath bun.

Day 3: Set within 900 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland in magnificent Wiltshire countryside, **Longleat House and Gardens**, with its high Elizabethan architecture, priceless antiques and ornate paintings is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful stately homes in Britain. Why not include Longleat's famous safari park as well or visit Lacock village, used in many famous TV and film productions and home to an Abbey and the Fox Talbot Museum, or head through White Horse Country calling in at Devizes and Avebury.

Day 4: Time to head for home.

Please note that this 3 night tour is based on a Friday arrival, but can also be extended to a 4 night tour, arriving on a Thursday.

Please see page 46 for a Christmas themed break to the area.

Swindon Marriott Hotel

- 4★ • 156 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Surrounded by lush woodlands on the edge of Swindon's historic Old Town, it has an indoor swimming pool.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 3 nights DBB
- ▶ Longleat House & Gardens
- ▶ Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: **£179**



The Codebreakers & Afternoon Tea

Visit the home of the famous World War 2 codebreakers and discover the history of afternoon tea at Woburn Abbey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Bedford for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover **Woburn Abbey** and its 28 acres of award-winning gardens, the historic family home of the Earls and Dukes of Bedford for nearly 400 years. Discover tales of imprisonment, beheadings, love affairs and Royal visits, all set against the backdrop of over 250 works of art displayed in over 20 rooms. The English social custom of Afternoon Tea was popularised in the 1840's by Duchess Anna Maria, who entertained her friends at Woburn Abbey. **Enjoy an indulgent Duchess Anna Maria Afternoon Tea** and be part of this continuing tradition. If time allows, visit the village of Woburn which has over 200 listed buildings.

Day 3: Once Britain's best kept secret, **Bletchley Park, the 'Home of the Codebreakers'**, is today a unique heritage site and tourist attraction set within an atmospheric Victorian estate nestled in peaceful parkland. Explore and experience the top-secret world of iconic WW2 codebreaking huts and blocks, where codebreaking successes helped to save countless lives by shortening WW2 by about two years.

Day 4: The choice is yours! Spend time exploring the riverside town of Bedford, home to the John Bunyan Museum, The Higgins Bedford with its fascinating collections and the Panacea Museum. Alternatively, you could visit Shuttleworth, home to a stunning 19th century Swiss Garden and a collection of historic aircraft, vintage vehicles and motorcycles; the historic flour mill and gardens at Jordans Mill; the once-hidden secret historic garden treasures at Wrest Park or head to the famous historic university city of Cambridge.

Day 5: Time for home.

The Bedford Swan Hotel

4★ • 113 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

An 18th century hotel full of character and history, with a lovely river location in the heart of Bedford.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Bletchley Park
- ▶ Woburn Abbey & Gardens
- ▶ Afternoon Tea at Woburn Abbey
- ▶ Leisure & spa facilities

May to Oct: Prices from: **£277**



Cambridge, Ely & Newmarket

Have a 'punt' on the horses and discover a land of lazy waterways, majestic cathedrals and a famous horseracing town.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Cambridge for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a morning **panoramic coach guided tour** of the famous university city of **Cambridge**, before exploring the historic centre, the renowned Fitzwilliam Museum or maybe take a leisurely punt along the River Cam. Admire the wonderful architecture and majestic college buildings, and explore quaint passages set around the historic market place.

Day 3: Saddle up for the attractive **market town of Newmarket**, and explore behind the scenes of a working thoroughbred stud farm on an enlightening visit and **tour of the National Stud**. In Newmarket, watch the racehorses exercise on the famous gallops and if you wish, visit the new National Horseracing Museum. The city of **Ely** is rich in history, charm and beauty and its magnificent Cathedral is known locally as the 'Ship of the Fens'. Whilst in Ely, don't miss the Stained Glass Museum or Oliver Cromwell's House.

