

England



MAP LOCATION

PAGE NO

1 Back in 'Tyne' in Newcastle & Northumbria	32
2 Discover Durham & Beamish	32
3 York, Castle Howard & Heartbeat Country	33
4 Harrogate & the Yorkshire Dales	33
5 The Pennine Explorer	34
6 Ribble Valley & Lancashire Life	34
7 Lake District Steam & Cruise	35
8 Liverpool & the Manchester Ship Canal Cruise	35
9 Charming Cheshire & Wirral Peninsula	36
10 Peak District Delights	36
11 Shropshire & the Severn Valley	37
12 Welsh Borders Steam & Cruise	37
13 Wye Valley & the Royal Forest of Dean	38
14 Cheltenham, Tewkesbury & the Cotswolds	38
15 Shakespeare Country Cream Tea & Cruise	39
16 Lincolnshire Coast & Countryside	39
17 Rutland's Riches & Elizabethan Grandeur	40
18 Codebreakers & Cambridge	40
19 Norfolk Broads Steam & Cruise	41
20 Great Yarmouth & the Norfolk Coast NEW	41
21 Suffolk's Tranquil Villages & Coast	42

22 Royal Windsor & Glorious Wisley	42
23 Historic Kent - the Garden of England	43
24 Eastbourne, Railways & Gardens	43
25 Southsea & Chichester harbour cruise	44
26 Hampshire - Steam, Gin & the New Forest	44
27 Poole & the Jurassic Coast	45
28 Wonderful Wells & Serene Somerset	45
29 Devon & Somerset Steam & Cruise	46
30 The English Riviera & South Devon	46
31 Cornish All Inclusive	47
32 English Riviera Cosy Break	47
33 Dorset 'European Cruise'	47
34 Yuletide York & Castle Howard	47
35 Harrogate 'Fizz & Fayre'	48
36 Wye Valley Turkey & Tinsel	48
37 English Riviera Turkey & Tinsel	48
38 Cornish Turkey & Tinsel and complimentary bar	48

Back in 'Tyne' in Newcastle & Northumbria



Bamburgh Castle

Relax on a Tyne river cruise, visit an extraordinary garden, a spectacular castle and the inspirational Holy Island.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Newcastle for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the vibrant city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and enjoy an unrivalled way to experience one of the North's great cities on a **two hour 'Quay to Countryside' cruise along the River Tyne**. The cruise upriver will be accompanied by a fascinating commentary as you travel under eleven of the Tyne's famous bridges, including the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, Tyne Bridge and Swing Bridge. Alternatively, a three hour 'Quay to Sea' cruise could be taken or a half day coach guided tour of the North East's hidden treasures. If time allows, take a break at the Angel of the North.

Day 3: Enjoy Northumbria's unspoilt beauty and stunning coastline on today's excursion along the North Northumberland Heritage Coast. Visit the wonderful **Holy Island, also known as Lindisfarne**, which is home to a Priory and a Castle and only accessible at low tide via a causeway, and the picturesque village of **Bamburgh with its spectacular coastal castle**.

Day 4: Excursion to the **historic town of Alnwick** in the heart of Northumberland, home to an impressive castle, which featured in the Harry Potter films. Enjoy a visit to **Alnwick Garden**, which is one of the world's most extraordinary, contemporary gardens, with its Rose Garden, Serpent Garden, Poison Garden and Grand Cascade. If time allows, why not visit Northumberlandia, the huge land sculpture in the shape of a reclining female figure or the Woodhorn Colliery Museum.

Day 5: Time for home.



Copthorne Hotel Newcastle ★★★★★

Located on the Quayside in the heart of the city, all rooms have river views.

- 156 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Alnwick Garden
- Bamburgh Castle
- Quay to Countryside Tyne Cruise

May to Sep: Prices from: £242

Discover Durham & Beamish



Beamish Museum

Experience the history and heritage of the city of Durham and the living museum of the north at Beamish.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Co. Durham for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover the captivating **medieval city of Durham**, the jewel in the crown of an extraordinary county and a wonderful place to explore with ancient winding streets packed with history, culture and stunning architecture, including the magnificent Norman Castle and Cathedral. Why not include a visit to Crook Hall, a beautiful Grade 1 listed medieval manor house and explore its gardens, described by Alan Titchmarsh as a "tapestry of colourful blooms". If you prefer, you could enjoy a full or a half day coach guided tour exploring the hidden treasures of the North East.

Day 3: Scenic excursion through the **Durham Dales**, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, via Weardale through to Alston and via Teesdale to the market town of **Barnard Castle**, with its ever-popular Wednesday market. After lunch, enjoy a visit to the historic **Bowes Museum**, a spectacular French-style Chateau with ornate gardens, which is home to the exquisite Silver Swan.

Day 4: Step back in time at **Beamish**, where the past is brought vividly to life. Nestling in 300 acres of beautiful countryside, visit Pockerley with its stunning manor house and railway, and take a tram ride through a real Edwardian market town with its painstakingly and lovingly rebuilt houses and shops. You can also visit Home Farm, wander around the Pit Village and enjoy a ride on an old carousel.

Day 5: Homeward bound.

Radisson Blu Hotel Durham ★★★★★

Wonderfully located in the heart of the city overlooking the river, with leisure facilities.

- 207 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

The Redworth Hall Hotel ★★★★★

Set in 150 acres of landscaped gardens and grounds, this atmospheric hotel has excellent leisure facilities.

- 143 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Beamish Open Air Museum
- Bowes Museum
- Leisure & spa facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £295

York, Castle Howard & Heartbeat Country



Castle Howard

© Flickr - alh1

Experience the ancient city of York, a river cruise, Yorkshire's finest historic house and a nostalgic rail journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to York for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover **Castle Howard**, one of England's grandest Baroque mansions and the perfect setting for the hit TV series 'Brideshead Revisited'. Set within 1,000 acres of breathtaking landscape, enjoy lavishly decorated rooms, stunning architecture, idyllic gardens and lakeside walks. Continue to Yorkshire Lavender or via Sutton Bank to the **traditional market town of Thirsk**, which was home for the famous vet and author James Herriot.

Day 3: Start the day in **York** with a **relaxing cruise along the River Ouse**. Within York's towering medieval walls is a heart of rich and colourful character, with its history recorded in the streets, buildings and museums gathered around the mighty Minster. Discover as many of the treasures and architectural gems this remarkable city has to offer, its cobbled streets, the famous Shambles and the National Railway Museum.

Day 4: Explore Heartbeat Country with a wonderful nostalgic trip on the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway** as featured on the recent TV series, a visit to the **historic coastal town of Whitby**, with its famous cliff-top Abbey and the small village of Goathland, which was 'Aidensfield' in the Heartbeat TV series, whilst the railway station here was used as 'Hogsmeade' in the Harry Potter films.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time for home.

Please see page 47 for a Christmas themed Yuletide break to York and Castle Howard.

Best Western Burn Hall Hotel ★★★

Wonderful Victorian country house hotel, set in 8 acres, near York.

- 94 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Queens Hotel ★★★

On the banks of the River Ouse in the heart of York.

- 78 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ York River Cruise ➤ Castle Howard
- North Yorkshire Moors Railway ➤ Entertainment on 1 night (Burn Hall Hotel) ➤ 8 singles - no supplement (Burn Hall Hotel)

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £265

Harrogate & the Yorkshire Dales



RHS Harlow Carr

© www.geograph.org.uk - Colin P

The floral spa town of Harrogate, a heritage railway and stunning scenery, all await you in the wonderful Yorkshire Dales.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Harrogate for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover the **spa town of Harrogate**, renowned for its floral beauty, with its Victorian Pump Room, Royal Baths, curiosity shops and beautifully manicured gardens. Discover **Harewood House**, one of Yorkshire's treasure houses and its award winning gardens or the **amazing RHS Garden at Harlow Carr**, which is ablaze with colour and interest all year-round. Afternoon tea at Betty's will be the perfect end to the day.

