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A CUSTOM DESIGNED 15- DAY ITINERARY ENGLAND

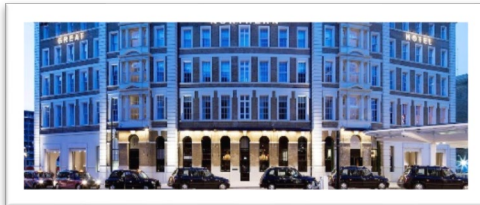
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INDULGENT REF: F1900201

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL LONDON ENGLAND

Upon arrival at approximately 9:00 AM to London Heathrow Airport, after collecting your luggage, you will be met in the arrival's hall by your private driver. (Please look for someone holding a sign with your name on it.) You will be immediately transferred to the



Great Northern Hotel – 5 Star hotel or similar, (subject to availability) for a 3-night stay in a double standard room with daily English breakfast. You will have ample time to check in (an early check in will be requested but cannot be guaranteed). The Great Northern Hotel is an

exquisitely designed luxury boutique hotel with an extraordinary location, offering unrivalled value to the discerning traveler. They are perfectly situated just 25 meters from the Eurostar terminus in the heart of King's Cross St Pancras. Designed by Victorian master builder Lewis Cubitt, the architect behind Kings Cross railway station, the Great Northern Hotel first opened in 1854. This was the golden age of steam with railway hotels seen as status symbols and the Great Northern Hotel soon became a Victorian landmark. Now skillfully renovated, it is one of the finest luxury boutique hotels in London with its original Grade II-listed features evoking the glamour of its extraordinary past. You will have the balance of the afternoon to explore at your leisure.

Included with your package is the London Pass® 72-hour card which includes discounted and "skip the line entry" to over 80 London attractions. (A list of inclusions will be provided with your final itinerary.) We also included 2 Oyster Cards® with £15.00 each; the card is for use on public transportation within the London area, use of underground and buses.



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Make sure that you allow enough time to return to your hotel and freshen up for your special evening; a Bateaux Dinner River Cruise on the River Thames. Prepare yourself for a London restaurant cruise like no other as you step on board Bateaux London and take a special trip through the heart of the capital. As the boat sets sail, enjoy fresh food served to your table while London's landscape unfolds around you. Their tailored entertainment enriches the experience and creates a

truly timeless atmosphere that you will remember for a long time to come.

DAY 2 – LONDON – LOCAL TOURING

Today you have the entire day to use your London Pass® and explore the city at your leisure. Included with you pass is one of the very best of London's attractions, the Hop On/Off Sightseeing Bus Tour using an open top double-decker bus and just "hop on and off" it wherever you want. Ride on a London open-top sightseeing bus where you'll get a bird's eye view of this majestic City! Your hop-on hop-off ticket allows you the freedom to leave and re-join the bus as often as you like over a 24-hour period - departures are every 5-15 minutes all day until late evening. The best thing about this tour is you have total flexibility to plan your day the way you choose, as well as taking in all the main sights from the top deck of a London bus, including St Paul's Cathedral, the spine-chilling Tower of London, Big Ben, the Gothic Houses of Parliament, the Queen's residence Buckingham Palace, the exclusive Belgravia district, Hyde Park, the lively Speaker's Corner, Marble Arch, Harrods and its sumptuous Food Halls, the Royal Albert Hall, Baker Street home of Sherlock Holmes, Madame Tussaud's and plenty more besides! Many of these attractions are included in your London Pass® and you can plan your trip accordingly. Choose from Big Bus Tours or Golden Tours, both cover all the main sights of London - you can either listen to the informative and entertaining recorded commentary provided through your own headsets to keep, or listen to 'London live', with a live Guide pointing out the main sights to you, telling you all the history, titbits and quirky stories about London. Enjoy your day!



London's history dates back to 55BC when Julius Caesar's Roman army invaded England, landed in Kent and marched northwest until they reached the broad Thames River at what is now Southwark. There were a few tribesmen living on the opposite bank, but no major settlement. However, by the time of the second Roman invasion 88 years later,

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a small port and mercantile community had been established. The Romans bridged the river and built their administrative headquarters on the north bank, calling it Londinium - a version of its old Celtic name. When the Romans invaded Britain they already controlled vast areas of the Mediterranean, but fierce opposition from local tribes (such as Queen Boudicca's Icenii) made Britain difficult to control. The Romans persevered, however, and had consolidated their power by the end of the century. Londinium, with its port, developed into a capital city; by the 3rd century, there were some 50,000 people living in the city. But, as the Roman Empire crumbled in the 5th century, the garrison pulled out, leaving the city to the Saxons.



