



Tour Information



Henry VIII

The man behind the monster

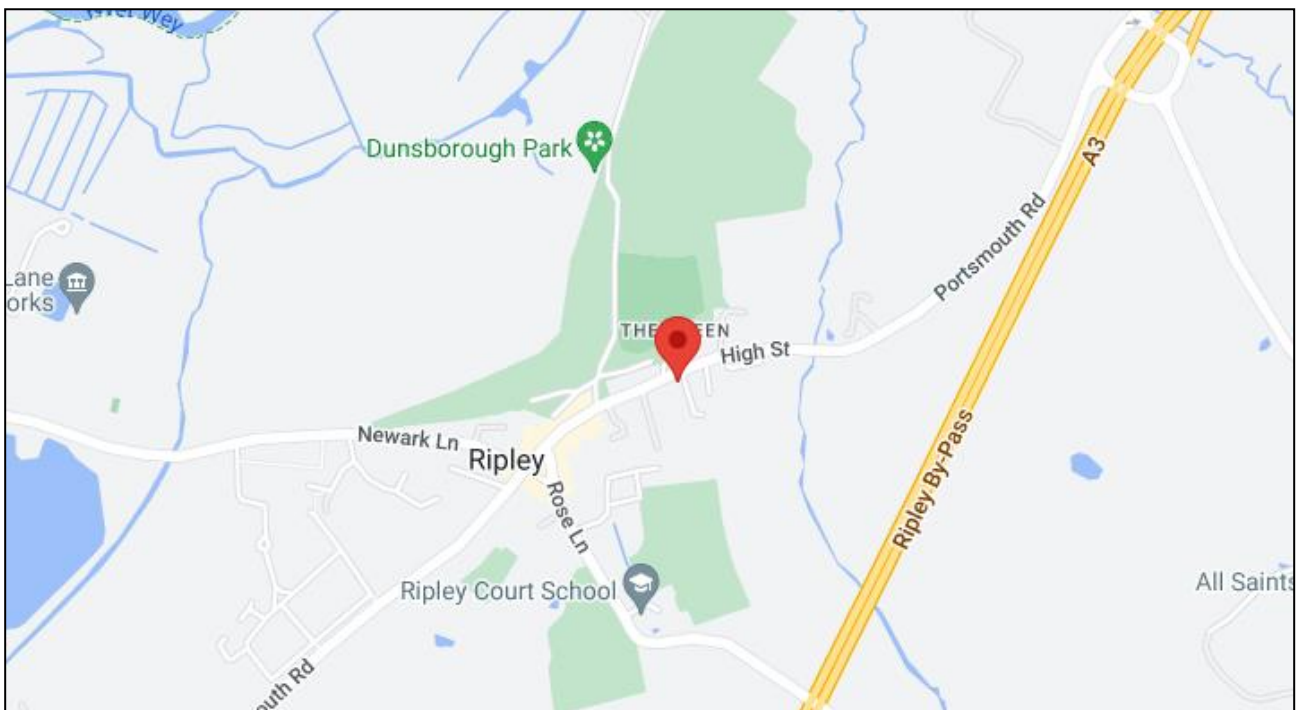




The tour commences and concludes at the [Talbot Ripley](#)

The Talbot Ripley,
High Street,
Ripley,
Woking, Surrey,
GU23 6BB
Tel: 01483 225188

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



Travelling to the hotel

By Car: The Talbot is an ideal base to explore the South East of England. Located 10-15 minute's drive from Woking and Guildford, approximately 30 minutes from London Heathrow Airport, and under an hour from Central London and Gatwick.

By Train: Woking and Guildford train stations are both around 10-15 minutes by taxi.



Accommodation

The Talbot, Ripley

Nestled in the heart of the picturesque Surrey village of Ripley just under 5 minute's drive from RHS Gardens Wisley, The Talbot stands as one of the most storied and historic coaching inns boasting many period features from its 500 year history.

Conveniently located just under an hour from Central London, The Talbot was once a frequent hitching post for Lord Nelson and is even said to be the site on which his love affair with Lady Hamilton blossomed. The Talbot remains as one of England's finest coaching inns and has 43 en-suite bedrooms, a restaurant and bar. Rooms all come with en-suite bathroom, complimentary Wi-Fi, TV, telephone, safe, and tea/coffee making facilities.

Parking is available for guests at the rear of the property. Overnight onsite parking is subject to availability and is charged at £10 per 24 hour period.

More information can be found via the hotel's website: www.thetalbotripley.com

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 before dinner.

On the last day, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.00 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 night a private three course reception dinner with wine is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. Dinner on the second night is also included at the hotel. Breakfast is included on both days of your stay. Any 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

Eltham Palace, Henry's childhood home

Once a favoured medieval palace and then a Tudor royal residence, in the 1930s Eltham Palace was transformed by eccentric millionaires Stephen and Virginia Courtauld. Admire the palace stunning domed entrance hall, where prestigious guests gathered for glamorous cocktail parties. Socialites and politicians, royals and artists all enjoyed hospitality here. This eye-catching room is a mix of Art Deco and cutting-edge Swedish design. Saved from decline by the Courtaulds', their lavish home is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture and design surviving in Britain today.

There's a quirky mix of medieval and modern in the gardens too. Here, you can take in the stunning herbaceous borders, walk through formal rose gardens and relax in the Rock Garden, with its pools and cascades running down to the moat.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/eltham-palace-and-gardens/>

Hampton Court Palace

Hampton Court Palace is a Grade I listed royal palace upstream of central London on the River Thames. The building of the palace began in 1514 for Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the chief minister of Henry VIII. In 1529, as Wolsey fell from favour, the cardinal gave the palace to the king to check his disgrace. The palace went on to become one of Henry's most favoured residences. Soon after acquiring the property, he arranged for it to be enlarged so it could accommodate his sizeable retinue of courtiers.

Later, in the early 1690s, King William III's massive rebuilding and expansion work, which was intended to rival the Palace of Versailles, destroyed much of the Tudor palace. His work ceased in 1694, leaving the palace in two distinct contrasting architectural styles, domestic Tudor and Baroque. King George II was the last monarch to reside in the palace. The palace is now in the possession of King Charles III and the Crown.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/#gs.0sa2ys>

Titchfield Abbey

First built in the 13th century, Titchfield Abbey in Hampshire was home to a community of Premonstratensian canons. The canons lived communally, like monks, but also preached and served as priests in the local community.

In 1537, after the Suppression of the Monasteries, Henry VIII gave the abbey to Sir Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, who transformed the buildings into a grand Tudor mansion called Place House, reusing many of the monastic buildings. The most impressive feature of the abbey today is a grand turreted gatehouse, which was built across the nave of the monastic church.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/titchfield-abbey/>

Mary Rose Museum

The Mary Rose Museum tells the story of the Mary Rose, pride of Henry VIII's fleet, which lay undisturbed on the seabed of the Solent where she sank in 1545 until her rediscovery in 1971. Her salvage 11 years later uncovered a wonderfully preserved Tudor time capsule, beautifully presented in the excellent museum built to house it.

Henry VIII was an enthusiastic shipbuilder, whose pride in his "Army by Sea" would see his fleet grow from 5 at the start of his reign to 58 by the time of his death in 1547. While he may have had many ships, it is the Mary Rose that is remembered as his favourite. Notably, the life of the Mary Rose coincides almost exactly with the reign of Henry VIII.

Before the development of a standing Navy, English kings relied upon requisitioning merchant vessels in times of need. This was certainly cheaper than building, maintaining and manning ships in times of peace, but it was inefficient and difficult to mobilize. With the threat of Scotland to the north and France to the south, Henry VIII began to build his Navy as soon as he came to the throne.

<https://maryrose.org/>

Southsea Castle

Southsea Castle is one of a series of Henry VIII's forts, constructed in what was the most ambitious scheme of coastal defence since Roman times.

The castle was built in great haste in 1544, prompted by Henry VIII's fears of a French attack on Portsmouth. It was said to have been designed by the King himself, incorporating the latest continental ideas on the layout of artillery forts. It was not long finished when, on 18 July 1545, a French invasion fleet did indeed approach Portsmouth after landing on the Isle of Wight. Henry VIII mobilised his fleet and was at Southsea Castle for the Battle of the Solent the next day. However, it was to be a dark day for the king, as it was here that he witnessed the sinking of his flagship, the Mary Rose in the Battle of the Solent.

The castle continued to be an active military base for over 400 years. Its key position, guarding the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour, meant that whenever danger threatened it was right in the front line. Even when it was used as a military prison during Victorian times, its guns still had to be ready for action. Not until 1960 was the castle finally withdrawn from active service and purchased by Portsmouth City Council.

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

Dr Elizabeth Norton is a British historian, specialising in the early modern period.

She has degrees from the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, as well as a PhD from King's College London, where she has taught History. She has published widely, including the critically acclaimed *'The Lives of Tudor Women'* (Head of Zeus, 2016) and biographies of four of Henry VIII's wives, her PhD thesis looked at Catholicism in Elizabethan England. She regularly appears on television, including the recent BBC series, *'The Boleyns, A Scandalous Family'*, on which she also acted as Historical Advisor.



Elizabeth will give the following talk during the tour:

'Henry VIII, the Man behind the Monster'

Siobhan Clarke BA Hons has worked for Historic Royal Palaces for 20 years and is based at Hampton Court Palace, where she trained as a Costumed Interpreter before becoming an HRP Guide Lecturer.

She delivers lectures on the palaces of Hampton Court, Kensington, Tower of London and the Banqueting House, Whitehall. She works with best-selling historian, Alison Weir, on tours and events and has featured on BBC Radio Women's Hour and Television's *Secrets of Henry VIII's Palace: Hampton Court*.

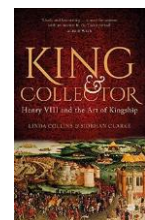
Siobhan's published works include: *'A Tudor Christmas'* with Alison Weir (Jonathan Cape, 2018). *'The Tudors: The Crown, the Dynasty, the Golden Age'* with Linda Collins (Andre Deutsch, 2019). *'King and Collector: Henry VIII and the art of Kingship'* with Linda Collins (History Press, 2021). *'Gloriana: Elizabeth I and the art of Queenship'* with Linda Collins (History Press, 2022).



Siobhan will give the following talk during this tour:

'King & Collector: Henry VIII and the Art of Kingship'

Siobhan will also sign copies of her book, a copy of which is included in the tour.





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 we 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**: 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 07831133079

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

Travel Editions

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