Day 3: Circular tour through the **picturesque Yorkshire Dales** with a photo opportunity at the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct en route to the lovely town of **Hawes**, home to the Wensleydale Creamery, made famous by Wallace & Gromit. Enjoy an authentic heritage rail trip on the **Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway**, the **Wensleydale Railway** or a tour at the **Black Sheep Brewery**.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice today. Visit the cathedral city of Ripon and Newby Hall and Gardens; the historic city of York; Haworth and Bronte Country; Thirsk and Herriot Country or Skipton and a canal cruise. Alternatively, visit the small village of Esholt, home to the original Woolpack Pub, where Emmerdale used to be filmed and the charming town of Otley, the setting for Emmerdale's 'Hotton'.

Day 5: Time for home.

Please see page 48 for a 'Fizz & Fayre' tour at the Cairn Hotel.

Cedar Court Hotel ★★★

In the heart of Harrogate, overlooking the pristine Stray parkland.

- 100 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Cairn Hotel ★★★

Charming Victorian hotel in Harrogate, with period features.

- 135 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Wensleydale Railway, Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway or the Black Sheep Brewery ➤ Harewood House or RHS Garden Harlow Carr ➤ Entertainment on 2 nights (Cairn Hotel)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £240
May to Sep: Prices from: £269

The Pennine Explorer



Leeds-Liverpool Canal

Discover the Yorkshire-Lancashire border with a relaxing cruise on a traditional canal barge and a wonderful train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Lancashire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a classic rail journey on the **Settle to Carlisle Railway**, which is considered the most scenic rail journey in England as it winds through moorland scenery and over the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct. Alternatively, you could explore the historic town of **Haworth**, popular for its close ties with the famous Bronte Sisters and home to the Bronte Parsonage Museum, before following in the tracks of the 'Railway Children' at the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**, which, in 2018, celebrated 50 years since it re-opened.

Day 3: Travel into Yorkshire to **Skipton** for its ever-popular Wednesday market. Stall holders and shoppers barter with each other along the high street close to the town's impressive medieval castle. Join in the fun, pick up a bargain and explore this lovely market town, before taking to the water on an historic **relaxing cruise along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal**.

Day 4: Why not experience an enlightening and informative full day Pendle Witches and Ribble Valley coach guided tour and hear all about the mystical legends of these fascinating and beautiful areas of Lancashire. If you prefer, visit the historic market town of Clitheroe, a mill shopping experience at Boundary Mill or Oswaldtwistle Mills, or enjoy another rail journey with the East Lancashire or the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Mercure Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa ★★

Historic hotel mixing wonderfully the grandeur of a 700 year old building with modern facilities.

- 175 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Settle to Carlisle or Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
- Leeds-Liverpool Canal Cruise ➤ Entertainment on 1 night
- 6 singles - no supplement ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £242

Ribble Valley & Lancashire Life



Southport Pier

Full steam ahead to Lancashire for a guided tour of the Ribble Valley, a nostalgic steam train ride and the elegant resort of Southport.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Lancashire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Be captivated and enlightened on a **full or half day Ribble Valley & Pendle coach guided tour**, whilst enjoying the wonderful Lancashire scenery. If you choose to have a half day tour, then make the most of the afternoon by visiting the **historic market town of Clitheroe** or experience mill shopping at its best at **Oswaldtwistle Mills**, which has over 100 unique retailers, plus its own sweet factory, museum and garden centre.

Day 3: Visit the **world famous Bury Market**. For over 500 years, Bury has had a market and today it is a unique shopping experience and the biggest in the North West with 370 stalls. Take a nostalgic trip back in time and remember the sights, sounds and smells of a bygone era on a single journey through the Irwell Valley on the **East Lancashire Railway** from Bury to Rawtenstall.

Day 4: Head to the coast and visit the **traditional and elegant seaside resort of Southport**, which has become known as 'England's Classic Resort'. Its architecture, parks, gardens, promenade and the UK's oldest iron pier, reflect its historical heritage, whilst Lord Street, with its tree-lined boulevards, wide pavements and iron canopies, is recognised as one of the most elegant shopping areas in England. If time allows, why not visit the unique antiques and collectables experience at Bygone Times in Eccleston.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Preston Leyland Hotel ★★

Modern hotel in Leyland with leisure facilities, ideally placed to explore all of Lancashire's secrets.

- 93 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ East Lancashire Railway
- Full or half day Ribble Valley & Pendle guided tour
- Leisure facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £240

Lake District Steam & Cruise



Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway

Be inspired by the Lake District's famous breath taking scenery, nostalgic steam train journeys and relaxing lake cruises.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Grange-over-Sands or Kendal for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Take a wonderfully scenic trip through the heart of the Lake District to the ever-popular North Lakes tourist town of **Keswick**, under the shadow of Skiddaw, before continuing to England's most beautiful lake, **Ullswater**, for a cruise on a 'steamer' from Pooley Bridge to Glenridding. Return via the narrow, but beautiful Kirkstone Pass.

Day 3: Enjoy a one-way steam train journey through the beautiful Leven Valley on the **Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway**, before boarding a **delightful cruise along Lake Windermere**, England's largest lake, from Lakeside to Bowness-on-Windermere. **Bowness** is popular all year round and people come here to sail on the lake or just to relax and savour the atmosphere and the town's delightful setting. If time, visit the **historic market town of Kendal**.

Day 4: Full steam ahead to Western Lake District for a nostalgic trip back in time on the **Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway**, affectionately known by the locals as 'La'al Ratty'. Enjoy a return trip on Lakeland's oldest and longest railway from the delightful coastal village of Ravenglass through two glorious valleys to the foot of England's highest mountains. If time, call in to the market town of **Ulverston**, which is home to the Laurel & Hardy Museum or alternatively, explore the genteel Edwardian resort of **Grange-over-Sands** and the wonderful Holker Hall & Gardens.

Day 5: Time to return home.

Please note that Turkey & Tinsel tours are also available at the Cumbria Grand Hotel.

Cumbria Grand Hotel ★★

Set in 20 acres, this charming Victorian hotel in Grange-over-Sands has stunning views over Morecambe Bay.

- 120 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Riverside Hotel ★★

Enjoying a peaceful riverside location in Kendal, this former tannery has a range of leisure facilities.

- 58 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Lake Ullswater Cruise ➤ Windermere Lake Cruise
- Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway ➤ Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights (Cumbria Grand Hotel)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £266
May to Sep: Prices from: £292

Liverpool & the Manchester Ship Canal Cruise



Manchester Ship Canal

Experience Liverpool's glorious maritime history, magnificent architecture and a memorable cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Liverpool for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a **fascinating two hour coach guided tour of Liverpool** and marvel at the history, heritage and architecture of this vibrant city. Explore Liverpool, a UNESCO World Heritage City, with its two cathedrals and an historic waterfront including the Albert Dock, the largest collection of Grade I listed buildings in Europe, Tate Liverpool, Maritime Museum, Beatles Story and Pier Head, home to the affectionately titled Three Graces and the magnificent Royal Liver Building. To round off your day, why not enjoy a River Explorer on a 'Ferry across the Mersey'.

