

11 DAYS

CASTLES AND MANORS OF ENGLAND (SELF DRIVE)



Day 1. London – Pick Up Car & Drive to Stratford-upon-Avon via Oxford & Blenheim Palace

Collect hire car in London. Drive west to Oxford – the extraordinary university city. Continue to Blenheim Palace – the extraordinary baroque palace, birthplace of Winston Churchill (UNESCO World Heritage), with extraordinary state rooms, Marlborough collections and gardens designed by Capability Brown. Continue to Stratford-upon-Avon: Shakespeare's Birthplace. Overnight in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Day 2. Stratford-upon-Avon – Shakespeare Sites & Kenilworth Castle

Full day Shakespeare sites: Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Mary Arden's Farm, Holy Trinity Church, Hall's Croft. Kenilworth Castle – the extraordinary ruined Elizabethan castle associated with Robert Dudley and Queen Elizabeth I, the setting of Walter Scott's famous novel. Overnight in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Day 3. Stratford to York – Yorkshire Dales & National Railway Museum

Drive north through the extraordinary Yorkshire Dales – the sublime limestone landscape of fells, dales and stone villages. York: National Railway Museum – the world's greatest railway museum, with extraordinary historic locomotives including Mallard (world's fastest steam locomotive). Overnight in York.

Day 4. York – Minster, Castle Howard & Goathland

York Minster – the largest Gothic minster in northern Europe. Castle Howard – the extraordinary baroque stately home of the 1981 *Brideshead Revisited*, with extraordinary state rooms and grounds. Goathland Station – famous as Hogsmeade Station in the Harry Potter films. Overnight in York.

Day 5. York to Lake District – Drive via Hadrian's Wall

Drive west through the Yorkshire Dales to the Lake District via Hadrian's Wall – the extraordinary Roman frontier, 73 miles long, built from 122 AD to mark the northern limit of the Roman Empire. Housesteads Roman Fort. Arrive in the Lake District: Windermere. Overnight in Lake District.

Day 6. Lake District – Wordsworth Sites & Lake Cruise

Lake Windermere cruise. Dove Cottage (Wordsworth). Rydal Mount. Beatrix Potter's Hill Top. Overnight in Lake District.

Day 7. Lake District to Chester – Beatles Heritage in Liverpool

Drive south via Liverpool: Beatles heritage – Cavern Club, Mathew Street, Royal Albert Dock. Continue to Chester – the extraordinary Roman walled city with extraordinary medieval Rows (covered galleries above the shops) and the most complete Roman walls in Britain. Overnight in Chester.

Day 8. Chester to Bath – Shrewsbury Castle & Ironbridge Gorge

Drive south via Shrewsbury: Shrewsbury Castle – the extraordinary red sandstone Norman castle. Ironbridge Gorge – the extraordinary birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, with the world's first iron bridge (1779), UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue to Bath. Overnight in Bath.

Day 9. Bath – Roman Baths, Royal Crescent & Stonehenge

Roman Baths – the extraordinary Roman bathing complex around the sacred spring. Royal Crescent – the extraordinary Georgian terrace. Stonehenge day trip. Overnight in Bath.

Day 10. Bath to Windsor – Longleat & Windsor Castle

Drive east via Longleat – the extraordinary Elizabethan country house with the first safari park outside Africa. Windsor Castle – the world's largest occupied castle, official residence of the British monarch, with extraordinary State Apartments and St George's Chapel. Overnight in Windsor.

Day 11. Windsor & London – Departure

Final morning at Windsor. Drive to Heathrow (20 minutes from Windsor) for onward travel.

Must see ATTRACTIONS



Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire



Shakespeare's Birthplace,
Stratford-upon-Avon



Kenilworth Castle



The Yorkshire Dales



The Goathland ('Harry Potter')
Station, North Yorkshire



Hadrian's Wall



Shrewsbury Castle



Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire



Longleat Safari and
Adventure Park, Wiltshire

ACCOMMODATION

Options

Bath



The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa Bath
Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa Bath
Gainsborough Bath Spa



Bailbrook House Hotel Bath
Abbey Hotel Bath
Francis Hotel Bath



Premier Inn Bath City Centre
ibis Bath
Holiday Inn Express Bath

London



The Savoy London
The Ritz London
Claridge's London



Park Plaza Westminster Bridge London
Leonardo Royal London City
Hyatt Regency London The Churchill



Hub by Premier Inn London King's Cross
Travelodge London Central City Road
ibis London Blackfriars



Must try FOOD



Roast Dinner

A British roast dinner is a hot, sit-down meal typically served on Sundays – hence the term 'A Sunday Roast'; at its heart, it features roasted meat – beef, chicken, lamb or pork, accompanied by roast potatoes, a variety of vegetables, gravy, and Yorkshire puddings; what makes a roast dinner special is its sense of occasion.



Bath Soft Cheese

A square, hand-made artisan cheese with a soft, white bloomy rind and a luxuriously creamy centre, this brie-style cheese is made to an original centuries' old recipes by local Bath farmers using the milk from their farm's own herds; each cheese is wrapped in parchment and sealed with red wax, a tradition that dates back to the 1700s.



Pasty Barm

Also known as a pastie barm cake or a pastie flour cake, this is a fast food dish native to the North West area of England; it consists of a buttered barm cake with a standard meat and potato pasty as the filling; the snack was supposedly invented by Bolton schoolboys in the 1950s as a "cheap dinner".

RESTAURANT

Options

Halal Certified

Bath

1. Al-Baraka Bath – Middle Eastern halal restaurant near Bath city centre
2. Istanbul Bath – Turkish halal grill near Bath Spa station, good value lunch menu
3. Rajpoot Tandoori Bath – Indian halal restaurant, Bath's longest-established curry house
4. Medina Bath – North African halal cuisine near the Roman Baths, tagine and couscous
5. Halal Kitchen Bath – International halal food near Pulteney Bridge, family-friendly

London

1. Dishoom – Celebrated Bombay-style café, halal-certified, branches across London, legendary bacon naan
2. Tayyabs – Legendary Pakistani halal restaurant in Whitechapel, famous lamb chops, always busy
3. Roti Chai – Indian street food, halal-certified, near Oxford Street, excellent lunch thali
4. Bayswater Grill – Lebanese and Arabic halal grill, Bayswater, popular with Gulf visitors
5. Ferdosi – Persian cuisine, halal-certified, Kensington, renowned for lamb koobideh and saffron rice

