



Tour Information



The American Connection





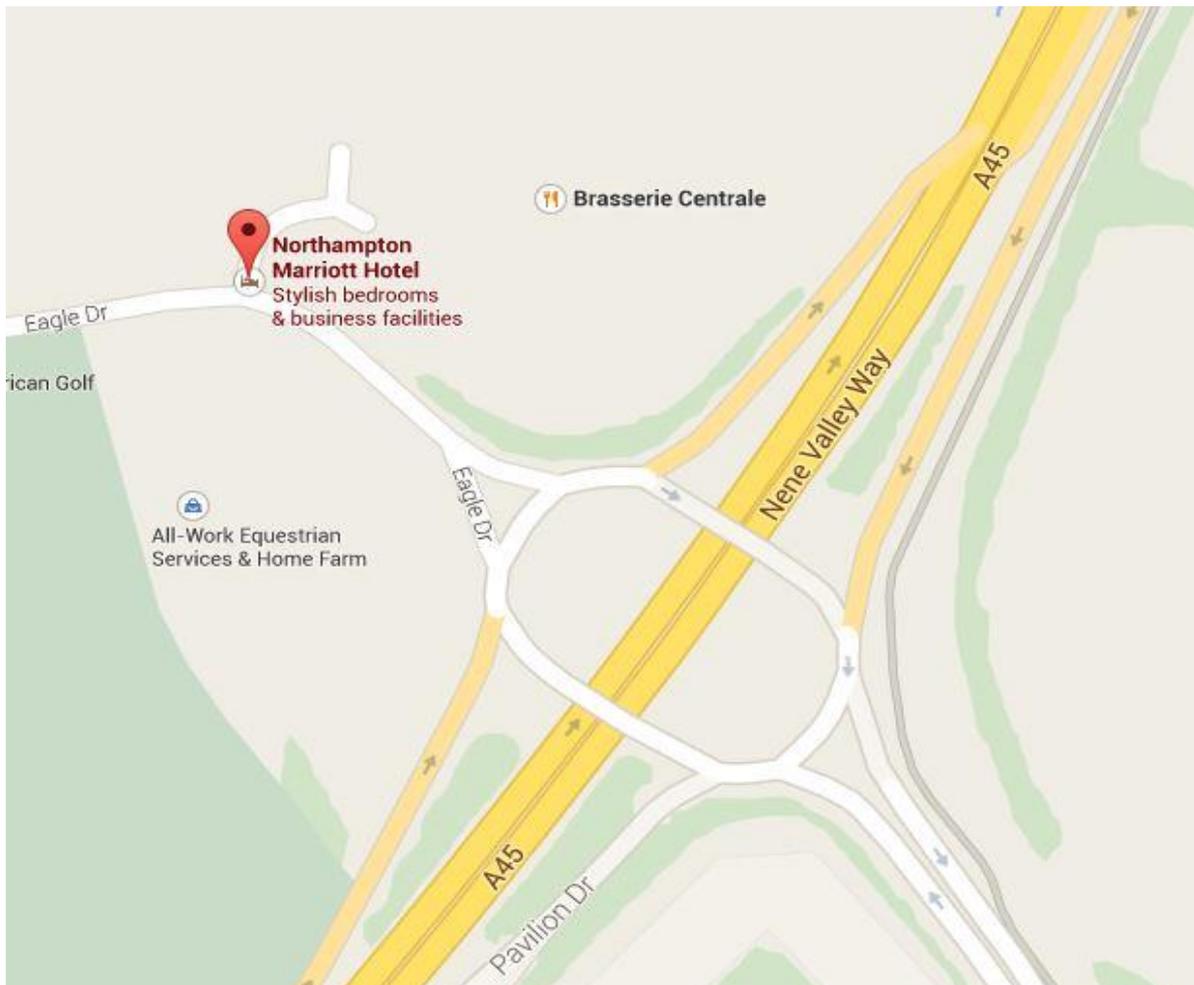
Travel

The tour commences and concludes at the **Northampton Marriott Hotel**.

Eagle Drive
Northampton
NN4 7HW
United Kingdom

Tel: 01604 768700

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



Transport

If you are travelling by car: From central London – Take the M1 out of central London towards Northampton. Exit at A45 (junction 15). Follow this road (London Road) to Eagle Drive in Northampton.

If you are travelling by train: Northampton Train Station is approx. 3 ½ miles from the hotel.



Accommodation

Marriott Hotel, Northampton

Located on the outskirts of the city centre, the 4-star Marriott Hotel offers a Bar & Grill, indoor pool and gymnasium. All contemporary designed bedrooms boast private bath/shower, air-conditioning, TV, telephone and tea/coffee making facilities. Car parking is available at the hotel.

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

<https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/ormnh-northampton-marriott-hotel/>

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.

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 12.00.