Day 3: **Cruise along the Manchester Ship Canal**, one of Britain's most historic waterways on a round trip to and from Liverpool Pier Head. This fascinating six hour cruise, with live commentary along the way, is as awe inspiring as it is relaxing. Hear the story of this magnificent waterway and enjoy wonderfully differing scenery as your cruise takes you through locks and under bridges, which have remained largely unchanged for over 100 years.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Spend more time exploring Liverpool or visit the traditional and elegant seaside resort of Southport, known as 'England's Classic Resort'. Alternatively, travel through the Mersey Tunnel to the charming 19th Century village of Port Sunlight, visit the wonderful Ness Botanic Gardens, the Anderton Boat Lift or head to the historic walled city of Chester, with its cathedral and unique 700 year old shopping rows.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Mercure Liverpool Atlantic Tower Hotel ★★

In the very heart of the city overlooking Liverpool's world famous waterfront and iconic Liver Building.

- 225 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Two hour coach guided tour of Liverpool
- Manchester Ship Canal Cruise

May to Sep: Prices from: £305

Charming Cheshire & the Wirral Peninsula



Chester

© www.geograph.org.uk - Jiff Buck

Peak District Delights



Chatsworth House

© Chatsworth Settlement Trust

Fall in love with Chester, Cheshire & the Wirral Peninsula with its history, heritage, wonderful gardens and uplifting attractions!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Chester for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Full day in **Chester** to explore all this wonderful historic city has to offer. To start your day, enjoy a **relaxing half hour cruise along the River Dee**, before discovering Chester's remarkable cathedral with Europe's finest example of medieval carvings; the unique 700 year old Rows galleries of shops; the largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain and the most complete City Walls in Britain. If time allows, why not hop on and off an open top sightseeing bus.

Day 3: Visit the **medieval market town of Nantwich**, with its atmospheric streets, medieval timbered buildings, antique and craft shops. Enjoy a **lift and river boat trip at the Anderton Boat Lift**, a Victorian masterpiece of waterway engineering built to connect the River Weaver and the Trent & Mersey Canal, or visit a much cherished Victorian family home and its lovingly created gardens at **Arley Hall**. Alternatively, you could cross the border into North Wales to Llangollen for a horse-drawn canal boat trip and a journey on a heritage railway.

Day 4: Head to the **Wirral Peninsula**. First stop is the **historic and idyllic garden village of Port Sunlight**, which was built in the late 19th century by Lord Lever as a home for his soap factory workers. Today, it is home to a museum, parks, a world-class art gallery and all this can be **discovered on a coach guided tour**. Next stop is the **traditional resort of New Brighton**, which was created by a Liverpool merchant, before continuing to the **wonderful Ness Botanic Gardens**, with over 64 acres of stunning gardens to explore.

Day 5: Time for home.



The Queen at Chester Hotel ★★★★★

A grand Victorian hotel opposite Chester Railway Station and within walking distance of the city centre.

• 134 Bedrooms • Lift

Explore England's first National Park, known for its breath taking views, historic houses, pretty villages and unique customs.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Derbyshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit **Ashbourne**, with its winding cobbled streets and more than 200 listed buildings including historic almshouses and handsome Tudor and Georgian heritage or the elegant spa town of **Buxton**, renowned for its Georgian and Victorian architecture and The Crescent. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to the **Crich Tramway Village**, where you can step back in time on a journey through the history of trams, or take a trip on the **Ecclesbourne Valley Railway**, Derbyshire's longest heritage railway.

Day 3: Discover the delightful town of **Bakewell**, with its medieval stone bridge, quaint courtyards and famous for its Bakewell Pudding. Continue to the **'plague village' of Eyam**, before heading to the magnificent and stately **Chatsworth House**, with over 30 rooms and art collections in the house and 105 acres of wonderful gardens.

Day 4: Don't forget to try and visit one of the regular Well Dressings; Matlock Bath, set in the beautiful gorge of the River Derwent; Haddon Hall, a gem of a medieval and Tudor manor house; the beautifully situated village of Castleton; the market town of Chesterfield, famous for its 'Crooked Spire'; the National Memorial Arboretum or enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Upper Peak Forest Canal.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Derby Mickleover Hotel ★★★★★

Stylish and contemporary hotel with leisure facilities, close to Derby and the Peak District.

• 99 Bedrooms • Lift
• Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Chester River Cruise
- Anderton Boat Lift and river trip or Arley Hall & Gardens
- Port Sunlight Museum and coach guided tour ➤ Ness Botanic Gardens

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Chatsworth House & Gardens
- Crich Tramway Village or Ecclesbourne Valley Railway
- Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £307

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £266

Shropshire & the Severn Valley



Severn Valley Railway

Visit Shropshire, with its remarkable heritage, a memorable train journey, the gourmet town of Ludlow and a lovely river cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Shropshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a **unique and leisurely 40 minute cruise** in Shrewsbury along the famous and very picturesque River Severn loop. Shrewsbury, the birthplace of Charles Darwin, is arguably the finest Tudor town in England and is home to an abbey, many black & white half-timbered Tudor buildings and an imposing castle.

Day 3: Full steam ahead for a classic rail journey on the **Severn Valley Railway** between **Bridgnorth**, which is a 'twin town' linked together by its own remarkable Cliff Railway, and Kidderminster. Head to the historic market town of **Ludlow**, often referred to as the **perfect historic town**, with over 500 listed buildings and a castle at its heart, or **Church Stretton**, the only town in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Day 4: The spectacular **Ironbridge Gorge** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy visiting **Blists Hill, an open air museum**, where townsfolk in traditional dress re-enact life in an authentic Victorian community; the village of Ironbridge and the famous 'Iron Bridge' itself. If time allows, visit **Much Wenlock**, a medieval town with close ties to the modern Olympics and home to the remains of a 12th century Priory.

Alternatively, head into Wales to the picturesque town of Llangollen, for a horse-drawn canal boat and a trip through the Dee Valley on the Llangollen Railway.

Day 5: Time for home.

*Please note that Turkey & Tinsel tours are also available at the **Buckatree Hall Hotel**.*

Buckatree Hall Hotel ★★ ★

Country house hotel in a peaceful rural location.

- 62 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Telford Hotel & Golf Resort ★★ ★ ★

Set in its own grounds, this lovely hotel has leisure facilities.

- 114 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Severn Valley Railway ➤ Blists Hill Victorian Museum ➤ Shrewsbury River Severn Cruise ➤ Entertainment on 2 nights (Buckatree Hall Hotel) ➤ Leisure facilities (Telford Hotel)

May to Sep: Prices from: £267

Welsh Borders Steam & Cruise



Llangollen Canal

Where Shropshire meets Wales, enjoy a steam train ride through the Dee Valley and a relaxing cruise along the River Severn.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Shrewsbury for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Shrewsbury is one of England's finest medieval market towns with over 600 listed buildings including many black & white half-timbered Tudor buildings. **Sit back and relax on a 40 minute cruise along the River Severn**, before exploring this lovely town which was the birthplace of Charles Darwin. If required, a one hour coach guided tour of Shrewsbury could be arranged. Shrewsbury is home to a Norman castle, an Abbey and The Quarry, which at its heart lies The Dingle, a floral masterpiece designed by the famous gardener Percy Thrower.

Day 3: Cross the border into Wales and explore the **picturesque town of Llangollen** with the River Dee running through its heart. Experience the peace and tranquillity of an included **horse-drawn canal boat trip** along the Llangollen Canal, now part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy Llangollen's wealth of independent shops and take a stroll along Victoria Promenade, before a nostalgic trip back in time through the Dee Valley on the **Llangollen Railway**.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice, and what a choice! You could visit the historic market town of Ludlow; the spectacular Ironbridge Gorge; the wonderful Hodnet Hall Gardens; the magnificent Powis Castle and Gardens or enjoy a nostalgic steam train journey on the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway or Severn Valley Railway.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa ★★ ★ ★

Stunning manor house hotel set in 15 acres of landscaped gardens and grounds overlooking an ornamental lake.

