



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®
Save the past. Enrich the future.

NATIONAL TRUST COUNCIL

HIDDEN GARDENS & HISTORIC HOUSES OF LONDON

MONDAY, MAY 15 TO SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2017





Welcome

We are pleased to welcome you on this tour designed by The National Trust for Historic Preservation in association with Albion Journeys to uncover some of the hidden gems of England's capital city. Included within the trip packet, you will find the week's itinerary and participant list. We are sure that you will enjoy your time discovering these stunning houses and gardens, and that you will love participating on this tour.

Bon Voyage!

Albion Journeys

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Tour Director - David Robertson

All our tours are accompanied by an experienced Tour Director, chosen for their caring and professional approach. **David Robertson** will be your Tour Director and will be with you for the week to assist you, help with any queries that you might have, to keep you informed of meeting times, and help you make the most of the itinerary. Originally from a commercial background, David began a second career as a Tour Director which allowed him to concentrate on his love of travel. He constantly travels the globe with his groups. He is enthusiastic, informative and compassionate and is excited to be focusing on England's capital city. David is looking forward to meeting the group.

Participant List

Participant Name	Hometown
Mrs. Elizabeth Boeckman	Dallas, TX
Mr. Carey Bond & Mr. Henry Lambert	New Orleans, LA
Mr. & Mrs. John Butler	Dubuque, IA
Mr. & Mrs. Colin Campbell	Williamsburg, VA
Ms. Julie Daniels & Mr. Thomas West	Ketchum, ID
Mr. Sam Dixon	Edenton, NC
Mrs. Elinor Farquhar	Washington, DC
Mr. Jerry Fischer & Mr. John Turner	Baton Rouge, LA
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Gelderman	New Orleans, LA
Ms. Gloria Getty	San Francisco, CA
Mr. Joseph Gromacki	Chicago, IL
Ms. Anne Groves	New York, NY
Mr. & Mrs. Sheffield Hale	Atlanta, GA
Ms. Abbe Heller	New York, NY
Ms. Shelley Hoon Keith & Mr. John Keith	Milton, MA
Mr. & Mrs. Grant Parr	Morristown, NJ
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Ritts	Dubuque, IA
Mrs. Halle Sadle	Portland, OR
Ms. Vicki Weil & Mr. Sam Holt	Washington, DC
Ms. Sara Zumwalt	San Francisco, CA

Your Hosts & Support Staff

Stephanie Meeks

Stephanie Meeks has served as President and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation since July 2010. During her tenure, the National Trust has established a new signature program called National Treasures, which identifies significant threatened places across the United States and takes direct action through preservation advocacy, marketing, and fundraising to save them. The current portfolio includes, among other sites of note, Elkhorn Ranch, Shockoe Bottom, the Houston Astrodome, and the downtown Philadelphia gym of boxer Joe Frazier. Stephanie will be joined on this tour by her husband Robert Meeks.

All our support staff are here to offer help and information so please do ask them if you need any assistance at any point during your trip.

Also on this tour:

Allie Freeman, *Associate Director of Donor Relations, National Trust for Historic Preservation*

Allie has worked for the National Trust since her graduation from the College of Charleston in 2010, where she gained a bachelor's degree in Art History and Historic Preservation. At the Trust she oversees the National Trust Council travel program, and other associated events. Most of you already know Allie. Allie will be with the group for the entire week, and is looking forward to it!

Melodie Robson, *Heritage Product Manager, Albion Journeys*

Melodie has over ten years' experience in tourism and events, and plans all the tour itineraries for Albion Journeys. She has a Masters degree in British cultural history, and a bachelor's degree in English and Film. Melodie will be with the group for the whole duration of the tour.

Before you Travel

Before you join us, please complete, share and/or return the following to Albion: any dietary or hotel room requirements; insurance details or signed declination form; flight details; emergency contact details; menu selections (options on page 6) for the welcome meal. Please let us know your selection by May 1st. You can email this information to queries@albionjourneys.com or call 1.866.834.8358.

Additionally, please let Albion know should you plan to make any other plans during the week, so we can inform our caterers and venues.

Monday » May 15



*Left: Main Entrance
of The Goring Hotel,
London*

*Right: Front Hall of
The Goring Hotel,
London*

Behind the hustle and bustle of modern city life, many hidden and little known gems are nestled amidst the streets of London. From impressive British National Trust sites and quirky homes to tranquil gardens, we will uncover the history of the capital of England through this eclectic mix of properties and green spaces, each with a fascinating story to tell.

ITINERARY

Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to The Goring, where the group will stay for the duration of the tour. Please refer to the 'Transfer Service' details on pg. 25 for information regarding where to meet your transfer driver and their contact details. Check-in is available from 2pm, however the hotel will be aware of all passengers' estimated arrival times and will try their best to have rooms ready accordingly. If there is any wait, guests will be welcome to store luggage and use the facilities.