Day 4: Today you will be spoilt for choice! Enjoy a Dad's Army Experience Day in and around the charming town of Thetford, where you could enjoy an entertaining walking tour and visit the Dad's Army Museum, before continuing to Bressingham, a unique day out with steam engines, narrow gauge trains, wonderful gardens and the official Dad's Army Collection. Alternatively, you could visit the historic airfield and museum of aviation history at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford or head into Essex to the ancient towns of Saffron Walden and Thaxted, and the stunning Jacobean stately home at Audley End House and Gardens.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Hallmark Hotel Cambridge

4★ • 136 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

In picturesque grounds, close to Cambridge, this hotel has an indoor pool and a golf course.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Guided tour of Cambridge
- ▶ Tour of the National Stud at Newmarket
- ▶ Tea/coffee on arrival

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£225**



Norfolk Broads & Sandringham

What better way to experience Norfolk than with a cruise on the Broads, a nostalgic railway trip and a stately home.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Norwich for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the **North Norfolk Heritage Coast** to the wonderful **Georgian market town of Holt**, where you board **'The Poppy Line', for a heritage steam train ride** with stunning views of the Norfolk countryside and coastline through to **Sheringham**, a traditional seaside town which grew up around its old fishing village. Continue to the lovely coastal resort of **Cromer**, famous for its pier and tasty crabs.

Day 3: Travel to **Wroxham**, where you board your boat for a **relaxing cruise on the Norfolk Broads**. This afternoon, you could enjoy a trip on the narrow gauge Bure Valley Railway, visit the wonderful Blickling Hall or **Norwich**, which is said to be the most complete medieval city in Britain with over 1,500 historic listed buildings, two cathedrals, an imposing Norman castle and is famed as the home of Colman's Mustard.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice, you could explore the **Sandringham Estate**, the much-loved Norfolk retreat of Her Majesty the Queen. The magnificent stately house is set in stunning landscaped gardens, and remains very much as it was in Edwardian times. If time allows, visit the resort of Hunstanton, historic King's Lynn or pop into Norfolk Lavender. Or if you prefer, visit the unspoiled and historic seaside resort of **Wells-next-the-Sea** and the spectacular **Palladian Mansion at Holkham Hall**, with its restored Victorian kitchen and walled gardens.

Day 5: Time for home.

Please note that space is also available at the 4 Dunston Hall Hotel.*

Holiday Inn Norwich

- 3★ • 119 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Ideally located for touring Norfolk, this modern hotel is on Ipswich Road.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Norfolk Broads Cruise
- ▶ Poppy Line Steam Railway
- ▶ Sandringham Estate or Holkham Hall
- ▶ Leisure facilities



Suffolk's Tranquil Villages & Coast

It's easy to see why some of England's most famous painters were inspired by Suffolk's picturesque villages and coastline.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Best Western Marks Tey Hotel for 4 nights.

Day 2: Enjoy a **guided tour of Suffolk's pastel-coloured towns and villages**, whose timber-framed houses and thatched roofs make this area so unique. Visit **Sudbury**, home to Gainsborough's attractive townhouse which is now the birthplace museum and gallery of Thomas Gainsborough, one of Britain's greatest painters; **Long Melford** and **Lavenham**, where we include a visit to its **historic Guildhall**, which now contains exhibitions of local history.

Day 3: Be inspired and enjoy a slower pace of life, with visits to nearby **Dedham**, home to the Munnings Art Museum and an art & craft centre, and **East Bergholt**, picturesque villages associated with the artist John Constable. This afternoon, why not enjoy a nostalgic visit to the Tiptree Jam Shop, Tea Room and Museum (free admission) or if you prefer, continue to Beth Chatto Gardens or Colchester, officially Britain's oldest recorded town, home to Roman remains, a huge Norman castle keep and timber-framed cottages.

Day 4: Excursion to Suffolk's Heritage Coast and the pretty coastal town of **Aldeburgh**, with its unspoilt beach dotted with fishermen's huts and charming historic high street. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to the **Suffolk Punch Trust for a guided tour and a horsebus ride, or a relaxing cruise along the River Orwell or the River Deben**, making a lovely way to round off your holiday.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.

Alternative tours from this hotel include 'Essex: the only way...is to visit' – call us for details and prices.

