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TOURS THROUGH TIME

A RANGE OF FULLY GUIDED HISTORICAL TOURS

Northumbria and Holy Isle

13/17 September 2010 (4 nights)
from the Otterburn Tower Hotel, Otterburn ***



Images: courtesy of English Heritage



Northumbria is famous for its castles and stunning coastline, Hadrian's Roman Wall (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and forts. Alnwick Castle, the Alnwick Garden and the priory and castle on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne are just a few of the highlights you can expect to see during your stay.

Itinerary at a glance

Day 1 - Monday 13 th September	Day 2 - Tuesday 14 th September	Day 3 - Wednesday 15 th September	Day 4 - Thursday 16 th Sept ember	Day 5 - Friday 17 th September
<p>Independent travel and check-in to the hotel from 14.00 hrs.</p> <p>1700hrs: Coach transfer from Newcastle rail/coach station.</p> <p>19.00hrs: Welcome Reception and introduction to the tour.</p> <p>19.30hrs: Dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Depart by executive coach for Warkworth Castle.</p> <p>The tour will continue with a stop at Bamburgh and free time for lunch.</p> <p>After lunch we depart for Holy Isle and Lindisfarne Priory.</p> <p>Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Depart for Carlisle with a stop en route at Lanercost Priory.</p> <p>Continue to Carlisle Castle with a guided tour on arrival.</p> <p>Afterwards, there will be free time for lunch.</p> <p>After lunch, we will travel to Housesteads Roman Fort and enjoy a wall along the Wall. The final visit will be to Chester's cavalry fort.</p> <p>Return to hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Depart for Prudhoe Castle.</p> <p>Continue to Carbridge for a visit to the Roman Fort Museum.</p> <p>Afterwards, there will be free time to lunch and explore the town.</p> <p>Later, we will travel to Aydon Castle.</p> <p>Return to hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Check-out of rooms with secure storage available for luggage.</p> <p>Travel via Rothbury to Alnwick Castle with a guided tour of the interior of the castle on arrival.</p> <p>Free time to lunch and explore the grounds and gardens.</p> <p>We return to the hotel for car drivers and then continue to Newcastle for rail departures.</p> <p>1630hrs: Arrive at Newcastle rail/coach station</p>

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Full Itinerary

Day 1 Monday - Either drive to the hotel and check in independently or take advantage of a late afternoon transfer from Newcastle. Join fellow guests and Julian Humphrys for a welcome reception and introduction to the tour before dinner.

Day 2 On Tuesday we travel to the **Holy Island of Lindisfarne**, a tidal island that we cross via an ancient causeway. En route to Holy Island we will visit Warkworth to explore the ruins of **Warkworth Castle** and our tour enlightens us about the immense influence held by the Percy family, the Dukes of Northumberland, in the 15th century. We continue to **Bamburgh**, the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Northumbria and now a rural village, which is dominated by its magnificent castle. From the castle, there are fine views over the North Sea and to the coastline with sandy beaches. The castle and the village have seen a long and turbulent history and the castle eventually passed into private ownership in the early seventeenth century with much restoration and rebuilding in the years to follow.

There will be some free time for lunch and independent exploration before we continue to Holy Island. We can spend the rest of the afternoon exploring **Lindisfarne Priory**, one of the holiest Anglo-Saxon sites in England and **Lindisfarne Castle** set high on a rocky crag looking out to sea. This Tudor castle was transformed into an Edwardian holiday home and stunning garden by Sir Edwin Lutyens in collaboration with Gertrude Jekyll. At the end of the day we return to our hotel in Otterburn for a leisurely evening meal.

Day 3 On Wednesday, we drive through some stunning scenery to **Carlisle** stopping at **Lanercost Priory**, a beautiful Augustinian Priory, en route. Our next visit is to Carlisle Castle, a formidable border fortress with a thrilling and bloody past. We'll enjoy a guided tour of the castle and a visit to an exhibition on the Jacobite Rebellion and the **King's Own Royal Border Museum**, both housed in the castle. After free time for lunch we will travel to **Housesteads**, the most complete Roman fort in Britain set on a desolate escarpment. There will be an opportunity to walk along a section of the Wall itself. Finally, we visit **Chester's cavalry fort** with its well preserved bath house before returning to the hotel for a relaxing evening and dinner.

