



Tour Information



William Morris a Great Victorian

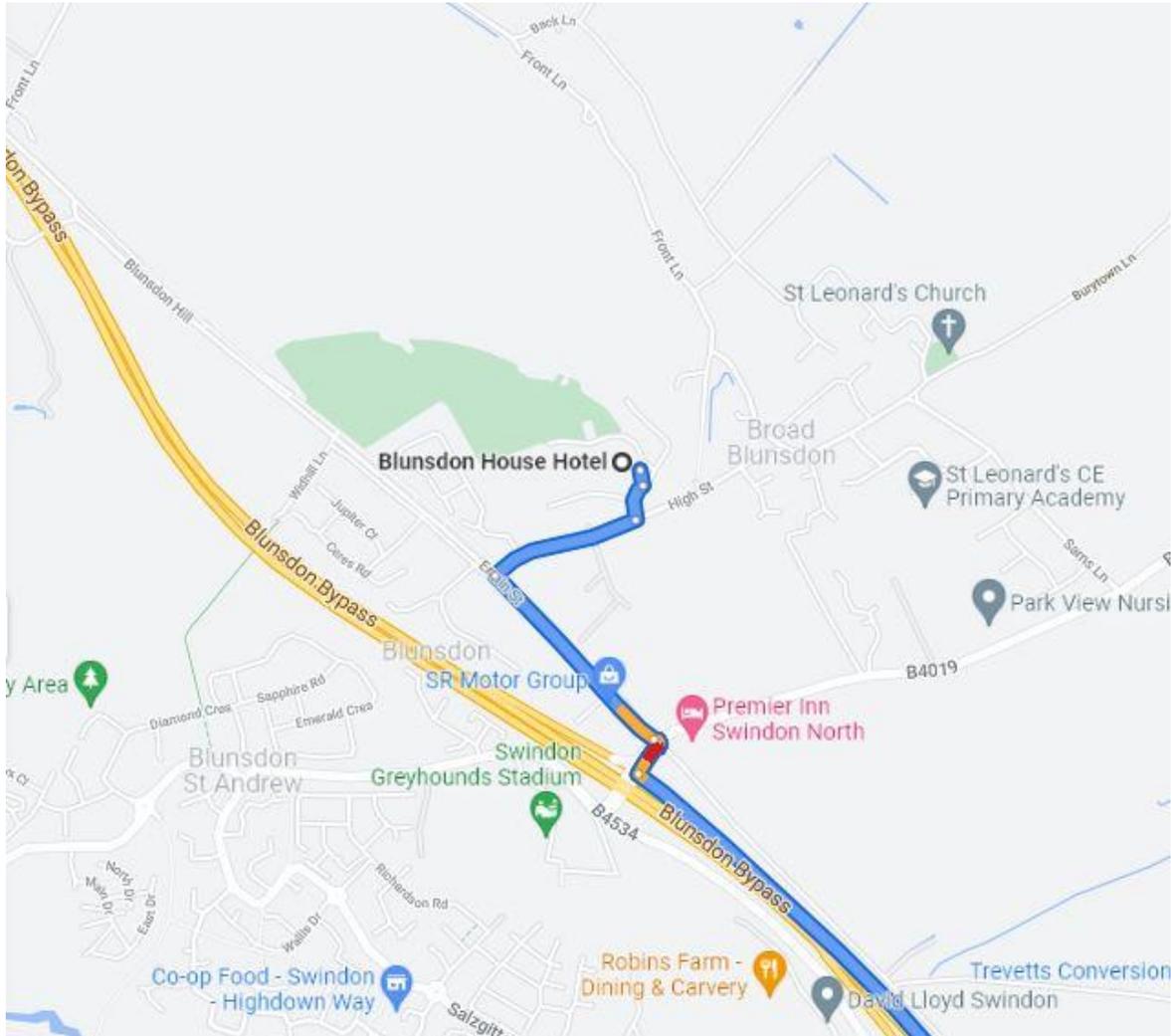


The tour commences and concludes at the **Blunsdon House Hotel, Swindon**.

Blunsdon
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN26 7AS

Tel: 0844 387 6035

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



Transport

If you are travelling by car:

From the South: Leave the M4 at junction 15 and take the A419 north for approx. 6 miles. Leave the A419 at Turnpike junction and turn right at the traffic lights signposted Highworth / Blunsdon (B4019). After 300 yards turn right at the lights signposted B4019 and continue over the bridge. At the mini roundabout turn left for Blunsdon, then right into the village. The hotel is situated on the left just off the High Street.

From the North: Leave the M5 at junction 11a and follow the A417 / A419 for Cirencester / Swindon. Continue along the dual carriageway and after approx. 26 miles leave the A419 signposted for Swindon N & W. Turn left at the top of the slip road and then left at the mini roundabout for Blunsdon, then right into the village. The hotel is situated on the left just off the High Street.

