



MARTIN RANDALL TRAVEL

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For immediate release

New 2019 tours in the UK Martin Randall Travel's second largest destination

With over 30 departures in 2019, the UK is [Martin Randall Travel's](#) second largest destination after Italy. Here, we highlight three new tours for 2019, from the architecture of Bath to a symposium celebrating Queen Victoria's bicentenary.

[Age of Victoria](#)

A weekend symposium in Taunton

8–10 February 2019

The latest in Martin Randall Travel's renowned series of symposia celebrates Queen Victoria's bicentenary in 2019 – an anniversary that is also shared by Prince Albert, George Eliot and John Ruskin. Indeed the latter's birthday falls on February 8 and will be duly honoured on that day. Bringing together leading historians of the 19th century, the weekend will explore themes and subjects through the prism of several eminent Victorians. The respected scholars will each give two talks over the weekend, that are designed both to entertain and inform. The venue is the perennially charming Castle Hotel in Taunton. Speakers include Professor Kathryn Hughes, Paul Atterbury and Dr Ruth Richardson.

Prices from £760 per person (two sharing) includes hotel accommodation for 2 night; breakfasts and 2 dinners with wine; admission to the talks; drinks reception; refreshments; gratuities for hotel staff.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/age-of-victoria

[Architecture of Bath](#)

A pre-tour to the West Country Choral Festival

6–7 July 2019

Bath first became a resort town in Roman times, but its modern reincarnation dates from the eighteenth century. Inspired by the Roman past but adapted to satisfy the taste and desires of the Georgian aristocracy and merchant classes, this short break is a survey of Bath's architectural landmarks and some lesser-known gems, including the interior of No.1 Royal Crescent. The tour can be combined with the West Country Choral Festival (7–11 July 2019). Led by architectural historian, Dr Geoffrey Tyack, who is now writing a history of the urban landscape in Britain from the Middle Ages to the present.

Prices from £420 per person (two sharing) includes hotel accommodation, breakfast; 1 dinner with wine, water, coffee; all admissions; all tips; all taxes; the services of the lecturer and tour manager.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/architecture-of-bath

Houghton & Holkham

Four great Norfolk Whig houses

15–18 October 2019

Over four days, this cultural tour takes in private visits of four of the finest country houses and gardens in East Anglia, all still in private ownership. Examining the social and political impact of Sir Robert Walpole's Palladian country palace, Houghton Hall, other visits include Raynham Hall, with its intriguing family history, and Wolterton Hall, arguably Thomas Ripley's finest creation with a study designed and decorated by Jacopo Amigoni. All are surprisingly close to one another, allowing more free time to explore their extensive grounds and gardens. Led by Dr Andrew Moore, author of 'A Capital Collection', a work dedicated to the paintings in Walpole's collection.

Prices from £1,470 per person (two sharing) includes hotel accommodation; private coach throughout; breakfasts, 1 lunch and 3 dinners with wine, water, coffee; admission to houses; all tips; the services of the lecturer and tour manager.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/houghton-holkham

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For further information please contact [Liz Brown](#) or [Lucy Stickling](#) on 020 3948 9743.

Notes to editors:

Martin Randall Travel is the leading specialist in cultural tours, organising a unique series of all-inclusive music festivals and around 300 small-group tours every year in the UK, continental Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, India, China, Japan, the Americas and Australasia.

All aspects of our cultural tours have been carefully researched, tried and arranged by members of MRT staff, including the most authentic restaurants and comfortable hotels. There are no hidden extras. The price covers nearly everything, including wine with meals and all tips. We do not levy surcharges for fuel or for any other reason.

Martin Randall Travel has won numerous awards, most recently *Best Holiday Company for Customer Service* (2016), and *Best Special Interest Holiday Company* (2017) at the British Travel Awards.