Day 4 Thursday is devoted to two of Northumbria's most interesting fortifications. The first of our visits is to **Prudhoe Castle**. This formidable example is notable for its wooded location and also its defensive devices which were successful on many occasions against the Scottish attackers in the 12th century. We continue to **Corbridge**, an extensive Roman garrison town that has evolved into one of Northumbria's most popular towns with a wonderful selection of bistros, restaurants, boutique shops and galleries. After visiting the Roman Fort Museum you are free to lunch and explore Corbridge in your own time. The extensive Roman Fort Museum displays a rich selection of Roman finds. Our final visit of the day is to **Aydon Castle**, a fortified 13th century manor house which proved less successful than Prudhoe against its attackers. Return to Otterburn for overnight stay and dinner.

Day 5 After checking out of the hotel on **Friday** we travel via Rothbury to Alnwick and **Alnwick Castle**, the ancestral home of the **Dukes of Northumberland**. A close look at this fortress betrays the identity of its owners for the stonemason's markings on some of the stones used are identical to those found at Warkworth Castle.

While Warkworth Castle's main function to the Percy family was for entertaining, Alnwick Castle provided a defensive role and later became the headquarters of the Percy Estate. Despite its functionality you can expect to see interiors epitomising Victorian taste and impressive collections of art and furnishings. The Duchess's 12-acre plot surrounding the Castle, once a neglected walled garden has been transformed into an exciting landscape dancing with water and ringing with the sounds of life.

Cont/...

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Day 5 Cont/...

The centrepiece of **The Alnwick Garden** is the Grand Cascade, the largest water feature of its kind in the country and this is surrounded by several different gardens all with their own theme including the Rose Garden, Serpent Garden, The Labyrinth, Poison Garden and the Tree house Garden.

After an introduction to the castle and touring the interior, you can lunch in one of the café's or restaurants situated within the castle grounds or garden and explore these world famous gardens in your own time. We return to Otterburn later in the afternoon (for those who have cars at the hotel) and then continue to Newcastle for those departing from Newcastle by rail or coach. (See brief itinerary on Page 1 for approximate times)

Please note: This tour does involve a fair amount of walking, including over uneven surfaces and steps and reasonably steep gradients, particularly at Housesteads Roman Fort.

Tour Cost

English Heritage Members:	£499 per person
Non-Members:	£529 per person
Single Supplement:	£60 (limited single availability)
Feature/Four Poster Room Supplement:	£60 (subject to availability)
Non- Refundable Deposit:	£100 per person (full balance due 8 weeks prior to departure date)

Included

- Four nights accommodation at The Otterburn Tower Hotel, Otterburn with Full English breakfast each morning and three course dinner each evening
- All visits as described in the brief itinerary including a visit to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne and Alnwick Castle
- Welcome reception on the first evening with a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink
- Services of a professional guide/historian
- Executive-style coaching for transfers between sites and transfers from Newcastle on Day 1 and Day 5

Not Included

- Lunches and other refreshments (although suitable stops are provided)
- Travel insurance (highly recommended) – details available on request

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 Otterburn Tower Hotel ***

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The Otterburn Tower County House Hotel and Restaurant is set in 32 acres of beautiful gardens and woodland. This fortified Northumbrian country house, founded by a cousin of William the Conqueror in 1086, combines almost a thousand years of history and the surrounding countryside is breathtakingly beautiful – it is hard to believe that this was once the scene of battles and conflict. The historic beauty of the hotel is seen in every room, individually refurbished to the standards and comfort expected by today's visitors.

There are 18 en-suite bedrooms which are all individually designed to give you that touch of comfort and luxury you expect, direct dial telephone, trouser press, hairdryer and hospitality tray. All rooms are linked to satellite T.V. channels.

Extra nights may be available, on request. Please enquire at the time of booking, as we may be able to secure a competitive rate for you.

Directions

By Road:

The Otterburn Tower is situated on the A696, which is the main Newcastle to Edinburgh road. Otterburn is just 30 minutes out of Newcastle (25 miles). There are excellent motorways and trunk roads link the region with the rest of the UK.

By Coach:

National express +44(0) 8705 808080
Arriva central enquiry +44 (0) 191 281 1313
Snaiths Transport for local and regional travel including a taxi service +44(0) 1830 520609

By Rail:

Intercity 225 or A25 electric trains from London reach Newcastle in less than three hours. This tour provides a free transfer from Newcastle Station. Your train journey can be checked by calling National Rail Enquiries: **08457 48 49 50** / www.nationalrail.co.uk / www.thetrainline.com

By purchasing your tickets in advance you should be able to take advantage of cheaper Apex Fares or Supersaver Fares. Please note the terms and conditions relating to these tickets.