Best Western Marks Tey Hotel

- 3★ • 110 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Ideal for exploring Suffolk, it has modern facilities and an indoor swimming pool.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Lavenham Guildhall
- ▶ Guided tour of Suffolk Villages
- ▶ Suffolk Punch Trust or an Orwell or Deben River Cruise
- ▶ Welcome drink on arrival
- ▶ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£238**

May to Sep: Prices from: **£230**



Windsor

Messing about on the River Thames

Discover the majesty of Windsor, the famous regatta town of Henley, a cruise on the Thames and a wonderful Royal garden.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Crowned by stunning Windsor Castle, the largest and oldest inhabited castle in the world and official residence of Her Majesty The Queen, the wonderful **Royal town of Windsor**, has a rich mix of history, culture and heritage. This afternoon, enjoy a **relaxing two hour cruise along the River Thames** with excellent views of Windsor Castle and Eton College **or visit Savill Garden**, a haven of horticultural beauty in the heart of Windsor Great Park.

Day 3: **Henley-on-Thames** enjoys an international reputation as home of the world's greatest rowing regatta. Henley's historic heart is only a few strides from one of the most beautiful stretches of the River Thames. The main street, looking out to the iconic 18th century bridge, has many Georgian facades and over 300 buildings of architectural or historical interest. **The River & Rowing Museum** has galleries dedicated to rowing, rivers and the history of Henley, as well as a magical Wind in the Willows exhibition.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice today. You could explore the many wonders, museums and attractions of London and hop on a sightseeing bus or two. Alternatively, you could head to the cathedral city of St Albans; the de Havilland Aircraft Museum; the Jacobean Hatfield House and Garden; the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew; the RHS Garden at Wisley or the magnificent Hampton Court Palace.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Please note that space is also available at the 4 Hilton Cobham.*

The Bull Hotel

4★ • 150 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Historic and characterful hotel in Gerrards Cross, combining warm hospitality and modern comforts.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Windsor River Thames Cruise or Savill Garden
- ▶ River & Rowing Museum at Henley

May to Sep: Prices from: **£229**



Hever Castle & Gardens

Historic Kent: the Garden of England

Steeped in history and heritage, discover the essence of this region with its perfect blend of city, coast and countryside.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Kent for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the wonderful historic **spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells**, with its elegant architecture and the pretty colonnaded 18th century walkway known as the Pantiles, which are now home to specialist shops and open-air cafes. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to either the enchanting **Hever Castle & Gardens**, which was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, **or** the wonderful manor house and gardens at **Penshurst Place**, one of England's oldest family homes.

Day 3: Nestling against the banks of the River Medway, historic **Rochester** is home to England's second oldest cathedral, its tallest Norman castle and a host of connections to the writer Charles Dickens. Continue to the magnificent **Leeds Castle** and discover the glorious 900 year old story of the remarkable survival of a moated medieval castle **or** enjoy a nostalgic train journey on the **Kent & East Sussex Railway**, through the unspoilt countryside of the Rother Valley.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Head to the historic cathedral city of Canterbury with its atmospheric old streets and medieval walls, before continuing to the pretty coastal town of Deal, the ancient medieval town of Sandwich or Faversham, a charming town with nearly 500 listed buildings. Alternatively, you could enjoy a themed 'Call the Midwife' guided tour at Chatham Historic Dockyard or visit Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, one of the world's most celebrated gardens.

Day 5: Time for home.

Bridgewood Manor Hotel

4★ • 100 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Offering a peaceful setting for exploring Kent, this hotel near Chatham also has an indoor pool.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Hever Castle & Gardens or Penshurst Place & Gardens
- ▶ Kent & East Sussex Railway or Leeds Castle
- ▶ Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: **£240**



Eastbourne



Portsmouth

Eastbourne & the Bluebell Railway

Explore East Sussex with its stunning coast, genteel resorts, countryside, heritage and a trip on an iconic railway.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Eastbourne for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the historic town of **Lewes**, which boasts a castle and the Anne of Cleves House, or the vibrant and colourful **Regency resort of Brighton**, where you can experience the heritage of the Royal Pavilion and take a trip up Britain's highest observation tower outside London, the Brighton i360. This afternoon, enjoy a **nostalgic trip back in time on the famous Bluebell Railway**.

