



Tour Information



Agatha Christie in Harrogate





The tour commences and concludes at **The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate.**

Swan Road

Harrogate

HG1 2SR

Tel: 01423 500055

Transport

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



If you are travelling by car:

Directions From the South

Take the M1 to A1 to Wetherby, then exit onto A661 to Harrogate. Follow the signs to Ripon and the town centre. Drive down Parliament Street, straight across the traffic lights at the bottom, and up Ripon Road. After approximately 150 yards, turn left into Swan Road.

Directions From the North

Take the A1 to A61 signed for Ripon and Thirsk and follow signs to Ripon. Then follow signs to Harrogate, through Ripley and Killinghall. Take the 2nd exit off roundabout onto Ripon Road. After approx. 1 mile, turn right into Swan Road.

If you are travelling by train:

The closest railway station is Harrogate which is a 15-minute walk or 5-minute taxi ride from the hotel.

Accommodation

The Old Swan Hotel, Harrogate

The Old Swan Hotel combines Victorian splendour with elegant contemporary style. The hotel has stunning period features and elegant reception rooms. There is a restaurant with its original glass ceiling and the Swan Lounge and Bar which offers views over the lawn and town centre. The rooms are spacious and traditionally decorated and feature tea/coffee making facilities, flat screen televisions, Wi-Fi and many other amenities.

Parking: Parking is available at the hotel on a first come basis, it cannot be pre booked. There is a £10 per day charge payable directly to the hotel.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<https://www.classiclodges.co.uk/the-old-swan/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will not finish until approximately 16.00 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Dining

On the first and second night, a private 3-course dinner with wine is served, as well as lunch on the final day – all are included in the price of the tour. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price, but meals other than these stated are not included.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Places Visited

Harrogate

One of the largest manhunts the country had ever seen was involved in the search for Agatha Christie, and, after 11 days on 14th December 1926, she was found, safe and well, staying in Harrogate at the Swan Hydro, now the Old Swan Hotel. With almost no luggage, under the name of Theresa Neele, it seems she'd travelled to London and boarded a train to the spa town after having seen an advertisement at the railway station. Harrogate was a fashionable spa town with elegance everywhere. Agatha Christie did nothing to arouse suspicions as she thoroughly enjoyed her stay, joining in with the balls and dances. She was eventually recognised by a banjo player at the hotel, Mr Bob Tappin, who alerted the police. Her husband, Colonel Christie, came to collect her immediately but she kept him waiting in the hotel lounge whilst she finished dressing for dinner! Its heritage as a fashionable spa resort continues in the Montpellier Quarter with the Royal Pump Room Museum, documenting the importance of local mineral springs. Nearby is the restored, Moorish-style Turkish Baths & Health Spa. Both of which you will visit during your stay.

<https://www.visitharrogate.co.uk/>

Turkish Baths

In its heyday, Harrogate was known as 'the English spa' and a leading destination for European high society. The Turkish Baths was part of a vast number of facilities available in the Royal Baths Complex which opened in 1897. As well as the Turkish Baths, other treatments included the medicinal waters dispensary, hydrotherapy departments, steam rooms and mud baths. Today you can get a sense of this history while enjoying a more contemporary spa experience in these magnificent surroundings.

<https://www.turkishbathsharrogate.co.uk/>

Royal Pump Room Museum

Harrogate's development as a prosperous and flourishing spa town dates back to the 16th century. William Slingsby discovered the first spring in 1571 in the area now known as High Harrogate. It was named the Tewit Well Spring and the water coming from this spring was found to be medicinal. People, both rich and poor, began to come in increasingly large numbers to test the curative powers of the waters. By the late 1600s more springs, including the sulphur spring, in Low Harrogate had been discovered. The different waters were recommended for the treatment of a variety of ailments including epilepsy, scurvy and skin complaints such as ulcers and sores. The springs were by now being used by travellers from all over the country. The waters come from an ancient geological sea far below the earth's surface and rise up through faults in the Carboniferous rock.

When first discovered, the waters ran into the surrounding ground creating a marshy area. Visitors brought along their own ladles and cups to scoop up the water or put it directly onto their skin. However, the increasing numbers of visitors and rising knowledge of disease led to four wellheads being erected in 1772 and in order to provide facilities for this surge, accommodation and entertainment venues were built. One of these was the Royal Pump Room (the building that now houses the museum), a grand octagonal building. Under cover from the elements, and at a charge, the water was served in a glass and customers could enjoy bands while they promenaded in the building. To meet the needs of the poor, who also continued to require access to the sulphur water, a free tap was provided outside the building. This tap remains to this day, although it is no longer recommended for drinking!

There was an established daily routine at the Pump Room. Visitors would arrive between 7am and 9am and drink one or more glasses of water. Afterwards they would join the promenaders outside where they would mingle and gossip before taking breakfast. Shortly afterwards the chronically sick would have hot bath treatments, whilst others would go shopping, sightseeing or attend parties. Doctors recommended that the basic length of 'the cure' should be for a period not less than three weeks.

<https://www.visitharrogate.co.uk/business-directory/royal-pump-room-museum>

Newby Hall

Newby Hall is the family home of Mr & Mrs Richard Compton and an example of one of England's finest houses and an exceptional example of 18th century interior decoration. Built in the 1690s in the style of Sir Christopher Wren the house was later enlarged and adapted by John Carr and subsequently Robert Adam. The incredible contents of the house, collected by Weddell, ancestor of the Compton family, on the Grand Tour include a rare set of Gobelin Tapestries, a gallery of classical statuary and some of Chippendale's finest furniture.

There are 25 acres of award-winning gardens to enjoy full of rare and beautiful plants and the famous double herbaceous borders are flanked by numerous compartmented gardens, such as the rose and autumn gardens and the water garden.

<https://www.newbyhall.com/>

Your Guide

Jane Tapley will be your guide during the trip. Jane has been a Blue Badge Guide for over thirty years and regularly accompanies groups of all kinds from students to senior citizens around Bath and the West Country.

In addition, she has worked as an adviser and guide for several TV companies in Bath when they have been filming period dramas.

Practical Information

Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

Grading – This tour has been graded as **moderate** due to the amount of walking involved and standing time when visiting sites. There is no coach service on Day 2, and we include a 2-hour walking tour of Harrogate which follows a gentle route with limited places to sit down. There are staircases at Newby Hall, as well as 25 acres of gardens to explore there. Please contact our team or visit the [mobility page](#) on our website if you need further information.



Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday, please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason, you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07441 343850

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

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