

DESTINATION WESSEX

HISTORIC HOUSES OF WESSEX – Three Day Specimen Tour

Day 1.

Leave London for the cathedral city of **Salisbury**. Today's tour will begin in the medieval period. When you check into your hotel, you will find that it has been serving its customers for over 700 years. Your first visit will be to the 13th century **Medieval Hall** in the cathedral close and a presentation on **medieval Salisbury**. Back to the hotel for lunch

After lunch leave for nearby **Wilton House**, for 450 years the home of the Earls of Pembroke. Much of the Tudor building was destroyed by fire in 1647. **Inigo Jones** and **John Webb** then rebuild the house in the Palladian style. The house has magnificent 17th century state rooms and a very fine art collection.

Then return to Salisbury when there will be time to **visit the cathedral** and to take a stroll in the old city centre.

Day 2.

Leave for **Longleat**, one of the very best examples of Elizabethan architecture, set in 900 acres of **Capability Brown** designed parkland. It was completed in 1580 and has been the home of the same family ever since, the **Marquesses of Bath**. Here again, there is a fine art collection.

Continue to **Bowood House** where lunch will be taken. This will be followed by a tour of this beautifully proportioned Georgian house. A special feature is **Robert Adam's** fine Diocletian wing that includes a library plus painting and sculpture galleries. The house is set in over 2,000 acres of gardens and grounds, landscaped by Capability Brown in the 1760's.

On the way to Bath, there will be a visit to **Corsham Court**, a fine Elizabethan house built in 1582 and substantially altered in the Georgian period. It houses a collection of both 16th and 17th century Italian and Flemish paintings.

Continue to **Bath** and check into your hotel.

Day 3.

Begin with a visit to the **Building of Bath Museum** and a presentation on the creation of **Georgian Bath**. After that, a tour of the city that will include a walk from the **Royal Crescent** down through the Circus to **Queen Square**. Featured will be **No.1 Royal Crescent**, a carefully restored Georgian house, the Georgian Garden, the **Jane Austen Centre** and then lunch. After lunch, the walk will continue down through the lanes to **Pulteney Bridge** and **Bath Abbey**. It will conclude with a visit to the **Roman Baths** and a cup of tea in the **Pump Room**.

Then it will be time to head back to London.