Day 3: Explore **Eastbourne**, with its award-winning seafront, famous Carpet Gardens, Napoleonic fortress, harbour, boat trips, 1930's bandstand, Victorian Pier and relax in one of the beach huts or deckchairs. Visit the nearby, iconic and natural beauty spot at Beachy Head, the UK's highest chalk sea cliff. If you prefer, visit the seaside resort of Hastings, with its castle remains, a preserved Old Town and the steepest funicular railway in Britain.

Day 4: Excursion to the historic town of **Battle**, where one of England's most famous battles took place in 1066, and home to the famous abbey or the **Cinque Port town of Rye**, with enchanting cobbled streets and beautifully preserved buildings from medieval, Tudor and Georgian times. This afternoon, visit **Pashley Manor Gardens**, which is an award-winning, quintessential English garden, with a sumptuous blend of romantic landscaping, fountains, springs and a dazzling array of colourful displays **or the historic house and gardens at Bateman's**, Rudyard Kipling's former home.

Day 5: Homeward bound.

Best Western Lansdowne Hotel

3★ • 102 Bedrooms
• Lift

This traditional, imposing and family-run hotel is located on Eastbourne's sea front.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Bluebell Railway
- ▶ Bateman's or Pashley Manor Gardens
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ 8 singles - no supplement
- ▶ Tea/coffee on arrival

Southsea & Chichester Harbour Cruise

Stroll along Southsea seafront, visit the historic cathedral city of Chichester and enjoy a relaxing harbour cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Southsea for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a leisurely stroll in the gardens and along the Promenade in **Southsea**, home to a castle and the D-Day Museum & Overlord Embroidery. Visit the **historic waterfront city of Portsmouth** which is home to the Mary Rose Museum, a truly mesmerising experience. Why not visit some of the other Historic Dockyard attractions, which include HMS Victory and the Royal Naval Museum or for something more modern, take a panoramic trip up the 170ft high Spinnaker Tower.

Day 3: Nestled at the foot of the South Downs, visit the **cathedral city of Chichester** on market day. Cosmopolitan, fashionably elegant and unashamedly quirky, Chichester is made for exploring with its ancient circular walls, unique nooks and crannies. This afternoon, enjoy a relaxing and scenic **Chichester Harbour Cruise**. If you prefer, head to Southampton and enjoy a Two Rivers Cruise on the Rivers Itchen and Test, and in Southampton Harbour past modern cruise liners or a Hamble River Cruise, where Howard's Way was filmed.

Day 4: The choice is yours. The Isle of Wight is only a short ferry crossing away. Explore the coasts and curiosities of this island, perhaps visiting Shanklin, Sandown, Godshell, Alum Bay, the Needles, Queen Victoria's Osborne House or enjoy a train ride. Alternatively, stay in Hampshire and visit Alresford, a lovely Georgian town, for a nostalgic trip on the Mid-Hants Railway, also known as the Watercress Line, or head into West Sussex to the historic town of Arundel, home to a stately castle.

Day 5: Homeward bound.

Best Western Royal Beach Hotel

3★ • 124 Bedrooms
• Lift

Proudly situated on Southsea's promenade, this lovely Victorian hotel is opposite the beach.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Chichester Harbour Cruise
- ▶ 8 singles - no supplement

Apr: Prices from: **£249** May to Sep: Prices from: **£263**

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£251**



Highclere Castle

Hampshire & 'Downton Abbey'

Experience historic Hampshire, a nostalgic railway or a horse-drawn canal trip and Highclere Castle, ITV's Downton Abbey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Winchester for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the historic streets of King Alfred's ancient capital of England, **Winchester**. Visit the Great Hall and King Arthur's Round Table; City Mill, a fully restored working water mill and admire the architecture of Winchester Cathedral, where Jane Austen is buried. Jane Austen came to Winchester for the last six weeks of her life in 1817 and the house in which she died, although not open to the public, can still be seen.

