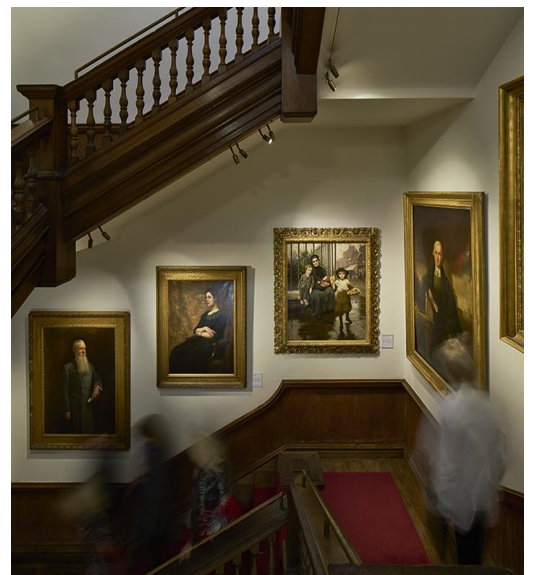




# Tour Information



## Charles Dickens - The Great British Novelist

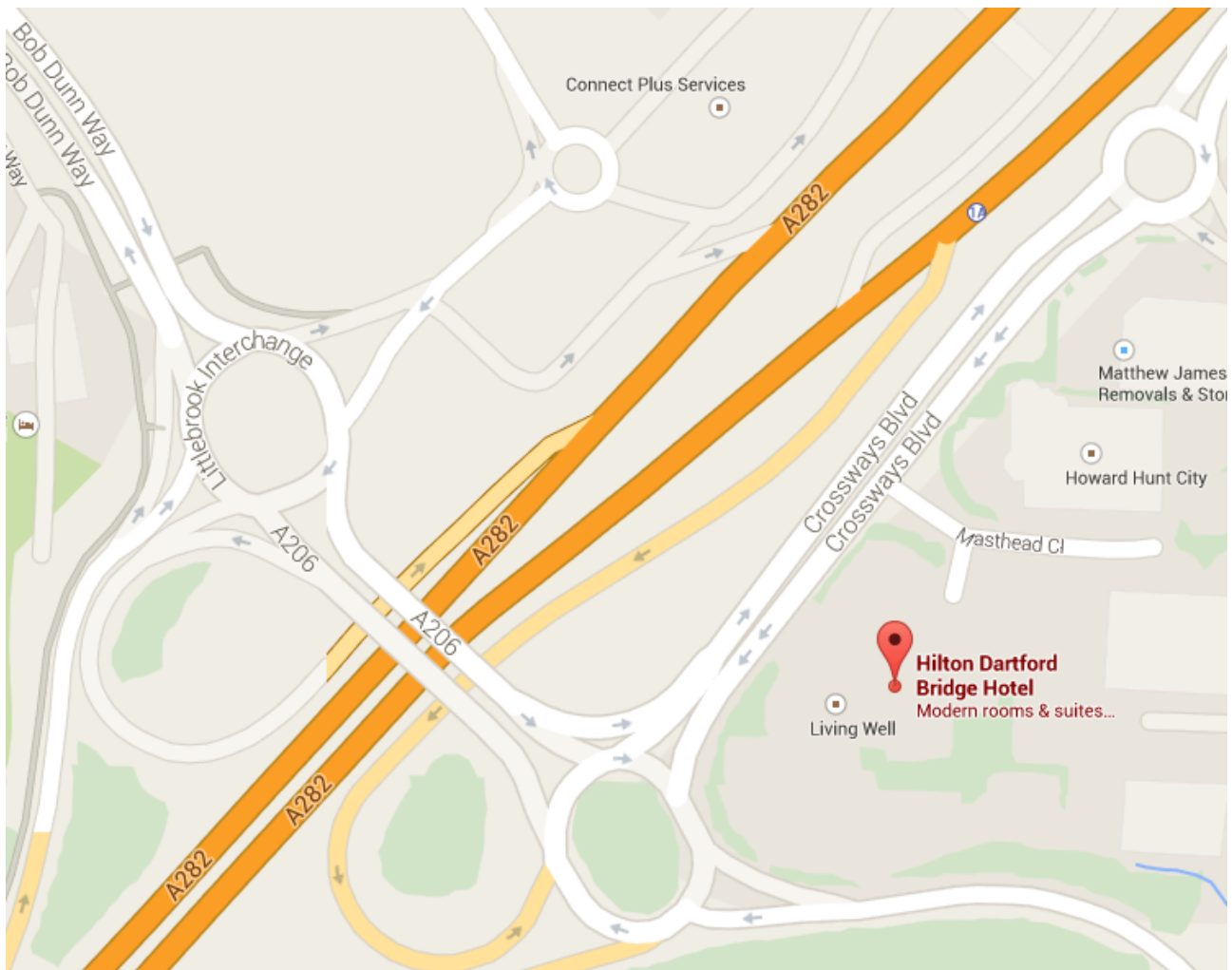




**This tour starts and finishes at the Doubletree by Hilton Dartford Bridge.**

Masthead Close  
Crossways Business Park  
Dartford  
DA2 6QF  
Tel: 01322 284444

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



## Transport

**If you are travelling by car**, take Exit 1a off M25, follow the A206 until you arrive at Dartford. Turn left and then left again onto Crossways Boulevard.

**If you are travelling by train**, Dartford is the nearest railway station, 1.8 miles away from the hotel. Dartford can be accessed easily from both London Charing Cross and London Cannon Street stations which run at regular intervals.



## Accommodation

### Doubletree by Hilton Dartford Bridge

The Hilton Dartford Bridge is a modern four-star hotel located on the South side of the Thames midway – conveniently placed between the Kent and London sites visited throughout the trip. The hotel boasts a great range of facilities. This includes the Living Well Health Club which comprises a gym and large indoor heated swimming pool, as well as options of beauty and relaxation treatments. Rooms are well-equipped with all necessary amenities to ensure a comfortable stay - private en-suite bathrooms, televisions, hairdryers and complimentary tea and coffee making facilities.

Car parking is available at the hotel at £7.50 per night, payable directly to the hotel.

For more information, additional details can be found on the Doubletree by Hilton Dartford Bridge website: [https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/gatdbdi-doubletree-dartford-bridge/?SEO\\_id=GMB-EMEA-DI-GATDBDI](https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/gatdbdi-doubletree-dartford-bridge/?SEO_id=GMB-EMEA-DI-GATDBDI)

### 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 18.00 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 a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

### 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.

### Dining

On both nights of your stay, dinner is provided at the hotel. Lunch is also included at the Leather Bottle in Cobham on day 2. Breakfast on both days of your stay is included in the price, but meals other than these stated are not included.