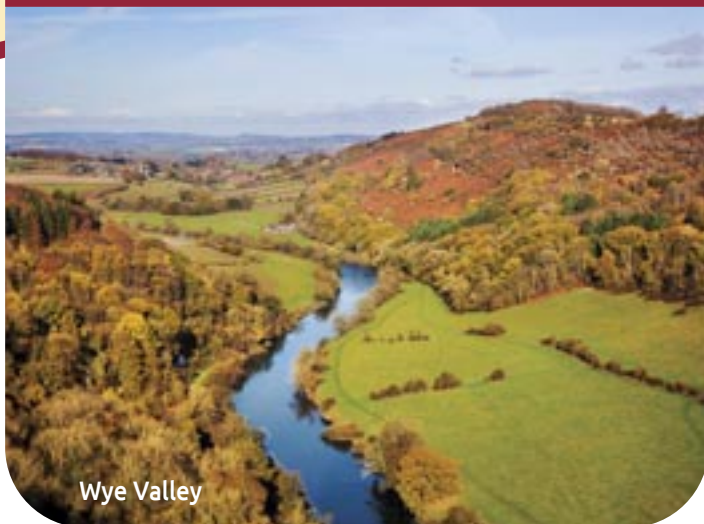
- 87 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Llangollen Railway ➤ Horse-drawn Llangollen Canal trip ➤ Shrewsbury River Severn Cruise ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £292

Wye Valley & the Royal Forest of Dean



Wye Valley

Experience this magical borderland on a scenic river cruise, a relaxing train ride and visits to historic towns.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Coleford in the Royal Forest of Dean for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Cross the border into Wales to the **Georgian market town of Monmouth**, famous for its unique 13th century Monnow Bridge, before returning to England for a **relaxing cruise along the River Wye** from Symonds Yat West, which has long been one of the most spectacular stretches of the Wye Valley. If time allows, explore Coleford itself or enjoy the bowling and golf facilities at your hotel.

Day 3: Follow the twists and turns of the **Wye Valley** for a coffee break and photo opportunity at the magnificent ruins of Tintern Abbey, before continuing to the historic walled border town of **Chepstow**, which is dominated by the oldest surviving stone castle in Britain, on the banks of the River Wye. Return into the delightful Royal Forest of Dean for a relaxing round trip on the **Dean Forest Railway**, where a cream tea could be included, if required.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Why not enjoy a full or half day guided tour of the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean; head into Herefordshire to the historic cathedral city of Hereford, the market town of Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury with its 'black & white' timber-framed buildings or discover the secrets of traditional cider making on a Weston's Cider guided mill tour. Alternatively, why not head to Regency Cheltenham or Gloucester, with its cathedral and Victorian docks.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Please see page 48 for a Turkey & Tinsel tour at this hotel.



Bells Hotel & Country Club
★★★

A warm welcome is assured at this lovely hotel with golf and bowling facilities.

- 53 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ River Wye Cruise ➤ Dean Forest Railway
- Welcome drink on arrival ➤ Entertainment each night
- 6 singles - no supplement ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £253

Cheltenham, Tewkesbury & the Cotswolds



Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway

Explore Regency Cheltenham, medieval Tewkesbury, a heritage railway journey and the charming Cotswolds towns and villages.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Cheltenham for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit **Cheltenham**, England's most complete Regency town whose town houses, characterised by intricate ironwork balconies and painted stucco facades, line the historic Promenade, squares and terraces. Enjoy a trip on the **Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway** through the heart of the Cotswolds from Cheltenham to the wonderful **honey-coloured village of Broadway**.

Day 3: Discover the **picturesque medieval town of Tewkesbury** on Wednesday market day. Rich in timber-framed buildings, Tewkesbury has a long and fascinating history as well as being home to a famous Abbey. This afternoon, visit **Sudeley Castle**, once the home of Katherine Parr, the last and surviving wife of Henry VIII, and its award-winning gardens or the rural **TV presenter Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park**, where you can experience a stunning diversity of animals, rare breeds a farm safari tractor ride and changing demonstrations which follow the farming cycle.

Day 4: Enjoy a scenic tour of the honey-coloured limestone towns and villages of the Cotswolds. Visit **Bourton-on-the-Water**, the 'Venice of the Cotswolds'; **Stow-on-the-Wold**, with its many fine antique shops and the wonderful historic village of Chipping Campden. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to **Hidcote Manor Garden**, where you can discover one of the country's great gardens, with its magnificent vistas and dazzling arrays of plants and flowers.

Day 5: Time for home.



Delta by Marriott Cheltenham Chase
★★★★

Situated at the foot of the Cotswold Hills, this stylish and contemporary hotel has an indoor swimming pool.

- 122 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Hidcote Manor Garden ➤ Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway ➤ Sudeley Castle & Gardens or Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park ➤ Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £289

Shakespeare Country Cream Tea & Cruise



Stratford-upon-Avon

© OG Media Solutions

Relax on a cruise in Shakespeare country and step back in time to an age of elegance, romance and treachery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Warwickshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Experience the sights and ambience of **Stratford-Upon-Avon**, a town synonymous with William Shakespeare. Walk in Shakespeare's footsteps at the house where he was born and grew up, and head off on the self-guided heritage trail. His influence is everywhere and there are also cafes, shops and riverside gardens to enjoy. This afternoon, board the 'Countess of Evesham' for an included gentle **relaxing cruise and cream tea on the River Avon**.

Day 3: Discover a wealth of treasures in the **charming historic town of Warwick**, home to secret gardens, a magnificent castle - Britain's greatest medieval experience, and the Lord Leycester Hospital, a group of timber-framed buildings dating mainly from the 14th century. Continue to the fashionable and **elegant town of Royal Leamington Spa**, home to the Royal Pump Rooms and the Grade II listed Jephson Gardens. Alternatively, a full day guided tour of Shakespeare Country and the Heart of England could be arranged.

Day 4: Head to the **ancient market town of Henley-in-Arden**, with its unspoilt historic high street, before continuing to **Kenilworth Castle and its Elizabethan Gardens**, which have been restored to their former glory, before exploring the **historic town of Kenilworth** itself. Alternatively, you could visit Coughton Court, a fine Tudor estate owned by the Throckmorton family since 1409, with an absorbing history linked to the Gunpowder Plot and a conspiracy to assassinate Elizabeth I.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



Chesford Grange Hotel

★★★★

Historic and characterful hotel set in 17 acres of tranquil gardens and woodland, near Kenilworth.

- 205 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Stratford-upon-Avon Boat Cruise with cream tea
- Kenilworth Castle & Gardens
- Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £288

Lincolnshire Coast & Countryside



© Martin Keen

Experience the best of Lincolnshire with historic towns and villages, a thriving seaside resort and 'Bomber County' heritage.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Skegness for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit the delightful village of **Woodhall Spa with its Dambuster's connections** and its unique Kinema in the Woods, before continuing to the **Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre**. Enjoy exhibitions and an enlightening guided tour of the hangar where these historic aeroplanes are meticulously maintained. Alternatively, you could visit the **Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre**, where you can experience the atmosphere of a bomber airfield, complete with its own Lancaster bomber 'Just Jane'. If time, call in at the antiques town of Horncastle or Louth, the historic capital of the Wolds.

Day 3: Excursion to the heart of the dramatic fenland to a **gem of a market town, Boston**, which is immersed in history and dominated by its 14th century St Botolph's Church whose high tower is locally known as 'The Stump'. Continue to **Spalding**, famous as the centre of the UK flower industry, with its elegant Georgian terraces and tree-lined river walks, and visit the Springfield's Outlet Shopping Centre and award-winning Festival Gardens.

