



# Tour Information



# Country Houses of Sussex





The tour starts and finishes at **East Sussex National Hotel**

Little Horsted

Uckfield

TB22 5ES

Tel: 01825 880088

E-mail: [reservations@eastsussexnational.co.uk](mailto:reservations@eastsussexnational.co.uk)

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



## Transport

**Travelling by car:** Head south on the M23, and continue onto the A23, take the B2115 towards Warninglid and Cuckfield Village. Continue onto Staplefield Lane and turn left onto Sloughgreen Lane, then turn right onto Cuckfield Road, B2115. Continue to follow B2114 and at the roundabout, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto Whiteman's Green, B2036. Turn left onto London Lane and left onto Broad Street. B2184. At the roundabout, take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit onto A272, then stay on the A272 until you reach Batts Bridge Roundabout and take the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit onto A22 towards Uckfield. At the next roundabout, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto Uckfield Bypass, A22, then take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit at the next roundabout and the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit at the next roundabout. Your destination will be on the left.

**Travelling by train:** The nearest mainline station is Uckfield, approx. 2 miles away.



# Accommodation

## East Sussex National Hotel

Set amongst 1100 acres of lush green English countryside, the East Sussex National Resort is the perfect base for our tour of Sussex. The hotel facilities include a health club and spa, bar and choice of restaurants, and two championship golf courses. Each of the comfortable bedrooms, all overlooking the South Downs and golf courses, have en-suite bathrooms with complimentary toiletries, TV, telephone, hairdryer, safe, free Wi-fi and team and coffee making facilities.

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

<https://www.eastsussexnational.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 17.45 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 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 is included in the price. A light lunch is included on days 2, 3 and 4 of your stay.



## Places Visited

### Goodwood House

The home of the Duke and Duchess of Richmond and Gordon combines the glamour of a great English country house with the warmth of a family home. It also provides a dramatic setting for one of the most significant private art collections in the country. The State Apartments, restored to their full Regency splendour, reflect the exoticism and opulence of this period.

[https://www.goodwood.com/stay-dine-relax/goodwood-house/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=organic&utm\\_campaign=goodwood-house](https://www.goodwood.com/stay-dine-relax/goodwood-house/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=goodwood-house)

### Stansted Park

This stunning Edwardian mansion stands in 1800 acres of parkland and ancient forest within the South Downs National Park. In 1983 the 10th Earl of Bessborough gave Stansted Park, the Arboretum, his family home and its beautiful contents to the public. The state rooms are furnished as though the 10th Earl was still at home giving the visitor a real sense of a bygone era, the extensive Servants' Quarters below stairs are brought to life by the very knowledgeable and friendly guides who will guide you through the vibrant history of this beautiful stately home.

<http://www.stanstedpark.co.uk/stansted-house>

### Firle Place

Firle Place is an outstanding privately-owned country house in Sussex that dates from the time of Henry VIII but was substantially remodelled in the 18th Century. The manor house was first built in the late 15th century by Sir John Gage, who made Firle Place his principal home. He held many high offices, including Constable of the Tower and was an executor of Henry VIII's will. The house has an extensive collection of paintings, porcelain and furniture, including works by Gainsborough, Reynolds, Van Dyck, Raphael, Puligo, Zoffany and Teniers.

<https://firle.com/>

### Brighton Pavilion

The Royal Pavilion has a colourful history stretching back over 200 years. Built as the seaside pleasure palace for King George IV, it has also served as a civic building, First World War hospital, and has become a true icon of Brighton. In the mid-1780s George, Prince of Wales, rented a small lodging house overlooking a fashionable promenade in Brighton. Brighton was developing from a decayed fishing town to an established seaside retreat for the rich and famous, being close to London. George hired architect Henry Holland to transform his Brighton lodging house into a modest villa which became known as the Marine Pavilion. With his love of visual arts and fascination with the mythical orient, George set about lavishly furnishing and decorating his seaside home. He especially chose Chinese export furniture and objects, and hand-painted Chinese wallpapers. In 1811 George was sworn in as Prince Regent because his father, George III, had been deemed incapable of acting as monarch. At that time the Marine Pavilion was a modest building in size, not suitable for the large social events and entertaining that George loved to host. In 1815, George commissioned John Nash to begin the transformation from modest villa into the magnificent oriental palace that we see today.

<https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/royalpavilion/>

## Parham House

Parham is one of the country's finest Elizabethan Houses, complete with a Great Hall and Long Gallery. Its tranquillity and timeless beauty have changed little over the centuries. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1540, Henry VIII granted the manor of Parham, which had belonged to the Abbey of Westminster, to a London mercer called Robert Palmer. Parham's foundation stone was laid in 1577 by Robert's two-year-old grandson, Thomas; it was considered lucky to have this duty performed by the youngest member of the household. His mother Elizabeth was god-daughter to Queen Elizabeth I, and there is a legend that the Queen visited Parham.

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

## Petworth House

Inspired by the Baroque palaces of Europe, Petworth House is an extraordinary and surprising ancestral seat created by just one family over 900 years. The 17th-century building you see today comprises grand state rooms which form the centrepiece of your visit. Designed to display the taste, lifestyle and artistic patronage of generations, the state rooms offer an infinity of paintings and sculpture, including major works by Van Dyck, Turner, Reynolds and Gainsborough. A particular highlight is the earliest English globe in existence dating back to 1592. This remarkable collection reflects a journey of survival and success through the Tudor Reformation, Gunpowder Plot and the Napoleonic Wars.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house-and-park>

## 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:**

*'Some Country Houses of Sussex'*

*'Sevres Porcelain and Mme de Pompadour'*

# 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.**

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