

SOUTHERN ENGLAND TOUR 2027

A Private Tour: Chauffeur-Driven or Self-Drive

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

DAY 1 ARRIVE LONDON

Arrive at London Heathrow and transfer 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

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 – BROADWAY

After breakfast, collect your vehicle or 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. We then continue to the Cotswolds. **Overnight at the Lygon Arms Hotel, Broadway.**

DAY 4
THE COTSWOLDS

Today you travel into the Cotswolds to tour the towns and villages set in some of the most beautiful English countryside, against the dramatic backdrop of the Cotswold Hills. Your Driver Guide will choose from the following highlights, depending on time. Sudeley Castle & Gardens, near Winchcombe, is the only private castle in England to have a queen buried within its grounds, Katherine Parr, the last of Henry VIII's six wives. With royal connections stretching back 1,000 years, it is today a much-loved family home and popular visitor attraction, surrounded by award-winning gardens. Snowhill is a secluded village where ancient cottages and a 19th-century church cluster around a small green, renowned for its manor house, now administered by the National Trust. Broadway Tower, originally built as a folly on an old beacon site, overlooks the picturesque village of Broadway, with magnificent views across 13 counties. Chipping Campden is a wonderful example of an historic Cotswold wool-market town, relatively unspoiled by the passing of time, with a market hall dating from 1627. Welford-on-Avon, famous for its tall maypole, is a charming village of thatched cottages on the banks of the River Avon. Burford, whose steep main street leads down to a medieval bridge over the River Windrush, is full of lovely old stone houses, with 17th- and 18th-century frontages along the High Street and earlier buildings hidden behind, relics of the town's great days as a major wool market in medieval England.

Overnight at the Lygon Arms Hotel, Broadway.

DAY 5
COTSWOLDS – BATH

We continue through the English countryside to Bath. The spa town of Bath is regarded as the best-preserved Georgian city in Britain, built among the trees and hillsides of the Avon Valley. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bath is home to endless rows and terraces of grand Georgian architecture, such as the Royal Crescent overlooking open garden squares. You enjoy a panoramic tour of the city and see the Royal Crescent, the Assembly Rooms and the famous Pulteney Bridge. The impressive Abbey, rebuilt beginning in 1499, lies at the heart of the city's cobbled streets and fashionable shops and arcades, while Bath's crowning glory is the must-see, marvelously preserved Roman Baths and Pump Room, the best-preserved Roman spa in northern Europe.

Overnight at the Francis Hotel, Bath.

DAY 6
BATH – STONEHENGE –
SALISBURY – WINDSOR

We depart Bath and head to Stonehenge. Some 5,000 years ago, these huge stones, weighing up to 25 tons, were raised on the lonely, windy expanse of Salisbury Plain. You will have time to learn more about this iconic monument steeped in mystery and legend (advance ticket booking recommended). Then it is on to Salisbury, home of one of Britain's finest medieval cathedrals. In the Chapter House you can see one of the four surviving copies of the Magna Carta, the famous agreement made between King John and his barons in 1215. We then continue to Windsor. **Overnight at the Sir Christopher Wren Hotel, Windsor.**

DAY 7
WINDSOR AND AREA

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. Enjoy a morning at leisure exploring all that Windsor has to offer. Driving through Runnymede, you will learn about King John and the sealing of the Magna Carta. The route to Hampton Court Palace is through built-up areas, but there are stories to tell about the places we pass. At Hampton Court Palace you have about 2.5 hours for your independent visit. On the way back to Windsor, we drive through Bushy Park, where you may see herds of deer roaming. **Overnight at the Sir Christopher Wren Hotel, Windsor.**

DAY 8
TRANSFER TO HEATHROW

Transfer to London Heathrow Airport (Driver Guide transfer with the chauffeur option; otherwise return your vehicle at Heathrow).

YOUR DISTINGUISHED PRIVATE TOUR INCLUDES

CHAUFFEUR OPTION	- Professional British Driver Guide with deluxe vehicle from Day 3 (depart London) until the end of Day 7 in Windsor - Airport transfers to and from London Heathrow
SELF-DRIVE OPTION	Automatic economy car from Day 3 (London) until Day 8 (Heathrow), with unlimited mileage and Super CDW (Collision Damage Waiver) insurance with zero deductible
ACCOMMODATIONS	7 nights as follows, or similar: London – The Rubens at the Palace – 2 nights, 4-star rubenshotel.com Broadway – Lygon Arms – 2 nights, 4-star lygonarmshotel.co.uk Bath – Francis Hotel – 1 night, 4-star francishotel.com Windsor – Sir Christopher Wren Hotel – 2 nights, 4-star sirchristopherwren.co.uk
MEALS	Breakfast daily
ALSO INCLUDED (CHAUFFEUR OPTION)	- Fully escorted sightseeing as per itinerary - All Driver's expenses (except tip to the driver) - Hotel taxes
NOT INCLUDED	- Tip to your Driver Guide (chauffeur option) - Any items of a personal nature - Dinners and suggested optional sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary - Admissions, which are paid directly to each venue

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