

504 West Mission Ave, Ste.204
Escondido, CA 92025
1-800-227-1393
1-760-735-6770
Fax: 1-760-735-6495
Europe@iqotc.com



IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS...

311 Fulham Palace Road
London SW6 6TQ
Tel : 0207-736 6211
Fax: 0207-731 4701
london@iqotc.com

In Quest of the Classics proudly offers a deluxe tour for the discerning traveller featuring some of the finest hotels in Southern England. This is a mini version of the hugely successful IQOTC/Virtuoso Study Tour in March. You will travel in luxury through the countryside with your own blue badge guide “at your disposal” from start to finish. The tour includes full English breakfast throughout, with three dinners as mentioned, all entrances and portorage. Prices are upon request. This programme can only be booked through a bona fide travel agent.

Day 1, Tuesday : LONDON/RYE

We will meet guests at London Heathrow or Gatwick and transfer to Rye.
Spend a quiet afternoon on your own to recover from the flight.



The next three nights will be spent at **The George in Rye**. Located in the centre of town, the hotel was recently renovated to create one of the most stunning hideaways on the south coast. The building dates from 1575 and even has an original Georgian ballroom used for weddings and banquets. Eclectic and

contemporary design has been given to the historic fabric using a wide range of antique and modern furniture, and local art. The result is a comfortable blend of old and new. We include a welcome dinner prepared with ingredients sourced from local farms in Sussex together with Sandhurst English wine. Yes, really!

Day 2, Wednesday : RYE



A day in Rye, beginning with a visit to the “Sound & Light” show at the Heritage Centre for an introduction to Rye’s history, followed by a walk around town with a local guide. We’ll make a visit to the 900 year old church of St Mary the Virgin, with marvellous photo opportunities from the church tower. Included are entrances to the Castle Museum. We recommend taking afternoon tea in one of Rye’s pretty tea rooms for those

who are flagging a little or maybe browse one of the many antique shops.

Early evening you’ll attend a reception in the historic town hall hosted by the Town Crier with a chance to sample some more English wines.

Day 3, Thursday : LOCAL

A full day tour starting with a visit to the 'loveliest castle in the world' – Leeds, a Saxon royal manor, a Norman fortress and then a palace for Kings and Queens of England. The Castle has a fine collection of paintings, tapestries and furnishings, and a magnificent garden.

We'll continue to Great Dixter. The late Christopher Lloyd's father Nathaniel bought the house and garden, which now bears witness to the decades of horticultural skill put into its planting. The Lloyd style of planting and maintaining a garden is probably more widely copied now than any other. The heart of the garden is the 65m Long Border, which has become a showcase and trial for his experiments. Head Gardener Fergus Garrett will give us an introduction. (S/A)



Day 4, Friday : RYE/BATH



We travel along the south coast to Brighton, a treasure trove of great museums, art galleries and shopping. Your guide will lead you around The Lanes with its intriguing mix of antique stores and clothes shops. We include a visit to the Royal Pavilion, the spectacular seaside palace of King George IV transformed by John Nash into one of the most dazzling and exotic buildings in the British Isles.

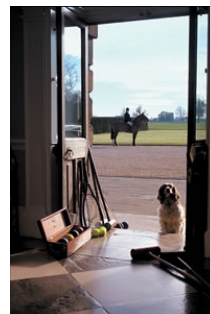
Later we pay a short visit to Winchester, an unspoilt cathedral city, England's ancient capital and former seat of King Alfred the Great. Our guide will conduct a tour of the 11th century cathedral. We'll drive past one of the most famous ancient monuments in the world Stonehenge, before arriving at **Ston Easton Park** our 'home' for the next three nights.



A superb Palladian mansion set in one of the West Country's most romantic estates, Ston Easton exudes elegance, warmth and comfort. Log fires burn, comfortable antique furniture and exquisite paintings beckon, evoking memories of a more leisured age and providing a welcome you might associate with a magnificent private country house.

The house spaniel Sweep will be delighted to take you on a guided tour !

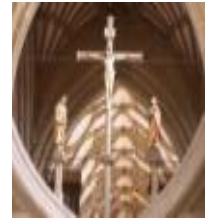
A gourmet dinner included this evening.



Day 5, Saturday : WELLS/GLASTONBURY



This morning we visit Wells, the smallest city in England and tour the Cathedral. The west front holds over 200 pieces of medieval sculpture and the famous 14th century clock still has the jousting horsemen who emerge every fifteen minutes. The Vicar's Close was built to house members of the clergy and is one of the oldest streets in England still occupied.