**Above: Dining Room
of The Goring Hotel,
London**

Dress Code:

The Goring's dress code is described as 'Smart Casual' (see our Frequently Asked Questions for the full dress code description).

Your Tour Director will be on hand at the hotel in the afternoon to meet you, discuss any itinerary questions and offer assistance if required. If you experience any issues during your tour please alert our Tour Director or one of the other members of the tour staff who will be available to assist you.

At 4pm you are invited to join a brief familiarization walking tour of the area surrounding The Goring. We will show you the attractions close to the hotel, and point out some restaurant and bar recommendations nearby. We will also alert you to the nearest convenience stores that you might need during your trip. We expect this short familiarization to last just over half an hour.

At 6pm join fellow National Trust Council members in The Garden Room at The Goring for a welcome drink and hors d'oeuvres, with introductory speeches from our tour leaders, followed by dinner at the hotel.

Welcome Dinner Menu Choices

Please choose a starter, main course and dessert from the following:

Starter:

English Pea Soup, with Broad Beans, Asparagus, and Goat's Cheese

Or

*Salt Marsh Lamb Breast, with Green Sauce, Lamb's Leaf,
and Crisp Anchovy*

Main Course:

*Roast Cod, with Clams, Broad Beans, Tender Stem Broccoli,
and Cider Vinegar*

Or

Summer Squash Risotto, with Courgette, Black Trumpets, and Nasturtium

Or

*Cotswold White Chicken, Glazed Mushrooms, Sweetcorn Puree,
Truffle Sauce*

Dessert:

Lemon Curd Shortbread, with Meringue and Grapefruit Sorbet

Or

Chocolate and Bitter Orange Tart

Tuesday » May 16



*Left: Spencer House,
London*

*Right: Somerset
House, London*

Dress code today:
*Comfortable with
good shoes for urban
exploring.*

ITINERARY

Spencer House, Somerset House, 'Hidden Gardens & Historic Buildings of the City' Walk, Dinner at The Garrick Club

After enjoying breakfast at the hotel we will gather and board the coach. This morning we will meet our Blue Badge Guide for the day, **Dominic Burris-North**. Dominic is the proud winner of the Institute of Tourist Guiding's "Coach Guide of the Year 2016" Award, and is passionate about London history. Dominic will provide a coach commentary as we travel to each destination today and will be on hand during our visits to answer any additional questions that you may have about the sites we're experiencing.

Spencer House

Our first visit of the day is to **Spencer House** where we enjoy a private guided tour. Built between 1756-1766 for John, first Earl Spencer (an ancestor of Diana, Princess of Wales), the house is London's most magnificent 18th-century aristocratic palace. Designed by John Vardy and

James 'Athenian' Stuart, the State Rooms were amongst the first Neo-classical interiors in Europe. Our tour here will last just over one hour.

Somerset House

We then travel on to **Somerset House**, where Dominic will give us a brief introduction to the history behind this fascinating building. Somerset House is a spectacular Neo-classical building and a major arts and cultural center in the heart of London.

Before our formal tour, the group will have a short time to purchase lunch at one of the many cafes that line the courtyard around Somerset House. We will enjoy a guided tour and the opportunity to view the **Courtauld Gallery's** collection of paintings, drawings, sculpture and decorative arts, ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. This visit will last for approximately two hours.

'Hidden Gardens & Historic Buildings of the City' Walk

Dominic will then lead us on a '**Hidden Gardens & Historic Buildings of the City**' Walk, which will explore the beautiful gardens and amazing history of the edge of this area of London. We plan to take in Lincoln's Inn, Lincoln's Inn Fields, Victoria Embankment Park and even some 'Roman' baths! Our walk will last just over one hour. Please note that our route today may be subject to change in line with operational and weather factors.

The Garrick Club

We then meet the coach and arrive back at the hotel just before 5pm with time to relax and change before meeting up again for transportation to our dinner at the prestigious **Garrick Club**. Named after the great eighteenth century actor David Garrick, the club was founded in 1831 by a group of literary gentlemen under the patronage of the King's brother, the egalitarian Duke of Sussex. They announced that the Club would be a place where 'actors and men of refinement and education might meet on equal terms', and where 'patrons of the drama and its professors were to be brought together'.

Today the Club has around 1,300 members including many of the most distinguished actors and scholars in England. The original assurance of the committee, "that it would be better that ten unobjectionable men should be excluded than one terrible bore should be admitted", ensures that the lively atmosphere for which the Club was so well-known in the nineteenth century continues to invigorate members of the Club in the twenty-first century.



Above: Courtauld
Gallery, London



**Above: The Garrick,
London**

Dress code this evening:

Tonight is the evening to dress up, with jacket and ties for gentlemen and smart attire for ladies.

Please note: The Garrick has a strict dress policy and code of conduct. Please read our Frequently Asked Questions for the full details.

We will meet in the foyer of The Goring at 7pm to allow us to travel by coach to The Garrick for a 7:30pm arrival and 8pm dining time. We will enjoy a three course set menu this evening which will showcase the talents of The Garrick chefs.

