

www.brooklandtravel.com  
 info@brooklandtravel.com  
 T: 0845 1212863 or +44 (0)1305 259467  
 F: +44 (0)1305 259469



## TOURS THROUGH TIME

A RANGE OF FULLY GUIDED HISTORICAL TOURS

### Easter in Middle England (Historic Castles and Houses)

From the Wroxton House Hotel, Banbury 22/25 April 2011



Images: Broughton Castle (above)  
 Warwick Castle (below)



Experience the medieval feel of Middle England on this 3-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**. An entire day is devoted to Historic Warwick; not just the impressive castle that dominates this small city but also many other medieval buildings including the **Lord Leycester Hospital** where we shall have a tour with one of the brethren.

We also enjoy a private tour of **Broughton Castle**, one of the few properties to be awarded five stars by Sir Simon Jenkins author of England's 1000 Best Houses. As we tour this picturesque moated castle, we discover a fascinating history and splendid historic rooms such as the Great Hall and the Queen's Chamber.

On the final day of this tour we travel to **Rockingham Castle** near Market Harborough. This stronghold was crucial in helping William the Conqueror subdue his new kingdom as the castle was not only a fortress but an important seat of government.

#### Itinerary at a glance

Day 1 - Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Day 2 - Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Day 3 - Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Day 4 - Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
Independent travel to Wroxton 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. Depart for nearby Broughton Castle for a private tour and light two course lunch (included).  After lunch we continue to Kenilworth Castle and tour the castle and gardens with our tour leader, Julian Humphrys.  Return to the hotel for a leisurely evening and dinner.	Breakfast. Depart for Warwick. Tour of Lord Leycester Hospital and the Masters' Garden followed by free time for lunch in the tea room or locally.  Visit to Warwick Castle.  Optional walking tour of Warwick or free time if you prefer.  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 Rockingham Castle for a guided tour. Free time for lunch and independent viewing.  Mid afternoon, we return to the hotel.  16.00hrs: approx. time of return to hotel. Depart at leisure.

## Full Itinerary

**Day 1:** Independent travel to Wroxton 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:** Our first visit after breakfast on **Saturday** morning is to nearby **Broughton Castle** where we will have a private tour and coffee followed by a light two course lunch. This romantic, moated house was the setting for many scenes in 'Shakespeare in Love' and after a tour of this private home there will be time to enjoy the gardens with their colourful borders.

On Saturday afternoon we will be 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 1 and she was lavishly entertained by him here. 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.

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

**Day 3:** Touring begins on **Sunday** 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, by one of the brethren and this affords the opportunity to learn more about this historical cluster of buildings. The Masters Garden should be open for viewing and refreshments can be purchased.

Sunday afternoon has been devoted to visiting **Warwick Castle** and other historic and medieval buildings in Warwick. 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 at the end of the day and dinner is served during the evening.

**Day 4:** After breakfast on **Monday**, we check out of our rooms and depart for **Rockingham Castle** near Market Harborough. Luggage can be safely looked after at the hotel whilst we are touring.

Rockingham Castle's build was ordered by William the Conqueror and the castle has magnificent views over the Welland Valley, thus ensuring one of the best locations for his stronghold. Many medieval Kings came to Rockingham Castle. Richard the Lion Heart played host to his Scottish counterpart here and his unpopular brother John came frequently to hunt in Rockingham Forest. In Tudor times the medieval fortress was converted into a comfortable Tudor House when Henry VIII granted the castle to the Edward Watson, ancestor of the present owner. The castle was originally a Royalist stronghold in the Civil War but after falling to the Roundheads and then being besieged by the Kings Troops, its fortunes dwindled and Lewis Watson, the owner at the time, never really recovered from these traumatic times. However, in the Victorian times the castle regained its former glory as a Victorian mansion where lavish entertaining took place and Charles Dickens was a regular guest. There is much to see and some fascinating history to discover at Rockingham including beautiful gardens.

We then return to the hotel, stopping at the Railway Station if necessary. Our approximate time of return to the hotel is 16.00hrs.

## Tour Cost

English Heritage Members:	£392 per person (based on 2 people sharing a room)
Non Members:	£399 per person (based on 2 people sharing a room)
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 Wroxton House 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 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 at Broughton Castle with coffee

## Not Included

- Lunches other than on Day 2 (as mentioned above)
- 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.

*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.

## Your Accommodation



### Best Western Wroxton House Hotel

Wroxton  
Banbury  
Oxfordshire  
OX15 6QB

[www.bw-wroxtonhousehotel.co.uk](http://www.bw-wroxtonhousehotel.co.uk)  
[reservations@wroxtonhousehotel.co.uk](mailto:reservations@wroxtonhousehotel.co.uk)

The privately owned Wroxton House Hotel is just 5 minutes from historic Banbury and on the edge of the Cotswolds. This hotel is in the lovely village of Wroxton with its duck pond and beautiful church. The village also houses the grounds of Wroxton Abbey (now part of an American University) where after dinner you may stroll in the 56 acres of lovely gardens with natural water features, formal areas and parkland. The hotel is a former manor house dating back to 1654 with adjoining thatched cottages. It has a tasteful modern extension with a clock tower and glass conservatory.

### Rooms

Each of the 32 bedrooms has a work area with desk, sitting area with easy chair and coffee table, LCD TV with 80 channels, free Wi-Fi internet access, refreshment tray, iron and ironing board, hairdryer and complimentary mineral water. A few rooms have shower only, most have bath and shower en-suite.

### Facilities

Restaurant 1649, with its oak beams and Inglenook fireplace offers a distinctive contemporary menu in a relaxed atmosphere. The bar which is at the heart of the hotel, serves morning coffee with homemade biscuits and traditional afternoon teas. Free car parking on site.

## Directions to the hotel

(Sat Nav OX15 6QB )

From the **North**: exit M40 at Junction 11. Take 4th exit on roundabout onto A422 (signposted Banbury)

From the **South**: exit M40 at Junction 11. Take 1st exit on roundabout onto A422 (signposted Banbury)

Next roundabout go straight across, 2nd exit. Next roundabout go straight across 2nd exit. Next roundabout go straight across, 2nd exit (signposted Wroxton). Two mini roundabouts continue straight ahead. Next roundabout take 2nd exit towards Drayton/Wroxton (WARNING - SPEED CAMERA). At the traffic signals (opposite Barley Mow Pub) turn left towards Drayton. Go through Drayton until you reach Wroxton. The entrance to the hotel is first right after the sharp bend.

### Banbury Rail Station

Your train journey can be checked by calling National Rail Enquiries: **08457 48 49 50** [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) / [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com).

Distance to the hotel: 3.2 miles. Taxi Fare – approx. £7.00.