



Tour Information



Jane Austen in Somerset and Wiltshire





The tour commences and concludes at the **Best Western Leigh Park Country House Hotel**.

Leigh Road

Bradford-on-Avon

BA15 2RA

Tel: 01227 864885

Transport

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



If you are travelling by car:

From the M4:

At junction 17, exit M4 and take the A350/A429 exit to Chippenham/Cirencester. At Stanton St Quintin, take the 2nd exit onto A350 and at the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto W Cepen Way/A350. Continue on the W Cepen Way/A350. At Chequers Roundabout, take the 4th exit onto Bath Rd/A4. Continue on Bath Road/A4 and follow Park Lane (B3109 and B3105 through Bradford-on-Avon, and turn right onto B3105 and your destination will be on the left.

If you are travelling by train:

The closest railway station is Bradford-on-Avon which is approximately 1 mile away.



Accommodation

Leigh Park Hotel

Set in five acres of landscaped gardens, overlooking the picturesque Wiltshire Downs, Leigh Park is a classical Georgian country house hotel with charm, character and a subtle elegance. The Hotel offers 38 individually designed bedrooms, with the more traditional style rooms in the main house together with sixteen brand new contemporary chic designed executive bedrooms some in the former Coach House. All rooms have double or twin beds and appointed with full modern facilities including flat screen TVs, tea and coffee making facilities and free Wifi throughout. Leigh Park has its own Vineyard which consists of 600 Reichensteiner vines in the one acre of walled garden within the grounds, which produce a particularly attractive medium dry white wine, exclusive to the Hotel. Due to the original architecture of the Georgian period property unfortunately the hotel does not offer a lift/elevator.

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

<http://www.leighparkhotel.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 in the evening at the welcome reception.

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

Dining

On the first night, a three-course dinner with wine is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. For the second evening, dinner will be provided in the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price, but meals other than these stated are not included.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

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

Assembly Rooms

The Bath Assembly rooms were designed by John Wood the Younger in 1769. Their purpose was to be a place for dancing and music. When they were completed in 1771 they were described as 'the most noble and elegant of any in the kingdom'. Each of the four rooms, the Great Octagon, Tea Room, Ball Room and Card Room, had a specific purpose, as their names suggest, but they could all adapt for other functions, as they still do today. Guests can move easily, behind closed doors, from room to room throughout the day and there is a small formal garden.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bath-assembly-rooms>

Fashion Museum

The Fashion Museum Bath holds a world-class collection of contemporary and historic dress. The Museum of Costume was opened in the Assembly Rooms on 23 May 1963. It was founded by Doris Langley Moore, a designer, collector, writer and scholar, who gave her famous private collection of costume to the city of Bath. The Museum of Costume changed its name to the Fashion Museum in summer 2007.

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

No 1 Royal Crescent

No.1 Royal Crescent, Bath (Grade I) was built to the designs of John Wood the Younger in 1767 – 1774 as the first house in the Royal Crescent, a Bath stone crescent of thirty houses with a uniform Palladian design to the principal facade. The Royal Crescent is the culmination of the 18th century development of Bath by the elder and younger John Woods, the latter part-owning No.1. The open view in front of the Royal Crescent, a key element to the design, has been altered by the subsequent development of Bath but partly preserved in the form of what is now Royal Victoria Park and a small semi-circular lawn in the ownership of the Royal Crescent residents.

<https://no1royalcrescent.org.uk>

Theatre Royal

Built in 1805, A Grade II* listed building, the Georgian Theatre Royal was beautifully refurbished in 2010. It has been described by the Theatres Trust as "One of the most important surviving examples of Georgian theatre architecture". It has a capacity for an audience of around 900. The Main House offers a year-round programme of top-quality drama, including many West End productions, opera, comedy, dance and frequent Sunday concerts.

<https://www.theatreroyal.org.uk/>

Lacock Village and Lacock Abbey

The name Lacock dates from Saxon times when the earliest permanent settlers lived by the Bide Brook, which runs through the middle of the village. They called it lacuc or 'little stream'. The medieval landscape was dominated by Melksham Forest, which came right up to the village and stretched for 33 miles to the south and east. Settlement began around the church, reflected in the irregular line of Church Street, but the rest is a medieval planned town, deliberately laid out on a grid of the other streets which can be seen today. There's lots to discover in Lacock village; quaint traditional stone cottages, the old workhouse, the medieval tithe barn, the old lock-up and the village church. Lacock village is a firm favourite for film and TV producers, most notably for its picturesque streets and historic cottages, untouched by modern alterations. The village's most

famous appearances include 'Downton Abbey', the BBC's 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'Cranford', and the films 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince' and 'Wolfman'.

The Abbey, located at the heart of the village within its own woodland grounds, is a quirky country house of various architectural styles, built upon the foundations of a former nunnery. Lacock Abbey, founded by Ela of Salisbury, third Countess of Salisbury in 1229, had at its centre, the enclosed cloister garden surrounded by an arcade of cloister walks on three sides. Cool all year round, this complex of vaulted rooms including the sacristy, chapter house and warming house were used as a nunnery of the Augustinian order.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock-abbey-fox-talbot-museum-and-village/features/a-historic-village-with-a-modern-community>

Your Guide

Jane Tapley will be your guide during the trip. Jane has been a Blue Badge Guide for over thirty years and regularly accompanies groups of all kinds from students to senior citizens around Bath and the West Country. In addition she has worked as an adviser and guide for several TV companies in Bath when they have been filming period dramas. Her earlier career and the reason for moving to Bath in the late 60's was as a Home Economist with a particular interest in period food and dining habits. As a result she recreates Georgian meals in her Regency home during the annual Jane Austen Festival which attracts visitors from around the world.

Jane Tapley will give two lectures during the tour:

'Jane Austen and Bath'.

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 3 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:

07899 796542 or

07831 133079

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

Travel Editions

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