



Tour Information



Country Houses of Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire





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

Barnsdale Lodge Hotel

The Avenue

Exton

Oakham

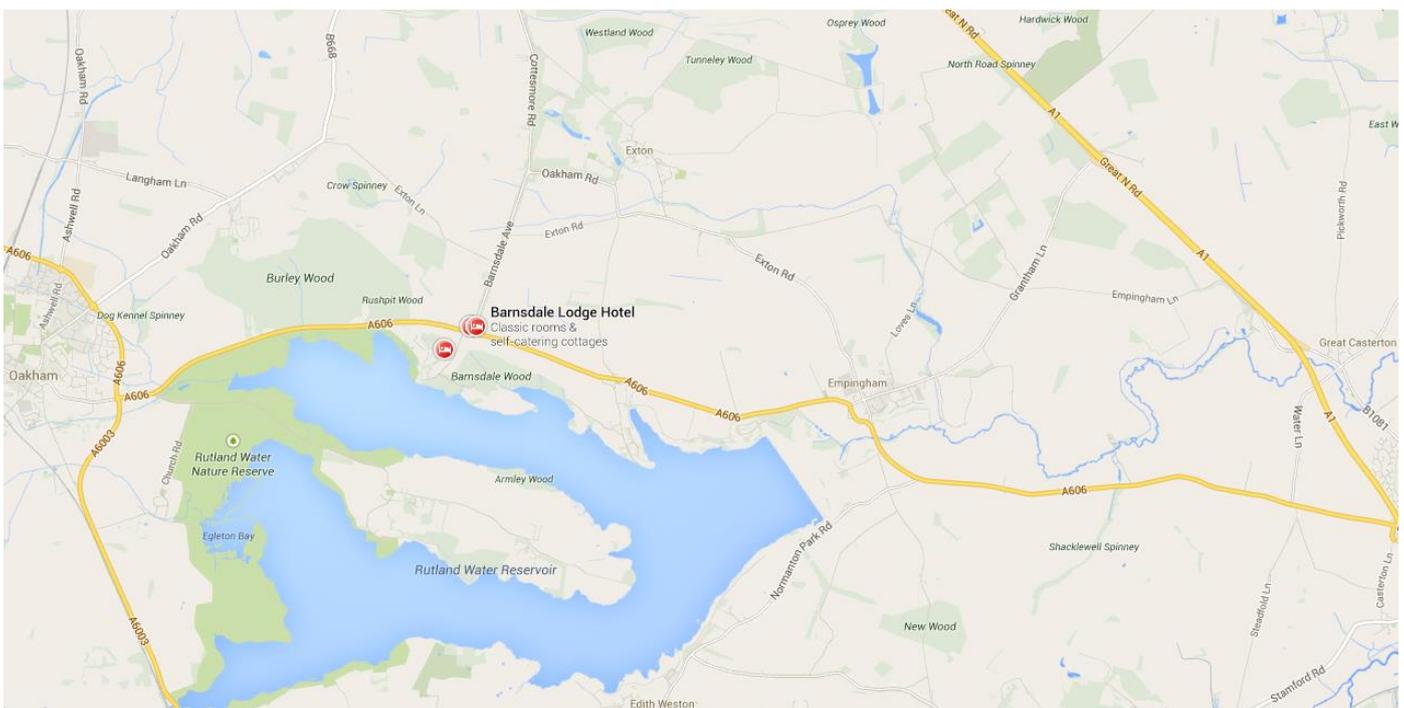
Rutland

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 station is Oakham, approximately 4 miles away.



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, 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 18.00 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 and a light lunch on each day of your stay are included in the price.



Places Visited

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/>

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/>

Rockingham Castle

Standing high on the hill overlooking the expanse of the Welland Valley, this castle has been in the same family for 450 years and contains fine Elizabethan portraits, contemporary paintings and in the garden, 'the elephant hedge'.

<http://www.rockinghamcastle.com/>

Deene Park

A most interesting house, occupied and developed by the Brudenell family since 1514, from a mediaeval manor around a courtyard into a Tudor and Georgian mansion. Visitors see many rooms of different periods, providing an impressive yet intimate ambience of the family home of many generations. The most flamboyant member of the family to date was the 7th Earl of Cardigan, who led the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava and of whom there are many historic relics and pictures on view.

<http://www.deenepark.com/>

Boughton House

Boughton House as it stands today is largely the work of Ralph Montagu, later 1st Duke of Montagu, who inherited what was then a simpler Tudor building, in 1683.

Montagu had been an English ambassador to France, and he was keen to bring French beauty and style to an English landscape. He expanded his home using contemporary French architectural influences and the resulting masterpiece is often referred to as 'The English Versailles'.

www.boughtonhouse.co.uk

Elton Hall

Elton Hall is nestled in the beautiful countryside on the Cambridgeshire/Northamptonshire border, lying eight miles southwest of Peterborough. It stands proud in unspoilt landscaped parkland where a house has stood since the 12th century.

The house has been the home of the Proby family since 1660, although previous generations held land at Elton from the time of Elizabeth I. Elton Hall is enchanting and there is something romantic and magical about the building with its gothic south elevation set at a right angle to the classical, French inspired, entrance wing. Successive generations have embellished both the house and collection, which contains many Old Masters and fine examples of English portraiture. A visit, which also includes the recently restored gardens, provides the visitor with a fascinating insight into British history and taste. Sir William and Lady Proby and their four daughters Alexandra, Alice, Rose & Isabella, continue to maintain and preserve their home and welcome visitors to the Hall. There is something for everyone to see, from the State Coach used by the family to attend the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria, to Henry VIII's Prayer Book, given to him by Katherine Parr who had herself, been given the Manor of Elton by Henry VIII after their marriage.

<http://eltonhall.com/>

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

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

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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