We will arrange taxi transportation for your return to the hotel later this evening.

Your Menu this evening:

Welcome drink:

Prosecco

Starter:

Salad of Grilled Vegetables and Goats Cheese Panna Cotta with Smoked Tomato Dressing

Entrée:

Roast Leg of Devon Lamb, with Rosemary Boulanger served with Vegetables and Potatoes

If you have informed Albion that you are a vegetarian we will provide an alternate entrée for you.

Dessert:

*Bee-Sting Pudding with Bramble Sauce
Followed by Garrick Chocolates*



Wednesday » May 17



© NTPL/John Hammond



© NTPL/Stephen Robson

*Left: Ham House,
Richmond*

*Right: Ham House
Gardens, Richmond*

Dress code today:
*Comfortable with
good shoes for garden
walking.*

ITINERARY

Ham House & Gardens and Strawberry Hill House & Gardens

Ham House & Gardens

After breakfast at the hotel, we will meet our Blue Badge Guide for the day and depart for our first excursion. London born and bred, **June Addison** has amassed a vast knowledge of London history and geography, and will be able to pass on some of the gems of her knowledge as we take a scenic drive to **Ham House & Gardens**. One of Europe's greatest 17th-century houses nestled on the banks of the River Thames, this atmospheric mansion with fine interiors and historic gardens, has remained virtually unchanged for 400 years. We will find out more about the family who lived at Ham on our guided house tour, lasting around one hour.

Richmond on Thames & White Cross pub

Afterwards, we travel into **Richmond on Thames** where we have lunch at the historic **White Cross pub**. This charming town, located



© NTPL/John Hammond

Top: Strawberry Hill House & Gardens, Twickenham

Bottom: Ham House, Richmond

on a meander of the River Thames, has a large number of parks and open spaces, including Richmond Park, and many protected conservation areas, which include much of Richmond Hill. A specific Act of Parliament protects the scenic view of the River Thames from Richmond. Our venue for lunch is a typical Victorian public house, with a welcoming fireplace and a large terrace overlooking the river, with lovely views.

Strawberry Hill House & Gardens

We then travel on to nearby Twickenham for our afternoon visit to **Strawberry Hill House & Gardens**, a magnificent Gothic Revival villa created by author Horace Walpole in the 18th century to house his vast collection of treasures. We will begin our visit to this architecturally and historically important site with a guided garden tour, followed by tea and coffee, before we begin our extensive house tour.

As early as 1747, Horace Walpole began his first landscape garden, which was connected to a picturesque house. His vast grounds contained a lawn and a meadow beyond, flanked by trees and an open terrace with views of the River Thames. Although the views have been lost to housing and the growth of woodland, the grassed areas and the layout of his tree planting survive. The garden is also being restored as much as possible to its original appearance. Also see Walpole's extraordinary Shell Bench, which has been recreated.

Elegant and eccentric, Strawberry Hill is Britain's finest example of the gothic style of architecture. We have the chance to see the highlights of the house with a guided after-hours tour. Visiting Strawberry Hill is a truly theatrical experience. Magically lit by a unique collection of renaissance glass, its gloomy castle-like hall and grey gothic staircase lead dramatically to the magnificence of the gallery beyond. Each room has its own character and is decorated in a unique and individual style. In order to take advantage of a fully private tour, this tour, lasting 90 minutes, will take place after the house has closed to the public, and our return to central London will be later this evening.

After an estimated return time to the hotel of around 7pm, the rest of the evening is free for you to make your own dinner arrangements. Your Tour Director or the staff at The Goring can assist you with local restaurant suggestions and reservations if required. If you would like to make your arrangements for the evening ahead of time please contact the Albion office and they can also assist you in making any pre-bookings for dinner.

Thursday » May 18



© The Wallace Collection



© The Wallace Collection

*Above: Wallace
Collection, London*

Dress code today:
*Comfortable with
good shoes for urban
exploring.*

ITINERARY

The Wallace Collection, the Royal Academy of Arts and the Society of Antiquaries of London

The Wallace Collection

This morning we will make an early departure from the hotel at around 8am, to allow a before-hours visit to the prestigious **Wallace Collection**. You may wish to go down to breakfast earlier than usual today to allow yourself plenty of time.

On arrival at the Wallace Collection we will meet our Blue Badge guide, **Sue King**, who will be with us over the next two days. Sue was born in London and after a globe-trotting existence that took her across Europe, Asia and the United States, she settled back in her home town. Sue has a BA Honors degree from York University, and a post graduate degree in Art History, making her an excellent guide to some of the artistic centers we are visiting on Thursday and Friday.



© Fraser Marr



© Benedict Johnson

*Above: Royal
Academy, London*

Arriving for an 8:45am bag check-in, we will be treated to a private view of the **Wallace Collection**, a national museum in a historic London town house. The galleries contain unsurpassed displays of French 18th-century paintings, furniture and porcelain with superb Old Master paintings and a world class armoury. Our private view will last around 90 minutes.

