



MERLIN EVENTS
PRESENTS

Northumberland & Scottish Borders

Vintage, Classic and Sportscar Tour
11th - 18th JUNE 2017

Regulations and Entry Form

A large stone castle with multiple towers and battlements, situated on a hillside. A large green tree is in the foreground to the left.

ALNWICK CASTLE

A large, ornate stone mansion with many windows and a prominent chimney, set in a landscaped garden.

MATFEN HALL

A long, low stone wall made of large, rectangular blocks, stretching across a grassy field.

HADRIANS WALL

A large stone castle with a crenellated roofline, surrounded by a formal garden with manicured hedges and a central fountain.

CHILLINGHAM CASTLE

INTRODUCTION

Following a most successful tour in 2013 we make a return visit to Northumberland and the Scottish Borders.

The wild coastline and countryside of Northumberland together with the rolling hills and river valleys of the Scottish Borders are a magnet to Merlin regulars. An area steeped in history with countless castles and ancient fortresses reminding us of the turbulent past between the Scots and English.

We commence this 2017 tour by meeting up at the four star Best Western Mount Pleasant Hotel at Rossington near Doncaster. Next day we head north to our base hotel very near Hadrian's Wall around 15 miles west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The four star country house hotel – Matfen Hall was built in 1830 and set in some of Northumberland's most beautiful countryside. With its own championship golf course, an indoor swimming pool, beauty and leisure facilities, Matfen Hall will provide us with an excellent base for our holiday.

Our first day (Tuesday 13th) takes us to the home of Mr. Philip Howard; Naworth Castle. We enjoy a private visit to this romantic border stronghold dating back to 1335. We then continue to the Scottish

border and Gretna Green for a lunchtime stop before heading north into the Scottish hills to Langholm. There then follows a spectacular mountain drive with panoramic views to Pentonbridge before returning to England and ending our day back at Matfen Hall.

The next day – Wednesday 14th, is a free day for you to choose what you would like to do – a round of golf, a swim, a walk or even shopping in Newcastle – the choice is yours.

Thursday 15th and it is back in the car for a scenic drive north-east to Alnwick Castle. Owned by the Duke of Northumberland, Alnwick was built to defend England from the Scots. Considered to be one of the finest castles in England it boasts lavish state rooms and superb art treasures all set in the most stunning landscape designed by Capability Brown.

From Alnwick we head for the coast with its rugged cliffs and sandy beaches punctuated by pretty fishing villages and harbours. We take a lunch stop at Bamburgh which is dwarfed by the multi-turreted 12th century castle perched on a 150ft. coastal crag.

Our afternoon visit is to 12th century Chillingham Castle owned by Sir Humphrey Wakefield Bt. whose ancestors have lived there since the 1200's. See Chillingham's alarming dungeons as well as the magnificent Great Hall and State Rooms.

The gardens afford breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside and feature a lake, an Elizabethan topiary garden and woodland walks.

After another fine dinner in the grand atmosphere of Matfen Hall Friday 16th dawns and we set off on another adventure through Northumberland's awesome countryside. We follow Hadrian's

Wall to our first visit at the Roman fort of Vindolanda. Home of Britain's top treasure - the Vindolanda Writing Tablets - one of Europe's most important Roman archaeological sites.

Following a short drive we visit the Roman Army Museum which is located next to a sweeping section of Hadrian's Wall. Experience life as a Roman soldier on the front line at this authentic and dramatic tribute to Rome's great military legacy.

After this visit we continue over the hills and alongside a section of Hadrian's Wall to Lanercost Priory which dates from 1169. The large adjacent tea room provides us with an ideal lunch break.

From Lanercost we pass through nearby Brampton and head south through Cumbrian countryside to Winskill where we pick up the A686

This road takes us over the awesome Hartside Pass at 1903ft, a fantastic drive taking us to Alston, said to be England's highest market town at nearly 1000ft.