Day 4: Relax and explore **Skegness**, one of Britain's first seaside resorts, where large Victorian houses in leafy avenues lead to an amazing array of floral gardens, its grand promenade and wonderful beaches. If you prefer, why not head to the nearby Batemans Brewery or further afield to the **ancient city of Lincoln**, whose cathedral towers majestically overlook the city and its many other historic attractions including a Norman castle and charming medieval and Georgian houses.

Day 5: Time for home.



The Royal Hotel ★★★

In quiet, spacious grounds, this Victorian hotel in Skegness is close to the seafront and town centre.

- 70 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre or Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre
- Entertainment on 3 nights ➤ 6 singles – no supplement

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £185

Rutland's Riches & Elizabethan Grandeur



Rutland Water

© Rutland Water Cruises Ltd

Experience stunning attractions including England's greatest Elizabethan House, an inspiring garden, beautiful Stamford and a Rutland Water cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: "The finest scene between London and Edinburgh" is what Sir Walter Scott said of **Stamford, a Georgian town of immense charm with over 600 listed buildings**, which has been used many times as a filming location. Also featured in many films is **Burghley House, which is one of the largest and grandest houses of the Elizabethan age**. It is home to extensive collections, many fine rooms, the garden of surprises and landscaped parkland.

Day 3: Rutland maybe the smallest county in the UK, but it boasts a rich history! The pretty **historic market town of Oakham** is home to an impressive Norman castle and the Rutland County Museum, a treasure trove of captivating exhibits. Head to **Barnsdale Gardens**, the UK's largest collection of individually designed gardens, which was created by the much-loved late BBC Gardeners' World presenter, Geoff Hamilton, before enjoying a **relaxing afternoon cruise on Rutland Water**, one of the largest man-made lakes in Europe.

Day 4: The choice is yours! You could visit the cathedral city of Peterborough and enjoy a trip on the Nene Valley Railway, visit the lovely historic town of Oundle with its many listed buildings and specialist shops or get a real 'taste' of Leicestershire in Melton Mowbray, famous for its pork pies and stilton cheese, before visiting Belvoir Castle, the family home of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland.

Day 5: Time for home.



Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel ★★

Modern and spacious hotel, near Corby, ideally placed to explore Rutland's riches.

- 86 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Burghley House
- Barnsdale Gardens
- Rutland Water Cruise

May to Sep: Prices from: £258

Codebreakers & Cambridge



Bletchley Park

© Flickr - David Blaikie

Visit the home of the famous World War 2 codebreakers and discover a land of lazy waterways and majestic cathedrals.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Huntingdon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Once Britain's best kept secret, **Bletchley Park, the 'Home of the Codebreakers'**, is today a unique heritage site and tourist attraction set within an atmospheric Victorian estate nestled in peaceful parkland. Explore and experience the top-secret world of iconic WW2 codebreaking huts and blocks, where codebreaking successes helped to save countless lives by shortening WW2 by about two years.

Day 3: Enjoy a morning **panoramic coach guided tour of the famous university city of Cambridge**, before exploring the historic centre, the renowned Fitzwilliam Museum or maybe take a leisurely punt along the River Cam. Admire the wonderful architecture and majestic college buildings, and explore quaint passages set around the historic market place.

Day 4: The choice is yours! Saddle up for the attractive market town of Newmarket, watch the racehorses exercise on the famous gallops and if you wish, visit the National Horseracing Museum or enjoy a tour of the National Stud. The city of Ely is rich in history, charm and beauty and its magnificent Cathedral is known locally as the 'Ship of the Fens'. Alternatively, you could visit the historic airfield and museum of aviation history at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, or head north to Peterborough and enjoy a trip on the Nene Valley Railway.

Day 5: Time for home.



Huntingdon Marriott Hotel ★★

Modern hotel with leisure facilities ideally located for exploring Cambridgeshire.

- 150 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Bletchley Park
- Guided tour of Cambridge
- Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £276

Norfolk Broads Steam & Cruise



The Poppy Line

What better way to experience Norfolk than with a Broads cruise, a nostalgic railway and a stately home.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Norwich for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the **North Norfolk Heritage Coast** to the wonderful **Georgian market town of Holt**, where you board 'The Poppy Line', for a **heritage steam train ride** with stunning views of the Norfolk countryside and coastline through to **Sheringham**, a traditional seaside town which grew up around its old fishing village. Continue to the lovely **coastal resort of Cromer**, famous for its pier and tasty crabs or the wonderful harbour town of Wells-next-the-Sea.

Day 3: Travel to Wroxham or Horning, where you board your boat for a **relaxing cruise on the Norfolk Broads**. Today, you could also enjoy a trip on the narrow gauge Bure Valley Railway or head into **Norwich**, which is said to be the most complete medieval city in Britain with over 1,500 historic listed buildings, two cathedrals, an imposing Norman castle and famed as the home of Colman's Mustard.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice, you could explore the **Sandringham Estate**, the much-loved Norfolk retreat of Her Majesty the Queen. The magnificent stately house is set in stunning landscaped gardens, and remains very much as it was in Edwardian times. If time allows, visit the resort of Hunstanton, historic King's Lynn or pop into Norfolk Lavender. If you prefer, visit the unspoiled and historic seaside resort of Wells-next-the-Sea and the spectacular **Palladian Mansion at Holkham Hall**, with its restored Victorian kitchen and walled gardens.

Day 5: Time for home.

Holiday Inn Norwich ★★

Ideally located for touring Norfolk, this modern hotel is on Ipswich Road.

- 119 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Holiday Inn Norwich City ★★

Modern hotel, close to Norwich city centre.

- 150 Bedrooms • Lift

Dunston Hall Hotel ★★

Elizabethan-styled hotel in acres of parkland, south of Norwich.

- 169 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Norfolk Broads Cruise
- Poppy Line Steam Railway ➤ Sandringham Estate or Holkham Hall
- Leisure Facilities (Holiday Inn Norwich and Dunston Hall Hotel)

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £271

Great Yarmouth & the Norfolk Coast



Norfolk Broads Cruise

Explore Norfolk's premier beach resort, wonderful coastlines, a historic medieval city and enjoy a relaxing Broads cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Great Yarmouth for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the **North Norfolk Heritage Coast** and visit **Sheringham**, a traditional seaside town which grew up around its old fishing village or the wonderful harbour town of **Wells-next-the-Sea**, before continuing to the lovely **coastal resort of Cromer**, famous for its pier and tasty crabs. If you wish, include a heritage steam train ride on the Poppy Line. Alternatively, head south into Suffolk and visit the pretty and unspoiled coastal towns of Southwold and Aldeburgh.

Day 3: Head into **Norwich**, which is said to be the most complete medieval city in Britain with over 1,500 historic listed buildings, two cathedrals, an imposing Norman castle and famed as the home of Colman's Mustard, before continuing to the village of Horning, where you **board Southern Comfort, a Mississippi Paddle Boat for a relaxing cruise on the Norfolk Broads**.

Day 4: Free day to explore **Great Yarmouth**, which is home to fun seaside holidays. Norfolk's premier beach resort with two piers and wide, clean, sandy beaches which are some of the most beautiful stretches of beach in East Anglia. Discover the unexpected in Great Yarmouth, which has the second most complete medieval town wall in England with eleven out of the original sixteen towers still standing, along with maritime heritage and architecture.

Day 5: Time for home.



Prom Hotel ★★

Seafront hotel in Great Yarmouth opposite Britannia Pier, within walking distance of the town centre.

