



EPIC JOURNEYS

SPECIALIST TOURS & EVENT MANAGEMENT



WINDSOR, NEWMARKET, CHESTER, THE COTSWOLDS & ROYAL ASCOT WEEK

5 JUNE – 24 JUNE 2026

Our 2023 Epic Journey to Royal Ascot delivered on a scale we'd only previously dreamed about, and we're following up next year in 2026 with a new journey that will include staying 3 nights in Windsor (directly opposite Windsor Castle), our own coach tour of the UK which includes Newmarket, Chester and the Cotswolds before a week staying in the heart of London and heading out for 3 of the 5 days during the quite astonishing "Royal Ascot Week".



With celebrity hosts John and Linda Wheeler

**Fri 5 June****NZ & Australia to London**

Depart Auckland 8.30pm and arrive 12.25pm
lunchtime the next day in London

On arrival at London's Heathrow Airport at lunchtime on Saturday 6 June, the group will be met and driven the very short distance to our Windsor Hotel, where we'll stay for the next 3 nights. We'll be able to check-in on arrival, and the rest of the afternoon and evening are free to explore our surroundings. In saying that, Windsor is renowned for its variety of hotels and bars and I'm sure many of the group will find some food and entertainment together.

**Sat 6 - Tues 9 June****Windsor**

Macdonald Windsor Hotel

23 High St
Windsor SL4 1LH

In Saturday 6 June Out Tuesday 9 June 3 nights Windsor

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included

**Sun 7 June****Day Free - Group Dinner**

A completely free day to get to know our fellow travellers although some might head by train into the heart of London or just explore this beautiful town. A group dinner is included.

**Mon 8 June****Windsor Castle
and Windsor Races Twilight Meeting**

We have a big day ahead as we have tickets to view the spectacular Windsor Castle which is 100m from our hotel's front door. Windsor Castle opens at 10am and our ticket allows us admission to the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world - we will have time to admire some of the Royal Collection's finest treasures in the State Apartments, view magnificent masterpieces by Holbein, Van Dyck, Rubens and others, wander around St George's Chapel (home to many Royal Weddings and also the burial of many Kings and Queens) and although we are doing a self-guided tour, we have a multimedia guide to assist. At 4pm we walk the short distance from our hotel down the hill to the Thames River and catch the boat directly up the river and into Windsor racecourse where we will have a package which includes the return boat journey, admission, racebook, a welcome drink and a meal. First race is 5.40pm and with the long twilight the last race is at 8.40pm.

**Tues 9 June****Windsor to Cambridge**

We will depart Windsor on our own Coach (which we have for the next 7 days) at 10.30am and head to beautiful Cambridge where we should arrive around 12.30pm. Time to drop our bags at reception and have a sandwich before we have a fantastic guided walking tour of Cambridge - we will split into groups of 15 for this. The rest of the evening is at leisure.

**Tues 9 - Thurs 11 June****Cambridge**

Hilton City Hotel Cambridge

In Tuesday 9 June Out Thursday 11 June

2 nights Cambridge

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included

**Wed 10 June****Newmarket including Warren
Hill & National Stud**

It's an early start to the day as we are privileged to be taken to Newmarket to watch the horses work on Warren Hill. The day will include a visit to the National Stud, morning tea at a lovely local hotel, and a visit to a local racing stable before heading to the National Horse Museum. We'll be back into Cambridge by 1pm so the rest of the day is ours to wander this magnificent University city.

**Thurs 11 June****Newmarket to Chester**

It's an early start to the day as we are privileged to be taken to Newmarket to watch the horses work on Warren Hill. The day will include a visit to the National Stud, morning tea at a lovely local hotel, and a visit to a local racing stable before heading to the National Horse Museum. We'll be back into Cambridge by 1pm so the rest of the day is ours to wander this magnificent University city.

**Thurs 11 - Sat 13 June****Chester**

Crowne Plaza Chester Hotel

Trinity Street

Chester CH1 2BD

In Thursday 11 June Out Saturday 13 June

2 nights Chester

Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi

Full breakfast included

**Fri 12 June****Chester**

The morning is free to continue our exploration but this afternoon we're off to the races - we'll leave the hotel at 12.30pm and wander across to one of the most beautiful looking racecourses in the world where we will have admission, race book and entry into the County Concourse. First race is at 1.40pm and the last race 5.40pm but we can walk (600m) back to the hotel whenever we fancy.

**Sat 13 June****Chester to Chipping Norton**

It's summer and it's Saturday but we'll depart at 9am and head south to the glorious Cotswolds where we'll stay a couple of nights. We should reach Chipping Norton around 12.30pm where we have time just to wander around this historic town.



