

Southern Safari England Tour June 7 - 19, 2021

Package Prices:	\$3,599 per person Double Occupancy	\$4,669 per person Single Occupancy	\$3489 per person Triple Occupancy
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Join before our group space is gone. January 15th, or until sold out!

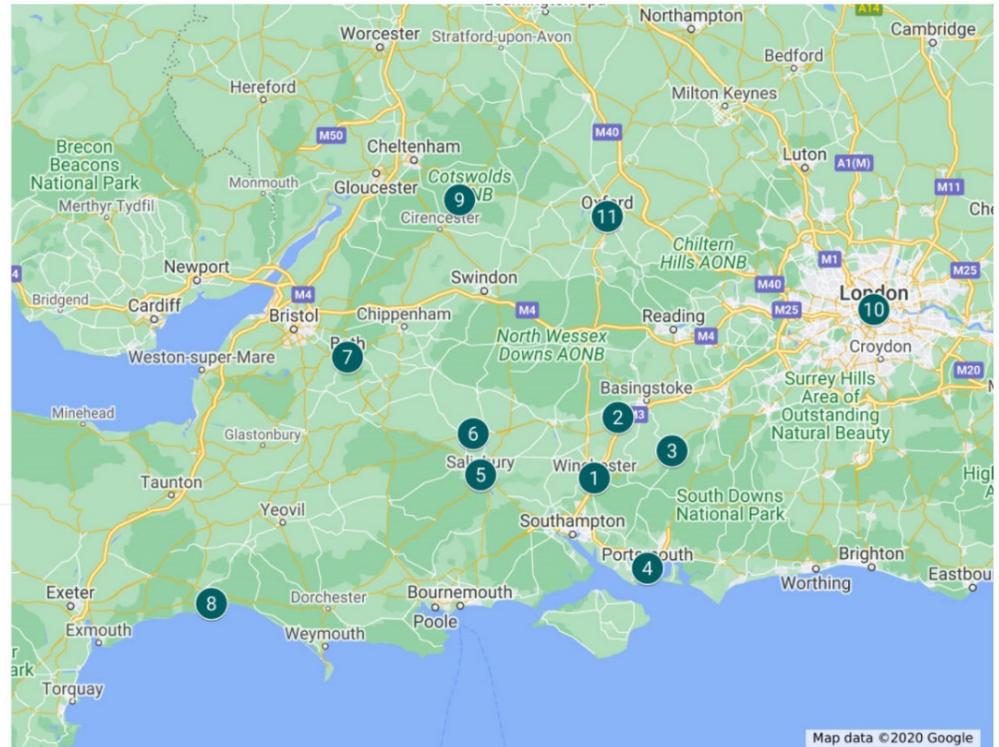
All rates are per person, and are inclusive of the package components listed. We can offer airfare from other cities, or offer a land only price for those using frequent flyer mileage tickets - please contact Ken with GalaxSea for further details.

Jane Austen's England

Jane Austen

- 1 Winchester Cathedral
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- 5 Portsmouth
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- 8 Bath
- 9 Lyme Regis
- 10 Cotswolds
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- 12 Oxford

Landscapes, Seascapes,
Cityscapes - June 2021



Jane Austen's England Group Travel Itinerary:

Monday, June 7: Depart from MSSU for London. Includes transportation from MSSU to our local departure airport. Flight details will be announced later. Other departure cities can be arranged.

Tuesday, June 8: Arrive London Heathrow. Coach transfer to Winchester. Hotel accommodations at Mercure Winchester Wessex (across street from Winchester Cathedral) for three nights. Evening dinner.

Harking back to the legends of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, Winchester retains its old English feel with its famous cathedral. Though fairly small, it's a charming town with one-way streets curving up and down cobblestone roads in hilly terrain. Jane Austen references are everywhere. Her last few weeks were spent here; she is buried in the cathedral. You can also walk by her former lodgings, now a private home, where she died in 1817 at the age of 41.

Wednesday, June 9: Day excursion to Steventon and Chawton. Steventon is a peaceful village hidden in a valley; Jane Austen lived the greatest part of her life here. We'll see the site of the rectory where Austen was born and visit St. Nicholas Church, dating from about 1200, where her father George Austen preached. Jane Austen's House Museum in Chawton has been restored as closely as possible to what it was like when she lived there. We will also visit the beautiful house and gardens of Chawton House and Library, the "Great House" owned by Jane's brother Edward Austen Knight which she visited frequently. Overnight in Winchester.

Thursday, June 10: Day excursion to Portsmouth, which was the naval capital of England for over 500 years and is chock-full of maritime history. We'll do a harbor tour and visit the HMS Victory, which was Admiral Horatio Nelson's flagship and launched in 1765. Jane Austen often travelled to Portsmouth to visit her brothers, Francis and Charles, who were stationed there with the Royal Navy. Austen's *Mansfield Park* heroine Fanny Price returns to Portsmouth with her brother William, a naval midshipman, to stay with her family, and while in Portsmouth has fateful conversations with first Henry Crawford and then Edmund Bertram when they visit. Overnight in Winchester.

Friday, June 11: After touring Winchester Cathedral, site of Austen's grave, we depart for Bath, via Stonehenge and Salisbury with the magnificent Salisbury Cathedral. Hotel accommodations at the Doubletree by Hilton in Bath for three nights. Evening dinner.

