

Itinerary

IN FULL SPLENDOUR

The Picturesque, the Italianate and the Queen Anne

Friday 14 – Tuesday 25 May 2027



Osborne House

Led by Mark Sabolch

Organised by Historic Houses Association of Australia

Subject to change. As at 10 September 2026

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Friday 14 May
Arrive Reading

Arrive by 12pm

D

Meet tour guide Mark Sabolch in Reading, then travel to admire Cliveden House, a masterpiece of Victorian Italianate design.



Designed by renowned architect, Charles Barry (of Houses of Parliament fame), and built 1850-1851, Cliveden (left) is an opulent dwelling with extraordinary history and views of the upper Thames River.

Enjoy opening drinks and dinner and get an overview of how places on the tour influences Australia's most beloved domestic architectural style.

The Roseate Reading is one of the best luxury hotels in Berkshire, a former Shire Hall in splendid Queen Anne style; a place where the past meets a perfect modern-day world, and our base for two nights.

Accommodation:

The Roseate Reading
26 The Forbury
Reading RG1 3EJ,
T: +44 118 952 7770
E: reception.TFLR@roseatehotels.com

Day 2 – Saturday 15 May
Reading and surrounds

B / L / D

Start the day with a walk that brings alive the stories, heritage and landscapes of Reading,

Day 3 – Sunday 16 May
Reading – Salisbury

B / L / D

Stourhead is our first stop on the road to Salisbury.

One of the first grand Palladian-style villas to be built in England (1721-1725), with a carriage entrance leading to the main floor, Stourhead also offers internationally celebrated landscape gardens, a lake set among lawns and classical temples with sweeping views. The vision of Stourhead was rooted in an emerging 18th-century fashion for gardens inspired by art and a landscape's natural features. Stourhead is a living work of art.

Afterwards, transfer to Salisbury to be inspired by the medieval grandeur of Salisbury Cathedral, constructed between 1220 and 1258.

Visit the nearby Mompesson House which has been restored with attention to detail. It features plasterwork, a graceful oak staircase and fine period furniture. This dwelling was built during the reign of Queen Anne (1702 – 1714), the last of the Stuarts. Its garden, meanwhile, with traditional herbaceous borders and pergola, is an oasis of calm in busy Salisbury.

Check in for two nights at The Merchant's House, a stunning boutique hotel in the centre of historic Salisbury. Please note there are no elevators in the hotel.

Accommodation:

The Merchant's House
Salisbury SP1 2SD, UK
T: +44 1722 326600
E: info@themerchantshousehotel.co.uk

Day 4 – Monday 17 May
Isle of Wight

B / L

After breakfast, spend the day at Osborne House, Queen Victoria's beloved seaside retreat.

Victoria and Albert built Osborne to fulfil the queen's desire for a 'place of one's own – quiet and retired'. The Italianate style was chosen because of Prince Albert's love of Italy and it conveyed warmth, informality, and domestic comfort while still appearing elegant and prestigious. Its dazzling interiors, art collection, gardens and grounds reflect their personal passions, taste and style.

The house holds family heirlooms and highlights royal life. It offers a glimpse into the royal family's private life and the setting where they spent many summers.

Dinner is own arrangements - our coach will drop off those wishing to stroll around central Salisbury or return you back to the hotel.

Day 5 – Tuesday 18 May
Salisbury – Bristol

B / L / D

Check out of Salisbury and head to Wales for another national icon - Tintern Abbey.

Founded in 1131 by Cistercian monks, Tintern Abbey is closely linked to the Picturesque ideal because its roofless Gothic ruins, dramatic setting in the Wye Valley, and integration with surrounding nature embodied the qualities valued by Picturesque writers such as William Gilpin. The abbey's irregular forms, signs of decay, and romantic atmosphere made it appear like a living landscape painting, attracting tourists, artists, and poets during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Afterwards, admire the garden design at Blaise Hamlet, designed by John Nash in 1811. The hamlet (right) was one of the first examples of a planned community and this style was later widely copied. It has been described as the ultimate example of the picturesque style in Britain. The cottages - each of which is unique – create an idealized image of the English countryside.



For the next two nights, enjoy Hotel du Vin Bristol Avon Gorge, a one-of-a-kind 4-star boutique hotel offering an unrivalled experience. Situated in Clifton Village, the most coveted neighbourhood of Bristol, the hotel offers breath-taking views of the Clifton Suspension Bridge, one of Bristol's most iconic landmarks.

Clifton Village is characterised by a vibrant atmosphere, eclectic boutiques and stunning Georgian and Victorian architecture.

