

Your tour includes:

- 4 nights' accommodation on a half board basis at The Grand hotel, Torquay (4 star)
- Welcome drink on arrival at hotel and Porter service
- 5 days travel by executive coach
- Lunch at Coates English Willow
- Guided tour of Forde Abbey, Chard
- Guided tour of the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth
- Visit to Greenway (N.T– no costs included)
- Return ferry trip from Dartmouth to Greenway
- Admission to Torre Abbey with guided tour of house
- Agatha Christie themed Guided walking tour of Torquay
- Visit to Coleton Fishacre (N.T– no costs included)
- Admission and guided tour of Coates English Willow

Your tour excludes:

- Travel Insurance
- Visa (not required for UK passport holders)
- Additional entrance fees to places of interest other than those detailed in the itinerary
- Lunches and refreshments, other than those detailed in the itinerary

No admission costs have been incorporated to the National Trust properties featured on this tour. Admission for N.T. Members is free of charge on production of a valid membership card.

The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 require us to provide security for the monies that you pay for the package holidays booked from this brochure and for your repatriation from abroad in the event of our insolvency. We provide this security by way of a bond held by ABTA (W9928). Air tours are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3683. Please see our booking conditions for more information.

At any time prior to the tour departure, we reserve the right to make changes (of equal value or difference will be refunded) to attractions, visits and excursions should such suppliers' requirements and/or unforeseeable circumstances make it essential to do so. During the tour, details in the itinerary may be subject to alteration at the discretion of the tour manager and in accordance with the wishes of a clear majority of the passengers. We reserve the right to cancel this tour not later than 8/10 weeks before departure, if insufficient bookings have been received to justify its departure.

You can obtain Booking Forms and Booking Conditions from your Group Organiser. Please send completed booking forms and payments (cheques payable to Norman Allen Group Travel Ltd) to your Group Organiser, name address below:

Mrs Rosamund Crampton
The Arts Society Royal Leamington Spa
3 The Cloisters
55 Kenilworth Road
LEAMINGTON SPA
Warks
CV32 6JL

Tel: 01926 833609
Email: rosamundcrampton@mypostoffice.co.uk

Alternatively, go to group-travel.com and enter 24ALM01 in the box labelled "Please enter your unique tour code:" to make your booking online.

Tour Ref: 24/ALM01 –RMK 26-01-24

Authors and Art in South Devon

With The Arts Society Royal Leamington Spa



Coleton Fishacre © National Trust/Lauren Hutchinson

23 to 27 Sept 2024

With its beautiful coastline, rolling countryside and rich heritage, it is easy to see why South Devon has inspired artists, craftsmen and authors alike over the years. Our Autumn holiday is based in heart of the English Riviera at the iconic Grand Hotel on Torquay's seafront. Agatha Christie was born here in 1890 and we discover how the town and coastline were the inspiration and setting for many of her mystery stories during a guided tour of Torquay and visit her famous holiday home Greenway. Other highlights include a tour of the splendid Dartmouth Naval College and the wonderful art deco home of the D'Oyly Carte family at Coleton Fishacre and of course the opportunity to stroll along Torquay's palm lined sea front.

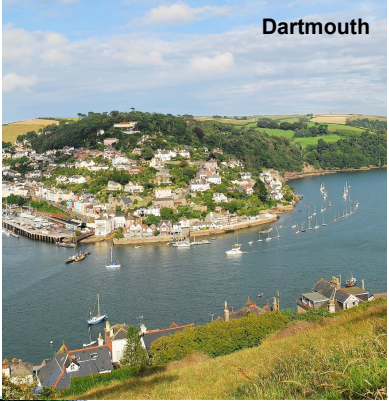


Monday 23 September - Travel & Forde Abbey

Leaving Leamington Spa, we journey south pausing for a comfort stop before continuing our journey and arriving at Forde Abbey in Somerset, a treasure in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The Abbey was founded in the 12th century by Cistercian monks and it is remarkable how much of medieval monastery have been preserved including the chapter house, dormitory and kitchens. The Saloon houses the 17th century Mortlake Tapestries; the most important work of art in the Abbey. They are woven from the cartoons painted by Raphael and purchased by Sir Edmund Prideaux. The house is set within 30 acres of award winning gardens including topiary lined vistas, hebacious borders and a bog garden. Leaving late afternoon we arrive at our hotel with time to unwind before dinner.



