

Beaulieu Palace & Motor Museum



Approximately 4½ Hours



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Your journey from Southampton takes you across heathland and through parts of the beautifully wooded New Forest. Small herds of freely roaming ponies and donkeys are a feature of the open heath, while picturesque villages offer excellent photo opportunities with thatched cottages and tranquil river scenes. The picturesque and idyllic village of Beaulieu, nestled on the bank of the Beaulieu River, has delighted visitors over the course of centuries. It was here, in 1202, that King John gave the area to the Cistercians, who then built an abbey. At the time, it was the largest in the country. Upon your arrival at Beaulieu, your guide will accompany you to **Beaulieu Palace House**—a stately home built in the 16th century on the ruins of the abbey gateway. It has been the family home of the Montagus since 1538. Palace House, with its warm and friendly atmosphere, offers an insight into the past with many fascinating family treasures, portraits and photographs. Although much of the lovely 13th century abbey was destroyed during the reign of Henry VIII, you can still enjoy its timeless beauty and tranquil atmosphere, with the arches of the cloisters evoking its heyday. One of the remaining Abbey buildings now houses a monastic exhibit, which illustrates the daily life of the Cistercian Monks. The cloisters have been planted with aromatic herbs to recreate the herb garden of the monastery. Within the grounds at Beaulieu is the **National Motor Museum**, which you will also visit. From small beginnings in 1952, when Lord Montagu first displayed a handful of veteran cars as a memorial to his father, the collection has grown to more than 250 vehicles and displays that vividly illustrate the story of motoring. Today, you can see some of the earliest examples of motoring from the 1890s through to legendary world record breakers. Walk through the 1930s street scene or wander at leisure through the extensive palace grounds and across a broad sweep of lawn down to the riverbank. Fine views look back to the abbey and out across to the photogenic surroundings. Travel the short distance to Beaulieu village and across more heathland to Lyndhurst—a much admired and photographed village—and through parts of the New Forest as you return to Southampton.

English Countryside & Corfe Castle



Approximately 5 Hours



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Travel across the delightful countryside of **Dorset County** to the village of **Corfe**. From the time when dinosaurs roamed the area up to the modern day, nearly all periods of history are celebrated in and around the village, which is quite unequalled in the UK. You'll visit the thousand-year-old ruins of **Corfe Castle**, majestically silhouetted against the skyline. One of Britain's most majestic and romantic ruins, Corfe features beautiful medieval architecture and dominates a breach in the Purbeck Hills. The castle was an important stronghold since before the time of William the Conqueror. Edward, the Saxon boy king, was murdered here in AD 978 and King John kept important prisoners and valuable treasures in the towers. As you spend 1½ hours exploring the picturesque remains of this 'very fair castle,' you are following in the footsteps of kings, knights, soldiers, workmen, servants, prisoners—the hundreds of thousands of people who have lived at, worked in, fought over or visited Corfe Castle during its 1,000-year history. Today, Corfe Castle enjoys its position in the quiet village surrounded by beautiful and peaceful countryside but as you take in the splendor of the ruins, it is easy to appreciate that William the Conqueror, the prolific castle-builder, thought this strategic position was worthy of a lavish and up-to-date royal castle. Next, you will have a half hour to wander through the **village of Corfe** before commencing the return drive across the countryside to Southampton.

Please note: The drive to Corfe is approximately 1¼ hours each way.

Stonehenge



Approximately 4½ Hours



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Enjoyed it?



