

ALNWICK & CO. DURHAM

WHAT'S INCLUDED

5 days / 4 nights' duration
Monday 19th — Friday 23rd April 2027
 Return Executive Coach Travel
 4 nights Halfboard 4* Redworth Hall hotel
 Excursion package as detailed overleaf

PRICES & SUPPLEMENTS

Minimum **30** persons **£799pp**—Two share
 Single supplement **£99** (4 nights) - max. 16 rooms
Pre-bookable optional Alnwick Garden **£10pp**
 Deposit **£150pp** (non-refundable/ non-transferable)
 Balance due in full by the **19.02.27**
 Optional Travel Insurance **£34pp**
 (+ Handling fee **£5pp** (by email) or **£10pp** (by post))
 No upper age limit (conditions apply)
Includes Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) @ 20%.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hardwick Hall (NT)
- City of Durham
- Beamish
- Bowes Museum
- Auckland Palace Guided Tour
- Spanish Art Gallery + Mining Art Gallery
- Alnwick Castle & (optional) Alnwick Garden
- Angel of the North (photo stop)
- Belton House (NT)

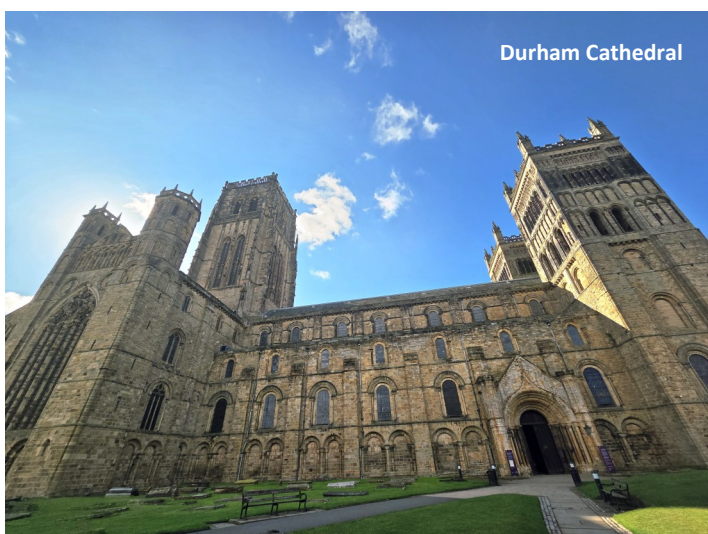
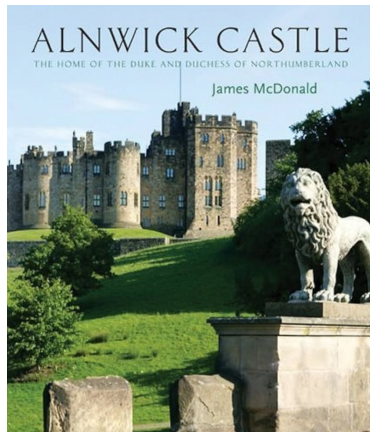
HOW TO BOOK

Complete the attached booking form and return with your non-refundable deposit, Insurance premium if required + handling fee to:

susandownie14@gmail.com Tel. 07870 346928

Completed forms can also be handed to Susan Downie or Angela Cooke at Monday speaker meetings or coffee mornings.

This tour is operated by; Simply Groups,
 1 Hawksworth Street, Ilkley, LS29 9DU.
 TEL 01943 605999 info@simplygroups.co.uk
 www.simplygroups.co.uk



Durham Cathedral

Proposed itinerary

Monday Day 1 – Departing your last pick-up approx. 9am, we travel north making a comfort break enroute to **Hardwick (NT)**. The House is filled with rich furnishings & tapestries preserved by successive generations of the Devonshire family. It was the formidable 'Bess of Hardwick' who first built the house and developed the surrounding estate in the late 1500's. Her descendants, the Dukes of Devonshire, treasured Hardwick, while lavishing much of their attention and money on nearby Chatsworth. Hotel dinner is included.

Tuesday Day 2 - Breakfast included. Today begins in the **City of Durham**, known as the 'City of the Prince Bishops'. which dates back 1000 years to the arrival of a religious community seeking a permanent resting place for the body of St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. You will have **free time** to explore during which you may choose to visit the iconic Durham Cathedral or Castle. (local costs apply). This afternoon's included excursion is to nearby **Beamish**, Britain's favourite 'open air museum'. Set in over 300 hundred acres of beautiful countryside, this museum vividly recreates life in the North of England in the early 1800's and 1900's. This attraction demonstrates the recent history of the region in a 'living' way and provides entertainment and education for all ages and interests. Dinner included at the hotel.

Wednesday Day 3 – Breakfast included. Today is dedicated to **Alnwick**, beginning with an included **free flow** visit of the **Castle**, also known as the 'Windsor of the North'. This foreboding & magnificent medieval castle has been owned by the same family for nearly 700 years. It has many stunning state rooms containing fine furniture and paintings by Canaletto, Van Dyck and Titian. The castle was also privileged in being a location for various Harry Potter films. It is just a short walk to the adjacent **Alnwick Garden** (pre-bookable optional) where a special feature is the small but deadly 'Poison Garden' kept behind iron gates & filled exclusively with approx. 100 toxic and narcotic plants. A short walk from the castle is the town centre where a must-see is **Barter Books**, housed in Alnwick's beautiful Victorian train station, decommissioned in 1968. Today the space contains shelves holding more than 350,000 books has comfy seating and working model trains. Returning to the hotel, a **photo stop** will be made at Anthony Gormley's iconic **Angel of the North**. Hotel dinner included.

Thursday Day 4 – Breakfast included. Today begins in nearby Bishop Auckland with an included visit to the **Auckland Project**. This visit will enrich your mind, body and spirit with a feast of history, nature and art all in one location. Included is a **guided tour** of **Auckland Palace**, one of the best-preserved bishops' palaces in Europe. After major conservation work, its state rooms have been transformed to their original Georgian Gothic splendour. There is also the unique & fascinating **Faith Museum** which explores 6,000 years of British history through the lens of faith. Lunch can be purchased on site before visiting the stunning **Spanish Gallery**, immersing yourself in the Spanish Golden Age at the UK's first gallery dedicated to the art, history and culture of Spain. By contrast is the smaller **Mining Art Gallery**, home to an intimate and awe-inspiring art collection, which gives a truly unique insight into the lives and souls of the coal miners of old. This afternoon's included excursion is to the stunning **Bowes Museum** which includes a **guided introductory** tour before **free time** to explore further. This museum is housed in a magnificent French château created in the late 19th Century by John and Joséphine Bowes and is home to internationally renowned collections of European fine and decorative arts spanning five centuries. The permanent collections comprise works by artists such as Canaletto, El Greco, Courbet and Turner and contain one of Britain's most extensive collections of ceramics, including Italian majolica and Sèvres porcelain. The iconic 18th Century Silver Swan, a musical automaton, is one of the highlights of a visit to this fascinating attraction, which at **2pm daily can be seen in action**. Dinner included at the hotel.

Friday Day 5 - Checking out of the hotel after breakfast we retrace our steps, making a stop at **Belton House (NT)**, where generations of the Brownlow family made their mark, commissioning the finest designers and craftsmen of their age to shape the Estate. The Dutch & Italian gardens showcase cutting edge design and innovation from 17th century. The House contains impressive art, silver, and porcelain collections and a world-renowned library. Lunch can be purchased here before continuing homeward, returning to your original departure point(s) later today.

Simply Groups reserve the right to make minor changes to this itinerary due to circumstances beyond our control.