



Tour Information



Country Houses of The Ribble Valley

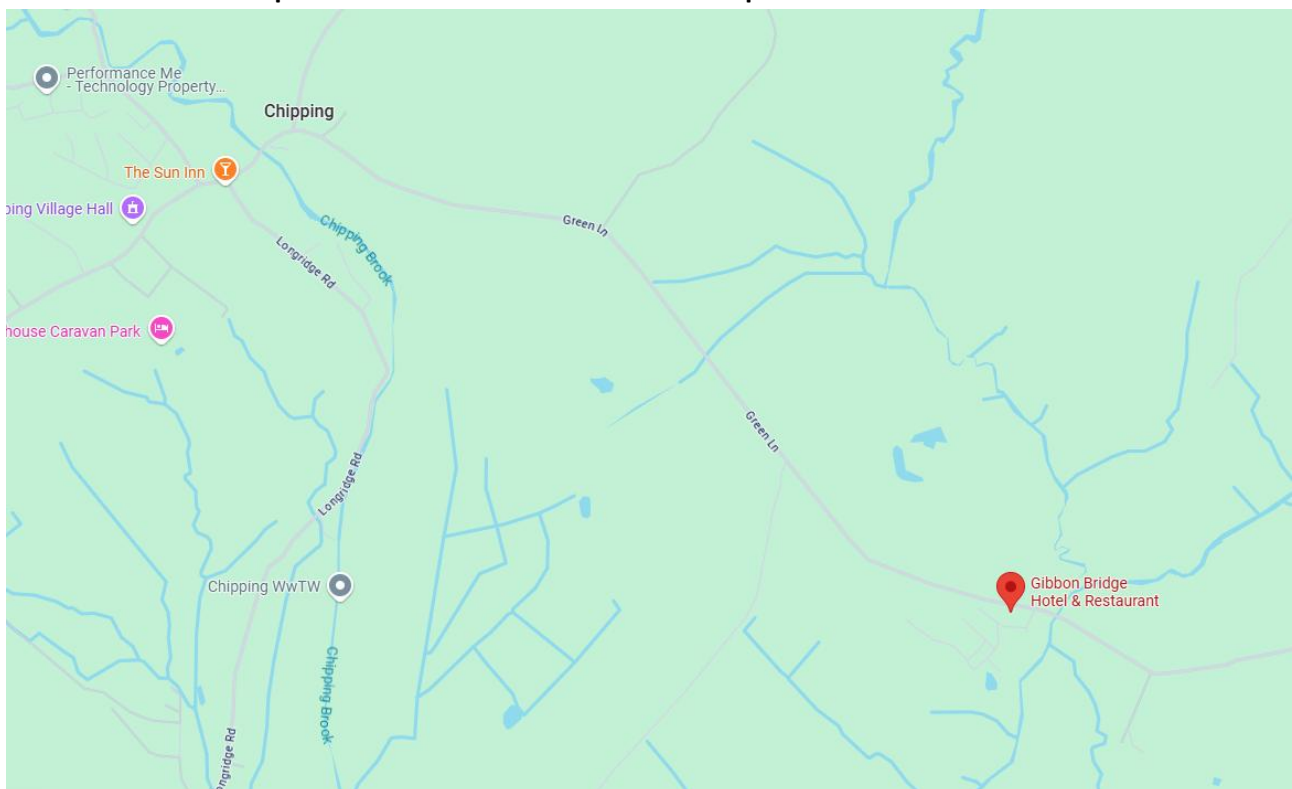




The tour starts and finishes at **Gibbon Bridge Hotel, Clitheroe**

Gibbon Bridge Hotel
Green Lane
Chipping, Preston
PR3 2TQ
Tel: 01995 61456

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



Transport

Travelling by car: From the M6, take exit 31A and follow signs for Longridge. Continue to Chipping, following the brown signs for Gibbon Bridge. These signs will guide you along country roads directly to the hotel on Green Lane. On site parking is available free of charge.

Travelling by train: The nearest mainline stations are Blackburn and Preston (approx. 10 miles from the hotel).



Accommodation

Gibbon Bridge Hotel, Clitheroe

An award-winning four-star country hotel with beautiful gardens set in a peaceful location in the Ribble Valley, well located to reach the places visited on this itinerary. Hotel facilities include restaurant, bar, spa, gardens and comfortable bedrooms with all modern amenities including en-suite bathroom, TV, telephone, free Wi-Fi, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.

For more information, additional details can be found on the website:

<https://gibbon-bridge.co.uk/>

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 at the welcome reception.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.30 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 the first night of your stay, a private three-course dinner with wine is provided. On the second and third evening, dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on each day of your stay is included.



