

ASHFORD PROBUS CLUB / 21-26 APRIL 2024

£695

SIGHTSEEING &
EVENING MEALS
INCLUDED

WEST NORFOLK

FEATURING SANDRINGHAM, THE THURSFORD COLLECTION,
OXBURGH HALL, HOLKHAM HALL & A SEAL SPOTTING BOAT TRIP FROM BLAKENEY



Wicken Fen



Sandringham House

For people living south of the River Thames Norfolk is a county too easily by-passed or overlooked, and this is a shame because Norfolk is a quintessential slice of England - its landscape, coastline towns and villages all fascinatingly shaped by both nature and history.

This holiday is based at one of Norfolk's top hotels and offers a contrasting programme of first class sightseeing while keeping everything at a relaxed pace.

THE 4* KNIGHTS HILL HOTEL

A former hunting lodge, the four star Knights Hill Hotel occupies one of the highest points in Norfolk. Set in 11 acres of private grounds, King's Lynn is 4-miles to the south, and this means that Knights Hill makes an ideal base for exploring this delightful area.



Hotel facilities at Knights Hill include two restaurants, two bars, an indoor pool, sauna, steam room and a spa facility that offers a range treatments for which advance booking is necessary and additional charges apply.

As for the well-appointed bedrooms, as you would expect, all offer private bathrooms, flat-screen freeview tvs, hair-dryers and hospitality trays.

THE SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

This tour offers a range of top class sightseeing opportunities. Top of the bill must be **Sandringham**, the Royal Family's country estate widely thought to be the late Queen's favourite home. The visit will give you plenty of time to tour the house, visit the museum and explore the wonderfully tended gardens.

The next day's programme would see the group venturing slightly farther afield with a programme that would combine visits to the award-winning **Thursford Museum**, and the picturesque harbour town of **Blakeney**, where group members will have the opportunity to join a 1-hour Seal Spotting Boat trip.

This would be followed by a visit to **Holkham Hall**, the splendid ancestral home of the Earls of Leicester.

Finally, we ought to mention that en route to Norfolk the group will stop at the National Trust's **Wicken Fen**, a globally significant wetland site while, on the way home, the group will visit **Oxburgh Hall**, a moated 15th century house also owned by the National Trust, and stop in **Cambridge** for sightseeing.



Picturesque Blakeney



Holkham Hall



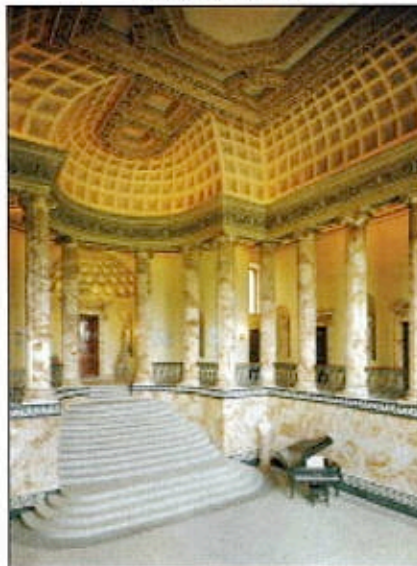
Moated Oxburgh Hall (NT)



Seal Spotting Boat Trip from Blakeney



Thursford Collection



The Earl of Leicester's Holkham Hall



Cambridge

EXACTLY WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE PRICE?

Luxury coach with toilet & fridge
 5-nights hotel accommodation
3-course evening meals in the hotel each evening
 Full English breakfasts in the hotel throughout
 Full sightseeing programme
 Ticket for the Sandringham Estate (House, Museum & Gardens)
 Entrances to Thursford Museum & Holkham Hall
 Visit to Wicken Fen en route to Norfolk
 Homeward journey via Oxburgh Hall (NT)
 Driver's gratuity

Optional Supplements

Single room - see below
 Travel insurance - see booking form
 Seal spotting boat trip - see booking form

Single Rooms - The single supplement will depend on the number of singles needed. With 6 or few singles required, the single supplement is £60 (£15 per night). With more than 6 singles, up to the maximum of 10, the supplement is £80 (£20 per night). These amounts are low by modern standards, especially as all singles will be given a double room.

THE ITINERARY

Please remember that dinner is included in the hotel's restaurant on each night of the holiday. Rest assured that the itinerary will be organised so that the group have plenty of time to relax and freshen-up between returning from a day's sightseeing and sitting down to dinner.

Sunday - After leaving Ashford at 08.30 the coach will start the drive to Norfolk. The plan is to break the journey first at the **National Trust's Wicken Fen Visitor Centre**, one of Europe's most important Wetland Sites that is home to 9,000 species including rare plants, birds and dragonflies. From here the group continue to the hotel to check-in by mid-late afternoon. There will be plenty of time to relax before meeting-up for dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

Monday - Keeping things very relaxed, the programme today features a trip to the **Sandringham Estate**. Touring the house, museum and gardens makes it easy to see why Sandringham, reputedly, is the late Queen's favourite among her several houses, the one where she felt most at home. If it is open, something we will only know days a couple of days in advance, we will include a short visit the small museum at the nearby former **Wolverton Railway Station**, famed for its association with the Royal Family. The coach will return to the hotel by mid-afternoon.

