

## **The Great Britain Round Trip with an added touch of English Heritage.**

### **Day 1 Arrival London.**

Transfer to hotel in London

### **Day 2-3 Explore London**

Day trip suggestion: Art Deco & Greenwich Tour

#### **Eltham Palace & Gardens**

Court Yard

Eltham

London SE9 5QE

Built for millionaires, this unique house combines England's finest Art Deco home with the remains of a medieval royal palace. Eltham reflects the glamour and allure of the 1930s. Set in 19 acres of beautiful moated gardens, the interiors are a showpiece for French-influenced Art Deco and ultra smart ocean liner style. Group guided tours of house and gardens available.

Continue to Greenwich and perhaps enjoy a Thames Cruise back to central London.

### **Day 4: London-Bristol**

En-route stop for a visit to must-see:

#### **Stonehenge**

Nr Amesbury

Wiltshire SP4 7DE

Visit Britain's most remarkable and intriguing prehistoric monument and a World Heritage Site. As old as the great temples and pyramids of Egypt, Stonehenge exerts a mysterious fascination. Why was it built and how? Why is the monument orientated on the rising and setting sun? Visitors can walk the whole circumference of the stones to discover the many mysteries of this incredible site.

Explore the Roman Baths in Bath before driving to Bristol for the night.

### **Day 5: Bristol-Stratford-upon-Avon-Chester:**

After a morning stop in Stratford-upon-Avon, continue to England's largest castle ruins:

#### **Kenilworth Castle**

Kenilworth

Warwickshire CV8 1NE

Visit the site where Elizabeth I was entertained by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester for 19 days in 1575. The newly recreated Elizabethan Garden is a testament to their love story and the exhibition in the Gatehouse gives a detailed view of their time together.

Continue north – making a stop at:

#### **Boscobel House and the Royal Oak**

Brewood

Bishops Wood

Shropshire ST19 9AR

This beautiful timber-framed hunting lodge saved the future King Charles II after defeat at the Battle of Worcester. From 2010 new interpretation tells how he hid in the 'Royal Oak' and new graphic panels explore Boscobel's more modest past as a farm, complete with dairy and smithy.

Continue towards Chester (perhaps with a detour into North Wales).

### **Day 6: Chester – Glasgow**

After a morning tour of Chester, drive north through the Lake District. Make stops at Wordsworth's Grasmere and Lake Windemere.

Before crossing the border to Scotland – make a visit to:

#### **Carlisle Castle**

Carlisle

Cumbria CA3 8UR

Discover a thrilling and bloody past and enjoy panoramic views over the city and hills of the Lake District and Southern Scotland. Uncover an exciting history through lively exhibitions, which tell of William Rufus, Mary Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie. Carlisle offers an extensive range of guided tours for pre-booked groups including more light-hearted Horrid History Tours.

### **Day 7-8: In Scotland**

#### **Day 9: Edinburgh- York**

Drive back into England and start your journey towards York. Several stops can be suggested en-route:

Just off the A696:

#### **Belsay Hall, Castle and Gardens**

Belsay

Near Ponteland

Northumberland NE20 0DX

Beautiful neo-classical hall, built from its own quarries with a spectacular garden deservedly listed Grade I in the Register of Gardens. The magnificent 30 acres of grounds contain the ruins of a 14th-century castle.

Or drive along the A68 to Hadrian's Wall:

#### **Chesters Roman Fort**

Chollerford

Humshaugh

Hexham

Northumberland NE46 4EU

Picturesquely sited and best-preserved Roman cavalry fort in Britain with a military bath house. The museum holds displays of carved stones, altars and sculptures from all along the wall. FREE Introductory Talk available for pre-booked groups.

Once in Yorkshire – an afternoon stop should be made at:

#### **Rievaulx Abbey**

Helmsley

North Yorkshire YO62 5LB

Once the most important Cistercian Abbey in Britain and the home of the greatest spiritual writer of the Medieval Ages, St Aelred. Imagine the calm and tranquillity of monastic life 800 years ago. In addition to their spiritual life, the Cistercian monks who lived here were engaged in a variety of commercial activities, which you can learn about in our award-winning exhibition.

In York – a great way to introduce this wonderful city is by visiting:

#### **Clifford's Tower**

Tower Street

York

North Yorkshire YO1 1SA

Visit this proud symbol of the might of our medieval kings – standing high on its mound, the 11th-century tower offers one of the best panoramic views of the city – a great way to get your bearings!

**Day 10: York – Cambridge:**

Before leaving Yorkshire make a stop to the Victorian treasure trove that is:

**Brodsworth Hall and Gardens**

Brodsworth

Doncaster

South Yorkshire DN5 7XJ

The hall has been preserved with the patina of wear showing how a wealthy family and their servant really lived. Enjoy 15 acres of wonderful plant-rich woodland and garden, gradually being restored to their Victorian glory, including a collection of over 100 varieties of roses, an Alpine Garden, a Fern Dell and many varieties of hollies.

Alternatively – organise a refreshment stop at:

**Bolsover Castle**

Castle Street

Bolsover

Derbyshire S44 6PR

Situated just of Junction 29A on the M1 - Bolsover Castle is a unique survival of a Stuart 'prodigy house' designed solely for pleasure and extravagant display, a fashionable retreat into an imaginary golden age of chivalry. Set on a hilltop overlooking the Vale of Scarsdale, this 17<sup>th</sup>-century fantasy castle offers panoramic views. Visit the Little Castle with its erotic wall paintings and see the Venus garden with its beautiful statuary and fountain.

Drive through the beautiful Rutland before heading into Cambridgeshire – pay a visit to:

**Kirby Hall**

Deene

Nr Corby

Northamptonshire NN17 5EN

An outstanding Elizabethan mansion, built in the hope of receiving Elizabeth I on her annual 'progresses', with unusually strict symmetry and amazing Renaissance detail. Find out why it is the most dramatic "shell" today. The beautiful formal gardens gained a reputation in the 17th century as being the finest in all England.

Spend the night in Cambridge.

**Day 11: Cambridge - London**

After a morning walk start your journey towards London. Just south of Cambridge – visit extraordinary:

**Audley End House & Gardens**

Audley End

Saffron Walden

Essex CB11 4JF

Experience the sumptuous splendour enjoyed by royalty and aristocracy in one of England's grandest stately homes. Rebuilt on a palatial scale in the 1600s it reflects the personalities of many generations of noble residents. Visit the service wing and – from May 2010 – the grand stable block, where you can meet the residents. Set in 'Capability' Brown landscaped grounds, colourful parterre garden and Victorian kitchen garden.

Continue towards London for departure or another night in the capital.