JANE AUSTEN & GEORGIAN TREASURES OF THE SOUTH

June 5–15, 2021
(11 days)

English novelist Jane Austen is famous the world over for her entertaining novels that gently satirize the dating game in Georgian society. She is forever associated with the south of England, from her home in Chawton, Hampshire to Regency Bath where she lived for a time. We travel to many other places associated with her life and work and uncover the many Georgian architectural gems along the way, such as Bowood House and Stourhead, as well as visit the country’s only surviving Rococo Garden.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In-depth visit to Chawton where Jane Austen spent the last eight years of her life and home to the Jane Austen’s House Museum.
- Private guided tours of architectural masterpieces such as Berkeley Castle, Wilton House, Stourhead, Wilton House and Bowood House
- Talk by local Jane Austen expert at No.1 Royal Crescent
- Jane Austen guided walking tour of Bath to view the highlights of the city that features so much of her writing
- Literary-themed guided tour of Winchester Cathedral as well as private tour of Salisbury Cathedral
- One night at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, situated in the heart of the historic town of Windsor, opposite the famous Windsor Castle. The classic interiors, with a contemporary edge, fit perfectly with the Georgian elegance of this townhouse hotel. The luxury bedrooms are individually-designed and the hotel also offers a stylish bar and restaurant.
- Seven nights at Bailbrook House Hotel, a country house hotel dating back to the early 1790s and situated just a few minutes from Bath. Set within 20 acres of private grounds, the hotel offers classically-decorated bedrooms located in a new wing as well as the original house, two restaurants, three elegant lounges and a conservatory bar.
- One night at the Runnymead Hotel, the sister hotel of the MacDonald Windsor, located on the banks of the River Thames.

Updated November 6, 2019
for
Washington & Lee Traveller
JANE AUSTEN & GEORGIAN TREASURES OF THE SOUTH
June 5–15, 2021
(11 days)

ITINERARY

Saturday, June 5
DEPART U.S.
Depart home on overnight flights to London Heathrow.

Sunday, June 6
LONDON / WINDSOR

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the MacDonald Windsor Hotel, overlooking Windsor Castle. In the evening you are invited to join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

Overnight: Macdonald Windsor Hotel (D)

Monday, June 7
CHAWTON HOUSE LIBRARY, JANE AUSTEN HOUSE & HINTON AMPNER

Check out of the hotel following breakfast and our first lecture and travel to Chawton House, an Elizabethan manor house that once belonged to Jane Austen’s brother, Edward Austen Knight. It now accommodates a unique library of titles focusing on women’s writing in English from 1600 to 1830. Continue to Jane Austen’s House Museum, the charming house in Chawton where she spent the last eight years of her life. This is where she did the majority of her mature writing and now tells the story of the author and her family.

Lunch is enjoyed at a local pub before visiting Hinton Ampner, an elegant country house with particularly impressive gardens. The property was rebuilt in 1960 by the then owner, Ralph Dutton, after a devastating fire. During a private tour, wander through the house and take in the fine collection of ceramics and art and explore the meticulous gardens.

Following, check into the Bailbrook House Hotel a beautiful country house hotel and our home for the next seven nights. Gather for a relaxed dinner together at the hotel.

Overnight: Bailbrook House Hotel (B,L,D)

Tuesday, June 8
PAINSWICK ROCOCO GARDEN & BERKELEY CASTLE

Rococo describes a period of art that was fashionable in the 1700s in Europe and today we begin by visiting the Painswick Rococo Garden. Initially designed in the 1740s as an English country gentleman’s venue for hosting intimate garden parties, this is now the only complete Rococo garden in England. Following our privately guided tour, enjoy lunch in the Gardens.
Continue to Berkeley Castle for a guided tour of this 11th Century estate that is still home to the Berkeley family today. Berkeley Castle is one of the March Castles, built to keep out the Welsh, evidenced in its construction. The Castle is best known as the scene of the brutal murder of Edward ll in 1327. Today, this stunning setting is often used for filming including for popular TV drama *Poldark*. The state apartments showcase beautiful collections of furniture and rare paintings.

This evening is left free for you to make your own dinner arrangements.

Overnight: Bailbrook House Hotel (B,L)

**Wednesday, June 9**

**SALISBURY, MOMPESSON HOUSE & WILTON HOUSE**

Today we head to Salisbury where we take a guided tour of the city’s fine medieval cathedral which boasts the tallest spire in Britain. Discover over 750 years of history here including the best preserved original 1215 Magna Carta document.

Located within Cathedral Close is Mompesson House, a perfect example of a Queen Anne style town house. Its most notable features include magnificent plaster work, an elegant carved oak staircase and fine period furniture. Outside, the charming walled garden has traditionally planted herbaceous borders. The house also featured in the award-winning film *Sense and Sensibility* based on Jane Austen’s novel.

We then visit Wilton House, an excellent example of Palladian architecture. Here we enjoy lunch and a guided tour. This impressive property has foremost been a family home for over 450 years and is set in 21 acres of landscaped parkland. The house has regularly been used as a filming location too including for the 2005 film adaptation of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* starring Kiera Knightly.

Tonight, you have some free time to make your own arrangements for dinner.

Overnight: Bailbrook House Hotel (B,L)
Thursday, June 10
BATH’S ROYAL CRESCENT, J.AUSTEN WALKING TOUR & FASHION MUSEUM

Once home to Jane Austen, Bath has remained faithful to its Regency roots. We begin at No.1 Royal Crescent, a Georgian town house that creates a wonderful picture of life for both the wealthy and their servants in Georgian Bath. Upon arrival, be treated to a fascinating talk on Jane Austen by a local expert before embarking on our guided Jane Austen themed walking tour to view the highlights of the city that features so much in her writing as well as her former homes.