Accommodation:

Hotel du Vin Bristol Avon Gorge
Sion Hill
Clifton, Bristol, BS8 4LD
T: +44 117 4030210

Day 6 – Wednesday 19 May
Bristol – Bath

B / L / D

Spend the day in Bath, whose beautiful architecture has been an inspiration for many architects, writers and artists. The Royal Crescent was an inspiration for John Nash when he introduced the picturesque into an urban environment at Regents Park in London (creating the style now known as the Regency).

Marvel at Beckford's Tower, one of the earliest examples of the Italianate style (1827), from which extensive views over the Bath district can be experienced.

Day 7 – Thursday 20 May
Bristol – Cheltenham – Moreton in Marsh

B / L / D

Cheltenham was developed as a spa town to rival Bath in the eighteenth century. As a holiday destination for the wealthy, there are many fine dwellings in the Italianate and Regency style.

Experience William Morris's country home, **Kelmscott Manor**. Its simple brick construction, domestic character, and picturesque riverside setting exemplify the kinds of historic English buildings that Morris admired. Studying Kelmscott House provides insight into the cultural environment from which the Queen Anne Revival and Arts and Crafts styles emerged.

After lunch, visit **Blenheim Palace**, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Marlborough, with its 18th Century Baroque architecture, priceless collections and extensive landscaped gardens.

Check in for two nights at the Manor House Hotel (below), a 16th-century Cotswold retreat in the heart of Moreton-in-Marsh.



Accommodation:

The Manor House Hotel
High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 0LJ
T: +44 1608 650501
E: manorhouse.reception@cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk

Day 8 – Friday 21 May
Moreton in Marsh – Stratford upon Avon

B / L / D

Wander through the Tudor town of Stratford upon Avon, with sights including Shakespeare's Schoolhouse and the Guildhall, then transfer to Ascott House, a historic Rothschild estate in the heart of the Buckinghamshire countryside.

Ascott House gives us an insight into Tudor revival, although it incorporates elements of the Arts and Crafts movement as well. Set over 30 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, the elegant Edwardian manor is home to outstanding art, fine furniture and Chinese ceramics and a Pavilion Tea Room.

Day 9 – Saturday 22 May
To Greenwich

Depart after 12pm

B / L* / D

En route to London, delight in the Red House (1860), the iconic arts and crafts home of William and Jane Morris with its arts and crafts style planting, an apple orchard and a rose arch.



The Red House (left) is considered a forerunner of the Arts and Crafts movement that gained traction later in Australia. The National Trust property was built by Morris (Philip Webb architect) when he was first exercising his ideas of recreating the pre-industrial, medieval craftsmanship.

Check in to Doubletree by Hilton, Greenwich, for three nights. The RIBA-award winning building fuses history with contemporary design. Deptford Bridge Station is within streets, and the hotel is a mile from the National Maritime Museum, Cutty Sark, and the Royal Observatory.

Accommodation:

DoubleTree by Hilton London Greenwich
Catherine Grove, London SE10 8FR
T: +44 20 8469 4440
E: longw_hotel@hilton.com

Day 10 – Sunday 23 May
Lewisham – Denmark Hill

B / L / D

Savour the Classical and Palladian influences at **The Queen's House** and the **Dulwich Picture Gallery** and enjoy a tour of suburban Lewisham with its magnificent residential dwellings in Victorian Italianate and Queen Anne styling.

The UNESCO World Heritage Queen's House, with vistas to the River Thames, was built in the 1630s to the design of Inigo Jones, who first brought the Renaissance architectural designs into the UK.

The Dulwich Picture Gallery, the world's first purpose-built public art gallery, is a sanctuary in the city which opened in 1811 and is dedicated to sharing one of the greatest art collections in the world.

Day 11 – Monday 24 May
Central London – Bedford Park

B / L / D

Spend the morning in London appreciating influential Italian art in the National Art Gallery and then visiting the influential Italianate styling of the Travelers' Club, Reform Club and Bridgewater House, as well as the Houses of Parliament.

The highlight of the afternoon will be a visit to the suburb of Bedford Park, which is the source of suburban Queen Anne Revival style. As we wander through selected streets with Australian eyes, we will be looking to find the connections and concurrent themes with Australia's own Federation Queen Anne style.

Wrap In Full Splendour - celebrating the extraordinary story of Britain's enduring influence on Australian buildings, gardens and culture - with a final celebratory dinner.

Day 12 – Tuesday 25 May
In Full Splendour ends after breakfast.

Depart after 10am

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