London was soon the largest city in England and, by the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, it was the obvious choice for the national capital. Settlement slowly spread beyond the original walled city, which was virtually wiped out by the Great Fire of 1666. The post-Fire rebuilding formed the basis of the area we know today as the City, but by the 18th century, London enveloped in the settlements around it. These included the royal city of Westminster, which had long been London's religious and political center. The explosive growth of commerce and industry during the 18th and 19th centuries made London the biggest and wealthiest city in the world, creating a prosperous middle class who built the fine houses that grace parts of the capital. The prospect of riches also lured millions of the dispossessed from the countryside and from abroad. They crowded into unsanitary dwellings, many just east of the City, where docks provided employment. By the end of the 19th



century, 4.5 million people lived in inner London and another 4 million in its immediate vicinity. Bombing in World War II devastated many central areas and led to substantial rebuilding in the second half of the 20th century, when the docks and other Victoria industries disappeared.

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DAY 3 – LONDON – LOCAL TOURING

Enjoy another day at leisure to explore on your own. London has a wide variety of museums. *(Be sure to check the closing day before your visit)* The British Museum is especially famous for its Egyptian collection and the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon in Athens. The Rosetta Stone, written in three different languages, provided the key to translating ancient Egyptians hieroglyphics. The National Gallery houses one of the best collections of western painting from the 14th century through the 19th century. The Tate Gallery features British painting from the 16th century to the present. The Victoria and



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Albert Museum excels in early medieval, Oriental and Islamic art, tapestries and carpets, costume, metalwork and musical instruments and ceramics. The National Portrait Gallery records the outstanding figures of the nation in portraits by Holbein, Rubens, Reynolds and many more. There are also numerous other museums of interest.



No trip to London is complete without a visit to Buckingham Palace to watch the world famous Changing of the Guard. The men you will see in front of Buckingham Palace for the changing of the guard are not just ceremonial guards, but they are also serving soldiers. While upholding the traditions of the past, they also perform duties throughout the world as professional soldiers and are known as some of the most elite and skilled in the British Army. And let's not

forget The Tower of London; it has been a fortress, a royal palace and a prison during its long history. The original fortress, known as the White Tower, was built by William the Conqueror in 1078. Today the tower is a complex of several buildings surrounded by two defensive walls and a moat. During its time the Tower has been the prison of high status and royal prisoners. Elizabeth I was imprisoned here as well as her mother Anne Boleyn, who was executed within the grounds. The Tower is the home of the Crown Jewels which have been stored here since 1303 (*tickets to the Tower are included with your London Pass*). Enjoy your final day in London as you continue discovering this amazing city.



DAY 4 –LONDON/NEWBURY



This Morning after breakfast and check out, you will be met in the lobby of your hotel by your driver/guide for a full day of touring and then transfer you to Newbury. First you will head to Blenheim Palace for and tour of the Palace, Park and Gardens. The drive is approximately an hour and 20 minutes north of Englands Great West Way® Entrance tickets are included with your package.

Several tours are included with your entrance ticket; please see the Blenheim Palace website and app to coordinate your visit: <https://www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/tours/untold-story.html>. Prior to arriving to the Palace you might want to discuss the best place for you to stop for lunch (not included) with your driver.

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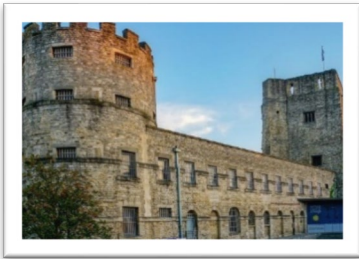
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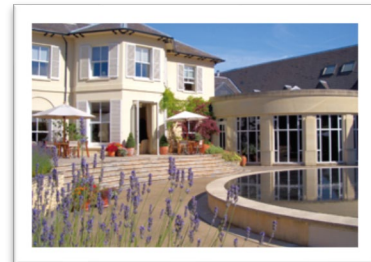
After lunch it's just a short drive to Oxford. Upon arrival your driver/guide will take you to the heart for a 2-hour private walking tour of the history-steeped city where you will hear about its famous past and university as you explore the cobbled streets and squares. Use the flexible itinerary to tailor your sightseeing around your interests, visiting highlights such as the Bodleian Library, Christ Church College, and other landmarks as you please. *Entrance fees to some attractions at own expense to allow flexibility in your schedule.*



Make your way to Oxford Castle Quarter, central Oxford, we've included Oxford Castle Unlocked Entrance Ticket including 1 hour guided tour. Feel like you've gone back in time on this 1-hour tour of Oxford Castle. Led by a costumed guide who plays a real-life character from history, you'll explore the Norman castle's medieval remains, from the prison to the 900-year-old crypt. Climb up the steps to the top of St. George's Tower, discover the Debtors' Tower and the prison's D-Wing, and make your way to the mound of the 11th-century motte-and-bailey castle. Tours run everyday up to 20 minutes between 10am and 4.20pm *(subject to availability).*



