



Tour Information



Country Houses of Cheshire





The tour starts and finishes at **Cottons Hotel and Spa, Knutsford**

Cottons Hotel and Spa
Manchester Road
Knutsford
WA16 0SU
Tel: 01565 650333

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



Transport

Travelling by car: From Knutsford, take the A50 towards Tatton Park and Cottons Hotel and Spa is approximately 2 miles on the left-hand side.

Travelling by train: The nearest mainline station is Knutsford.



Accommodation

Cottons Hotel and Spa

This four-star hotel is located just a mile outside the town of Knutsford and is surrounded by countryside. Facilities include bar and restaurant, swimming pool, sauna, steam room, fully equipped gym and spa with extensive treatments available at an extra cost. Each of the comfortable bedrooms include bathrooms with power shower, TV, mini-fridge, tea/coffee making facilities and complimentary Wi-fi.

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

<https://www.cottonshotel.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 for cream tea at 15.30.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.00 – 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 11.00am.

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. During the second and third evenings of the tour, dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on each day of your stay is included in the price, as well as two light lunches.



Places Visited

Erddig

250-year story of a gentry family's relationship with its servants. A large collection of servants' portraits and carefully preserved rooms capture their lives in the early 20th century, while upstairs is a treasure trove of fine furniture, textiles and wallpapers. Outdoors lies a fully restored 18th-century garden, with trained fruit trees, exuberant annual herbaceous borders, avenues of pleached limes, formal hedges and a nationally important collection of ivies. The 486-hectare (1,200-acre) landscape pleasure park, designed by William Emes, is a haven of peace and natural beauty, perfect for riverside picnics. Discover the 'cup and saucer' cylindrical cascade or explore the earthworks of a Norman motte-and-bailey castle. A walk through the estate spans the earliest origins of Wrexham to the technology of an 18th-century designed landscape. All around, tenant farmers continue the work of generations.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/erddig>

Chirk Castle

Chirk Castle was completed in 1310 during the reign of the conquering Edward I to subdue the last princes of Wales. Built on an outcrop above the meeting point of both rivers Dee and Ceiriog, the imposing silhouette of the castle was a brooding statement of English intent in these disputed lands. With over 700 years of history, and as the last castle from this period still lived in today, Chirk Castle's many occupants have left behind lavish interiors and a beautiful collection. The state rooms include a 17th-century Long Gallery, grand 18th-century saloon with rich tapestries, servants' hall, and the restored East Range, containing the library and 1920s style Bow Room showing off Chirk Castle's connections to high society.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/chirk-castle>

Tabley House

The Tabley House Collection is housed in the finest Palladian mansion in Cheshire. The estate was home to the Leicester family for 700 years, until the mid-1970's. Their legacy includes some of the finest art, furniture and books that money could buy, as well as a fascinating family history. The state rooms, Chapel and tea rooms, have also been used for several film and TV productions, most recently the top BBC 2 drama 'Peaky Blinders'.

<http://www.tableyhouse.co.uk/>

Little Moreton Hall

Built to impress by craftsmen's hands more than 500 years ago, the hall, with its crooked walls and uneven floors, may seem fragile but it's a remarkable survivor.

The earliest parts of the house were built for the prosperous Cheshire landowner William Moreton in about 1504–08, and the remainder was constructed in stages by successive generations of the family until about 1610. The building is highly irregular, with three asymmetrical ranges forming a small, rectangular cobbled courtyard. A National Trust guidebook describes Little Moreton Hall as being "lifted straight from a fairy story, a gingerbread house".

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cheshire-greater-manchester/little-moreton-hall>

Capesthorne Hall

Capesthorne is the much loved home of the Bromley-Davenports, a site on which they and their ancestors, the Wards and Capesthorns, have lived since Domesday times. The present house, built between 1719 and 1732, replaced an earlier building which stood on the site of the column in the park. The estate is a tranquil haven of wildlife, parkland and formal gardens. Through the Milanese gates, opposite the chapel, alongside the estate's chain of lakes, merge colourful perennials with more unusual 18th century plants, maples and cherry trees.

<https://www.capesthorne.com/hall-and-gardens/>

Rode Hall

Rode Estate has been in the ownership of the Wilbraham family since 1669. It was originally bought from Randle Rode by his cousin Roger Wilbraham. The Wilbrahams were prominent landowners in Cheshire at that time and Rode was purchased for Randle, the younger son of Roger Wilbraham of Townsend, now part of Nantwich, for £2,400. Roger was descended from Sir Richard de Wilburgham, Sherriff of Cheshire in 1259. Rode passed through the male line until 1900 when Katherine, an only child, succeeded her father General Sir Richard. She had married George Baker in 1872 and, by Royal Licence, they assumed Wilbraham as their principal surname. In 1910 George Baker succeeded to the Baker baronetcy on the death of his elder brother.

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

Your Guide

Your host, **Nicholas Merchant**, former Chairman of the Art Fund West Yorkshire Fundraising Committee, is an antique expert who has worked for some of London's major auctions houses during his career.

During the tour, Nicholas will give 2 talks:

'The Country Houses of Cheshire' and *'The Rescue of a Doomed House– Erddig'*



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 07831 133079

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

Travel Editions

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