

CHICHESTER
CATHEDRAL
American Patrons

A Special
Sussex
Experience

31st May -
4th June
2021



Monday 31st May



Petworth House and Gardens

The historic county of **Sussex** is situated in the South of England, an area with charming countryside, quaint villages, and a stunning coastline. Our tour will include visits and special access to the remarkable houses and gardens in this programme. Notably, we will be given a special welcome by the Dean of Chichester, and by the families of many of the great historic houses of Sussex.

Front cover: Chichester Cathedral

Back cover: Bishop's Palace Garden, Chichester

Afternoon arrivals:

There will be the option to travel from central London to Chichester by private coach, or independently. We check in to **The Cathedral Close**, our unique accommodation within the walls of Chichester Cathedral. Offering the convenience of a city centre location whilst enjoying the comfort of the peace of the inner Cathedral grounds, you will have ample time during your stay to explore this fascinating historical setting. It is an ideal base for the city of Chichester with its museum, galleries, world-famous theatre, fabulous restaurants and independent shops.

Free time to relax.

Evening:

We travel the short distance by coach to **The Kennels at Goodwood**, the private club for the sporting members of the Goodwood Estate, where we enjoy a welcome drinks reception and private dinner. Designed by James Wyatt for the 3rd Duke of Richmond's hounds, The Kennels is situated in a pastoral setting. The menu focus is on produce from the Estate's own organic farm.



Cathedral Close

Tuesday 1st June

Morning:

Breakfast at The Cathedral Close.

We begin our morning with a visit to **Charleston**, a unique farmhouse in East Sussex that was the country retreat of the unconventional Bloomsbury Group. The farmhouse itself was a very ordinary 16th-century building when painters Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant arrived in 1916, accompanied by their two sons and Grant's lover David Garnet. Inspired by Italian frescoes, they transformed Charleston with wall paintings and vibrant decoration. For the following 50 years it was a liberating and colourful country retreat for their family, friends and artistic associates. Charleston was the antithesis of Victorian polite society, with Leonard and Virginia Woolf (Bell's sister), E. M. Forster, John Maynard Keynes, T.S. Eliot and Roger Fry all frequent visitors. Charleston also boasts an abundant garden, designed by Roger Fry, which was frequently painted by both Bell and Grant. Much like the house interior, the garden is also artistic, colourful and somewhat unruly.

Lunch:

We enjoy lunch in a local Sussex pub.



Charleston



Long Gallery, Parham House

Afternoon:

This afternoon, we are warmly welcomed to **Parham House** by Lady Emma Barnard. One of the finest Elizabethan houses in the country, the estate was originally owned by the Monastery of Westminster and granted to Robert Palmer by King Henry VIII in 1540. Located in the heart of an ancient deer park below the South Downs, the house is a beautifully preserved example of Elizabethan life. The spectacular Long Gallery, the third longest in England, runs the entire length of the house. There are two gardens at Parham: the 18th-century Pleasure Grounds, seven acres of rolling lawns, a lake, specimen trees, and fine garden statuary; and the magnificent four-acre walled garden with herbaceous borders of Edwardian opulence, herb and vegetable gardens, and greenhouses.

We return to The Cathedral Close for some free time.

Evening:

We walk the short distance to **Pallant House Gallery**, home to a world-class British modern art collection housed in an historic Queen Anne townhouse with a striking contemporary extension. We enjoy a private drinks reception in the courtyard garden, followed by dinner in the restaurant.

Wednesday 2nd June



Arundel Castle

Morning:

Breakfast at The Cathedral Close.

Our first visit today is to **Arundel Castle**, which was established in 1067 by Roger de Montgomery, the first Earl of Arundel and a cousin of William the Conqueror. The castle was built in the motte and bailey style and the oldest surviving feature is the motte itself, an artificial mound over 100 feet above the dry moat and constructed in 1068. The majority of the stone castle was constructed in the 12th century under King Henry II, who then confirmed William d'Albini II as Earl of Arundel. Arundel Castle has descended directly from 1138 to the present day, through a line of female heiresses from the d'Albinis to the Fitzalans in the 13th century and then from the Fitzalans to the Howards in the 16th century and it has been the seat of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors for over 850 years. The current Duke of Norfolk will welcome us, and we will enjoy a private tour of this magnificent castle.

We pause for coffee, after which we enjoy a guided tour around the Castle Gardens with Head Gardener, Martin Duncan. Today the walled gardens include the internationally renowned Collector Earl's Garden, created by Isabel and Julian Bannerman, designers of the Stumpery at Highgrove for HRH The Prince of Wales. The garden is a tribute to Thomas Howard, 14th Earl of Arundel (1585 – 1646), known as 'The Collector', and opened by Prince Charles in 2008. We also explore the hot and cool herbaceous borders and the Cut Flower and Organic Kitchen Gardens that supply the Castle with fresh fruit, vegetables, and cut flowers.

A rare lean-to peach house and vinery, originally built in 1850 by Clarke & Hope, has been restored to its former glory and houses exotic fruit and vegetables. The Fitzalan Chapel has its own delightful garden planted charmingly in white; and there is also the Rose Garden, in what was once a medieval bowling green, which has been newly planted with old-fashioned English roses.

Lunch:

We make our way to lunch at **Butlers**, a popular bistro located in the heart of Arundel. Inspired by the finest seasonal local produce, the menu offers modern British and European dishes, served in a relaxed contemporary atmosphere.