Upon completion of your tour, your driver will transfer you to the charming town of Newbury which is nestled in the heart of West Berkshire and England's Great West Way®. You will spend the next 2-nights at **The Vineyard** in a king bedded room, including daily breakfast and VAT. *(subject to availability).* The Vineyard is a Relais & Châteaux 5-star hotel and spa, renowned for its impeccable service, 3 AA Rosette restaurant *(reservations are a must; please inform us at time of booking if you would like a reservation)* and award winning 30,000 bottle wine cellar. Once an 18th Century hunting lodge, The Vineyard has more recently been described as a temple to Californian Wine. Their impressive 30,000 bottle wine cellar is overseen by UK Young Sommelier of the year 2016, Romain Bourger, who is on hand to help guests find the perfect match. The cellar holds new and old-world wines, as well as the award-winning estate wines of the owner, Sir Peter Michael. At the helm of the Kitchen is Head Chef Robby Jenks who is dedicated to creating a simple but perfect dining experience, taking local and sustainable seasonal produce to deliver a triumphant blend of old-fashioned taste and new world values. A destination restaurant deserves a great hotel, and again The Vineyard does not disappoint. Each of the



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49 bedrooms and suites are individually styled and designed to tell you a story. Inspired by iconic wines from all over the world, you will find details such as luxurious marbled bathrooms filled with REN products, large flat screen televisions and personal Nespresso machines - just a few of the indulgent features that ensure you will enjoy a wonderful night's stay; and with works by Henry Martin, Ronald Searle, Boris Smirnoff and Doris Zinkeisen, The Vineyard is home to a superb private art collection. The balance of your evening is at leisure.

DAY 5 – NEWBURY – LOCAL TOURING



This morning after breakfast, make your way to the Europcar Auto Rental counter by **9:00AM** to pick up your family size automatic vehicle with unlimited mileage, CDW and theft insurance, for the next 10 days. *You will need to return you vehicle to rental company counter at London Heathrow Airport the end of your journey.* Upon receiving your vehicle, make your way to Highclere Castle. Highclere Castle is the home of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and features as *Downton Abbey*, the hugely successful

drama series with over 13.3 million weekly viewers and was PBS's top drama of all time and is still shown in over 100 countries around the world! Highclere is one of England's most beautiful Victorian Castles set amidst 1,000 acres of spectacular parkland. The Carnarvon family has lived at Highclere since 1679, and the current Castle stands on the site of an earlier house, which in turn was built on the foundations of the medieval palace owned by the Bishops of Winchester for some 800 years. During your visit you will be able to see all the interior and external areas which were used during filming such as the salon, library, dining room, entrance hall and grounds. *Entrances included.*



Just a short 25-minute drive from Highclere Castle and England's Great West Way® is the medieval town of Winchester. From Iron Age forts, to Civil War sites and a world-famous Cathedral, Winchester certainly boasts an impressive array of historical attractions.



Winchester is home to a world-famous Cathedral, with the longest medieval nave in Europe, and containing numerous ancient monarchs of Wessex and Winchester. Behind the cathedral, you will find Winchester College – one of the oldest continuously-running schools in the country founded by Bishop William of Wykeham. More details about its historical past and even its modern-day involvement in

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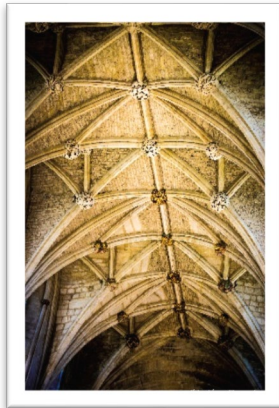
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popular films can be found out by taking a tour. *(Please advise at time of booking if you would like us to include a private tour/walking tour of the city and Cathedral).* Discover a timeless legend and a striking site in one of the finest surviving medieval halls – the legendary King Arthur’s Round Table. And stroll along the water meadows to take part in a 900-year-old tradition when you request the Wayfarer’s Dole upon arrival at the porter’s lodge at The Hospital of St Cross. Or just spend a day learning about Winchester’s role in English history by exploring the galleries at Winchester City Museum. *(Entrance tickets not included to allow flexibility in your schedule)*

DAY 6 – NEWBURY/MALMESBURY

This morning after breakfast and checking out, make your way to a market town that is rich in history as England’s oldest borough, Malmesbury and to the **Old Bell Hotel** *(subject to availability)* – Luxurious 4 Star, in a master king suite with dinner and English breakfast, including VAT, for a 2- night stay. *(Early check in will be requested but cannot be guaranteed).* If you are looking for a country escape above an olde worlde pub in the heart of a picture-perfect little Cotswold’s town, then The Old Bell Hotel is just the ticket. Built on the remains of outbuildings of the 12th Century Malmesbury Abbey, The Old Bell is the oldest hotel in



England and sits right next door to the Abbey. The hotel is located right in the heart of the historic and vibrant market town, so you can stroll to everything. This is the sort of town where houses are so old, that they almost look to be collapsing into each other, plus there are numerous picturesque squares, interesting looking pubs and a good selection of shops. A major selling point of this hotel is that is in the heart of the town

The historic highlight in Malmesbury has to be the 12th century Abbey, which dominates the landscape. This historic Cotswold’s escape was unique with lots of character. It was the perfect break if you are looking for a change of scene and to immerse yourself in a charming historic town and escape. Here you can see the tomb of King Athelstan, the first King of all England.

