



Hever Castle

# Historic Kent Castles, Gardens & Coastline

July 2 to 10, 2022

From \$4,840 per person

The romantic county of Kent offers a multitude of historic treasures, from enchanting castles and stately homes to imaginative gardens and delightful coastal towns. On this captivating break we learn about Kent's role in shaping English history, and discover some of its famous residents such as Anne Boleyn, Charles Dickens and Winston Churchill. In a county famed for its castles, we also explore historic Hever and impressive Leeds Castle. We combine these fascinating architectural wonders with the peacefulness of the Kentish coast, as we experience the classic seaside charm of Margate and Whitstable.



Ightham Mote

## Special extras included in your itinerary

- ❖ Guided tour of Chartwell Gardens
- ❖ Private guided tour of Hever Castle
- ❖ Guided tour by the Head Gardener and refreshments at Riverhill Himalayan Gardens
- ❖ Exclusive out-of-hours garden tour of Sissinghurst Castle Garden
- ❖ Guided walking tour of Canterbury
- ❖ Guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral
- ❖ Guided tour of Whitstable
- ❖ Exclusive guided tour of Leeds Castle
- ❖ Guided tour and afternoon cream tea at Godinton House
- ❖ Guided tour and lunch at The Salutation Gardens
- ❖ Audio guided tour of Windsor Castle
- ❖ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker

## Nine Day Itinerary

July 2: Arrival (depart U.S. on 7/1)

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery, where we stay overnight. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

### July 3: Chartwell and Ightham Mote

Today we first visit Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill's beloved home from 1924 to the time of his death. The house is still home to many of the great statesman's personal and political mementos, including an amazing collection of gifts he received from other world leaders. Our guided tour of the gardens takes in Churchill's personal painting studio hidden in the grounds, the romantic Golden Rose Avenue, the special walled garden, the lakes and the pretty water features.

Next, we explore the moated manor house of Ightham Mote, once described by historian David Starkey as 'the most beautiful and the most interesting of English country houses'. Built nearly 700 years ago, atmospheric Ightham has been home to medieval knights, courtiers to Henry VIII and Victorian High Society.

From here, we travel to the Chilton Park Hotel where we stay for the next five nights.

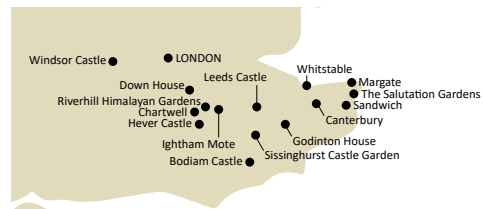
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### July 4: Hever Castle and Riverhill Himalayan Gardens

We head to Hever Castle, the childhood home of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, where we



Windsor Castle



Sissinghurst Castle Garden

\*Please note: the 2021 tour itinerary may differ slightly from the 2022 itinerary shown.

enjoy a private guided tour. Dating back to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century, this double-moated castle is home to various historic artifacts including Tudor portraits and furniture, as well as two prayer books inscribed by Anne Boleyn. The castle was lavishly restored by American millionaire, William Waldorf Astor, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We continue to Riverhill Himalayan Gardens, a fine example of horticultural excellence, created by contemporary of Charles Darwin and patron of Victorian plant hunter, John Rogers. We discover its interesting history as we enjoy the combination of world-class British sculpture, secret pathways and stunning floral displays on a guided tour with the Head Gardener followed by refreshments.

This evening we enjoy dinner together in a local pub.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

### July 5: Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Tenterden and Bodiam Castle

This morning we head to Sissinghurst Castle Garden where we enjoy an exclusive out-of-hours garden tour. Created in the 1930s by novelist Vita Sackville-West and her husband Harold Nicolson around the ruins of an Elizabethan manor house, these world-famous gardens are laid out as a series of individually-planted 'rooms', including a fragrant Herb Garden and Rose Garden.