Day 3: The hugely popular period drama **Downton Abbey**, a tale of scandal, intrigue and romance in an Edwardian country house was set at **Highclere Castle**, the home of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon. Enjoy the elegant castle interior, the magnificent State Rooms and the highly acclaimed Egyptology Exhibition, before a stroll through the gardens and spectacular parkland designed by Capability Brown.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Head to **Alresford**, a lovely Georgian town, for a nostalgic trip on the **Mid-Hants Railway, also known as the Watercress Line**, to **Alton**. If you wish, why not visit nearby Jane Austen's House Museum at Chawton. This 17th century house, where Jane Austen did the majority of her mature writing, retains the charm of a village home. **Alternatively**, drift peacefully along **the Kennet & Avon Canal on a leisurely horse-drawn boat trip**.

Day 5: Head for home.

Please note that 3 night tours are also available, as well as space at the Hampshire Court Hotel.

Norton Park Hotel

4★ • 174 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

This prestigious hotel, close to Winchester, has an indoor pool and health spa.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Highclere Castle, ITV's 'Downton Abbey'
- ▶ Horse-drawn canal boat trip or Mid-Hants Railway – 'Watercress Line'
- ▶ Leisure & spa facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: **£264**



Swanage Railway

Poole & the Jurassic Coast

With a wonderful coastline, relaxing harbour cruise and nostalgic train ride, this tour to Dorset is a real treat.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Poole for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the Isle of Purbeck, including the **Georgian market town of Wareham**, once a stronghold for King Alfred the Great and onto the lovely **Victorian seaside resort of Swanage**, which marks the Eastern end of the Jurassic Coast. Enjoy a wonderful journey through the Purbeck countryside with an included **trip on the Swanage Railway** with stunning views of the ruins of Corfe Castle en route.

Day 3: Enjoy a scenic drive along **Dorset's 'Jurassic Coast'**, a natural World Heritage Site containing 185 million years of the Earth's history and visit the coastal resort of **Weymouth** with its long sandy beach and picturesque harbour. If time allows, you could visit Athelhampton House & Gardens or the Swannery at Abbotsbury. Alternatively, head to the popular seaside resort of Bournemouth and the wonderful New Forest National Park.

Day 4: Discover **Poole Quayside** with its shops, cafés and working pottery or if you prefer travel the short distance to the picturesque ancient town of Wimborne Minster. This afternoon, enjoy the natural beauty of **Poole Harbour**, the second largest natural harbour in the world, on a relaxing and refreshing **cruise around the harbour and its islands** or if you prefer, visit Brownsea Island and enjoy the harbour cruise on your return to Poole Quay. Please note that the island is managed by the National Trust and a separate cost for visiting the island applies.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time for home.

Thistle Poole Hotel

3★ • 70 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

With stunning views over Poole Harbour, this hotel is located on Poole Quayside.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Swanage Railway
- ▶ Poole Harbour Cruise or Brownsea Island return cruise

Apr to Oct: Prices from: **£252**



Lyme Regis

Dorset & Wonderful Wessex

You will love the beautiful countryside and quintessential rural charm of Dorset's historic towns, streets and houses.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the George Albert Hotel in Dorset for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit the 'Pearl of Dorset', the **historic coastal resort of Lyme Regis**, which is close to the Devon border. It is home to a number of historical landmarks, including its Cobb and harbour. Once a Cistercian monastery, **Forde Abbey** was transformed from an austere Abbey into a post renaissance palace and is now a stunning example of a fascinating historic house surrounded by 30 acres of glorious gardens.

Day 3: **Dorchester**, the historic market town which lies on the banks of the River Frome, is particularly well known for its associations with Thomas Hardy, the famous novelist and poet. The resort of **Weymouth** is home to a fine Georgian seafront, level promenade, long arc of award-winning sandy beach and a picturesque and traditional 17th century harbour. Alternatively, you could visit the stunning 15th century manor house and gardens at Athelhampton or the Swannery at Abbotsbury.

Day 4: **Sherborne** is, without doubt, one of England's most beautiful towns, with an abundance of medieval buildings, a superb Abbey, picturesque Almshouse and two castles. **Shaftesbury** is one of England's ancient hill top towns and famous as the home to the cobbled street of **Gold Hill**, made famous by the Hovis adverts of the 1980's, with stunning views over Hardy's Wessex.

Day 5: Time for home.