- 50 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Norfolk Broads Cruise
- Entertainment on 2 nights

May to Sep: Prices from: £239

Suffolk's Tranquil Villages & Coast



Lavenham

© Flickr - Martin Pettitt

It's easy to see why some of England's most famous painters were inspired by Suffolk's picturesque villages and unspoilt coastline.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Marks Tey Hotel for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a **guided tour of Suffolk's pastel-coloured towns and villages**, whose timber-framed houses and thatched roofs make this area so unique. Visit **Sudbury**, home to Gainsborough's attractive townhouse which is now the birthplace museum and gallery of Thomas Gainsborough, one of Britain's greatest painters; **Long Melford** and **Lavenham**, where we include a visit to its historic Guildhall, which now contains exhibitions of local history.

Day 3: Be inspired and enjoy a slower pace of life, with visits to nearby **Dedham**, home to the Munnings Art Museum and an art & craft centre, and **East Bergholt**, picturesque villages associated with the artist John Constable. This afternoon, why not enjoy a nostalgic visit to the Tiptree Jam Shop, Tea Room and Museum (free admission) or if you prefer, continue to Beth Chatto Gardens or Colchester, officially Britain's oldest recorded town, home to Roman remains, a huge Norman castle keep and timber-framed cottages.

Day 4: Excursion to Suffolk's Heritage Coast and the **pretty coastal town of Aldeburgh**, with its unspoilt beach dotted with fishermen's huts and charming historic high street. This afternoon, enjoy a **relaxing cruise along the beautiful and scenic River Deben**, which makes a lovely way to round off your holiday.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.



Marks Tey Hotel ★★

Ideal for exploring Suffolk, it has modern facilities and an indoor swimming pool.

- 110 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Lavenham Guildhall
- Guided tour of Suffolk Villages ➤ Deben River Cruise
- Welcome drink on arrival ➤ Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £283

Royal Windsor & Glorious Wisley



Windsor Cruise

© Photoshot Limited

Discover the majesty of Windsor, enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Thames and visit the wonderful RHS garden at Wisley.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Crowned by stunning Windsor Castle, the largest and oldest inhabited castle in the world and official residence of Her Majesty The Queen, the **wonderful Royal town of Windsor**, has a rich mix of history, culture and heritage. This afternoon, enjoy a **relaxing two hour cruise along the River Thames** with excellent views of Windsor Castle and Eton College.

Day 3: Head to the rather special and flagship garden of the **Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley**, where you could very easily spend a full day. Wisley can rightly claim to be one of the finest gardens in the world and is a place full of inspiration, with its spectacular floral displays, the Wild Garden, the Model Gardens and the state-of-the-art Glasshouse. Alternatively, you could head to **Hampton Court Palace**, the home of Henry VIII, and discover the spectacular baroque palace and its magnificent gardens.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice today. You could explore the many wonders, museums and attractions of London and hop on a sightseeing bus or two. Alternatively, you could head to the city of spires at Oxford; the cathedral city of St Albans; the lovely town of Henley-on-Thames which enjoys an international reputation as home of the world's greatest rowing regatta; the Jacobean Hatfield House and Garden or the Renaissance-styled Waddesdon Manor, once the country home of the Rothschilds.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



The Bull Hotel ★★

Historic and characterful hotel in Gerrards Cross, combining warm hospitality and modern comforts.

- 150 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Windsor River Thames Cruise
- RHS Wisley or Hampton Court Palace

May to Sep: Prices from: £274

Historic Kent - the Garden of England



Hever Castle

Steeped in history and heritage, discover the essence of this region with its perfect blend of city, coast and countryside.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Kent for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the wonderful historic **spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells**, with its elegant architecture and the pretty colonnaded 18th century walkway known as the Pantiles, which are now home to specialist shops and open-air cafes. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to either the enchanting **Hever Castle & Gardens**, which was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, or the wonderful manor house and gardens at **Penshurst Place**, one of England's oldest family homes.

Day 3: Nestling against the banks of the River Medway, historic **Rochester** is home to England's second oldest cathedral, its tallest Norman castle and a host of connections to the writer Charles Dickens. Continue to the magnificent **Leeds Castle** and discover the glorious 900 year old story of the remarkable survival of a moated medieval castle or enjoy a nostalgic train journey on the **Kent & East Sussex Railway**, through the unspoilt countryside of the Rother Valley.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Head to the historic city of **Canterbury** with its atmospheric old streets, medieval walls and cathedral, which is now a World Heritage Site. Continue to the pretty coastal town of Deal, the ancient medieval town of Sandwich or Faversham, a charming town with nearly 500 listed buildings. Alternatively, you could enjoy a themed 'Call the Midwife' guided tour at Chatham Historic Dockyard; visit Broadstairs, Charles Dickens' favourite seaside holiday resort or Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, one of the world's most celebrated gardens.

Day 5: Time for home.



Bridgewood Manor Hotel

★★★★★

Offering a peaceful setting for exploring Kent, this hotel near Chatham also has an indoor pool.

- 100 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Kent & East Sussex Railway or Leeds Castle
- Hever Castle & Gardens or Penshurst Place & Gardens
- Leisure facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £274

Eastbourne, Railways & Gardens



Bluebell Railway

Explore Sussex with its stunning coastlines, genteel resorts, countryside, heritage, wonderful gardens and nostalgic railways.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Eastbourne for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore **Eastbourne**, with its award-winning seafront, famous Carpet Gardens, Napoleonic fortress, harbour, boat trips, 1930's bandstand, Victorian Pier and relax in one of the beach huts or deckchairs. Visit the nearby, iconic and natural beauty spot at Beachy Head, the UK's highest chalk sea cliff. If you prefer, visit the seaside resort of Hastings, with its castle remains, a preserved Old Town and the steepest funicular railway in Britain.

Day 3: Excursion to the **historic town of Lewes**, which boasts a castle and the Anne of Cleves House, or the vibrant and colourful **Regency resort of Brighton**, where you can experience the heritage of the Royal Pavilion and take a trip up Britain's highest observation tower outside London, the Brighton i360. This afternoon, enjoy a **nostalgic trip back in time on the famous Bluebell Railway** or visit the **wonderfully restored Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens**, which had been closed to the public for eight years and re-opened in 2019.

Day 4: Excursion to the **historic town of Battle**, home to an Abbey and where the famous battle took place in 1066 or the **Cinque Port town of Rye**, with enchanting cobbled streets and beautifully preserved buildings from medieval, Tudor and Georgian times. Visit **Pashley Manor Gardens**, an award-winning, quintessential English garden, with a sumptuous blend of romantic landscaping, fountains and colourful displays or enjoy a nostalgic train journey through the Rother Valley on the **Kent & East Sussex Railway**.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



Best Western Lansdowne Hotel

★★★

This traditional, imposing and family-run hotel is located on Eastbourne's sea front.

- 102 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Bluebell Railway or Leonardslee Lakes & Gardens
- Pashley Manor Gardens or Kent & East Sussex Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ Tea/coffee on arrival
- 8 singles - no supplement

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £275
May to Sep: Prices from: £295

Southsea & Chichester harbour cruise



Portsmouth

Stroll along Southsea seafront, visit the cathedral city of Chichester and enjoy a relaxing harbour cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Southsea for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a leisurely stroll in the gardens and along the Promenade in **Southsea**, home to a castle and the D-Day Museum & Overlord Embroidery. Visit the **historic waterfront city of Portsmouth** which is home to the unique Mary Rose Museum and other Historic Dockyard attractions, including HMS Victory and the Royal Naval Museum or for something more modern, take a panoramic trip up the 170ft high Spinnaker Tower.

