



Travel with The Met

September 6–18, 2017

English Country Life:
Stately Homes & Family Collections
With Olivier Bernier

THE
MET

English Country Life: Stately Homes & Family Collections

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

England, much to our pleasure, has an apparently inexhaustible supply of beautiful houses set in stunning gardens. Every year, as we travel through the enchanting countryside, we make new discoveries and gain a better understanding of what, for centuries, made England so important a nation.

As we move from Manchester, a revived 19th-century industrial area, and drive past manor houses on our way to Oxford, that ancient seat of learning, the history of England will come to life, even more because we are staying for five nights at Weston Park, an elegant 18th-century country house reserved exclusively for us. In September, the fall plantings, rich in color, are at their very best, and that means dazzling beauty day after day.

Even better, visits to little-explored houses will be an important aspect of this trip. There will be no crowds, and we shall be able to feel more directly what life, from drawing room to kitchen, was like for centuries. Of special interest will be a visit to Basildon Park, where many of the interiors for *Downton Abbey* were filmed.

For many years, I have lectured at The Met to enthusiastic Anglophiles. I am so pleased to now accompany you on site to both new and old favorites. I hope you will join us for this memorable journey.

Sincerely,



Olivier Bernier



Traveling with You

Olivier Bernier

Art historian and esteemed lecturer at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Olivier Bernier received the Arts & Letters award from the French government. A graduate of Harvard College and the Institute of Fine Arts in New York, he is the author of eleven books and numerous publications. He is a board member of the grant-giving Matisse Foundation, of the School of American Ballet, and of the Center for Khmer Studies. Travel is one of his passions.

Trip Highlights

- Discover Liverpool, the greatest of 19th-century English cities, with its newly refurbished waterfront and ongoing arts revitalization
- Visit Benthall Hall, a perfectly preserved Tudor manor house in a spectacular landscape
- Tour Stoneleigh Abbey a magnificent stately home, part Jacobean, part Baroque
- Admire the sumptuous interiors of Ragley Hall, the ancestral seat of the Marquess of Hartford
- Spend four nights in Oxford, one of the world's great university cities



Weston Park



Photos clockwise from top right: The Boudoir, Attingham Park. Detail of Venus guarding the Sleeping Cupid in the marble roundel surmounting the mantelpiece. © National Trust Images/James Mortimer; Stoneleigh Abbey, photo courtesy of Stoneleigh Abbey; Italian Gardens, Weston Park; Dining Room at Ragley Hall, photo courtesy of Ragley Hall Park and Gardens. Lady Lever Gallery, photo courtesy of Lady Lever Gallery; map of Eastern England. Front cover photo: *The Third Duke of Dorset's Hunter with a Groom and a Dog* (detail). George Stubbs (British, Liverpool 1724–1806 London). Paintings. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Bequest of Mrs. Paul Moore, 1980. (1980.4680). Back cover photo: Weston Park

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U.S. Departure

Wednesday, September 6

Depart on an overnight flight to Manchester.

Manchester, England

Thursday, September 7

Arrive in Manchester, a reborn Victorian city, and check in at the well-situated Lowry Hotel, overlooking the River Irwell. This afternoon, join Olivier Bernier for a brief architectural walking tour. After his welcome remarks. Dinner is at the hotel. D

Manchester/Liverpool

Friday, September 8

Drive to Liverpool, where the Tate Modern and Lady Lever's Art Gallery in nearby Birkenhead will be the highlights of our day, together with the great palaces of shipping lines like Cunard and White Star. Return to Manchester for dinner at leisure. B, L

Manchester/Weston Park

Saturday, September 9

Depart this morning for Weston Park, a grand country home reserved exclusively for us for the next five nights. Stop en route for lunch and a private visit to Chillington Hall, home of the Giffard family since the 12th century and now a handsome 18th-century mansion. B, L, D



The Picture Gallery at Attingham Park, Shropshire, with a view through the doors to the Staircase. © National Trust Images/Andreas von Einsiedel

Weston Park

Sunday, September 10

Drive this morning to Attingham Park, a great house designed by Nash in the 1780s with a garden by Humphry Repton. Now a spectacularly well-restored National Trust property, it is also the site of the Trust's summer school. On our way back to Weston Park, we will stop at Viroconium, one of the best-preserved Roman sites in England. B, L, D

Weston Park

Monday, September 11

Our visit today is to Wilderhope Manor, a beautiful Elizabethan house surrounded by acres of landscape. Lunch and the afternoon are unscheduled so you may enjoy the many amenities and gardens of Weston Park.. B, D

Weston Park

Tuesday, September 12

Following a leisurely morning and lunch on your own, visit Benthall Hall, situated on a plateau above the gorge of the Severn River. Built in 1535, it is a perfect example of a Tudor manor house in an excellent state of preservation. Its gardens are equally appealing. Gather at the hotel in the late afternoon for a traditional English tea. B, T

Weston Park

Wednesday, September 13

We move forward in time this morning to Wightwick Manor, a Victorian mansion designed and furnished by the Arts and Crafts movement and, in 1937, one of the first National Trust properties. Enjoy a tour when the manor is closed to the public, followed by lunch and a walk in the gardens. The late afternoon is at leisure. B, L, D

Weston Park/Oxford

Thursday, September 14

On our way to Oxford, stop at Stoneleigh Abbey, a particularly interesting house, since one wing is Jacobean and the other Baroque. The garden was designed by Humphry Repton. On arrival in Oxford, check in to the Old Bank Hotel, situated in the heart of the city. Dinner is at leisure. B, L

Oxford

Friday, September 15

Today we visit the neo-classical Basildon Park, lovingly restored in the 1950s and the site of some of the interiors of *Downton Abbey*. Dinner and the evening are at leisure. B, L

Oxford

Saturday, September 16

Drive through the beautiful Cotswolds landscape to Ragley Hall. Designed in the 18th century by Robert Hooke and ancestral seat of the Marquess of Hertford, it is today still richly furnished. Our farewell dinner tonight will be at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, arguably the best restaurant in England. B, D



Basildon Park, photo by Gabriella Szekely

More Travels with The Met

With the Trade Winds: Curaçao to Colón Aboard *Sea Cloud II* February 13–21, 2017

Morocco: The Land of Mists & Mysteries March 24–April 5, 2017

La Serenissima: A Privileged View April 30–May 9, 2017

Treasures of the Austro-Hungarian Empire May 12–22, 2017

For details please go to metmuseum.org/travel



Spires of Oxford

Accommodations

Weston Park, a grand 18th-century country house surrounded by a vast park, will be all ours for a five-night house party. Discover what it was like to live the grand aristocratic life.



The Orangery (left) and Brewood bedroom (right), Weston Park

Oxford

Sunday, September 17

Spend the day visiting the "City of Dreaming Spires" and its museums. A private lunch is arranged at one of Oxford's renowned colleges. Dinner is at leisure.

B, L

Oxford/U.S. Return

Monday, September 18

Transfer to Heathrow Airport for return flights home.

B

The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Program Rate

\$10,595 (per person, double occupancy)

\$1,145 Single supplement

Rate Includes

- Eleven nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, T=Tea). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, house wine at lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers; taxes, service charges, and portage

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than wine at dinners; meals not specified; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on suggested flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Names in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single (at a supplement of \$1,145)

I wish to share a room with _____

Form of Payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

The Metropolitan
Museum of Art

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New York, NY 10028

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