Arundel Castle Gardens

Thursday 3rd June



Arundel

Afternoon:

After lunch, we invite you to enjoy the wonderful shops and sights of **Arundel**. We suggest a stroll along Tarrant Street or perhaps a short walk to St. Nicholas' Church.

We drive to the **West Sussex Records Office** in Chichester, where we enjoy a private tour given by County Archivist, Wendy Walker. The Archives are home to a parchment manuscript of the signed US Declaration of Independence, discovered in the archives in 2017; the manuscript has undergone extensive tests carried out by Harvard University to prove its authenticity. It is only the second parchment manuscript copy known to exist besides the one kept in the National Archives in Washington D.C.

Evening:

We travel back to The Cathedral Close, where the evening is at leisure for individual arrangements. We would recommend the renowned Chichester Festival Theatre or the array of delightful restaurants that Chichester has to offer.

Morning:

Breakfast at The Cathedral Close.

This morning we make our way to **Uppark House and Garden**, where we are welcomed by the family and enjoy an exclusive tour of the family's private apartments. Uppark House is a particularly fine, early 18th-century mansion in extensive parkland gardens perched high on the South Downs ridge. It features an exquisite collection of curiosities, fine art and decorative objects, most of which were collected by Sir Matthew Featherstonhaugh on his Grand Tour of Europe in 1755.

Both Humphry Repton and Capability Brown are believed to have been involved with the planning of the estate, which features serpentine walks and the neo-classical 'Rotunda' which sits high on the Great Mount. During the 1880s, the famous science fiction writer H.G. Wells spent some time at Uppark after his mother became Housekeeper. Wells immersed himself in the remarkable library, sparking his pursuit of a literary career.



Uppark House and Garden



West Dean Gardens

Continue to the **private garden of Daphne Hanbury**, one of our American Patrons committee members. Originally from Memphis, Daphne is a descendant of one of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence, and has kindly offered to share her beautiful showcase garden.

Lunch:

We make a short journey to the **private residence of Antonia Christie**, another committee member, who is generously opening her home to us for a casual lunch. The Manor House was originally a farm house and the 17th century origins remain within a now much extended house. It was largely built from the local clunch stone and has gorgeous views up to the South Downs and Torberry Hill (a Scheduled Ancient monument site).

Afternoon:

We drive to **West Dean Gardens**, one of the most significant restored gardens open to the public and listed Grade II on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The gardens date back to 1622 when the original manor house was built by James Lewkenor. The 19th century saw the gardens extended and redesigned several times, including the addition of a sunken garden, impressive working Victorian Glasshouses and a 300ft Edwardian pergola. Following the Great Storm of 1987, the gardens were restored and transformed, garnering international acclaim for the quality and variety of horticultural practice.

We return to The Cathedral Close for some free time.

Evening:

This evening we are welcomed to **Goodwood House** for a private tour of the house and its extensive art collection. It is one of England's great estates and home to the Dukes of Richmond, direct descendants of King Charles II, for over three hundred years.

The house, one of the great historic houses of England, was built c.1600 and is a Grade I listed building. Two additional wings were added in 1791 to accommodate the extensive family art collection after their principal residence in London burnt down. The collection, amassed by ten generations of collectors, spans tapestry, porcelain and painting; highlights include works by Van Dyck, Canaletto and Reynolds.

Following the tour, we enjoy a very **special private dinner** at Goodwood House.



Goodwood House

Friday 4th June



Petworth House and Park

Morning:

Breakfast at The Cathedral Close.

We start our day at **Petworth House and Park**, where we are greeted by Lord Egremont. Modelled on Baroque European palaces, Petworth House has been a family home for 900 years, with the grand state rooms designed to showcase the impressive family art collection. The building dates from 1682, when heiress Elizabeth Percy, daughter to the 11th Earl of Northumberland, married Charles Seymour, the 6th Duke of Somerset.

The third Earl of Egremont was a great patron of the arts, and welcomed his artist friend J.M.W. Turner as a guest many times during the early 1800s, where he drew inspiration from both the opulent interiors and majestic landscape. Turner's works are amongst the important collection of European paintings on display today, as well as masterpieces by van Dyck, Titian, Reynolds and Gainsborough, together with classical and neoclassical sculptures.

We pause for coffee, before enjoying some time to explore the grounds. The gardens of Petworth House are the work of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, who throughout the 1750s and 60s removed the existing formal gardens and imposing driveway and replaced them with a meandering lake and rolling hills. The surrounding parkland is home to over 900 deer, contributing to the seemingly wild and idyllic style for which Capability Brown is renowned.

Lunch:

We walk the short distance into Petworth for lunch at **The Angel Inn**, a historic inn in the centre of this very pretty Sussex town.

Afternoon:

Following lunch, there will be time to wander through the narrow streets of Petworth, with time to explore the multitude of fine antique shops, boutiques, book stores and art galleries.



Petworth

Saturday 5th June

Return to The Cathedral Close to change for dinner.

Evening:

We enjoy a special gala evening, commencing with an invitation from the Dean of Chichester, the Very Reverend Stephen Waine, to a champagne reception and special tour of **Chichester Cathedral's Festival of Flowers**. This much-anticipated biennial event sees volunteer flower arrangers adorn the cathedral and its environs with stunning floral designs.

Following the tour, we enjoy a very special final **private dinner at Chichester Cathedral** as guests of the Dean, The Very Reverend Stephen Waine.



Chichester Cathedral Festival of Flowers



South Harting from Harting Down

Morning:

Breakfast at The Cathedral Close.

Departure from Chichester for central London by private coach, or independent departures.

Tour arrangements by:
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