The balance of your day is at leisure to explore this beautiful market town and the Cotswold area. *We can further enhance this portion of your journey with a half day private guided tour of the local area... please let us know at time of booking if you would like to add this to your itinerary.*



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However, exploring on your own, can be easily done, and you can walk everywhere in this quintessential English Market town.

DAY 7 – MALMESBURY – COTSWOLD'S

This morning after breakfast, your driver guide will pick you up for a full day of touring and exploring in and around the Cotswold's area. First, you will head approximately 35 minutes Northwest to Berkeley and spend a half day exploring Berkeley Castle and the Estate (***Please note that they are open Sunday to Wednesday each week from March 25th until the end of October. The Castle is closed on Thursday-Saturday for private events.*



Home of the Berkeley Family for 850 years, the most remarkable thing about the Castle is that for 9 centuries, the building, the Berkeley family, the archives (*which go back to the 12th Century*), the contents, the estate and the town have all survived together. Its place in history is significant, not just because it is still intact, but because the Berkeley family and their home have played an important part in the power struggles of so many centuries. Where History is a Home; the Family are the only English family still in existence in England that can trace its ancestors from father to son back to Saxon times. English history has been lived out within these walls - and by this family. The Castle is the oldest building in the country to be inhabited by the same family who built it.



Built for War; the Castle is one of the March Castles, built to keep out the Welsh. It has all the trappings to match: trip steps designed to make the enemy stumble during an assault, arrow slits, murder holes, enormous barred doors, slots where the portcullis once fell, and worn stones where sentries stood guard. It is also a fairytale Castle with its warm pink stone that glows in soft sunset light. Outside, the battlements drop some 60' to the Great Lawn below; but inside the Inner Courtyard, the building is on a human scale, with uneven battlements, small towers, doors and windows of every shape and size. The surrounding land would have been flooded for defense.



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For centuries, the Berkeley's were close to the throne, able administrators and fighters who supported their king or queen (as long as they could), backed the winning side, and married well. The Castle, naturally enough, is full of stories. The archives, which are still housed in the Castle, date from 1154. They comprise around 25,000 documents relating to the estate, of which about 6,000 date from before 1490. These earlier records have all been catalogued: they consist mainly of title deeds and manorial accounts. The archives do not contain any

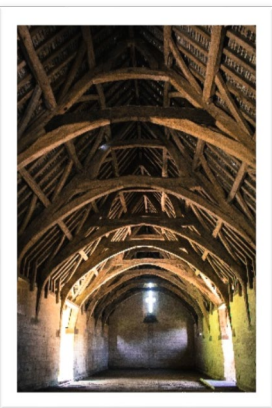
personal records of the family. Berkeley Treasures; the contents of the Castle are items that have been chosen, collected and treasured by members of the Berkeley family throughout the centuries, and many reflect the history of the place. They include Francis Drake's cabin chest, Queen Elizabeth I's bedspread, and the banner that the 4th Earl of Berkeley took with him to the Battle of Culloden. Many of the unusual tapestries, paintings, ceramics and silverware, have their own story to tell.

The Estate consists of 6,000 acres, and includes one of the best examples of a mediaeval deer park in the country, 18 tenant farms, a stretch of the River Severn and the land on which the famous Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge is situated. Berkeley town itself goes back in time as far as the Castle, and evidence suggests that there was a large Saxon settlement and possibly, a Roman Temple.



*****If the Castle is closed; alternatively, you can go about another 30 minutes north and visit Sudeley Castle & Gardens.***

After spending the morning in Berkeley, you will head back thru the Cotswold's; a very special, and very wonderful place. A short break or even an extended holiday in the



Cotswolds will leave you wanting more, and you'll be booking your next Cotswolds holiday as soon as you return home! The Cotswolds covers a huge area – almost 800 square miles – and runs through five counties (Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire). One of the delights of visiting the Cotswolds is exploring the different areas, each with its own identity, yet all with those defining Cotswold features: golden stone and rolling hills, the 'wolds'. Explore quintessentially English villages of honey-colored stone; take in splendid, lively market towns; visit some of the country's greatest palaces, castles and country houses; marvel at the natural world in acclaimed reserves and at some of the most



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famous arboreta's in Britain; walk through breath-taking landscapes along historic trails; or make a splash in our own lake-land area with its own inland beach.

There's a vibrant buzz in places like Cheltenham, Cirencester, Tewkesbury Stroud and Witney, all within a short drive of the Great West Way ®; and an arty heartbeat too – which extends to the wealth of festivals that are testimony to the creative vibe of the region. The Cotswolds is also richly rural: more than 3,000 miles of footpaths and bridleways to explore; ancient woodlands and wildflower meadows; 4,000 miles of historic Cotswold stone walls dividing up the landscape. Unsurprisingly this landscape provides a rich harvest of local cheeses, meats and drinks appearing prominently on the menus of the gastro pubs, old inns, colorful cafes and fine dining restaurants scattered generously across the region.



We can add a walking or cycling tour with the Cotswold area; please let us know at time of booking if you are interested in this type of service. You can also add this in this afternoon or take a day trip from Bristol on Day 10; we can tailor your holiday any way you wish.

