

Exclusive England & Wales Tour with The Old Country Store, May 12-22, 2024

Includes special emphasis on quilts,
textiles, and fabric!



Tour Hosts – Dean and Jan Mast

May 12, 2024 – Sunday

Windsor Castle - Windsor SL4 1NJ, United Kingdom



Options include:

The Precincts Tour

We'll start our day with a 30-minute tour of the Castle Precincts, learning about its past as a fortress and palace, from 1070 when William the Conqueror first built the castle to its role as an official royal residence.

Audio tour with King Charles III

Pick up a free audio guide for a tour introduced by King Charles III to guide you throughout the castle.

St George's Chapel

Admire the intricate gothic architecture of St George's Chapel where lie the tombs of 10 monarchs, including Charles I, Henry VIII and his third wife Jane Seymour.

The State Apartments

Explore the glorious State Apartments, which are used to host official visits. Don't miss the lavishly decorated Grand Reception Room, complete with glittering chandeliers, as well as rooms built for Charles II, who hoped to rival the grandeur of Versailles.

Changing the Guard

This colorful ceremony marking the changeover of duties doesn't only take place at Buckingham Palace. Enjoy Changing the Guard.

Queen Mary's Dolls' House

Marvel at the incredibly detailed doll house built for Queen Mary in the 1920s. It is a perfect replica of an aristocratic home and even has electricity, running water, and a library of 700 miniature books.

The Moat Room

See how Windsor Castle developed by viewing three largescale bronze models showing how the castle looked at different moments in time. See also an overview of the castle's 950-year history.

Fine art

The castle is full of amazing paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens and Canaletto in the State Apartments. See changing selections from the Royal Collection in the Drawings Gallery, including major works by Leonardo, Holbein, Michelangelo, and Raphael.

SUNDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: **The Montague on the Gardens** ★★★

<https://montaguehotel.com/>

📍 15 Montague St, London WC1B 5BJ, United Kingdom -

The Blue Door Bistro - Welcome Dinner at the hotel



May 13, 2024 – Monday

Day with Anthony Robbins, well-known Quilts and Textiles Guide

10am: *Quilting as craft* – a visit to the Tate Modern, including discovering the *Inherited Threads* Gallery.

12.30pm: Lunch stop Anthony will make suggestions

2.30pm: *Textiles – a Short History*. A visit to the Fashion and Textile Museum Bermondsey. It includes clothes and textiles made, sold, bought and worn in London from the 16th century to the present. We will see clothing made by London fashion houses including hardy Amies and Mary Quant and garments made for the Royal family.

4.30pm: *Worn-In Not Worn Out – Textiles in Action*.

A trip to Shoreditch to Brick Lane Vintage Market. Alternatively, we could explore sustainable luxury in Islington's Camden Passage Market – at [Magpie Vintage](#) – London N1.



High Tea at the Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon at Fortnum & Mason



📍 4th Floor, Fortnum & Mason, 181 Piccadilly, St. James's, London

A CHOICE OF Victoria Lobster Omelette with Truffle Hafod Cheese Soufflé with Honey Vinaigrette Welsh Rarebit with Oven Dried Tomato and Charred Leeks Cornish Turbot, Asparagus and Wild Garlic Butter Sauce Crispy Hen's Egg with Pancetta and Pea Velouté Rhug Estate Lamb and Spring Green Risotto.

SCONES Plain and Fruit Scones Fortnum's Strawberry Preserve and Lemon Curd Served with Somerset Clotted Cream.
PÂTISSERIES Rose Éclair Dark Chocolate and Raspberry Cup Elderflower Jelly and Meadowsweet Cream Tartlet Earl Grey Mousse with Bergamot Jelly Black Cherry Mousse.



Time for shopping at Fortnum & Mason

7:00 p.m. – Free evening in London

MONDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: [The Montague on the Gardens](#) ★★★

📍 15 Montague St, London WC1B 5BJ, United Kingdom –

May 14, 2024 – Tuesday

Victoria & Albert Museum and William Morris Gallery



Victoria and Albert Museum

From luxurious 17th-century courtly robes to a quilt stitched by 21st-century prison inmates, the V&A holds a rich variety of objects created through quilting and patchwork.



Welcome to the home of the world's largest collection of William Morris' work.



William Morris Gallery

Lloyd Park House, 531 Forest Rd, London E17 4PP, United Kingdom -

William Morris Gallery. William Morris (24 March 1834 – 3 October 1896) was a British textile designer, poet, novelist, translator, and socialist activist. Associated with the British Arts and Crafts Movement, he was a major contributor to the revival of traditional British textile arts and methods of production. We will see an internationally important collection illustrating his life achievements and influences.

Dinner and Cruise on the River Thames

We'll enjoy dinner as we sail past the iconic sights of the city, including a unique view of the Houses of Parliament, London Bridge, Tower Bridge, the Docklands and the Millennium Dome. Savor both a delicious meal as well as live entertainment with a selection of songs from the musical *West End*.



TUESDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: *The Montague on the Gardens* ★★★

 15 Montague St, London WC1B 5BJ, United Kingdom

May 15, 2024 – Wednesday

The Manor, Hemingford Gray - Patchworks



Lucy Boston's patchwork collection can be viewed at The Manor, Hemingford Grey. We'll have the unusual opportunity to see this world class patchwork collection in the very house in which the patchworks were made.

Lucy Boston's Patchwork of the Crosses is one of the ten best known patchworks in the world. With 20 stitches to the inch, it looks as if Lucy was helped by the Tailor of Gloucester's mouse!



The Cock

📍 47 High St, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE28 9BJ, United Kingdom -



2 course lunch + tea/coffee

WEDNESDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: No.1 by GuestHouse, York 1 Clifton, York YO30 6AA



May 16, 2024 – Thursday

Quilters Guild of the British Isles and free time in York

Quilters' Guild of The British Isles 📍 St Anthony's Hall Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PW

**OPTION for Free Afternoon in York –
(Additional options outlined Friday afternoon.)**

Castle Howard

📍 Castle Howard, York YO60 7DA, United Kingdom -



York Minster - Any of the three evenings would work - Evensong – 5:30 p.m. every evening

📍 Deangate, York YO1 7HH, United Kingdom -



THURSDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: No.1 by GuestHouse, York

📍 1 Clifton, York YO30 6AA, United Kingdom -

May 17, 2024 – Friday

The Bowes Museum – including Private Tour

Newgate, Barnard Castle DL12 8NP, United Kingdom



The Bowes Museum has a nationally renowned art collection and is situated in the town of Barnard Castle, Teesdale, County Durham, England. The museum contains paintings by El Greco, Francisco Goya, Canaletto, Jean-Honoré Fragonard and François Boucher, together with a sizable collection of decorative art, ceramics, textiles, tapestries, clocks and costumes, as well as older items from local history.

The early works of French glassmaker Émile Gallé were commissioned by Joséphine, wife of the founder John Bowes.



PRIVATE TOUR: Fashion & Textile Curator, Rachel Whitworth, will exhibit and discuss six beautiful quilts from the collection within the Fashion & Textile Gallery, which will be closed to the public during this our time.

A great attraction at the Bowes Museum is the 18th-century Silver Swan automaton, which periodically preens itself, looks round and appears to catch and swallow a fish.

York – Afternoon free-time for some personal sightseeing!



1. York Minster

Discover one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, a masterpiece in stained glass and stone and a sacred space which has been at the center of Christianity in the north of England since the 7th century.

The Minster was built for the glory of God and this is reflected in every aspect of this ancient building, from the exquisite handcrafted stone through to the unrivalled collection of medieval stained glass.



Marvel at the Great East Window, the largest single expanse of medieval stained glass in the country, take a guided tour filled with stories from the building's 800-year history or visit the Undercroft Museum to explore the remains of a Roman barracks and the cathedral's links to Viking York.

Climb the 275 steps of the Central Tower for panoramic views of the city or take a Hidden Minster Tour to discover spaces normally closed to public access. Additional charges apply.