George Albert Hotel

- 3★ • 39 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

With scenic views of the rolling Dorset countryside, this family-owned hotel has spacious accommodation.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Forde Abbey Historic House & Gardens
- ▶ Entertainment on 1 night

May & Oct: Prices from: **£244** Jun to Sep: Prices from: **£262**



West Somerset Railway

Devon & Somerset Steam & Cruise

Visit two of the most beautiful and scenic counties in Britain, whilst relaxing on cruises and a steam train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Tiverton in mid-Devon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the stylish **Regency resort of Sidmouth**, situated on the Jurassic Coast, England's first natural World Heritage Site. "A town caught still in a timeless charm" – that was the Sidmouth that captivated the Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, and Sidmouth still captivates today. Continue to the seaside resort of **Exmouth**, where artists and poets have been inspired over the centuries, for a relaxing **River Exe circular cruise**, with live commentary on the sights, history and wildlife of the surrounding area.

Day 3: Tour through the delightful **Exmoor National Park** to the unique **medieval village of Dunster** which has over 200 listed buildings (a tight bend in the village may not be suitable for some longer coaches), before continuing to the coastal resort of **Minehead**. Enjoy a nostalgic steam train ride through the glorious Somerset countryside on the **West Somerset Railway**, the longest steam heritage railway.

Day 4: Explore the ancient **market town of Tiverton** which sits in a delightful setting on the banks of the River Exe, Bickleigh Mill which is one of Devon's largest rural shopping centres located in a historic working watermill, and watch the world go by very peacefully along the idyllic Grand Western Canal on the last **horse-drawn barge trip** in the South West - a little bit of 'heaven' in Devon!

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.

Best Western Tiverton Hotel

- 3★ • 69 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Offering a warm West Country welcome, it is ideally located for touring Devon and Somerset.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Horse-drawn canal trip
- ▶ River Exe circular cruise
- ▶ West Somerset Railway

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£243** May to Sep: Prices from: **£259**



Poldark & Smuggler's Cornwall

Explore some of Cornwall's most picturesque fishing villages and secluded coves, once regarded as perfect smuggling country.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Lostwithiel for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover **Charlestown**, which in some Poldark scenes played the role of the principal town. Wander along the side of the original Grade II listed harbour complete with Tall Ships, and you can almost imagine that you've been cast as an extra in the TV series. Explore the picturesque fishing village of **Mevagissey**, where you can still find working fishing boats and nets being mended. If you prefer, include a visit to the inspirational Lost Gardens of Heligan or the fabulous Eden Project.

Day 3: **Looe**, a delightful fishing town, is actually made up of East and West Looe, which face each other across the river. Relax and watch the world go by, explore its many gift shops or enjoy a local boat trip. A maze of lanes and alleyways lead down to the traditional fishing village and unspoilt harbour of **Polperro**, a true slice of Cornish beauty, where you can visit art and craft galleries and its very own Heritage Museum of Smuggling.

Day 4: Visit the attractive riverside town of **Fowey**, once home to the famous novelist Daphne du Maurier or **Bodmin**, one of Cornwall's oldest towns, before enjoying a scenic drive through spectacular **Bodmin Moor**, where the cast and crew of Poldark found themselves for a large part of their time. Scenes featuring the exterior of Poldark's cottage, Nampara, were shot here. This afternoon, relax on a nostalgic train ride on the **Bodmin & Wenford Railway** or visit **Lanhydrock House and Gardens**.

Day 5: Head for home.

Best Western Fowey Valley

- 3★ • 36 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Lovely welcoming hotel situated in the ancient town of Lostwithiel.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Bodmin & Wenford Railway or Lanhydrock House & Gardens
- ▶ Outdoor heated pool at the hotel

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£259** May to Sep: Prices from: **£292**



The Cream of Cornwall

Discover Cornwall's delightful coastlines and historic resorts plus a boat trip to Falmouth or an inspirational garden.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Newquay for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit Cornwall's only **cathedral city of Truro** with one of the most complete Georgian streets in England. This afternoon, relax on a **boat trip along the stunning banks of the Fal River to Falmouth** or visit the inspirational **Lost Gardens of Heligan**. Falmouth is a historic maritime coastal resort with a natural deepwater harbour guarded by twin castles and home to the National Maritime Museum, whilst the Lost Gardens of Heligan were created over a 200 year period, neglected and then gloriously restored over twenty years ago.