# Places Visited

## **Chatham Historic Dockyard**

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is one of Britain's leading maritime heritage destinations. Amongst the many highlights, test your sea legs as you peer through the periscope of a Cold War Submarine, command the bridge of a WWII Destroyer and ring the ship's bell on the deck of a Victorian Sloop. There is an award-winning Command of the Oceans interactive gallery where you have the opportunity to uncover the secrets of the centuries old ship beneath the floor. The dockyard also houses the UK's largest collection of RNLI Historic Lifeboats and the treasure house that is No. 1 Smithery, home to incredible collections from Royal Museums Greenwich and Imperial War Museums. Gain first-hand experience of life on a Victorian dockyard and walk in the footsteps of the master ropemakers who have been making rope for Britain's ships on the quarter-mile-long ropery since 1618.

<https://thedockyard.co.uk/>

## **Gad's Hill Place (external view only)**

Gad's Hill Place in Higham, Kent was Dickens' much loved country home which he yearned for throughout his turbulent childhood. The house was built in 1780, and Charles Dickens first saw the mansion when he was 9 years old in 1821, when his father told Charles that if he worked hard enough, one day he would own it or just such a house. As a boy, Charles Dickens would often walk from Chatham to Gad's Hill Place as he wished to see it again and again as an image of his possible future. Thirty-five years later, after Dickens had risen to fame and wealth, he discovered that the house was for sale and bought it for £1790 in March 1856. It was here that Dickens wrote A Tale of Two Cities, Great Expectations, Our Mutual Friend and the unfinished The Mystery of Edwin Drood. The house remained Dickens's country home until his death in 1870, when he died from a stroke on a couch in the dining room of the house.