The Royal Academy of Arts & The Society of Antiquaries of London

Next we will visit the iconic **Royal Academy of Arts**, famous for its summer exhibition, but also the home of year-round programming. This morning we have time to view their current exhibition of post 1930s American art, 'America After the Fall'. You will be asked to enter the exhibition in two staggered groups.

We are then treated to a three course lunch, in a private room at the Royal Academy's Keeper's House Restaurant.

After lunch there will be free time for you to further explore the Royal Academy, or to indulge in some shopping in the area. The prestigious Fortnum & Mason department store can be found just across the road, and the surrounding neighbourhood has a number of fascinating bookshops and luxury boutiques to tempt you. You may wish to remain in the restaurant and relax over your coffee, or for the more adventurous, our Blue Badge Guide has offered to lead a short walking tour around some of the main sights in the area, such as the Ritz Hotel. Your Tour Director will inform you of where and when to meet afterwards as we walk the short distance to Burlington House for an exclusive talk and tour of the historic apartments of the **Society of Antiquaries of London**. Here, we will learn more about the history of one of Britain's oldest learned societies and examine some of the remarkable artifacts contained in the Society's collections, with an exclusive object handling session, in a visit lasting two hours.

We will then board the coach and return to the hotel, arriving at around 5:30pm. Special plans are still being determined for this evening with the possibility of time on your own.

Friday » May 19



*Left: Leighton House,
Kensington*

*Right: Carlyle's House,
Chelsea*

Dress code today:
*Still comfortable, but
today you may wish
to dress slightly more
smartly during the
day as you will be
having afternoon tea
in Kensington.*

ITINERARY

Carlyle's House, Chelsea Physic Garden, Leighton House Museum, afternoon tea at The Rembrandt, & evening reception at the offices of the British National Trust

Carlyle's House

After enjoying breakfast at the hotel, we will depart just before 8:30am, to allow us to make our way to a private visit at our first destination. We will again be joined by Blue Badge Guide Sue King for the day. Our first visit on Friday will be to **Carlyle's House** in Chelsea, home of 19th-century writer and historian Thomas Carlyle and his wife Jane. Once the hub of Victorian literary society, when the likes of Dickens, Ruskin and Tennyson visited, the house has been preserved much as it was during the Carlyle's tenure here. Due to the size of the house we will be split into two groups and while one group visits the house, the other group will be offered an insightful walk around **Cheyne Walk**, to learn more about storied homes in the area. The groups will then swap over. This visit will last for two hours.



*Top: Crosby Hall
located in Cheyne
Walk, Chelsea*

Chelsea Physic Garden

We will continue on to visit the **Chelsea Physic Garden**, founded in 1673 as the Apothecaries' Garden, with the purpose of training apprentices in the identification and use of medicinal plants, and only opened to the public in the 1980s. The Garden's location, close to the River Thames, allowed the Apothecaries to moor their barges nearby. The river's warm air currents contribute to the Garden's unique microclimate, allowing unusual plant species to flourish. River access also allowed plants arriving from around the World to be introduced to the British Isles via the Garden. Its international reputation was established early on as a result of the global seed exchange scheme, known as Index Seminum, which it initiated in the 1700's and continues to this day.

Different growing environments have been established, such as the Grade II listed Pond Rockery, Fortune's Tank Pond and an evolving collection of Glasshouses, including one of the first heated greenhouses in the world. The Pond Rockery, which was completed in 1773, is the oldest planted structure of its type in Europe and employs Icelandic lava (brought to the Garden by Sir Joseph Banks in 1772 on a ship named St. Lawrence) and carved stones from the Tower of London.

Your visit will be on a free-flow basis, lasting for over two hours, allowing you to explore the gardens at your own pace and in line with your own interests. If you do wish to take part in a guided tour, they run regularly throughout the day for visitors. Your Tour Director will be able to assist you with joining a tour. There will also be time for you to buy lunch during your visit, either at the cafe in the gardens, which is licensed to sell wines and beers and has a great reputation for food, or by visiting one of the many local cafes or restaurants nearby. Please note that if you go out of the gardens for lunch you will not be allowed re-entry to the gardens, so you may be advised to make your meal the last part of your visit if you wish to explore the local area further.

Leighton House

After lunch on your own, we will board the coach and travel to Kensington to visit **Leighton House**, the former studio-house of the artist Frederic, Lord Leighton, one of the most famous British artists of the Victorian age. This 19th-century building features the extraordinary Arab Hall with its golden dome, intricate mosaics and beautiful Islamic tiles. The interior of this house truly has to be seen to be believed and epitomises the aesthetic ideal of the period, of which Leighton was a proponent, of 'Art for art's sake'. Alongside paintings, drawings and sculpture by Leighton himself, the house also includes paintings by John Everett Millais, George Frederic



Above: Leighton House, Kensington

Dress code this evening:
Smart casual.

