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TOURS THROUGH TIME

A RANGE OF FULLY GUIDED HISTORICAL TOURS

A Private View of Osborne House and the Isle of Wight



20/23 September 2010
from the Royal Hotel, Ventnor ****

A private guided tour of **Osborne House** is the highlight of this three-night short break which is based at the island's leading AA four star hotel, renowned for its service and comfort and within a short walk of the famous **Ventnor Botanic Gardens**.

The Isle of Wight has been a favourite destination with several prominent historical figures including Queen Victoria who referred to Osborne House *A Place of One's Own*.

Osborne House remains much as it was when Queen Victoria died in 1901 and the richly furnished apartments offer an intimate glimpse into the private family life of Britain's longest reigning monarch.

Also, near Ventnor is the shell of **Appuldurcombe**, once the grandest house on the island and now in the care of English Heritage.



As we explore the Isle of Wight we can discover 800 years of history at **Carisbrooke Castle** which was once the home of Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, and royal connections at **St Mildred's Church** at Whippingham, designed by Prince Albert.

Brading Roman Villa has a relatively new Exhibition and Visitor Centre and the beautiful monastic church and Medieval Abbey ruins of **Quarr Abbey** are home to a community of Benedictine Monks.

We also travel to **Yarmouth Castle** and **Farringford House**, the former home of Tennyson and now a hotel.

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Itinerary at a glance

Day 1 - Monday 20 th September	Day 2 - Tuesday 21 st September	Day 3 - Wednesday 22 nd September	Day 4 - Thursday 23 rd September
<p>Independent travel to Bressenham Place, London to join our coach for travel to the Isle of Wight.</p> <p>(Alternatively, join the tour at Portsmouth.)</p> <p>On arrival, we will visit Carisbrooke Castle and the Princess Beatrice Garden.</p> <p>Late afternoon check-in to the hotel.</p> <p>Enjoy a leisurely evening and dinner at the hotel.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Visit to the Ventor Botanic Garden.</p> <p>A scenic drive along the coast to the Farringford Hotel for lunch (included).</p> <p>Continue to Yarmouth to explore the town and Yarmouth's Tudor castle.</p> <p>Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>A visit to Appuldurcombe House.</p> <p>Travel to the village of Whippingham to visit the church with a coffee stop en route (not included).</p> <p>Continue to Osborne House where lunch may be taken on arrival (not included). After lunch, join your guide for a tour of the restored walled garden. Free time to explore the extensive grounds and Swiss Cottage.</p> <p>On closure to the public, there will be a private tour of Osborne House.</p> <p>Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Check-out of rooms.</p> <p>Travel to Brading Roman Villa and Visitor Centre. Refreshments will be available (not included).</p> <p>Travel to Ryde to visit Quarr Abbey.</p> <p>Depart Isle of Wight for return journey.</p> <p>19.15hrs: approx. time of arrival in London.</p>

Full Itinerary

Day 1 This fully guided break will begin on **Monday** morning with an early morning start from **Bressenden Place, London**, travelling on a fully air-conditioned executive coach. On arrival at the **Wightlink** ferry terminal at **Portsmouth** we will board the ferry for the 40 minute crossing to Fishbourne.

From Fishbourne we continue to **Carisbrooke Castle**, the only remaining medieval castle on the Isle of Wight. Here we can discover 800 years of history and an almost complete castle with battlements and a keep to climb. Carisbrooke Castle has enjoyed royal links and was once the home of Princess Beatrice, youngest daughter of Queen Victoria. A new feature, the Princess **Beatrice Garden** has recently been recreated by Chris Beardshaw, garden designer and former BBC Gardeners World presenter. With pretty period planting, a fountain and plunge pool, clipped hedges and an orchard of fruit trees, this **Edwardian-style garden** promises to delight. There are the famous donkeys on the 16th century tread-wheel to see and the **Carisbrooke Castle Museum**.

We then drive to our hotel situated on the southern side of the island. There should be plenty of time to relax after checking in and before dinner is served.

Full Itinerary / Cont ...

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Day 2 On **Tuesday** morning we will enjoy a full English breakfast before we visit nearby **Ventnor Botanic Garden** and explore the local area. Ventnor Botanic Garden lies in the remarkable microclimate at the heart of the famous *Undercliff*. This unique garden is protected from the cold northerly winds by chalk downs. Indeed, it holds the warmth from its southerly aspect so well that, combined with the moderating influence of the sea, frost is rarely seen.