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

## **Rochester**

The ancient cathedral city of Rochester, with its Norman castle was a place cherished by the Victorian novelist, Charles Dickens, who lived in the area as a child and returned as a successful author. Dickens' most impressionable childhood days were spent in Medway. Historic Rochester inspired the author so much that he featured it in his work more than any city, other than London. Many of the buildings that featured in the works of Dickens can still be seen today. These include Restoration House, used in Dickens' novel 'Great Expectations' as the home of Estella and Miss Havisham, The Poor Travellers House, immortalised by the author in a Christmas short story and the impressive Guildhall Museum of local history.

<https://www.visitmedway.org/see-and-do/destination-medway/rochester/>

## **Restoration House**

Restoration House is a fabled city mansion, stayed in by Charles II on the eve of his Restoration and the Satis House of Great Expectations, the home of Miss Havisham. Restoration House as we see it today is the amalgamation of two medieval buildings which were combined in the late 16th or early 17th Century to create a mansion house just outside the southeast corner of the city wall in Rochester. It's considered a unique survival of a city mansion with superb poetic interiors, a wonderful collection of English furniture and paintings, including several Gainsboroughs and Reynolds and rare Constable portraits.

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

### **London Dickens Museum**

48 Doughty Street, Holborn, was an important place in Charles Dickens's life where he resided from 1837 until 1839. Dickens described the terraced Georgian dwelling as 'my house in town'. Two of his daughters were born here, his sister-in-law Mary died aged 17 in an upstairs bedroom, and some of Dickens's best-loved novels were written here, including *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. However, Dickens required more space for his growing family and moved to 1 Devonshire Terrace in 1839. The house remained a residential property, but was threatened with demolition in 1923, when the Dickens Fellowship acquired it. The Museum was opened in 1925 and has become the home of the world's finest Dickens-related collection. Spread over four floors, the Charles Dickens Museum holds the world's most important collection of paintings, rare editions, manuscripts, original furniture and other items relating to the life and work of Dickens.

<http://www.dickensmuseum.com/>

### **Foundling Museum**

The Foundling Museum tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, London's first home for abandoned children, and of three major figures in British history: its campaigning founder the philanthropist Thomas Coram, the artist William Hogarth and the composer George Frederic Handel. The Museum's nationally-important collections are housed in a restored and refurbished building adjacent to the original site of the Hospital, which is now Coram Fields children's playground near Russell Square. Dickens' home at 48 Doughty Street was next door to the Foundling Hospital Estate and supported the Hospital both financially and through his writing. He rented a pew in its Chapel and referred to the Hospital in his stories, novels and plays.

<http://www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk/>



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

**Jane will give a talk on the first evening:**

***“What the Dickens”***

On the second evening, before dinner, there will be a one-man show “Mr Dickens is Coming!” performed by Gerald Dickens, the great grandson of Charles Dickens. After the performance Gerald will have time for a short Q&A before dinner.

### **Suggested Reading**

Dickens’ novels, especially, for the Kent tour, *The Pickwick Papers*, *Great Expectations* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and, for London, *Oliver Twist* and *Bleak House*.

Peter Clark *Dickens: London into Kent* (2012)

Jeremy Clarke *The Charles Dickens Miscellany* (2014)

W R Hughes *A Week’s Tramp in Dickens-Land* (1891: available online)

Andrew Sanders *Charles Dickens’s London* (2010)

Michael Slater *Charles Dickens* (2009)

Alex Werner and Tony Williams, *Dickens’s Victorian London* (2011)

# 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, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment, and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

**Grading** – This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.



## 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 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07441 343850

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

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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