Watts and Frederick Sandys and drawings by Edward Burne-Jones, J.A.M. Whistler and George Howard. Also included is a group of photographs by Julia Margaret Cameron whose family had close associations with the Holland Park artist's colony. The museum holds a collection of about 100 pieces of pottery by William De Morgan and his later associates, particularly Fred Passenger. We learn more about the house and its collections on our guided tour, lasting just over one hour.

Afternoon tea at The Rembrandt

We will then board the coach again and travel into Kensington to enjoy champagne and afternoon tea at the prestigious, historic London hotel, **The Rembrandt**. Erected between 1910-11, this hotel was designed by Delissa Joseph and built by the company of Messrs. Ford and Walters of Kilburn. The Rembrandt is a spectacular hotel with the timeless ornate architecture and traditional qualities of an Edwardian building. Our tea will consist of freshly baked scones, traditional finger sandwiches, mini cakes, fresh strawberries and cream, a selection of teas and French press coffee, and a glass of chilled champagne.

The Rembrandt is located a short distance from the Victoria and Albert Museum, and you may wish to take advantage of its late Friday night opening to make a visit to this fascinating gallery and museum and make your own way back to the hotel. From the gallery you can take the underground train from South Kensington and it is two stops to Victoria station and the Goring Hotel. It is also a short taxi ride back to the hotel if you prefer.

Evening reception at National Trust offices

This evening you are invited to a special reception, hosted by the **National Trust for Wales** at the London headquarters of the National Trust. The venue is just a couple of minutes' walk from the hotel. We ask that the group meet us in the foyer of the Goring at 7:20pm to allow us all to walk together as a group to the event. Following the reception, feel free to make your own way back to the hotel, or go on to explore the local area's night life.

Saturday » May 20



*Above: Kew Gardens,
London*

Dress code:
*Comfortable with
good shoes for garden
walking.*

ITINERARY

Kew Gardens, Free time in London or Sir John Soane's Museum (optional)

Kew Gardens

Following breakfast at the Goring, we will visit **Kew Gardens**, the world-famous botanical garden and home of the largest and most diverse vegetal and mycological collections in the world. Founded in 1840, Kew's living collections include more than 30,000 different kinds of plants, while the herbarium has over seven million preserved plant specimens.

The Kew site, which can be traced back to the exotic garden at Kew Park formed by Lord Capel John of Tewkesbury, consists of 300 acres of gardens and botanical glasshouses, with a large number of historically significant structures, all set in an internationally important landscape.

We will spend the morning at Kew with a guided tour followed by a group lunch. The afternoon has been left open for individual pursuits and the coach will drop those of you who wish in a central location in the city.



© 2002 Thinkstock LLC

*Above: Buckingham
Palace, London*

*Below: Buckingham
Palace, London*

**Dress code this
evening: Smart casual.**

Sir John Soane's Museum (optional)

The coach will then drop off at **Sir John Soane's Museum** for those who wish to undertake a visit under your own steam. The house offers free entry, but you may have to queue to enter. Sir John Soane (1753 – 1837) was one of the most inventive architects of his time and the museum is situated in his former home. He built the Bank of England and Dulwich Picture Gallery, as well as his own extraordinary home by buying, demolishing and rebuilding three houses in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The house contains many drawings and models of Soane's projects and also the collections of paintings, drawings and antiquities that he assembled during his lifetime. Soane continued to acquire objects and display them throughout his life, but instead of categorizing objects, he decided to show his collection in creative, eclectic ways. Soane opened up the house to his students, hoping to aid their studies with his collection. Magazines began referring to the house as 'an Academy of Architecture'. He was constantly arranging and rearranging these objects throughout his life, not just to incorporate new acquisitions, but to enhance their poetic qualities through inspiring juxtapositions. The organization of the museum can seem chaotic. It is, in fact, quite purposeful – each room a work of art in its own right!

In 1833, he negotiated an Act of Parliament: to preserve his house and collection, exactly as it would be at the time of his death – and to keep it open and free for inspiration and education. Four years later, Soane died. A board of trustees took on the responsibility of upholding Soane's wishes – as they continue to do today.

The coach will collect you from Soane's museum at 5pm, allowing you around two hours for your visit, and then return you to the hotel.

This evening meet in the hotel foyer at 7pm where we have arranged taxi transportation for you to our farewell dinner.



Sunday » May 21



Above: London skyline

ITINERARY

Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home. Your Tour Director will have a list of all your return transfer times and will be able to assist you in your departure. Guests are requested to check out of the hotel before 12pm.

