

# MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

33 Smith Street, Kempsey  
NSW 2440  
Australia

Email: [info@macleayvalleytravel.com](mailto:info@macleayvalleytravel.com)  
Website: [www.macleayvalleytravel.com](http://www.macleayvalleytravel.com)

Telephone (02) 6562-6699  
Toll Free 1800 81-0809  
Fax (02) 6562-6276



## British Palaces, Castles & Gardens Tour

17 Day Conducted Tour

only **\$8,675** per person twin share  
This price includes Airport Taxes & Levies

This magnificent tour is suited for people with an interest in British Royalty, garden lovers or for people with an interest in British history. The price includes:

- ❖ Economy Class airfares with Qatar Airways into London and out of Edinburgh from Sydney and a limited number of seats from Melbourne and Adelaide. Qatar Airways was recently named as the best airline in the world by Skytrax World Airline Awards.
- ❖ 15 days touring England, Scotland and Wales, with a special emphasis on British Royal sites.
- ❖ Good 3 to 4 star accommodation throughout.
- ❖ Many meals, all entrance fees, all transport and prepaid gratuities to the guides and drivers.
- ❖ Services of British tour guides and an Australian tour escort.



For Royalty fans there are inside visits to Buckingham, Hampton Court, Edinburgh and Holyrood palaces and Windsor, Cardiff, Kenilworth and Ainswick Castles, the Royal Yacht Britannia, the Royal Mews display of royal coaches and a special display of the outfits worn by the Queen. Associated with these buildings are some lovely gardens and we also visit Studley Royal Park Water Garden.

Also included of special interest to history buffs are visits to the Household Cavalry Museum and Banqueting House, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, the Roman Baths, the Royal Mint, Shakespeare's home, King Richard III Visitor Centre, Hardwick Hall, York Minster Cathedral, the National Railway Museum and Chesters Roman Fort on Hadrian's Wall.

This is an exclusive tour for Macleay Valley Travel customers with numbers limited to about 32 passengers.



If you don't have a travel partner but want to travel at twin share rates we will try to assign you with another traveller, but this is not guaranteed. For anyone requiring a single room there would be an extra \$1135.

**Tour departs Australia 20<sup>th</sup> September and returns 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

*We try harder to find you the best travel deal*

## **Itinerary for British Palaces, Castles & Gardens Tour – September 2016**

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### **20.09.16 Australia – Doha, Qatar**

Depart Adelaide at 9.25pm on QR 915, arriving in Doha at 4.35am the next morning (21.09.16).

Depart Sydney at 9.50pm on QR 909, arriving in Doha at 5.20am the next morning.

Depart Melbourne at 10.05pm on QR 905, arriving in Doha at 5.20am the next morning (21.09.16).

### **21.09.16 Doha – London**

**(D)**

Depart Doha at 6.40am on QR 7, arriving in London Heathrow Airport at 12 midday.

We will be met at the airport by our local guide and are taken on a short panoramic city tour of London, before being taken to our hotel for a four night stay.

This evening we enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Cophorne Tara Hotel

### **22.09.16 London**

**(B)**

This morning we visit the Royal Mews and State Rooms at Buckingham Palace. The tour of the Royal Mews is led by the Wardens dressed in their striking red and navy livery. The staff are responsible for all road travel by the Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

We will see the Queen's famous coach horses which consist of the Cleveland Bays and the magnificent Windsor Grays.

The Royal Mews houses the collection of historic carriages and coaches. The most dazzling vehicle of all is the Gold State Coach, which was built for King George III in 1762. It weighs almost four tonnes and requires eight horses to pull it. It has carried every monarch to their coronation since 1821.

Among other coaches we will see the 1902 State Landau which was used for William & Catherine's wedding. We will also see the newest coach, the Diamond Jubilee State Coach, built to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

We will see some of the fine livery worn by the Queen's coachmen. The livery remains much the same as it was in Victorian times.

Buckingham Palace's 19 state rooms date back to the 1820's when King George IV commissioned renowned architect John Nash to transform Buckingham House into a grand palace. Today the state rooms are furnished with many of the greatest treasures of the royal collection, including paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens and Van Dyck, sculptures by Canova, exquisite pieces of Sevres porcelain and some of the finest English and French furniture in the world.

