



Coach Trips from London Ltd

A Taste of Northumberland

Sunday 7 April 2024 for 4 days

Coach supplied by Bessway Travel Ltd of North Wembley

The county of Northumberland is one of the lesser known beauty spots of Britain with its wide open skies, miles of unspoilt coastline and beautiful hills and wooded valleys. It is also an area of magnificent houses and castles. Once again we shall be staying at the well appointed **Holiday Inn, Gosforth Park**,. Situated north of Newcastle, the facilities include an indoor swimming pool.

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Day 1 (Sunday) We shall depart West London (Acton, Ealing, Greenford, Hillingdon etc) and travel into Oxfordshire for our morning coffee break. (Home pick-ups will be available to bring you to Hillingdon Station if you live in Stanmore, Harrow, Pinner, Northwood, Ruislip etc). A light **buffet lunch** will be arranged for us near Nottingham. Later we shall stop at the impressive **Angel of the North** (pictured below) before we check-in at the **Holiday Inn, Gosforth Park** for **Dinner** and a 3-night stay.

Day 2 (Monday) Hadrian's Wall and Cragside

Our day will start with a visit to **Vindolanda**, the Roman settlement on Hadrian's Wall set amidst wild unspoilt countryside. From here we shall take a scenic drive to the **Cragside Estate** (National Trust). This very fine Victorian mansion was the first house in the world to be lit by hydro electricity. It was the home of the industrialist and inventor Sir William Armstrong. The grounds are most attractive. You will be able to obtain a lunchtime meal or snack here. **Dinner** at our hotel this evening.

Day 3 (Tuesday) Craster, Alnwick Castle and Alnwick Garden

Today we shall travel to the Northumberland coast to visit **Craster**, a charming fishing village. It is famous as a place where herrings are still smoked the traditional way. Next we shall take you to historic **Alnwick Castle** where the magnificent State rooms await you - paintings by Van Dyck and Titian, porcelain by Chelsea and Meissen. Also, **Alnwick Garden** with its delightful water features. These were created by the current Duchess of Northumberland 30 years ago. The castle, which has been the home of the Percy family for centuries, has featured in *Downton Abbey* on tv and in the Harry Potter films. It is a very worthwhile and rewarding visit. **Dinner** at our hotel.

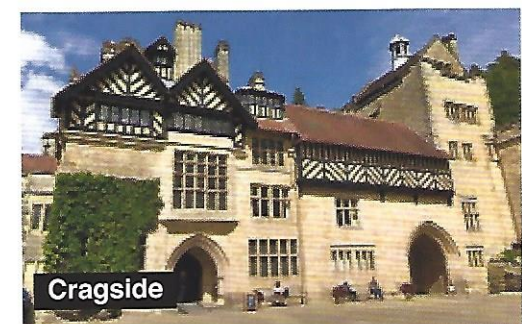
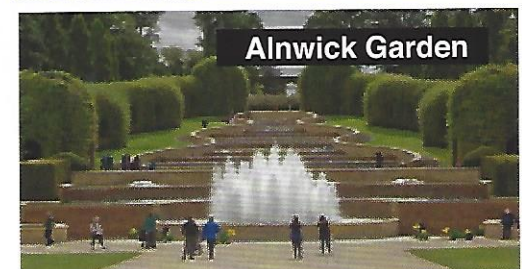
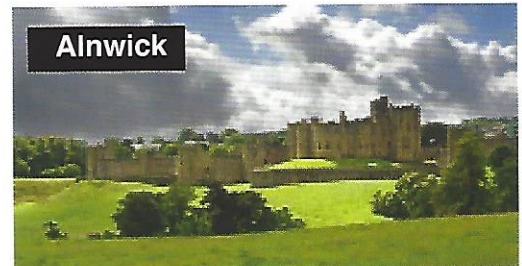
Day 4 (Wednesday) Richmond Yorkshire

On the final day of our break we will leave our hotel and travel south to the Yorkshire market town of **Richmond** where a visit to the **Georgian Theatre** is being arranged. Dating from 1789 this is one of England's oldest playhouses. Here we shall learn about theatregoing as it was two hundred years ago and we shall stand on the stage where Edmund Kean and other great actors of the past have performed. As an alternative to the theatre visit you can visit Richmond Castle if you prefer or simply explore the town centre as you wish. There will be time to obtain a light lunch here before we leave. On the homeward journey we shall stop for an **early dinner** (main course, dessert and coffee) in Hertfordshire. We expect to be back at Hillingdon Station by 8.45pm when licensed cars will meet our coach to return you to your home (if you have booked our home pick-up service). Otherwise the coach will drop off passengers in Northolt, Greenford, Hanwell, Ealing, Acton etc. We hope this short break will interest you. Early booking is recommended.

NB: Please request the booking conditions that apply to this tour.

How to Book

A deposit of **£90 per person** will secure your place on this tour. Please send your deposit cheque (made payable to **Coach Trips from London Ltd**) to Graham Jenkins at 2 Wood End Gardens, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 4QH or phone Graham on **020 8422 2751** to pay your deposit by debit card or credit card. As usual, balances will fall due eight weeks prior to departure.



This is what the tour price of £595 includes:

- ❖ Travel throughout the tour in a comfortable modern coach supplied by Bessway Travel Ltd.
- ❖ Three nights' Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.
- ❖ Lunch on Day 1 and Dinner on Day 4.
- ❖ Entry fees at Vindolanda, Alnwick Castle, Alnwick Garden and at the Georgian Theatre.
- ❖ The services of our tour manager throughout

NOT INCLUDED: Lunch on days 2 to 4, nor bar drinks or wine if any are ordered. Cragside will be free to National Trust members otherwise an entry fee will apply. Please pay on the day for this. It was £22 in 2023.

Single Supplement: £96
a double room for sole use