



Tour Information



The Rothschilds in the Vale of Aylesbury





The tour commences and concludes at the **Doubletree by Hilton Oxford Belfry**.

Milton Common,
Nr. Thame
OX9 2JW
United Kingdom
Tel: 44-1844 279381

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

Transport



From the north (Bicester, Birmingham, Manchester, M42, M6)

Exit the M40 at Oxford Services (Junction 8/8a). At the slip road roundabout, take the second exit signposted A418 to Aylesbury. After half a mile, turn right onto the A40 to Milton Common and Wallingford. The hotel is 1.5 miles along on the left-hand side.

From the south (London, High Wycombe)

Exit the M40 at Junction 7. Turn right following the A329 towards Thame. Immediately after crossing over the motorway, turn left onto the A40. The hotel is 300 yards along on the right-hand side.

If you are travelling by train: Nearest train station is Haddenham and Thame – 7 miles or Oxford which is 14 miles.



Accommodation

Doubletree by Hilton Oxford Belfry

The Doubletree by Hilton Oxford Belfry is situated just off the M40, near to the picturesque university city of Oxford and a short drive from quintessential English towns and villages. With its great location, The Doubletree by Hilton Oxford Belfry lends itself as both a business or leisure destination. This hotel offers a restaurant, bar, gym, indoor pool, outdoor tennis courts and comfortable bedrooms with private bath/shower, tea/coffee making facilities, air-conditioning, TV and telephone. Complimentary car parking is available at the hotel.

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

www.oxfordbelfry.doubletreebyhilton.com

Check-in and departure from the hotel

Check in from 15.00. The tour will start with cream tea at 15.30 in the Restaurant, along with our expert guide Nicholas Merchant. There will be a welcome drink, talk and dinner in the evening.

Please note that your rooms may not be ready at 15.00, reception will arrange to store your luggage and put it in your room when it is ready.

On the last day, the tour will not finish at 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 dinner, 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. A light lunch is provided on each day of the tour and included in the price. 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

Stowe House

Stowe House is a grade I listed country house. It is the home of Stowe School, an independent school and is owned by the Stowe House Preservation Trust who have to date spent more than £25m on the restoration of the house. Stowe House is regularly open to the public and can be explored by guided tour all year round or during the school holidays you can explore at your own pace with a multimedia guide. The gardens, a significant example of the English garden style, along with part of the Park, passed into the ownership of The National Trust in 1989 and are open to the public. The parkland surrounding the gardens is open 365 days a year.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe/features/stowe-house>

The Natural History Museum Tring

The Natural History Museum at Tring was once the private museum of Lionel Walter, 2nd Baron Rothschild, and is located in the grounds of the former Rothschild family home of Tring Park. The building was constructed in 1889 to house his collection of mounted specimens and first opened to the public in 1892. The Rothschild family gave the Museum and its contents to the nation in 1937. Lionel Walter bred hybrids between zebras and horses (zebroids) and a hybrid foal is on display. He was frequently seen riding a zebra-drawn carriage. The museum's Zebra Cafe alludes to Lord Rothschild's love of zebras and has photographs of his trained zebras harnessed to open carriages

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/tring.html>

Ascott House

Ascott is a Jacobean farmhouse remodelled and enlarged in 1876-84 for Leopold de Rothschild by George Devey. Further additions were made by Devey's assistant James Williams. The result is a rambling, asymmetrical building; the exterior of the ground floor is red brick and the floors above are half-timbered. Ascott houses an exceptional collection of paintings, fine furniture and superb oriental porcelain. The extensive gardens, are an attractive mix of the formal and natural with specimen trees, shrubs and beautiful herbaceous borders. Ascott House was donated to the National Trust in 1949 by Anthony de Rothschild, together with the Ascott Collection. Ascott remains the countryside residence of the de Rothschild family. Mary Gladstone described it as 'a palace-like cottage, the most luxurious and lovely thing I ever saw.' The interiors feature a Victorian cornice incorporating a series of proverbs in the Common Room. It was redecorated more recently by the Italian designer Renzo Mongiardino.

<http://www.ascottestate.co.uk/>

Waddesdon Manor

Waddesdon is famous for its collection of French 18th-century decorative arts and 17th- and 18th-century paintings. Assembled by three generations, the Rothschild Collections at Waddesdon include world-class objects carefully chosen for their beauty, craftsmanship and historical interest. As a family, the Rothschilds were the greatest collectors of the 19th century, seeking the highest quality of workmanship. With more than 15,000 works of art and objects, the collection ranges widely in date, materials and techniques, and places of production. Waddesdon is especially renowned for the quality and depth of its French 18th-century collections, particularly furniture, porcelain and textiles.

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

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.



Nicholas will give the following talks during the tour:

*'The Rothschilds in the Vale of Aylesbury'.
'The Collection at Waddesdon.'*

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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