*Please note: There is a fair amount of walking included on this tour.
The itinerary may be subject to change due to public events taking place.*

Biographies » *Short biographies of some of the characters featured on this tour:*



John Earl Spencer

(December 19, 1734 - October 31, 1783)

Spencer was born at his family home of Althorp, which is still the Spencer family seat today, and where you can visit the memorial to Princess Diana, who was John Earl Spencer's descendent. John Earl Spencer was an MP and also a High Steward in a distinguished political career, going on to be created Baron and Viscount by King George III. Spencer and his wife were prominent figures in London society at the time, and he commissioned **Spencer House** to be a venue for his lavish entertaining. Spencer's architects created the first example in London of using Greek details in interior decoration, and the house was a forerunner of neo-classical architecture.



Horace Walpole

(September 24, 1717 - March 2, 1797)

Horatio Walpole, known as Horace, was the 4th Earl of Orford. Born in London, he was the youngest son of British Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole. After a Cambridge University education, Walpole took advantage of sinecures to finance his undertaking of a European Grand tour, as was the fashion among the wealthy young men at the time. His experiences of European architecture went on to influence the design of his new house at **Strawberry Hill**. In 1741 Walpole was elected to Parliament to represent the Cornish town of Callington, a post he held for thirteen years and which started his political career. In his middle years, Walpole began a second career as a writer, publishing privately via the Strawberry Hill Press, set up at his house. His most famous work is the Gothic novel, *The Castle of Otranto*.



Thomas Carlyle

(December 4, 1795 - February 5, 1881)

Considered one of the most important social commentators of his time, Carlyle was also a philosopher, satirical writer, essayist, historian and teacher. After studying at Edinburgh University, Carlyle started his career as a mathematics teacher before returning to University teaching, where he became an expert on German literature. Carlyle later moved to Chelsea, with his wife Jane and became a leading light in the literary scene of the time, becoming nicknamed 'the Sage of Chelsea' and publishing a successful book about the French Revolution, among other popular works. Although less well known today, Carlyle was very highly regarded in his time, hence the preservation of **Carlyle's House** and its contents.



Frederic Leighton, 1st Baron Leighton

(December 3, 1830 - January 25, 1896)

Sir Frederic Leighton was an English painter and sculptor. His works depicted historical, biblical, and classical subject matter, and in his lifetime Leighton was associated with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, the Classical revival style and the Aesthetic movement. Leighton has the unfortunate honor of being the bearer of the shortest-lived peerage in history; after only one day his hereditary peerage ended with his death. Leighton was born in Scarborough to a wealthy merchant family and was educated at University College School, London. He then received his artistic training on the European continent, where he lived for a number of years. His career was studded with success: his first painting was purchased by Queen Victoria, his paintings represented Britain at the great 1900 Paris Exhibition, he was president of the Royal Academy of Arts, and he was knighted in 1878.

Find out more »

To find out more about your excursions:

Spencer House www.spencerhouse.co.uk

Somerset House www.somersethouse.org.uk

Courtauld Gallery www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery

Ham House www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ham-house-and-garden

Strawberry Hill House www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

Wallace Collection www.wallacecollection.org

Royal Academy www.royalacademy.org.uk

Carlyle's House www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carlyles-house

Chelsea Physic Garden www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

Leighton House Museum www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/museums/leightonhousemuseum1.aspx

Kew Gardens www.kew.org

Sir John Soane's Museum www.soane.org



Your Hotel >>

The Goring

15 Beeston Place, London SW1W 0JW

Phone: +44 (0) 207 396 9000

The hotel is the only remaining hotel in London that is still owned and run by the family that built it. The Goring was opened by Otto Richard Goring on March 2, 1910, and professed to be the first hotel in the world in which every room had a private bathroom and central heating. In 1914, The Goring became the command center for the Chief of Allied Forces, and contact with President Woodrow Wilson during World War I was made from this hotel. In 1919, Lady Randolph Churchill, the mother of Winston Churchill, moved into The Goring Hotel.

The hotel is famed for its royal connections, the Queen Mother was a regular at The Goring and it was the location for her last public appearance. In 2011, Kate Middleton and her family were based at the hotel for the days around her wedding to Prince William.

Every bedroom at The Goring is individually designed and radiates refined English design. Joined with the hotel's warm service and state-of-the-art technology, a stay at The Goring is a delightful experience for all.

Room Facilities

- 24-hour room service
- Complimentary newspapers
- Fine Italian linen
- Egyptian cotton bathrobes and slippers
- Laundry, dry-cleaning and pressing
- Complimentary shoe shine
- Bottled mineral water
- Complimentary WiFi
- 24 hour access to The Fitness Room
- Individually controlled air-conditioning and mood lighting

Local Amenities >>

The Goring Hotel is perfectly placed for you to access all amenities that you may require during your tour:

- There is a Bureau de Change in Victoria Street, just 3 minutes walk from the hotel.
- There are a number of ATMs and banks situated along Victoria Street and Vauxhall Bridge Road.
- There is a pharmacy in Superdrug, which sells toiletries and over the counter drugs, and which is located at the entrance to Victoria Station, a 4 minute walk from the hotel.
- The area around Victoria Station has a number of small convenience stores selling bottled water, newspapers and snacks.

