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TOURS THROUGH TIME

A RANGE OF FULLY GUIDED HISTORICAL TOURS

Welsh Border Castles

3/6 September 2010 (3 nights)
from The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow ***



The border between England and Wales was hotly contested from the Norman Conquest until the 14th century and hundreds of castles were built to hold territory.

This three-night break gives you the chance to visit some of the most important and interesting castles of this era, accompanied by expert historian and experienced guide, Julian Humphrys.

Itinerary at a glance

Day 1 – Friday 3rd September	Day 2 – Saturday 4th September	Day 3 – Sunday 5th September	Day 4 – Monday 6th September
<p>Check into the hotel independently from 14.00 hrs onwards.</p> <p>19.0hrs Welcome reception and introduction to the tour.</p> <p>Dinner in the hotel restaurant.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Introduction to and tour of Goodrich Castle.</p> <p>Guided tour of Hereford Cathedral.</p> <p>Optional visit to the Mappa Mundi Exhibition / Free time to explore independently.</p> <p>Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Guided tour of Ludlow Castle and walking tour of Ludlow.</p> <p>Tour of Croft Castle Return to Ludlow.</p> <p>Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.</p>	<p>Breakfast.</p> <p>Check-out of rooms with secure storage available for luggage.</p> <p>Introduction to and tour of Stokesay Castle.</p> <p>Discover the ruin of Clun Castle.</p> <p>15.00hrs Return to Ludlow to depart at leisure.</p>

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Full Itinerary

Day 1 Independent travel to Ludlow on **Friday** 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 Saturday begins with a guided tour of **Goodrich Castle**, this ruined fortified medieval palace shows probable signs of *bastard feudalism* in the way the building itself has been developed over time and the layout of the various elements of the castle. The day ends with a visit to Hereford and a guided tour of Hereford Cathedral.

Hereford Cathedral occupies a site on which cathedral buildings have stood since Saxon times. The present building contains some of the finest examples of architectural excellence from Norman times up to the present day. The **Mappa Mundi** is unique in Britain's heritage - an outstanding treasure of the medieval age, which reveals how 13th century scholars interpreted the world in spiritual and geographical terms. Chaining books was the most widespread and effective security system in European libraries from the Middle Ages to the 18th century; and Hereford Cathedral's **17th century Chained Library** is the largest to survive with all its chains, rods and locks intact.

Day 3 On **Sunday** we enjoy a walking tour of the historic town and a guided tour of **Ludlow Castle**. Ludlow Castle was one of the strongest castles of the Welsh marches, even so it was apparently never attacked by the Welsh or by competing noblemen and when regular occupation ceased it was still intact and having become crown property in 1461, escaped the fate of many border castles of becoming handy quarries for the local townsfolk.

After some free time for independent sightseeing and lunch we depart for **Croft Castle** which along with Sir Richard Croft played a part in the battle of **Mortimer's Cross**.

Day 4 Monday begins with a tour of **Stokesay Castle**, the finest example of a 13th century fortified Manor house in England.

Clun Castle is our final visit, giving you the opportunity to see how this ruined castle was besieged by the Welsh and how the town surrounding town was established.

The coach will return to the hotel where you can collect luggage and depart at leisure.

Tour Cost / Overleaf

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Tour Cost

English Heritage Member* per person	£370
Non member per person	£385
Single supplement	There is a limited number of single rooms, with no supplement
Room upgrade	£20 per night, subject to availability
Non-Refundable Deposit per person	£100

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.

Included

- Three nights accommodation in The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow with full English breakfast each morning and three course dinner each evening
- Welcome Reception including a glass of wine or soft drink alternative and introduction to the tour
- All visits as described in the brief itinerary including a guided tour of Hereford Cathedral
- Services of a professional guide
- Executive-style coaching for transfers between sites.

Not included

- Travel Insurance (strongly recommended)
- Refreshments and lunches, although suitable stops are included

NB: This tour does involve a fair amount of gentle walking.

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 Feathers Hotel, Ludlow ***

21 Bull Ring
Ludlow
Shropshire SY8 1AA

T: 01584 875 261
E: enquiries@feathersatludlow.co.uk

www.feathersatludlow.co.uk

The oldest part of the Feathers, including the world-famous timber façade, was built in 1619 (during the reign of King James I) by Rees Jones, a successful attorney in the town. Rees Jones had frequently appeared before the Council of the Marches, which from 1536 until 1689 was situated in Ludlow making the town in effect the capital of Wales. The Feathers Hotel is situated at the heart of the ancient market town of Ludlow where there are excellent craft and antique shops and a wealth of historic buildings, all within easy walking distance.

Rooms The Feathers Hotel has 40 en-suite bedrooms, all recently refurbished to include: spa bath and power shower, flat screen TV, (including pay-per-view movie channel), hospitality tray, direct dial telephone with internet connection.

Facilities The Feathers' much acclaimed Restaurant enjoys a reputation for offering traditional and innovative, contemporary cooking using fresh, local produce. In addition, there is a cafe/bar terrace.

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

Road: Ludlow is situated on the A49 trunk road which runs from Warrington, through Shrewsbury and Hereford to Ross-on-Wye.

From Birmingham, head west on the A456 through Kidderminster. From the M5 leave at junction 3 and continue on the A456 through Kidderminster.

Rail: The railway offers the most comfortable and convenient means of getting to Ludlow. The Marches Line/North & West route provides an hourly service between Manchester, Crewe, Cardiff, Swansea and Carmarthen, with an extension to Milford Haven on alternate hours.