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## TOURS THROUGH TIME

A RANGE OF FULLY GUIDED HISTORICAL TOURS

# Castles of Middle England



Images: Queen Elizabeth I  
 Warwick Castle

**2/4 April 2010**  
**from the Chesford Grange Hotel \*\*\*\***  
**Kenilworth, Warwickshire**

**Experience the medieval feel of Middle England on this three-night break exploring the notable fortifications of this picturesque region.**

**Discover the influence of Queen Elizabeth I as we join our expert guide to explore the spectacular properties of **Kenilworth Castle** and **Warwick Castle**.**



**We also enjoy an early entry tour of **Blenheim Palace** and a **West Wing** tour at **Stoneleigh Abbey**, one of Warwickshire's hidden gems.**

**This *Easter Weekend Break* is based from the four star **Chesford Grange Hotel** near Kenilworth. Set in beautiful grounds leading down to the River Avon and with excellent Spa and Leisure facilities, this is the ideal location for a short break.**

### Itinerary at a glance

Day 1 - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Day 2 - Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Day 3 - Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Day 4 - Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> April
Independent travel to Kenilworth for check-in to the hotel from 14.00hrs.  19.00hrs: Welcome reception and introduction to the tour with your guide, followed by dinner.	Breakfast.  A visit with guided tour of the Lord Leycester Hospital and Masters Garden. Lunch facilities available locally or at Warwick Castle.  Continue tour with a visit to Warwick Castle.  Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.	Breakfast.  A visit to Kenilworth Castle with a guided tour on arrival.  Refreshments will be available in the castle (not included).  After lunch, we depart for Stoneleigh Abbey with a guided tour. Afternoon tea will be available at the end of the tour (included).  Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.	Breakfast.  Check-out of rooms; luggage may be stored securely at the hotel.  Depart for Blenheim Palace for a guided tour. A 2-course lunch is included.  After lunch, we return to the hotel, stopping at Warwick or Leamington Spa railway station, if required.  16.00hrs: approx. time of return to hotel. Depart at leisure.

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### Full Itinerary

**Day 1** Independent travel to Kenilworth and check-in to the hotel. In the early evening, join fellow guests for a welcome reception and introduction to the tour with your guide. Dinner to follow.

**Day 2** Touring begins on Saturday with a visit to **The Lord Leycester Hospital**, founded by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester and favourite of Queen Elizabeth I. The *Hospital* continues to fulfil its originally intended role as a retirement home for disabled soldiers. We will have a guided tour, hopefully by The Master (subject to his availability on the day) and this affords the opportunity to learn more about this historical cluster of buildings. The Masters Garden will be open for viewing and refreshments can be purchased.

Saturday afternoon has been devoted to visiting **Warwick Castle**. Warwick Castle is billed as *England's Greatest Medieval Experience* and it lives up to this description with its fairytale architectural design and fascinating displays including **Madame Tussauds Waxworks**. There is much to do and see here and after an orientation and introduction by our tour leader, the remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration of the castle.

We return to the hotel for a relaxing evening with dinner served in the restaurant.

**Day 3 Sunday** morning has been devoted to visiting **Kenilworth Castle**, one of English Heritage's most popular properties. The largest ruined castle in England, Kenilworth is steeped in history and now enhanced with the recent restoration of **The Elizabethan Garden**. This was created by Dudley to woo and impress Queen Elizabeth who stayed here for a spectacular 19 days. Admire the bejewelled aviary, the towering 16<sup>th</sup> century fountain, arbours, obelisks and Tudor plants, birds and flowers. The residential buildings were also built by Robert Dudley for the visiting Queen Elizabeth I, and this visit follows on nicely from Saturday's tour of Lord Leycester Hospital.

Our visit will include access to the Leicester gatehouse, furnished as it would have been in the 1930's when it was last inhabited, and home to an exhibition telling the story of Elizabeth and Dudley. There will be an English Heritage event taking place at Kenilworth with displays from medieval knights, soldiers and much more. As the day progresses, Kenilworth will no doubt become a busy site, however, we'll be leaving the fun and displays behind, departing after lunch for nearby **Stoneleigh Abbey**. Here we will have a guided tour of the West Wing, a tour that covers 800 years of history and events that have transformed a Cistercian Abbey to a stately home. Tea and cakes are included after the tour.