The true potential of the site was recognised by the late Sir Harold Hillier, the internationally famous plantsman of Winchester and it was Sir Harold Hillier who introduced some of the tender and exotic plants that can be seen growing today although much replanting has been undertaken in the last couple of decades following severe winters and storm damage.

Next, a scenic coach journey via **West Wight, Freshwater Bay** and **Tennyson Down** to the **Farringford Hotel**, where we have a two course buffet lunch with coffee. **Alfred, Lord Tennyson**, then Poet Laureate, was a familiar sight walking these cliffs in Victorian times and the area is named Tennyson Down in his memory. The Farringford Hotel was his former home and we should be able to view his study during our lunch stop. We then continue to **Yarmouth** to explore the quaint pubs, shops, cafés and Yarmouth's Tudor Castle. Overlooking the narrow channel of the Solent between Yarmouth Arrow Head Castle in Britain and the last castle built by **Henry VIII**.

We return to the hotel at the end of the afternoon and enjoy dinner in the restaurant later in the evening.

Day 3 Our first visit on **Wednesday** morning is to **Appuldurcombe House**, once the grandest house on the island and now just a shell. An exhibition depicts the house and its history. Later, after a coffee stop (not included) we drive to village of Whippingham to visit the church. **Whippingham Church**, also known as **St Mildred's** was not only a place of worship for the Royal family but also designed by Albert Prince Consort and rebuilt by **Queen Victoria** in conjunction with him in 1861.

Our journey continues to **Osborne House** where lunch can be taken (not included) on arrival. Afterwards, join your tour leader and explore the restored walled garden before free time to enjoy the extensive grounds and **Swiss Cottage**, the Royal children's playhouse. Our tour of the house commences when the house closes to the public. Osborne House evolved from modest beginnings, under the watchful eyes of Queen Victoria and Prince Consort and now comprises of several wings, apartments and buildings. The opulent interiors will afford you the opportunity to view some exceptional architectural design and admire lavish decoration reminiscent of the house in Queen Victoria's day. The day ends with a leisurely dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 4 On **Thursday** we travel to **Brading Roman Villa and Visitor Centre**. This provides a unique insight into Roman life in Britain, from beautifully preserved mosaic floors to an extensive collection of Roman archaeology, including coins, pottery and tools. Coffee, refreshments and light lunches can be purchased before we drive to Ryde and **Quarr Abbey**.

Quarr Abbey is named after the once extensively worked local quarries. A few ruins of the original abbey founded in 1132 still remain, but beyond these lie a magnificent example of modern architecture. The current abbey was erected in 1904 to provide accommodation for Benedictine monks expelled from France in 1901. The abbey is still occupied by Benedictine monks to this day.

From Quarr Abbey we drive to Fishbourne for our return ferry journey to Portsmouth. Depart at leisure from Portsmouth or return to London in the coach with the approximate arrival time in London being 19.15hrs.

Tour Costs / Overleaf

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Tour Cost

Cost Per Person

English Heritage Members:	£499
Non Members:	£525
Single Occupancy Supplement:	£90 with 4 standard single rooms available at no supplement, on a first come, first served basis
Non-Refundable Deposit:	£100 per person (full balance is due 8 weeks prior to departure)

Included

- Three nights accommodation with dinner and full English breakfast at the Royal Hotel, Ventnor
- All visits as described in the brief itinerary
- Private guided tour of Osborne House
- Two course buffet lunch and coffee at Farringford House Hotel
- Services of a professional expert guide and historian, Julian Humphrys
- Executive-style coaching throughout
- Return ferry crossing from Portsmouth/Fishbourne and transfer to and from London, if required

Not Included

- Lunch on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Travel insurance (highly recommended) – details available on request
- Car parking fee at Portsmouth Wightlink Ferry Terminal if joining in Portsmouth

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.

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Your Accommodation



The Royal Hotel, Isle of Wight ****

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Ventnor, Isle of Wight
PO38 1JJ

T: 01983 852186
E: enquiries@royalhoteliow.co.uk

www.royalhoteliow.co.uk

The Royal has 55 bedrooms and is the Islands largest 4 star 'Premier' hotel. It is set in picturesque gardens with outstanding views of the island's breathtaking coastline.

The bedrooms are comfortably furnished and include colour television with satellite channels and direct-dial telephone.

The hotel restaurant has been awarded 2 AA Red Rosettes for its outstanding cuisine.