



Tour Information



Country Houses Fit for a King





The tour starts and finishes at **Barnsdale Lodge, Rutland Water.**

Barnsdale Lodge Hotel

The Avenue

Exton

Oakham

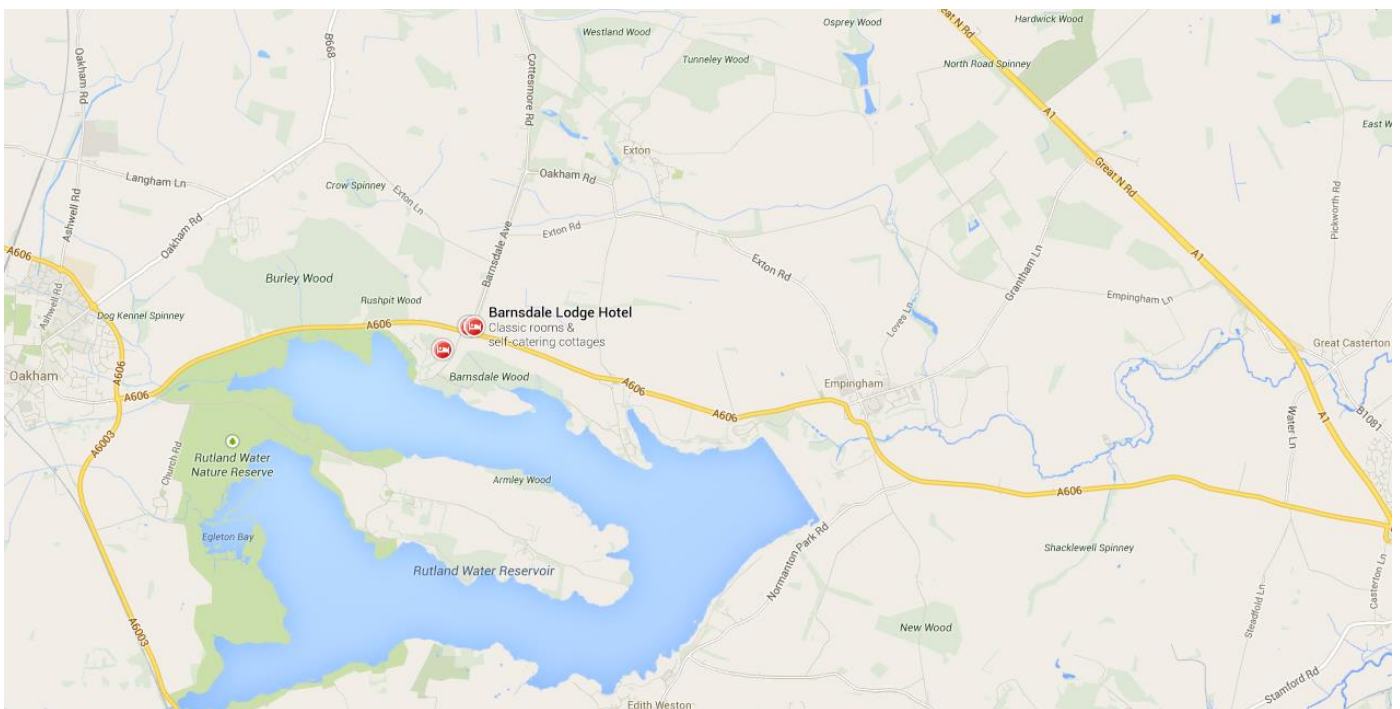
Rutland

LE15 8AH

Tel: 01572 724678

E-mail: enquiries@barnsdalelodge.co.uk

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



Transport

Travelling by car: From Oakham, take the A606 towards Stamford and Barnsdale Lodge is approximately 3 miles on the left-hand side. From London, take the A606 exit towards Oakham for approximately 5 miles and Barnsdale Lodge is on the right-hand side after the village of Whitwell.

Travelling by train: Our nearest mainline station is Peterborough. The Hotel can arrange transport from Peterborough Station to Barnsdale Lodge, prices start from £40.00 for up to 4 people.



Accommodation

Barnsdale Lodge Hotel

Converted from an historic farmhouse that has been in the owner's family since 1760, the three-star Barnsdale Lodge offers comfortable accommodation, excellent food and a warm, friendly welcome. All bedrooms are en-suite and individually furnished with TV, telephone, tea/coffee making facilities, hairdryer and have views of the surrounding countryside or the picturesque courtyard. Facilities at the hotel include a restaurant where dinner will be served each evening. Complimentary car parking is available at the hotel. Please note that the hotel has no lift.

For more information, additional details can be found on the website

<http://www.barnsdalelodge.co.uk/default.asp>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 14.00. The tour manager will meet you for cream tea in the Conservatory at 15.30.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.00 – 17.30 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11:00am.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Dining

On the first night of your stay, a three-course dinner with wine is provided. A private dinner with wine will be held on the second night at Holdenby House with a talk given by David Starkey. On the third evening of the tour, dinner is provided at the hotel in the Conservatory. Breakfast in the Conservatory is included daily and a light lunch at Burghley House is also included in the price.



Places Visited

Deene Park

Deene Park is a wonderful eclectic mix of architectural styles, having evolved through the centuries. Before the Norman Conquest and for 150 years afterwards the Manor of Deene belonged to the Abbey of Westminster and was used occasionally by the Abbot. In about 1215 it was let for the first time to Sir Ivo de Deene for the annual rent of £18 and an obligation to provide hospitality once a year for the Abbot and his household an agreement which continued unaltered for 750 years. Various families, including the Colets and the Lyttons leased the property until it was acquired in 1514 by Sir Robert Brudenell (1461-1531), later Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. It has descended through the male line to the Brudenells of today who continued to pay the rent of £18 until 1970, when the property was enfranchised from the Church Commissioners for eleven years' worth of rent – £198!.

<http://deenepark.com/about-deene-park/>

Holdenby House

Once the largest private house in England, built around two courtyards with 123 huge glass windows, and subsequently the palace of James 1 and prison of Charles 1. After the Civil War, the Palace was sold to a Parliamentarian, Adam Baynes, who reduced it to a single wing. Following the restoration in 1660, it reverted briefly to royal ownership. In 1709 it was bought by the Duke of Marlborough, since when it has descended the female line to the Lowther family. Holdenby sits on a hill overlooking 2000 acres of rolling countryside, its suite of elegant state rooms open out onto the beautiful Grade 1 listed gardens.

<https://www.holdenby.com/house>

Burghley House

Burghley, one of the largest and grandest houses of the first Elizabethan Age. Built and mostly designed by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I, between 1555 and 1587, the main part of the House has 35 major rooms on the ground and first floors. There are more than 80 lesser rooms and numerous halls, corridors, bathrooms and service areas. The lead roof extends to three quarters of an acre, restoration and rebuilding of which began in 1983 and took nearly ten years to complete. Visitor facilities include the Orangery restaurant, gift shop, gardens and beautiful walks around the historic parkland laid out by Capability Brown and still occupied by a herd of fallow deer.

<http://www.burghley.co.uk/>

Stamford

Stamford is widely regarded as one of the finest stone towns in England. The pretty facades of the town are favourites with film and television producers - Stamford was used as Meryton in the 2005 Pride & Prejudice film and has also appeared in Middlemarch, The Da Vinci Code and the Golden Bowl. Experience Stamford's quieter side by seeking out tranquillity on the banks of the River Welland which winds its way through Stamford enroute to The Wash.

Grimsthorpe Castle

The term 'castle' has been attached to the building at Grimsthorpe for around 800 years, even though today it is clear to visitors that the building is a large house. Grimsthorpe was enlarged in the 1540s to host a visit during a 'progression of magnificence' by King Henry VIII in 1541. Although there have been many structural changes to the house since then the footprint of the building is largely unchanged from this time.

<http://www.grimsthorpe.co.uk/>

Belton House

Sitting elegantly in formal gardens with views across pleasure grounds and an ancient deer-park, Belton is often cited as being the perfect example of an English country-house estate. Although built on a modest scale, it has a fine collection of porcelain and silver, a world-renowned library and architectural finesse that reflects the continued wealth and cultured tastes of its former owners, the Brownlow family.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/belton-house>

Your Guest Speaker

Your speaker at Holdenby House, **David Starkey** is one of the leading historians of his generation, a respected author and broadcaster. He specialised in Tudor history at Cambridge and lectured for 25 years at the London School of Economics. He has written numerous works on British history from the Magna Carta to present day. David is also an accomplished and in-demand public speaker. His current best-selling topic is 'Henry VIII and the First Brexit'.



Some of the books he has written are:

- The Six Wives: The Queens of Henry VIII (2003)
- Monarchy: From the Middle Ages to Modernity (2006)
- Magna Carta: The True Story Behind the Charter (2015)
- Henry: Model of a Tyrant (September 2016)

Your Guide

Your host, **Nicholas Merchant**, Former Chairman of the Art Fund West Yorkshire Fundraising Committee, is an antique expert who has worked for some of London's major auctions houses during his career.

Nicholas talk on the 1st night at hotel:

"Some country Houses of Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire".



Bibliography

- Grimsthorpe Castle; Guide Book Revised 2003
- Burghley House; Guide Book
- Burghley, The Life of a great House, by Victoria Leatham
- The Burghley Porcelains, Exhibition Catalogue
- European Ceramics from Burghley House, Gordon Lang
- Four Centuries of Decorative Arts from Burghley House by Oliver Impey
- Rockingham Castle; Guide Book by Basil Morgan and Peter Brears
- Cottesbrooke; Guide Book by J MacDonald Buchanan
- Kirby Hall Guide book
- Deene Park Guide Book

- England's Thousand Best Houses by Simon Jenkins
- Country Life Magazine, Extensive Archive of country house article

Practical Information






Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

Walking Content – This tour has been graded a 4 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobblestones etc)	

Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason, you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700)

Outside office hours, please telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

Travel Editions

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. IT IS MEANT AS A GUIDE ONLY
AND WE CANNOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR SUBSEQUENT CHANGES