Tuesday - Today the holiday combines visits to the picturesque harbour town of **Blakeney**, with the opportunity to join a 1-hour, private charter, **Seal Spotting boat trip**, followed in the afternoon by a visit to the **Thursford Museum**, a remarkable, privately owned collection of Steam Engines and Mechanical Music Machines. The coach will return to the hotel at the end of the afternoon.

Wednesday - Still keeping things very relaxed, the programme today centres on a visit to **Holkham Hall**, the splendid ancestral home of the Earls of Leicester that, although not as well-known as Chatsworth or Bleinheim, is undoubtedly one of the UK's premier stately homes. The coach will return to the hotel via a coffee stop the **Old Hunstanton Antique & Craft Barns**.

Thursday - The programme today combines a ride on the **Poppy Line** from Holt to the seaside town of **Sherringham**, where there will be time for lunch before visiting the **National Trust's Sherringham Park** where the Rhododendrons, for which the gardens are famed, should be near their prime.

Friday - Leaving the hotel after breakfast the coach will drive the 20-miles southward to visit the **National Trust's Oxburgh Hall***, a moated manor house dating back to 1482. From here the group will continue southward, breaking the journey for an extended sightseeing stop in **Cambridge**. The expected time of arrival back at the departure point is early evening.

ASHFORD PROBUS CLUB / 21st - 26th APRIL 2024

WEST NORFOLK

BOOKING FORM / ONE PER ROOM

Full Names

Address

.....Tel

Email

YOUR PICK-UP

* Wye- 08.00

* Ashford - 08.30

ROOM TYPE

* Double/Twin

* Twin

* Single (see note 4)

SEAL SPOTTING BOAT TRIP

Please tick the box to join this trip.
£18pp will be added to you final
balance invoice.

*Provided we have enough bookings, the trip will
be a private charter, otherwise passengers will
join a public cruise.*

NATIONAL TRUST

Entrance is free for NT
members. Non-members will
have the entrance fees added
to their final balance invoice.

ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS?

Eg. Dietary needs, a room near the lift
(please give details).
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PLEASE NOTE

1) The **cost of the holiday** is £695per person. The number of places is limited and bookings will be taken on a first come, first serve basis - but your booking will only be confirmed when your deposit is received.

2) Please send your non-refundable **deposit** for £100 per person to Dave Jones at Upper Granary Court, Granary Court Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6RE. Please make your **deposit cheque** payable to 'Probus Club of Ashford'. To help the smooth administration of the holiday, we ask you to do this as soon as possible.

3) Although we recommend taking out **travel insurance**, and make having adequate travel insurance in place a condition of travel for overseas tours, but with this being a UK holiday the choice is yours. The main purpose of travel insurance for this tour would be to cover the risk of you having to cancel your holiday, or if for some reason you missed the departure. See reverse side.

4) **Single room supplement** - The amount will depend on the number of single needed. If the group requires 6 singles or fewer in total, the single supplement is £60 (£15 per night). But it is more likely we will have up to 10 singles, in which case the single supplement will be £80. These figures are low by modern standards, especially as all single passengers will be allocated a double room. Please note that the single supplement will be added to your final balance invoice.

5) Please note that the **final balance** will be due on, or before, the 15th February 2023. Please remember that any supplements for a single room or optional excursions will be added to your final balance invoice.

6) **Special Requests** - If you have particular needs, for example a gluten free diet or a room near the lift, please indicate this in the box at the bottom on the left.

7) **Joining instructions** & luggage labels will be sent in late March 2024.

8) If you have any **questions** please call or email Dave Jones.

Tel. 07594 191252 / Email - jonesturton@gmail.com

MITCHELLWOOD GROUP TRAVEL

6 LANGTONS COURT, ALRESFORD, HANTS SO24 9UE

Tel. 01962 735747

Email - mitchellwoodgroup@btconnect.com

TRAVEL INSURANCE

IMPORTANT - Mitchellwood has relinquished its status as an 'insurance agent' and instead has become what's called a 'passive provider'. Our customers can still insure themselves with Towergate as Mitchellwood will provide a website address or telephone number that the customer contacts direct. If you would like us to do that, simply ring or email us for details.

However, will also suggest that passengers look into obtaining their own insurance via someone like Saga, the Post Office, their local travel agent or online.

In brief, Towergate has woken up to the fact that for many years it has been losing thousands of pounds annually insuring our passengers. When we started working with Towergate, 30 years ago, the average age of our customers was probably somewhere between 40-50, now it's between 70-80 and, as you can imagine, this fact has resulted in a disproportional number of claims made by our customers.

Against this background, our remaining as an 'agent' would have meant us either watering down the policy conditions, or levying a premium that would have made insurance purchased through us significantly higher than the market average.

PROTECTION FOR THE TRAVEL CONSUMER

The Package Travel Directive of 2018 makes it a legal requirement that all tour companies provide their customers with protection against their financial failure.

There are three ways a tour operator can do this: membership of a bonding organisation like Abta, the use of a trust account overseen by a trusted intermediary (normally but not always an accountant or solicitor) or Mitchellwood's method whereby we purchase Financial Failure Insurance for our passengers.

This insurance protects our passengers against our financial failure, and will either obtain full refunds for everyone of all monies paid (excluding travel insurance) or, if you are actually away on a trip, will allow you to finish your holiday and be returned to you point of origin.

The insurance is arranged by Towergate Chapman Stevens through the Evolution Insurance Company PLC. Your group leader will have the full details, including how to make a claim, although of course, we are not envisaging you ever having to make one.