Day 3: Nestled at the foot of the South Downs, visit the **cathedral city of Chichester** on market day. Cosmopolitan, fashionably elegant and unashamedly quirky, Chichester is made for exploring with its ancient circular walls, unique nooks and crannies. This afternoon, enjoy a relaxing and scenic **Chichester Harbour Cruise**. If you prefer, head to Southampton and enjoy a Two Rivers Cruise on the Rivers Itchen and Test, and in Southampton Harbour past modern cruise liners or a Hamble River Cruise, where Howard's Way was filmed.

Day 4: The choice is yours. The **Isle of Wight** is only a short ferry crossing away. Explore the coasts and curiosities of this island, perhaps visiting Shanklin, Sandown, Godshill, Alum Bay, the Needles, Queen Victoria's Osborne House or enjoy a train ride. Alternatively, stay in Hampshire and visit Alresford, a lovely Georgian town, for a nostalgic trip on the Mid-Hants Railway, also known as the Watercress Line, or head into West Sussex to the historic town of Arundel, home to a stately castle.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



Best Western Royal Beach Hotel ★★

Proudly situated on Southsea's promenade, this lovely Victorian hotel is opposite the beach.

• 124 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Chichester Harbour Cruise
- 12 singles - no supplement

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £279

Hampshire - Steam, Gin & the New Forest



Bombay Sapphire Distillery

Experience historic Hampshire, a nostalgic railway, Jane Austen heritage, an iconic gin distillery & the New Forest.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Winchester for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the historic streets of King Alfred's ancient capital of England, **Winchester**. Visit the Great Hall and King Arthur's Round Table, a fully restored working water mill and Winchester Cathedral, where Jane Austen is buried. Based at Laverstoke Mill, the **Bombay Sapphire Distillery** is in a conservation area with over 1000 years of history. The distillery showcases the care, skill and artistry behind every drop of Bombay Sapphire, and allows you to discover the flavours of the botanicals which make this gin so unique.

Day 3: Head to **Alresford**, a lovely Georgian town, for a nostalgic trip on the **Mid-Hants Railway, also known as the Watercress Line**, through the lovely Hampshire countryside to Alton. This afternoon, you could visit nearby Jane Austen's House Museum at Chawton, where she did the majority of her mature writing and which still retains the charm of a village home or head to the **historic town of Bishop's Waltham**, which was selected by the bishops from Winchester Cathedral as the site of their palace in the 12th century.

Day 4: Excursion to the **wonderfully scenic New Forest National Park**, with its wild horses, picturesque towns and villages, idyllic glades and historic woodland. We include a visit to **Beaulieu, home to the National Motor Museum, Palace House & Gardens, Beaulieu Abbey and World of Top Gear**, with unlimited rides on the Monorail and veteran bus. Alternatively, you could visit the award-winning Exbury Gardens or head to the characterful historic city of Salisbury, home to a magnificent cathedral with England's tallest spire.

Day 5: Head for home.



Norton Park Hotel ★★★★★

This prestigious hotel, close to Winchester, has an indoor pool and health spa.

• 166 Bedrooms • Lift
• Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Beaulieu
- Bombay Sapphire Distillery
- Mid-Hants Railway – 'Watercress Line' ➤ Leisure & spa facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £305

Poole & the Jurassic Coast



Poole Harbour

With a wonderful coastline, relaxing harbour cruise and nostalgic train ride, this tour to delightful Dorset is a real treat.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Poole for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the Isle of Purbeck, including the **Georgian market town of Wareham**, once a stronghold for King Alfred the Great and onto the lovely **Victorian seaside resort of Swanage**, which marks the Eastern end of the Jurassic Coast. Enjoy a wonderful journey through the Purbeck countryside with an included **trip on the Swanage Railway** with stunning views of the ruins of Corfe Castle en route.

Day 3: Enjoy a scenic drive along **Dorset's 'Jurassic Coast'**, a natural World Heritage Site containing 185 million years of the Earth's history and visit the **coastal resort of Weymouth** with its long sandy beach and picturesque harbour. If time allows, you could visit Athelhampton House & Gardens or the Swannery at Abbotsbury. Alternatively, **visit Dorset's historic county town of Dorchester**, the birthplace of the famous author and poet, Thomas Hardy or head to the popular seaside resort of Bournemouth.

Day 4: Discover **Poole's bustling Quayside** with its views, shops and cafés, the historic old town or if you prefer, travel the short distance to the picturesque ancient town of Wimborne Minster. This afternoon, enjoy the natural beauty of **Poole Harbour**, the second largest natural harbour in the world, on a relaxing and refreshing **cruise around the harbour and its islands**.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time for home.



Thistle Poole Hotel ★★ ★

With stunning views over Poole Harbour, this hotel is located on Poole Quayside.

- 70 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Swanage Railway ➤ Poole Harbour Cruise

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £287
May to Sep: Prices from: £311

Wonderful Wells & Serene Somerset



Bath

Discover England's smallest city, the beautiful Mendip Hills, the spectacular Cheddar Gorge and the Somerset Coast.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Wells for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: The **wonderful city of Bath**, a protected World Heritage Site, is full of architectural wonders. Don't miss the Royal Crescent, Pulteney Bridge which is lined with tiny shops, the Roman Baths, Pump Room and Sally Lunn's House. Alternatively, head to Longleat and discover one of the most beautiful stately homes in Britain and its famous safari park.

Day 3: Head to the Somerset Coast today and visit either **Weston-Super-Mare**, a seaside resort with a fabulous beach and new pier, or **Clevedon**, a beautiful Victorian town with a grade 1 listed Pier, ornamental gardens and a relaxing Promenade. This afternoon, head to **Oakham Treasures**, which will give you an uplifting trip down memory lane with its vast and unique collection of memorabilia.

Day 4: Step out from your lovely, historic hotel and explore **Wells**, England's smallest city, on Wednesday market day. With its cobbled streets, medieval architecture, compact historic centre, magnificent cathedral and unique moated Bishop's Palace, there is plenty to see and do in this wonderful city. This afternoon, head the short journey to mystical **Glastonbury** or the spectacular setting of Cheddar Gorge, home to some breath taking caves.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time to head for home.



Best Western Plus Swan Hotel ★★ ★★

This historic hotel sits in the heart of Wells, directly opposite the magnificent west front of Wells Cathedral.

- 49 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Oakham Treasures

Apr: Prices from: £288
May to Oct: Prices from: £308

Devon & Somerset Steam & Cruise



West Somerset Railway

Visit two of the most beautiful and scenic counties in Britain, whilst relaxing on cruises and a steam train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Tiverton in mid-Devon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the stylish **Regency resort of Sidmouth**, situated on the Jurassic Coast, England's first natural World Heritage Site. "A town caught still in a timeless charm" – that was the Sidmouth that captivated the Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, and Sidmouth still captivates today. Continue to the seaside resort of **Exmouth**, where artists and poets have been inspired over the centuries, for a relaxing **River Exe circular cruise**, with live commentary on the sights, history and wildlife of the surrounding area.

Day 3: Tour through the delightful **Exmoor National Park** to the unique **medieval village of Dunster** which has over 200 listed buildings (tight bend in village may not be suitable for some longer coaches), before continuing to the coastal resort of **Minehead**. Enjoy a nostalgic steam train ride through the glorious Somerset countryside on the **West Somerset Railway**, the longest steam heritage railway.

Day 4: Explore the ancient **market town of Tiverton** which sits in a delightful setting on the banks of the River Exe, Bickleigh Mill which is one of Devon's largest rural shopping centres located in a historic working watermill, and watch the world go by very peacefully along the idyllic Grand Western Canal on the last **horse-drawn barge trip** in the South West - a little bit of 'heaven' in Devon!

