



Tour Information



Country Houses of Cheshire





The tour starts and finishes at **Cottons Hotel and Spa, Knutsford**

Cottons Hotel and Spa
Manchester Road
Knutsford
WA16 0SU
Tel: 01565 724650333
E-mail: reception@cottonshotel.co.uk

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



Transport

Travelling by car: From Knutsford, take the A50 towards Tatton Park and Cottons Hotel and Spa is approximately 2 miles on the left-hand side.

Travelling by train: The nearest mainline station is Knutsford.



Accommodation

Cottons Hotel and Spa

This four-star hotel is located just a mile outside the town of Knutsford and is surrounded by countryside. Facilities include bar and restaurant, swimming pool, sauna, steam room, fully equipped gym and spa with extensive treatments available at an extra cost. Each of the comfortable bedrooms include bathrooms with power shower, TV, mini-fridge, tea/coffee making facilities and complimentary Wi-fi.

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

<https://www.cottonshotel.co.uk>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you for cream tea 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 dinner and 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 private three-course dinner with wine is provided. During the second and third evenings of the tour, dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on each day of your stay are included in the price. A light lunch is included on days 3 and 4 of your stay.



Places Visited

Erdigg

250-year story of a gentry family's relationship with its servants. A large collection of servants' portraits and carefully preserved rooms capture their lives in the early 20th century, while upstairs is a treasure trove of fine furniture, textiles and wallpapers. Outdoors lies a fully restored 18th-century garden, with trained fruit trees, exuberant annual herbaceous borders, avenues of pleached limes, formal hedges and a nationally important collection of ivies. The 486-hectare (1,200-acre) landscape pleasure park, designed by William Emes, is a haven of peace and natural beauty, perfect for riverside picnics. Discover the 'cup and saucer' cylindrical cascade or explore the earthworks of a Norman motte-and-bailey castle. A walk through the estate spans the earliest origins of Wrexham to the technology of an 18th-century designed landscape. All around, tenant farmers continue the work of generations.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/erddig>

Dunham Massey

Dunham Massey is a green oasis nestled between the urban sprawl of Manchester and rural tranquillity of Cheshire. The Georgian house is open to the public, and the park and garden are the ideal place to enjoy the ever-changing spring landscape. A ramble around the park will reveal a range of architectural oddities and views of the house complete with Dunham's resident herd of fallow deer; you may also glimpse other wildlife including owls and woodpeckers. Dunham is also home to one of Britain's finest winter gardens, with plenty of scent and colour to delight the senses throughout the year, unwind on one of the accessible circular walks.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey>

Tabley House

The Tabley House Collection is housed in the finest Palladian mansion in Cheshire. The estate was home to the Leicester family for 700 years, until the mid-1970's. Their legacy includes some of the finest art, furniture and books that money could buy, as well as a fascinating family history. The state rooms, Chapel and tea rooms, have also been used for several film and TV productions, most recently the top BBC 2 drama 'Peaky Blinders'.

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

Tatton Park

For nearly 400 years the estate was the property of the Egerton family until it was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1958. This is one of the most complete historic estates open to visitors. The early 19th-century Mansion sits amid a landscaped deer Park and is opulently decorated, providing a fine setting for the Egerton family's extensive collections. The theme of Victorian grandeur extends into the garden with its glasshouses, formal gardens, Italian and Japanese gardens. The former Head Gardener's Cottage has been transformed into a beautiful tea room, serving traditional afternoon tea as well as breakfast, light lunch and freshly baked cakes. Nestled in a unique location in the Victorian Walled gardens with views of the orchards, it's the perfect spot for a relaxing lunch.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tatton-park>

Capesthorne Hall

Capesthorne is the much loved home of the Bromley-Davenports, a site on which they and their ancestors, the Wards and Capesthorns, have lived since Domesday times. The present house, built between 1719 and 1732, replaced an earlier building which stood on the site of the column in the park. The estate is a tranquil haven of wildlife, parkland and formal gardens. Through the Milanese gates, opposite the chapel, alongside the estate's chain of lakes, merge colourful perennials with more unusual 18th century plants, maples and cherry trees.

<https://www.capesthorne.com/hall-and-gardens/>

Rode Hall

Rode Estate has been in the ownership of the Wilbraham family since 1669. It was originally bought from Randle Rode by his cousin Roger Wilbraham. The Wilbrahams were prominent landowners in Cheshire at that time and Rode was purchased for Randle, the younger son of Roger Wilbraham of Townsend, now part of Nantwich, for £2,400. Roger was descended from Sir Richard de Wilburgham, Sherriff of Cheshire in 1259. Rode passed through the male line until 1900 when Katherine, an only child, succeeded her father General Sir Richard. She had married George Baker in 1872 and, by Royal Licence, they assumed Wilbraham as their principal surname. In 1910 George Baker succeeded to the Baker baronetcy on the death of his elder brother.

<https://www.rodehall.co.uk>

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.



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 articles

During the tour, Nicholas will give 2 talks:

'The Country Houses of Cheshire' and *'The Rescue of a Doomed House – Erdigg'*




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 (cobbles 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

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

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

Travel Editions

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