Day 3: Excursion to **St Ives**, which was a busy fishing village, before developing into a picturesque holiday resort with glorious beaches and narrow alleyways which lead you to the harbour. It holds strong ties with the world of fine art, boasting both the Tate Gallery and Barbara Hepworth Museum. If time, continue to the famous landmark and dramatic coastline at Land's End or onto Marazion, with views out to St Michael's Mount.

Day 4: Relax on the famous Fistral Beach and explore **Newquay** itself or head north along the coast to Padstow, a busy fishing resort of great character and visit Prideaux Place, a charming Elizabethan Manor. Alternatively, visit the legendary King Arthur's headland town of Tintagel and the picturesque harbour village of Boscastle.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Please see page 46 for an All-Inclusive tour at this hotel.

Please note space is also available at the 4 Fistral Beach Hotel & Spa.*

Esplanade Hotel

- 3★ • 90 Bedrooms
- Lift

Overlooking Fistral Beach away from the bustle of Newquay, it has an indoor pool.



Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Lost Gardens of Heligan or boat trip from Truro to Falmouth
- ▶ Entertainment on 2 nights
- ▶ Leisure facilities
- ▶ 5 singles – no supplement in Apr & Oct

Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£219** May to Sep: Prices from: **£251**



Cornish All Inclusive

'Spring' into Cornwall with this fantastic all-inclusive package in **Newquay**, overlooking Fistral Beach.

Highlights include

- Cornish cream tea

- Packed lunch on two days and hot buffet lunch on one day
- Cornish themed dinner menu
- Complimentary bar (6-9pm)
- Entertainment on a minimum of 2 nights

Esplanade Hotel

3★ • 90 Bedrooms
• Lift

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB ▶ Leisure
- ▶ Inclusions as above
- ▶ 5 singles - no supplement

Mar: Prices from: **£225**



Dorset All Inclusive

Discover the delights of Dorset with this all-inclusive package by the seaside in **Bournemouth**.

Highlights include

- Packed lunch or one course hot buffet lunch on 3 days

- Inclusive drinks 6pm-9pm, on selected brands
- Entertainment on a minimum of 2 nights

Suncliff Hotel

3★ • 114 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB ▶ Leisure
- ▶ Inclusions as above
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement

Mar: Prices from: **£186**



Rolling Back the Years

Good old fashioned fun awaits on this themed break in the lovely resort of **Criccieth**.

Highlights include

- Old penny for welcome drink

- A Cadwaladers Ice Cream
- Home Front Experience in Llandudno
- Steam train ride
- 50's and 60's themed entertainment

The Lion Hotel

3★ • 46 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Inclusions as above
- ▶ 4 singles - no supplement

Mar, Apr & Oct: Prices from: **£188**



Scottish Ceilidh Break

Head into the wonderfully scenic **Scottish Borders** for this entertaining Ceilidh break.

Highlights include

- Tea/coffee and shortbread

- Scottish themed dinner menu
- A glass of whisky or a small glass of house wine
- Entertainment on 2 nights, including a live Ceilidh band

Tinto Hotel

3★ • 40 Bedrooms
• Ground floor bedrooms
• Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Inclusions as above

Mar to Dec: Prices from: **£166**



Yuletide York & Castle Howard

Visit **York** for a unique Yuletide experience in one of Europe's most charismatic cities.

Enchanting **Castle Howard** will be adorned with elegant decorations, whilst magnificent

Christmas trees, decked with baubles and lights lead the way through the dramatic interiors.

Space also available at the Queens Hotel, York.

Best Western Burn Hall Hotel

3★ • 94 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 3 nights DBB
- ▶ Castle Howard
- ▶ 8 singles - no supplement

Nov & Dec: Prices from: **£172**



Bath Christmas Market & Longleat

Bath's Christmas Market takes place in the heart of this World Heritage City with hundreds of traditional wooden chalets offering unique & unusual gifts.

Combine this with a unique and magical experience at **Longleat** during its **Festival of Light**.

