

VISIT TO CARLISLE AND DUMFRIES HOUSE

24th to 27th April 2017

The tour is based in Carlisle, at the Hallmark Hotel, the old station hotel. This is a central four-star hotel with a lift and comfortable en-suite accommodation. The planned itinerary for the visit is:

MONDAY:

Morning: Leave Chester and visit **Blackwell House**, an enchanting Arts and Crafts country house. Lunch in Windermere (your choice of venue)

Afternoon: Visit to **Wreay**. Follow the Sarah Losh Trail including the Heritage Centre, the church and tiny mausoleum. Short talk at this very different church, before exploring the village. Travel to the hotel.

Evening: **Dinner** (included) in our hotel with a talk from Carlisle Civic Trust

TUESDAY:

Morning: Guided tour of **Carlisle**, including the old garrison church of St Cuthbert's.

Afternoon: **Free** to explore the city, maybe the castle, cathedral or the Tuille Museum.

Evening: **Buffet meal** (included) with a fun quiz at the Tithe Barn, a beautiful space renovated by Carlisle Civic Trust.

WEDNESDAY:

Daytime: A scenic journey through the lowlands of Scotland followed by a visit to **Dumfries House**. The house, contents and wonderful 2000 acre estate were rescued by The Prince of Wales and others who worked to preserve, restore and develop it into a viable unit to be enjoyed by all. Old skills had to be revived and passed on to a new generation. The collection of Chippendale furniture is unrivalled, and the attention to historic accuracy laudable.

Coffee on arrival - short film - tour of the house in small groups - lunch (included).

After lunch enjoy the woodland walks, the gardens and the views. *Please note the need to bring for this visit a pair of shoes with heels wider than a two pound coin.*

Evening: **Dinner** (included) at Cressfield Country House Hotel, near Gretna Green.

THURSDAY:

Morning: Visit and guided tour of **Birdoswald Roman Fort**, on Hadrian's Wall.

Then to the magnificent chateau-like **Bowes Museum** near Barnard Castle, which contains an eclectic collection from El Greco to Vivienne Westwood. Guided tour including the famous silver swan automaton, followed by free time. **Lunch** (included).

We expect to arrive back in Chester at about 7 p.m..

The cost of hotel, coach, all visits, included coffee/teas as stated above, three breakfasts, three evening meals, two lunches and gratuities will be:

Per person double room occupancy: £369

Per person single room occupancy: £429

Please send us a deposit of £50 per person by 23rd January 2017.

Full payment should be made by 13th March 2017.

We will leave Handbridge at 8.00 am, the Railway Station at 8.05 am and Boughton at 8.10 am