Some of the state rooms visited include the Throne Room, the Music Room and the White Drawing Room, which is perhaps the grandest of all the state rooms.

To celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday there will be a special exhibition of outfits worn during her life and reign.

The Buckingham Palace tour ends at the Garden Café, which has beautiful views across the lawns to the lake.

The route back to the coach takes us through the magnificent Royal Gardens.

The afternoon is at leisure in London, one of the most exciting cities in the world.

Accommodation: Cophorne Tara Hotel

**23.09.16**

**(B)**

**London**

This morning we will visit the Household Cavalry Museum and Banqueting House. The Household Cavalry Museum is situated at the official entrance to the royal residences. The museum celebrates the history, heroes and exploits of the British Army's senior regiment from its origins in 1661. The museum has many fascinating rare exhibits with dazzling displays of uniforms. There is also a chance to see troopers in the stables preparing their horses. We have the opportunity to try on real helmets and cutlasses, with audio visual presentations and interactive displays. We will also witness the daily Changing of the Guards (if held) and the hourly mounted sentry changes.

The Banqueting House is a historically important building designed in the classical Palladian style and was completed in 1622. It is the only surviving section of the old Whitehall Palace that was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1698. Its most outstanding feature is the magnificent ceiling, painted by Rubens.

In the afternoon there will be a guided walk through Whitehall to Westminster to visit Westminster Abbey, which is one of the world's greatest churches. It is an architectural masterpiece of the 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and the inside is even more impressive than the outside. It presents a unique pageant of British history with the tombs of kings and queens and countless memorials to the famous and great. It has been the setting for every coronation since 1066 and for sixteen royal weddings, the latest being William and Kate.

Accommodation: Copthorne Tara Hotel

**24.09.16**

**(B/D)**

**London**

Today we visit the Tower of London, which is a very old building, with the central white tower having been built by William the Conqueror in 1066. We have an early departure from the hotel so we can take part in the morning Ceremony of the Keys. We will witness the official opening and learn the significance of this historical ritual from a Beefeater. By arriving early, we will be amongst the first visitors on the site and thus eliminate the usual long queues.

At the tower we will see the glittering Crown Jewels, the Coronation Regalia of the British monarchy, Henry VIII's suit of armour and the crowns and garments of royalty from centuries past. The tower is bursting with history brought vividly to life.

In the afternoon we will travel to the outskirts of London to visit Hampton Court Palace and Gardens. This Palace was the home of Henry VIII. We will inspect the lavish state rooms and admire the ancient tapestries in the Great Hall. We will see the prized classical artworks from the Royal Collection and stroll through the palace gardens.

Afterwards we return to our hotel for an included dinner.

Accommodation: Copthorne Tara Hotel

**25.09.16**

**(B/D)**

**London – Bath**

Today we depart London for Bath. Our first stop is at famous Windsor Castle, which is the largest occupied castle in the world, with about 500 people working inside. It was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, soon after the Norman invasion. It is the Queen's favourite weekend retreat. St George Chapel is located within the grounds and is considered one of the finest pieces of architecture in all of Britain. A special feature is the miniature dolls house, made for Queen Mary in 1920 by a leading architect. The house is filled with one-off specially commissioned pieces from leading artists and craftsmen. We have a walk in the castle's extensive gardens and grounds before heading west to historical Bath, which was founded by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago.

This afternoon we will visit the Victoria Art Gallery. This gallery is famous for its collection of British paintings dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It also has a wonderful

array of coloured glass, made up of 110 scent bottles and 270 drinking glasses.  
Afterwards we transfer to our hotel for dinner and an overnight stay.  
Accommodation: Bailbrook House Hotel Bath

**26.09.16 Bath – Cardiff**

**(B/D)**

Our first stop this morning is at the Roman Baths and Pump Room.

The Roman Baths themselves are below modern street level, with four main features; The Sacred Spring, The Roman Temple, The Roman Bath House and the Museum, holding finds from the Roman Bath, including 12,000 Roman currency coins. Our next stop is at the Bath Fashion Museum, which has a world class collection of historic fashionable dress. The museum display tells the story of fashionable dress over 400 years and has 160 dressed figures. It also includes cutting-edge fashions by some of today's top designers.