Cafes, Bars & Restaurants »

23 Grosvenor Gardens

23 Grosvenor Gardens, Victoria

This is a unique wine bar, housed in a converted bank, with a garden room and half a dozen vaults spread out in the basement area. This is the closest bar to the Goring, situated at the corner of Beeston Place.

Balls Brothers

50 Buckingham Palace Rd, London SW1W 0RN

Balls Brothers started life as one of London's pre-eminent wine emporiums. Founded in 1860, Balls Brothers then went on to open its first wine bar with the motto of the business printed at the top of the menu: "Quality First". In 1960, Balls Brothers as we currently know it came into existence, offering fine wine, exquisite spirits and classic British food. Today Balls Brothers holds nine venues in the City in key London locations and strives to deliver amazing hospitality and experiences to loyal guests. This ground level bar is on one of the chain's more modern sites, but is a great place for a drink. Situated just a couple of minutes from the hotel.

Tiles Restaurant & Bar

36 Buckingham Palace Rd, London SW1W 0RE

Tiles has over four decades of experience welcoming customers with excellent service and superb food at great value prices. A stylish and intimate wine bar nestled in the center of London's Victoria, it's perfectly located if you're planning on seeing a nearby show. Tiles offer a popular 'supper club', a two-course meal with a glass of wine, for diners striving to save without skimping on quality.

The Bag O'Nails

6 Buckingham Palace Rd, Victoria, London SW1W 0PP

Historical records provide information dating back to 1775, when a tavern known as the "Bacchanals" stood at the corner of King's Row and lower Grosvenor Place. The original sign for the pub showed a satyr of the woods and a group of jolly dogs called Bacchanals, but the satyr being painted black with cloven feet was called the Devil by common people, where the bacchanals were transmuted to a comical process into a Bag O'Nails, after the play by Ben Jonson. The name of the tavern was only formally changed from the Devil & Bag O'Nails as late as 1905, with the lease of 6 Buckingham Palace Road to Mr. Henry Guest, licensed victualler. The pub opened shortly after George III bought the Duke of Buckingham's London home. Today the Bag O'Nails is a traditional style pub with a long bar, stripped floors, upstairs dining room and pavement tables for sitting outside. There is a traditional British pub food style menu.

Browns Victoria

Cardinal Place, 2 Cardinal Walk, Westminster, SW1E 5AG

Less than a ten minute walk from the hotel will take you to Browns. This all-day British chain brasserie and bar has a reputation in the UK for quality and service. This branch has a grand cafe setting and offers specially priced food options. The menu is traditional British fare, with a sophisticated slant, and with some daily specials.

Hotel & Travel Information »

Transfer Service

On receipt of your travel information we will book transportation for you from Heathrow Airport with **London Heathrow Cars**.

On arrival at the airport you will go through customs and collect your luggage. Please exit via the Arrivals lounge where you will meet your driver as you filter through from customs. Your driver will be waiting for you in Arrivals and will hold a sign showing your name. The firm will be able to monitor your flight number so please don't worry if there are any delays to your flight. The journey from Heathrow to The Goring will take approximately one hour.

The cars used will be from the Executive fleet, and each car can hold up to two cases and two items of hand luggage. If you would like to supply a cell phone number in case of emergency we will pass this on to the driver. The number for contacting London Heathrow Cars if needed upon arrival is +44 (0) 20 8814 2727.

Public transportation in London

From your base at The Goring you can walk to Victoria Underground station in a couple of minutes. From there you can travel by tube to all

London landmarks and attractions. You might find it cost effective to purchase a Visitor Oyster card to pay for your travel, especially if you are planning on spending additional days exploring. An Oyster card is like a credit card or smartcard. It's a quick and easy way to pay for journeys on bus, Tube, tram, Docklands Light Railway, London Overground, Transport for London Rail, River Bus and most National Rail services in London. You can load money on your Visitor Oyster card and use it to pay as you go.

There is a lot more information about the Oyster card for visitors here:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/travel-information/visiting-london/visitor-oyster-card>

You can also get around London by taxi if you prefer, and the staff at The Goring will be able to arrange any taxi travel for you.

Transportation while on our tour

We will be traveling around London on a large, luxury motor coach. There may be some walking to properties from the nearest suitable drop off point.

FAQ's »

How much luggage can I bring with me?

Please refer to your airline guidelines for your individual luggage allowance. The standard allowance is one item of hand luggage and one suitcase per person. Due to weight restrictions on the transfer cars please restrict suitcases to 20kg (44 pounds).

What weather should we expect?

May is a very pleasant time to visit London, when the weather is mild and the flowers are blooming. At this time of year, the average temperature for the month is 63°F, considerably warmer than any of the previous months.

With about one inch of rainfall spread across 15 days throughout the month, it's highly likely you'll experience at least some type of precipitation during your visit. As the month goes on, the likelihood of rainfall varies very little, with the average probability on any given day a constant 48%. Fortunately, snowfall is almost unheard of at this time of year.