Space also available at the Doubletree by Hilton Swindon.

Swindon Marriott Hotel

4★ • 156 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 3 nights DBB ▶ Leisure
- ▶ Longleat House & the Festival of Light

Nov & Dec: Prices from: **£168**



Harrogate 'Fizz & Fayre'

A festive 'Fizz & Fayre' break in the heart of handsome **Harrogate**. Excursions could include Haworth, Skipton, Knaresborough, Leeds and York during their Yuletide festivities.

Highlights include:

- Mulled wine drinks reception
- Festive themed mini afternoon tea and a glass of festive fizz
- Nightly entertainment

Cairn Hotel

3★ • 135 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Inclusions as above

Nov & Dec: Prices from: **£176**



Wye Valley Turkey & Tinsel

Christmas festive cheer on this tour to the **Wye Valley** & the Forest of Dean. Visit Monmouth, Chepstow and Cheltenham, plus Gloucester and Bristol for their Christmas Markets.

Highlights include:

- Mulled wine and mince pies
- Visit from Santa
- Glass of Bucks Fizz
- Nightly entertainment

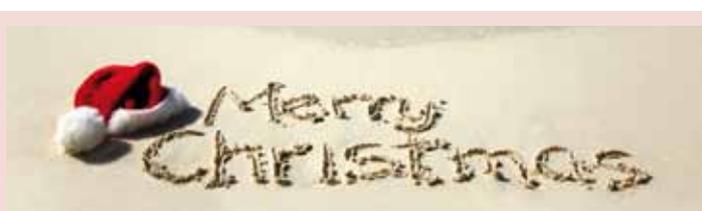
Bells Hotel & Golf Club

3★ • 53 Bedrooms
• Ground floor bedrooms
• Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Inclusions as above
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement

Nov & Dec: Prices from: **£204**



Dorset Turkey & Tinsel

Discover Dorset with a seasonal themed break in **Bournemouth**. Visit its Alpine Christmas Market & Gardens of Light, and the Christmas markets in Salisbury and Winchester.

Highlights include:

- Christmas quiz
- Afternoon tea dance and sherry, Christmas cake & bingo
- Nightly entertainment

Suncliff Hotel

3★ • 114 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB ▶ Leisure
- ▶ Inclusions as above
- ▶ 6 singles - no supplement

Nov: Prices from: **£173** Dec: Prices from: **£147**



Go Crackers in Criccieth

Experience Snowdonia scenery on this pre-Christmas break to **Criccieth**. You could visit Victorian Llandudno, take a nostalgic train ride or visit delightful Llanberis.

Highlights include

- Buck's Fizz breakfast
- Visit from Santa
- Christmas competition & prize
- Nightly entertainment

The Lion Hotel

3★ • 46 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Inclusions as above
- ▶ 4 singles - no supplement

Nov & Dec: Prices from: **£193**



Pembrokeshire Festive Drinks Break

Discover stunning **Pembrokeshire** scenery and experience a fine festive atmosphere. Visits could include Tenby, Cardigan and Picton Castle in all its glory.

Highlights include

- Festive quiz with prizes and tea/coffee and biscuits
- 50% off drinks promotion, 6pm-9pm, on selected drinks
- Themed entertainment

Fishguard Bay Hotel

3★ • 59 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Inclusions as above
- ▶ 8 singles - no supplement

Nov & Dec: Prices from: **£155**



'Drams & Dances' in Oban

Enjoy a festive break in the resort of **Oban**, surrounded by a dramatic coastline and home to its own distillery.

- Afternoon tea with home baking, glass of fizz, tea/coffee and Whisky Galore bingo/quiz
- Nightly entertainment and the chance to dance

Highlights include

- Drinks reception & canapes

Royal Hotel

3★ • 91 Bedrooms
• Lift

Tour Includes:

- ▶ 4 nights DBB
- ▶ Inclusions as above

Nov & Dec: Prices from: **£176**



ACTION TOURS

5 Aston Street, Shifnal
Shropshire TF11 8DW

01952 462462

01952 462555

info@actiontours.co.uk

www.actiontours.co.uk

www.facebook.com/actiontoursltd