

A Visit to Kent



Based in Canterbury

Monday 12 - Friday 16 May 2025

MONDAY 12 MAY 2025

We will depart from our local pick-up point by coach and travel to Westerham to visit **Chartwell** (*National Trust*), the home of Sir Winston Churchill from 1924 until his death. The rooms and gardens remain much as he left them, and there is an excellent display of Churchill memorabilia. This will be a free-flow visit, to include time to take lunch and explore the house and grounds at leisure.

We will continue to **Ightham Mote** (*National Trust*) for a free-flow visit. Built some 700 years ago, the house has passed through the hands of a series of owners, each leaving their mark on the property. Highlights of the property include a charming courtyard, great hall, crypt, Tudor painted ceiling and the private apartments of Charles Robinson who bequeathed the property to the National Trust in 1985.

We will continue to **Canterbury** where we will check into **The Falstaff Hotel** (3 star) for 4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. After some time to unpack and freshen up, a **welcome dinner** will be taken in a local restaurant.

TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local guide for a **short walking tour** of Canterbury. We will have a **guided tour** of **Canterbury Cathedral** that dates back to 597 AD when St. Augustine was sent as a missionary to establish a seat (or Cathedra) for Pope Gregory the Great. The Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in the cathedral in 1170 and since that time the Cathedral has attracted thousands of pilgrims as recounted in Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. There will be free time to take lunch in Canterbury.

This afternoon we will travel to **Margate** for a **guided tour** of the **Turner Contemporary**. Situated on Margate's seafront the Turner Contemporary is an organisation that is dedicated to making art accessible and enjoyable to all. The gallery offers a changing programme of temporary exhibitions, events and learning opportunities.

We will return to the hotel by coach and the evening will be at leisure.

WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will travel by coach to **Great Dixter** for a free-flow visit of the house and gardens. It is the family home of late gardening author Christopher Lloyd who has spent most of his lifetime creating one of the most experimental, exciting and constantly changing gardens of our time. The manor house dates back to medieval times and is thought to be the largest surviving timber framed hall in the country. The beautiful gardens lie all around the house and feature topiary, pools, wild meadow areas and the Long Border and Exotic Garden.

Following the visit we will take **group lunch** together in a local restaurant near Sissinghurst.

We will continue to **Sissinghurst Castle Garden** (*National Trust*), which is located near Cranbrook, for a free-flow visit. This famous plantsman's garden was created by Vita Sackville-West and her husband Sir Harold Nicholson around the surviving parts of an Elizabethan mansion. The series of outdoor 'rooms', both intimate and romantic, provide outstanding design and colour throughout the season.

We will return to the hotel by coach and the evening will be at leisure.

THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will travel by coach to Dover. This morning we will have a free-flow visit of **Dover Castle**, often hailed as the "Key to England". The medieval fortress dates back to the 11th century and stands as a formidable sentinel overlooking the Strait of Dover. There will be time to explore the castle complex at leisure and take lunch.

This afternoon we will travel by coach to Tenterden for a visit to **The Chapel Down Winery**. Our visit will include a **guided tour** of the vineyard and winery, followed by a **tasting**.

We will return to the hotel. A **final dinner** will be taken this evening in a local restaurant.

FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025

We will check out of the hotel after breakfast and travel to Tudeley for a **guided visit** of **All Saints Church**.

The church features the work of Russian-French artist Marc Chagall who was commissioned, by Sir Henry and Lady D'Avigdor Goldsmid, to produce the east stained glass window to commemorate their late daughter Sarah.

When the window was installed in 1967 Chagall visited the church for the first time and exclaimed that he would "do them all". The remaining 11 windows were designed over the subsequent years and the last windows installed just prior to the artist's death in 1985. **Refreshments** will be taken prior to departure.

We will continue by coach to Sevenoaks to visit **Hever Castle**. The family home of Anne Boleyn, it was later given to Henry VIII's fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. There

are many items relating to the time of the Tudors including two books of hours signed by Anne Boleyn herself. The castle was sold to the American millionaire William Waldorf Astor in 1903 and he subsequently became the first Lord Astor of Hever. He invested a great deal of his money to restore and embellish the castle and today it houses a magnificent collection of furniture, tapestries and other works of art. The castle gardens rank as one of the most beautiful gardens in England and include formal gardens, an Italian garden and the award winning Rose garden and Tudor garden. There will be time to take lunch on arrival, followed by a free-flow visit with an audio guide.

We will rejoin our coach and continue our journey homeward to the original pick-up point, arriving in the early evening.

Please note that as this tour has been arranged many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary from the above.



Heritage
GROUP TRAVEL

Charlotte House, 12 Charlotte Street
Bath, BA1 2NE
Tel: 01225 466620
www.grouptravel.co.uk

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TOUR PRICE

£1,025 per person sharing a twin/double room

£150 single supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

Executive coach travel throughout
4 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Canterbury
Dinner on the evening of arrival in a local restaurant
Dinner on the last evening in a local restaurant
1 lunch
Services of a local Blue Badge Guide for 1 half day
Guided tour of the Turner Contemporary
Guided tour and tasting at the Chapel Down Winery
Guided tour and refreshments at All Saints Church
All entrance charges and booking fees as per the itinerary
(excluding National Trust properties)

Please note that entrance charges to National Trust properties are not included as these are free of charge to National Trust members upon production of a valid membership card.

HOTEL DETAILS

The Falstaff Hotel (4 star)
8-10 Saint Dunstons Street
Canterbury
CT2 8AF

For further details please visit their website:

www.thefalstaffincanterbury.com

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of
25 paying participants.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

ABTOT provides protection for your booking as set out
in the Financial Protection clause of our
Booking Conditions.

OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is not mandatory for the UK, but we strongly recommend that you have adequate insurance in place to cover any COVID-related issues. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote.

Please ensure that any policy has adequate cover for COVID-19 related issues.

PAYMENT DETAILS

A deposit of **£300 per person** is due **as soon as possible** and no later than **Friday 13 December 2024**. Please note that as places on the tour are limited, bookings will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. The final balance will be due by **Monday 17 February 2025**.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and deposit to Heritage Group Travel. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel.

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