From Oxford: Take the second exit off the roundabout after 'Sainsbury's' onto the A419 heading for Cirencester. Leave the A419 at Turnpike junction and continue directions 'From the South'.

If you are travelling by train: The nearest train station is Swindon – 5 miles away



Accommodation

Blunsdon House Hotel

Located on the edge of the Cotswolds in the village of Broad Blunsdon near Swindon, the four-star family owned Blunsdon House Hotel offers comfortable, individually decorated and tastefully furnished bedrooms with en-suite bathroom, TV, mini bar, safe and tea & coffee making facilities in the room. Other facilities at the hotel include two restaurants, bar, and a health and leisure club including gym and swimming pool. Complimentary on-site parking is available at the hotel.

More information can be found via the hotel's website: <http://www.blunsdonhouse.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 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 bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11:00.

Dining

On the first night, 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 and one light lunch, 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

Buscot Park

Buscot Park was built by Edward Loveden Loveden between 1779 and 1783. The house is a dignified example of the late eighteenth-century taste for Italianate country houses, inspired by the architecture of the great Renaissance architect, Andrea Palladio. The estate and its contents were left to the National Trust in 1956, including works of art by Rembrandt and, in the music room, friend and collaborator of Morris, Sir Edward Coley Burne-Jones 'The Legend of the Briar Rose', inspired by the fairy tale 'Sleeping Beauty'.

<http://www.buscot-park.com/>

Kelmscott Manor

Kelmscott Manor was the Cotswold retreat of William Morris and his family, friends and colleagues. When Morris first saw the Manor in 1871, he was delighted by this 'loveliest haunt of ancient peace'; he signed a joint lease for the property with his friend and colleague Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the Pre-Raphaelite artist. Visitors today can still experience the beauty and seclusion that inspired many of William Morris's most important designs and writings and influenced his ideas on conservation for both the built and natural environments. This seventeenth-century, Grade 1 listed Manor house on the river Thames—perhaps the most evocative of all the houses associated with Morris—contains an outstanding collection of the possessions and works of Morris, as well as of his family and associates (Benson, Burne-Jones, Rossetti and Webb among them) that includes furniture, original textiles, pictures and paintings, carpets, ceramics and metalwork.

<https://www.sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor>

Ashmolean Museum

Founded in 1683, at a time when the idea of the 'museum' was brand new, Britain's first public museum, the Ashmolean, was initially the home of a collection of miscellaneous manmade and natural specimens and curiosities from every corner of the world, which was presented to the University by the wealthy antiquarian and polymath, Elias Ashmole. The neoclassical architecture of the museum dates back to 1845, when it was built to house the University's art collection. The archaeological collections were moved into the building in the 1890s to form what is, today, the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology – one of the most important museums of art and archaeology in Britain.

<http://www.ashmolean.org/>

The Oxford Union Old Library

The Pre-Raphaelite murals in the old Library at the Oxford Union were painted between 1857 and 1859 by a team of young artists including Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones. The paintings depict scenes from the Arthurian legends.

<https://www.oxford-union.org/library>

Christ Church College

Christ Church has much exceptional glass and the 19th century windows by Edward Burne-Jones demonstrate two sharply contrasting styles: his 1858 St Frideswide Window in the Latin Chapel has crammed scenes in a kaleidoscope of colour, evoking the spirit of medieval glass, while four other windows he designed in the 1870s, made by William Morris, are more typically Pre-Raphaelite. One, the Vyner Memorial Window in the Lady Chapel, unusually bears Burne-Jones' initials, and his St Catherine in the Chapel of Remembrance bears the likeness of Edith Liddell, sister of Alice in Wonderland.

<http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/>

Your Guides

Prof. Anne Anderson is a recognised authority on the Arts & Crafts movement and is Hon Research Fellow, Exeter University and the Huntington. A writer and broadcaster Anne was a senior lecturer on the Fine Arts Valuation degree courses at Southampton Solent University specialising in the Aesthetic Movement, Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau. Some of her academic papers have appeared in the Journal of the William Morris Society, Journal of the Pre-Raphaelite Society and many others. Her recent projects include reconstructing the original interiors of Lord Leighton's studio-home and her television credits include BBC's Flog It!



Dr Scott Anderson is a University Senior Lecturer in the History of Art and Design and is an Honorary Fellow of the National Association of Valuers and Auctioneers. He is a specialist in Victorian and Edwardian art, architecture and antiques and is a consultant expert for the BBC2 Flog It! programme.

Scott is an Arts Society lecturer and has lectured extensively to various societies, special interest groups and educational groups throughout Britain. He has extensive tour guiding experience in Britain, European locations such as Nancy, Paris, Berlin, Vienna and New York.

Anne will give the following talks during the tour:

'William Morris at Kelmscott Manor'.

'The Pre-Raphaelites in Oxford'.

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.

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3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB
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