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.



Best Western Tiverton Hotel ★★

Offering a warm West Country welcome, it is ideally located for touring Devon and Somerset.

- 69 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Horse-drawn canal trip ➤ River Exe circular cruise
- West Somerset Railway

May: Prices from: £268
Jun to Sep: Prices from: £304

The English Riviera & South Devon



Torquay

South Devon beckons with classic seaside resorts, a stunning steam train journey and picturesque Dartmoor scenery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Torquay or Paignton for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the historic, **maritime city of Plymouth**, famous for Sir Frances Drake, who apparently finished a game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe, before heading out to sea and defeating the Spanish Armada. Return on a picturesque journey through the heart of the **Dartmoor National Park**, famous for its ponies and stunning scenery.

Day 3: From Paignton, board a **steam train along a stunning stretch of coastline** to Kingswear, from where you catch the **foot passenger ferry to the historic maritime town of Dartmouth**, with its ancient narrow streets, boutique shops and art galleries. In the afternoon, you could enjoy spectacular views of castles, the Britannia Royal Naval College, Sir Walter Raleigh's Boathouse, Greenway Quay and the estate of the late Dame Agatha Christie, on a one hour circular harbour/river cruise from Dartmouth or continue to the historic town of Totnes.

Day 4: Soak up the atmosphere, the parks, the gardens and all that **Torquay and Paignton** have to offer or alternatively, travel to **Brixham**, a traditional fishing port with a beautiful harbour. Here you will find pretty colour-washed cottages, narrow, winding streets that overlook the harbour, rows of colourful craft and a replica of the Golden Hind, the vessel in which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe.

Day 5: Reluctantly, it's time for home.

Please see page 47 for a 'Cosy Break' tour and page 48 for a 'Turkey & Tinsel' tour at these two hotels.

Headland Hotel ★★★

Formerly the Russian Royal Family's home in Torquay, it sits majestically looking out to sea.

- 78 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Queens Hotel ★★★

Lovely, welcoming hotel close to Paignton's town centre and seafront.

- 75 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway
- Foot passenger ferry from Kingswear ➤ Entertainment each night
- Leisure facilities ➤ 6 singles - no supplement

Apr, May & Oct: Prices from: £240
Jun to Sep: Prices from: £276

Cornish All Inclusive



'Spring' into Cornwall with this fantastic all-inclusive package! With wonderful sea views overlooking Fistral Beach in a quieter part of **Newquay**, the Esplanade Hotel offers excellent accommodation and leisure facilities.

Highlights include:

- Cornish Cream Tea • Cornish themed dinner menu
- Packed lunch on two days and hot buffet lunch on one day
- Complimentary bar, 6pm-9pm each evening, on selected brands
- Entertainment on a minimum of 2 nights

Esplanade Hotel ★★★★★

Overlooking Fistral Beach away from the bustle of Newquay.

- 90 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- Leisure facilities

Mar: Prices from £265

English Riviera Cosy Break



Enjoy a late winter/early spring tour to the English Riviera and discover the delights of Torbay with this 'Cosy Break'. Experience the charming seaside resorts of **Torquay** and Paignton, maybe a trip on the Dartmouth Steam Railway, the historic towns of Totnes and Dartmouth and the maritime city of Plymouth.

Highlights include:

- Welcome tea/coffee and drinks reception
- Bingo with tea/coffee & biscuits on one afternoon
- Nightly entertainment

Headland Hotel ★★★

Formerly the Russian Royal Family's home in Torquay, it sits majestically looking out to sea.

- 78 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- 6 singles - no supplement
- Leisure facilities

Mar: Prices from £210

Dorset 'European Cruise'



Discover the delights of Dorset and Europe with this 'mock cruise' package by the seaside! **Bournemouth** is an all year round resort with parks and gardens and seven miles of beautiful coastline.

Highlights include:

- Welcome cocktail drink • Choice menu at dinner with one choice being from the country visited on the 'cruise', e.g. Italy, Spain, France and Greece • Nightly entertainment

Please note that All Inclusive, main season and Turkey & Tinsel tours are also available at this hotel.

Suncliff Hotel ★★★

Situated on the East Cliff in Bournemouth, it has an indoor pool.

- 114 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- 6 singles - no supplement
- Leisure facilities

Oct: Prices from £199

Yuletide York & Castle Howard



Visit **York** for a unique **Yuletide** experience with its narrow cobbled streets, medieval buildings, historic Shambles and magnificent Minster, which all help create a magical festive atmosphere in one of Europe's most charismatic cities. Experience the magic of Christmas at **Castle Howard**. This enchanting home with its lavishly decorated rooms and stunning architecture, will be adorned with elegant decorations, whilst magnificent Christmas trees, decked with hundreds of baubles and lights, lead the way through the dramatic interiors, beautifully lit by fire and candlelight.

Best Western Burn Hall Hotel ★★★

- 94 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Queens Hotel, York ★★★

- 78 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 3 nights DBB
- Castle Howard
- 8 singles - no supplement (Burn Hall Hotel)

Nov & Dec: Prices from £185

Harrogate 'Fizz & Fayre'



Enjoy a festive 'Fizz & Fayre' break in the heart of the beautiful Yorkshire spa town of **Harrogate**. Excursions could include Haworth and Bronte Country, the market towns of Skipton and Knaresborough, and the cities of Leeds and York during their Yuletide festivities.

Highlights include:

- Mulled wine drinks reception
- Festive themed mini afternoon tea and a glass of festive fizz
- Nightly entertainment

Cairn Hotel ★★★

Charming Victorian hotel in Harrogate with period features and private gardens.

- 135 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £219

English Riviera Turkey & Tinsel



Surround yourself in the warmth of Christmas spirit and discover the delights of Torbay and the English Riviera with this Turkey & Tinsel themed break. Experience the charming seaside resort of **Torquay** and Paignton lit up for Christmas, the historic towns of Totnes and Dartmouth with their individual shops and the maritime city of Plymouth.

Highlights include:

- Welcome tea/coffee & biscuits and drinks reception
- Afternoon quiz on one day • Visit from Santa and gift
- Nightly entertainment

Headland Hotel ★★★

Formerly the Russian Royal Family's home in Torquay, it sits majestically looking out to sea.

- 78 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- 6 singles - no supplement
- Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £218

Wye Valley Turkey & Tinsel



Enjoy some pre-Christmas festive cheer on this Turkey & Tinsel tour to the scenic **Wye Valley & the Royal Forest of Dean**. You could visit the cathedral city of Hereford, the historic towns of Monmouth and Chepstow, Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market, Regency Cheltenham and Bristol's German Christmas Market.

Highlights include:

- Meet & greet with mulled wine and mince pies
- Visit from Santa • Bucks Fizz served before dinner on 'New Year's Eve'
- Nightly themed entertainment

Bells Hotel & Country Club

★★★

A warm welcome is assured at this lovely hotel in Coleford.

- 53 Bedrooms • Ground floor bedrooms • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- 6 singles - no supplement

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £216

Cornish Turkey & Tinsel and complimentary bar



Enjoy a festive Turkey & Tinsel break in Cornwall, along with a complimentary bar, on selected brands, each evening in the hotel. With wonderful sea views overlooking Fistral Beach in a more relaxing part of **Newquay**, the Esplanade Hotel offers excellent leisure facilities.

Highlights include:

- Sherry reception with mince pies • Visit from Santa • Traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings on one evening • Complimentary bar, 6pm-9pm each evening, on selected brands • Nightly entertainment

Esplanade Hotel ★★★★★

Overlooking Fistral Beach away from the bustle of Newquay.

- 90 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £222