

2027

BLUEBIRD

FULLY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS SERVING DORSET SINCE 1924



BRITISH & EUROPEAN
COACH
TOURS



BLUEBIRD *Holidays*



Welcome to our Holiday Programme for 2027

Bluebird Coaches (Weymouth) Ltd is a family owned and operated company that was founded in 1924 right at the advent of motorised passenger transport. To stay ahead at over 100 years old we have stayed true to our founder Cecil Hoare's ethos and principles – always offering a high quality and reliable service and embracing innovation. Whether that innovation be swapping a horse for an internal combustion engine, installing an on-board toilet or investing in enhanced staff training – new technologies and ideas will always drive us forwards. And yet, our old-fashioned belief of putting customer service first and foremost is, we believe, the overriding principle why we have such a loyal customer base and thus managed to remain at the forefront of coach travel in Dorset for over a century.

Bluebird Coaches today operates a fleet of over 20 high quality vehicles from premises in Weymouth. Unlike some tour operators we own our coaches and employ our own drivers and couriers – meaning we retain strict control of quality and service. Our tour coaches are highly specified with reclining seats with generous legroom, air suspension, wide panoramic windows, air-conditioning, an on-board toilet and drinks facility. Our drivers and couriers are helpful and enthusiastic and will be on hand at all times to ensure your complete satisfaction. Backed by our experience and reputation of over 100 years you are assured a rewarding holiday with many happy memories.



FINANCIAL SECURITY STATEMENT The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. Therefore, you will benefit from all rights applying to packages; Bluebird Coaches (Weymouth) Ltd will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole.

Additionally, as required by law, Bluebird Coaches (Weymouth) Ltd have protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the

event that they become insolvent. Bluebird Coaches (Weymouth) Ltd are members of the Bonded Coach Holiday Group, overseen by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited. This is a government approved consumer protection scheme. This ensures that in relation to the coach package holidays described in this brochure (or website) that a Bond, which may be called upon in the unlikely event of the members Insolvency, protects the clients' monies. Clients are recommended to inspect the current membership certificate at our registered office or alternatively go to www.bch-uk.org or telephone 0207 7065 5316 to confirm current membership.

Your attention is also drawn to the Bonded Coach Holiday Group Trading Charter that will apply to these coach package holidays.

Details of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 can be found at The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 (legislation.gov.uk)

BLUEBIRD COACHES (WEYMOUTH) LTD ARE MEMBERS OF THE CONFEDERATION OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT AND A COACH MARQUE APPROVED COMPANY ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF OPERATION.

THE CONFEDERATION OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT UK (CPT) is the trade association representing Britain's coach and bus operators. CPT is recognised by the Government and is the focus for consultation and negotiation on national and international legislation, local regulation, operation practices and engineering standards.

COACHMARQUE is the only universally recognised kite **mark of quality** in the UK coach industry. It is concerned with all aspects of the business and not just the coach itself. All CoachMarque companies operate to a strict set of criteria and are regularly assessed by an independent third party to ensure compliance with the **highest standards** of operation.



WHERE WE ARE GOING IN 2027

The number (in brackets) shown after each place name on the map refers to the brochure page number on which the tour appears.

Please Note – MAP NOT TO SCALE

Mystery Tours

A Magical Mystery Tour (11 & 33)



Travel Card

When fully stamped this card is worth £30 off any Bluebird Day Excursion or Holiday.
(Not valid on Private Hire, Private Tours or any other services)
One stamp will be provided on Day Excursions and two on all Holiday Tours
when travelling from 1 September 2017

To claim: Complete your details on the reverse of this card and return to Bluebird Office
(St. Eleanore, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 7AA). With your next payment/banking.



BLUEBIRD
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www.bluebirdholidays.co.uk

Stamps will be issued on board the coach and will not be banked or stamped later.
We reserve the right to cancel this card at any time.



COURIER			DRIVER	
1A	1B		1C	1D
2A	2B		2C	2D
3A	3B		3C	3D
4A	4B		4C	4D
5A	5B		WC	
6A	6B		STEPS	
7A	7B		SERVERY	
8A	8B		8C	8D
9A	9B		9C	9D
10A	10B		10C	10D
11A	11B		11C	11D
12A	12B		12C	12D
13A	13B		13C	13D
14A	14B	14E	14C	14D

gives passengers the opportunity to collect rewards and redeem them against future travel with us – the more you ride the more you save! Passengers can collect Bluebird stamps on a Free Travel Card every time they ride on our coach – our driver will award 1 stamp on a day trip, and 2 stamps on a holiday. Collect 10 stamps on a single card and you can claim a £30 discount on your next booking!



© JESAVARIA

Cirque Du Soleil

Sunday 17th to Monday 18th January



Cirque du Soleil is an international troupe of artistes who draw inspiration from varied cultures, extending the boundaries of imagination and blurring the lines between artistic disciplines.

From trampoline to flying trapeze, through acting skills, dance, make-up and costume, they lead us through

unbelievable sets and surreal atmospheres to the sound of entrancing music. The 2027 London performance is expected to be KURIOS* - an inventor creates a time machine that defies the laws of time, space and dimension. Imaginative and visually stunning, it will be a breathtaking production with acrobatic and artistic scenes, dramatic lighting, special effects and a sensational musical score. Performed in the magnificent setting of the Royal Albert Hall this unique show will bring captivating magic and awe-inspiring acrobatics to the stage.

2 Days | £295

SRS: £40

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 1 night hotel accommodation
- ✓ Buffet breakfast
- ✓ Show ticket for Cirque du Soleil

Holiday Hotel

Holiday Inn Heathrow

A modern contemporary 4 STAR hotel ideally situated close to Heathrow and thus convenient for London. The fully soundproofed bedrooms all provide private bathroom, hairdryer, free toiletries, phone, television with movie channels, air-conditioning, safe, tea-tray and free Wi-Fi. There is a lift to all floors. An extensive full cooked breakfast buffet is included. There is a choice of a bar or coffee shop in which to relax, or the energetic can use the fitness room.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset to Central London arriving by lunch-time. Free time on Oxford Street where the major retailers have their flagship stores and a short walk brings you to many major attractions. Stay in London for the afternoon with a chance for you to source dinner before reboarding the coach late afternoon for the short drive to the iconic Royal Albert Hall. Enjoy an evening performance* of the visually stunning Cirque du Soleil - best available stall seats - approx. 2 hrs 15 mins running time. Late evening check-in at hotel for a comfortable nights accommodation. (*subject to confirmation)

Monday - After breakfast drive into London for a visit to Tate Modern. Britain's national museum of modern and contemporary art from around the world is housed in the former Bankside Power Station on the banks of the Thames. The awe-inspiring Turbine Hall runs the length of the entire building and you can see amazing work for free by artists such as Cézanne, Bonnard, Matisse, Picasso, Rothko, Dalí, Pollock, Warhol and Bourgeois. For those whose tastes do not extend to art there are countless other attractions along the Bankside path, or cross the Millennium Bridge to St Paul's. Leave London at 2:00 pm to return to Dorset by late afternoon.



The Freedom of London

Depart Fridays: 22nd January & 19th February



Our short breaks to London are proving increasingly popular and at this price that really isn't too surprising! No ties, no pre-booked visits or planned excursions - the time is yours to dispose of as you wish. The famous landmarks are all there and easy to explore on foot - The London Eye, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square. The shopping opportunities of Oxford Street and Regent Street where the major retailers have their flagship stores should not be missed. Most of the National Museums and Galleries are free to enter and there are countless other attractions.

3 Days | £185

SRS: £80

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 2 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Continental breakfast

Holiday Hotel

Hutton's Hotel, Westminster

Located in the sophisticated neighbourhood of Pimlico, Hutton's is an ideal base from which to explore Central London. The area boasts a wide variety of international dining and shopping opportunities and is just 7 minutes walk from both Pimlico and Victoria tube stations. The 63 compact budget bedrooms are hosted in a modernised Victorian building full of character yet offering up to date facilities for today's traveller. Simply furnished, comfortable and clean and providing all basic requirements including private bathroom, hairdryer, towels, television, phone and comfy pillow top mattress - what more could you need? A continental breakfast is included in the bright and airy restaurant and the 24hr front desk offers concierge services and ticket assistance.

Holiday Itinerary

Friday - Morning departure from Dorset direct to Central London. Arrive at the hotel around 12 noon - the luggage can be stored securely at reception and you can check-in at any time after 4pm (or later that evening). The remainder of the day is free for you to discover our historic and exciting capital city.

Saturday - After breakfast the whole day is free for you to make your discoveries. The museums of Kensington open at 10am (recommend pre-booking free entry) - the shops of Oxford Street at 9am. A great way to view the city is to hop-on and off a sightseeing red double decker bus which leaves from Marble Arch very frequently and do not need to be pre-booked.

Sunday - Breakfast is included at the hotel. The morning and early afternoon are at your leisure in London. Our coach will be departing from the hotel at 6pm to head homewards - return to Dorset that evening.



The **BIG** Bluebird Reunion 2027

Friday 29th Jan to Monday 1st Feb 2027



Following the success of our previous Reunion Tours we are delighted to announce that due to overwhelming demand we are repeating the exercise in 2027. A chance to get together with friends from previous holidays and meet members of our staff in a relaxed, fun and friendly atmosphere. We have negotiated a special rate with Warner Hotels and are providing discounted coach travel to be able to offer this fabulous weekend break to you at an amazing low price! Now upgraded to luxurious 4 Star.

4 Days | £364

SRS: £35

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 3 nights "Standard" hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entertainment program
- ✓ Signature Room Upgrade (Twin/Double only): £35.00 per person

Holiday Hotel

Warner Littlecote House Hotel, Near Hungerford

An exclusive "Just for Adults" 4 Star hotel based on a Grade I historic listed Tudor property. It is reputed to be the third most haunted house in the UK and is set in 113 acres of gardens and rolling parkland. "Standard" Bedrooms are spacious and tastefully decorated and provide private bathroom, tea tray, TV, radio, hairdryer and iron. Upgrade to a "Signature" room with bigger TV, wider bed, minibar, table and comfy seating for a small supplement. The restaurant provides an exceptional buffet breakfast and evening dinner is a 3 course buffet or choice of menu with waiter service. There is a leisure centre providing gym, sauna, indoor pool & jacuzzi. Warner evening entertainment is legendary and there is something different every night - from tribute acts, live bands, cabaret, comedians and magicians - or if you prefer a quieter night there are always tranquil lounges in which to retreat. In addition day time activities such as shooting, archery, bowls, dancing, quizzes and bingo may also be available - there is always something going on here and it makes for unforgettable memories!

Holiday Itinerary

Friday - Morning departure from Dorset to Salisbury for lunch. Time to stroll the cathedral precincts and explore the historic city centre. Continue to Littlecote this afternoon where you are welcomed and provided with a programme of events for the weekend. After dinner this evening enjoy the entertainment. Plenty of time to socialize, renew acquaintances and make new friends.

Saturday - After a full English breakfast maybe invigorate yourself in the hotel pool, sauna or gym - or join one of the activities available. Alternatively join the coach to visit nearby Hungerford, a pretty market town well known for its antique shops. Continue to Marlborough with its busy market and exceptional architecture along the broad High Street. Return to hotel mid-afternoon. Later get together for an evening of music and fun in the theatre which takes us into the night - quieter corners are available if you prefer.

Sunday - After a leisurely breakfast join the coach for a visit to Oxford "The City of Dreaming Spires". The best way to see the sights is to jump on the official red double decker bus tour which runs every 15 mins. After a delicious dinner this evening we shall enjoy more quality entertainment in congenial company.

Monday - Leave hotel mid-morning and drive to Swindon, where there is time to visit the Designer Outlet shopping mall or Great Western Steam Museum next door. Leave at 2.30pm and drive back to Dorset.



Paris Afloat

Monday 15th to Thursday 18th February



4 Days | £645

(Main Deck Cabin)

Upgrade to Upper Deck Cabin:
£90 Per Person

If you think it's too expensive to stay in a good quality hotel in the centre of Paris think again! - We have secured this amazing floating hotel moored close to the Eiffel Tower which includes comfortable accommodation in cosy well equipped cabins with large windows giving wonderful river views. Just like other cruises there is entertainment provided in the evening and an amazing array of FULL BOARD meals and ALL DRINKS are included. France's romantic capital city has something for everyone and its popularity seems everlasting - it is the perfect spring-break destination. During this holiday you will easily discover the magic of the city for yourself, it is just impossible to avoid being swept up by the bright lights and glamour!

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossings
- ✓ 3 nights cabin accommodation
- ✓ Full board meals (from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 4)
- ✓ On-board entertainment
- ✓ 2 x evening cruises*
- ✓ Welcome cocktail
- ✓ Local guide services
- ✓ All drinks on boat (house brands)

Holiday Accommodation

CroisiEurope MS Botticelli

An elegant vessel providing just 75 well serviced cabins - you will certainly notice the personal attention. All are equipped with twin beds (not bunks), private shower & toilet, hairdryer, satellite TV, radio, 220v power socket (for your travel kettle or shaver) and safe - they also have individual heating/air-conditioning. There is a lounge bar with dance floor and free Wi-Fi. Your full board set-menu meals are taken in the spacious dining room while enjoying river views. There are only 2 decks but no lift so you will need to cope with one flight of stairs.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Very early morning departure from Dorset for channel crossing to Calais. Drive on to Central Paris for 18:00 boarding the ship. A Captains cocktail and welcome from the host before you enjoy dinner in the restaurant. Later you can socialise in the lounge and meet your fellow guests while taking in a "Titi Parisien" evening entertainment.

Tuesday - A local guide will join us on the coach for a panoramic tour of the legendary sights of this beautiful and magical city - tell us the facts and figures, history and stories. Return to the ship for lunch. The afternoon is free to make your own discoveries - a 15 minute walk along the Seine gets you to the Eiffel Tower, just about as story-book perfect as you could imagine. After dinner there will be music and dancing into the night. Subject to the river water level* we may also cruise to the ultra-modern district of La Defense.

Wednesday - With the local guide we drive to Old Montmartre with its pavement cafes, artists and winding streets - The Basilica of Sacre-Coeur has a surprising Byzantine style. This tour includes some walking. Return to the ship for lunch. The afternoon is again free. Maybe visit the nearby Trocadero Gardens, hit the shops, or simply relax on the ship. A Gala dinner this evening with cabaret entertainment, during which the ship will undertake a "Paris by Night" cruise (*subject to river water level) where you will float through the beautifully illuminated city - simply breathtaking!

Thursday - After breakfast disembark the ship and head homewards via afternoon channel crossing. Return to Dorset that evening.



Birmingham International Tattoo

Saturday 20th to Sunday 21st February



The Birmingham International Tattoo is Britain's biggest indoor tattoo (a type of military tournament) featuring marching bands, pipes & drums, field gun racing, dog racing and much more including a spectacular Grand Finale with over 1,000 performers. Held in the prestigious Resorts World Arena at the NEC, it is completely under cover and not subject to the ravages of weather. The performances help raise funds for services charities who work to assist veterans and those serving in our Armed Forces. We have been fortunate in securing a group allocation of tickets for one of only two performances planned for 2027.

2 Days | £179

SRS: £40

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Platinum grade Tattoo ticket
- ✓ 1 night hotel accommodation
- ✓ Buffet breakfast.

Holiday Hotel

Holiday Inn Birmingham

A modern high quality hotel venue ideally situated just outside of Great Barr and convenient for our chosen itinerary visits. All the bright and spacious bedrooms provide private bathroom with free toiletries and hairdryer, big comfy beds, TV with movie channel, phone, tea tray, iron/press, air-conditioning and free Wi-Fi. No lift but only 3 floors and plenty of low floor bedrooms. Room service is available. The restaurant is stylish and relaxed offering a full English buffet breakfast. There is a lounge/bar in which to socialise.

Holiday Itinerary

Saturday - Mid-morning departure from Dorset via motorways to arrive at Birmingham NEC by 4pm. There are multiple food and drink outlets where you can source a meal (including gluten free and vegan) before taking your seats for the International Tattoo which starts at 6pm. The performance lasts for over 3 hours and includes an intermission half way through. Military bands from across Europe perform separately, then come together for a spectacular massed finale. There are amazing Field Gun displays, dog agility races, a parade of massed Standards and solo singers - a stunning piece of theatre, pomp and pageantry! The show ends at 9:30pm and we make the short drive to our overnight hotel with a late check-in arranged.

Sunday - We have agreed a late breakfast and will leave the hotel at 10.00am. Drive homewards with time for lunch and sightseeing en-route in the historic cathedral city of Wells. Leave Wells at 3.30pm to drive back to Dorset by late afternoon.



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London Budget Break

Sunday 7th to Monday 8th March



A budget short break in London to do exactly what you want - no ties, no pre-booked visits or planned excursions - the time is yours to dispose of as you wish. The famous landmarks are all there and easy to explore on foot - The London Eye, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square - or you can hop-on and off a sightseeing red double decker bus. The shopping opportunities of Oxford Street and Regent Street where the major retailers have their flagship stores should not be missed. Most of the National Museums and Galleries are free to enter and there are countless other attractions. Taking advantage of discount hotel tariffs for a Sunday night stay we can offer these budget breaks at an unbelievable price!

2 Days | £109

SRS: £30

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 1 night hotel accommodation
- ✓ Continental breakfast

Holiday Hotel

Hutton's Hotel, Westminster

Located in the sophisticated neighbourhood of Pimlico, Hutton's is an ideal base from which to explore Central London. The area boasts a wide variety of international dining and shopping opportunities and is just 7 minutes walk from both Pimlico and Victoria tube stations. The 63 understated compact budget bedrooms are hosted in a modernised Victorian building full of character yet offering up to date facilities for today's traveller. Simply furnished, compact, comfortable and clean and providing all basic requirements including private bathroom, hairdryer, towels, television, comfy pillow top mattress and tea tray - what more could you need? A continental breakfast is included in the bright and airy restaurant and the 24hr front desk offers concierge services and ticket assistance.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset direct to Central London. Arrive at the hotel around 12noon - the luggage can be stored securely at reception and you can check-in at any time after 4pm (or later that evening). The remainder of the day is free for you to discover our historic and exciting capital city.

Monday - A Continental Buffet Breakfast is included at the hotel. The morning and early afternoon are at your leisure in London (your luggage stored securely at hotel). Our coach will be departing from the hotel at 6pm to head homewards - return to Dorset that evening.

AUSTRIA - A Winter Wonderland

Saturday 27th Feb to Saturday 6th Mar



Time and again we have been asked to arrange another winter tour to the alpine snow - somewhere that gets falls of the white stuff in metres rather than millimetres, and still things keep moving! We have selected the superb location of Achenkirch in Austria which also provides the opportunity to explore the sights around the Achensee lake and the beautiful Wildschonau Valley. We shall marvel at glittering crystals, discover local crafts, enjoy a lakeside horse drawn carriage ride and a narrow gauge railway. Achenkirch is not a dedicated ski-resort so by taking advantage of out-of-season hotel rates we are able to offer this "Snow Tour" at a great value-for-money price!

Holiday Hotel

Fischerwirt am see Hotel, Achenkirch

A superb family run hotel where Tyrolean charm, alpine flair and modern comfort combine to create an unforgettable holiday experience. Bedrooms are spacious and well equipped with private bathroom with walk-in shower, hairdryer, TV with satellite channels, telephone, safe, Wi-Fi and balcony affording stunning views. The restaurant is renowned for the wide range of freshly prepared locally sourced dishes including a generous continental breakfast and 3 course dinner with choices. There are lounges and a bar in which to relax and socialise. A lift serves all floors. Guests have free use of the sauna and massage* therapy is available (*extra fee).

Holiday Itinerary

Saturday - Very early morning departure from Dorset to Dover for channel crossing to Calais. Drive through France to Saarbrücken for overnight stay at Mercure Hotel with 3 course set dinner with tea/coffee to follow.

Sunday - After breakfast cross the mighty Rhine into Germany and through Bavaria to enter Austria. Arrive at our hotel with a warm welcome from our hosts and after checking in enjoy dinner.

Monday - This morning we shall be joined by a local guide who will show us the highlights of fabulous Innsbruck from the coach - the middle ages meets the modern era - sightseeing in Innsbruck is full of contrasts, history and tales. Later we visit the Swarovski Crystal World - a unique experience that explores crystal in all its facets - a fantasy world that has entranced millions.

Tuesday - Enjoy a horse drawn carriage ride along the lake shores this morning. Then continue to Rattenburg, a traditional medieval town bursting with cultural treasures. We shall watch a glass-blowing demo and spend time exploring the narrow streets and charming ancient buildings. This afternoon return to Achenkirch with free time to wander the village or

relax and enjoy coffee and cake at the hotel. Dinner is a traditional Tyrolean buffet this evening.

Wednesday - A short drive brings us to Jenbach, an attractive market town of the Inn Valley. Here we board the historic Zillertalbahn - a rural narrow gauge railway trundling through delightful alpine scenery - 90 minutes to Mayrhofen. The unofficial capital of the Zillertal Valley surrounded by 3000 metre peaks, powder snow and genuine joie de vivre. There are cable cars from the town that climb high into the mountains affording sensational views and revealing snowy splendour. Craft shops, boutiques and traditional inns crowd the pedestrianised main street.

Thursday - We enjoy a scenic drive through the picturesque Wildschonau Valley that lies at the heart of the Kitzbuhel Alps - this high alpine pass shelters pretty unspoilt villages with endless views of untouched mountains and forests. We shall stop in charming Auffach to explore the museums, cafes and shops. We include entry to the wood carving museum whose founder is passionate about his craft and has been awarded "Treasure House" status by the tourist board. There are over 3000 fascinating exhibits in this marvellous wooden world.

8 Days | £975

SRS: £70

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return ferry crossings
- ✓ 5 nights hotel accommodation in Austria
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotel in Saarbrücken
- ✓ Buffet continental breakfast
- ✓ 3 course dinners
- ✓ Tea/coffee after dinner
- ✓ Guide for Innsbruck
- ✓ Entry to Swarovski Crystal
- ✓ Carriage ride
- ✓ Glass blowing demo
- ✓ Zillertalbahn train fare, Wood Museum entry

Friday - Departure from Achenkirch after breakfast and retracing our route northwards through Germany for overnight stay at Mercure Hotel Saarbrücken with 3 course set dinner on arrival.

Saturday - Drive through Northern France to Calais for channel crossing to Dover and so return to Dorset that evening.





SPAIN – Spring Sunshine

Wednesday 10th to Tuesday 23rd March



The Costa Brava offers a unique experience with its mild weather and abundant sunshine. Even during March temperatures can top 20 degrees but the area is still quiet with tourists this early in the season and the summer crowds are yet to arrive. Visitors can enjoy the regions stunning natural beauty including the dreamlike coves and breathtaking interior landscapes that have inspired artists and poets. Undoubtedly a great place to enjoy the mediterranean climate and take in deep blue sea, golden beaches, medieval towns and natural parks and experience countless cultural influences from history. Our chosen resort of Pineda de Mar roughly translates as Pine Forest by the Sea and is a quiet seaside town occupying one of the longest beaches on the Costa Brava backed by the Montnegre Hills.

14 Days | £1399

SRS: £440

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossings
- ✓ 11 nights hotel accommodation in Spain
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotel in Dijon
- ✓ Evening dinner and breakfast throughout

Holiday Hotels

Hotel Aqua Promenade & Spa, Pineda de Mar
Hotel Htop Pineda Palace, Pineda de Mar

Two fabulous 4 STAR hotels located right on the seafront and just a few minutes walk from the old town centre. Bedrooms are stylish and very well equipped with private bathroom, hairdryer, free toiletries, balcony, air-conditioning, safe, TV with satellite channels, minibar and free Wi-Fi (no kettle). High quality buffet meals are provided in the restaurant with sea views offering mediterranean and international dishes. The lobby bar is the place to relax and socialise with a coffee or cocktail. For the energetic there is an outdoor pool and spa* which offers gym, massage and sauna (*extra cost). There is a lift to all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Wednesday - Very early morning departure from Dorset to Folkestone for channel crossing to France and on to Dijon for overnight stay at Novotel Dijon Sud with dinner and breakfast.

Thursday - Resume southbound, crossing the border into Spain and arrive at Pineda de Mar in time for dinner.

Friday - At leisure in the resort. Get your bearings with time to relax and unwind.

Saturday - Visit Girona, a small city on a human scale - enjoy the old town with its narrow streets and squares, museums and historic buildings with over 2000 years of history.

Sunday & Monday - At leisure in resort. 30 mins walk to neighbouring Calella.

Tuesday - Visit the medieval fortified village of Peratallada, a national site of extraordinary appeal and beauty. It preserves its ancient feudal appearance with narrow streets and alleyways, castle and palace (some sites may be closed for winter but the town is fascinating to walk around - no entry fee)

Wednesday - At leisure in resort.

Thursday - Excursion to Barcelona - showcasing Catalan life at its best - think cutting-edge architecture, trendsetting fashion and tasty tapas joints. To see the highlights maybe join a panoramic hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus tour with English commentary.

Friday - At leisure in resort

Saturday - First to Palamos, an authentic fishing village and holiday where everything bears the seal, the aroma and colour of the Mediterranean sea. Later stop in Blanes, a delightful resort far less touristy than many others on the Costa Brava - a place the locals like to visit.

Sunday - A final day at leisure in resort.

Monday - We bid our hosts a fond farewell and drive back into France for overnight stay at Novotel Dijon Sud with dinner and breakfast.

Tuesday - Northwards to Calais for channel crossing to Folkestone and return to Dorset later that evening.





An Alpine Spring Trio

Friday 9th to Friday 16th April

Within the Alps there is a unique corner that occupies parts of Austria, Germany and Switzerland – The Alpine Trio. Defined by the absurdly beautiful scenery of these mountains, the food, languages and traditions have distinct influences of all three nations. During springtime deep valleys between the mountains begin to fill with the vibrant colours of wild flowers which, as the season unfolds, spread their magic awakening the landscape. The contrast between the green flowering meadows and the stark white peaks makes for a spectacular sight. But its not just the scenery that makes this holiday so special – our chosen hotel's superb geographic location adds a diversity to the visits that include some spectacular mountain railway journeys that enhance your experience.

Holiday Hotel

Hotel Weisses Kreuz, Feldkirch

A very comfortable and well appointed 4 Star family run hotel situated just 10 minutes drive from the medieval city centre and affording views of both Austria and Switzerland. All bedrooms are tastefully decorated and furnished and offer en-suite shower room, satellite television, telephone, hairdryer, safe and free Wi-Fi (no kettle). The hotel has an excellent restaurant which provides a hearty hot/cold breakfast as well as a sumptuous four course dinner with choices. House drinks are included during dinner. There is a cosy lounge/bar in which to socialise and a sauna and gym. Entertainment is sometimes provided in the evening. Highly regarded by previous Bluebird guests.

Holiday Itinerary

Friday - Very early morning departure from Dorset via channel crossing to Calais and onwards through France for overnight stay at Novotel St Avold with set dinner and breakfast.

Saturday - Follow the mighty Rhine upstream to Basel and into Switzerland to drive across the Alps into Austria. A welcome on arrival and after settling in enjoy a delicious dinner with drinks included.

Sunday - We include a bus ride into town where a local guide joins us for a walking tour of historic Feldkirch and entrance to Schattenburg Castle Museum. The afternoon is free in town to make your own discoveries.

Monday - Austria: Tour through the Bregenzerwald region for a visit to a local cheesemaker with tasting. Then join the Walderbahnle narrow gauge railway from Bezau to Schwarzenberg – vintage locos and carriages run this historic line through stunning Alpine scenery. After alighting the train we shall tour across the hairpins of the stunning Bodele Pass via Dornbirn back to hotel.

Tuesday - Switzerland: To Lake Constance where we join the Rheineck mountain railway on a 2km journey up to Walzenhausen – a climb of over 220 metres in height with stunning views over the lake. We then visit the pretty village of Appenzell with its famous painted houses. Here we join another local train which crosses the Sitter Viaduct and runs over the Stoss Pass to Altstätten. Rejoining the coach we drive to Hohenems back in Austria for a chocolate tasting at the traditional Fenkart Schlosskaffee.

Wednesday - Germany: See the old city of Constance, a German enclave on the lake of the same name. Cross by ferry to Meersburg and drive to Salem Castle, one of the most powerful and magnificent Imperial Abbeys in Southern Germany. It is at once a spiritual place, baroque residence and fortress – 900 years of history are unusually well preserved. Returning to the lake shores we call into the village of Hagnau where we shall enjoy a tasting of the local wines. Return around the northern side of Lake Constance to re-enter Austria near Lindau and so back to hotel.

8 Days | £1120

SRS: £240

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossing
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotel in St Avold
- ✓ 5 x nights hotel in Feldkirch
- ✓ Half board meals throughout
- ✓ Drinks with dinner in Feldkirch
- ✓ Local bus and guide in Feldkirch
- ✓ Entry to Schattenburg Castle
- ✓ 3 x rail journeys
- ✓ Cheese Chocolate and Wine tastings
- ✓ Entry to Salem Castle
- ✓ Lake Constance ferry

Thursday - A fond farewell from our hosts as we head northwards back into France for overnight stay at St Avold with set dinner and breakfast.

Friday - Homeward bound to Calais for channel crossing to Dover and so return to Dorset that evening.





HOLLAND - The Tulip Train

Monday 12th to Friday 16th April



Our clients have always enjoyed celebrating the coming of spring with a visit to the glorious Dutch Bulbfields and the popularity of these tours remains undiminished. To further enhance the event we have been able to include a historical steam train journey through the most colourful bulbfields. A classic Holland experience - the train is beautifully restored and over 100 years old. Additional highlights include the unforgettable

Keukenhof Flower Park in all its glory, and the stunning Zaanse Schans open-air heritage park. Not to mention the iconic city of Amsterdam brimming with canals, diamonds, museums and café culture.

5 Days | £839

SRS: £240

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return Eurotunnel* crossings
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry to Keukenhof Gardens
- ✓ Steam train fare
- ✓ Entry to Zaanse Schans. (*stc)

Holiday Hotel

Fletcher Hotel, Jan Van Scorel

A stunning four STAR hotel set in an amazing location between the Schoorl dunes and forest - nature's beauty surrounds you. You can relax in the hotel garden, take a swim in the indoor pool, enjoy a sauna or socialise in the traditional pub. All 88 bedrooms are accessible by lift and provide private bathroom with toiletries, hairdryer, TV/radio, seating, tea tray, balcony or terrace and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant maintains an excellent reputation for fine food with a stylish ambience and attentive service. Dinners are 3 courses with choice of main dish, Breakfast is a full buffet.

Holiday Itinerary

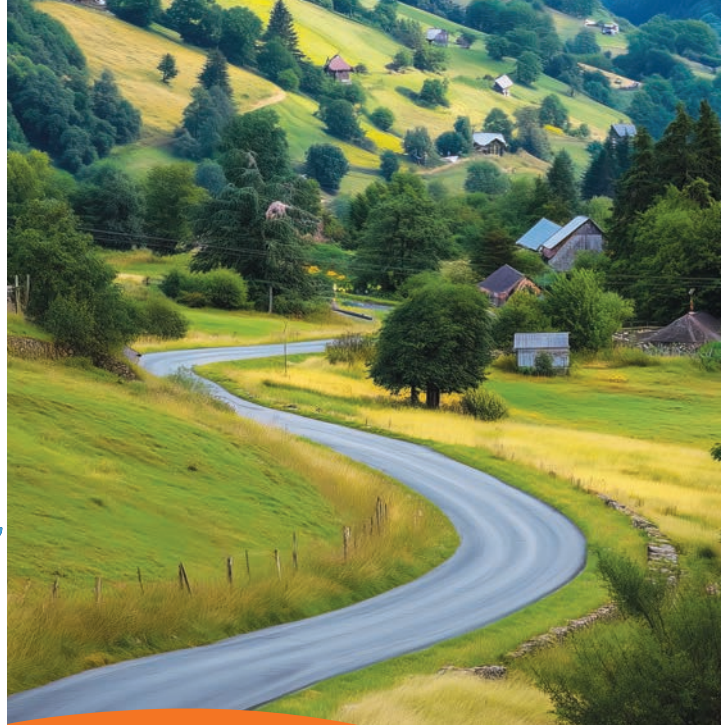
Monday - Very early morning departure from Dorset to Folkestone for Eurotunnel crossing to Calais. Onwards to Schoorl in Northern Holland and check-in to hotel where dinner awaits.

Tuesday - A full day excursion through the glorious Dutch Bulbfields with included admission to the famous Keukenhof Gardens - named "The Greatest Flower Show on Earth". Over 70 acres of parkland housing a vast display of flowers, trees and lakes plus outdoor entertainers, cafes and sunny terraces.

Wednesday - Visit Amsterdam, a fascinating and exciting city often referred to as "The Venice of the North". Its cobblestone lanes wrapped around arched bridges and canals makes it a charming place to visit. A boat cruise is the best way to discover its many sights, although being so compact and flat walking is easy too. If you wish to visit some of the most popular attractions such as the Anne Frank House or Van Gogh Museum we recommend booking in advance as queues can be long.

Thursday - "The Tulip Train". Head north to the village of Hoorn and board the famous little steam train that travels through the lovely Dutch countryside to Medemblik (1 hr 20 mins). Wooden carriages creak, steam hisses and wheels sing - with pastry and coffee on-board. Later drive to Zaanse Schans, a delightful village that offers a huge open-air heritage park preserving wonderful windmills, traditional craft skills, local artisan foods, painted wooden cottages and more.

Friday - Drive back to Calais for the afternoon Eurotunnel crossing to Folkestone and so back to Dorset by that evening.



A Magical Mystery Tour

Saturday 17th to Monday 19th April



This "Mystery Tour" represents great value and adds a touch of excitement to a short-break away. We shall be including visits to some unlikely but interesting places - if we told you where you were going it would take the fun away, but we promise you will be pleasantly surprised.

ALL admission fees are included in the tour price - so no extra to pay while away. If you are a

regular traveller with these always popular Mystery Breaks we do assure you that it will be somewhere different from previous seasons. But where on Earth?....don't worry, a passport is not required!

3 Days | £329

SRS: £90

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 2 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry fees to pre-booked places of interest

Mystery Hotel

We guarantee a 4 STAR standard of accommodation and the usual quality refinements to ensure a comfortable two nights stay. Meals will be on a half board basis (evening dinner and breakfast) with a choice of menu. Bedrooms are equipped with private bathroom, hairdryer, television, phone, tea tray, safe, free Wi-Fi and air-conditioning. There is a comfortable lounge and bar in which to socialise and a gym. A lift serves all floors.

Holiday Itinerary

Saturday - Morning departure from Dorset, we drive towards our chosen destination with stops en-route for refreshment. There may be an included visit to an attraction, or time for sightseeing en-route. Our driver will be keeping your ultimate goal a closely guarded secret - threats or bribery are strictly forbidden and a lot of "red herrings" may result if he is provoked! Arrive at our hotel late afternoon with time to settle in before an evening dinner. Later that evening relax in the lounge/bar and speculate with your fellow travellers what delights the next day may bring?

Sunday - A full day excursion - maybe nearby, maybe a little further away - who knows what devious surprises we have laid on for your pleasure? Rest assured you are in for a treat you might not normally have considered. A variety of visits to places of interest have been arranged during the weekend and the entry fees are all included in your holiday price. Return to hotel late afternoon.

Monday - After breakfast we commence our homeward journey which will be interrupted by yet another mystery visit (who, what, where??) To arrive back in Dorset that afternoon.



Springtime in Cornwall

Wednesday 21st to Monday 26th April



Join us at this elegant country house hotel situated in the lovely Cornish resort of St. Agnes, offering a traditional atmosphere and congenial company, so highly praised by previous Bluebird customers.

A small programme of light evening entertainment is included to brighten your stay and complement an extensive excursions programme. Spring comes early to Cornwall and by April the gardens and hedgerows are brim full of colour and life. This early season break presents a chance to enjoy attractions, dramatic scenery and spectacular coastline without the summer crowds! A tour that was always vastly oversubscribed in the past and repeated due to popular demand.

6 Days | £675

SRS: £60

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 5 nights accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entertainment on some nights (may vary)
- ✓ Entry to Trebah Gardens.

Holiday Hotel

Rosemunda House Hotel, St Agnes

A family run hotel set in four acres of secluded gardens and woodlands in the quaint village of St Agnes - this elegant Queen Anne residence dates back to the 1780's. Extensively refurbished and upgraded to three STAR standard, you are assured a comfortable stay with attentive and friendly service. All bedrooms are individually decorated and provide private bathroom, central heating, colour television and tea tray. Three comfortable lounges and a well stocked bar provide space for relaxation and Wi-Fi is available. The "Tom Noggi" restaurant is very highly regarded and offers a varied menu using fresh local ingredients. A programme of entertainment is included.

Holiday Itinerary

Wednesday - Morning departure from Dorset to Plymouth with time for lunch. Later pass Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor, then on to St Agnes. After settling in dinner is served in the restaurant.

Thursday - A wonderful day of sightseeing via Porthleven a popular resort that offers art galleries, shops and tearooms clustered around a pretty harbour. Then to St Ives, whose gaily coloured stone cottages appear to tumble over each other down to the sea. Back at the hotel following your evening dinner you will be entertained by a local talented musician.

Friday - Morning visit to Padstow, the sleepy and picturesque port with quaint cottages and crooked streets. Afternoon visit to Truro, the capital of Cornwall and one blessed with great history, architecture, attractions and pockets of greenery that come alive with early spring blooms.

Saturday - Morning at leisure in pretty little St Agnes. Afternoon visit to Mevagissey, the pretty traditional fishing harbour with narrow streets and alleyways full of charm and beauty. After dinner this evening there is music and song.

Sunday - Morning visit to Trebah Gardens, a sub-tropical paradise with a stunning coastal backdrop - the result of 160 years of inspired and dedicated creation. A Cornish valley garden bursting with exotic blooms and vibrant tunnels of colour that cascade down to a private beach. This afternoon visit Falmouth, a busy port with charming mix of shops, museums and galleries. Following dinner a light hearted in-house quiz may entertain you this evening.

Monday - Homeward bound with a stop in Tavistock. Leaving after lunch to drive back across Dartmoor to arrive Dorset by late afternoon.



© Flickr - Jenny Mackness

The Arboretum & Stratford-upon-Avon

Friday 30th April to Sunday 2nd May



A long weekend break to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire which offers a unique experience in springtime where visitors can explore the beauty of nature and the significance of remembrance. A beautiful and inspiring place, the 150 acres of the Arboretum forms a living landscape, home to over 400 memorials. Tales of bravery, selfless service, camaraderie and care are represented by both armed forces and civilian walks of life.

During April Stratford-upon-Avon celebrates the birth of William Shakespeare in 1564 and the town is adorned with thousands of purple crocus, yellow daffodils and bright tulips - a glorious sight.

3 Days | £279

SRS: £80

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 2 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Land Train Tour of NMA

Holiday Hotel

Holiday Inn Coventry

A modern high quality hotel venue ideally situated just outside of Coventry and convenient for our chosen itinerary visits. All the spacious bedrooms provide private bathroom with free toiletries and hairdryer, big comfy beds, large digital TV with satellite channels, telephone, tea tray, iron/press, air-conditioning and free Wi-Fi. A lift serves all three floors and room service is available. The restaurant is stylish and relaxed offering a full English buffet breakfast and evening dinner. There is a lounge/bar in which to socialise.

Holiday Itinerary

Friday - Morning departure from Dorset to Abingdon-on-Thames, a quiet historic market town in rural Oxfordshire. Discover ancient streets, riverside walks and living traditions - a great place to visit. Later continue northwards to our hotel near Coventry where dinner awaits.

Saturday - To the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield - we shall arrive in time for the 11:00 Daily Act of Remembrance which includes a 2 minute silence. Later we shall board the Land Train for a guided tour of the site with commentary. Afterwards there will be free time for personal visits. To finish the day we call into Barton Marina - a unique waterside setting with narrowboat moorings, shops, galleries and cafes. Return to the hotel later that afternoon.

Sunday - A market town with over 800 years of history - Stratford-upon-Avon still contains historic sights that would have been familiar to Shakespeare himself. Bancroft Gardens on the riverside are usually full of spring flowers and are adjacent to the Canal Basin from where frequent river trips depart. The town is easily explored on foot and self-guided walking tours lead you to discover ancient buildings that record the history of the town. Leaving that afternoon to drive homewards, returning to Dorset early evening.



Shropshire & The Ironbridge

Friday 7th to Tuesday 11th May

The borderland between England and Wales has a distinctive geography which has isolated this rural, sparsely populated slice of land and created a unique identity. "Anglo-Welshness" is a hybrid of town names from both countries. The region is a hidden delight: mountains and moorland, wooded river valleys, tiny villages, half-timbered buildings and castles all exist side by side. The region was the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution which contained all the raw materials required for the manufacture of iron, tiles and porcelain and provided the River Severn to transport them away.

5 Days | £685

SRS: £190

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ River Severn Cruise
- ✓ Entry to Blists Hill Museum
- ✓ Entry to Stokesay Castle

Holiday Hotel

Telford Hotel & Spa Resort

Set in acres of gorgeous Severn Valley countryside and overlooking the UNESCO Ironbridge Gorge, the 4 STAR Telford Hotel provides fabulous facilities and warm hospitality. Bedrooms are spacious and include private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, television with movie channels, phone, tea tray, safe and free Wi-Fi. The 1779 Restaurant serves modern British cuisine and the adjacent Gorge Bar is a comfortable place to socialise after a meal. There are extensive leisure facilities including an indoor heated swimming pool, steam room, sauna, gym and massage*. Surrounding gardens and a sun terrace provide outdoor space to relax and enjoy the views. A lift serves all floors (*extra charge)

Holiday Itinerary

Friday - Morning departure from Dorset to historic Gloucester for lunch. Continue to Telford with portage of bags on arrival and after settling in take dinner in the restaurant.

Saturday - Make the short drive to Shrewsbury, arguably the finest Tudor town in England - home to a fine abbey, many black and white half-timbered buildings and imposing castle. Enjoy a 40 minute sightseeing cruise along the famous and picturesque River Severn Loop with an entertaining commentary from the skipper. The town rises from the river and will entice you with intriguingly named streets such as Wyle Cop, Price Hill and Dogpole - a great place to explore.

Sunday - 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. History is truly brought to life before your eyes here! This afternoon we view the famous Ironbridge itself, a magnificent monument built at the start of the Industrial Revolution.

Monday - Enjoy a scenic drive across Wenlock Edge to Church Stretton, set in the hills of "Little Switzerland". Continue to Stokesay Castle, one of the finest and best preserved fortified medieval manor houses in England. Built by Laurence of Ludlow in the 13th century it has been carefully restored and has stunning views of the countryside. Finally this afternoon visit the historic town of Ludlow with its crumbling castle walls, half timbered houses and streets that tumble down to the riverbanks.

Tuesday - Homeward bound we pause at Tewkesbury, a charming medieval town with a magnificent abbey dominating its skyline. A stroll through the towns narrow alleyways will discover old inns and cafes perfect for lunch. Continue to Dorset returning by late afternoon.



Faulty Towers Dining Experience

Sunday 16th to Monday 17th May

Step into the famous BBC TV series at Hilton Swindon, where dinner and internationally acclaimed theatre combine. Based on the comedy series written by John Cleese in the 1970's you will immerse yourself in the magic of Basil, Sybil and Manuel. Three talented impersonators bring the madcap melee of Torquay's most inept hoteliers to the restaurant while you tuck in to your 3-course dinner. Comedy reigns from the moment you arrive for your meal, as much loved characters greet, seat and serve you. Expect surprises throughout, as only one-third of the show is scripted meaning anything could happen - a sparkling original tribute to one of the greatest shows ever to appear on TV.

2 Days | £199

SRS: £40

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 1 night hotel accommodation
- ✓ The Faulty Towers Dining Experience
- ✓ Buffet breakfast

Holiday Hotel

Doubletree by Hilton, Swindon

This large modern 4 STAR hotel is situated on the outskirts of town in a quiet location and close to the Wiltshire countryside. The 170+ bedrooms are all spacious, stylish and well equipped, with en-suite bathroom, free toiletries, hairdryer, digital TV, phone, air-conditioning, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Your themed Faulty Towers dining experience is staged in a specially prepared entertainment room and a full English breakfast buffet is provided the following morning. There is a large bar and coffee shop in which to socialise and a comfy lounge area for relaxing. A lift serves all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset, we shall pause in delightful Marlborough for lunch. With its unspoilt charm, famous wide High Street, narrow alleyways, riverside parks and ancient buildings it has been a popular stop-off since the days of coach and horse. Resume to Swindon this afternoon and after checking in brace yourself for this evenings experience. Performed by a Basil look-a-like and his team of Sybil and Manuel, you'll be caught up in their riotous antics while you try to enjoy your 3 course meal - difficult with such distractions. A joyous and hilarious tribute - expect chaos, laughs and a brilliant night.

Monday - After breakfast visit the spa city of Bath, an elegant city full of heritage, contemporary culture, green spaces and a few surprises. It's compact visitor friendly centre is overflowing with places to eat, drink and shop. Its honey coloured architecture is straight out of a Jane Austen novel and a joy to explore. Leave Bath early afternoon to drive back to Dorset.



The Isles of Scilly

Wednesday 12th to Tuesday 18th May

Organising a holiday to the Isles of Scilly is always a challenging task and combining multiple transport, accommodation and attraction elements in to a coherent package does not come cheaply - if you are on a budget look away now!

Just 28 miles off Land's End are five inhabited islands and countless uninhabited islets and rocks. A small archipelago, these beautiful islands exude a timeless peace and natural tranquility found nowhere else. Once you arrive you can start to unwind and adjust your tempo accordingly - "Stop, look and listen" takes on a whole new meaning. The Isles of Scilly can seem to be one big garden, with tropical plants growing in hedgerows and gardens. Their micro-climate, and the fact that frost is rare, makes them home to many unusual flora and fauna - this in turn encourages migrant birds to alight on these tiny specks of granite in the Atlantic Ocean.

Holiday Hotels

The Bell Rock Hotel, Isles of Scilly

One of the islands best loved hotels situated in a central yet quiet location in Hugh Town, the "capital" of St Mary's Island. Convenient for the harbour, beaches, entertainment and museums - it has been extensively modernised and upgraded. All bedrooms have en-suite shower or bath, hairdryer, television, radio, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant serves a wide variety of meals using fresh local produce whenever possible. There is a bar and lounge in which to relax and even an indoor heated pool with gowns and towels provided. There is no lift and only a limited number of ground floor bedrooms - most are accessed via staircase - the compensation being that top 4th floor rooms have sea-views. The hotel likes to focus on traditional values, like friendliness and good customer service, rather than flashy touches and trendy extras - it does this exceptionally well and you will be made most welcome.

Holiday Inn Express, Bodmin

Overnight stops on first and last nights - a modern hotel conveniently situated on the A30 Cornwall link-road giving us direct access to Penzance port. The contemporary bedrooms are equipped with private bathroom, hairdryer, television, safe, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Lift to all floors. Meals: 1st night - 3 courses with choice of dishes plus tea/coffee. Last night following late arrival - A light supper of soup & sandwiches plus tea/coffee. Breakfast both mornings is buffet style with a selection of hot items and pastries, toast, cereals and yogurts.

Holiday Highlights

Wednesday - Morning departure from Dorset to Buckfastleigh with time to visit the spectacular abbey built on the edge of Dartmoor. Later continue into Cornwall and drive ever westwards to arrive at Holiday Inn Express Bodmin for dinner and overnight stay.

Thursday - An early breakfast (5:30am) sees us on the 9:15am** ferry sailing from Penzance bound for the Isles of Scilly - look out for dolphin on the way! Arrive St Mary's at 12 noon - your luggage is transferred by van and you will be escorted on the 10 minute walk to the hotel. After checking in the remainder of the afternoon is free to relax.

Friday - After breakfast join a gentle introductory walking tour of St Mary's with a local guide who will relay the sights, history and strange stories. The afternoon is free to make your own discoveries - maybe visit one of the art galleries, pottery or museum. There are over 30 miles of footpaths on the island, outstanding natural attractions, abundant

wildlife, ancient remains, a thriving arts and craft culture and of course, deserted glorious sandy beaches

Saturday - We have included a boat trip to the nearby island of Treco and admission to its world famous gardens. Occupying the site of a Benedictine Abbey, the 19th century Treco Abbey Gardens are home to 20,000 plants from 80 countries, but the island itself houses just 160 people.

Sunday - Do as much or as little as you like. There are boating options available from the quay every single day which will take you to one of the "off islands" - St Martins, St Agnes and Bryther. There are also trips around the uninhabited isles to view wildlife such as seals and seabirds - enjoy the stunning landscapes from the water - visit shipwreck sites - or even a glass bottom boat. You can tour a vineyard and winery, wander through lush sub-tropical gardens, explore castles and forts and visit the grave of Sir Harold Wilson.

Monday - A final day to enjoy the delights of St Mary's. Your luggage will be transferred to the quayside in order to join the 4:30pm** ferry sailing back to Penzance, arriving 7:30pm. Our coach will meet you at Penzance and transfer you to Bodmin for overnight stay with a late light supper on arrival (9pm)

Tuesday - Homewards bound this morning, stopping for refreshment as appropriate, to return to Dorset that afternoon.



7 Days | £1529

SRS: £60

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel as detailed
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotel stays near Bodmin
- ✓ Half board meals throughout
- ✓ Return ferry crossing Penzance/St Mary's
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation on St Mary's
- ✓ The services of a Bluebird representative throughout
- ✓ Luggage transfers on St Mary's
- ✓ Walking tour of Hugh Town
- ✓ Boat trip to Treco
- ✓ Entry to Treco Abbey Gardens

**Subject to confirmation of ferry schedules



Best of Wales - Road Trip

Thursday 20th to Wednesday 26th May

Wales - a country with a rich tapestry of traditions, heritage and culture which beckons travellers with its captivating landscapes and enchanting history. Boasting over 600 castles it is known as the "Castle capital of the world". Despite its compact size and rather scattered population of just over 3 million people, it is home to diverse communities, each with a unique feel. Whether exploring the vibrant streets of a major tourist resort or venturing into the tranquil countryside, you are sure to encounter the warm and welcoming spirit of the Welsh people. So pack your curiosity and embark on this two-centre journey through Wales - a land of myth, legend and natural wonders!

Holiday Hotels

Mercure Hotel, Swansea

A 4 STAR hotel situated on the outskirts of the city on a business park but still set within its own landscaped grounds and on a tranquil lake - ideal for an after dinner stroll. The 118 guest bedrooms are spacious with private bathroom, free toiletries, hairdryer, TV with satellite channels, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The two restaurants are complemented by a café-bar with plenty of space to enjoy the delicious freshly prepared meals and socialise with a drink. There is no lift but only two floors and plenty of ground floor bedrooms. Room service is available. The fitness centre offers a mini-gym and sauna for guests use.

Celtic Royal Hotel, Caernarfon

A traditional style 3 STAR hotel with much history and located only 10 mins walk from the walled old town. The comfortable bedrooms are spacious and provide private bathroom, hairdryer, television, phone, safe, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant prides itself on providing fine fresh cuisine and the pub-style bar offers plenty of comfortable seating. The hotel leisure centre offers guests an indoor heated pool, gym, sauna and steam rooms. There is a lift to all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Highlights

Thursday - Morning departure from Dorset, we cross the Severn bridge and enter the magical realm of Wales. We stop at St Fagans near Cardiff, the Welsh National History Museum. It contains ancient buildings rescued from across Wales and rebuilt here to preserve them for future generations. Each is frozen in time and displays the way people lived, worked and spent their leisure in times gone by. There are also workshops, crafts and rare animal breeds - a treasure trove. Continue to Swansea for 3 night stay at The Mercure Hotel.

Friday - Visit Aberglasney Gardens, one of the finest in Wales and set in a serene and beautiful location with 10 acres of stunning grounds and an indoor sub-tropical garden in the mansion house to explore. This afternoon we drive to the picturesque resort of Tenby, a gem of the Pembrokeshire Coast. A colourful town surrounded by medieval walls around a lively harbour, there are galleries, cobbled streets, arts and craft shops and boat trips. Admire the stunning coastline of Pembrokeshire - Tenby is a charming and relaxing place to experience the best of Welsh culture and nature.

Saturday - This morning to the must-see Parc Howard Museum at Llanelli which showcases some of the greatest ideas to come out of the town, along with art galleries and pottery. Later make a scenic drive to the Gower Peninsula and enjoy the

landscape of this famous region with its picturesque cliffs, woodlands, heaths and sweeping beaches. Call at Mumbles with its traditional Victorian pier, iconic lighthouse and elegant Esplanade. Later drive the length of the peninsula to Rhossili which provides panoramic sea views across Worms Head.

Sunday - Leaving Swansea this morning we tour across country and alongside Cardigan Bay to Aberystwyth. Listen carefully, this is one of the places where the Welsh language is used commonly and it is considered a part of a shared inheritance and identity as a nation. After time for coffee on the seaford we tour along a panoramic mountain route to Portmeirion, a magical Italianate style village in a stunning sub-tropical garden overlooking the rugged Welsh coast. It found fame as setting for the 1960's TV location of "The Prisoner". Later we drive to Caernarfon, a fortified town on the Menai Strait boasting one of the finest 14th century castles in existence. Check-in to our second hotel the popular Celtic Royal.

Monday - Today we shall visit Llandudno, Wales's largest holiday resort but its scale is still intimate and friendly - a Victorian architectural gem that has remained unspoiled and locked in time. While here we shall enjoy a ride on the famous beautifully restored tramway to the top of The Great Orme headland - at 679 feet it provides spectacular views over the town, out to sea and across to the Snowdonia range. This

afternoon we drive along the coast to the Menai Bridge and cross onto the Isle of Anglesey. Visit the town of Beaumaris, site of the finest Edwardian castle in Wales and brightened by pastel coloured cottages, a pier and tea rooms. On our way back to the hotel we shall call at Llanfair PG station for a quick photo of the longest town name in Britain.

Tuesday - Touring Snowdonia. One of the most ancient and hauntingly beautiful areas in Europe. Called Eryri in Welsh ("the place of eagles"), Snowdonia welcomes visitors to a breath-taking natural environment where mountains meet the sea. At Llanberis we join the famous rack railway up to the very summit of Mount Snowdon. A remarkable journey that has been described as one of the most scenic railway journeys in the World. It has carried over 12 million travellers since 1896. On arrival at the summit one of the world's greatest panoramas is revealed - breathtaking! Later drive through the Llanberis Pass to Bedgelert, then past the Llyn Cwellyn back to Caernarfon. Enjoy the late afternoon in the town with its ancient town walls, busy harbour and bustling centre.

Wednesday - Our homewards journey offers a last special treat - a scenic drive through the heartland of Wales via Oswestry - Llandrindod Wells - Builth Wells - and Abergavenny, with spectacular views all the way. This afternoon re-cross the Severn Bridge and drive back to Dorset by early evening.

7 Days | £959

SRS: £220

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 3 nights hotel Swansea
- ✓ 3 nights hotel Caernarfon
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry to St Fagans Museum
- ✓ Entry to Aberglasney Gardens
- ✓ Entry to Parc Howard Museum
- ✓ Snowdon Railway fare
- ✓ Entry to Portmeirion
- ✓ Great Orme Tram fare



Scotland's North-West Coast

Sunday 23rd to Saturday 29th May

The North-West coast of Scotland is a treasure trove of natural beauty and historical charm. Forming a section of the famous North-Coast 500 route, visitors can explore stunning landscapes, dramatic cliffs and bustling harbours. The region is known for its rich maritime heritage with towns like Ullapool and Kyle of Lochalsh serving as gateways to the Hebrides and Isle of Skye. The mountainous beauty of the north west Highlands are formed from some of the oldest rocks on Earth – geological curiosities that create a land of wonders. Within this extraordinary landscape exist Scotland's iconic animals – from gentle Highland Cows to majestic Red Deer, Golden Eagles to Wildcats, Otters to Dolphins. To further enhance your exploration we have included a rail journey on the scenically spectacular Kyle of Lochalsh Line with its dramatic views and historical engineering feats.

Holiday Hotel

Gairloch Hotel, Gairloch

A traditional 3 STAR Victorian Scottish Baronial style hotel built in 1872 overlooking a secluded beach and affording views across to Skye. All of the 72 bedrooms provide private bathroom with free toiletries, television, phone, iron, heating, desk, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Due to the historical nature of the building the bedrooms vary in size and shape and guests will encounter some steps around the hotel – although a lift serves most of the building. There is a relaxing lounge bar with big comfy seats and a recently refurbished restaurant that overlooks the sea and serves a delicious 3 course dinner and full Scottish breakfast. Surrounded by a landscape rich in wildlife, Gairloch provides the perfect base to explore this magnificent region.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday – Early morning departure from Dorset via motorways with stops as appropriate for refreshments, cross the border into Scotland and stay at The Dryfesdale Hotel in Lockerbie overnight. A small family run 4 STAR Country House Hotel set in stunning grounds – no lift but only 2 floors.

Monday – Continue northwards through Scotland's central belt and into the Strathclyde – the scenery becoming more majestic by the mile. Stop at Pitlochry with time for lunch. This afternoon drive past the Cairngorms and Inverness – now the roads become narrower as we penetrate deep into the Highlands to arrive in Gairloch where dinner awaits.

Tuesday – A short hop to Inverewe Gardens – a garden like no other, where amazing species that simply shouldn't be here thrive in the mild micro-climate. Created from barren wilderness over 100 years ago in a setting that inspires art and creativity. Lose yourself in this lush setting before exploring Inverewe House, now an interactive museum, the gallery and visitor centre. Spend the afternoon relaxing in Gairloch, soaking up the mountain and sea views – a 5 minute walk from the hotel brings you to the award winning Gairloch Museum – fascinating.

Wednesday – Today we shall explore a section of the North-Coast 500 route. Passing Loch Ewe where the Russian Arctic convoys mustered in WW2 – see the tiny sheep-inhabited Gruinard Island with its grim

past of anthrax testing. Skirting Little Loch Broom and passing the Corrieshalloch Gorge, renowned for its Victorian suspension bridge that crosses the Falls of Measach, to Ullapool. A captivating white washed fishing village celebrated for its natural beauty, cultural heritage and vibrant arts scene. We have included entry to the town's museum that offers a glimpse into the area's often violent past. A short stroll is richly rewarded with stunning views, historic buildings and a busy harbourside.

Thursday – A full day exploring this stunning region more fully. Head along Loch Maree, considered one of Scotland's bonniest and framed by the Slioch and Beinn Eighe mountains. At Achnasheen we swap to the train and enjoy over 1 hour spectacular rail journey through rock cuttings, over bridges and past tiny rural villages. A route of dramatic landscapes and shimmering lochs which brings us to Kyle of Lochalsh – one of the most scenic railways in the world. The station at Kyle houses a superb museum dedicated to Kyle harbour, West coast fishing and the Kyle Line. Reboard the coach and spend a little time in the small village of Plockton, "The Jewel of the Highlands" sitting on a sheltered bay with stunning views overlooking Loch Carron. Our return drive to Gairloch is via single track roads through inspiring scenery – Ardarroch – Sheildaig – Torridon – Kinlochewe, with stops for photos along the way.

Friday – Reluctantly leaving this sensational area to retrace our steps through the Highlands – cross the Kessock suspension bridge over the Beaully Firth – passing Aviemore and stop at The Highland Folk Museum near Kingussie. Reconstructed historical buildings from the Highlands, exhibitions, crafts, café. Resume this afternoon past Perth and Stirling into the Scottish Borders. Stay overnight at The Holiday Inn Dumfries – a three STAR happy mix of modern and traditional architecture – not your typical Holiday Inn. Lift to all floors.

Saturday – After breakfast we head southwards via motorways, stopping as appropriate for refreshments, to arrive back in Dorset early evening.

7 Days | £940

SRS: £270

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Overnight hotel in Lockerbie
- ✓ 4 nights hotel in Gairloch
- ✓ Overnight hotel in Dumfries
- ✓ Half board meals throughout
- ✓ Porterage at all hotels
- ✓ Admission to Inverewe Gardens
- ✓ Admission to Ullapool Museum
- ✓ Kyle Line rail fare
- ✓ Admission to Highland Folk Museum



The Historic Heart of England

Sunday 30th May to Thursday 3rd June

They call it "The Heart of England" for good reason. Occupying a broad swathe of central England just east of the Midlands and accounting for a good proportion of Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Rutland - it sits firmly at the centre of the country. A treasure trove of attractions offering a mix of historical sites, natural beauty and cultural experiences - sometimes considered to represent "the real England". Our extensive package includes one of the country's most historic houses, a world class garden, impossibly beautiful villages and a delicious cream tea onboard a relaxing lake cruise.

5 Days | £675

SRS: £155

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Portage
- ✓ Entry to Belton Estate
- ✓ Entry to Richard III Centre
- ✓ Entry to Leicester Guildhall
- ✓ Entry to Barnsdale Gardens
- ✓ Boat cruise with cream tea

Holiday Hotel

The Barn Hotel, Grantham

Set in idyllic countryside and based on a converted farmstead, the hotel retains much of its original charm and character whilst providing the modern conveniences and facilities expected, including leisure facilities with indoor pool, sauna and jacuzzi. Bedrooms provide private bathroom with toiletries, hairdryer, television, phone, tea tray, desk/seating and free Wi-Fi. The Restaurant serves freshly prepared dishes using Lincolnshire produce where possible. There is a lounge and traditional bar with rustic charm in which to socialise or you can relax outdoors in the garden. A lift serves some bedrooms and there are plenty on the ground floor.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset we drive through Oxfordshire and Northants with stops as appropriate for refreshment, to arrive Grantham in Lincolnshire. A welcome drink on arrival while the bags are portered. Dinner is 3 courses with choices and tea/coffee after.

Monday - We spend the morning in Stamford, built in Georgian times, the pretty facades of the town are a favourite with film producers. Its narrow alleyways and courtyards are home to speciality shops, jewellers and boutiques - stay for lunch. This afternoon we are welcomed to the impressive Belton Estate, an exceptional example of Restoration architecture with a world renowned library and collections of silver, art and ceramics. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the house, discovering the Brownlow family story, then head outside to the fabulous Italian gardens, orangery and deer park. Preserving over 400 years of history, Belton has commissioned the finest designers and craftsmen of their age to shape a stunning estate.

Tuesday - We start today with a visit to Melton Mowbray, a charming market town famous for its pork pie and cheeses. There will be opportunity to be tempted by some tasty treats before we make our way to the historic city of Leicester with time to source lunch. This afternoon we visit the King Richard III Visitor Centre which charts the story of his life and death. Here we learn about one of the greatest archaeological detective stories - the lost remains of King Richard III were discovered under a car park, ending years of speculation. We finish the day with a visit to the Guildhall, the oldest building still in use in the city.

Wednesday - Welcome to Barnsdale gardens, created by Gardener's World TV presenter the late Geoff Hamilton. The largest collection of individually designed gardens and a place of unlimited gardening inspiration. Lunch is taken in the traditional market town of Oakham with its pretty olde-world preserved buildings and the great hall of Oakham Castle. We end our day with a relaxing cruise on Rutland Water aboard the Rutland Belle and are treated to a cream tea onboard.

Thursday - Homewards bound with a stop in Oxford, the city of dreaming spires. Return to Dorset late afternoon.

Kent - High Seas and Cream Teas

Monday 28th June to Friday 2nd July

Throughout history Kent's strategic position as the gateway to England has shaped its military and maritime significance. On the frontline since medieval times, Kents naval history represents one of the most important chapters in England's story. The dockyards, air-bases and coastal defences have protected the realm and projected British power across the globe for over 400 years. Combining this legacy with a couple of delicious cream teas you have a sure-fire crowd pleaser!

5 Days | £670

SRS: £140

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry to Chatham Dockyard
- ✓ Entry to Cutty Sark
- ✓ Entry to Chartwell
- ✓ Entry to Biggin Hill Museum
- ✓ 2 x Cream teas

Holiday Hotel

Bridgewood Manor Hotel, Chatham

A warm welcome awaits you at the charming 4 STAR Bridgewood Manor conveniently located between Rochester and Maidstone and sitting perfectly for our intended visits. Each of the 100 bedrooms is equipped with private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, television, iron, phone, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Guests have free use of the extensive leisure facilities which includes an indoor heated pool, sauna, steam room and gym. Squires Restaurant provides a varied menu of delicious dishes using fresh local seasonal ingredients. There is a large lounge bar in which to socialise and a pretty outdoor courtyard to enjoy. A lift serves all floors.

Holiday itinerary

Monday - Morning departure from Dorset with refreshment stops as appropriate to arrive at our hotel that afternoon. A welcome drink while the bags are portered, then enjoy a delicious 3 course dinner.

Tuesday - Visit the Historic Dockyard Chatham, Britains richest maritime history destination. Covering 80 acres, the exhibits span 400 years of shipbuilding heritage. Amongst the activities you can explore a Cold War submarine, WW2 destroyer, Victorian sloop, Dockyard Railway and find out how rope was made during a Victorian Ropery Tour.

Wednesday - Visit the home of time at Greenwich. There will be opportunity to explore such attractions as Greenwich Park, The Royal Observatory or Old Naval College. This afternoon make a self-guided tour of the famous Cutty Sark, the historic tea clipper that broke speed records. Learn about the romance, danger and adventure of life at sea. After your tour enjoy a cream tea sitting directly under the ships gleaming copper hull - something special!

Thursday - Today visit Chartwell, the family home of Sir Winston Churchill, which remains much as it was and provides an insight into one of Britains greatest leaders. House, gallery, gardens and woodland walks. This afternoon visit Biggin Hill Memorial Museum - our 1 hour guided tour traces the story of RAF Biggin Hill through the personal experiences of those who served there. There are exhibitions, collections, galleries, gardens and the St Georges RAF Chapel of Remembrance to visit. Another cream tea is provided in the vintage themed café - enjoy.

Friday - A final nautical treat - we shall visit the historic city-port of Portsmouth on our way homewards. Return to Dorset late that afternoon.



The Italian Dolomites

Saturday 5th to Saturday 12th June

Compared to other mountain ranges The Dolomites of north-east Italy are brighter, more colourful and seem to be architecturally inspired. UNESCO has decided to include these monumental peaks among the miracles of nature and declared them a World Heritage Site. During early summer the steep slopes are often carpeted with masses of wildflowers - fifty different orchids alone bloom here. The area possesses a history that goes back thousands of years with traditions, culture and crafts borne of the sufferings and discomforts endured by early settlers - and even the local Latin based language survives.

Holiday Hotel

Hotel Lady Maria, Fondo

Since our last visit way back in 2013 this lovely family run 3 STAR superior hotel has undergone a total refurbishment but still provides the personal service and outstanding hospitality that was highly praised. Located right in the village centre it is convenient for shops and bars and offers stunning views all around. Bedrooms are classically decorated in alpine style and equipped with private bathroom, free toiletries, hairdryer, satellite TV, safe, phone and free Wi-Fi. The stylish restaurant serves delicious meals mixing local specialities and Mediterranean influences. On one evening we shall be treated to a special candle light Trentino themed meal. There is a comfortable lounge in which to relax and a bar providing refreshment - beer, wine and soft drinks are all-inclusive from 7pm to 9pm each evening. For the energetic there is a stunning indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna and gym (daily charge applies).

Holiday Itinerary

Saturday - Very early morning departure from Dorset for channel crossing to Calais and on through France to overnight stop at Novotel Metz Amneville with dinner and breakfast.

Sunday - Follow the mighty River Rhine south and cross into Switzerland passing Lake Zurich and crossing the Alps into Italy. Arriving Fondo with a welcome drink while the bags are portered. Dinner and free bar that evening.

Monday - At your leisure to explore the pretty village of Fondo - it has two beautiful churches and a historical centre with houses bearing original 16th century frescos. You can walk along the 50 metre deep gorge "The Rio Sas" which contains swirling river and waterfalls and leads you to the idyllic Lake Smeraldo. Maybe enjoy the hotels superb leisure facilities and excellent hospitality.

Tuesday - Touring the Brenta Dolomites. Distinct from the classic Dolomites, the Brenta's to the west

are more remote and sharper with more dramatic spires often featuring red hued sandstone rather than grey. We shall drive past a well kept secret - the blue-green waters of Lake Molveno hidden in the mountain forests. Arrive at Riva on Lake Garda with its harbour and maze of narrow streets. After time for lunch resume through a series of tunnels alongside The Sarca River and Lake - through Tirone and Pinzolo - stop at Madonna di Campiglio from where there are spectacular views of the Brenta range. Return to Fondo via the verdant and lush Val di Noce.

Wednesday - Visit two unmissable cities today. The beautiful city of Merano is a must see - known as The Pearl of Tyrol. Enjoy strolling the town's vibrant centre with its beautiful architecture, perhaps take a chair lift to enjoy the best views, or visit the botanic gardens. This afternoon we shall drive through the Adige Valley "wine-route" with its many vineyards to Bolzano. An unusual fusion of central European and Mediterranean influences - take time to admire the medieval old town and gothic cathedral

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossings
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotel stops in Metz
- ✓ 5 nights hotel in Fondo
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Welcome drink in Fondo
- ✓ Porterage in Fondo
- ✓ Drinks inclusive 19:00/21:00 in Fondo

Thursday - Classic Dolomites today - Less sharp and more domed in shape being formed from mainly granite. We tour through spectacular mountain scenery on a route full of hairpin bends and cliff hangers. From Ora ascend the lovely Val di Fassa, before taking in the stunning views from the Passa Pordoi - a cable car rises to 3000 metres. Turning back through the delightful Val Gardena - the most famous of the Dolomite valleys with such attractive towns as Selva, Santa Christina and Ortisei, famous for woodwork, crafts and artists.

Friday - We shall bid our attentive hosts a fond farewell and head northwards back to Novotel Metz Amneville for overnight stay with dinner and breakfast.

Saturday - Across France to join afternoon channel crossing to Dover and so return to Dorset that night.

8 Days | £1059

SRS: £235



FRANCE – The Loire Valley

Tuesday 15th to Saturday 19th June

The River Loire is the longest in France, a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated for its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. It is home to over 3,000 chateaux each of which is unique making it a paradise for history and architecture enthusiasts. Charming villages set in the idyllic countryside of this region famed for its excellent wines makes for a memorable experience. Often referred to as “The Garden of France” the month of June is particularly beautiful as gardens bloom and present a stunning display of glorious colour.

Holiday Hotel

Hotel Novotel, Amboise

A modern 4 STAR hotel situated on the outskirts of Amboise and affording panoramic views across the town. The stylish bedrooms are very well equipped and include private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, air-conditioning, TV with satellite channels, phone, safe, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant is elegant and provides traditional French meals accompanied by wine, water and tea/coffee to follow. There is a comfortable lounge area and bar in which to socialise, or you can move outside and enjoy the terrace and gardens. The outdoor swimming pool provides infinity views of the surrounding countryside and there are loungers and sunshades on which to relax. A lift serves all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Tuesday - Very early morning departure to arrive Portsmouth in time to board the 07:45* ferry sailing to Ouistreham (Caen) - arrive 15:00. Drive across country and through the beautiful Normandy countryside passing the city of Le Mans to Amboise on the River Loire. (*Subject to confirmation)

Wednesday - Morning visit to the magnificent Chateau de Chenonceau, one of the most photographed in the area. Discover its beautiful formal gardens, explore the breathtaking interior and visit the maze. Make a short stop in quaint Montrichard with its cobbled streets and ancient buildings. Arrive in Blois, the capital of the region, with free time to visit the Royal Palace or enjoy the House of magic with its 6 headed dragon automaton.

Thursday - Journey through the countryside of The Loire - past the imposing Chateau of Villandry, world renowned for its gardens, and continue to the city of Tours. Situated between the Cher and Loire Rivers, explore this historic city with its half-timbered houses, cathedral, gardens and street cafes. So many gorgeous sights you won't know which way to turn.

Friday - Just 10 mins drive from the hotel we shall visit Chateau du Clos Luce, where Leonardo da Vinci

spent his last years. Take time to discover the museum, house and gardens - fascinating and beautiful. Later into the old town centre of Ambois with its narrow streets, impressive castle and old bridge across the Loire. Finally this afternoon we shall call into a local vineyard for a tour and tasting - cheers!

5 Days | £845

SRS: £170

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossings
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Drinks with dinner
- ✓ Admission to Chateau de Chenonceau
- ✓ Admission to Chateau du Clos Luce
- ✓ Vineyard tour & tasting

Saturday - Drive to Caen with some time to explore the town of William the Conqueror. Well restored after the war it is an attractive place to visit with many fine buildings, monuments and museums. This afternoon we shall board the 16:30* ferry sailing to Portsmouth - arrive 21:30. Returning to point of departure late that night.



EIRE - County Kerry

Sunday 20th to Saturday 26th June



Join us on this magical tour to Southern Ireland – a sparkling isle celebrated in music and words with the warmest most overwhelming welcome in the World. The very air breathes a pure soft gentle breeze of lilting laughter and blarney. Ireland's fairy-tale lakes and castles, spectacular coastline sprinkled with tiny fishing harbours and lush jewelled pearl and sapphire landscape offer a unique holiday experience. Now upgraded to 4 STAR standard this tour is always popular and is one of the very few tours repeated each year due to exceptional demand. The consistently high level of praise it receives remains undiminished.

Holiday Hotel

Killarney Towers Hotel, Killarney

A luxurious 4 STAR hotel conveniently situated right in the town centre with all the beauty and wonder of Killarney right on the doorstep. The guest bedrooms are spacious and bright – designed, furnished and decorated with your comfort and convenience in mind. All are equipped with private bathroom, hairdryer, in-room safe, air-conditioning, trouser press, phone, television, tea tray and Wi-Fi. There are two restaurants in the hotel and both provide expansive menus, high quality, freshly prepared meals and attentive service. O'Donoghues pub is a traditional Irish bar with a relaxed atmosphere where traditional entertainment is often staged. The hotel boasts a leisure centre with indoor heated pool, sauna, whirlpool and gym. Lifts serve all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday – Early morning departure from Dorset and through South Wales to Pembroke. Join the afternoon ferry to Rosslare and stay overnight at Newton Park hotel, Wexford.

Monday – Travel across Ireland visiting the historic port of Cobh in County Cork en-route to Killarney.

Tuesday – Full day tour of "The Ring of Kerry". An unforgettable day of breathtaking scenery dominated by the McGillicuddy Reeks Mountains with plenty of interest for lovers of folklore and history. It has some of Europe's finest deserted beaches, an ancient heritage and landscapes carved by ice age glaciers.

Wednesday – A day at leisure in Killarney to explore the town, its heritage and cultural attractions and discover the warm welcome of its people. Maybe join a horse-drawn jaunting car trip into the National Park.

Thursday – Tour the Dingle Peninsula – cited as "The most beautiful place on Earth" by National Geographic magazine. Rich in ruined fortresses,

ancient sites, traditional buildings and craft centres it is formed by a mountainous spine stretching 30 miles out into the Atlantic Ocean.

Friday – From Killarney to Dungarvan a busy harbour with attractive quayside and historic town centre

where lunch can be sourced. Overnight at Newton Park Hotel, Wexford.

Saturday – Morning ferry from Rosslare to Pembroke (breakfast onboard). Driving back to Dorset to arrive home that evening.



7 Days | £975

SRS: £250

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return ferry crossings
- ✓ 4 nights hotel in Killarney
- ✓ 2 overnight hotel stops in Wexford
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Porterage

The Yorkshire Dales

Sunday 4th to Thursday 8th July

Yorkshire is a big and beautiful county providing a variety of majestic countryside and spectacular panoramas, much of which is protected as National Parks. Think of Yorkshire and, if it isn't Headingley cricket or York races, its likely to be the Dales or Moors - unquestionably some of the finest upland scenery in England. It is proud of its past and a sense of history is never far away - be it castles and stately homes or the powerful industrial heritage that weave their evocative stories. Yorkshire will not disappoint!

5 Days | £649

SRS: £150

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry to RHS Harlow Carr
- ✓ Narrowboat cruise

Holiday Hotel

The Skipton Hotel, Skipton

An award winning 96 bedroom 4 STAR hotel set right on the banks of the Leeds and Liverpool canal in this pretty market town known as "The Gateway to the Dales". The stylish bedrooms provide private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, television with satellite channels, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Watch the colourful narrow boats drift past from the restaurant while you enjoy your 3 course dinner and full English breakfast. Guests have free use of the indoor swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi and gym. There is a traditional bar where you can enjoy a drink and a lounge in which to relax. A lift serves all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset with stops as appropriate for refreshment to arrive in Skipton late afternoon. Bags will be portered to your room and after settling in enjoy a delicious 3 course dinner with choices while overlooking the canal.

Monday - Visit RHS Harlow Carr Gardens - very much part of the Yorkshire countryside. Spanning 58 acres it is a beautiful space with great history, real character and lots to discover - a moist streamside garden, a sub-tropical garden, wild woodland, formal arboretum, lakeside garden, plant centre, alpine house and tea rooms.

Tuesday - Enjoy the morning in Skipton - the town centre is just a short stroll along the canal tow path. Immense history, a rich culture, independent shops, food and drink, the famous market and iconic castle - what's not to love? This afternoon we shall join a canal cruise onboard a narrowboat - the best 60 minutes of rib-tickling historic escapism you can find in Skipton. Above the jokes and laughter you will hear points of interest and stories of how the canal delivered the lifeblood of the industrial revolution to Yorkshire.

Wednesday - Touring the Yorkshire Dales National Park, voted the best in Europe! Offering a mix of tranquil valleys and dramatic upland scenery dotted with waterfalls and picturesque villages, crossed by drystone walls and home to regional speciality foods. First stop at Grassington with its cobbled streets and quirky shops. Then via twisting and rolling dales roads to Hawes, set amidst the spectacular scenery of Wensleydale and seemingly lost in time. This afternoon we pause at the imposing Ribbleshead viaduct then call into Settle, an unspoiled dales market town with many 17th & 18th century buildings, stone cottages and 76 listed properties - charming.

Thursday - Reluctantly leaving this gorgeous region to head homewards, with breaks as appropriate, returning to Dorset late afternoon.

The Legendary Vale of Llangollen

Monday 12th to Friday 16th July

5 Days | £619

SRS: £50

Upgraded twin room:
£50 Per Person

Steeped in myths and legends, the ancient Welsh town of Llangollen and the vale in which it sits are the focus of this fantastic tour. A charming town nestled in the heart of North Wales it is a treasure trove of sightseeing opportunities, offering a blend of natural beauty, historical significance and cultural experiences.

Highlights include a horse-drawn canal cruise, a ride on the scenic Llangollen Heritage Railway and a visit to the mighty Chirk Castle.

A dramatic, twisting and deep river valley that displays both spectacular limestone cliffs and gentler rolling hills given to farms and dense woodland - it is both varied and surprising.

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Local entertainment
- ✓ Horse-drawn cruise
- ✓ Cream tea on cruise
- ✓ Heritage railway fare
- ✓ Entry to Chirk Castle

Holiday Hotel

Beaufort Park Hotel, Mold

Set in the village of New Brighton near the Flintshire border village of Mold this independently run 3 STAR hotel provides an informal and relaxed atmosphere. All of the 100+ bedrooms provide home from home comfort with private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, television, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Orchard Restaurant provides a three course dinner with menu choices and a substantial hot/cold breakfast. Arches Bar is a great place to socialise or you can enjoy a drink on the outdoor terrace. There is no lift but only two floors so plenty of ground floor bedrooms if you struggle with stairs. Room service is available. Local entertainment is provided on certain evenings. Option to upgrade to a twin bedded Deluxe room - larger with seating and walk-in shower +£50 per person.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Morning departure from Dorset with stops as appropriate to our hotel in Mold with a welcome hot drink and local Bara Brith on arrival. Your bags will be portered to the room and after settling in enjoy dinner.

Tuesday - Visit the town of Llangollen and enjoy some time here to explore its attractions which are many and varied. This afternoon we shall experience a 2 hour horse-drawn barge cruise along one of the most beautiful lengths of canal you will ever see. Marvel at the Chain Bridge across the River Dee and striking views of the Horseshoe Falls. A delicious Welsh cream tea box will be served on-board.

Wednesday - We board the Llangollen heritage railway which operates heritage trains, for a 90 minute round trip alongside the spectacular River Dee. After 10 miles arrive at Corwen at the foot of the Berwyn mountain where you can alight and view the restored Victorian station. On return to Llangollen reboard the coach and drive over the spectacular Horseshoe Pass, stopping near the summit for a photo. We spend time this afternoon in the town of Ruthin which is packed with history from the medieval to the Tudors. Explore cobbled streets, the castle or the Ruthin Gaol, open to the public for tours - the town is a tiny Welsh wonder.

Thursday - Visit Chirk Castle (NT) - begun around 1295, Chirk Castle is the only one of Edward I's border castles to have been continuously inhabited since its completion in 1310. This means that Chirk Castle has a uniquely long, colourful history which will be revealed during a self-guided tour. There will be time to admire the tranquil gardens which are full of rare shrubs, flowering borders, a rose garden, scenic views and meandering pathways.

Friday - Homewards bound with comfort breaks as appropriate to arrive back in Dorset late that afternoon.

Brittany & Mont Saint-Michel

Wednesday 7th to Tuesday 13th July



The Emerald Coast is the name given to part of the Brittany coast close to where it meets Normandy in France. It's name derives from the year 1890 and is inspired by the symphony of colours of both sea and shore. A landscape of breathtaking sweeping views, fortress ports and rocky cliffs with the Atlantic waves crashing around - inland of this you can be transported back to the Middle Ages. Awe-inspiring Breton-Gothic architecture includes wonky half-timbered houses, cobbled streets and magnificent granite cathedrals. Although impressive this is all eclipsed by the simply stunning island commune of Mont Saint-Michel with its unique location, steep streets and crowned by the historic abbey, it is a medieval masterpiece and a magical experience for visitors.

Holiday Hotel

Mercure Hotel Mont Saint Michel

A modern 4 STAR hotel situated just 1km from the town of Mont St-Michel - you will not find a better location - shuttle buses to the island pick up outside or you can walk there along the riverside board-walk in less than 30 mins. Bedrooms are light and spacious with stylish décor, private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, air-conditioning, TV with satellite channels, phone, tea-tray, minibar and free Wi-Fi. The chic restaurant serves a 3-course set menu dinner including regional specialties and a buffet breakfast. The bar is a relaxed venue in which to enjoy a drink with friends. A low level building with only 2 floors so although no lift there are plenty of low floor bedrooms.

Holiday Itinerary

Wednesday - Afternoon departure from Dorset to Portsmouth for overnight channel crossing with Brittany Ferries (sails at 8:15pm) to St Malo. A 2 bedded (not bunks) inside cabin is included with private shower/toilet, bed linen/towels and air-conditioning. No meals included but there is a choice of eateries from full restaurant to snacks and takeaways, a bar, panoramic lounge and shopping.

Thursday - Arrive France at 8:45am and after disembarking we enter the walled city of St Malo. Behind the historic gates the city invites you to discover a life-size jewellery box. The city's unique history and glorious legends fill every alleyway, every tower, every monument, every memory of this wonderful place. This afternoon we shall make the short drive to La Pointe du Grouin - a rocky outcrop at the far west end of the Bay of Mont St-Michel - a beautiful windswept headland from which a glorious vista opens up. Just a 15 minute walk along good paths rewards you with sea panoramas and even sometimes a pod of dolphins. After time for photos we drive on to arrive at Mont Saint-Michel and check-in to our hotel for a comfortable 5 night stay.

Friday - Across Normandy to drive alongside Sword, Juno and Gold D-Day Beaches. Stop in Bayeux to view its cathedral and wander the narrow streets - follow the brass studs in the pavement which lead you on a 1.5 mile heritage walk. Bayeux was remarkably unscathed after World War 2 and its historic streets

are a delight. Continue to Saint Lo to admire the ramparts, remains of its ancient castle or enjoy the peaceful riverside walks.

Saturday - Visit Rennes, capital city of Brittany that manages to retain a small town atmosphere. With its pedestrianised streets, squares, monuments, colourful houses and lively terraces, Rennes will charm you with the originality of its heritage and the hospitality of its inhabitants. Every Saturday Rennes hosts France's second largest market - the Marche des Lices where creative locally sourced cuisine is the star of the show. On our way back to the hotel we shall call into Fougeres with the opportunity to photograph its magnificent moated medieval castle.

Sunday - Probably the highlight of your holiday. Spend the day exploring the famous island of Mont St Michel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The medieval pedestrian centre is lined with shops and cafes, there are 4 museums, all of which culminate at the crowning Abbey. The views from the ramparts out to sea as well as inland are breathtaking and unforgettable. We have included a timed entry ticket to the Abbey with self-guided tour. (NB: access is via steep steps/slopes)

Monday - Drive westwards through the Breton countryside to cross La Rance river valley via the twin bridges of Chateaubriand and St Humbert. Arrive in Dinan, a very impressive walled town set on a high hillside. The old town centre is medieval and

retains many ancient buildings and narrow streets - it is not to be missed. This afternoon return via Dol-de-Bretagne, a place that transports you back to the Middle Ages with its stunning ancient town-houses and awe-inspiring cathedral.

Tuesday - Leaving Mont St Michel we shall visit the historic city of Caen, once home to William the Conqueror. You can choose to visit the castle, two cathedrals or enjoy its café culture. We shall check-in for our ferry early afternoon which will sail at 4:30pm - arriving in Portsmouth at 9:30pm and so driving back to Dorset late that night.



helenallthorpe

7 Days | £1269

SRS: £250

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return ferry crossings
- ✓ 5 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals at hotel
- ✓ Ferry cabin outbound
- ✓ Entry to Mont St. Michel Abbey



The Black Country & Arboretum

Saturday 17th to Tuesday 20th July

They are a friendly bunch around here with a story to tell and love of pork scratchings and pint of real ale. Visit the beating heart of The Black Country, an area just west of Birmingham that was one of the Industrial Revolution's birthplaces. So named because of the underlying coal seam and proliferation of heavy industry - which in turn produced high levels of soot in the mid-1800's.

Now thankfully cleaned up it offers wonderful green spaces, canals and amazing architectural treasures. History is still littered around and famous visitor attractions, heritage buildings and waterways provide a wealth of interest. We take the opportunity to visit The National Memorial Arboretum whose peaceful forested grounds provide a contrast to the industrial landscapes.

4 Days | £429

SRS: £130

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 3 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry to Black Country Museum
- ✓ Arboretum Land Train
- ✓ Entry to Wythall Bus Museum

Holiday Hotel

Holiday Inn Coventry

A modern high quality hotel venue ideally situated just outside of Coventry and convenient for our chosen itinerary visits. All the bright and spacious bedrooms provide private bathroom with free toiletries and hairdryer, big comfy beds, large digital TV with satellite channels, telephone, tea tray, iron/press, air-conditioning and free Wi-Fi. A lift serves all three floors and room service is available. The restaurant is stylish and relaxed offering a buffet dinner and full English breakfast. There is a lounge/bar in which to socialise.

Holiday Itinerary

Saturday - Morning departure from Dorset and calling into Oxford with time for lunch. Later continue to Coventry and check-in to our hotel where dinner awaits.

Sunday - Visit the Black Country Living Museum near Dudley. Set across 29 acres, you'll explore reconstructed shops, houses, and industries from the 1800's to 1960's. Learn how steam power and human ingenuity transformed the region into a powerhouse. Meet historic characters and hear their stories - fascinating! This afternoon drive to nearby Stourbridge and take a short (0.6 miles) walk along a stretch of the picturesque Stourbridge Canal - expect the sounds of running water, occasional honk of a goose, bird chatter and history singing from every twist of architecture.

Monday - To the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield - we shall arrive in time for the 11:00 Daily Act of Remembrance which includes a 2 minute silence. Later we shall board the Land Train for a guided tour of the site with commentary. Afterwards there will be free time for personal visits. Return to the hotel later that afternoon.

Tuesday - Homewards bound we shall call at the Wythall Transport Museum - just south of Birmingham - home to 90 buses dating from the very early days of public transport up to more modern times. There is a gallery of company art, models, memorabilia and more. It may be possible to fire up one of the old girls and take a short nostalgic ride. Resume via motorways to arrive back in Dorset late afternoon.



Central Scotland Explorer

Sunday 18th to Thursday 22nd July

5 Days | £659

SRS: £180

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Local guide in Edinburgh
- ✓ Loch Lomond Cruise
- ✓ Entry to Scottish Seabird Centre

The central belt of Scotland is often overlooked by tourists in their rush for the Highlands - big mistake! This region is so worth visiting for its blend of historic landmarks, vibrant urban centres and breathtaking natural scenery. It is the place that much of Scotland's dramatic history has unfolded and home to such iconic sights as Edinburgh Castle, The Trossachs, Loch Lomond and more. We have also arranged to

take you off the beaten track and enjoy some less well known, but none-the-less fascinating attractions, giving an insight into the ancient wonders and sublime scenery of this captivating region.

Holiday Hotel

Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld

Say "aye" to a genuine Scottish welcome at this stunning 4 STAR spa hotel situated conveniently between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Classic rooms provide everything you need for a comfortable stay including private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, phone, TV, fridge, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant is newly refurbished and provides great countryside views while serving superb freshly prepared meals - a substantial Scottish breakfast buffet and 3 course dinner with choices. Hotel guests have free use of the health club which includes an indoor heated pool, jacuzzi, gym and sauna, plus luxury spa treatments* (*extra fee). A well stocked bar and outdoor terrace/garden area provides area for relaxation and socialising. There is a lift to all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Early morning departure from Dorset, with comfort stops en-route, to arrive at our hotel late afternoon - portage of bags included. After settling in enjoy dinner.

Monday - Visit Edinburgh, the historic capital of Scotland with an abundance of attractions and beautiful architecture. We shall meet a local guide who will escort the coach on a panoramic tour, tell us the stories and show us the sights. The remainder of the day is free for you to explore the city at your own pace.

Tuesday - Drive north passing Stirling and through Callander to enter the Trossachs - Scotland's first National Park. Affectionately known as The Highlands in Miniature - celebrated for the scenic quality of its landscapes and valued for its rich natural and cultural heritage. Stop at Loch Katrine visitor centre - the beautiful lake is considered the birthplace of Scottish tourism and you can see why. Continue over narrow winding mountain roads to Drymen and alongside Loch Lomond to Tarbet. Here we board a boat cruise on the loch to enjoy the spectacular fjord like scenery, waterfalls and wildlife - what a treat!

Wednesday - Off the beaten track today. Head for the North Berwickshire Coast, an area of vibrant fishing communities, artful smugglers, abundant wildlife and breath-taking landscapes. First stop is the seaside town of North Berwick with its mix of shops and cafes, old harbour and the Bass Rock just off-shore. We include a visit to The Scottish Seabird Centre to explore the wonders of Scotland's seas. Travel further along the coast to the seaside town of Dunbar, which boasts two working harbours and an interesting High Street full of unique shops and a great local museum (free entry). A photo stop at the famous Kelpies, 30 foot high metal horse head sculptures, completes the day.

Thursday - We head southbound, with comfort stops as appropriate, to arrive back in Dorset that evening.



Ayrshire & The Isle of Arran

Monday 26th to Friday 30th July

Ayrshire and Arran sit on Scotland's west coast - home to a vibrant island community, charming towns and sandy shores. Step off the tourist routes and discover ancient castles and landscapes steeped in Viking heritage, sleepy villages and a world renowned natural larder bursting with regional flavours. An area steeped in history with links to William Wallace, Robert the Bruce and Robert Burns, its landscapes are inspirational and ancient. The Isle of Arran itself presents such a complex range of archeology, geology and biology that they combine to form Arranology!

5 Days | £625

SRS: £150

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Welcome drink & shortbread
- ✓ Tour of Burrell Collection
- ✓ Tour of Dumfries House with refreshments
- ✓ Return ferry fare to Arran
- ✓ Admission to Brodick Castle

Holiday Hotel

Riverside Lodge, Irvine

A 4 STAR refined retreat where centuries of local history seamlessly blend with contemporary comfort set in a tranquil location. Stylish and comfortable bedrooms provide private bathroom with free toiletries and hairdryer, television with satellite channels, phone, iron, desk, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant serves a three course table d'hote dinner with menu choices and a generous full Scottish breakfast. There is a bar and coffee shop in which to socialise. No lift but only two floors and plenty of bedrooms on the ground floor.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Early morning departure from Dorset with comfort stops as appropriate, to arrive at Irvine with tea and shortbread on arrival. After the bags are portered enjoy dinner.

Tuesday - Visit The Burrell Collection on the outskirts of Glasgow - voted museum of the year in 2023 and housing Sir Williams Burrell's lifetime of art collecting - here you will find everything from Chinese ceramics to stained glass and tapestries. A guided tour will show you the highlights - then explore more by yourself or enjoy the surrounding gardens. Continue into Glasgow city centre this afternoon - a city full of warmth, character and culture with a spirit that makes it truly unique.

Wednesday - Today we shall visit Dumfries house, saved by the intervention of the then Prince Charles and subsequently restored into one of Britains most beautiful stately homes. Set in 200 acres, this 18th century house has an unrivalled collection of original furniture - our guide will point out the highlights. We have included tea/coffee and shortbread. You can wander the grounds and see the five acre Queen Elizabeth Walled Gardens, considered the flagship project of this restoration. This afternoon drive to the seaside town of Troon with its sandy beaches, wide promenade and busy harbour, before returning to the hotel.

Thursday - A full day excursion to the Isle of Arran, a picture perfect paradise situated just 50 mins ferry crossing from Ardrossan on the Ayrshire mainland. We begin with a visit to Brodick Castle, dramatically set against the backdrop of Goatfell, the red sandstone baronial-style castle has stunning views and impressive gardens. Later make a scenic drive through a wooded glen and over wild moorland to the quiet village of Lamlash set on a beautiful bay. Off shore you can see the enigmatic Holy Island - a place of retreat and a sanctuary for wildlife. Turn back here to return to the ferry at Brodick for sailing back to the mainland.

Friday - After a hearty breakfast we head homewards, with stops as appropriate, to arrive back in Dorset that evening.



The Welsh Wilderness

Sunday 1st to Thursday 5th August

Escape to Wales's high country - it's an inspirational place with muscular mountains and green curvaceous hills. The landscapes are laced with clear flowing rivers - in fact there's water everywhere from reed fringed pools to beautiful deep lakes. The Cambrian Mountains region is a well kept secret, a hidden gem offering history and tradition in a truly unspoilt wild open wilderness. With only a few good roads across this remote landscape our tour also utilises rail and canal to fully appreciate your magnificent surroundings.

5 Days | £659

SRS: £60

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ 1 night entertainment
- ✓ Elan Valley Ranger Guide
- ✓ Entry to Elan Visitor Centre
- ✓ Rheidol Railway Fare
- ✓ Brecon Canal Cruise
- ✓ Brecon Mountain Railway Fare

Holiday Hotel

Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells

A family owned hotel whose reputation assures high standards and a warm welcome. Wonderful surrounding countryside complements the splendour of this Victorian style hotel which is conveniently situated close to the town centre. 120 bedrooms all offer private bathroom with toiletries and hairdryer, phone, tea tray, television, free Wi-Fi and all accessible by lift. The restaurant maintains a reputation for superb cuisine and there is a spacious lounge/bar in which to relax. The hotel also offers a spectacular indoor leisure pool, a gym and sauna. On one night entertainment will be provided which may feature a Welsh Choir, singer or musician.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset, cross the Severn Bridge into Wales and stop at Abergavenny for lunch. Continue to Llandrindod and after check-in & portage enjoy dinner.

Monday - Morning tour through the Elan Valley with a ranger guide - an area of outstanding beauty and a "must see" of mid-Wales. The lakes have been formed by damming the river valleys to provide water for the English Midlands. A stop at the Visitor Centre provides a historical background and an insight into the geology, nature and heritage. Remainder of the afternoon free to explore Llandrindod Wells, a spa town since Roman times, renowned for its health-giving waters.

Tuesday - Tour through the Cambrian Mountains to Aberystwyth it has an impressive promenade, a ruined castle and the longest cliff railway in the UK. This afternoon we shall join the Vale of Rheidol Railway from Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge. The steam train provides an unforgettable journey through spectacular scenery, twisting and turning as it clings to the hillside. A single journey takes 1 hour and there will be time at Devils Bridge to view the waterfalls while the coach catches up.

Wednesday - We visit the town of Brecon, nestling at the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The historic cathedral houses the original colours of the South Wales Borders Regt from the Zulu Wars. This afternoon we shall board Dragonfly Cruises narrow boat on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal - a 2½ hour cruise on this historic waterway that is a feat of engineering. We cruise through a canal lock and cross an aqueduct over the River Usk taking in the fabulous waterside sights.

Thursday - Drive to Pant Station near Merthyr Tydfil and join the steam hauled Brecon Mountain Railway for a journey alongside the beautiful Taf Fechan Reservoir. At Pontsticil you can alight, admire the view and stroll alongside the lake. On return to Pant 1½ hours later there is time to visit the loco sheds. An opportunity to get lunch here before returning to Dorset by late afternoon.



Summer in Cornwall

Tuesday 10th to Sunday 15th August

Join us at this elegant country house hotel situated in the lovely Cornish resort of St. Agnes, offering a traditional atmosphere and congenial company, so highly praised by previous Bluebird customers.

A small programme of light evening entertainment is included to brighten your stay and complement an extensive excursions programme.

This summer season break presents a chance to enjoy attractions, dramatic scenery, spectacular coastline and unrivalled sunshine. A tour that was always vastly oversubscribed in the past and repeated due to popular demand.

6 Days | £729

SRS: £60

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 5 nights accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entertainment on some nights (may vary)
- ✓ Entry to Trebah Gardens

Holiday Hotel

Rosemudy House Hotel, St Agnes

A family run hotel set in four acres of secluded gardens and woodlands in the quaint village of St Agnes - this elegant Queen Anne residence dates back to the 1780's. Extensively refurbished and upgraded to three STAR standard, you are assured a comfortable stay with attentive and friendly service. All bedrooms are individually decorated and provide private bathroom, central heating, colour television and tea tray. Three comfortable lounges and a well stocked bar provide space for relaxation and Wi-Fi is available. The "Tom Noggi" restaurant is very highly regarded and offers a varied menu using fresh local ingredients. A programme of entertainment is included.

Holiday Itinerary

Tuesday - Morning departure from Dorset to Plymouth with time for lunch. Later pass Jamaica Inn on Bodmin Moor, then on to St Agnes. After settling in dinner is served in the restaurant.

Wednesday - A wonderful day of sightseeing via Porthleven a popular resort that offers art galleries, shops and tearooms clustered around a pretty harbour. Then to St Ives, whose gaily coloured stone cottages appear to tumble over each other down to the sea. Back at the hotel following your evening dinner you will be entertained by a local talented musician.

Thursday - Morning visit to Padstow, the sleepy and picturesque port with quaint cottages and crooked streets. Afternoon visit to Truro, the capital of Cornwall and one blessed with great history, architecture, attractions and pockets of greenery that come alive with early spring blooms.

Friday - Morning at leisure in pretty little St Agnes. Afternoon visit to Mevagissey, the pretty traditional fishing harbour with narrow streets and alleyways full of charm and beauty. After dinner this evening there is music and song.

Saturday - Morning visit to Trebah Gardens, a sub-tropical paradise with a stunning coastal backdrop - the result of 160 years of inspired and dedicated creation. A Cornish valley garden bursting with exotic blooms and vibrant tunnels of colour that cascade down to a private beach. This afternoon visit Falmouth, a busy port with charming mix of shops, museums and galleries. Following dinner a light hearted in-house quiz may entertain you this evening.

Sunday - Homeward bound with a stop in Tavistock. Leaving after lunch to drive back across Dartmoor to arrive Dorset by late afternoon.



Warwickshire is Shakespeare's England

Friday 13th to Monday 16th August

Warwickshire is the place that much loved tales come to life, and new stories are waiting to be written. A quintessentially English county and home to beautiful countryside dotted with historic towns - this is Shakespeare's England.

A destination boasting thousands of years of history, unique heritage, arts, crafts and of course the birthplace of playwright William Shakespeare.

Come and discover medieval tales, romantic stories, magnificent castles and tranquil scenery - you will be spoilt for choice in Warwickshire!

4 Days | £445

SRS: £100

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 3 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Use of leisure facilities
- ✓ Entry to Warwick Castle
- ✓ Local Guide in Stratford
- ✓ Entry to Kenilworth Castle

Holiday Hotel

Walton Hall Hotel, Warwick

A 4 STAR spa hotel based on a 16th century Grade 2 listed mansion with a wealth of character - a magnificent countryside escape nestled in 65 acres of rolling countryside. A stones throw from both Stratford and Warwick it is in a prime location for our intended visits. The spacious bedrooms are stylish and light with private bathroom, free toiletries, hairdryer, TV with satellite channels, phone, safe, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant is elegant and provides views of the grounds while you enjoy delicious meals with a choice of menu. There are extensive leisure facilities which includes an indoor pool, gym and massage*/beauty treatments*(*extra). You can socialise in the bar or coffee shop, relax in the lounge or move outdoors to the sunny roof terrace. A lift serves part of the hotel and if you need this facility please inform us when booking.

Holiday Itinerary

Friday - Morning departure from Dorset we drive towards the Cotswold Hills to stop in Cirencester for lunch. Later tour through Bourton-on-the Water, Stow-on-the-Wold and Moreton-in-Marsh to arrive Walton Hall where dinner awaits.

Saturday - Visit wonderful Warwick, the county town that has existed over 1000 years and offers Saxon, Norman, Tudor, Georgian and Victorian history on its streets today. The magnificent castle dominates the town and must be visited (entry is included), but there are many other landmarks here that can not be missed - The West Gate, Lord Leycester Hospital, Almshouses, Old Courthouse and Gaol to name but a few.

Sunday - Visit Stratford-upon-Avon, famous as birthplace to Shakespeare, but so much more besides that. An ancient market town full of half-timbered buildings and stunning architecture, much of which would have been familiar to the famous playwright. We shall pick-up a local guide who will escort the coach on a panoramic tour of the town and regale us with facts and stories. Later there will be time to make your own discoveries - maybe enjoy a river cruise, visit one of Shakespeare's houses or join a free tour of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Monday - Warwickshire has a final parting gift this morning - we visit Kenilworth Castle and Gardens. A massive ruined Norman Keep, Great Hall, Gatehouse and beautiful Elizabethan Garden are the highlights. Leave early afternoon to drive via motorways back to Dorset by late afternoon.



Marathon

A Tale of Two Cities - Liverpool & Manchester

Monday 16th to Friday 20th August



Liverpool vs Manchester – the classic debate between two of the most iconic cities in the North of England. Although only 30 miles apart both have a strong sense of civic pride, fierce identities, vastly differing dialects and a wealth of unique tourist attractions. It can be difficult to choose one of them over the other, so we have included both in this holiday which showcases their fascinating history, bucket loads of cultural attractions, architectural highlights and a renowned hospitality. We haven't forgotten the surrounding countryside either, and plan to explore the rural delights by means of a nostalgic steam train giving a richer experience of this unique region.

5 Days | £569

SRS: £130

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Manchester guide
- ✓ Mersey Ferry cruise
- ✓ Liverpool bus tour
- ✓ East Lancs Railway fare

Holiday Hotel

Mercurie Haydock Hotel

A 4 STAR luxury hotel set in a Georgian mansion style building surrounded by landscaped gardens. All of the bright and modern bedrooms provide private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, television, phone, free Wi-Fi, safe, iron and tea tray. Beechers Restaurant serves a wide variety of delicious dishes in elegant surroundings, accompanied by an extensive wine list. The Haydock Lounge is a relaxing bar in which to socialise. There are extensive leisure and spa facilities available for guests use, including a large indoor heated pool, jacuzzi, sauna and gym. No lift but rooms are only on ground and first floor.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Morning departure from Dorset via motorways with comfort breaks as appropriate to arrive Haydock that afternoon. After checking in and portering of bags enjoy dinner in the restaurant.

Tuesday - Liverpool: Experience the city from both water and land! First we join a 50 minute cruise with the iconic Mersey Ferries to take in incredible views of Liverpool's world famous waterfront - learn about the city's maritime history and rich musical heritage as you sit back and relax. Later we switch to an open-top double-deck bus which will show us some of the city landmarks, including the Royal Albert Dock, Cavern Quarter, Chinese Arch and Cathedrals. A commentary brings it all to life. There is time to make your own discoveries this afternoon.

Wednesday - Manchester: Enjoy a panoramic coach tour of this great city. You will see Britain's grandest town hall, the world's first railway station, Chinatown, Salford Quays, iconic football stadiums, historic cotton warehouses and Coronation Street locations. A local guide will regale us with facts, history and stories. The afternoon is free in the city centre - maybe visit one of 14 free museums the city has to offer?

Thursday - Enjoy stunning scenery and traditional market towns as we ride on the East Lancashire Railway from Bury to Rawtenstall and back - 12 miles behind a thundering steam locomotive in effortless elegance and style. Back in Bury enjoy entry to the Bury Transport Museum, a treasure trove of vintage vehicles and other artefacts telling the tale of the people who lived and worked here and how they travelled about. A day of nostalgia, scenic beauty and tranquillity to contrast your city experiences.

Friday - Returning to Dorset by early evening.



Visit Suffolk - 2026

The Suffolk Villages & Coast

Monday 23rd to Friday 27th August



The river banks, villages and coastline of Suffolk have been made famous by two great artists - John Constable (born 1776) and Thomas Gainsborough (Born 1726). Here time has stood still despite modern farming practices and urban development. The sweet villages, quietness and ease that nurtured their artistic genius and inspired so many powerful works is still there, surprisingly unchanged. Prosperity came to the region through the wool trade in the 14th century, which left a legacy of sumptuous architecture with splendid churches in villages that seem too small to support such magnificence.

5 Days | £719

SRS: £190

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Local Suffolk Guide
- ✓ Entry to Beth Chatto Gardens
- ✓ Deben River Cruise

Holiday Hotel

Stoke By Nayland Hotel, Colchester

A 4 STAR family run country resort nestled in the Debham Vale - the ultimate rural escape in Suffolk. The contemporary style bedrooms have uninterrupted rural views and provide private bathroom, hairdryer, TV, phone, iron, safe, air-conditioning, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant maintains a reputation for high quality meals - dinner is 3 courses with a choice and breakfast is a generous buffet. There is a bar where you can enjoy a drink or socialise on the outdoor terrace/gardens. Guests enjoy extensive leisure facilities including an indoor pool, jacuzzi, gym, sauna and massage*/beauty treatments* (*extra). There is a lift to all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Morning departure from Dorset with stops as appropriate for refreshment, to arrive at Stoke by Nayland that afternoon. After the bags have been portered and you have settled in enjoy dinner in the restaurant.

Tuesday - We are joined by a local guide who will escort the coach on a panoramic tour of Suffolk's pastel coloured towns and villages. Hear the facts, history and tales as we tour through Sudbury, a thriving market, town - then Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk's foodie capital and site of St Edmunds Abbey - historic Stradishall - colourful Clare - the thatched village of Cavendish - the cloth town of Long Melford - and beautifully preserved medieval Lavenham. A showcase of Suffolk's rich history and natural beauty that will have you reaching for your camera.

Wednesday - Be inspired and enjoy a slower pace of life, with visits to nearby Dedham, home to Munnings art museum and craft centre, then East Bergholt, associated with artist John Constable. This afternoon we shall visit the famous Beth Chatto Gardens - five distinct gardens adapted to different conditions: dry, damp, shade, reservoir and woodland - the result of over 60 years of hard work.

Thursday - Excursion to Suffolk's Heritage Coast and the pretty town of Aldeburgh where pastel coloured 19th century villas line the promenade and on the pebble beach fishermen still sell their catch from huts. This afternoon enjoy a relaxing 2 hour boat cruise on the River Deben from Waldringfield enjoying a skippers commentary of the history, wildlife and riverside sights.

Friday - Homewards bound with a stop in "Royal" Windsor for some sights and lunch. Return to Dorset late afternoon.



©The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Thursday 26th to Sunday 29th August



Few places in Britain provide finer and purer light than Scotland, with utter clarity it illuminates a stunning landscape of forest, hills and lochs, peppered with fascinating heritage sites and historic towns. This short-break includes a visit to Edinburgh's famous Military Tattoo - a spectacle of music, light and precision movement performed by the massed pipes and drums of Scottish Regiments and units from around the World. The 100 minute long show is possibly the most stupendous on Earth and commands a TV audience of over 100 million - although there is absolutely no substitute for being there in person. When subtle lighting picks out the lone piper playing a lament on the castle ramparts, few in the audience fail to be moved by the atmosphere.

4 Days | £595
SRS: £85

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 3 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals, (No dinner on night of Tattoo)
- ✓ Show ticket for Tattoo
- ✓ Loch Lomond Cruise

Holiday Hotel

King Robert Hotel, Stirling

A modern comfortable 3 STAR hotel uniquely situated on the site of the Battle of Bannockburn and right next door to the exhibition dedicated to it. All of the 52 bedrooms have private bathroom with walk-in shower, toiletries, hairdryer, TV with movie channel, large comfy beds, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The Bistro Restaurant provides a 3 course dinner using fresh local ingredients and a glass of wine. A generous breakfast is provided in the Garden Suite restaurant. There is a bar lounge area in which to relax and socialise or enjoy the outdoor terrace. No lift but only two floors and plenty of ground floor bedrooms.

Holiday Itinerary

Thursday - Early Morning departure from Dorset, driving northwards through the Midlands and past the Lakes to Stirling where your bags are portered to the room. After settling in enjoy a delicious 3 course dinner with a glass of wine.

Friday - Breakfast, then mid-morning to Edinburgh, with time for sightseeing or shopping. Maybe visit the Castle, Gardens or Royal Yacht Britannia. You are free to source your own dinner in the city centre where you will be spoilt for choice. This evening take your seats for the famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo (side tiered seating with steps). The word "Tattoo" was adopted by British Army officers during the 1740's when they were based in Flanders, Belgium. It is derived from the Dutch phrase "tap toe", used to order bar owners to turn off the taps of their beer kegs so that drunken soldiers could return to their barracks. We shall return to hotel late that night.

Saturday - Breakfast with morning at leisure in Stirling - maybe visit the Bannockburn Memorial right next door. Mid-morning we drive to Loch Lomond and board a 2 hour boat cruise into the Highlands, taking in magnificent mountain and island scenery, varied wildlife and a wealth of history, legend and folklore. Inside and outside seating, bar/café, toilet on board, commentary. Back at the hotel enjoy dinner with wine.

Sunday - After breakfast reluctantly leaving this beautiful corner of Britain to drive homewards, arriving back in Dorset that evening.



© www.geograph.org.uk - Ian Capper

The Kingdom of Northumbria

Monday 30th Aug to Friday 3rd Sep



5 Days | £639
SRS: £190

Northumbria - mystical kingdom of myriad castles and legend, where the place names echo of England's historical past from the birth of Christianity, through the Roman occupation and Industrial Revolution.... Alnwick, Lindisfarne & Bamburgh. Every inch of the county hides a piece of history and heritage. The buffer between England and Scotland it's very location has shaped a history of violence and conflict. A tapestry of moorland, picturesque villages and wonderful scenery combining dramatic history with abundant natural beauty - Northumbria is one of the wildest and most beautiful of England's regions.

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Porterage & welcome drink
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry to Corbridge Roman Town
- ✓ Entry to Alnwick Castle
- ✓ Entry to Bamburgh Castle
- ✓ Entry to Beamish Museum

Holiday Hotel

Copthorne Hotel, Newcastle

Located right next to the River Tyne in the rejuvenated quayside area of Newcastle, the contemporary Copthorne Hotel is just a 20 minute walk to the city centre. The 150+ bedrooms all boast wonderful river views from large windows, private bathroom, hairdryer, television, iron, desk/seating, Wi-Fi and tea tray. Quay 7 Restaurant provides quality meals of both British and International cuisine. The bar is a stylish space to enjoy a cocktail, while the outdoor terrace offers panoramic river views. There is a gym on-site, a lift to all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Morning departure from Dorset with stops as appropriate to arrive Newcastle late afternoon. The bags will be portered on arrival while you enjoy a hot drink. After settling in enjoy dinner while taking in the river views from your table.

Tuesday - Follow the course of Hadrian's Wall to Corbridge Roman Town, the evocative remains of a roman garrison where you can walk along the original High Street. Later make our way to the medieval market town of Alnwick. It still retains many cobbled streets, narrow alleyways and fine stone buildings. We shall visit Alnwick Gardens this afternoon, one of the finest in England with a collection of over 4,000 plant varieties, water cascades and quirky features.

Wednesday - After breakfast drive north and cross the tidal causeway to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. There will be time to explore and enjoy lunch - expect to find charming cafes, an ancient priory and a castle that teeters on the brink. Later we shall visit Bamburgh Castle, perched on rocks at the edge of the sea and boasting magnificent views of the Farne Islands.

Thursday - Visit Beamish, The Living Museum of the North. Telling the story of life in North East England between 1820 and 1950 - the 350 acre site allows you step into the past and experience amazing sights, sounds, smells and tastes. This is hands-on history - the exhibits are not locked away in glass cases but are actually used and in action with costumed character guides to ensure you get the most from your time travel encounter. There is a short photo stop at The Angel of the North on the way back.

Friday - Homeward bound with stops for refreshment, to return to Dorset that evening.

Cumbria - The Mountain Goat

Monday 6th to Friday 10th September



A faultless combination of impossibly beautiful scenery, impressive literary history, abundant wildlife and a rich cultural heritage - Cumbria or "The Lake District" is arguably England's finest landscape. From enormous lakes to sky-scraping mountains, ancient townships and pre-historic stone circles - the attraction packed region is one of the country's most popular tourist destinations, and justly so! We combine all this magnificence with the award winning "Mountain Goat" tour company who specialise in running high quality minibuses to the places large coaches just can not reach. In addition you get to experience a journey on the iconic Settle-Carlisle railway.

5 Days | £725

SRS: £100

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Welcome drink & portage
- ✓ Mountain Goat Tour
- ✓ Entry to Levens Hall
- ✓ Private tour of Levens
- ✓ Settle rail fare

Holiday Hotel

Newby Bridge Hotel, Ulverston

A highly regarded 3 STAR hotel located in 5 acres of grounds just a couple of minutes walk from the shores of Lake Windermere. Bedrooms are elegant with private bathroom, free toiletries, hairdryer, TV, phone, iron, tea tray, desk/seating and Wi-Fi. The Garden View Restaurant is the perfect environment to enjoy your meals - a 3 course dinner with choices and a full English breakfast. There is a traditional bar area in which to relax, or the energetic can make use of the indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna or gym. No lift but only 3 floors and plenty of ground floor bedrooms.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Morning departure from Dorset with comfort stops as appropriate, to arrive Newby Bridge for a welcome hot drink and portage. After settling in enjoy dinner which often uses ingredients grown in the hotel gardens.

Tuesday - Mountain Goat Tours uses high quality 16 seater minibuses to get tourists to the places larger coaches can not reach. Today you will enjoy an "off-the-beaten-track" journey through such inaccessible places as Borrowdale - Honister Pass and slate mine - Buttermere - Crummock Water - Loweswater - Bassenthwaite. Expect narrow mountain roads, twisting turns, steep gradients and sheer drops plus a few surprises along the way.

Wednesday - Visit Levens Hall near Kendal, a private family home originating from the 1300's and developing into a grand family home over 700 years. It houses beautiful antique furniture, fine oak panelling, ornate plasterwork, clocks and paintings. We are treated to a private guided tour. The 10 acre gardens contain the worlds oldest topiary, a romantic orchard, stunning borders, roses, wildflowers and much more. Later this afternoon we shall call into the

pretty medieval village of Cartmell with its craft shops and imposing priory church.

Thursday - Drive to Carlisle and board a mainline train to travel across the iconic railway route from Carlisle to Settle - a journey that will have you reaching for your camera. 72 miles, 20 viaducts, 14 tunnels and countless beautiful vistas including a

crossing of the iconic Ribbleshead Viaduct. Arrive in Settle 1hr 40 mins later with time to enjoy a little sightseeing while the coach catches up. Return to the hotel later that afternoon.

Friday - Homewards bound after breakfast with many an exciting tale to tell the folks at home. Return to Dorset by early evening.



The Wild Scottish Highlands

Sunday 12th to Saturday 18th September



The Highlands really is the Scotland of your imagination! A beautiful and inspiring region of ancient landscapes with a fascinating history. Witness the amazing wildlife, explore the mountains and glens, the deep water lochs and dramatic forests. This is a land of folklore, heroes and legends, imposing castles, breathtaking scenery and warm hospitality. Based at the foot of the Grampian Mountains we shall enjoy wide open views and outstanding natural beauty found no-where else in the UK - simply unbeatable!

Holiday Hotel

Fishers Hotel, Pitlochry

A superb 4 STAR hotel situated right in the town centre - it is not about grand statements or formal luxury, but more an understated elegance where calm and relaxation prevail. Bedrooms are your quiet retreat, individually decorated with private bathroom, hairdryer, TV with satellite channels, phone, tea tray, iron, comfy seating and free Wi-Fi. A 3 course evening dinner with choices is provided in the stylish restaurant and a generous breakfast buffet sets you up for the day. There is a large bar where entertainment may be staged some evenings, a separate lounge, or enjoy your drinks in the garden or sun terrace. A lift serves all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset with comfort stops as appropriate to arrive Preston Holiday Inn for 3 course dinner, overnight stay and breakfast.

Monday - Resume northwards across the Borders and stop at David Livingstone Birthplace Museum near Blantyre which celebrates Scotland's greatest explorer. After time for lunch continue past Stirling, the scenery now of increasing grandeur, to arrive Pitlochry where dinner awaits.

Tuesday - Touring through beautiful Perthshire scenery via Aberfeldy and Crieff to Drummond Castle Gardens, renowned as Scotland's finest. Established in 1490 and modified through the ages they contain stunning formal plantings, topiary, a woodland walk, apple orchard, statuary and courtyard café. This afternoon drive past Perth, Scotland's original capital city, to the pretty town of Dunkeld. Here we visit the Atholl Palace Hotel, the epitome of Scottish Baronial splendour - enjoy a unique museum which charts the social history of the hotel with stories, anecdotes and historical insights. Spend time in the award winning hotel gardens and then enjoy a cream tea in the beautiful building surrounded by architectural splendour.

Wednesday - A relaxed morning - first stop is the Queens View visitor centre on Loch Tummel, the most famous and most popular view in the Highlands,

named after Robert the Bruce's wife, Queen Isabella. Continue to Blair Castle, home to the Dukes of Atholl for 19 generations/700 years, where family life is brought to life against a backdrop of fine 18th century interiors and Scottish Baronial architecture. Explore the castle, 9 acre walled garden, deer park and woodlands. Return to Pitlochry with some free time to explore the town this afternoon.

Thursday - Situated at the heart of the Cairngorms National Park is a very special private estate called Rothiemurchus - now owned by the 18th generation of the Grant family. We are joined by one of the ranger guides who will escort the coach on an unforgettable safari drive of this magnificent Highland estate. With great photo opportunities, scenic views, wildlife, history and stories - there is no better way to fully appreciate this unique breathtaking environment. Later we shall call into the Highland Folk Museum at Newtonmore where 35 reconstructed historical buildings bring to life the traditions and stories of Highland life - fascinating.

Friday - After breakfast we bid a fond farewell to our hosts and head southbound, with a stop at The Kelpies near Falkirk - the world's largest equine statues set in extensive parklands. Continue across the Borders for dinner and overnight stay at Holiday Inn Preston.

Saturday - Homewards via motorways with stops as appropriate to return to Dorset late that afternoon.

7 Days | £1150

SRS: £320

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel in Pitlochry
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotel in Preston
- ✓ Half Board Meals
- ✓ Porterage at all hotels
- ✓ Admission to Livingstone Birthplace
- ✓ Admission to Drummond Castle Gardens
- ✓ Admission to Atholl Palace Museum
- ✓ Cream tea at Atholl Palace
- ✓ Admission to Blair Castle
- ✓ Rothiemurchus Safari Guide
- ✓ Entry to Highland Folk Museum
- ✓ Admission to The Kelpies Park





EIRE - Kilkenny & Copper

Sunday 19th to Friday 24th September

Join us on this magical tour to Southern Ireland - a sparkling isle celebrated in music and words with the warmest most overwhelming welcome in the World. Irelands fairly-tale castles, spectacular coastline sprinkled with tiny fishing harbours and its lush jewelled pearl and sapphire landscapes offer a unique holiday experience. County Kilkenny is often overlooked on the tourist rush to Kerry, and that is a big mistake as the region offers breathtaking and ancient sights where Irish folklore is embedded in every step. The nearby Copper Coast is a UNESCO Global Geopark and history is quite literally captured in stone.

6 Days | £865

SRS: £160

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return ferry fares
- ✓ 5 night hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Suir Valley Rail Fare
- ✓ Entry to Mount Congreve Gardens
- ✓ Kilkenny Road-train
- ✓ Tankardstown heritage buildings
- ✓ Entry to Japanese Gardens

Holiday Hotel

Dooley's Hotel, Waterford

A Bluebird favourite for many years - Dooleys is a long established family run hotel situated in Ireland's oldest city. 100+ bedrooms are all brightly decorated and provide private bathroom, hairdryer, TV, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The New Ship Restaurant serves creative Irish cuisine - dinner being 3 courses with choices and breakfast is full Irish. There is a traditional bar/lounge in which to socialise, or take your drinks out onto the patio. A lift serves all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Early morning departure from Dorset and to Pembroke South Wales. Join the afternoon ferry to Rosslare and make the short drive to Waterford. A welcome drink while the bags are portered and after settling in enjoy dinner.

Monday - A free day to explore Waterford, capital of Ireland's sunny South coast and full of history from the time it was established by 9th century Vikings. Walking tours run regularly, you can visit some excellent museums or The Waterford Crystal visitor centre.

Tuesday - A short drive to Bilberry Station where we board the Suir Valley Railway that runs narrow gauge trains 7 miles beside the river - enjoy the scenery and view of Kilmeaden Castle along the way. At Mount Congreve we visit one of the world's largest private gardens whose owner has won 13 gold medals at Chelsea. 70 acres of intensively planted woodland and a 4 acre walled garden - thousands of different plant species. Return to Waterford by coach that afternoon.

Wednesday - To Kilkenny, a well preserved medieval town with many original features. We have included a trip on the Kilkenny road-train which is the best way to explore the sights with minimum effort. Wind you way through the narrow streets to reveal the 2 abbeys, 2 cathedrals, Bishops Palace, Old Court House, Castle, Town Hall and much more... a commentary tells you the stories. This afternoon there will be time for you to revisit any of the sites that appeal to your sense of discovery.

Thursday - A day touring The Copper Coast - a spectacular record of the Earth's past - it's rocks tell the story of undersea volcanos, deserts and dramatic ice-ages. Visit Dungarvan, a seaside town with many historic buildings. We then take a drive along the rugged Copper Coast stopping to view the industrial heritage buildings at Tankardstown and panoramic viewpoints near Dunabrtin Head. Reaching Tramore we visit the famous Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens a haven of beauty and tranquility.

Friday - Morning ferry from Rosslare to Pembroke (breakfast onboard). Driving back to Dorset to arrive home that evening.



The Great Little Trains of Wales

Monday 11th to Friday 15th October

5 Days | £679

SRS: £170

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Welsh highland rail fare
- ✓ Ffestiniog rail fare
- ✓ Portage in/out

One of the most ancient and hauntingly beautiful areas in Europe. Called Eryri in Welsh ("the place of eagles"), Snowdonia welcomes visitors to a breathtaking natural environment. The steam heritage railways of North Wales are a very special way to enjoy some of the finest scenery in the British isles - all are narrow gauge, some spanning a history of well over 150 years.

The special attraction of these lines lies in their modest size, but do not be fooled - these are hard working, powerful engines which look, sound and smell glorious in this beautiful environment.

Holiday Hotel

Kinmel Hotel, Abergele

Set amidst rolling parkland with views of the coast The 3 STAR Kinmel offers splendid accommodation, fine dining and luxurious Spa facilities. Recently upgraded, the 40+ bedrooms are stylish and provide private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, large TV, tea tray, iron, phone and free Wi-Fi. Brasserie 1786 offers a well appointed restaurant with extensive menus using fresh local ingredients. The Oak Lounge is a great place to relax with a drink and has a unique ambience. For the energetic there are amazing spa facilities which offers an indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna and gym. A lift serves most rooms.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Morning departure from Dorset with breaks as appropriate to arrive Abergele late afternoon - after settling in enjoy dinner in the restaurant.

Tuesday - Across the North Wales coast road to the medieval walled town of Caernarfon. Here we board a steam train on the Welsh Highland Railway. The train snakes and climbs through the breathtaking scenery of Snowdonia to the summit of the line near Rhyd Ddu. It then descends towards the coast to terminate in Porthmadog - over 2 hours of stunning scenery. The coach meets us on arrival and drives you back to Caernarfon with time to admire the old town, the mighty 13th century castle and the newly rejuvenated marina area with its views over the Menai Strait.

Wednesday - Tour narrow mountain roads via Llanrwst and Capel Curig to Llanberis, the start point for the Snowdon Mountain Railway which runs to the very summit of Mount Snowdon. The ride is not included but does provide a great photo opportunity against a magnificent background. After time for sightseeing we continue to Betws-y-Coed, the town has a magical Alpine feel being surrounded by the dense Gwydyr forest and is popular with visitors.

Thursday - Drive up the beautiful Conway Valley and through the heart of Snowdonia National Park via Blaenau Ffestiniog to Porthmadog. Listen carefully and you are likely to hear the native Welsh language spoken here. Spend some time exploring this harbour town steeped in maritime history. This afternoon join a steam train on the Ffestiniog Railway through wonderful scenery - a magical and historic journey that twists, turns and labours against the unforgiving gradient, to finally arrive at Ffestiniog over an hour later.

Friday - Homewards bound with the lingering smell of Welsh coal smoke in your nose, stopping as appropriate for breaks, to return to Dorset that afternoon.



Discovering Poland

Monday 27th Sep to Thursday 7th Oct

Every country has been shaped by history - Poland seems to have the entire history of twentieth century European conflict packed into its constantly moving borders. The country's position has much to do with this, and today's Poland is still blinking away the sleep of 45 years of communist rule. For the traveller this means a mysterious country - one in which the locals are thrilled to meet tourists and show them the reality of their proud nation. With beautiful architecture, intriguing history and stunning scenery that can match anywhere else in Europe - Poland will delight and enthrall you.

Our tour offers the best of Poland's cultural and historical highlights - from the undiscovered gem of Wroclaw - the cultural city of Krakow - the truly unique and vibrant resort of Zakopane - the sparkling lakes and magnificent landscapes of the Tatra Mountains - and more soberly, the dark history of World War II.

11 Days | £1495

SRS: £375

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossings
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotels in Belgium
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotels in Germany
- ✓ 2 nights hotel in Wroclaw
- ✓ 4 nights hotel in Krakow
- ✓ Half board meals throughout
- ✓ Guided tour of Auschwitz camp
- ✓ Local guide for Krakow city tour

Holiday Hotels

Hotel Park Plaza, Wroclaw

2 nights stay in this superb modern 4 STAR hotel situated close to the old city and overlooking the Oder River. All 170+ bedrooms have private bathroom, hairdryer, air-conditioning, safe, satellite TV, fridge, phone, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant overlooks the river and serves European cuisine and there is a café/bar. Guests have use of the sauna, gym and can relax on an outdoor sun terrace. Lifts serve all floors and room service is available.

Hotel Wyspianski, Krakow

4 nights at this impressive 3 STAR hotel situated just 5 minutes walk from Krakow's main market square and historical old town. Bedrooms are airy, light and brightly decorated with private bathroom with free toiletries, hairdryer, TV with satellite channels, phone, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The elegant restaurant serves a generous buffet breakfast and European/Polish delicacies for dinner that will satisfy the most demanding of palates. There is a lively bar, a lounge area and outside terrace where you can relax. The energetic can use the gym. Lifts serve all floors.

Overnight Hotels In Belgium & Germany

All are superb 3 or 4 STAR rated hotels providing high quality comfortable and well serviced overnight accommodation in rooms with private bathroom, hairdryer, satellite TV, mini-bar and telephone. Restaurants provide varied European cuisine and all have bars/lounge areas and some provide leisure facilities. All have lifts.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Early morning departure from Dorset via channel crossing to Calais and on into Belgium. Overnight at the 3 STAR Voco Ghent Hotel, Ghent with 3 course buffet dinner and breakfast.

Tuesday - Continue eastwards into Germany, crossing the mighty River Rhine and passing Hannover to Magdeburg for overnight at the 4 STAR NH Hotel Magdeburg - modern and comfortable with all expected facilities including sauna and gym. 3 course set dinner and breakfast.

Wednesday - Over the border into Poland and driving South-East to Wroclaw, one of Poland's most beautiful cities - having been completely destroyed during WWII it has been wonderfully restored and can be counted amongst the highlights of the country but is often overlooked by tourists. Stay for 2 nights at the Park Plaza Hotel conveniently situated for the old city. Set 3 course dinner on arrival night, choice menu for next evening. Buffet breakfast.

Thursday - A full day to explore Wroclaw - it boasts fascinating architecture, many rivers crossed by bridges and a lively cultural scene. See the town square - one of the largest in Europe surrounded by photogenic buildings and pavement cafes. The Town Hall houses a museum - don't miss the gothic Cathedral - see the massive Centennial Hall and illuminated Wroclaw Fountain.

Friday - Leaving Wroclaw this morning to Czestochowa with time to view the Jasna Gora Monastery, one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Poland. A place where centuries of faith, incredible art and jaw dropping architecture create one of Europe's most moving spiritual experiences. Continue to Krakow, one of the most impressive medieval locations in Europe and an obvious choice for UNESCO's World Heritage List. Set 3 course dinner each night with water/tea/coffee. Buffet breakfast.

Saturday - We are joined by a local guide who will escort a morning coach/walking tour of the beautiful sights of Krakow, the former Polish capital at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains and a renowned city of culture. The Old Town was built, legend says, on the cave of a dragon slain by King Krak. The city has been invaded, destroyed and rebuilt many times over history - since the fall of the communist government in 1989 it has undergone another period of regeneration with historic buildings being restored.

Sunday - A day discovering Zakopane - a climatic health resort amidst the Tatra Mountains that has proven popular with artists and writers. There are many fascinating museums, heritage centres and art galleries to visit, you can join a train ride up into the mountains, or go higher still by cable car. On our way back to Krakow we shall call into the traditional highland village of Chocholow - there are some places

in the world that will stop you in your tracks - this is one of them! Looking like it has come straight out of a fairytale - the authentic wooden cottages have been built by the indigenous Goral people and are effectively a living museum. A day of wonderful views, historic sites and traditions that will have you reaching for your camera time and again.

Monday - We make a harrowing pilgrimage to Auschwitz, with a guided tour of the concentration camp and an insight to the atrocities that took place here during WWII. The guide will recount past events in a respectful manner and you will walk the path of history with visits to the original barracks, gas chamber ruins and the iconic main gate, making your tour hauntingly memorable. Return to Krakow mid-afternoon with some final free time to explore.

Tuesday - Depart from Poland and cross back into Germany for overnight stay at the 4 STAR Ramada Hotel in Dresden - the Saxon capital that offers 800 years of history. 3 course dinner buffet and breakfast.

Wednesday - Continue westwards through the German countryside, entering Belgium and stay overnight at the 3 STAR Voco Ghent Hotel with 3 course buffet dinner and breakfast.

Thursday - Homeward bound via afternoon channel crossing and driving back to Dorset that evening.

SCOTLAND - The Enchanted Forest

Sunday 17th to Saturday 23st October



Autumn is a beautiful time of year to visit Scotland, the landscapes blaze with colour, the skies fill with a wonderful purple and orange glow and wildlife thrives with activity. A sense of change sweeps the natural environment as Red Deer roar, Squirrels gathers nuts and migrating birds arrive from the Arctic. The famous Scottish lochs are nestled into a backdrop of red, gold and amber that is further enhanced by the evergreen of conifers. As the traditional tourist season ends and the holidaymakers head off home there is an even more remote feel to the place. Perthshire is known as Big Tree Country and hosts an award winning experience in Faskally Wood near Pitlochry - The Enchanted Forest is an evening sound and light show using the forest as a natural backdrop - it will set your imagination alight!

Holiday Hotel

Royal George Hotel, Perth

A historic family run 3 STAR hotel that has been welcoming travelers for over 250 years and retains much original character while benefiting from modernization. Offering 46 well appointed bedrooms in Scottish heritage style equipped with private bathroom, free toiletries, hairdryer, TV, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The conservatory style restaurant serves a 3 course dinner with choices and a buffet Scottish breakfast. The MacGregor Bar is a great place to socialize with a drink and there is a pub games room. No lift but only three floors connected by stairs - public areas are on the ground floor with just a few steps around the building. Room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset northwards via motorways to Preston for overnight stay at the Holiday Inn with 3 course dinner and breakfast.

Monday - Across the Borders, through Clydesdale, past Stirling, follow the Strathallen to Perth for a warm welcome at The Royal George Hotel.

Tuesday - Immerse yourself in Scotland's history as you experience the crowning place of Scottish kings - Scone Palace. Enjoy the Palace and its rare and beautiful collections, walk The Long Gallery, see stunning paintings and classic French furnishings, explore the Pinetum and view the famous Douglas fir before taking on the challenge of the star shaped maze.

Wednesday - The morning is free to discover Perth with its pedestrianized centre, beautiful buildings, museums, galleries, gardens and parks. This afternoon we shall visit Blair Castle at Blair Atholl, dating back to 1269 it has evolved from its cold medieval beginnings through Georgian mansion to a fine Victorian castle. A tea of homemade soup and sandwiches is served in the Tullibardine Restaurant at 4:30pm (replaces hotel dinner). We then drive to Pitlochry and transfer to a shuttle bus (6:30pm) that

takes us into the Faskally Woods for an evening's show of The Enchanted Forest. Dazzling visuals are set against a musical score, aerial artists perform their gravity defying antics, storytellers will enthral you, mulled wine and hot chocolate will tempt you. This is like nothing you will have seen before, a unique and award winning concept. You will need to walk around the forest circuit which is just over 1 mile and takes 30-40 minutes, although many people go around more than once. Our shuttle bus leaves the forest at 8:30pm and our coach will return you to our hotel in Perth by 10pm.

Thursday - Drive across Kinross via Crieff into the Trossachs National Park - the road ends at Loch Katrine, a magnificent landscape immortalised in words by Sir Walter Scott. A place where time seems to stand still, the perfect place to fully appreciate breathtaking Autumn scenery. We shall join a 2 hour Steamship cruise on the loch from Trossachs Pier to Stronachlachar at the heart of the Great Trossachs Forest and listen to tales and legends as you travel. A truly memorable and nostalgic experience.

Friday - Leaving Perth this morning we drive to Falkirk and view the famous Kelpies - mystical 30 metre high steel sculptures of horse heads that have become a

national treasure. Continue southwards passing Cumbria for overnight at The Holiday Inn Preston.

Saturday - Homewards via motorways with stops for refreshment as appropriate to return to Dorset that evening.



7 Days | £995

SRS: £170

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotel in Preston
- ✓ 4 nights accommodation in Perth
- ✓ Half board meals throughout (tea replaces dinner on Wednesday)
- ✓ Entry to Scone Palace
- ✓ Entry to Blair Castle
- ✓ Shuttle bus to Faskally Wood
- ✓ Entry to The Enchanted Forest
- ✓ 2 hour steamship cruise



A Magical Mystery Tour

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th October



This "Mystery Tour" represents great value and adds a touch of excitement to a short-break away. We shall be including visits to some unlikely but interesting places - if we told you where you were going it would take the fun away, but we promise you will be pleasantly surprised. ALL admission fees are included in the tour price - so no extra to pay while away. If you are a regular traveller with these always popular Mystery Breaks we do assure you that it will be somewhere different from previous seasons. But where on Earth?....don't worry, a passport is not required!

3 Days | £325

SRS: £50

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 2 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry fees to pre-booked places of interest

MYSTERY HOTEL

We guarantee a high standard of accommodation and the usual quality refinements to ensure a comfortable two nights stay. Meals will be on a half board basis (evening dinner and breakfast) with a choice of menu. Bedrooms are equipped with private bathroom, toiletries, hairdryer, television, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. There is a comfortable lounge and bar in which to socialise and gardens where you can stroll. There is a lift to all floors and low floor bedrooms can be requested if preferred.

Holiday Itinerary

Friday - Morning departure from Dorset, we drive towards our chosen destination with stops en-route for refreshment. There may be an included visit to an attraction, or time for sightseeing en-route. Our driver will be keeping your ultimate goal a closely guarded secret - threats or bribery are strictly forbidden and a lot of "red herrings" may result if he is provoked! Arrive at our hotel late afternoon with time to settle in before an evening dinner. Later that evening relax in the lounge/bar and speculate with your fellow travellers what delights the next day may bring?

Saturday - A full day excursion - maybe nearby, maybe a little further away - who knows what devious surprises we have laid on for your pleasure? Rest assured you are in for a treat you might not normally have considered. A variety of visits to places of interest have been arranged during the weekend and the entry fees are all included in your holiday price. Return to hotel late afternoon.

Sunday - After breakfast we commence our homeward journey which will be interrupted by yet another mystery visit (who, what, where??) To arrive back in Dorset that afternoon.



© Neil Cartwright - Unsplash

The Freedom of London

Friday 5th to Sunday 7th November



Our short breaks to London are proving increasingly popular and at this price that really isn't too surprising! No ties, no pre-booked visits or planned excursions - the time is yours to dispose of as you wish. The famous landmarks are all there and easy to explore on foot - The London Eye, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square. The shopping opportunities of Oxford Street and Regent Street where the major retailers have their flagship stores should not be missed. Most of the National Museums and Galleries are free to enter and there are countless other attractions.

3 Days | £229

SRS: £80

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 2 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Continental breakfast

Holiday Hotel

Hutton's Hotel, Westminster

Located in the sophisticated neighbourhood of Pimlico, Hutton's is an ideal base from which to explore Central London. The area boasts a wide variety of international dining and shopping opportunities and is just 7 minutes walk from both Pimlico and Victoria tube stations. The 63 compact budget bedrooms are hosted in a modernised Victorian building full of character yet offering up to date facilities for today's traveller. Simply furnished, comfortable and clean and providing all basic requirements including private bathroom, hairdryer, towels, television, phone and comfy pillow top mattress - what more could you need? A continental breakfast is included in the bright and airy restaurant and the 24hr front desk offers concierge services and ticket assistance.

Holiday Itinerary

Friday - Morning departure from Dorset direct to Central London. Arrive at the hotel around 12 noon - the luggage can be stored securely at reception and you can check-in at any time after 4pm (or later that evening). The remainder of the day is free for you to discover our historic and exciting capital city.

Saturday - After breakfast the whole day is free for you to make your discoveries. The museums of Kensington open at 10 am (recommend pre-booking free entry) - the shops of Oxford Street at 9am. A great way to view the city is to hop-on and off a sightseeing red double decker bus which leaves from Marble Arch very frequently and do not need to be pre-booked.

Sunday - Breakfast is included at the hotel. The morning and early afternoon are at your leisure in London. Our coach will be departing from the hotel at 6pm to head homewards - return to Dorset that evening.



Eastbourne Tinsel & Turkey

Monday 15th to Friday 19th November



So very much enjoyed in the past, we really had to revisit Eastbourne for Tinsel and Turkey. Get into the mood for the coming festive season with this great value mock Christmas break. Set in stylish and elegant Eastbourne which offers a wealth of attractions - the surrounding countryside and stunning coastal scenery are a unique and unspoilt beauty.

5 Days | £539

SRS: £90

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Tinsel & Turkey entertainment (programme may vary)

Holiday Hotel

York House Hotel, Eastbourne

An elegant 3 STAR Victorian hotel located on the seafront close to the pier and just a 15 minute stroll from the town centre. All 80 bedrooms are individually decorated and furnished and offer private bathroom with toiletries, hairdryer, television, phone, desk, tea tray, Wi-Fi and are accessible by lift. The elegant Verandah Restaurant serves traditional style dishes using local ingredients where possible and for this stay there is a festive theme. The spacious bar next door is the ideal setting to relax, unwind and enjoy a drink while taking in the sea panorama. This is one of very few hotels in Eastbourne that offers a heated indoor pool.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Morning departure to Chichester for sightseeing and lunch. Continue to Eastbourne with tea and biscuits on arrival. After settling in enjoy a "Christmas Eve" 3 course dinner followed by a quiz or bingo in the lounge.

Tuesday - Morning to Hastings - the old part of the town which leads down to the harbour is a warren of narrow streets, timbered houses and red-tiled cottages. Back in the hotel "It's Christmas Day!" - Afternoon tea with Christmas Cake is served. Later this evening enjoy a traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings. There is a visit from Santa himself who has a gift for everyone, followed by music and dancing into the night.

Wednesday - Morning visit to the beautiful county town of Lewes, a mixture of the unusual and intriguing yet typically Sussex. Medieval streets and cobbled alleyways house art galleries, craft shops, book shops, antiques and cafes. A delightful place to explore and so full of history. In the hotel this afternoon "It's Boxing Day" with afternoon tea and mince pies. Later another delicious 3 course dinner is followed by music, dancing, fun and laughter.

Thursday - A chance to enjoy the resort. Eastbourne is easy on the eye, an elegant and handsome seafront outlooks to wide open skies and ocean views. A stroll along the iconic Victorian pier is a top attraction - there are also galleries, museums, walking trails, quirky shops - all manner of distractions to enjoy.

Friday - Time to say farewell after a break overflowing with good food, good company and happy memories. A stop at Portsmouth's Gunwharf Quay on our way homeward, with time for some Christmas shopping and lunch. Return to Dorset that afternoon.



Scotland Christmas Markets - Free Bar!

Monday 22nd to Friday 26th November



5 Days | £590

SRS: £100

This is a very special holiday to Scotland to enjoy the best Christmas Markets in the country combined with a festively themed programme of excursions. Tumble into a magical Winter Wonderland in the fairytale Scottish cities with an explosion of twinkling lights, enchanting sounds, mouth-watering flavours and lots of festive fun. Our chosen hotel base is no less special -

a comfortable venue that provides a delicious cream tea and drinks vouchers for the bar each evening! Add to that a festively themed boat cruise with mulled wine and mince pies.

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Drinks vouchers (house brands)
- ✓ Cream tea
- ✓ Festive 3 Bridges Cruise

Holiday Hotel

King Robert Hotel, Stirling

A modern comfortable 3 STAR hotel uniquely situated on the site of the Battle of Bannockburn and right next door to the exhibition dedicated to it. All of the 52 bedrooms have private bathroom with walk-in shower, toiletries, hairdryer, TV with movie channel, large comfy beds, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. The Bistro Restaurant provides a 3 course dinner using fresh local ingredients and a glass of wine. A generous breakfast is provided in the Garden Suite restaurant. There is a bar lounge area in which to relax and socialise - 3 drinks vouchers for wine, beer, house spirits or soft drinks are included each evening. No lift but only two floors and plenty of ground floor bedrooms.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Early morning start from Dorset via motorways with comfort breaks as appropriate to arrive Stirling early evening. Porterage of bags - Dinner - Vouchers for the bar.

Tuesday - Edinburgh Christmas Market - Today we head to Scotland's capital city to explore the sights and enjoy shopping in its fabulous Christmas Market. Return to hotel late afternoon for a cream tea. Dinner in the restaurant - Drinks vouchers for the bar.

Wednesday - This morning travel to Queensferry where we shall board a Festive Three Bridges Cruise complete with mince pies and mulled wine. Enjoy sights of the magnificent Forth road and rail bridges, Inchcolm Island and the medieval abbey, watch out for the wildlife. Later stop at the historic village of Culross and take time to wander its cobbled alleyways and admire the historic buildings. Finally call into The Kelpies - the world's largest equine statues at 30 metres tall, often illuminated in the evening. Dinner and drinks vouchers.

Thursday - Drive to Glasgow to enjoy the festive atmosphere of the excellent Christmas market which offers festive stalls, rides, ice skating and family entertainment. Back at the hotel this evening we enjoy dinner followed by more drinks vouchers.

Friday - A farewell before departure from the hotel - heading homewards with comfort breaks as required, to return to Dorset late that evening.



Paris Afloat

Tuesday 23rd to Friday 26th November



If you think it's too expensive to stay in a good quality hotel in the centre of Paris think again! - We have secured this amazing floating hotel moored close to the Eiffel Tower which includes comfortable accommodation in cosy well equipped cabins with large windows giving wonderful river views. Just like other cruises there is entertainment provided in the evening and an amazing array of FULL BOARD meals and ALL DRINKS are included. France's romantic capital city has something for everyone and its popularity seems everlasting - it is the perfect autumn-break destination. During this holiday you will easily discover the magic of the city for yourself, it is just impossible to avoid being swept up by the bright lights and glamour!

4 Days | £645

(Main Deck Cabin)

Upgrade to Upper Deck Cabin:
£90 Per Person

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossings
- ✓ 3 nights cabin accommodation
- ✓ Full board meals (from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 4)
- ✓ On-board entertainment
- ✓ 2 x Evening cruises*
- ✓ Welcome cocktail
- ✓ Local guide services
- ✓ All drinks on boat (house brands)

Holiday Accommodation

CroisiEurope Ms Botticelli

An elegant vessel providing just 75 well serviced cabins - you will certainly notice the personal attention. All are equipped with twin beds (not bunks), private shower & toilet, hairdryer, satellite TV, radio, 220v power socket (for your travel kettle or shaver) and safe - they also have individual heating/air-conditioning. There is a lounge bar with dance floor and free Wi-Fi. Your full board set-menu meals are taken in the spacious dining room while enjoying river views. There are only 2 decks but no lift so you will need to cope with one flight of stairs.

Holiday Itinerary

Tuesday - Early morning departure from Dorset for channel crossing to Calais. Drive on to Central Paris for 18:00 boarding the ship. A Captains cocktail and welcome from the host before you enjoy dinner in the restaurant. Later you can socialise in the lounge and meet your fellow guests while taking in a "Titi Parisien" evening entertainment.