After lunch (not included) in the picturesque town of Tenterden, we continue to Bodiam Castle. This archetypal 14<sup>th</sup>-century moated castle gives us a glimpse of medieval splendor and boasts an original wooden portcullis, spiral staircase and battlements.

After dinner back at the hotel this evening, we enjoy a fascinating talk by a guest speaker.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

### July 6: Canterbury, Canterbury Cathedral and Whitstable

We start the day in Canterbury. The city has a fascinating history which we learn about on our guided walking tour. We also enjoy a guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral, the oldest cathedral in England, dating back to Norman times. In 1170, Archbishop Thomas Becket was murdered in the cathedral and ever since it has been a site of Christian pilgrimage.



Canterbury Cathedral

Next is a guided tour of Whitstable, a picturesque fishing and harbour town on the north coast of Kent, renowned for its fresh oysters and connections to Charles Dickens. You can enjoy sampling these culinary delights during dinner in a popular local restaurant.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*



Whitstable

### July 7: Leeds Castle and Godinton House

We visit Leeds Castle, a quintessential moated castle set in 500 acres of glorious parkland, where we enjoy an exclusive early morning guided tour. Dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it was once home to Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon. The castle's last private owner was Lady Baillie, an Anglo-American heiress who lovingly restored the castle to its former glory. We discover more of the castle's fascinating history as well as its wealth of furnishings, paintings, tapestries and antiques on display.

Our next stop is Godinton House, a delightful Jacobean property incorporating a medieval hall and ornate carvings, where we enjoy a guided tour and afternoon cream tea. Godinton is a much-loved home where each room reflects the tastes of those who have lived here with an excellent collection of furniture, art, and curios. We also have time to explore the 12 acres of tranquil gardens, surrounded by ancient parkland.

*Meals: Breakfast, Cream Tea, Dinner*

### July 8: Margate, The Salutation Gardens and Sandwich

This morning we enjoy a scenic drive to the coastal town of Margate. This town epitomizes the charm of a classic British seaside resort, with its unspoilt sandy bays, retro shops and a friendly atmosphere. As Margate is also home to a thriving arts community, you may like to browse the Turner Contemporary, a beautiful gallery overlooking the sea.

We continue to The Salutation Gardens in Sandwich, where we enjoy a guided tour and lunch. Designed in 1912 by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, the exquisite gardens are divided into a sequence of symmetrical 'rooms.' After around 70 years, the gardens sadly fell into disorder, but with a new owner and head gardener at the helm, an extensive restoration project was undertaken in 2005.

We then head to the historic town of Sandwich, where we may have the chance to meet the Town Crier!\* Once a major port, there are still many original medieval buildings dotted around this enchanting town, making it a delight to explore.

Later, we check back into our Windsor hotel where we stay for the last two nights of our tour.

*\*subject to availability*

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### July 9: Down House and Windsor Castle

Our first stop today is Down House, home of scientist Charles Darwin and his family for 40 years. Several rooms have been recreated as they



## What's Included

- ❖ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow\*
- ❖ 3 nights at the Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery
- ❖ 5 nights at the Chilton Park Hotel
- ❖ Welcome drink and canapés
- ❖ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ❖ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 6 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea and coffee)
- ❖ 1 dinner at a traditional local pub
- ❖ 1 dinner at a popular local seafood restaurant
- ❖ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ❖ Travel to and from all excursions
- ❖ All entrance costs
- ❖ Porterage

*\*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports*

## Your Hotels

**Nights One, Seven and Eight** – Castle Hotel Windsor – MGallery

**Nights Two to Six** – Chilton Park Hotel, Lenham

*For more information on these hotels please visit our website.*

*We have a limited number of single places available with no supplement on this tour. These sell quickly.*

appeared when he lived here including the study where he wrote *On the Origin of Species*. The house is surrounded by extensive gardens; Darwin's 'outdoor laboratory'.

We then visit Windsor Castle, the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world which is still one of the official residences of Queen Elizabeth II today. Established in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by William the Conqueror, it has been remodeled by successive kings and queens and is regularly used for ceremonial and state occasions. The magnificent State Apartments are furnished with some of the finest works of art, which we admire during our audio guided tour.