Royal Naval College, Dartmouth



Dartmouth

Tuesday 24 September - Dartmouth & Greenway

This morning, we travel to Dartmouth for a tour of the Royal Naval College which has been training Royal Naval Officers since 1902. During the tour of this iconic building, designed by Sir Aston Webb in 1905, we are taken into the heart of the College, from the elegant Chapel, through to areas including the Quarterdeck, Parade Ground, Senior Gun Room and Britannia Heritage Museum. After lunch at leisure in Dartmouth, in the afternoon we have a treat for Agatha Christie fans when we take the ferry along the Dart river to Greenway the holiday home where she relaxed with her family. The house, which is set in the 1950’s period, gives a glimpse into her life and is filled with collections of ceramics, Tunbridgeware, silver, and books, including first editions of her novels. There are also archaeological artefacts acquired in the Middle East where Agatha accompanied her husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan on excavations. The lower gardens alongside the Dart estuary feature the boathouse, scene of the crime in her book “Dead Man’s Folly”. We leave Greenway and head back to our hotel to enjoy our evening meal.



Coleton Fishacre

Wednesday 25 September - Agatha Christie’s Torquay

This morning, we have a guided walking tour of Torquay and discover more about Agatha Christie and her early years growing up in Torquay and visit the places which inspired her. We learn about her involvement in both World Wars and how her time spent preparing prescriptions proved invaluable for her plots. We’ll talk about her travels to the Middle East and her disappearance which created headlines across the world and discover how Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot were created. In the afternoon we visit Torre Abbey, Torbay’s most historic building, an Ancient Scheduled Monument dating back to 1196, set within 18 acres of garden and parkland. We enjoy a guided tour of the house tour which explores the history of Torre Abbey, the building’s varied architecture and extensive art collection while exploring the lives of those who previously lived here. Then there will be time to explore the garden which has a splendid collection of plants and trees and Agatha Christie inspired sinister 'Potent Plants Garden'.



Coates English Willow

Thursday 26 September - Coleton Fishacre & Brixham

Leaving our hotel we head to Coleton Fishacre. This evocative 1920’s style arts and Crafts style house perfectly captures the spirit of the Jazz age, and was once the home of the D’Oyly Carte family. The stunning garden has viewpoints with enticing glimpses out to sea, paths weave through glades past tranquil ponds, and tender plants from the Mediterranean, South Africa and New Zealand thrive in the moist and sheltered valley. We then travel to Brixham, a much loved historic old fishing village with houses tumbling down to the busy harbour where fishermen unload their boats of the daily catch of fresh fish. We head back to our hotel in time for dinner.

Friday 27 September - Coates English Willow

We bid farewell to Devon and travel into Somerset for a visit to Coates English Willows Visitor Centre in the heart of the Somerset Levels. The Somerset Levels are the most important wetland in the UK and the conditions are perfect for the production of willow and basket making willow, known as ‘withies’ have been grown here for 2 centuries. Ralph Coates began his basket making in business, in 1819 and it is still run by the family today. Our visit includes a talk about the growing and harvesting of the Willow, a demonstration of the stripping machines and visit to the basket makers workshop and museum. We enjoy a light lunch at the Lemon Tree café onsite (ncluded in the tour cost.) We board the coach for the last leg of our journey home, pausing for a quick comfort stop, before arriving home early evening.

Accommodation - The Grand Hotel, Torquay (4 star)

The 4 star Grand Hotel in Torquay offers old world grandeur and traditional British charm and has stood on the sea front in one of Devon’s most popular resorts for over 130 years. This landmark hotel has links to the second world war, Agatha Christie, Britain’s best crime writer and the Rolling Stones. There is a lift to all floors and facilities include the spacious Compass Lounge with its feature bar and huge picture windows with stunning views, heated indoor pool and fitness suite and heated outdoor pool in summer. The hotel restaurant has been awarded an AA rosette for excellent dining. All bedrooms are classically furnished with tea and coffee making facilities, en suite bathrooms and hairdryer. Sea view rooms can be requested and are subject to availability (please enquire for supplement) Our stay includes a welcome drink on arrival, buffet breakfast and 3 course evening meal followed by tea and coffee daily.



Tour Price per person	£ 791.00
Deposit per person	£ 80.00
Single Room Supplement	£ 136.00
(The final balance is due not later than 29 July)	
Travel insurance	
If you have not already arranged cover, please visit https://normanallen.b2ctravel.co.uk who offer travel insurance.	
For any travel insurance purchase, you should check the individual policy wording provided to you carefully to ensure this meets the specific needs for your chosen holiday.	