



Tour Information



Victorian Gothic Splendour

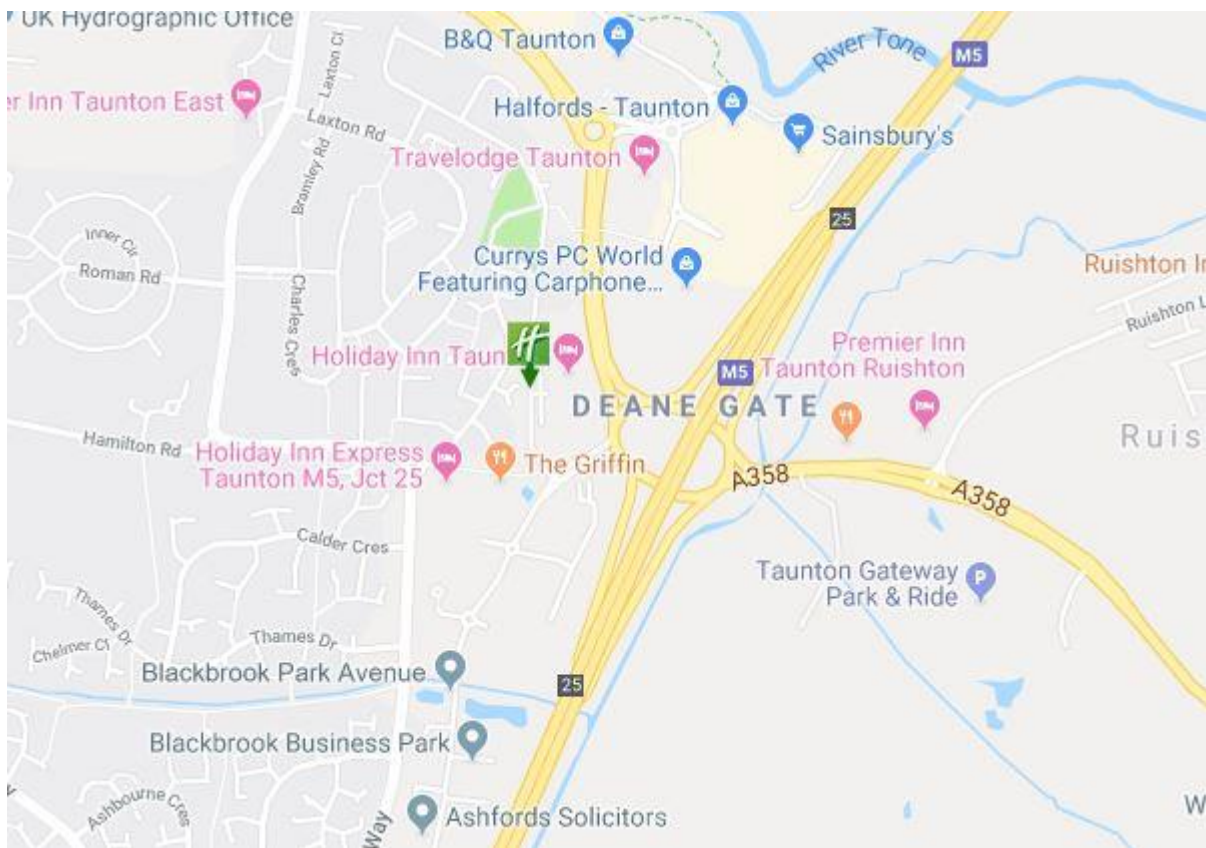




The tour starts and finishes at **Holiday Inn, Taunton**

Deane Gate Avenue
Taunton
TA1 2UA
Tel: 03333 209354

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



Directions

From the M5 - Exit the M5 at Junction 25 and take the A358 road towards Taunton/Honiton and at the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Blackbrook Park Avenue. Turn right onto Deane Gate Avenue and your destination will be in the right.

The closest railway station is Taunton Station which is 3 miles from the hotel.



Accommodation

Holiday Inn, Taunton

This modern hotel is conveniently located just off the M5 and only 10 minutes from the town centre. The hotel offers a restaurant, bar/lounge and a health club with swimming pool, sauna, gym, beauty treatments, and comfortable rooms with en-suite facilities. All rooms have TV, air-conditioning, telephone, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.

Complimentary car parking is available.

More information can be found via the hotel's website: <https://www.hitauntonhotelm5.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.

The last day of the tour, 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 a 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.

Dining

On the first night of your stay, dinner with wine is provided at the hotel. During the second evening of the tour, a three-course dinner is provided at Hestercombe, Afternoon Tea is also included at the Castle Hotel in Taunton. Breakfast on each day of your stay is included in the price. All other meals other than these stated are not included.



Places Visited

Knightshayes Court

With acres of glorious garden and park, surrounding a spectacular Gothic Revival house, Knightshayes is the complete country gentleman's dream. The house is a rare example of the work of William Burges, whose lavish designs have always inspired extremes in opinion. Full of quirks and curiosities, it is a house of many faces. The formal and woodland garden is one of the finest and most varied plant collections in the country. With over 1200 plant species unique to Knightshayes and an ever changing display, the walled garden kitchen, brimming with seasonal produce for the Stables Café is a must.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knightshayes>

Hestercombe Gardens

Hestercombe is world renowned, and no questions as to why, when you see the famously restored gardens spanning three centuries of garden design. Edwin Lutyen's hallmarks are everywhere: iris-choked rills, pergolas, seats, relieved staircases and pools where reflections twinkle on recessed apses. Gertrude Jekyll's planting is bold and simple, which adds vigour. The combination of Lutyens design and Jekyll's plants is extremely photogenic: Hestercombe is a highly rewarding garden to learn about symmetry, balance and proportion. The secret landscape garden, which Coplestone Warre Bampfylde laid out in the late 18th century, is a fair match for the Edwardian area: 40 acres (16.1ha) of lakes, temples, combes and woodlands that have not been seen for over 100 years. Add to this arcadia, the centrepiece of Hestercombe House and you will see a reunited estate. Open to the public for the first time in more than 200 years, Hestercombe House now contains a contemporary art gallery, a second hand bookshop and an exquisite restaurant serving lunches and afternoon tea overlooking the splendid Edwardian Formal Gardens.

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

Bristol Museum and Art Gallery

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery tells the story of our world in every display, from the beginning of time to the present day. 19 galleries over 3 floors reveal fascinating cultures, ancient civilisations, human invention and creativity, as well as showcasing our beautiful and fragile natural world. World-class collections of art, archaeology, geology and natural history are displayed inside this beautiful Edwardian building.

<https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/Bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/>

Tyntesfield

Tyntesfield, was not built as a bold and extravagant statement of wealth, power or politics. Its purpose was simple; to serve as a family home. Once hidden and inaccessible, the ordinary and extraordinary lives and possessions of four generations of the Gibbs family are ready for discovery. The garden and estate balance faded beauty and function with an abundance of nature, celebrated in ornate Gothic carvings that decorate the house. Flower filled terraces, an empty lake, woodland, champion trees and productive kitchen garden give further opportunities for exploration.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield>

The Castle Hotel, Taunton

This beautiful four-star hotel is one of the most renowned hotels in England and is also one of its most historic. For more than 60 years, it has been run by three generations of the Chaman Family. Afternoon tea will be served in the Music Room.

Your Guide

Your guide, **Prof. Anne Anderson**, is an Arts Society lecturer who has published many academic papers in highly regarded journals, is an expert on Arts and Crafts.

Anne will give the following talk on the 1st night:

"Building Castles in the Air: Victorian Gothic Revival Houses".



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 3 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty:



Please see the key 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 (cobbles 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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