

Presents

Chester, Cheshire & North Wales

WHAT'S INCLUDED

5 days / 4 nights' duration

Sunday 17th - Thursday 21st September 2023

Return Executive Coach Travel

4 nights half board

4* Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Chester

Excursion package as detailed overleaf



PRICES & SUPPLEMENTS

Minimum 30 passengers £679pp two share
Single supplement £89 (4 nights) - max. 12 rooms

Deposit £125pp payable with booking

Balance due in full by the 31.07.23

Optional Travel Insurance £40pp



HIGHLIGHTS

ÿ Conwy Castle

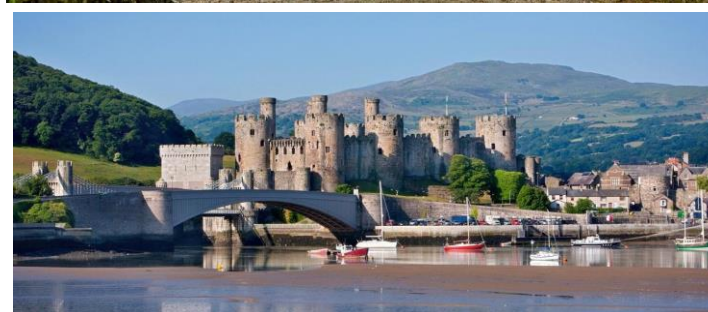
ÿ Bodnant Gardens (NT)

ÿ Roman Soldier Guided Tour Chester

ÿ World of Glass

ÿ Anderton Boat Lift + Cruise

ÿ Wightwick Manor & Gardens (NT) + Lunch



HOW TO BOOK

Email : trips@kingshillu3a.org.uk

Then

Complete the booking form and return to:

Patricia Bell, 37 Cherry Orchard, Ditton, ME20 6QS.

Tel. 01732 848915. Email: n_p_bell@yahoo.co.uk

This tour is operated by Simply Groups, Dalton House,
1 Hawksworth Street, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 9DU

TEL 01943 605999 info@simplygroups.co.uk

www.simplygroups.co.uk



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Proposed itinerary

Day 1 – Departing your last pick-up point approx. **8.30am** we journey north, making a comfort break en route to **Coventry** where a **guided visit** of the **Cathedral** (tbc) is included. A knowledgeable guide will lead you through the history of the Ruins, the Blitz, and the building of the New Cathedral. There are many aspects to the Cathedral aside from its history, including the Architecture and Basil Spence’s vision, the Arts contained within the building and the Artists who created them in addition to the story of Reconciliation which continues today. Lunch can be purchased in Coventry before continuing north to the hotel, where a group 3 course dinner is included.

Day 2 – Breakfast included. We begin today by travelling across the border into **North Wales and the historic town of Conwy**. Here, entrance is included to the magnificent medieval fortress of **Conwy Castle**. This castle is exceptionally well preserved and contains the most intact set of medieval royal apartments in Wales. The high curtain wall and 8 lovely towers rise almost as impressively as when they were built more than 700 years ago. Thanks to the restored spiral staircases you can walk a complete circuit around the battlements of one of the most magnificent medieval fortresses in Europe. Conwy takes its place alongside Edward I’s other great castles at Beaumaris, Harlech and Caernarfon as a World Heritage Site. There will also be **free time** to explore this pretty town and buy lunch before this afternoon’s visit to nearby **Bodnant Gardens (NT)**. With intimate corners, sweeping lawns, grand terraces and verdant woodland, there are many gardens in one at Bodnant with year-round colour. Created over 150 years, with plants collected and brought to Britain from far afield, and the incredible vision of generations of the McLaren family and Puddle head gardeners, this haven of rarity and beauty with a stunning backdrop of the Carneddau mountains of Snowdonia, is a delight. Returning to the hotel, dinner is included.

Day 3 – Breakfast included. Today is dedicated to the historic **City of Chester** with its numerous landmarks, attractions & historical references. Founded by the Romans in AD79, Chester still bears signs of its past with its Roman Amphitheatre, historic City Walls, and Chester Castle all intact. In common with many other places in Britain with the words chester, cester or caster in their name, the city we now call Chester was once home to a Roman castrum or military fort. Included is a **guided walking tour** on arrival by a **‘Roman soldier’** after which the day is **free to explore** at your own pace. You might choose to visit Chester’s unique shopping experience at The Rows, an area which dates to medieval times when the original Rows were built on top of Roman ruins. Retaining much of their original character, these half-timbered undercroft buildings house unusual boutique and individual stores. The Cathedral is also a highlight of a visit here (local cost). This was gradually rebuilt from 1250 onwards in Gothic style and took 275 years, resulting in today’s truly incredible structure. Hotel dinner is included tonight.

Day 4 – Breakfast included. Today begins with an included visit to the **World of Glass**. This museum explains the history of glass, with artefacts dating back to Ancient Egypt from 3000 years BC. With glass from all around the world across many centuries, you will see how glass has played an important part in our everyday life. The Earth into Light Gallery tells the story of what made St. Helens great, from its humble beginnings to its rise as a world leader in Glass making. Step into St Helens past and relive life in the town in the last century and experience a fascinating glassblowing demonstration. Explore the Victorian Furnace, one of the world’s first continuous regenerative tank glass making furnace built in 1887 by William Windle Pilkington. English Heritage say it is the best surviving example in England. Reminisce about the age of glamour and air travel. Conserved and rehung in 2008, the 2 ton Manchester Airport Chandelier will take your breath away. Lunch can be purchased here before this afternoon’s included **cruise + lift experience** at the **Anderton boat lift**. This is one of the ‘Seven Wonders of the Waterways’, which has a nickname of the ‘Cathedral of the Canals’. Boarding the Edwin Clark boat, sit back and enjoy the unique experience of being transported 50 feet between two waterways on the world’s oldest working boat lift. Listen to the informative and lively commentary and learn how the Cathedral of the Canals is a master of Victorian Engineering, whilst also experiencing the scenic Weaver Navigation waterway. Returning to the hotel, your evening meal is included.

Day 5 – Checking out after breakfast, the last visit of this holiday is to **Wightwick Manor & Gardens (NT)**. In 1937 Geoffrey Mander, a local paint manufacturer and Liberal MP, persuaded the National Trust to accept a house that was just 50 years old. Geoffrey inherited Wightwick in 1900, a house designed in an ‘Old English’ style. Inspired by Oscar Wilde’s lecture on ‘the House Beautiful’, Wilde’s influence can be seen in the collection of objects from Japan and China and the designs of William Morris and his British Arts and Crafts contemporaries. It has a remarkable collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings and one of the largest public collections of work by female artists in Britain. A **light lunch** is included before continuing homeward, returning to your original departure point.