



Tour Information



Country Houses of Staffordshire





The tour commences and concludes at the **Upper House Hotel, Barlaston.**

The Green

Barlaston

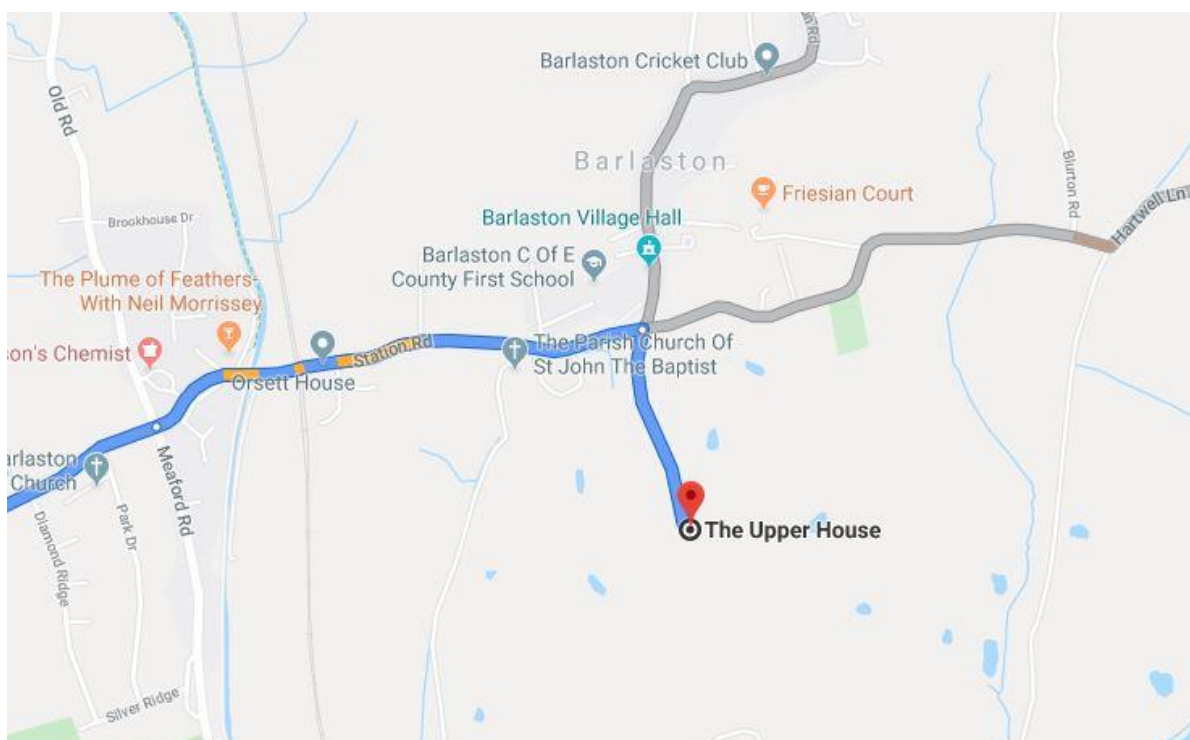
Stoke on Trent

Staffordshire

ST12 9AE

Tel: 01782 373790

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



Transport

If you are travelling by car:

From the M6: Exit the M6 at junction 15, A500 to Stoke-on Trent/Newcastle-under-Lyme and at the Hanchurch Interchange take the 3rd exit onto Newcastle Road/A519. Turn left onto Whitmore Road/B5038 and then right onto Stone Road/A34. Continue onto the A34 for just over 2 miles and then turn left onto Tittensor Road, continue onto Station Road and turn right at Longton Road towards the hotel.

If you are travelling by train: The closest railway station to the hotel is Stone, which is served by a regular service from Stoke on Trent. The station is approx. 4 miles from the hotel.



Accommodation

The Upper House Hotel

The Upper House Hotel is steeped in local history, built in 1845 for Josiah Wedgwood's grandson, Francis the hotel has been lovingly converted into a luxury character property. Facilities include a bar, restaurant, lounge and gardens. Each of the comfortable bedrooms include en-suite facilities, TV, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer and free wi-fi. Car parking at the hotel is complimentary.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<https://www.theupperhouse.com/>

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 a cream tea at 15.30.