4 out of 5

Value



3 out of 5

2 out of 2(100%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

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One piece of magic that never fails to cast a spell over visitors is the awe-inspiring sight of **Stonehenge**. This mighty symbol of pre-history is a wonder of the world, drawing thousands of visitors each year to witness its awesome majesty. Simplicity, solitude and a powerful air of mystery surround this enigmatic and ancient circle of stones set in splendid isolation. Situated on a vast plain, surrounded by hundreds of round barrows, or burial mounds, the Stonehenge site is truly impressive, and all the more so, the closer you approach. It is a place where much human effort was expended for a purpose at which historians can only guess. Some people see it as a place steeped in magic and mystery, some as a place where their imaginations of the past can be fired, and others hold it as a sacred place. Visit the brand new **Visitor Center** to learn more about it; then, hop on the land train, which will transport you to the stone circle. In its day, the construction of Stonehenge was an impressive engineering feat, requiring commitment, time and vast amounts of manual labor. In its first phase, Stonehenge was a large

earthwork; a bank and ditch arrangements called a henge, constructed approximately 5,000 years ago. The question of who built Stonehenge is largely unanswered, even today. The monument's construction has been attributed to many ancient peoples throughout the years, but the most captivating and enduring attribution has been to the Druids. You will have to leave the unsolved mysteries of silent Stonehenge to the mists of time as you return to Southampton with much to contemplate.

Stonehenge with London Gatwick Airport Transfer



Approximately 6¼ hours



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This might be the perfect, uncomplicated way to spend those last precious hours in the UK before you head home. Simply board a motor coach with your luggage and let your friendly guide introduce you to a snapshot of ancient Britain. Drive through picture-perfect English countryside to **Stonehenge**—the absolutely famous 5,000-year-old mystical monolith that has been puzzling people for millennia. Arriving at Stonehenge, you'll visit the brand new **visitor center** to learn more about this stunning landmark. Then, hop on the land train, which will transport you to the stone circle in just a few minutes. It remains as compelling today as it was to the people who built it. You will be able to walk along the encircling pathway for close-up views of the stones. Your audio-guide will inform you of the many archaeological finds including what has been learned about the builders who crafted this monument, their beliefs, primitive tools and methods. After your visit, return to the motor coach and transfer to **Gatwick Airport**.

Notes:

This tour is available only to guests with flights departing London Gatwick after 4:30pm. If you have already purchased an airport transfer with your cruise booking, it will be refunded on board, as this excursion already includes a transfer. For the ms Rotterdam voyage ending January 8, 2016, the tour is only available for guests with flights departing London Gatwick after

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Stonehenge with London Heathrow Airport Transfer



Approximately 6¼ hours



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Notes:

This tour is available only to guests with flights departing London Heathrow after 4:30pm. If you have already purchased an airport transfer with your cruise booking, it will be refunded on board, as this excursion already includes a transfer. For the ms Rotterdam voyage ending January 8, 2016, the tour is only available for guests with flights departing London Heathrow after 8pm.

Winchester & Shopping



Approximately 4 Hours



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If one place can be said to lie at the center of English history and embodies the romantic vision of the heartland, it is Winchester—a beautiful city surrounded by meadows and rolling chalk downs. Your visit will take you first to **Winchester Cathedral** whose origins date back to the 7th century AD. Since then, this church has played a fundamental part in the life of this ancient city and in English history. The current building, begun in 1079 in Romanesque style, is at the heart of a diocese that once stretched from London's Thames to the Channel Islands. Its bishops were men of enormous wealth and power, none more so than William of Wykeham, twice Chancellor of England. These influential bishops also developed, re-fashioned and adorned this great cathedral, which was also home to a community of Benedictine monks. Elements of the monastic buildings can still be traced through the Cathedral Close. View the choir stalls with their magnificent gabled canopies, elaborately carved with flowers and plants, owls and monkeys, dragons, knights and green men. Next, explore the center of the ancient and royal **city of Winchester**. This was the heart of Alfred the Great's famed Kingdom of Wessex, and the original home of William the Conqueror's great Domesday Book. During the 1½ hours you will have for exploring and **shopping on your own**, you may wish to visit (at your own expense) The Great Hall to view the Round Table of King Arthur. The celebrated Round Table hangs in King Henry VIII's Great Hall, where Walter Raleigh was tried and sentenced to death.

Winchester's **shopping** temptations include an array of independent shops, boutiques and galleries together with larger brand-name stores. The city's compact streets make for a perfect for browsing and exploring environment.

Please note: The drive to Winchester is approximately 45 minutes each way. This option is available to guests who are returning to the ship.