DAY 8 – MALMESBURY/BRISTOL



This morning after breakfast and checking out, say goodbye to the charm and beauty of Malmesbury and make your way for the iconic bustling city of Bristol (the drive will take you approximately 45 minutes) and the **Hotel Du Vin & Bistro** – 4 star or similar (*subject to availability*), for a 3-night stay in the Don Perignon king room for with daily English breakfast and VAT. (*Early check in will be requested but cannot be guaranteed.* Please advise us at time of

booking if you would like to include dinner or a lunch meal to your stay.) The hotel offers 18th century architecture mixed with chic contemporary 'loft-living' style bedrooms and a warm, inviting atmosphere. Full of eye-catching detail, the Sugar House is a lovingly restored collection of Grade II listed former sugar warehouses, beautifully transformed into one of the finest boutique hotels in Bristol. From high ceilings and exposed brickwork that celebrates the city's industrial past, to the boutique chic of its décor, Hotel du Vin Bristol has its own sweet story to tell and looks the part. Hotel du Vin Bristol features 40 exquisite rooms and suites with deep roll top baths, and comfy beds with Egyptian cotton sheets. Lounge in a comfy leather armchair in the cosy bar, and discover rums from around



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the world. Beckon our expert Sommelier over to help you choose from our extensive list.



Relax in the elegant yet informal ambience of our trademark Bistro, or dine al fresco in our secluded flagstone courtyard, before sipping on a relaxing nightcap. Nestling in the heart of the old city, close to the rejuvenated waterfront, the shopping hub of Cabot Circus, Christmas Steps, Park Street and the charming Clifton village, the Hotel Du Vin & Bistro is the perfect setting for work or leisure. Ideal for enjoying a weekday business brunch, leisurely lunch, dinner or afternoon tea, luxurious weekend break, indulgent city retreat,

celebrating a wedding, family gathering or private event - the list of reasons goes on.

After you've checked and settled in, you will need to make your way to your meeting point for your Bansky & Historical Harbor Walking Tour. This 2-hour tour is based around the central area of Bristol featuring history & architecture, modern street art, with photographic locations and insights into the world of Banksy. *Do NOT forget to bring your camera or smart phone!* It even includes a journey by boat across the harbor to the SS Great Britain, Bristol Museum and the M Shed. We've included entrance tickets to all 3 attractions, so you can visit them at your ease at the end of your walking tour, or the following two days. The balance of your evening is at leisure.

DAY 9 – BRISTOL – LOCAL TOURING

This morning make your way to your meeting point for your Sunrise Hot Air Balloon ride. Watch the sunrise or sunset over the Bristol skyline on a thrilling hot air balloon ride. Take off from Ashton Court Mansion House for a 1-hour flight and soar over city landmarks like Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol Cathedral and Queens Square. After admiring views of Bristol Harbor, the SS Great Britain and Bristol University from above, celebrate your safe landing with a glass of Champagne and a personalized flight certificate. The balance of your day is at leisure.



DAY 10 – BRISTOL - LOCAL TOURING



Today you have a day at leisure to relax or go explore the local area. Today would be an ideal day to see the Clifton Suspension Bridge, one of the world's greatest bridges! The Clifton Suspension Bridge - built 150 years ago - looms over Bristol - a symbol of the city and its

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creator Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Yet the great Victorian engineer's masterpiece was originally meant to look quite different.

Brunel had a profound impact on the West of England - and nowhere is this seen more than in Bristol. Not only does his Great Western Railway extend from London to Bristol, but the SS Great Britain he designed sits in the harbor - a harbor which Brunel himself had a hand in helping expand. Perched high above the Avon Gorge sits his crowning glory - The Clifton Suspension Bridge.



Brunel was aged just 24 - and already regarded as a great engineer - when his design for the bridge won a public competition. His original design had included sphinxes on the bridge's towers, but a lack of money forced Brunel to tone this down, resulting in the plainer towers we see today. "The original plans were for both towers to have an Egyptian style, which you can still see today in the shapes and the curve



at the top," said Laura Hilton from Clifton Suspension Bridge. "They were going to be decorated with iron panels showing the story of the bridge being built, and each one would have had two sphinxes sitting on top. When they started building they realized it was never going to be possible to put the decoration on, and Brunel redesigned the bridge in a plain format. While building a bridge across the gorge had been a dream for centuries, it was only the advent of the industrial revolution that made it possible. It

was first conceived in the 1700s by a wine merchant called William Vick who left £1,000 in his will to build a stone bridge across the gorge. At the time the technology meant it wasn't possible; but he was forward thinking. He left the money in trust to grow until it was £10,000. The technology did catch up - the answer, ultimately, was to build an iron suspension bridge."

Two competitions were held by the bridge committee to find a winning design and the contract was eventually awarded to Brunel. Construction began in 1831 but it suffered several setbacks and was not completed until 1864. Brunel died in 1859 and it was finally finished as a memorial to him. A lot of the early records were lost because it took so long to build, so we know very little about the men who were employed to build it. We only know of two recorded deaths which happened in the later stages of construction. About 99% of the iron work is still original and the bridge is expected to survive for many years to come.