With its elegant buildings – still primarily made of honey-colored Bath stone – and its location nestled among green hills, Bath is a feast for the eyes. The name of the city is due to its warm-water springs. The entire city is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Jane Austen lived in Bath from 1801 to 1806, and characters in Northanger Abbey and Persuasion spend time in this elegant, vibrant city as well.

Saturday, June 12: We'll visit the Roman Baths and then the Jane Austen Centre to get a sense of the fashion, food, and society of the Regency era and the impressive Assembly Rooms mentioned in two of Austen's novels and scene of many Regency-era balls and a fashion museum. Walking the lovely streets of Bath may take us past 4 Sydney Place where Jane Austen lived for three years, over the Pulteney Bridge and down Great Pulteney Street (a beautiful Georgian avenue mentioned frequently in *Northanger Abbey* as the location of Catherine Morland and the Allens' lodging), and past the Royal Crescent which housed the wealthiest visitors to Bath. You may want to take tea at the historic Pump Room, popular and fashionable since Jane Austen's time. Jane Austen loved to take the air, and walk to Beechen Cliff, mentioned in *Northanger Abbey* and a favorite walk of Austen herself, will afford spectacular views of Bath. For a non-Austen, glimpse into Romantic-era scientific achievement, a visit to the Herschel Museum of Astronomy introduces you to the amazing contributions of brother and sister William and Caroline Herschel; William discovered the planet Uranus in 1781 using his home-built telescopes and Caroline was a pioneering astronomer in her own right, discovering eight comets, one of which is named after her. Overnight in Bath.

Sunday, June 13: Day excursion to the seaside town of Lyme Regis, which boasts breathtaking scenery and a special mystique. Lyme Regis is part of the Jurassic Coast, a UNESCO World Heritage site on the English Channel where erosion has revealed rock formations from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods and an astonishing number of fossils and fossilized species. Jane Austen visited Lyme Regis in 1803 and 1804, and it is an important setting for her novel *Persuasion*. Its historic harbor, called the Cobb, is an iconic feature, set against moody blue cliffs and it is the site of one of Austen's most famous and dramatic scenes when Louisa Musgrove falls off the steps of the Cobb. Three screen adaptations of *Persuasion* have used Lyme Regis as a filming location. Entrance to the Lyme Regis Museum is included. Not only does the museum feature the town's literary connections to Jane Austen, John Fowles, and others, it showcases the work of Romantic-era fossil collector, dealer, and paleontologist Mary Anning (1799-1847) whose major discoveries, including Ichthyosaurs and Plesiosaurus, changed scientific thinking about prehistoric life. Anning's life and work has continued to draw scholarly and popular interest, and Kate Winslett is portraying Anning in the highly fictionalized film *Ammonite*, released in November 2020. Mary Anning's grave is not far from the museum at nearby St. Michael's Parish Church. Overnight in Bath.

Monday, June 14: Depart for London via the Cotswolds. The Cotswolds' quintessential Englishness – honey-colored stone cottages and inns nestled amid green hills with every third home thatched – make the region a must-see. We'll stop at Castle Combe, the prettiest village in England; Bibury, which mixes rustic beauty with historic integrity; Burford, one of the most picturesque towns in England; and Bampton, which was used for filming the village scenes in "Downton Abbey." Hotel accommodations at Copthorne Tara Hotel in London for five nights. The hotel is located in the Kensington area, behind the High Street Kensington Tube Station, and near the beautiful Kensington Palace Gardens.

Tuesday, June 15: Free day to explore London. Possibilities include the British Museum, Buckingham Palace, National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery, the British Library, London Eye, Tate Modern and Tate Britain, Natural History Museum, Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square, Museum of London, Victoria and Albert Museum, and seeing a West End show. London's Regency and Georgian neighborhoods offer ample opportunity for walking and observing, as Austen herself did when visiting her friends and family, including her banker brother Henry, in London. Overnight in London.

Wednesday, June 16: Day excursion to Oxford, optional for Southern Safari participants. Oxford is home to the University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Jane Austen's father and two of her brothers studied at St. John's College and the Bodleian Library holds the manuscript of Jane Austen's unfinished novel *The Watsons* as well as three surviving volumes of her handwritten juvenilia. Oxford attractions include the Bate Collection of Musical Instruments which houses over 2000 instruments from the Western orchestral music traditions from the Renaissance, through the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and up to modern times; the Museum of the History of Science which houses an unrivalled collection of early scientific instruments; and the Pitt Rivers Museum which holds one of the world's finest collections of anthropology and archaeology. In addition to the history, the science, the fabulous bookstores, locations in and around Oxford also provided the setting for many scenes from the *Harry Potter* films. Overnight in London.

Thursday, June 17: free day to explore London and area side trips. Overnight in London.

Friday, June 18: free day to explore London and area side trips. Overnight in London.

Saturday, June 19: Coach transfer from hotel to London Heathrow for flights to U.S. Transportation back to MSSU is included.

Optional Sightseeing Excursions – during your free time.

While most of our trip is planned out day by day, there is some free time. Perhaps a special dinner, a local show or a special behind-the-scenes glimpse into an historical site, we will have some optional excursions to help fill your days. These are a wonderful way to enrich your vacation experience even further without the hassle of figuring out what to do yourself. We know people take interest in different activities and we can help craft a more personal vacation experience by providing some optional excursion suggestions, that way you can hand-pick based on appeal and personal interest.

The optional excursions for this trip will be announced at a later date (expecting late March to have ready). We will discuss these in detail before you depart, and will include information about the opportunity to pre-book most of these options with plenty of time before you leave.