

COTSWOLDS & LAKE DISTRICT PRIVATE TOUR 2027

A Private Chauffeur-Driven Tour

An 8-day custom tour of England. Transportation, breakfast and nightly accommodations in the hotels of Britain are included.

DAY 1 ARRIVE LONDON

Arrive at London Heathrow and transfer on your own to your hotel. Your accommodation is The Rubens at the Palace, a majestic luxury hotel that gives you the best of both worlds. It recalls the magnificence and splendor of a bygone age while offering the latest in modern comforts and technology, and it is just steps from Buckingham Palace. **Overnight at The Rubens at the Palace, London.**

DAY 2 LONDON (ON OWN)

Today is spent on your own, and you have the choice of visiting some of the most famous landmarks of the city using the easiest form of transport around London, the hop-on hop-off bus. See Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the Changing of the Guard (check the schedule, as it does not take place daily), the London Eye, the Tower of London, or somewhere else on your wish list. **Overnight at The Rubens at the Palace, London.**

DAY 3 LONDON – OXFORD – BLENHEIM – STRATFORD

After breakfast, meet your Driver Guide. Today's first destination is Oxford, where you can visit the world-famous university. Most of the colleges and university buildings are in the center of Oxford, within easy walking distance of each other. Visit the Bodleian Library, which has its own shop, and the nearby Radcliffe Camera, which is not open to the public but is well worth a view from the outside. Nearby, on Broad Street, is the Sheldonian Theatre, a venue for official university functions and a variety of concerts. The Ashmolean Museum on Beaumont Street is Britain's oldest public museum, and if you climb the tower of Carfax you are treated to a view over the city. You may wish to stroll in the Oxford Botanic Garden or visit one of the many other Oxford museums. Leaving Oxford, travel a short distance to St. Martin's Church in Bladon, near Woodstock, best known for the grave of Sir Winston Churchill in its churchyard. Continue to Blenheim Palace, home of the Dukes of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Set in 2,100 acres of parkland landscaped by "Capability" Brown, the magnificent palace is surrounded by sweeping lawns, award-winning formal gardens and the Great Lake. We then continue to Stratford-upon-Avon, small in size but large in history and interest, famous for its association with William Shakespeare. You may wish to visit some of the historic sites or simply stroll along the banks of the Avon. **Overnight at the Arden Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon.**

DAY 4

STRATFORD –
WINDERMERE (LAKE
DISTRICT)

After a hearty breakfast you depart the Cotswolds for the Lake District. On reaching Windermere, you can enjoy Lakeland scenery at its best, depending on your arrival time. Travel through Troutbeck village, with stunning views of the mountain High Street and its Roman road, to reach Kirkstone Pass, the highest road pass in the Lake District. Pass Ullswater, often acclaimed as England's most beautiful lake, and follow its shoreline with stops for photos before reaching Aira Force waterfall, where you can take half an hour to walk through the woodland and complete a circuit below and above the impressive falls. The landscape changes to sweeping moorland as we drive north and then east towards Keswick, with far-reaching views of the northern Lake District and the mighty Skiddaw. We stop at the ancient Castlerigg Stone Circle, with a 360-degree panorama of the surrounding fells. Alternatively, you may wish to explore places associated with Beatrix Potter and William Wordsworth: Rydal Mount, Wordsworth's home from 1813 until his death in 1850; Dove Cottage, his home from 1799 to 1808, now a museum; and St. Oswald's Church, where Wordsworth and his family are buried. Your overnight accommodation is Storrs Hall, a Grade II listed Georgian mansion in an idyllic setting with stunning views of Lake Windermere, whose National Trust-owned folly, the "Temple," has long been a local landmark. **Overnight at Storrs Hall, Windermere.**

DAY 5

LAKE DISTRICT

This morning we continue our tour of the Lake District. On the way to Coniston Water we pass through Ambleside, Yew Tree Farm and Skelwith Bridge. At Coniston you may wish to board the Steam Yacht Gondola, a graceful Victorian steam yacht that glides across the water on a 45-minute journey, giving you a chance to appreciate the lake and the surrounding Coniston Fells. Leaving Coniston, we drive through the renowned beauty spot of Tarn Hows, where we stop for a photo and a chance to stretch our legs. Returning towards Windermere, we stop at Hawkshead, a fascinating medieval village where Wordsworth attended school, and at Beatrix Potter's Hill Top farm. Take the 20-minute Windermere ferry to complete this enjoyable day, with an optional cream tea at Lindeth Howe Hotel, former home of Beatrix Potter's mother. **Overnight at Storrs Hall, Windermere.**

DAY 6

WINDERMERE – NORTH
WALES – COTSWOLDS

We depart and travel south, continuing into North Wales, where you can visit Conwy Castle, a gritty, dark-stoned fortress with an authentic medieval atmosphere. It was built by Edward I between 1283 and 1289 as one of the key fortresses in his "iron ring" of castles to contain the Welsh, and the views from the battlements are breathtaking. Not far away, on Conwy Quay, you will find the Smallest House in Great Britain, measuring just over 3 meters by 1.8 meters. We then continue through the Cotswolds. **Overnight at the Lygon Arms Hotel, Broadway.**

DAY 7

COTSWOLDS – WARWICK –
WINDSOR

Warwick Castle sits on a bend in the River Avon. It was founded by William the Conqueror in 1068 and used as a fortification until the early 17th century, when Sir Fulke Greville converted it into a country house. We then continue to Windsor. Windsor is a town on the River Thames in southeast England, just west of London, and is home to Windsor Castle, a residence of the British royal family. Built by William the Conqueror in the 11th century on the site of an earlier fortification, the castle was extensively remodeled by later monarchs. Public tours take in the State Apartments, which contain opulent furnishings and paintings from the royal art collection, and St. George's Chapel, the burial place of kings and queens. Visit the magnificent State Apartments, containing many great works of art, and the irresistible Queen Mary's Dolls' House, exquisitely perfect down to the tiniest detail. **Overnight at the Sir Christopher Wren Hotel, Windsor.**

DAY 8

TRANSFER TO HEATHROW

Transfer on your own by taxi to nearby London Heathrow Airport.

YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE TOUR INCLUDES

DRIVER GUIDE	Professional British Driver Guide with deluxe vehicle from Day 3 (depart London) until the end of Day 7 in Windsor
ACCOMMODATIONS	7 nights as follows, or similar: London – The Rubens at the Palace – 2 nights, 4-star rubenshotel.com Stratford-upon-Avon – Arden Hotel – 1 night, 4-star Windermere – Storrs Hall – 2 nights, 4-star storrshall.com Broadway – Lygon Arms – 1 night, 4-star lygonarmshotel.co.uk Windsor – Sir Christopher Wren Hotel – 1 night, 4-star sirchristopherwren.co.uk
MEALS	Breakfast daily
ALSO INCLUDED	- Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary - All Driver's expenses (except tip to the driver) - Hotel taxes
NOT INCLUDED	- Tip to your Driver Guide - Inside admissions (all are paid directly to each venue to allow for flexibility) - Any items of a personal nature - Dinners and suggested optional sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary

This is a suggested itinerary and can be customized to your interests. Dates, hotels and pricing are provided on request.