Sat 13 - Mon 15 June

Chipping Norton

Crown and Cushion Hotel
 23 High St
 Chipping Norton OX7 5AD
 In Saturday 13 June Out Monday 15 June 2 nights
 Chipping Norton
 Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
 Full breakfast included



Sun 14 June

Tour of the Cotswolds with lunch

We're actually staying in the heart of the Cotswolds but at 9.30am today we'll head off on a circuitous route around the more spectacular sights including Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water and Burford where we'll have time for lunch - we should be back in Chipping Norton around 4pm at latest.



Mon 15 June

Cirencester to London

Time to head into London and park up for a week so we'll depart the Cotswolds around 10.30am and aim to be in our London Hotel by around 1pm where the rest of the day will be at leisure. Our hotel in London, the Strand Palace, is superbly located and only 200m from Covent Garden and 600m from both Trafalgar Square and Chinatown.



Mon 15 - Mon 22 June

London, UK

Strand Palace Hotel
 3372 Strand
 London WC1R 0JJ
 In Monday 15 June Out Monday 22 June 7 nights London
 Non-smoking Superior Double room includes free Wi-Fi
 Full breakfast included



Tues 16 June

Royal Ascot

A wonderful opening to Royal Ascot week with the feature race being the Queen Anne Stakes over a mile and we have return transfers, admission and a full hospitality package in The Gallery in the Queen Anne Enclosure. The Gallery is a delightful area with seated tables, a wonderful menu with drinks included and it has its own private balcony with views over the main straight to watch the Royal Procession and the racing itself. The feature sprint race is the "King's Stand" won by Nature Strip and James McDonald in 2022 although there are 3 other Group 1 races on the day. Our coach will depart the Strand Palace at 11am for the course, with the return transfer 30 minutes after the last race.



Wed 17 June

West End Show in London

It's Day 2 of Royal Ascot but we have a day off as we've had a busy time of it over the last few days - so the day is ours to explore although many might find a local pub or betting shop to watch the races. Tonight, we have confirmed seats in the stalls at a local West End musical.



Thurs 18 June

Royal Ascot

We're back at Royal Ascot today for Ladies Day, with the highlight being the Group 1 Gold Cup. Our group has general Queen Anne Enclosure tickets giving us the freedom to explore the track, check out the mounting yard, visit the gift shop and perhaps see the King up close and personal. Departure from the hotel not until 12 noon today and return 30 minutes after the last race.



Fri 19 June

London

It is of course Day 4 of this wonderful Royal Ascot carnival, but the group are having another day off to continue ticking off the London and surrounds "bucket list". Perhaps a trip to Brighton, Stonehenge or Bath - don't hesitate to ask for advice or thoughts on any potential "side trips".



Sat 20 June

Final Day Royal Ascot

It's the final day of the carnival, highlighted by the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth 2 Jubilee Stakes and we have return transfers, admission and a magnificent hospitality package, again in The Gallery in the Queen Anne Enclosure at Royal Ascot with a fantastic menu and a full drinks package included.. Expected departure from the hotel is 11am but to be confirmed.



Sun 21 June

London

Our epic journey is nearly over and after the excesses of the last 18 days we have a day to take stock, or head down to the seaside at Brighton, or Hastings or just have a lazy day in London with a lunch in Chinatown.

This evening though at 7pm we have our Gala Farewell dinner which will include our light-hearted "awards night".



Mon 22 June

Departure from London

The day itself is free, although we'll need to check out of the tour hotel by 11am (luggage can certainly be left at reception). The rest of the day is at leisure until a 5pm coach transfer to Heathrow Airport for the flights home. Emirates Airlines flights example. Departs London: 10.15pm Arrives Auckland: 9.50am (Wednesday 24 June)

INCLUSIONS

- Escorted by celebrity tour hosts
- Services of an Epic Journeys tour guide throughout
- All flights as detailed
- Luxury Coach with WiFi and toilet where possible
- All accommodation in 4 star Hotels with full breakfast daily
- All transfers and day tours as detailed in the itinerary
- All flight taxes, accommodation taxes and service fees throughout the tour
- Racecourse admission and hospitality packages as detailed in the itinerary
- Lunches and Dinners as detailed in the itinerary
- All entrance fees throughout the tour (during day tours)

COSTS

COST: NZ\$23,290 per person**

Single Supplement: NZ\$6,560**

TOUR COST/DEPOSITS/PAYMENTS

A deposit of NZ\$6,000 is required to confirm your place on the tour.

A 2nd instalment of NZ\$6,000 is required by 31 October 2025, a 3rd instalment of NZ\$6,000 by 31 January 2026 and the balance is due on or before 15 March 2026.

Add-ons are available to the tour (before or after).

****The quoted tour prices are based on Currency Exchange rates as of 24 April 2025 and are subject to alteration (up or down) in the event of marked currency fluctuations.**



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