This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner together back at our hotel.

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

### July 10: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

*Meals: Breakfast*

**Please note:** *the order of excursions is subject to change and guided tours are subject to restrictions.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How do I make a booking?

Call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785** to register by phone (preferred method) **Monday - Friday from 9am to 5pm (EST)** or register online at **www.nationaltrusttours.com**

## When are payments due?

When you confirm your booking with us, a non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person is required to secure your place. The final balance payment must be paid to us no later than 90 days prior to the tour departure date. Of course, full payment can be made at the time of booking if you prefer and for bookings made less than 8 weeks before the tour departs this will be a requirement.

## How can I pay?

We accept debit and credit cards (except American Express), for deposits and full payment.

## What paperwork will I receive?

When your booking is confirmed, we will email you a booking confirmation document along with a copy of our full Terms and Conditions. 90 days prior to the tour, we will prepare and send you our Travel Pack with your finalized information, reading list and tour itinerary details.

## Do I need travel insurance?

Yes, this is essential; we can only accept a booking on the basis that you have taken out a full and comprehensive travel insurance policy to cover the full duration of your trip. We will ask you to confirm this to us. If you choose not to take out travel insurance, this is done so against our advice and at your own risk; we will ask you to sign a declination form indemnifying us from any responsibility or cost in the event of medical emergency or repatriation. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you upon tour confirmation.

## Do I need a passport and visa?

It is your responsibility to ensure you have a passport which must be valid for 6 months after the return date of your trip. Tourist visas are not required for US citizens visiting the UK for under 90 days solely for the purpose of tourism. If you are not a US citizen or you are combining your visit with business, it is your responsibility to check the requirements for visiting the UK, you can do this by visiting the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website to determine whether you need a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

## Are there single traveler room supplements?

We have a small number of rooms on each tour that are sold with no single supplement; once these are sold out we charge a supplement for any additional single rooms which varies for each tour. You can contact us to enquire about single supplement prices. Please book early as single rooms sell fast.

## Are room upgrades available?

All of the hotels on these tours have been hand-picked for their high quality of accommodation and service. However, in some instances room upgrades are available and we would be happy to assist you to arrange these should you be interested.

## Can you arrange extra hotel nights?

Yes, if you decide to arrive a few days before the start of the tour or leave a few days after the end of the tour, we are happy to arrange extra nights' accommodation. However, this service is only available at hotels that feature in the tour on which you are traveling and a \$35 administration fee is charged for this service.

## Are meals included?

All breakfasts are included on all tours. Certain lunches and dinners are also included and you should study the tour itinerary in this brochure to determine what meals are included on your chosen tour. Meals not mentioned are not included and all beverages are at your own expense throughout the tour.

## What do I do about any dietary requirements?

Please inform us at the time of booking, we will pass your information on to the hotel, property or restaurant who will do their best to accommodate your requirements.

## How many passengers will be in the Albion Journeys tour group?

Typically, between 10 and 30.

## What is the role of the Tour Director?

Our friendly Tour Director will meet you for a welcome dinner at the beginning of each tour. Their role is to facilitate the smooth organization of all operational aspects of the tour. If you have any queries or experience any issues during the tour, they are there to assist you.

## Will the excursions change?

Please note that we plan our tours far in advance and the order and availability of excursions may be subject to change. In the event of a property not being available to visit, we will substitute with a similar visit, and you will be informed of the full details.

## How much walking will there be on these tours?

As much or as little as you like. Any included guided tours will operate at a fairly relaxed pace, as with many historic houses and gardens, you may experience some uneven flooring and steps along the way. Of course, you will always have the option to explore any venue by yourself at your own pace. Any specific tour

in this brochure with more than an average amount of walking will be clearly noted in the itinerary. If you have any specific concerns, please contact us.