On the last day, the tour will finish at approximately 17.00 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 bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Dining

On the first, second and third night, dinner is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. Lunch is included on the second day of the tour. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price, but meals other than these stated are not included.

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.



Places Visited

Wightwick Manor

The house was built by Theodore Mander, of the wealthy industrialist Mander family, between 1887 and 1893. Theodore and his wife Flora were inspired by Oscar Wilde's 'the House Beautiful' lecture when they came to decorate Wightwick's interiors, filling it with the designs of William Morris and his contemporaries. There will free time for independent time in the house and an included lunch.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wightwick-manor/>

Chillington Hall

Chillington Hall has been the home of the Giffard family for over 800 years and is located on the Staffordshire / Shropshire border. The present Georgian house is the third to have been built upon the same site. In the 12th century there was a stone-built castle, a small corner of which remains in the cellars of the present house. The original house was replaced by Sir John Giffard in the mid-sixteenth century. The landscape park and lake to the south of the house were designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown during the 1760's for Thomas Giffard the elder. The lake, or The Pool as it is called, was formed by constructing a high dam which flooded three ponds to form one large stretch of water. Along the dam runs a drive which provides an alternative entrance from the Shropshire side.

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

Shugborough Hall

Home to the Anson family since 1624, it was once described as 'a perfect paradise'. You can explore sweeping parkland, ancient woodland and a landscape peppered with monuments. See seasonal blooms in the formal gardens or produce in the walled garden. In the Georgian mansion, unearth unusual treasures and experience life 'below stairs' in the servant's quarters, then enter a world of glamour and royalty in the apartments of Patrick Lichfield, 5th Earl and fashion photographer.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/shugborough-estate>

Spode Museum

The Spode Museum Trust Heritage Centre opened in 2012 in one of the period buildings on the Spode site in Stoke. It doubled in size in 2016 and expanded further in 2017 with improved Visitor Facilities, Exhibition and Gallery spaces and a Retail Shop. The Heritage Centre tells the story of Spode and its importance to Stoke over the 230 years of its operation, with displays of its history, working conditions and people from the 1770s up to the time it closed in 2008, when Spode was still producing world class hand-painted ceramic wares. Activities at the Centre include demonstrations by former Spode employees of printing on antique machinery from original copperplates and hand painting onto bone china. The Blue Room contains hundreds of blue transfer printed pieces made at Spode between c.1790-1847 and is almost certainly the largest and most important collection of Blue and White printed ceramics on public display in the world. The process for underglaze printing in blue on earthenware was perfected by Josiah Spode around 1780, revolutionising ceramic decoration, and although widely copied, Spode's productions are considered the finest of all.

<http://www.spodemuseumtrust.org/spode-museum-trust-heritage-centre.html>

Boscobel House and The Royal Oak

Explore the picturesque timber-framed hunting lodge where King Charles II famously took refuge in 1651 after fleeing for his life following Civil War defeat. Peer into the priest hole where he spent the night as well as discovering stories of his visit. A short stroll away is a descendant of the oak tree in which Charles II famously hid for a day as Cromwell's soldiers searched for him below, and which is celebrated to this day with over 500 pubs called The Royal Oak.

[Boscobel House and The Royal Oak | English Heritage \(english-heritage.org.uk\)](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/boscobel-house-and-the-royal-oak/)

Sandon Hall

Sandon has been the ancestral home of the Earls of Harrowby since 1776 when Nathaniel, 1st Baron Harrowby, bought a shooting lodge and had it transformed by the architect Samuel Wyatt into a Georgian House. However, the house was badly damaged by fire in 1848 that it had to be rebuilt and became the neo-Jacobean style house you see today.

[A Stunning Staffordshire Country House | Sandon Hall](#)

Your Guide

Nicholas Merchant will be your guide/lecturer throughout the tour. Nicholas is an antique expert who has worked for some of London's major auction houses during his career.

Nicholas will give the following talks during the tour:

'Country Houses of Staffordshire'

'The Lunar Society'



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.

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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