

## In the footsteps of the Royals:

### Day 1:

Arrival to hotel in Canterbury. Afternoon visit to Canterbury Cathedral and:

#### **St Augustine's Abbey (English Heritage)**

Canterbury  
Kent CT1 1TF

Tel: 01227 767345

Part of the Canterbury World Heritage site, and one of the most important historic religious centres in the country. Founded in 598 by St Augustine, today you can marvel at the fascinating artefacts that have been uncovered on site, which are now on display in the museum. See the burial place of the Kentish Kings and gain an insight into the abbey's history with the interactive audio tour.

### Day 2:

All day tour exploring the Kentish coast:

#### **Walmer Castle & Gardens (English Heritage)**

Kingsdown Road  
Deal

Kent CT14 7LJ

Tel: 01304 364288

This Tudor castle has been transformed over the years into an elegant home and residence of the Lord Wardens of the Cinque Ports. See the rooms of the Duke of Wellington who lived and died here. HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was Lord Warden for 24 years and enjoyed many summers here. See the rooms in which she entertained and stroll through the extensive gardens. Themed guided tours available for groups.

*Why not enjoy morning tea in the charming tea room before continuing?*

#### **Dover Castle (English Heritage)**

Dover  
Kent CT16 1HU

Tel: 01304 211067

Dominating the skyline on the famous White Cliffs, Dover Castle and the labyrinth of tunnels beneath it guarantee an unforgettable day out for groups of all ages. The castle stands proudly in 100 acres of ground that is steeped in 2,000 years of history, from the Iron Age to the WWII. Groups will have no problem immersing themselves in the living history of Dover Castle. The unforgettable inclusive tour of the Secret Wartime Tunnels takes visitors back to those remarkable days when wartime personnel were stationed there during World War II. Groups follow an injured pilot through the underground hospital while doctors struggle for his life. It was from Dover Castle in 1940, that Vice Admiral Ramsay

and Sir Winston Churchill masterminded the evacuation of 388,000 troops from the horrors of Dunkirk in 'Operation Dynamo'. The stunning audio-visual effects, film clips from the time, sound and even smell create a remarkable atmosphere of Britain at war.

### **Day 3:**

Drive towards Southampton for ferry crossing to hotel on the Isle of Wight.

En route visit to:

#### **1066 Battle of Hastings Abbey and Battlefield (English Heritage)**

Battle

East Sussex TN33 0AD

Tel: 01424 773792

One date in English history everyone knows is 14 October 1066 – when the conquering Normans led by William the Conqueror vanquished King Harold and the Anglo-Saxons at the Battle of Hastings on 14 October. The two armies did not fight in Hastings - the battlefield is actually located south of the town of Battle. Discover the facts of the Norman Conquest in the very place it happened. Our graphic panels place you at the heart of the action - you'll stand at the spot where King Harold met his fate.

Then continue along the Sussex coast with lunch stop in Brighton and visit to the Royal Pavilion (not English Heritage).

Continue to Southampton for ferry crossing. Transfer to Isle of Wight hotel for dinner and overnight.

### **Day 4:**

Full day excursion around Isle of Wight:

#### **Carisbrooke Castle (English Heritage)**

Newport

Isle of Wight PO30 1XY

Tel: 01983 522107

Explore the castle where Charles I was imprisoned before his execution in 1649. Enter the chamber where he was held and imagine his futile attempt to escape as he became stuck in a window. Meet the famous Carisbrooke donkeys as they happily demonstrate how donkeys turned the waterwheel in the well house since the 17th century.

Continue to the highlight of the tour:

#### **Osborne House and the Swiss Cottage (English Heritage)**

East Cowes

Isle of Wight PO32 6JY

Tel: 01983 200022

At the top of the list of places to see on the Isle of Wight must be Queen Victoria's beloved seaside retreat, Osborne House. Osborne offers an intimate glimpse into the private family life of Britain's longest

reigning monarch and has many features and facilities that will keep visiting groups enthralled.

Inside, the Royal Apartments, full of treasured mementos, have been preserved almost unaltered since Victoria died here in 1901. Outside, in the extensive grounds the Contemporary Heritage Garden is becoming well established within the walls of Queen Victoria's fruit and flower kitchen garden. Two historic glass houses have been restored and stocked much as they were in Victorian times with exotic plants from around the world. The charming Swiss Cottage Garden, where rare 19<sup>th</sup> century vegetable varieties are grown for their seeds, a colourful wild flower meadow and restored parterre terraces are also must-sees.

*Why not enjoy a delicious lunch in the Terrace Restaurant – situated in the very rooms Queen Victoria used as a chapel and overlooking the beautiful parterre garden. It is the perfect ending to a truly Royal day out!*

#### **Day 5:**

Return home via Old Sarum and Stonehenge:

#### **Old Sarum (English Heritage)**

Castle Road

Salisbury

Wiltshire SP1 3SD

Tel: 01722 335398

The site of the original city of Salisbury founded in the Iron Age and occupied until the 16th century. Romans, Saxons and Normans have all left their mark. Part of the Domesday Book was written here and on its completion it was to Sarum that King William I summoned all the landholders in England to swear their oath of allegiance.

#### **Stonehenge (English Heritage)**

Nr Amesbury

Wiltshire SP4 7DE

Tel: 01980 624715 (Information Line)

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.