Glastonbury lies at the centre of the Isle of Avalon, a region rich with mystical associations. The Abbey was once the richest and greatest in England and is the legendary burial place of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere. Here is 2000 years of Christian history and mystery – did Joseph of Arimathea bring Jesus here? The Chalice Well is alleged to be the hiding-place of the Holy Grail.

Day 6, Sunday : SPECIAL LOCAL VISITS



First we meet an old friend of In Quest, Patsy Floyd, chatelaine of Great Chalfield Manor. Great Chalfield is a charming 15th century manor house enhanced by a moat and gatehouse which has beautiful oriel windows and a great hall. Recently featured in the film, "The Other Boleyn Girl."

Patsy will offer us coffee and host a private tour.

Continue to Lacock dating from the 13th century and has many lime-washed half-timbered and stone houses. The village was used as a location in the TV and film productions of *Pride and Prejudice*, *Moll Flanders*, and *Emma*. We'll visit the Abbey and Museum of Photography. The Abbey featured in the recent Harry Potter films.

Day 7, Monday : BATH/THORNBURY

The whole of Bath is a World Heritage site and is recognised as the finest Georgian city in Europe. We'll spend the day here starting with a visit to the Roman Baths, set around Britain's only hot spring. A walking tour encompasses the Royal Crescent, a stately arc of 30 grand houses, and continues to The Circus. Shopping is an absolute delight with a fabulous selection of small independent shops and stylish boutiques.



Roman Baths



Bath Abbey



Royal Crescent

Three glorious nights at **Thornbury Castle**, whose rooms and grounds were once walked in by Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Courtiers have flirted with ladies-in-waiting in the ancient yew-hedged gardens. Step behind the heavy oak doors and you'll find a magnificent hotel with roaring fires, delicious modern cuisine and sumptuous bedchambers.



Day 8, Tuesday : COTSWOLDS

Today we'll tour the Cotswolds. This unique region of England, where time has stood still for 300 years, is still mostly rich farmland dotted with chocolate-box pretty villages built of limestone. Despite being home to a wealthier type of weekender, the area is still steeped in tradition and custom from the annual cheese rolling and 'Olympick' games, to fox hunting and game shooting.



We'll make a visit to the Cotswold Falconry Centre. The Head Falconer will explain their conservation and breeding programmes. Stow-on-the-Wold is famous for its antique shops so we'll arrange visits to the better ones, according to your interest.

We'll finish the day with an English high tea hosted by Wendy Dare at Mill Dene Garden. In her married life Wendy and her husband bought this beautiful half-derelict water mill and the story began. The garden grew as more views of the lovely hills. The air is redolent with the sound of water and heavily scented from the plants.



English high tea hosted by Wendy Dare at Mill Dene Garden. Early in her married life Wendy and her husband bought this beautiful half-derelict water mill and the story began. The garden grew as more views of the lovely hills. The air is redolent with the sound of water and heavily scented from the plants.

Day 9, Wednesday : LOCAL

Our first visit of the day is to Berkeley Castle, the home of one of only three English families who can trace their ancestry from father to son back to Saxon times. The castle survives as a Norman fortress enlarged into a substantial and comfortable home, the most infamous event here being the gruesome and dreadful murder of King Edward II – don't ask how it happened, you don't want to know!



We'll have free time for lunch in Cheltenham, England's most complete Regency town. Town houses line the historic Promenade with its squares, terraces and gardens. There is an impressive range of shops and restaurants.

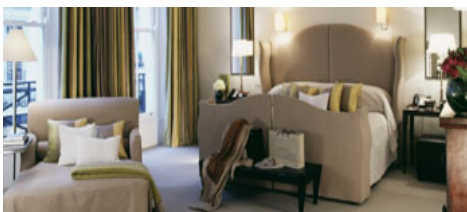


We'll return via the Roman town of Cirencester and make a stop in Tetbury, where The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall live. You can visit Highgrove, the Prince's newly-opened organic store. Everything in stock comes directly from their home farm or reflects the Prince's wide-ranging interests.

Tonight a special farewell dinner at Thornbury Castle with accompanying wines.

Day 10, Thursday : THORNBURY/LONDON

Early morning transfer back to the airport or continue into London for two nights at **Brown's**, one of the most intimate and charming 5* hotels in London. Set at the heart of Mayfair, Brown's is this year celebrating its 170th anniversary. We can also offer this programme using **The Lanesborough** or **The Draycott**.



Brown's



The Lanesborough



The Draycott