Choose among the many restaurants in the vicinity of where are guided tour ends to enjoy lunch independently before heading to the Assembly Rooms for an afternoon tour. Once the hub of the Georgian social calendar, the Assembly Rooms was an important setting for Jane Austen’s novels: *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*. Within the Assembly Rooms we visit the Fashion Museum Bath. Founded in 1963, it houses a world-class collection of contemporary and historic dress, from the 18th century through to modern day.

Return to the hotel for dinner and an evening at leisure back at the hotel.

Overnight: Bailbrook House Hotel (B,D)

Friday, June 11
BATH and STOURHEAD

This morning is free to have time to explore Bath independently, perhaps visiting the Roman Baths, soaking in the thermal waters of Thermae Bath Spa, or taking a leisurely stroll through the lovely streets lined with Georgian architecture. In the afternoon, travel by motorcoach to Stourhead. The estate is renowned for its 18th-century landscaped garden, featured in the 2005 film *Pride and Prejudice*, and a delight of classical temples, exotic trees, hidden grottos and a magnificent lake. The grand Palladian house is no less of a draw, with its Chippendale furniture and one of the finest Regency libraries left in existence.

This evening we enjoy dinner together at our hotel.

Overnight: Bailbrook House Hotel (B,D)
Saturday, June 12
BOWOOD HOUSE AND LACOCK ABBEY

Spend the morning at Bowood House, the family home of the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne. This estate houses a unique collection of historical artifacts and family heirlooms built up over 250 years, from Queen Victoria’s wedding chair to Napoleon’s death mask. Outside are 100 acres of beautiful parkland, designed by ‘Capability’ Brown. Bowood was also used as a filming location for the 2007 TV film, Northanger Abbey.

Following our guided tour of Bowood House, travel to Castle Comb Village. Certain unspoiled medieval towns and villages hold a very special place in English history and architecture, with Castle Comb being dubbed one of the most beautiful examples in all of England. This perfectly preserved slice of medieval history has been the filming location for many major Hollywood films, including the 1967 filmed musical Doctor Dolittle, The Wolfman, and Steve Spielberg’s adaptation of War Horse. Delight in walking the charming streets of Castle Comb and enjoying lunch here independently before continuing to the village of Lacock for a guided tour of Lacock Abbey situated in the heart of the village with golden stone cloisters and a Great Hall. Once a medieval nunnery, the abbey was turned into a family home by William Henry Fox Talbot who invented the first photographic negative. This evening we enjoy dinner together at our hotel.

Overnight: Bailbrook House Hotel (B,D)
Sunday, June 13
MONTACUTE HOUSE AND WELLS

Begin today with a visit to the beautiful Elizabethan Montacute House. This splendid mansion of golden stone with its oak-paneled rooms and the longest gallery in England is crammed with treasures including the Tudor and Elizabethan portraits on loan from the National Portrait Gallery. Several scenes of the 1995 film version of *Sense and Sensibility* were filmed at Montacute, including the scene where Marianne was rejected by Willoughby. Following, sample local specialties at the Fountain Inn, a traditional British pub known for its “Sunday lunch.”

Continue to the Wells, located at the foot of the rolling green Mendip Hills. The name Wells derives from the many springs rising near its magnificent 12th century cathedral dominating the city. and unique moated Bishop’s Palace. Known as England’s smallest city, Wells boasts an eclectic mix of buildings, including a unique moated Bishop’s Palace, as well as narrow cobblestone streets with rows of shops displaying Georgian fronts.

Return to the hotel where the remainder of the day is free time to make your own arrangements.

Overnight: Bailbrook House Hotel (B,L)

Monday, June 14
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL AND THE VYNE

Check out of the Bailbrook House Hotel and travel to the medieval city and former royal capital of Winchester with a literary-themed guided tour of its famed cathedral. The awe-inspiring cathedral is just one of the historic highlights here; its hidden treasures include the tomb of Jane Austen and the Winchester Bible, one of the finest 12th-century bibles to have survived.
Enjoy some free time and lunch in Winchester before continuing by motorcoach to The Vyne, a splendid Tudor red-brick mansion set in 13 acres of attractive gardens. During a privately guided tour, learn how this estate was built for King Henry VIII’s Lord Chamberlain before becoming the Chute family home for over 300 years.

From here travel back to Windsor, checking in to the Runnymead Hotel situated on the banks of the River Thames. Gather this evening for a farewell reception and dinner to celebrate our shared adventure.

Overnight: Runnymead Hotel (B,D)

**Tuesday, June 15**
**WINDSOR / LONDON / HOME**

Following breakfast, depart by motorcoach for the group transfer to Heathrow International Airport for your return flight home.
JANE AUSTEN & GEORGIAN TREASURES OF THE SOUTH

June 5–15, 2021
(11 days)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Retail Program Fees:
Per person, sharing accommodations.................................................. $5,990
Single Supplement................................................................. $1,100

Staffing, Marketing, and Commission:
Above fees include:
• All services in the basic program plus up to $900/pp for roundtrip airfare from home for Washington & Lee faculty leader and host, Mr. and Mrs. Marc Conner (sharing accommodations), plus a Criterion tour manager.
• $4,000 marketing contribution toward W&L Traveller’s annual catalog.
• Production of an e-brochure linked to the W&L Traveller’s website.
• Organization commission of 8%.
Fees and services are based on exchange rates of November 2019 and are subject to change.

Program Length, Capacity:
11 days roundtrip from the U.S.
Minimum capacity: 15 passengers
Maximum capacity: 29 passengers (24 doubles, 5 singles)

Fees Include:
All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Group arrival and departure transfers by motor coach • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine and beer with all group dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Criterion Tour Manager

Fees Do Not Include:
U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature