

IRONBRIDGE, THE POTTERIES & WELL DRESSINGS

WHAT'S INCLUDED

5 days / 4 nights' duration
Thursday 14th - Monday 18th May 2026
 Return Executive Coach Travel
 4 nights half board
4* Doubletree by Hilton Stoke on Trent
 Excursion package as detailed overleaf

PRICES & SUPPLEMENTS

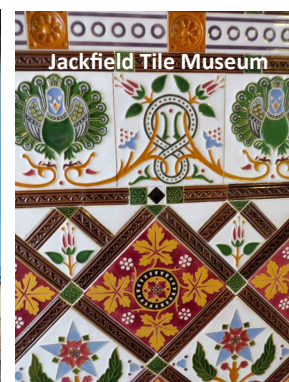
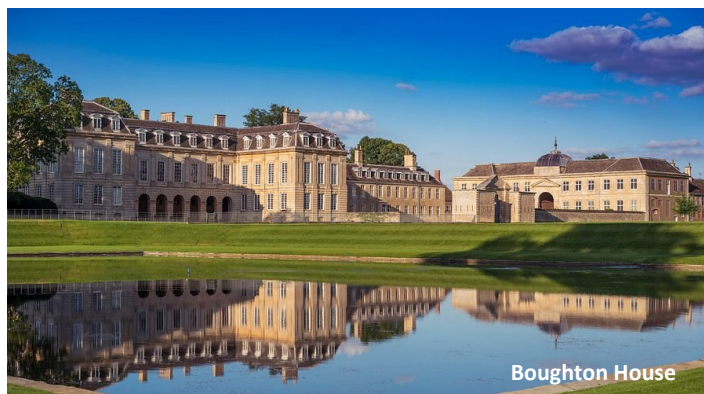
Minimum 25+ persons **£899pp**—Two share
 Single supplement **£99** (4 nights) - max. 15 rooms
 Deposit **£150pp** (non-refundable/ non-transferable)
 Balance due in full by the **23.03.26**
 Optional Travel Insurance **£33pp**
 (+ Handling fee £5pp or £10pp if postage required)
 No upper age limit (conditions apply)
Includes Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) @ 20%.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Upton House & Gardens (NT)
- Coventry Cathedral Guided Tour
- Tissington Hall Guided Tour
- Well Dressings
- Potteries Museum & Art Gallery
- Staffordshire Hoard + Spitfire Gallery
- V & A Wedgwood Collection - Guided Tour
- Trentham Gardens
- Blists Hill Victorian Town - Ironbridge
- Jackfield Tile Museum Guided Tour
- Boughton House Kings Tour + Lunch

HOW TO BOOK

Complete the attached booking form and return with your deposit ,Insurance premium + handling fee to:
Simply Groups, Dalton House, 1 Hawksworth Street, Ilkley, LS29 9DU. TEL 01943 605999
info@simplygroups.co.uk www.simplygroups.co.uk
 Any queries contact **Gwen Wright** at:
outings@theartsocietycranleigh.org



Proposed itinerary

Thursday Day 1 – Departing Cranleigh approx. 8am, a comfort stop will be made enroute to **Upton House & Gardens (NT)**, where the house, collections and gardens are largely as they were in their heyday in the 1930's. The treasured art gallery showcases the fine collections of Old Master and British pictures including **Bosch, El Greco** and **Canaletto**. Lord Bearsted redesigned and extended the original honey-coloured house to best display his cherished art and **rare French and English Chelsea porcelain**. Lady Bearsted commissioned one of the first professional female garden designers, Kitty Lloyd-Jones, to make-over the gardens. Lunch can be purchased before continuing on to **Coventry** for an included **guided tour** of the **Cathedral**. This is a place where splendid medieval history meets modern architecture with poignant effect. The original Cathedral of St Michael, built between the late 14th and 15th centuries was destroyed in the 1940 blitz. Your guide will lead you through the history of the Ruins and the building of the New Cathedral, which is almost shockingly modern. It also houses many works of art, featuring some of the greatest artists of the 1950's and 60's. Continuing onto your hotel in **Stoke-on-Trent** dinner is included.

Friday Day 2 – Breakfast included. Today is dedicated to the Derbyshire village of **Tissington**, beginning with an included **guided tour** of **Tissington Hall** built in 1609 by Francis FitzHerbert. This building replaced the moated fortification that guarded the Norman Church of St Mary's in the village centre. The Hall has a rich history dating to the 11th-century and is one of only 300 homes in the country who can boast that the descendants of the original builder still live there, 400 years later. This visit coincides with the famous **'Well Dressing'** event in the village, the origins of which are lost in antiquity. They may even have their roots in pagan customs and were later given a Christian meaning. One theory says the custom began just after the Black Death of 1348-9. Although the local population was ravaged by plague, in Tissington, all escaped and the immunity was ascribed to the purity of the water supply. It became the custom to decorate the wells in thanksgiving. There will be **free time** following the Hall tour to explore the village, visit the well dressings & buy lunch before returning to Stoke to visit the **Potteries Museum & Art Gallery** which houses designated collections and displays fine and decorative arts, costume, local history, archaeology and natural history collections. It is also home to the fascinating **Staffordshire Hoard** and the outstanding **Spitfire Gallery**. Hotel dinner included.

Saturday Day 3 – Breakfast included. Today begins with a visit to the **World of Wedgwood** and an included **guided tour** of the **V & A Wedgwood Collection**. Here you will discover the history of Josiah Wedgwood I, from his achievements, innovations, and family life, to the stunning ceramic wares, designs, and patterns produced from the 18th century to the present day. **Tea / coffee & shortbread** are included here before this afternoon's visit to **Trentham Gardens**, which have been transformed over the last 15 years and are now some of the some of the finest in Britain, with the revival being led by multi-Chelsea gold-medal winner Tom Stuart-Smith. The Italian Garden planting is designed within the historic framework of Sir Charles Barry's original Italianate Garden of the 19th Century and the transformation was one of the largest contemporary perennial plantings in Europe. The gardens lie against a backdrop of historic parkland and a **Capability Brown** designed **lake**. You might choose to take a boat trip on the lake (*local cost*), on the **electrically powered Miss Elizabeth** or jump aboard the **miniature railway** (*local cost*), which travels alongside the lake. Lunch can be purchased in the adjacent shopping village or garden centre. Hotel dinner included tonight.

Sunday Day 4 – Breakfast included. Today is dedicated to **Ironbridge** and two of its **museums**. We begin at **Blists Hill** where you will meet the Victorians in this recreated **Victorian town**. Experience, the sights, sounds and smells of Victorian life and get a glimpse of a new world shaped by industry. Visit Victorian shops and cottages, meet craftspeople demonstrating their trades and taste authentic food in this recreated town. Exchange your modern money for pounds, shillings and pence in the bank, see steam engines, printing presses and candle dipping machinery in action & talk to craftspeople demonstrating traditional trades. This afternoon's **guided visit** is to the **Jackfield Tile Museum**. See some of the most beautiful tiles in the world and discover how tiles made by British designers decorated interiors around the world. Get an insight into the tile making process and tile decorating techniques, see stunning friezes and a world-class gallery dedicated to the last 150 years of tiles. There are tiles by Salvador Dalí and William Morris, as well as the very best real-life examples in a recreated pub, tube station, church and more. Returning to the hotel dinner is included.

Monday Day 5 – Checking out of the hotel after breakfast we retrace our steps making a stop in at **Boughton House**, a family home and one of Britain's grandest and best-preserved stately homes. The house is renowned for its outstanding collections of fine art, furniture, tapestries, porcelain and carpets. Included is a **guided Kings Tour** over 2 floors (20 rooms – 90 minutes), which includes the High Pavilion and State Apartments created for the visit of William III. View a magnificent range of paintings by great artists, including The Adoration of the Shepherds by El Greco, Gainsborough's, more than forty grisailles and portraits by Van Dyck, and Breaking Cover by John Wootton, to name but a few. A **cold buffet lunch** is included before returning to your original departure point.

Simply Groups reserve the right to make minor changes to this itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control.

The National Trust property is free for card carrying members. Non-members to pay this locally