We then travel across the border into Wales. This afternoon we visit the Royal Mint Visitors Centre. This centre has just opened this year and it will be the first time in 1,000 years that visitors have been allowed into the Royal Mint. We will have an escorted tour of the coin production areas, seeing the manufacturing journey from concept to coin. Afterwards we are transferred to the hotel for an overnight stay. Dinner this evening is included at the hotel.

Accommodation: Jury's Inn Cardiff

**27.09.16 Cardiff – Stratford-on-Avon**

**(B)**

This morning we visit spectacular Cardiff Castle. This castle was originally constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but has undergone considerable renovation right up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The castle is situated in the heart of Cardiff city. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Bute family with extraordinary wealth (from coal mining) and vision transformed the castle into a romantic Victorian fantasy. Eccentric genius architect William Burgey was given a free hand to create the amazingly lavish and opulent interior, with each room rich with murals, stained glass gilding and superb craftsmanship.

After this we have a scenic drive through the beautiful Cotswolds to Stratford-on-Avon. Here we visit Shakespeare's birthplace, a restored 16<sup>th</sup> century half timber house where Shakespeare was born in 1564 and spent his childhood years. Afterwards we check into the hotel for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Best Western Grosvenor Hotel

**Stratford-on-Avon - Leicester**

**28.09.16**

**(B/D)**

Our first stop this morning is to visit Kenilworth Castle and Gardens. The castle was founded in 1820 and illustrates five centuries of English military and civil architecture. It is built mainly from local red sandstone. It is now mainly a ruin, with only two rooms habitable. The castle has a famous Elizabethan garden. It is a replica of the original garden made by the Earl of Leicester to impress Queen Elizabeth I on her nine day visit to the castle in 1575.

We then travel north to Leicester to visit the newly open King Richard III Visitor Centre, which is located next to where his remains were found in 2012. The centre tells the story of Richard's life, brief reign and death at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. We can also see the rough oblong hole in the ground with an outline of a skeleton of a twisted spine projected on the red/brown earth.

Afterwards we check into the hotel for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Best Western Nottingham Derby Hotel

**29.09.16 Leicester – York**

**(B/D)**

We continue our journey north visiting Hardwick Hall en route to York. Hardwick Hall was built by the formidable Bess of Hardwick in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century and remained in the family's ownership until 1956. The hall contains a large collection of embroidery, tapestry and furniture mainly from the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Upon arrival in York we will go on a walking tour of the city and a tour of magnificent York Minster, which is one of the largest cathedrals of its kind in Northern Europe. The building was commenced in 1270 and completed in 1472. A feature of the cathedral is its stained glass windows, some dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Approximately two million pieces of glass make the cathedral's 128 stained glass windows. Afterwards we check into the hotel for a two night stay. This evening we enjoy an included dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Holiday Inn York

**30.09.16 York**

**(B)**

Today we visit the National Railway Museum. The museum tells the story of rail transport in Britain and its impact on society. It has won many awards including the European museum of the year in 2001. It is the home of the national collection of historically significant railway vehicles and many other artifacts. It has the largest collection of royal railway carriages in the world.

The afternoon is free to explore the charming city of York.

Accommodation: Holiday Inn York

**01.10.16 York – Newcastle**

**(B/D)**

This morning we visit Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden. Studley Royal Park is one of the few great 18<sup>th</sup> century gardens still remaining substantially in its original form. It is one of the most spectacular water gardens in England. The landscape garden is an outstanding example of the development of the English garden style throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The garden contains canals, ponds, cascades, lawns and edges with elegant buildings, gateways and statues.

Fountains Abbey is the largest medieval ruin in Britain. It is one of the few Cistercian Houses to survive from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and provides an unrivalled picture of a great religious house.

In the afternoon we will visit Chester's Roman Fort on Hadrian's Wall. We will take a stroll through history around the fort and grounds that straddle Hadrian's Wall. Chester housed a garrison of 500 Roman cavalry troops for about 300 years. Today we can see all four principal gates of the fort, a headquarters building and courtyard, hall and regimental shrine. We will also see the ruins of an elaborate and luxurious commandant's house. Afterwards we are transferred to the hotel for dinner and an overnight stay.

Accommodation: Novotel Newcastle Airport Hotel

**02.10.16 Newcastle – Edinburgh**

**(B/D)**

Before crossing the border into Scotland we will visit Alnwick Castle and Alnwick Gardens. Alnwick Castle has been the home of the Dukes of Northumberland since 1309. The exterior medieval castle is one of the finest in Britain. The interior includes lavish state rooms filled with an excellent collection of Italian old masters and sculptures. The castle has been used as a film set for both Downton Abbey and Harry Potter movies.

The Alnwick Garden is one of the world's most ambitious new gardens. It is full of imagination, inspiration and fun. From the tranquillity of the cherry orchard, the

excitement of the grand cascade, the mysteries of the bamboo labyrinth to the serpent garden's spellbinding water sculptures, to the intrigue of the poison garden and one of the world's largest tree houses, There is plenty to surprise and delight.

Afterwards there is some free time in Berwick-on-Tweed, England's northern-most town. It is a traditional market town with medieval town walls, Elizabethan ramparts and Britain's oldest barrack building.

We then cross into Scotland and travel onto Edinburgh. Upon arrival we check into the hotel for a three night stay. This evening we enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Best Western Bruntsfield Hotel

**03.10.16 Edinburgh**

**(B/D)**

Today we have a guided walking tour of Edinburgh. Included will be visits to Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyrood House.

Edinburgh Castle has been the heart of Scotland's life for over 1,000 years. The castle is home to important Scottish symbols such as the Scottish Crown Jewels, the Stone of Destiny and the medieval siege cannon Mons Meg. The castle's long military use continues with a National War Museum, Regimental Museums and the Scottish National War Memorial.

Holyrood House is Scotland's official residence of the Queen. It has been the historic home of many famous royal residents, including Mary Queen of Scots. We will visit the Augustine Abbey built in 1128 to admire the lavishly decorated state apartments and wonder around the beautiful gardens.

Tonight we will see the Spirit of Scotland Show, a rip-roaring evening of traditional Scottish song and dance which is accompanied by a great selection of quality Scottish food for dinner.

Accommodation: Best Western Bruntsfield Hotel

**04.10.16 Edinburgh**

**(B)**

This morning there is a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia, berthed in Edinburgh's historic port of Leith. We will see behind the scenes glimpses of life for the Royal Family aboard Britannia. See the Queen's bedroom, the State Drawing Room, the Sun Lounge and the Admirals Cabin. Britannia Visitor Centre Exhibitions will be inspected. In the afternoon we have free time in Edinburgh.

Accommodation: Best Western Bruntsfield Hotel

**05.10.16 Edinburgh – Doha**

**(B)**

We have an early departure from the hotel for our transfer to Edinburgh International Airport for our flights home.

Depart Edinburgh at 8.30am on QR 32, arriving in Doha at 5.30pm.

Sydney passengers depart Doha at 8.40pm on QR 908, arriving in Sydney at 6.35pm the following day (06.10.16).

Melbourne passengers depart Doha at 8.40pm on QR 904, arriving in Melbourne at 6.10pm the following day (06.10.16).

Adelaide passengers depart Doha at 8.55pm on QR 914, arriving in Adelaide at 5.25pm the following day (06.10.16).

**Note:**

On rare occasions some of the included visits on this tour may not be available if members of the Royal Family are in attendance. In this instance an alternative program will be substituted.

## **Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's British Palaces, Castles & Gardens Tour**

**Deposits and Payments** - A non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 10 weeks prior to departure.

**Refunds and Cancellations** - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

**Insurance** - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bear no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

**Passports** - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia.

**Basic Tour Price and Taxes** - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

**Breakaway Fee** - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$130 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions. If you are planning to have a stopover in Doha a visa is required for Australian passport holders, current cost USD \$69 per person. This price is subject to change.

**Melbourne & Adelaide Passengers** - Flights from Melbourne and Adelaide are booked on an individual basis and will be ticketed soon after booking. We recommend Melbourne and Adelaide passengers contact our office upon booking to confirm availability.

**Not Included in the Cost** - Travel insurance, visas and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost.

Similarly, credit card payments can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

**Booking through other Agents** - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

**Accreditation** - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

**Twin Share Bookings** - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

**Health and Fitness** - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

**Limitation of Liability** - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

## MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

**A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM**

Name of Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger 1** (as written in passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger 2** (as written in passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **PostCode** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone / Fax Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

**Single room / Twin beds / Double bed:** (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / ADELAIDE

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Extensions: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$600 per person.

**DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.**