Dining

On the first night, a private dinner with wine is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. For the second evening, a private dinner with wine is provided at Sulgrave Manor. 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

Lampport Hall

Developed from a Tudor manor house, architecturally the hall has been worked on by Smith of Warwick and William Burn but is best known for its John Webb classical frontage. The Hall's fine rooms, including the High Room of 1655 and 18th century library, are filled with a wealth of outstanding furniture, books, china and paintings collected by the Isham family. Most were bought during the 3rd Baronet's Grand Tour of Europe, in the 1670s. The first floor has undergone lengthy restoration, allowing further paintings and furniture to be displayed. The ravages of two world wars and economic depression meant that the twentieth century was not kind to many of Britain's country houses. At different times during the last century Lampport Hall has been a family home, divided into flats, a hunting box, a country club, a home for the Northamptonshire Records Office, a British and Czech army base and an Italian prisoner of war camp. Years of poor maintenance resulted in an outbreak of dry rot which, during the 1970s, saw large sections of the house gutted. The Isham family lived at Lampport for over 400 years, until Sir Gyles Isham, the 12th Baronet, died in 1976. In his will he bequeathed the Hall, with its contents and Estate, to the Lampport Hall Preservation Trust which he set up to carry on the lengthy restoration programme of the hall, environs and estate, ensuring Lampport's survival for the enjoyment of visitors and as a centre of culture and education.

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

St Giles Church

12th century cruciform church in the heart of the city, where Robert Browne is buried. Founder of the Brownists, a common designation for early Separatists from the Church of England before 1620. He was the first separatist and all but two of the Pilgrim Fathers were followers of Browne's teachings. He is considered the father of the Congregational body in the English-speaking world, and "The Father of the Pilgrims" and Grandfather of the Nation.

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

Sulgrave Manor

Sulgrave Manor is a mid-16th century Tudor hall house and was built in 1539 for Tudor wool merchant Lawrence Washington, a direct ancestor of George Washington, the future first President of the United States. It remained in the ownership of the Washington family for only two generations, and was sold out of the family in 1659. Substantial alterations were made to the house in the 18th century and during the following century it was inhabited by a succession of tenant farmers. Sulgrave Manor was rescued from dereliction in 1914 when it was purchased by the Anglo-American Peace Centenary Committee as part of the commemorations of the Treaty of Ghent, which established peace between Britain and the USA in 1814. The manor house has been open to the public since 1921.

<https://sulgravemanor.org.uk/>

Ecton Parish Church

Ecton is a place of pilgrimage for many Americans. Benjamin Franklin's ancestors lived here for over 300 years, many generations of them being the village blacksmiths, on a site where now stands the Three Horseshoes Inn. There are still headstones for members of the Franklin family in the village churchyard; inside the church there is a bronze plaque, provided by a group of American visitors in 1910, which has a quotation from one of Benjamin Franklin's speeches.

<https://www.ectonvillage.co.uk/church/>

Kelmarsh Hall

Built in 1732, successive owners and influences have left their imprint on this elegant Palladian style manor. William Hanbury, a noted antiquarian and great grandson of John Hanbury commissioned a fashionable

new hall, designed by virtuoso architect James Gibbs. Gibbs trained in Italy, looking at and learning from the buildings built in the classical period, through to the popular baroque style. Completed in the early 1730s Kelmars Hall is a remarkable example of a private home designed by Gibbs, who is best for his public building such as the Radcliffe Camera, Oxford and St Martins-in-the-Field, London. Richard Christopher Naylor, a Liverpool banker, cotton trader and horse racing enthusiast purchased the estate in 1864, probably due to the old connections the estate had to horse racing and hunting. Although Naylor was once described as the 'wealthiest commoner in England', he and his two daughters were avid riders and socialised amongst the local gentry at parties for the hunt. Thanks to a fortune founded in iron and coal, George Granville Lancaster bought the estate at the start of the 20th Century. His wife, Cecily, was from the Huguenot family Champion de Crespigny and inherited the collection of family portraits seen throughout the hall. Their son Claude Granville grew up to be a Colonel in the Sherwood Foresters and an MP for Fylde and South Fylde. The Anglo-Americans Ronald Tree and his wife Nancy rented the Hall from 1928 to 1933 from Claude, who inherited the hall a few years earlier. The couple paid nothing to rent the hall, but invested in the repair and improvement of the building as part of their lease. Nancy returned to Kelmars Hall in 1947, having divorced Ronnie a year earlier, as the wife of Claude Lancaster, but the marriage was short-lived and lasted less than a decade. Above all other, this arbiter of fashion has left her mark on the hall's interiors and the design of the gardens. Drawn by the house's fine bone structure, her taste for combining comfort with formality set the trend for the Twentieth Century's English Country House look. Her spirit still pervades the house today in the delicate terracotta colouring of the Great Hall, the exuberant Chinese wallpaper and seasonal flower arrangements.

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

St Mary's Church

A romantic church that stands alone, shorn of its former medieval village, looking out across the Capability Brown landscape of 1760's toward Fawsley Hall, the seat of the Knightly family and now a country hotel. The Washington shields in this church are originals and were previously installed in Sulgrave Manor, the home of George Washington's ancestors. We are not entirely sure how they were brought to Fawsley, other than that they came in 1830 during a period of reconstruction at Sulgrave. It is said that the coat of arms of The Washington family provided the inspiration for the Stars and Stripes of the American flag.

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

Your Guide



Mike Ingram will be your guide during this tour.

Mike is a medieval historian, author and lecturer and a Freeman of the Ancient Borough of Northampton. He regularly leads tours around medieval battlefields and is also chairman of the Northampton Battlefields Society. His latest books include "Richard III and the Battle of Bosworth" and "Northampton: 5,000 years of history".

Mike will give the following talk on the second evening of the tour:

'The American Connection'



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

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

Travel Editions

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