2. Walking the Medieval City Walls

A walk round the walls takes about 2 hours and offers an opportunity to see the main features of the walls. There are four main bars, or fortified gateways, two smaller gateways with more modern stonework and one postern, frequent intermediate towers, and details like windows, arrow-slits and gun ports, sculptures, and masons' marks.





3. Clifford's Tower Immerse yourself in centuries of history at one of York's most iconic sites and experience stunning views over the ancient city. Built to subdue the rebellious north by William the Conqueror, Clifford's Tower has been a royal mint, a medieval stronghold and a Civil War garrison.

4. York Castle Museum See hundreds of years of York's history in one place – from recreated Jacobean dining rooms to the world famous recreated Victorian Street, Kirkgate. The interactive and immersive galleries hold thousands of historic objects.

5. Ramble through the Shambles

Shambles is one of York's most famous landmarks and one of the best-preserved medieval shopping streets in Europe. With its cobbled streets and overhanging


buildings, it is believed to have been the inspiration behind Diagon Alley from the movie adaptation of the Harry Potter series. Today, the beautiful old buildings have been restored and now house cheerful cafés, quirky boutiques and a coin & stamp dealer, chocolate and sweets shops, clothes and accessories and gift shops.

6. National Railway Museum

Escape the day-to-day and join National Railway Museum for a journey through time. Get up close to icons of the rails including Mallard, the world's fastest steam locomotive. Discover how high-speed rail travel began and journey back in time to experience the working life of a station. Explore over 200 years of history and find out how railways shaped our world.

 **Dinner at Hotel**

FRIDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: No.1 by GuestHouse, York

 1 Clifton, York YO30 6AA, United Kingdom -

May 18, 2024 - Saturday

Macclesfield Silk Museum Private Tour

📍 Park Ln, Macclesfield SK11 6TJ, United Kingdom -



Tread the original floorboards of this nineteenth century mill and you will be able to absorb the sights and sounds of what makes it so special. The color of the threads, the sound of the warp and weft as your guide demonstrates what it was like to weave on a silk Jacquard handloom. Here you can discover the heart of the silk industry in an original mill setting.

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Forge Mill Needle Museum 📍 Needle Mill Ln, Redditch B98 8HY, United Kingdom -

[Forge Mill Needle Museum](#) in Redditch is an unusual and fascinating place to visit. This historic site illustrates the rich heritage of the needle and fishing tackle industries. Models and recreated scenes provide a vivid illustration of how needles were once made, and how Redditch once produced 90% of the world's needles.

SATURDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: [Queens Hotel Cheltenham](#) ★★★★★

📍 The Promenade, Cheltenham GL50 1NN, United Kingdom -



May 19, 2024 - Sunday

Guided walk in Bath, free time and afternoon tea



Morning walking tour of Bath

📍 **Bath, United Kingdom** –

This morning we enjoy a tour of Bath with a local guide. Founded around naturally occurring hot springs, the Romans built baths and a temple. Bath has been listed as a world heritage city. During the Georgian period, it became a popular spa resort. We will see the Roman Baths and Georgian assembly rooms, as well as the beautiful terraces, built during Georgian times.





The Royal Crescent Hotel - afternoon tea

📍 16 Royal Cres, Bath BA1 2LS, United Kingdom –

The Royal Crescent Hotel afternoon tea ultimate indulgence – Afternoon Tea in perfect English gardens. Enjoy a selection of delicious sandwiches, cut to mouth-watering perfection.

Then there are our freshly-baked scones with clotted cream and strawberry preserve along with a range of exquisite pastries and cakes – each one dainty enough to eat in one delicious mouthful.

This most decadent of British traditions is complemented by a choice of Ronnefeldt teas from around the world.



SUNDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: **Queens Hotel Cheltenham** ★★★★★

📍 The Promenade, Cheltenham GL50 1NN, United Kingdom -

May 20, 2024 – Monday

Visit Wales capital city Cardiff

St. Fagans National Museum of History - Curators Tour - quilts and textiles

📍 St Fagans, Cardiff CF5 6XB, United Kingdom -

Quilt Collection:

The collection of quilting and patchwork at Amgueddfa Cymru contains examples of bedcovers from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, together with smaller items such as cushion covers, linings from christening baskets, eighteenth-century petticoats and a christening gown worn by Peter Morgan of Golden Grove in 1722. The quilt collection at the Museum dates back to the 1930s. Although a few examples of quilts had been donated to the Museum in 1914, no systematic collecting had been undertaken prior to the establishment of the Department of Folk Culture and Industries in 1932.

This museum has been Wales's most popular heritage attraction for many years. It holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Wales. This is because St Fagans is a people's museum, where we explore history together through people's everyday lives. <https://museum.wales/stfagans>

Cardiff Castle - Connoisseur Tour

📍 Castle St, Cardiff, United Kingdom -

Cardiff Castle is located in the heart of Cardiff City in the southern part of Wales.

Cardiff Castle dates back to the 11th century, built on top of a 3rd-century Roman fort, with later additions and reconstructions. Through the ages, it has played a major defensive role and was

repeatedly involved in various conflicts. It was even used as an air raid shelter during World War II, where the shelters were built in the castle walls, able to hold up to 1,800 people.

Needless to say, this prominent castle and the Victorian Gothic revival mansion have become the major landmark buildings of Cardiff City. Today, Cardiff Castle and the surrounding grounds are very popular tourist attractions, also housing the Firing Line regimental museum and interpretation center. It is also a venue for various events, such as musical performances and festivals.



MONDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: Queens Hotel Cheltenham

📍 The Promenade, Cheltenham GL50 1NN, United Kingdom -

Dinner and wine tasting at hotel

May 21, 2024 – Tuesday

Royal School of Needlework

📍 12a Hampton Ct Rd, Molesey, East Molesey KT8 9AU, United Kingdom -



Private visit:

Today we visit Hampton Court Palace, which is an interesting place to learn about the lives of British Monarchs from Henry VIII onwards. We will enjoy a talk at the Royal School of Needlework on their work bringing historical textiles back to life. We will see superb needlework produced by the students.

There will be free time to shop at The Royal Needlework Shop, which sells high quality kits and supplies, before travelling to Creative Quilting, which houses about a thousand bolts. It has shop samples and a generous selection of patterns and books.



Hampton Court Palace

📍 Hampton Ct Way, Molesey, East Molesey KT8 9AU, United Kingdom -

Time at Hampton Court Palace:

The splendid formal gardens, elegant, cobbled courtyards and magnificent Tudor and Baroque architecture of Hampton Court Palace in East Molesey make this 500-year old treasure a spectacular must visit attraction in Surrey.

Immerse yourself in the greatest and most authentic Tudor experience in the world. Explore the home of Henry VIII, his wives and children, experiencing their public dramas and private lives in the unique world of the Tudor court.

- Admire Henry's Great Hall, discover the infamous Haunted Gallery and soak up the sights and smells in the Tudor kitchens.
- Then experience a second palace – a baroque masterpiece by Sir Christopher Wren built for William III and Mary II – its spectacular views and ornamental gardens providing a fascinating glimpse of Stuart and Georgian privilege.
- The gardens are as spectacular and varied as Hampton Court Palace itself.
- Families love the Magic Garden, open daily from late March – October. Come face to face with mysterious mythical beasts, storm the battlements and explore the secret grotto.
- Discover the Great Fountain Garden with historic yew trees, sparkling fountains and the longest herbaceous mixed flower border in Britain.
- Lose yourself in the world-famous maze.
- Enjoy the stunning symmetrical Privy Garden, built to an original 17th century design, showcasing historical planting and magnificent marble sculptures.

TUESDAY OVERNIGHT LODGING: Sofitel London Heathrow

📍 Terminal 5 London Heathrow Airport, London TW6 2GD, United Kingdom –

Dinner at hotel

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 - Departure day