

HARTWELL HOUSE & SPA

VALE OF AYLESBURY



PROPOSED ITINERARY

DAY 1 – Explore Hartwell’s gardens and visit nearby National Trust properties

Arrive at the hotel, take a Trees Map from reception and follow the walking trail around the 90 acres of Capability-inspired gardens and parkland, identifying historical temples, columns, an obelisk and an amazing selection of trees.

Take a short drive to Hartwell’s closest National Trust neighbour, Waddesdon Manor. Built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the 1870’s to display his collections and entertain fashionable guests. Waddesdon Manor has been open to the public since 1957, and home to the Rothschild collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts. Other National Trust properties nearby to visit include Hughenden Manor, Nuffield Place and Stowe House and Gardens

DAY 2 – Visit Bletchley Park, home of British code-breaking

Spend some time in the Hartwell Spa. Set in a former orangery, it offers an indoor swimming pool, spa bath, steam room, saunas and treatment rooms.

Visit Bletchley Park, a place of exceptional historical importance. Home of British code-breaking and the birthplace of modern information technology. Bletchley Park was the main location for this country's code-breaking establishment during World War II, producing secret intelligence, which had a direct and profound influence on the outcome of the conflict. Today the site is home to a fascinating heritage attraction telling the story of how boffins such as Alan Turing broke the codes created by German Enigma machines and are credited with saving many thousands of lives and shortening the war by up to two years.

DAY 3 – Take a tour of the Harry Potter Studios and explore the Chiltern Hills

Visit the Harry Potter Studios - the Harry Potter film series made Leavesden its home for more than ten years. Once filming wrapped on the last film, the production crew were left with a treasure trove of thousands of intricate and beautifully-made artefacts, many of which wouldn't have been saved on a typical production. Set adjacent to the working film studios where all eight Harry Potter films were made, the Studio Tour offers visitors the unique opportunity to explore two soundstages and a backlot filled with original sets, animatronic creatures and breath-taking special effects.

Hartwell is situated on the edge of the Chiltern Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Chiltern Hills stretch from the River Thames in Oxfordshire and to Hitchin in Hertfordshire, and are nationally-protected as some of the finest countryside in the UK. Made up of uncrowded, rolling green English countryside, they offer year round interest.



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BODYSGALLEN HALL & SPA

NORTH WALES



PROPOSED ITINERARY

DAY 1 – Afternoon of arrival – visit to medieval town of Conwy

Arrival with a traditional afternoon tea served in Bodysgallen's historic oak paneled drawing room. Leave hotel and venture to medieval Conwy (2 miles) to walk the town walls.

Visit Conwy Castle and learn about the historic link to Bodysgallen Hall. Explore the cobbled streets of Conwy with lots of small artisan shops and visit the smallest house in UK.

Return to the hotel for a stroll through the gardens, before a delicious dinner in the fine-dining restaurant.

DAY 2 – Explore the north coast of Wales visiting castles and to Anglesey

Leave the hotel after a hearty Welsh breakfast and explore the north coast of Wales, travelling along the sea coast to Penrhyn Castle (18 miles – 25mins) built between 1820-1833 by architect Thomas Hopper for George Hay Dawkins Pennant, who had made his fortune from slate quarries in North Wales and sugar plantations in Jamaica. The estate became property of the National Trust in 1951.

Travel on to Caernarfon to visit Caernarfon Castle (11miles – 20mins), a World Heritage Site and where the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales took place in 1969.

Crossing the Menai Straits to Anglesey, continue to The Marram Grass (17miles – 29 mins), a bistro on the Newborough Bay serving local produce, for lunch.

After lunch drive to Plas Newydd (7.8 miles – 15mins), a National Trust property and home to the Marquess of Anglesey. It was Henry William Paget, born 1768, who led the cavalry in the Battle of Waterloo 1815, where he lost a leg and was awarded the title ‘Marquess of Anglesey’ for his bravery. Plas Newydd is also home to a magnificent ‘Trompe L’oeil’ mural painting of a Venetian scene by Rex Whistler. Return to the hotel (23.6 miles – 29 mins) for dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 3 – Explore the heart of Snowdonia, Portmeirion Village and Llandudno

After a hearty Welsh breakfast, drive through Conwy and along the river to Betws-y-Coed (ca 30mins) with an opportunity to buy handmade traditional Welsh souvenirs. Continue on through the Snowdonia National Park to Portmeirion (23 miles – 47mins), where ‘The Prisoner’ series was filmed. Take a wander around the Italianate village designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis and along the river enjoying the magnificent views and colorful houses. Take lunch at Portmeirion hotel or the café; Return along the coastal road to the Victorian seaside town of Llandudno (50 miles – 1hr 14mins). Take a stroll along the promenade, before a tram ride up the Great Orme to the Coppermine, believed to be the oldest in the world. Enjoy a ‘fish & chip’ supper on seafront, before returning to the hotel.



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MIDDLETHORPE HALL & SPA YORK



PROPOSED ITINERARY

DAY 1 - Afternoon of arrival: the historic City of York

Walk around the historic City its City walls to include Clifford's Tower and the medieval street of the Shambles and visit one of the many museums (National Railway Museum, York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum). Discover magnificent York Minster by attending the Evensong Service in the Quire at 5.15pm (weekdays).

Dinner and overnight stay at Middlethorpe Hall

DAY 2 - Castle Howard, the Yorkshire Moors and the Yorkshire Coast

Depart shortly after breakfast to arrive mid-morning at Castle Howard (where Brideshead Revisited was filmed), and explore its gardens, parkland and the house. Have a picnic on the grass or luncheon in one of the restaurants there.

Depart towards the coast, driving through the Yorkshire Moors National Park, with stops at Goathland (to see the steam trains), the Hole of Horcum. Arrive at the fishing village of Whitby, its ruined English Heritage Abbey (reached by climbing 199 steps), and enjoy a Fish & Chips supper on the harbour.

Return for an overnight stay at Middlethorpe Hall.

DAY 3 - The Yorkshire Dales & Haworth

Drive towards the Yorkshire Dales National Park with possible stops at Knaresborough & Harrogate. After luncheon at Betty's, continue through to Bolton Abbey, arriving at Haworth to visit the village and the Bronte Parsonage and parish church.

Return for dinner and overnight stay at Middlethorpe Hall

Take a relaxing walk through Middlethorpe Hall's historic gardens.



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