Places Visited

Stonyhurst College

Donated to the Jesuits in 1794 when they were expelled from Liège, Stonyhurst college is a breath-taking Elizabethan mansion with a rich history dating back to 1200 AD. As well as the architecture and expansive grounds, we explore the college's historic collections, featuring rare books, manuscripts, and artifacts that reflect its rich Jesuit heritage.

<https://www.stonyhurst.ac.uk/>

Hoghton Tower

Found on a strategic hilltop location with beautiful views of the surrounding countryside, Hoghton Tower dates back to 1109, with the current structure rebuilt in the early 16th century by Thomas Hoghton. This fortified manor house has played host to many notable figures throughout history. The tower has also welcomed guests such as William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, and J.M.W. Turner, and its rich heritage is reflected in the grand architecture, period furnishings, and well-preserved state rooms. Surrounded by formal gardens and ancient woodlands, Hoghton Tower offers a fascinating glimpse into England's aristocratic and literary past, as well as stunning panoramic views across Lancashire.

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

Great Mitton Church

Dating back to the late 13th century, this grade I listed building features gothic architecture, medieval woodwork, and a sundial from 1683.

<https://www.allhallowsmilton.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Rufford Old Hall

Built in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth centuries for the Hesketh family, only the great hall survives from the original structure. A brick-built wing in the Jacobean style was added in 1661, at right angles to the great hall, and a third wing was added in the 1820s. Rufford features the only known surviving example of a sixteenth-century carved wooden screen made of bog oak; a collection of rural memorabilia displayed in the stables and throughout the house; and a collection of arms and armour from the fifteenth to the seventeenth-century. The best-known feature of the Victorian gardens is a giant pair of topiary squirrels.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/liverpool-lancashire/rufford-old-hall>

Astley Hall

Astley Hall is a beautifully preserved 17th-century country house in Chorley, Lancashire, known for its ornate plasterwork ceilings, impressive long gallery, and fine collection of period furniture and artwork. Blending Elizabethan and Jacobean styles, the hall offers a rich glimpse into historic English life. Set within the scenic Astley Park, it now serves as a museum and heritage site, hosting exhibitions and events that celebrate its fascinating past.

<https://astleypark.co.uk/homepage/2/astley-hall>

Towneley Hall

Towneley Hall is a historic house with fine period rooms decorated with paintings and sculptures. As well as an art gallery and museum, the hall also features secret passages, and a Priest's Hole. Towneley was the home of the Charles Towneley the great 18th century collector of ancient sculpture. Although his collection is now in the British Museum, his portrait with his collection by Johann Zoffany hangs in the house. The Roman Catholic Towneleys stayed loyal to the "Old Religion" as did many of Lancashire's gentry, which explains their long tenure of the estate, only relinquished in 1902. Amongst the

features of the much-remodelled house are plaster ceilings by Italian craftsmen, and a 15th century Roman Catholic chapel which was the only remaining Catholic chapel in this part of Lancashire until the 19th century. Here is the Towneley altarpiece carved in Antwerp around 1500 and also the vestments sent from Whalley Abbey in 1536 at the Reformation. They are of the utmost rarity. Taken on by the local council, the house has had its collections assiduously augmented by purchase from local art dealers Agnews and Richard Howarth, watercolours by Girtin and Gainsborough, oils by Landseer and Alma Tadema. Furniture is not lacking with 17th century oak and walnut pieces, alongside furniture by Morel and Seddon, who were much patronised by George IV. Somewhat surprisingly there is also a sculpture of Venus by Antonio Canova, a small echo of the sculpture, albeit ancient, which used to fill this house.
<https://towneley.org.uk/>

Gawthorpe Hall

Gawthorpe Hall, managed by the National Trust, was built in the early 17th century by the Shuttleworth family and extensively remodeled in the mid-19th century by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament. The hall features an impressive collection of portraits and textiles, including the nationally significant Gawthorpe Textiles Collection. Surrounded by woodland and riverside walks, it offers a fascinating blend of Jacobean architecture and Victorian refinement.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/liverpool-lancashire/gawthorpe-hall>

Your Guide

Your host, **Nicholas Merchant**, has been a lecturer and group leader for tours in the UK and France for Travel Editions for close to 15 years. Prior to Travel Editions, he ran his own book business, worked for Sotheby's and was the West Yorkshire representative for the National Art Fund. His knowledge, wit and erudition illuminate any visit and his tours are informative, interesting and, above all, entertaining.





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 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.

Travel Editions Group Ltd

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Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk Website: www.traveleditions.co.uk

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