

Greenwich Decorative Arts Society
presents
Downton Abbey: An Insiders' Tour

September 16th-21st, 2018



Overview

Although *Downton Abbey* itself is meant to be set in Yorkshire, the Crawley family estate is actually set at the now famous Highclere Castle in the British county of Hampshire near the town of Newbury (*above*). Our tour will visit not only Highclere, where we will have a private guided tour and tea, but also other country homes in the vicinity of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire that were featured in the television series. Among them:

- Syon House, where Lady Caroline Percy will welcome us in the Great Hall before a tour and High Tea
- Houghton Lodge, where a member of the family will host tea and give a tour of this historic house
- Kingston Bagpuize, where the owner will host dinner following our tour
- West Wycombe Park, a superb Palladian country home, for a tour and lunch on the terrace

We will be accompanied throughout by Tour Lecturer Oliver Gerrish., an architectural historian who has appeared in a number of television series on architecture on both the BBC and ITV. Equally passionate about music, he is a renowned British countertenor and impresario. He founded The Young Georgians, the youth chapter of The Georgian Group, when he was 19. He was Chairman from 2002-2016. He has led over 200 tours to many of the UK's most historic and beautiful buildings.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Sunday, September 16

R, T

Arrive independently to **London** no later than this morning.

Rendezvous at **The Rembrandt Hotel** in the heart of London's Kensington and Knightsbridge. Meet your Tour Lecturer and Tour Director, both of whom will accompany you throughout the tour. Load luggage and depart by private coach. ADDRESS: 11 Thurloe Place, Kensington, opposite the Victoria & Albert Museum www.sarova-rembrandt-hotel.com

1:00 p.m. Arrive at **Syon House and Park**. Lady Caroline Percy will welcome us in the Great Hall.



Enjoy a glass of champagne before touring the house. Syon House is the last surviving ducal residence complete with its country estate in Greater London. Next enjoy High Tea in the Private Dining Room. End with free time to explore the garden.



Downton Abbey connection: The beautiful Great Conservatory in Syon Park (left), designed by Charles Fowler and built in 1830, made an idyllic setting for Lady Mary to take tea with Lord Gillingham.



Evening

Arrival at **Hartwell House** (*above*), a stately country house hotel in Buckinghamshire just 40 miles northwest of London. It is set in over 90 acres of gardens and parkland designed by a contemporary of Capability Brown. The National Trust-owned Grade 1 listed Jacobean and Georgian house provides all that is best in country house hospitality and service. Check in for the next five nights.

www.hartwell-house.com

RESERVED FOR GDAS PARTICIPANTS: Classic Room (King, Queen or Twin) in the main house

OPTION TO UPGRADE: Royal Room (King, Queen or Twin) in the main house @ \$750 per room for five nights.



Classic Room



Royal Room

The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Overnight: Hartwell House

Day 2: Monday, September 17
B, L, R, D



Morning

Arrive at **Basildon Park** (*above*), a Georgian mansion surrounded by parkland. It was restored by Lord and Lady Iliffe in the mid 1950s. The house as it exists today is a re-creation and restoration of the 18th-century mansion.

Downton Abbey connection: Doubling as the interior for Grantham House, the family's London residence, this was the grand setting for the preparation for Lady Rose's coming out ball in series four and for Rose and Atticus's wedding.

There will be time to explore the "Capability" Brown inspired gardens on your own.

Lunch

Transfer to a nearby country pub for lunch.





Afternoon Arrive at **Greys Court** (*left*), a Tudor manor house which dates back to the 14th century and encompasses a medieval fortification tower of 1347, a Tudor wheelhouse and a Cromwellian tea room. It was once owned by Sir Francis Knollys, treasurer to Elizabeth I and jailer of Mary, Queen of Scots, as well as a long lineage of noblemen and important clerics.

Downton Abbey connection: More recently, it was featured as a secondary property of the Earl of Grantham in a 2012 Downton Abbey episode.

Free time to explore the inside of the house and garden on your own. Guides are available to answer questions.

Evening

Pre-dinner drinks with an illustrated talk, *Downton to Gatsby: Jewelry and Fashion From 1890-1929* by the maker of costume and vintage jewelry for the third series, worn by the characters played by Maggie Smith, Shirley Maclaine, Elizabeth McGovern and Michelle Dockery, among others.



Dinner will follow.