We return to the hotel at the end of the day and dinner is served during the evening.

Cont/...

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**Day 4** After breakfast on **Monday**, we check out of our rooms and depart for **Blenheim Palace**. Luggage can be safely looked after at the hotel whilst we are touring. Blenheim Palace, Britain's Greatest Palace, is surrounded by 2,000 acres of parkland and award-winning formal gardens. The Palace is home to the 11<sup>th</sup> Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Inside the palace, we enjoy a guided tour, which will commence prior to the house opening to the public. This tour will take us through the gilded State Rooms which house renowned collections of portraits, tapestries and porcelain and reveal the Palace's rich history. A two-course lunch will be served (included) in The Indian Room overlooking the Water Gardens and there will be free time to enjoy the palace and grounds independently. (Blenheim Palace was the winner of the **2008 Historic Houses Association/Christies Garden of the Year Award in 2008**).

We then return to the hotel, taking a scenic drive and stopping at either Warwick or Leamington Spa Railway Station if necessary. Our approximate time of return to the hotel is 1600hrs.

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*Tour Costs / Overleaf*

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### Tour Cost

#### Cost Per Person

English Heritage Members:	£383
Non Members:	£390
Single Occupancy Supplement:	£45 for single occupancy of a double or twin room
Non-Refundable Deposit:	£100 per person (full balance is due 8 weeks prior to departure)

### Included

- Three nights accommodation at Chesford Grange Hotel with full English breakfast each morning and three course dinner and coffee/tea each evening
- All visits as described in the brief itinerary including private and early entry guided tours, as described in the programme
- Welcome reception on the first evening with a complimentary glass of wine/fruit juice
- Services of a professional tour leader
- Executive-style coaching for the itinerary visits
- Two course lunch served in The Indian Room at Blenheim Palace with tea/coffee included
- Tea and cake after the guided tour at Stoneleigh Abbey
- Use of Spa and Leisure facilities at the hotel

### Not Included

- Lunches other than those mentioned above (although suitable stops are provided)
- Travel insurance (highly recommended) – details available on request

### Extra nights

Should you wish to extend your break either side of the tour dates, please ask us to check the availability and we will try and secure a competitive rate for you.

### Notes

The hotel for this tour differs to the one described when this break was first advertised. (The Wroxton House Hotel near Banbury \*\*\*).

*Brookland Travel reserves the right to alter the itinerary should it be necessary due to conditions beyond their control. Every effort will be made to maintain the spirit of the theme.*

### How to Book

You can visit the website and the "Contact Us" page to make a provisional booking. Alternatively, please ring the office between 9.00am-5.00pm (Monday-Friday). A non-refundable deposit of £100 is required at the time of booking, unless you are booking less than 8 weeks before departure. In this case, full payment of the tour is required.

### Further Information

If you have any questions about the tour, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Hotel Information / Overleaf*

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### Your Accommodation



#### The Chesford Grange Hotel \*\*\*\*

Kenilworth  
Warwick  
CV8 2LD

Tel: 01926 859331  
Fax: 01926 855272

[www.Qhotels.co.uk](http://www.Qhotels.co.uk)

The **Chesford Grange Hotel** is a member of the **QHotel Group** who were awarded **AA Hotel Group of the Year in 2008-2009**. All their 21 hotels are 4\* rated although each and every one is different in style, size and ambience. Set in 17 beautiful acres in the Heart of England with gardens leading down to The River Avon, The Chesford Grange Hotel is a mix of old and new with red roofed turrets and black and white panelling blending with modern extensions and contemporary interiors.

#### General Facilities

River Restaurant, Manor Bar, 24-hour reception desk, newspapers, luggage storage, lift. Non-smoking rooms, rooms/facilities for disabled guests, safety deposit box. All public and private spaces are non-smoking although there are designated smoking areas. Sauna, fitness suite, solarium, massage, indoor swimming pool. Garden and terrace.

Services: Room service, meeting/banquet facilities, business centre, laundry, dry cleaning, VIP room. Breakfast in the room, currency exchange, shoe shine, fax/photocopying. Wireless internet is available in the entire hotel and costs GBP 15.00 per 24 hours.

**Guest Parking:** Free public parking is possible on site.

**Location:** The hotel is just minutes from the M40 and M69 and approximately 3 miles from Warwick Railway Station or Leamington Spa.