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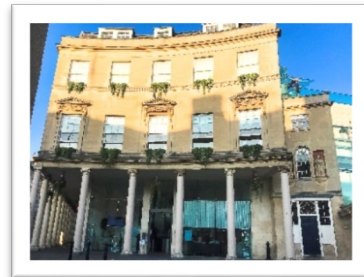


DAY 11 – BRISTOL/BATH

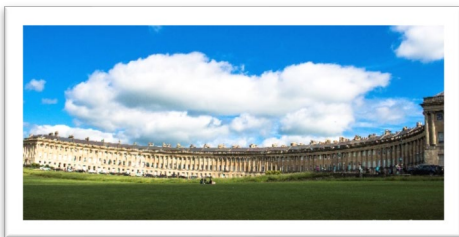


This morning after breakfast and checking out, you leave the merchant city of Bristol behind and make your way to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bath (*the drive should take you approximately 30 minutes*). Upon arrival into the "spa city" make your way to your meeting point for your 2-hour private guided tour of the city of Bath. Your tour will end in front of the Roman Baths, where you will be met in front of the main entrance and skip the lines for your 2-hour private guide tour of this amazing historical site. You have time for a leisurely lunch. We can further arrange a meal for you at the Jane Austin Center; offering a traditional English Tea and sandwiches. *Please advise us at time of booking if you would like us to include this option.*

After lunch we have included a special treat for you at the Thermae Bath Spa where past, present and future join for a special spa experience. Now, in the World Heritage city of Bath you can enjoy Britain's only natural thermal waters, as the Celts and Romans did over 2000 years ago.



Thermae Bath Spa is an award-winning day spa, combining the 'old and new'. The historic spa buildings, the Hot and Cross Baths blend with the contemporary design of the New Royal Bath. Together, they offer bathing in the warm, mineral-rich waters, a Wellness Suite and a range of spa treatments designed to ease the body and soothe the mind. A 50-minute Aromatherapy Massage and 2 hours in the Spa have been included with your package. You will not be allowed to use or bring your cell phone in the spa or treatment areas...prepare for a complete disconnect from technology and enjoy complete relaxation in this epic environment.



After the spa, make your way to the **Royal Crescent** – luxurious and historical 5 Star or similar, for a 3-night stay in king bedded room including daily English breakfast, and dinner for one of your 3 evenings. *Please advise us at time of booking when you would like us to make your dinner reservations.*

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Since its completion in 1775 the Royal Crescent has been enthralling its distinguished visitors - a building more magnificent than any I had seen' in the words of composer Joseph Haydn. This landmark terrace of 30 houses, its literal centerpiece the hotel at Nos. 15 and 16, stands as one of stately England's most familiar signatures. The one and original 'Crescent' is the outstanding architectural achievement of eighteenth-century Bath, a once-neglected Roman spa whose dramatic renaissance dates from the visit of the gout ridden Queen Anne in 1703. Hot on those royal (and sore) heels came the leisured classes of England, and Europe too, at first the infirm to bathe in, and drink down, the supposed health-giving mineral waters of the famous thermal baths. Bath's elegance and allure soon drew a more diverse clientele who, in distinguished man of letters Horace Walpole's memorable phrase, 'went there well, and returned cured'. A pleasure resort, in short, where everything went, and everyone too, among them the great, the good and the usual ragtag of charmers and chancers, to gamble at the hazard tables, to dance cotillions at the Assembly Rooms and to promenade along the Royal Crescent.



On 12th May 1767 a foundation stone was laid among fields fringing the north western edge of Bath. The stone marked the spot where a 'Pile of Building', as one bemused correspondent put it, was to rise above the rapidly expanding town. The inelegant phrase was forgivable; never before had a crescent-shaped terrace of attached houses been proposed. The architect, whose name was John Wood, intended that the new development would complement the nearby Circus which his father - John Wood Sr, commonly the Elder - had begun in 1754. The son's vision was of a majestic



classical façade arranged in a sweeping curve and to absolute exterior uniformity; John Wood the Younger would contract individual developers to build to the exact specifications - down to such particulars as white woodwork - that he demanded. The builders would be free, however, to create interiors and rears much as they or their clients saw fit: 'Queen Anne in front, Mary Anne behind,' as the contemporary quip put it. The Royal Crescent rapidly established itself as Bath's most desirable address. Seasonal residents, invariably rich and even royal, fell for the uninterrupted views over the River Avon and the proximity of the newly opened Upper Assembly Rooms, the most fashionable of Bath's concert, dancing and gambling venues. Elizabeth Montagu, the original 'bluestocking', wrote in 1779 of her mortification that she had had to settle for a house in the Colosseum-shaped Circus before she finally managed to secure one in the Crescent, in her opinion 'the pleasantest situation, as well as the most beautiful in its form of anything I ever beheld'. The Crescent's



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allure confirmed the shift in Bath's social gravity to the upper town. Visitors left the smuts and smells of the old town for the Crescent and the 'fields' below it to promenade after Sunday church and to 'breathe the fresh air of better company,' as Jane Austen wrote in Northanger Abbey. Invitations to the parties held in these grand townhouses were fiercely coveted. There were cultured 'bluestocking' soirées - erudite discussions over developments in politics and art, medicine, astronomy and agriculture - but there were also bibulous gambling sessions where fortunes were recklessly squandered, and honors impugned, and adversaries were challenged to dawn assignations on nearby Claverton Down, sometimes with fatal consequences. The suite names at The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa commemorate that colorful history.