Overnight: Hartwell House

Day 3: Tuesday, September 18
B, T, L, T



Morning Arrive at **Houghton Lodge** (*left*), one of the finest (and earliest) surviving examples of a Cottage Ornée – a genre of ‘picturesque’ Gothic architecture that flourished for about 25 years from 1790. Houghton was thought to be designed in 1793 by John Plaw – one of the pioneers of the style – and was probably intended as a fishing lodge. We will be welcomed by a member of the family and shown to the tea room where we can enjoy a choice of tea or coffee before starting our guided tour of the historic house by a member of the family. It was Aunt Betsy’s home in *David Copperfield*. Aunt Betsy was played by Maggie Smith.

Stroll the gardens, which are a charming example of an eighteenth century informal garden designed in this “Natural Style.”

Lunch will be served in the delightful Orangery.



Afternoon Enjoy a private guided tour of the Main State Rooms and Gallery Bedrooms of **Highclere Castle** (*left*). Dating back to 1839, this castle was a one-time hospital unit during World War I and later home to Lord Carnarvon, the man who discovered the tomb of the King Tutankhamen. *Downton Abbey connection: Highclere is the fictional home of the Granthams. We will have the opportunity to stand under the Gothic columns of the entrance hall, where Lord Grantham would have received visitors, or marvel at the gilded wallpaper in the magnificent saloon, where Dame Maggie Smith’s Cousin Violet would have reclined, swanlike, over the luxuriant red armchairs.*

Following coffee, tea and homemade biscuits, there will be time to explore the Egyptian Exhibition, which tells the story and contains antiquities from the tombs that were discovered in Egypt by the 5th Earl of Carnarvon and Howard Carter. Also enjoy free time for the gardens and gift shop.

Rest of the afternoon and evening on your own. A List of Restaurants will be provided.

Overnight: Hartwell House

Day 4: Wednesday, September 19

B, L, D

Morning

Arrive in **Bampton**, the real world village for the fictional Downton.



Downton Abbey connection: We will take a private guided tour of St. Mary's Church, which dates back to the 12th century (where the church scenes are filmed and the setting of Mary Crawley's wedding), The Bampton Library (better known as Downton Hospital), and the manor house where the Dowager Countess of Grantham resides.



Lunch in the village of Swinbrook at **The Swan Inn**, serving seasonal dishes sourced from the local area. Untouched for generations, Swinbrook is the quintessential English village with its stone walls, pretty church, cricket pitch with wooden pavilion,

and an old stone pub next to the old stone bridge. The Inn is owned by the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire's estate, the last of Mitford sisters, and – along with the neighboring cottage – forms the residual part of the estate inherited by the family at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Downton Abbey connection: It is also the set-location for Lady Sybil's elopement with the family chauffeur, Branson, a key and controversial storyline of Downton's Second Season.

Afternoon

Transfer the short distance to Burford for time at leisure.

Travel to **Kingston Bagpuize House** for an owner-led tour followed by dinner.

Downton Abbey connection: Kingston Bagpuize House served as Cavenham Park, Lord Merron's home in the series. Lord Merron married Isobel Crawley in the final season.



Overnight: Hartwell House



Day 5: Thursday, September 20
B, L, R, D

Morning Arrive at **West Wycombe Park**, home of Sir Edward Dashwood Bt. We will tour the house with the house guides followed by a buffet lunch on the terrace (weather permitting).



Downton Abbey connection: The interior of this Palladian house served as the interior of Aunt Rosamund's London home at 35 Belgrave Square, London. It's in Rosamund's home that many of the most enthralling Downton Abbey storylines were unraveled and confessed, including Edith's illegitimate child and Mary's secret love affairs.



Following lunch, we will tour St. Lawrence Church and mausoleum.

Afternoon Return to the hotel, where the balance of the afternoon is at leisure.

Evening Pre-dinner drinks on the terrace at Hartwell House (weather permitting) followed by a concert of English 18th century countertenor music performed in repertoire by a rising star in the London opera scene.

Farewell dinner in a private room.

Overnight: Hartwell House



Day 6: Friday, September 21

B

Morning Having completed check-out, our luggage will be loaded on the coach before our final departure from the hotel at 10 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Arrive at London-Heathrow. Drop off participants departing on flights. Please book your flight departing not before 1:30 p.m.

Our coach will continue to central London to drop off any participants extending their stay. Participants extending their stay in London may book accommodation at The Rembrandt or a hotel of your choice on your own.

GLOSSARY OF INCLUDED MEALS

B = Breakfast L = Lunch T = Tea R = Reception D = Dinner

Program Prices

Land-Only Tour Price	\$5,995 per person, double occupancy
Single Supplement	\$995

*Tour Prices are based on a minimum of 16 paying participants.
Tour Prices are subject to confirmation upon acceptance of the Proposal.*

Includes:

- Five nights' accommodation at Hartwell House in Classic Doubles for double and single occupancy. Upgrade to Royal Room is limited and subject to availability.
- Buffet breakfast daily; four lunches; three teas; three receptions, and three dinners; wine/beer and coffee at lunches and dinners
- Transportation by private deluxe coach; lectures as indicated
- Donations and entrances to sites indicated
- Private concert of countertenor music performed by an opera singer
- Porterage at the hotel
- Tips and taxes for included services
- Free WiFi at the hotel
- Tour Lecturer to provide commentary throughout
- Tour Director to manage logistics throughout
- Gratuities for the coach driver

Excludes:

- Round-trip airfare to and from London
- Airport transfers in London except for those who are dropped at London Heathrow International Airport on the last day
- Meals and beverages not otherwise included
- Items for personal use, including phone and fax charges, minibar, and laundry services
- Passport fees, if any

General Information

AIR TRAVEL

The tour cost excludes airfare. Should you need assistance with flights, contact Ann Barassi at agency affiliate The Travel Collaborative at (617) 497-8184 or ABarassi@travelcoll.com. If you choose to travel using frequent flyer miles, Ann will assist for an additional fee.

TRIP INSURANCE

The tour cost excludes trip cancellation or interruption insurance. Information about trip insurance from USI Travel Insurance Services will be sent to you upon receipt of your deposit. Quotes vary depending on your date(s) of birth, state where you reside, and the total cost of non-refundable trip costs (including airfare penalties).

AIRPORT TRANSFERS

The tour cost does not include airport transfers except for those who are dropped at London Heathrow International Airport on the last day of the tour.

HOTELS AND SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

The hotel is four-star, and the Tour Price is based on two persons sharing a room with private bath and shower. The right is reserved to substitute hotels when necessary. Although Travel Muse will endeavor to arrange for congenial travel companions, this cannot be guaranteed and a single supplement will be charged when necessary.

MEALS

Only those meals indicated are included in the cost of the tour.

ITINERARY

Although Travel Muse Inc. and ground operators will make every effort to adhere to the itinerary, on rare occasions it may be necessary to adjust arrangements due to circumstances beyond our control. Should any activities not be available, substitution will be made to the best of our ability and no refund will be made. Any additional costs necessitated by such changes are the responsibility of the tour member.

TOUR COSTS

Prices are based on a minimum of 16 paying participants and currency exchange rates in effect as of November 4th, 2017. At the time of final payment, Travel Muse reserves the right to add any increased amounts arising from changes in foreign exchange rates and taxes and from changes instituted by suppliers or caused by market conditions. All local/government taxes on hotels, meals, and services in the itinerary are included in addition to normal gratuities to porters, waiters, and local guides. Rates are based on group participation, and there can be no refund for services or portions of the tour not taken. It is also understood and agreed that all excursions are optional and refunds cannot be made to tour members who do not participate or complete the tour, for any reason.

PHONE OR E-MAIL

For questions about the tour, please contact Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse Inc.: (617) 480-0250 or toll-free at 1 (877) 716-1776; or meg@travelmuse.net.

Terms and Conditions

LIMIT OF LIABILITY

Travel Muse Inc. and its ground operators act only as agents for the participant with respect to transportation, hotels, and other features of this tour, and exercise every care possible. However, we cannot assume liability for injury, damage, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any motorcoach or other arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for loss or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sicknesses, weather, strike, war, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. Travel Muse Inc. reserves the right to cancel the tour prior to departure in which event the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation or liability on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour; to substitute accommodations, carriers or qualified tour staff; or to alter the itinerary of the program at any time when deemed appropriate or advisable without penalty or liability. Travel Muse cannot be responsible or liable for loss, damage or theft of personal baggage and belongings, nor can it be liable for personal injury, accident, or illness. We strongly suggest you check with your insurance agent for adequate coverage for any eventualities.

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Deposit of \$1,000 per person
This tour is expected to sell out. To avoid disappointment, please do not delay.
- Second deposit of \$2,000 per person is due on or before March 30th
- Balance is due on or before June 22nd

Registration cannot be accepted until the Terms and Conditions have been read, and you sign and return the Waiver of Liability provided on the Registration Form.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be made in writing to Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse Inc.

Cancellations received prior to March 30 th (per person)	\$500
Cancellations received March 30 th to June 22 nd (per person)	35% of cost
Cancellations received on or after June 22 nd , and up until the day of departure:	Total tour cost **

** Cancellation fee covers administrative and operational costs and any penalties assessed by suppliers.*

***** Travel insurance information will be sent to you upon receipt of your deposit.***

Flights & Trip Insurance

FLIGHTS

Participants are responsible for booking their own transportation. Here are some helpful guidelines:

- Arrive in London no later than **Sunday, September 16th**, in time to meet the group and depart at 1 p.m. for Buckinghamshire. *(Transfer to the hotel independently at additional cost).*
- Depart from London on or after **Friday, September 21st**. The coach will make a stop at London Heathrow Airport at approximately 11 a.m. before dropping remaining participants at The Rembrandt Hotel in South Kensington. If you plan to depart on September 21st from Heathrow, please book your flight departing not before 1:30 p.m.