## What are the arrangements for luggage?

The standard luggage allowance is one item of hand luggage and one suitcase per person restricted to a maximum weight of 20kgs (44 pounds). We do provide porterage at each of the hotels used on our tours, however, as with all things of a personal nature, it is your responsibility to ensure your suitcase is loaded onto the vehicles we use throughout the tour.

## What clothing should I bring?

Comfortable leisurewear is recommended for the daytime. In the evening many participants prefer to wear smarter dress for dining. Whilst gentlemen may choose to wear a jacket in the restaurant in the evening, at most hotels this is not obligatory, we will of course inform you if any hotel does have a dress code. It is advisable to bring layered clothing and a light waterproof jacket. We recommend sturdy footwear when visiting gardens as the ground may be soft underfoot. Many historic properties request ladies do not wear high heels which may damage flooring.

## Can you arrange my flights to the UK?

Albion Journeys do not arrange your air travel for our tours; this is your responsibility and gives you the flexibility to decide on your own routing.

## What should I budget for tipping?

While it is not compulsory, it is customary to tip the coach driver and Tour Director as well as offering a small gratuity to the transfer drivers to acknowledge the services they have provided. As a guideline we suggest a rate of £5 per day for your driver, £10 per day for your Tour Director and a couple of pounds for your transfer driver. Gratuities for hotel staff and the tour guides you may meet at properties on your day trips are covered by Albion Journeys.

For more information, please telephone the Tours Program at the National Trust at **(888) 484-8785** or **(202) 588-6300**

- web: **www.nationaltrusttours.com**
- email: **info@nationaltrusttours.com**

*All tours offered subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Errors and omissions excepted.*



Kensington Gardens



Bodnant Garden



Ickworth House



Sissinghurst Castle Garden



Costumed Interpreters at Hardwick Hall

## Terms & Conditions

It is important that you read the following booking conditions. These Booking Conditions form the basis of your contract with us. Please read these sections carefully as they apply to all bookings you make with us unless otherwise specified. All vacations are operated by Just Go Holidays Ltd trading as Albion Journeys.

**1. VACATION PAYMENT:** When you make a booking you must pay a deposit for every person named on the booking. Deposits per person and the balance due date (the period before the departure date on which your full balance normally becomes due) are:

| Deposit | Balance due date         |
|---------|--------------------------|
| \$750   | 90 days before departure |

If you cannot make a payment by card at the time of booking, please speak to one of our Reservations staff to discuss other options. You can make payments against your balance anytime between making the booking and the balance due date. If the balance is not paid on time we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you and apply cancellation charges as set out in clause 3. For bookings made after the balance due date, the full amount is due at the time of booking.

Please note if you booked a vacation with a booking date in 2019 or 2020, your contract is with Albion Journeys Llc. All bookings have now been taken over by Just Go Holidays Ltd trading as Albion Journeys and your booking has moved over to be contracted with Just Go Holidays Ltd. Any balances that are due will be paid to Just Go Holidays Ltd trading as Albion Journeys.

**2. OUR AGREEMENT:** A contract is formed when we issue to you the booking confirmation document and terms and conditions. It is important you read through these and any other documents you receive and advise us of any inaccuracy within 14 days of the document date. By accepting the booking is correct you agree to our terms and conditions.

We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracy in any document within 14 days of our sending it out. This contract and all matters arising out of it will be governed by English law and will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

**3. VACATION CANCELLATION BY YOU:** If you want to cancel your booking after we have confirmed it with you either verbally, over the telephone or by email, you can do so over the phone or in writing. The following cancellation charges will apply:

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 365 to 182 days prior to departure | \$500                                      |
| 181 to 91 days prior to departure  | \$750                                      |
| 90 days or less before departure   | 100% of the program cost is non-refundable |

If any member of your party is prevented from traveling, that person may transfer their place to someone else (introduced by you) providing we are notified no less than two weeks before departure.

Full terms and conditions will be provided with your booking confirmation. They are also available on request or via our website: [albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions](http://albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions).

**ALBION**  
Journeys Inspired By Heritage