Wednesday - A local guide will join us on the coach for a panoramic tour of the legendary sights of this beautiful and magical city - tell us the facts and figures, history and stories. Return to the ship for lunch. The afternoon is free to make your own discoveries - a 15 minute walk along the Seine gets you to the Eiffel Tower, just about as story-book perfect as you could imagine. After dinner there will be music and dancing into the night. Subject to the river water level we may also cruise to the ultra-modern district of La Defense*.

Thursday - With the local guide we drive to Old Montmartre with its pavement cafes, artists and winding streets - The Basilica of Sacre-Coeur has a surprising Byzantine style. This tour includes some walking. Return to the ship for lunch. The afternoon is again free. Maybe visit the nearby Trocadero Gardens, hit the shops, or simply relax on the ship. A Gala dinner this evening with cabaret entertainment, during which the ship will undertake a "Paris by Night" cruise (*subject to river water level) where you will float through the beautifully illuminated city - simply breathtaking!

Friday - After breakfast disembark the ship and head homewards via afternoon channel crossing. Return to Dorset that evening.



Party into Christmas

Monday 29th Nov to Thursday 2nd Dec



Indulge yourself in this extravaganza of festive food and entertainment in England's North-West to get you in the mood for the coming Christmas season. There will be seasonal cheer aplenty, spectacular Christmas lights, singing and dancing and the opportunity to shop till you drop. Visit RHS Bridgewater where you will step into a magical world of twinkling lights, seasonal sounds and captivating experiences and enjoy a Christmas Party at the famous Oswaldtwistle Mills. We recommend you bring loose clothing as a few extra pounds bodyweight may be added this week....

4 Days | £535

SRS: £85

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 3 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Fish & Chip lunch with entertainment and cream tea
- ✓ Christmas Lunch with entertainment,
- ✓ RHS Bridgewater GLOW event

Holiday Hotel

Holiday Inn Bolton Centre

Not your average Holiday Inn - this beautifully refurbished city centre venue provides a high quality modern venue with a stylish open-plan bar/restaurant with large floor to ceiling windows that let in masses of natural light. Here you can enjoy your three course evening dinner with a choice of menu, and a generous buffet breakfast. The 130+ bedrooms provide private bathroom with toiletries and hairdryer, large beds, TV with cable channels, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Lifts serve all floors and room service is available.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Morning departure from Dorset with comfort breaks as appropriate to arrive Bolton for a welcome drink while the bags are portered. After settling in enjoy dinner in the stylish restaurant.

Tuesday - We spend the day at the excellent and legendary Oswaldtwistle Mills, an award winning shopping village set in a former Victorian weaving mill. There are more than 100 retailers, a garden centre, craft centre and nature reserve. At lunchtime join the festivities at their famous Christmas Party which includes bingo, a homemade Christmas lunch, mince pies, drinks service and live entertainment. A little time to peruse the shops afterwards before our return to Bolton.

Wednesday - Go easy at breakfast - there is a lot of food involved today! This morning maybe make the 5 minute walk into Bolton's vibrant town centre to kick off your Christmas shopping. After midday it's a 5 minute drive to Bolton's famous Olympus Restaurant where you will enjoy a traditional Fish & Chip lunch. An award winning, family run up-market restaurant in a distinctive and stylish building which has become a local landmark. After your lunch you are treated to an afternoon of sing-along entertainment and then a cream tea. At sunset we shall make the short journey to RHS Bridgewater and experience the fabulous GLOW event - the gardens being lit up in all their festive glory - something special! Return to hotel for your 3 course dinner this evening...Phew!

Thursday - After breakfast we head homewards, with comfort breaks en-route, to arrive back in Dorset early evening.



Christmas at Kew

Sunday 5th to Monday 6th December

For Christmas 2027 the magnificent Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew will once again be transformed into a magical after-dark explosion of festive lights. An enchanting world full of seasonal cheer beneath tree canopies drenched in Christmas colour. Follow over a mile long sparkling trail of over 1 million twinkling lights, illuminating heritage trees and historical buildings through the gardens. Fairy-tale meets fantasy in a world of singing trees, larger than life flora, ribbons of light, giant baubles and a flickering fire garden. The famous Palm House leaps into life with a dazzling show of laser beams, jets of light and kaleidoscopic projections. At the end of the trail you are greeted by the scent of mulled wine, mince pies, enticing stalls and a traditional carousel.

2 Days | £210

SRS: £40

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 1 night hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Entry to Kew Christmas Lights (*times subject to change)

Holiday Hotel

Holiday Inn Bath Road, Heathrow

A modern contemporary 4 STAR hotel ideally situated close to Heathrow and thus convenient for Kew. The fully soundproofed bedrooms all provide private bathroom, hairdryer, free toiletries, phone, television, air-conditioning, safe, iron, tea-tray, fridge and free Wi-Fi. There is a lift to all floors. A 3 course buffet dinner is served in the restaurant and a full cooked breakfast the next morning. There is a choice of a bar or coffee shop in which to relax, or the energetic can use the fitness room.

Holiday Itinerary

Sunday - Morning departure from Dorset we shall visit the fabulous Christmas Market at Winchester with time for lunch. Continue to our hotel near Heathrow with a mid-afternoon check-in. We shall make our way to Kew by 4:45pm and have a pre-booked group entry time slot of 5:00pm* (sunset is around 4pm) - a sparkling path will wind its way through the gardens in a magical after-dark experience. Enjoy a warming hot chocolate or gluhwein from stalls along the trail. Leaving Kew at 7:30pm* to drive back to the hotel where a late 3 course dinner awaits in the restaurant.

Monday - After a leisurely breakfast drive into Central London with time to admire the Oxford Street Christmas displays, finish off your Christmas shopping and take lunch. Across Park Lane in Hyde Park you can visit the "Winter Wonderland" - a specially themed attraction which includes a German Market with over 50 chalet stalls, Cafes & Bars, London's largest outdoor ice rink, A Circus big-top, rides and slides, Giant ferris wheel, and Santaland. Leave London at 2:30pm and return to Dorset by early evening.

Tinsel & Turkey in Bournemouth

Monday 13th to Friday 17th December

5 Days | £369

SRS: £50

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Festive entertainment programme (may vary)
- ✓ Sea-view room supplement £45pp (double/twin only)

So you fancy the idea of a fun filled Christmas themed stay with lots of inclusive activities and entertainment - but what you don't want is a lot of traveling to get there and back. Here is the ideal solution to get you in the mood for the coming festive season on this great value mock Christmas break based at one of Bournemouth's leading hotels. With festive fayre, decorations, song and dance, games and hi-jinks! We don't think you will find better value so come and join us on this late season Yuletide Bargain Break - the perfect "warm-up" to the coming season!

Holiday Hotel

Suncliff Hotel, Bournemouth

A highly regarded 3 STAR hotel in a prestigious position on the exclusive East Cliff which affords bay views and is just a stroll from the town centre with its many attractions. The 114 bedrooms are stylishly decorated and equipped with all expected facilities, including private bathroom, toiletries, hairdryer, TV, phone, tea tray, iron and free Wi-Fi. The elegant Atlantis Restaurant provides a breakfast buffet and three course dinners with a choice of menu. Guests can make use of the in-house leisure facilities which includes a heated indoor pool, gym and sauna. A lift serves upper floors and room service is available. A full programme of Christmas themed entertainment and activities will keep you amused during your stay.

Holiday Itinerary

Monday - Early afternoon pick-ups around Dorset to arrive Bournemouth about 3pm with a welcome cuppa and portage of bags. After settling in enjoy dinner in the restaurant followed by Christmas Eve festive entertainment.

Tuesday - Christmas Day: After breakfast collect your Christmas quiz sheets at reception and get thinking. Late morning join the coach for a scenic tour around the beautiful New Forest - visit the best viewpoints, prettiest villages, colourful heaths and forest drives and learn about the unusual local traditions and history. Return to the hotel where you are treated to a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings followed by dancing in the lounge and evening entertainment.

Wednesday - Boxing Day: After breakfast another quiz sheet is available at reception. The day is at your leisure to stroll along the cliff top and promenade, maybe exploit Bournemouth's shops, visit the Russell Cotes Museum nearby or relax in the hotel's pool and sauna. At 3:30pm sherry and Christmas cake is served with a guess the weight of the cake competition. Then it's eyes-down for Bingo! Another delicious dinner in the restaurant is followed by more festive entertainment.

Thursday - New Years Eve: Breakfast. Hand in your quiz sheets by 12 noon - winners announced at dinner. 2pm to 4pm a tea dance with mince pies and a festive entertainer. At 5pm a free bucks-fizz helps start the New Year celebrations in the lounge. Dinner in the restaurant is followed by entertainment - fancy dress is optional if you have a costume.

Friday - New Year's Day: After breakfast we bid a fond farewell to our hosts and head homewards, returning by lunch-time.



Festive Holland Afloat

Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th December

A tour of the Netherlands most magical festive celebrations. The enchanting "Gouda by Candlelight" is one of the oldest light festivals in Europe. "The Royal Christmas Fair" at The Hague is one of the country's most beautiful Christmas events. You will discover the country's traditions and charm at this most joyful time of year. To make it that bit more special we have arranged accommodation aboard the famed trans-Atlantic liner SS Rotterdam, now a floating hotel restored to her former 1950's glory while updated to offer the expected modern comforts and facilities.

Holiday Accommodation

SS Rotterdam

The former flagship of the prestigious Holland-America Line, launched in 1958 and now permanently moored in Rotterdam Harbour as a floating 4 Star hotel, museum and events venue. Completely restored to her former glory, the Superior cabins are themed in 1950's style and breathe history and comfort. All feature a porthole, bathroom with shower, hairdryer, climate control, TV, fridge, tea tray, safe and free Wi-Fi. Meals are enjoyed in the spectacular Lido Restaurant which provides a hot & cold breakfast buffet and a 3 course evening dinner with choices. There are glamorous bars and lounges in which to relax and socialise. You can even book a guided tour of the ships bridge and engine rooms. A lift serves all decks.

Holiday Itinerary

Thursday - Early morning departure from Dorset via channel crossing to Calais and on to Holland. Arrive SS Rotterdam early evening and after embarking enjoy dinner. Later there is time to explore "La Grande Dame" with her innovative design features - she remains a symbol of the golden age of ocean travel.

Friday - Morning at leisure in Rotterdam. Lunch is provided onboard at 12:30. Leave the ship at 13:30 to Gouda, setting for the atmospheric event "Gouda by Candlelight". There are winter fairs, cheese-tasting, waffles, music and shows and at 19:00 over 1,500 candles are lit in the Town Hall with many more in surrounding buildings. There are plenty of opportunities to source your own dinner in the town this evening. Leave at 20:30 to drive back to the ship with a late return.

Saturday - Morning at leisure in Rotterdam. Early afternoon drive to The Hague, seat of the Dutch Government and Royal family. It is the setting for

the Netherlands most beautiful Christmas event, "The Royal Christmas Fair". The city plays host to Christmas stalls, thousands of lights, atmospheric fires, mulled wine and musical performances. Leave at 6pm to return to ship with a late dinner arranged.



Sunday - After breakfast we shall head back to Calais for early afternoon channel crossing to Dover and drive back to Dorset arriving early evening.



4 Days | £675

SRS: £220

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossings
- ✓ 3 nights Superior cabin accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals (lunch replaces dinner on Friday)



ITALY - Christmas on Lake Garda

Wednesday 22nd to Wednesday 29th Dec

When we organise a Christmas Holiday we understand that it has to be something really special to do justice to this magical time of year. Expectations are always high and only the best in terms of accommodation, food and inclusive extras will satisfy. We have once again selected Lake Garda in Italy for Christmas 2027, a region where the water is a deeper blue, the sunlight more intense and the air more invigorating. Cloaked in rich Mediterranean vegetation and surrounded by rolling green hills you could not wish for a more dramatic location. Our 4 STAR resort style hotel is stylish and contemporary and lays on a special gala dinner with wine and musical entertainment on Christmas Eve. Then on Christmas Day we have arranged a blow-out Italian lunch at a traditional countryside trattoria restaurant - an authentic experience you will talk about for years.

8 Days | £1129

SRS: £190

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ Return channel crossings
- ✓ 2 x overnight hotel in Saarbrücken
- ✓ 5 nights hotel in Peschiera
- ✓ Half board meals throughout
- ✓ Gala Christmas Eve dinner
- ✓ Trattoria Christmas day lunch
- ✓ Water/wine/soft drink with dinner in Italy
- ✓ Use of leisure facilities in Italy

Holiday Hotel

Parc Hotel, Peschiera Del Garda

One of three hotels situated in a private resort complex on the edge of town - it is set next to its own private golf course where you can stroll amidst meadows and lakes. A 4 STAR rated venue with both indoor and outdoor pools, gym, jacuzzi and sauna for guests use. Bedrooms are spacious and comfortably equipped with private bathroom, hairdryer, TV with satellite channels, phone, fridge, tea tray, free Wi-Fi, air-conditioning and are accessible by lifts. The restaurant provides a continental buffet breakfast and 3 course evening dinners with water, wine or soft drink. A special Christmas Eve gala dinner menu is hosted followed by live music and a flute of sparkling wine with panettone - how Italian!

Holiday Itinerary

Wednesday (22nd) - Very early morning departure from Dorset via channel crossing to Calais and through Northern France to arrive at the Sunday Hotel Saarbrücken for dinner and overnight stay.

Thursday (23rd) - After breakfast continue through the Swiss Alps and into Northern Italy to arrive on Lake Garda late afternoon with a welcome drink. After settling in enjoy a choice of dishes for dinner accompanied by wine.

Friday (24th) - After 2 days of travelling relax at the hotel with its extensive leisure facilities. Alternatively hop on the coach which will operate morning shuttles and takes just 10 mins to reach the old town centre of Peschiera Del Garda, with its narrow alleyways, cobbled streets and wide lakeside promenade. This evening is your special Christmas Eve gala dinner followed by live music and fizz.

Saturday (25th) - Sirmione & Lunch. This morning visit the "jewel in the crown" of Lake Garda, the peninsula of Sirmione, with its lovely moated castle and medieval centre. A romantic and enchanting place that has captured hearts for generations with its timeless beauty - look out for the artwork "Kiss... please" situated overlooking the lake. From here we

travel into the countryside, now peaceful but which has previously borne witness to many battles. Stop at Trattoria da Arturo for an amazing lunch - located on a remote farm seemingly in the middle of nowhere. We shall enjoy some of the best handmade pasta you have ever tasted, with meats and beans, salad and dessert washed down with homemade wine/water - a relaxing and authentic Italian experience that can take up to 3 hours!

Sunday (26th) - A sightseeing tour of Lake Garda by way of Bardolino - Garda - Malcesine to stop at Riva del Garda, at the far end of the lake. A road that clings to the cliff sides, pops in and out of tunnels, traverses bridges and enables dramatic mountain views which grow in grandeur the further north you travel. You will be reaching for your camera time and again.

Monday (27th) - Visit Verona, city of Romeo and Juliet, one of the most beautiful in all Italy. A UNESCO heritage site for good reason - full of beautiful cathedrals, churches, ancient palaces, museums, monuments and famous bridges. You can't miss the Roman Arena right at the heart of the city and Juliet's fabled balcony and her statue is just 7 minutes walk away. A warren of narrow alleyways and cobbled streets will lead you to more enticing discoveries.

Tuesday (28th) - Arrivederci to our Italian hosts as we head northwards back through the awesome scenery of Switzerland and into France. Overnight at The Sunday Hotel Saarbrücken with dinner and breakfast.

Wednesday (29th) - Dive to Calais for afternoon channel crossing to Dover and homeward bound to return to Dorset that evening.





A Traditional Christmas

Thursday 23rd to Monday 27th December



We understand that a Christmas holiday has to be something a bit special to do justice to this magical time of year. This is a traditional British Christmas with all the expected trimmings and an extensive programme of live entertainment. Our specially selected venue in Swindon has laid on 4 nights of Festive Fun, Laughter, Music and Magic which pays tribute to the "Best of British". Each evening there will be a live performance by a top variety act followed by music and dancing into the night. A resident host will also compere in-house quizzes, competitions, bingo, carol singing and such like to keep you entertained every afternoon. WHAT A CRACKER!

5 Days | £595

SRS: £110

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 4 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Christmas Lunch on 25th
- ✓ Welcome drink/cake
- ✓ Porterage in/out
- ✓ Entertainment programme
- ✓ Resident host

Holiday Hotel

Doubletree By Hilton, Swindon

A modern 4 Star hotel offering superb facilities and services and conveniently situated on the outskirts of Swindon. Bedrooms are spacious and stylish with private bathroom, free toiletries, hairdryer, air-conditioning/heating, TV with movie channel, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Breakfast is a generous hot/cold buffet and dinner features British dishes - including a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. For the energetic there is a fitness room or you can relax and socialise in the bar or coffee shop. A lift serves all floors and room service is available. A full programme of "The Best of British" entertainment is provided during your stay - come and wave your flag for Britain!

Holiday Itinerary

Thursday (23rd) - Mid morning departure from Dorset with a stop in historic Marlborough, a town of handsome buildings, riverside parks and a thriving High Street full of shops and cafes. Later continue to Swindon and enjoy a welcome cuppa with mince pie/cake while the bags are portered. After settling in enjoy a delicious dinner which is followed by live entertainment into the night.

Friday (24th) - A morning drive through pretty Cotswolds scenery - a photo stop at "The most beautiful village in England" - Bibury, and then time to explore the capital of the Cotswolds, Cirencester. Back at the hotel this afternoon join your host for bingo or a quiz. After dinner there is music and fun entertainment.

Saturday (25th) - Christmas Day: Merry Christmas! After breakfast you can open your presents and then join in Carol singing. A traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings is served at lunchtime. At 3pm watch the Kings speech. A lighter buffet supper with desserts is provided this evening. Another spectacular helping of variety entertainment rounds off your Christmas Day.

Sunday (26th) - Boxing Day: Morning visit to the huge Designer Outlet Shopping Centre in Swindon, with the sales likely to be in full swing - go grab yourself a bargain. Return to hotel for an afternoon of bingo/quiz with your resident host. After dinner this evening there is yet more live entertainment.

Monday (27th) - After breakfast we drive homewards, stopping in Salisbury for lunch with time to view the magnificent cathedral and medieval city centre. Return to Dorset that afternoon.



Best of British New Year

Thu 30th Dec 2027 to Sun 2nd Jan 2028



Looking for the perfect way to ring in the New Year? This special holiday is custom built to enable you the opportunity to celebrate the New Year in style and ensure a memorable end to 2027. Create cherished memories with our party package during a luxury stay at our specially selected 4 STAR hotel. A resident host is on-site for the entire break and will keep you amused with both day-time activities and live evening entertainment to be shared in congenial company. There will be music, song, dance, fun and magic aplenty, all paying tribute to "The Best of British".

4 Days | £499

SRS: £110

Holiday Highlights

- ✓ All coach travel
- ✓ 3 nights hotel accommodation
- ✓ Half board meals
- ✓ Welcome drink/cake
- ✓ Porterage in/out
- ✓ Entertainment programme
- ✓ Fizz at New Year

Holiday Hotel

Doubletree By Hilton, Swindon

A modern 4 STAR hotel offering superb facilities and services and conveniently situated on the outskirts of Swindon. Bedrooms are spacious and stylish with private bathroom, free toiletries, hairdryer, air-conditioning/heating, TV with movie channel, phone, iron, tea tray and free Wi-Fi. Breakfast is a generous hot/cold buffet and dinner features British dishes - including a special Gala Dinner on New Year's Eve. For the energetic there is a fitness room or you can relax and socialise in the bar or coffee shop. A lift serves all floors and room service is available. A full programme of "The Best of British" entertainment is provided during your stay - come and wave your flag for Britain!

Holiday Itinerary

Thursday (30th) - Mid-morning departure from Dorset with a stop in historic Marlborough, a town of handsome buildings, riverside parks and a thriving High Street full of shops and cafes. Later continue to Swindon and enjoy a welcome cuppa with mince pie/cake while the bags are portered. After settling in enjoy a delicious dinner which is followed by live entertainment into the night.

Friday (31st) - A morning drive through pretty Cotswolds scenery - a photo stop at "The most beautiful village in England" - Bibury, and then time to explore the capital of the Cotswolds, Cirencester. Back at the hotel this afternoon join your host for bingo or a quiz. This evening get your glad rags on and enjoy a Gala Dinner followed by live entertainment and a glass of fizz at midnight. Happy New Year everyone!

Saturday (1st) - A lie in and later breakfast after your busy night. Our coach will offer a shuttle to the Designer Outlet Centre in town for those who want to exploit the New Year Sales. A competition, quiz or bingo will be staged by our resident host this afternoon. Following another delicious dinner this evening we expect to enjoy a Last Night of the Proms style concert followed by dancing. Come and wave your flag for Britain!

Sunday (2nd) - After breakfast we drive homewards, stopping in Salisbury for lunch with time to view the magnificent cathedral and medieval city centre. Return to Dorset that afternoon.

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