Please send complete flight details to Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse Inc.

EXTRA NIGHTS BEFORE AND AFTER THE TOUR

If you would like to extend your stay in London, please book online with your favorite hotel. If you need assistance, please contact Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse Inc., (617) 480-0250.

AIR TRAVEL

For assistance with air travel, Travel Muse recommends Ann Barassi, a full-service travel agent with agency affiliate The Travel Collaborative. She can be reached at (617) 497-8184 or ABarassi@travelcoll.com.

If you wish to travel using frequent flyer miles, you may make arrangements directly with the card members' travel center; or Ann will assist for an additional fee.

TRIP CANCELATION / INTERRUPTION INSURANCE

For coverage with USI Travel Insurance Services, please contact Meg MacDonald at Travel Muse Inc. Please provide your passport name, date of birth, state where you reside, dates of travel, and the total tour cost that you want to insure (with or without airfare). If you have a pre-existing medical condition, you must purchase insurance within 14 to 21 days of your initial deposit (e.g. 14 to 21 days from the date of this letter). **Trip insurance is strongly encouraged.**

For questions, contact Meg MacDonald at (617) 480 0250 or meg@travelmuse.net.

Reservation Form

Please complete and send this Reservation Form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (by check, American Express, Visa, MasterCard or Discover) to: **Meg MacDonald, Travel Muse Inc., 369 Montezuma Avenue, #319, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

Please find enclosed deposits (\$1,000 per person) for _____ places on the ***Downton Abbey: An Insiders' Tour***, which runs from September 16th to 21st, 2018.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Cell (if it works in the U.K.): _____

E-mail(s): _____

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PAYMENT BY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

_____ Check enclosed (*payable to Travel Muse Inc.*).

_____ Please charge my card no. _____

Expiry _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

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ACCOMMODATIONS

_____ I/We would like to reserve a Classic Double Room in the Main House with:

_____ King Bed _____ Queen Bed _____ Twin Beds

_____ Please assist me in finding a roommate. (*If none can be found, I will pay the single rate.*)

OPTIONAL ROOM UPGRADE (*subject to availability and confirmation*)

_____ Royal Room in the main house at an additional \$750 per room for five nights with:

_____ King Bed _____ Queen Bed _____ Twin Beds

Hartwell House is a non-smoking hotel, including all public rooms and bedrooms.

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DIETARY ISSUES

Please advise if there any food allergies and list any foods you prefer not to eat:

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ANY SPECIFIC INTERESTS PERTAINING TO THIS TOUR

SPECIAL OCCASION DURING THE TOUR

Is there a special occasion that you would like to celebrate during the tour (birthday, anniversary)?

.....

USE OF IMAGE

I grant permission to Travel Muse and its affiliates to use my likeness and/or image in photographs, video, recordings, or any other record for legitimate purposes. Yes [] No []

.....

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

____ I (we) have read the details of this brochure, including the Terms and Conditions, and agree to abide by all stipulations.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Risk Acknowledgment and Liability Release
(must be signed by each participant)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Trip: Downton Abbey: An Insiders' Tour, September 16-21, 2018

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ASSUMPTION OF RISK. I am aware that travel such as I am undertaking involves activities, some in remote areas, with a risk of illness, injury or death which may be caused by forces of nature, animals, insects or flora, the negligence of Travel Muse or other persons and companies known or unknown, or of willful or criminal conduct of third parties. I am aware that medical services or facilities may not be readily available or accessible or consistent with standards in the United States during some or all of the time during which I am participating on the trip and that, when available, may not be of the quality which exists in the United States. In order to partake of the enjoyment and excitement of this trip, I am willing to accept the risks and uncertainty involved as being an integral part of my adventure. I hereby accept and assume full responsibility for any and all risks of illness, injury or death.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION. I acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate on the trip designated on this application and that I have read the description of the trip as it appears in the promotional material relating to the trip, together with all information contained in this application. I am voluntarily participating in this trip with knowledge of the hazards involved.

BINDING ARBITRATION. I agree that any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) New Mexico law and will take place in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, you (and we) are waiving our right to a trial by jury.

KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY EXECUTION. I have carefully read this Agreement and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a release of liability and a contract between myself and Travel Muse and/or its affiliated organizations and agree to it of my own free will.

Signature of participant _____ Date _____

Signature of participant _____ Date _____