

TOUR COST AND INCLUSIONS

£550 person in a twin/double en-suite room **if National Trust Member**

OR £568 per person in a twin/double en-suite room (**Non-NT Member**)

*Further discounts may be available to **Art Fund Members** and **Museum Assoc Members** on application

Supplement for single occupancy of a double room £105

Non-Refundable Deposit: £120 per person payable on booking

INCLUDED

Return coaching to Leamington Spa to Dorset – touring quality executive coaching

Professional Tour Leader/Guide in Dorset

3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation at The Crown Hotel, Blandford with breakfast included

Three course dinner with coffee included on the first and last evening

All entries and private tours as per the tour schedule below

Refreshments at Breamore House on the final day

Chain Ferry Trip to Sandbanks from Studland

NOT INCLUDED

Optional Visits Day 1: Entry to Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury Museum or Mompesson House (NT)

Lunches, Evening meal on Day 2 and any other refreshments not mentioned above; suitable stops will be made

Tips/Gratuities

You are required to have up to date Travel Insurance for this trip which will cover you for cancellation due to illness or any other eventualities.

ALL MONIES PAID WILL BE REFUNDED IN FULL OR THE TOUR RESCHEDULED IF CANCELLED DUE TO COVID 19

***Note:** This tour involves a fair amount of walking, including walking on uneven surfaces. Unfortunately it may not be suitable for anyone with mobility problems. Please check with us if you are unsure about whether it is suitable for you or your travelling companions.*

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1: Monday 25th April 2022

We depart from the local area at 0830. En route to Dorset there will be a comfort stop before we arrive in Salisbury to explore attractions of our choice within the **Cathedral Close**. We will be joined here by Julia Morris, our tour leader and Blue Badge Guide for this break. Julia will be able to orientate you with the possibilities for visits and lunch as well as to provide an introduction to Salisbury Cathedral and The Close. There are many options (admission not included) - **Salisbury Cathedral**, which has its own refectory for snacks and lunches, **Mompesson House (NT)** which has a tearoom and small garden, **Salisbury Museum** has The Kings House Cafe and Salisbury's city centre shops, cafes and restaurants are within a short walk. We aim to arrive in Blandford late afternoon. This is our base for this three-night break. We can check into our rooms at **The Crown Hotel, Blandford** with time to we relax before a welcome drink and three course dinner. (included).

Day 2: Tuesday 26th April 2022

This morning we set off for a private viewing at **Sherborne Castle**. The elegantly appointed state rooms display a wealth of fine objects collected over a period of nearly four centuries by the Digby family. There are significant collections of art and antiques and the despatch box said to have been used for a royal marriage proposal. We round off this visit with time to view the castle gardens, and to take refreshments in the Castle Tea Rooms (not included). We then drive to Dorchester via through the pretty villages of the Cerne Valley. En route, will take a tour of **Poundbury** on the outskirts of Dorchester to chart the progress and learn about the ethos of this extensive development. There will be time for a refreshment stop in Queen Mothers Square. A short drive away is the county town of **Dorchester** where a highlights tour of the **Dorset County Museum** will introduce us to the **Jurassic Coast**, the important Roman town of "**Durnovaria**" and **The Artists Gallery**, a beautiful gallery full of the Museum's superb collections of paintings, sculptures and print. A major part of the gallery is dedicated to sculptor Elisabeth Frink who loved and worked in Dorset for many years. Afterwards, it is a short drive back to our hotel in Blandford. Dinner is not included this evening; however, you will be able to book a table independently in the restaurant or maybe just enjoy a more substantial lunch during the day and enjoy a wander around Blandford in the evening.

Day 3: Wednesday 27th April 2022

After breakfast. We depart for **Kingston Lacy House** near Wimborne Minster. Our tour commences before the house opens to the public and will focus on the incredible art collection and the stories that it has to tell. We can then explore the formal gardens, the tea garden, Japanese Garden and purchase lunch/refreshments in The Stables Cafe. Our next visit is to **Athelhampton House**, dating back to 1485 and a magnificent example of early Tudor architecture. Its tranquil setting is enhanced by a superb example of a 19th century Italianate Garden with a court of Yew pyramids. At the end of the visit, we take a short drive to Blandford with time to relax before a three-course dinner (included) at the hotel.

Day 4: Thursday 28th April 2022

We check out of the hotel after breakfast and we take a scenic route to Bournemouth via the village of **Corfe Castle** and the **Studland Chain Ferry**. This short crossing has wonderful views to **Brownsea Island**, **Poole Harbour** and **Sandbanks** - some of the most beautiful coastal areas Dorset has to offer. At **The Russell Cotes Gallery** in Bournemouth, there will be an introduction to the collections and free time to view independently. We the drive to Fordingbridge on the edge of the New Forest for our final visit on this tour. This is to **Breamore House**, an Elizabethan manor house noted for its fine collection of paintings and furniture. WE hope to have a private tour with the owner, and, after refreshments (included), we make our way to our local area with an approximate arrival time of 1930/2000.