DAY 12 – BATH - LOCAL TOURING



This morning after breakfast, make your way to the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Stonehenge where you will meet your guide in front of the ticket counter for your 10:00 AM appointment. You will skip the queue and meet your expert guide for your 2.5-hour private tour of the museum and prehistoric monument. This unique monument was constructed by human hand more than 5000 years ago. It is a gateway to ancient

Britain, through which you will get a glimpse of the secrets and stories of the Neolithic life. *You can combine this tour with Salisbury on Day 13 and free up part of the day to further explore the Great West Way®*

After your tour make your way to the Red Lion Freehouse (*approximately a 20-minute journey*) to enjoy an epic meal in a beautifully maintained pub. Your reservations are for 1:00PM. You should not rush through this meal, every course should be thoroughly relished and enjoyed.



After your lunch, make your way to the Avebury Manor, Gardens and Stone Circles. (the drive will take you approximately 35 minutes) **Make sure you bring a physical map or directions; phone, GPS, and other services are very poor and sometimes are not available at all in the area.** You will have to purchase your entrance to the Manor house upon arrival...in case you get lost, and to allow for flexibility; the Manor house closes at 5PM.

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DAY 13 – BATH – LOCAL TOURING



This morning after breakfast, make your way southeast approximately an hour's journey from the Great West Way® to the ancient market town of Salisbury; home to one of the finest churches in all of England. Known as 'the city in the countryside', Salisbury is surrounded by a landscape so quintessentially English it's almost too good to be true. If you pause on the edge of the water-meadows to take in the awesome sight of the Cathedral rising up from these lush green fields, it's easy to understand why Salisbury was named as one of the

world's Top 10 Cities to visit in 2015 by Lonely Planet. There is a wealth of things to do, events and places to make the perfect visit. Within the Chapter House at Salisbury Cathedral you'll find the best preserved of the four original Magna Carta manuscripts dating from 1215AD, celebrated within an exhibition which opened in early 2015 within the Cathedral's Chapter House. With timbered buildings, an Early English Gothic Cathedral home to the famous Magna Carta, a thriving market, a buzzing arts scene, museums and some of England's finest historic houses there are many things for you waiting to be explored...Within the Cathedral Close you'll find Arundells, Mompesson House, The Rifles Military Museum and the award-winning Salisbury Museum with its Wessex Gallery. Your Blue Badge Guide will be waiting for you at your prearranged meeting point for a full day of touring of the town and Cathedral.



Salisbury Cathedral is the tallest medieval structure in Great Britain and is simply sublime.



Join your private guide for a tour of this 13th century masterpiece in stone. Climb the tower to be rewarded with views that have charmed artists and writers. See one of the four original copies of that defining 1215 charter guaranteeing our democratic rights, Magna Carta.

Your local guide will lead you on a city walking tour to see a court where ill-fated convicts were transported to exile in Australia, an execution site with its 500-year-old ghost, and the world's only cinema with a 15th century foyer. You may even like to head out of town to Old Sarum, an abandoned Iron Age fortress that became an important 11th century base for Norman soldiers and churchmen, and much later an infamous parliamentary 'rotten borough'.

This private guided tour of Salisbury can be combined with Stonehenge and that will free up ½ the day on DAY 12 to further explore England's Great West Way®.

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DAY 14 – BATH/WINDSOR



After breakfast and check out you leave the ancient charm of Bath for Windsor. You can head northeast on the M4 and take a stop in Corsham for a nibble and short break to experience this quintessential village; and further on you can stop for lunch in the iconic Great West Way® town of Swindon; be sure to stop at the Museum of the Great Western Railway. Just be sure to arrive in Windsor by **2:00PM** for your private guided half day tour of Windsor and the Castle. Overnight stay at the **Castle**

Hotel Windsor - 4 Star, or similar (*subject to availability*) in a double classic room with daily English breakfast and VAT. (*Early check in will be requested but cannot be guaranteed*). The Castle Hotel is one of the most beautiful Georgian buildings in Windsor. It sits majestically on Windsor's quintessentially English High Street, in the town center, close to Windsor Castle and opposite Sir Christopher Wren's Windsor Guildhall. This new addition to the exclusive MGallery Collection is one of the most elegant buildings in Windsor - and is steeped in history.