London generally experiences a lot of cloud coverage throughout the year and May is no exception. The median cloud coverage for this month is 70% which does not vary substantially across the month. Despite the rain and cloudy spells, May is almost never affected by any foggy days.

Please remember that it also gets chilly in the evenings so it is wise to prepare clothing that is appropriate. The Met Office website can provide up to date short-term forecasts shortly before you travel. www.metoffice.gov.uk

Are meals included?

All breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners, one reception and one afternoon tea are included in the tour price. Please note that in order to ensure smooth and timely service, our group meals during this tour will feature set menus, with a vegetarian option for those who have informed us of any dietary requirements. Other meals are under your own steam, as indicated in the itinerary, with any additional beverages and snacks also at your own expense. Please note that some alcoholic beverages will be supplied with meals, but all additional drinks will also be at your own expense.

Can you cater for my dietary requirements?

Yes - please inform us as soon as possible if you have any special dietary requirements so that we may pass this information to the hotel staff and other venues.

Please call: **1-866-834-8358**

or email queries@albionjourneys.com

What should I budget for tipping?

Apart from your included meals, general service at the hotel, Blue Badge guides and any guided tour leaders, whose tips have been covered by the tour operator, any other gratuities are not included in the tour cost, and are entirely at your discretion.

As a guide, we suggest that you may wish to tip your airport transfer driver a sum of £5 (\$6.50 USD) each way per person. In addition, you may wish to tip your coach driver, a tip of around £20 (\$25 USD,) and your Tour Director, a tip of about £38 (\$45-\$50 USD) as a minimum. **It is entirely up to you whether you wish to tip anyone at all during your tour, and how much you would like to give.** Please remember, offering a gratuity is a remuneration for good service given, and you may wish to reward someone who has gone out of their way to help you, or who has provided you with a great experience. Recipients will prefer tips in pounds versus dollars.

If you are eating out under your own steam on any of our free evenings, most restaurants suggest a tip of 10-12.5% of the total cost of your bill. Please remember to always check your bill first, as some restaurants will already include a service charge in your bill. You will not need to tip if you are just having a drink in a bar or pub, or if you are having lunch in a cafe you would not usually tip, but note that some cafes have a tips jar on their counter, and it is customary to tip a small token gesture here, such as £1.00 (\$1.30).

FAQ's Cont. >>

What clothing should I bring?

Comfortable leisurewear is recommended for the daytime, and you may wish to dress up for dinner at The Goring or for your other evening meals. The dress code at The Goring restaurant is described as 'smart casual', and while a tie is not required, we suggest that a sport coat or jacket would be recommended for gentlemen, while a smart dress, skirt or pant suit would be suggested for the ladies.

It is also advisable to bring layered clothing and a light waterproof jacket while traveling on excursions. We recommend sturdy footwear when visiting gardens as the ground may be soft underfoot. Many properties and museums prefer ladies not to wear high heels in case of damaging floors. Please note that this tour does include some walking, and you would be recommended to wear suitable footwear that provides a good tread.

What is the dress code at The Garrick Club?

The Garrick has a strict dress code and gentlemen are required to wear a jacket throughout the club and at all times, and a tie when having dinner. Please note that jeans, shorts and trainers are never permitted. Ladies are requested to be dressed appropriately and in a similarly smart fashion.

What is the code of conduct at The Garrick Club?

Guests are requested to behave within the code of conduct of the club at all times. Attempting to take photographs in the club's public areas is considered the worst mistake that a guest could make. There is room for argument over whether a selfie is worse than a picture that includes unsuspecting club members. But any member who allows his guest to take photographs in such conditions may find himself accused of conduct unbecoming a gentleman. The same restriction applies to video or audio recordings. Similarly, you should never ask a fellow guest for their autograph.

Please also refrain from using your mobile phone while at the club. You may only make or receive calls when on the stairs in the front hall that leads down to the porter's lodge; or in the telephone box on the first floor; or in the lavatory.

Smoking and/or vaping at The Garrick

This is only allowed on the Roof Terrace and the balcony outside the Irving Room. But you must ensure that the doors are closed behind you to stop smoke wafting back into the club.

Treatment of staff at the club

You are requested to treat all staff better than you treat your friends. With them, you may be abrupt. But you must never be rude or discourteous to the club's staff.

Why do these rules matter?

Because they ensure that any member can walk into the club, stand at the bar or sit at the Centre Table, and enjoy the companionship of his fellow members without the pressures of fame, fortune, notoriety or disclosure outside. They ensure that the Garrick functions not as a restaurant or a hotel but as a club. We make the rules and the rules make the Garrick.

ALBION JOURNEYS EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER

If at any stage during your tour you need to speak to a representative because of an emergency, please call our 24 hour number **+44 (0) 0333 321 9939**.

If you have any questions at all before you travel please email queries@albionjourneys.com



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