

ASHFORD PROBUS CLUB / 21-26 APRIL 2024

WEST NORFOLK

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



Wicken Fen



Sandringham House

THE ITINERARY

NB - Dinner will be served at 19.00 each evening in the hotel's restaurant.

Sunday - After leaving Wye at 07.45 and Ashford at 08.15 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, and then again in Ely where passengers will be able to visit stunning **Ely Cathedral**. From here the group continue to the hotel to check-in by mid-late afternoon. There will be time to relax and freshen-up before meeting for dinner in the hotel's restaurant.

Monday - Today 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**.

Tuesday - In the morning the coach will take the group into **Kings Lynn** where amongst the town's cobbled streets and quays is the country's best-preserved medieval guildhall. In the afternoon the group visit 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 - The programme today features a trip to the **Sandringham Estate**. Touring the house, museum and gardens makes it easy to see why Sandringham, reputedly, was the late Queen's favourite among her several houses, the one where she felt most at home. If it's possible, although we will only know couple of days in advance, we will include a short visit to the small but quaint museum at the nearby former **Wolverton Railway Station**, known for its association with the Royal Family. The coach will return to the hotel by mid-afternoon.

Thursday - The programme today starts with a **Seal Spotting boat trip**, the timing of which (09.45) is dictated by the tides. This will necessitate a prompt 08.30 departure from the hotel. The boat trip lasts 75 minutes and those not going will be taken to nearby **Blakeney**. From Blakeney the coach will drive along the coast to **Sheringham**, where the group is free for lunch before visiting the **National Trust's Sheringham Park**. Here we are trusting that the Rhodadendrons, for which the gardens are famed, should be at or near their prime. The coach will return to the hotel at the end of the afternoon.

Friday - Leaving the hotel after breakfast the coach will drive 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.