Castle Hotel began life in 1528 as The Mermaid Inn – humbly brewing beer and cider for the people of Windsor: then scarcely a town of 1,000 people. However, in the 1700s the innkeeper Richard Martin was awarded the first of the hotel's eight Royal Warrants - to provide horses and carriages for the royal household - and the hotel grew with the population of Windsor to become one of the grandest hotels in town. By the 19th century Castle Hotel was unrivalled as the finest place to stay in Windsor and even the Duke of Wellington stepped in to dine after his victory over Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo.



The hotel stands as one of Windsor's oldest buildings: it was once a small 16th century inn with a few rooms for the local community - it grew to become the most fashionable of Windsor's hotels - and is now an exceptional boutique hotel with all the charm and character of its history preserved for local and international visitors. In service since the 15th century, and awarded eight Royal Warrants along the way, Castle Hotel is undergoing an intricate renovation which began in September 2015, blending the hotel's elegance and fascinating past with contemporary charm. After dropping your bags, you will be met in the lobby promptly at



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2:00PM by your private Blue Badge Guide and begin your tour of the local area and Royal Palace.

THE ROYAL PALACE IS THE LARGEST AND OLDEST CONTINUALLY INHABITED CASTLE IN THE WORLD, CURRENTLY RESIDENCE TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II.

Windsor Castle sits on a rock a hundred feet above the Thames and can be seen from miles around. Our Blue Badge guide will take you on a private guided tour of Windsor Castle. St George's Chapel is a medieval jewel. Burial place of ten monarchs, including Henry VIII and Charles I, the only British king to be tried and executed by order of his own people. Home to the prestigious Order of the Garter, its stunning Perpendicular Gothic vaulted roof is resplendent with the banners and heraldry of famous Knights of the realm.



Nestling inside the giant royal castle is an unexpectedly grand fantasy home: Queen Mary's Dolls' House, perfect to the tiniest detail with its miniature carpets, books, curtains, pictures, a cellar stocked with bottles of vintage French wine and even fully functioning bathrooms.

Your private guide will set you up to get the most from your visit of Windsor Castle. View the extraordinary State Apartments, among the finest interiors in Europe, rich in artistic treasures and royal history. You'll be walking literally in the footsteps of Presidents, Heads of State and VIPs from all over the world!

Visits to the castle can be accompanied by a walk down to the historic town of Eton and its ancient school – alma mater to 19 British Prime Ministers, Princes William and Harry, as well as actors Hugh Laurie (*House*) and Eddie Redmayne (*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*) and writers George Orwell (*1984*) and Ian Fleming (*James Bond*). **Admission tickets for Windsor Castle are included.** The balance of your day is at leisure



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DAY 15 - DEPARTURE

Departure; this morning you say goodbye to the beauty and charm of England and England's Great West Way®, and drive to London Heathrow Airport to return your vehicle and head home. Give yourself at least 3 hours in addition to your driving time (*the drive will take you approximately 30 minutes without traffic*) to the airport, you will need all the time to return your vehicle and to get thru security. This ends our services.



**Call us today to design your Adventure
to England &
England's Great West Way®!**

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Land Cost Includes

- ❖ **ACCOMODATIONS:** 14 nights as quoted, *subject to availability once deposit is received*. All rooms with private facilities; hotel taxes, service charges, daily English breakfast and VAT included.
- ❖ **CAR RENTAL:** Automatic rental car (Family) or similar for 10 days based on 24-hour periods-unlimited mileage, CDW, and tax included.
- ❖ **RAIL:** First class rail tickets.
- ❖ **PRIVATE LAND SERVICES:** As stated in the itinerary.
- ❖ **OTHER:** As stated in the itinerary.
- ❖ **SIGHTSEEING:** As stated in the itinerary.
- ❖ **ENTRANCE FEES:** As stated in the itinerary.
- ❖ **TRANSFERS:** As stated in the itinerary. *Please note that Indulgent Vacations & Destinations, Inc. must have full flight schedule in order to provide private transfers.* A supplement will apply to all transfers between the hours of 7PM and 7AM.
- ❖ **MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:** Communications costs; itinerary planning; documents portfolio sent by 2nd day delivery; assistance of our local staff while in Europe.

Does NOT include

Travel insurance; local city taxes (which must be settled direct) if applicable; personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, hotel extras, etc.; gratuities to local drivers and guides; meals except for daily breakfast; spirits and drinks; all other items not specifically mentioned above.

*IMPORTANT NOTES

***PRICE:** All rates will be **NETT PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY** and based on exchange rates of date quoted. Price is subject to change in the event of any major currency fluctuation. Final price **will be** based on rate of exchange at time of final payment. **The rate quoted can only be guaranteed by paying in full within 3 days after program has been confirmed with payment.**
**** rates are subject to change, based on availability and dates of travel.***

PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS: A \$ 250.00 per person deposit is due to confirm. (Check, Visa, Discover, MasterCard & American Express credit card payments are accepted.)

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Please refer to Indulgent Vacations & Destinations, Inc. Terms and Conditions. <http://www.indulgentvacations.com/terms-conditions/> **It is the travel agent's responsibility to inform clients of our terms and conditions, and the enclosed penalties.**

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