



4 Days / 3 Nights

# 4 DAYS HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

coach tours



## Day 1 LONDON - SALISBURY - STONEHENGE - BATH

Depart London for Salisbury. Salisbury was founded in 1220, when the old hill-top settlement of Old Sarum was abandoned, being too arid and windswept, in favour of a new site among the lush water meadows where the rivers Avon, Nadder and Bourne meet. Creamy white limestone was floated down the Nadder from Chilmark, 12 miles west of Salisbury, for the construction of a new cathedral which was built mostly in the early 13th century, over the remarkably short space of 38 years. Its magnificent landmark spire – the tallest in England – was an inspired afterthought added in 1280-1310. Visit to the cathedral before departing for Stonehenge. Built in several stages from about 3000 BC, Stonehenge is Europe's most famous prehistoric monument. We can only guess at the rituals that took place here, but the alignment of the stones leaves little doubt that the circle is connected with the sun and the passing of the seasons, and that its builders possessed a sophisticated understanding of both arithmetic and astronomy. Onwards journey to Bath. Dinner and overnight in Bath.

## Day 2 BATH – COTSWOLDS – STRATFORD UPON AVON

In the morning you will join a walking tour through Britain's most picturesque town. Bath owes its magnificent Georgian townscape to the bubbling pool of water at the heart of the Roman Baths. The Romans transformed Bath into England's first spa resort and it regained fame as a spa town in the 18th century. After the tour incl. a visit to the Roman Bath Museum you will proceed through the Cotswolds to Stratford upon Avon. The Cotswolds are full of delightful houses built from local limestone, on the profits of the medieval wool trade. After a scenic drive arrival in Stratford upon Avon. Dinner and overnight in Stratford.

## Day 3 STRATFORD – WARWICK CASTLE – CAMBRIDGE

Situated on the west bank of the River Avon, in the heart of the Midlands, is one of the most famous towns in England. Stratford-upon-Avon dates back

to at least Roman times but its appearance today is that of a small Tudor market town, with mellow, half-timbered architecture and tranquil walks beside the tree-fringed Avon. This image belies its popularity as the most visited tourist attraction outside London, with eager hordes flocking to see buildings connected to William Shakespeare or his descendants. We will visit Shakespeare's Birthplace, which was almost entirely reconstructed in the 19th century, but in the style of the Tudor original. You will also see Anne Hathaway's Cottage. Before her marriage to William Shakespeare she lived at Shottery, 1 mile west of Stratford. Despite fire damage in 1969, the cottage is still impressive, with some original 16th century furniture. Onwards journey to Warwick Castle. Warwick's magnificent castle is a splendid medieval fortress which is also one of the country's finest stately homes. The original Norman castle was rebuilt in the 14th century, when huge outer walls and towers were added, mainly to display the power of the great feudal magnates, the Beauchamps and the Nevilles, the Earls of Warwick. Departure for Cambridge. Dinner and overnight in Cambridge.

## Day 4 CAMBRIDGE – WINDSOR – DEPARTURE

Cambridge has been an important town since Roman times as it is sited at the first navigable point on the River Cam. In the 11th century religious orders began to be established in the town and when, in 1209, a group of religious scholars broke away from Oxford University after academic and religious disputes they came here. Student life dominates the city but it is also a thriving market centre serving a rich agricultural region. A visit to one of Cambridge's famous colleges is included during your walking tour. In the afternoon onwards journey to Windsor. Before we will drop you off at Heathrow Airport you will see the oldest continuously inhabited royal residence in Britain. Windsor Castle, originally made of wood, was built by William the Conqueror in 1070 to guard the western approaches to London. Drop off at Heathrow airport around 17.30 hrs.

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