From Alston we head south east through dramatic Penine countryside before turning north to Derwent Reservoir. It is then a short drive back to Matfen Hall for another relaxing evening.

Our final day, Saturday 17th and its back over the border into

Scotland. On the way and following the North Tyne Road we enjoy the highly scenic landscape around the southern shores of Kielder Water. This is Europe's largest reservoir covering 2684 acres and with a 27 mile shoreline. We take a coffee break at the Café on the Water before crossing the border to experience breathtaking scenery through the Scottish hills and glens.

Continuing through

Hawick, famous for

knitwear and rugby we head further north on the A7 to Selkirk.

From here we continue to our main visit of the day; Abbotsford near Melrose. Abbotsford was the home of Sir Walter Scott, writer, poet and one of the greatest Scottish novelists. We enjoy a guided tour of Abbotsford, which is set on the banks of the River Tweed and contains a treasure trove of objects and artifacts which inspired Scott's greatest writings.

After a lunch break we make the short trip to 12th century Melrose Abbey, probably the most famous ruin in Scotland. Founded in 1136 and destroyed by Richard II's English army in 1385. Melrose Abbey is a magnificent ruin on a grand scale with lavishly decorated masonry.

The return drive to Matfen Hall takes us through the heart of the Cheviot Hills to complete a most spectacular few days touring this most amazing part of the country. We will have experienced the awesome beauty of Northumberland, the Scottish Borders and even a touch of Cumbria in our travels. The finest possible scenery, excellent hotels and a group of fellow enthusiasts all combining to create an unforgettable experience. I look forward to receiving your early entry.

Keith McGee

MERLIN EVENTS



ABBOTSFORD HOUSE

Regulations

1. Organisation and Administration

The Merlin Northumberland and Scottish Borders Touring Holiday is from Sunday 11th to Saturday 18th June 2017. The Tour is organised by Merlin Events, the trading name of Dalkeith Enterprises Ltd.

The Organiser of the Tour is Keith McGee. All enquiries and entries should be addressed to:

Merlin Events,

38 Kenmore Drive, Yeovil

Somerset BA21 4BQ

Tel: 01935 474630

Mobile: 07767 200744

E-mail: merlinevents@hotmail.co.uk

2. Entries

Entries open with the publication of these Regulations and close on 20th March 2017 after which date any entries received will be accepted subject to availability of hotel accommodation.

Entries must conform to these Regulations and must be completed on the official entry form, accompanied by the required payments.

The Organiser reserves the right to refuse any entry without reason.

3. Administration and Special Features

The Administration and Special Features Fee is £435.00 per person which is payable to MERLIN EVENTS and sent to the address in para 1.

4. The Fees Include

- Organised visits as shown in Para 13.
- Safe overnight car parking at the tour hotels.
- Souvenir Rally Plate.
- Fully detailed Road Book.
- Merlin Events Executive to accompany tour throughout.
- All administration costs.
- All visits are subject to confirmation.

5. Deposits

A deposit of £100.00 per person is payable with entry.

Please pay by one of the following:-

Direct to bank - Lloyds Bank Ltd.

A/c name: Dalkeith Enterprises Ltd

T/A Merlin Events

Sort Code: 309998

Account Number: 00780127

Ref: Your Name

Or cheque payable to Merlin Events.

6. Balance Payments

Balance payments to be paid by 1st May 2017 on receipt of invoice.

7. Not Included In This Tour Package

The following are not included in the tour package.

(A) Hotel accommodation.

(B) Meals not referred to in these Regulations.

(C) Vehicle Breakdown and Recovery.

8. Vehicle Eligibility

This Tour is open to any pre-war and post-war classic cars introduced prior to 1990, plus later Sports and Grand Touring Cars, and other cars of special interest.

All cars must be correctly registered, currently licensed, possess a valid M.O.T. certificate and be fully insured for use on public and private land as appropriate to this Tour.

The Organiser reserves the right to refuse any entry should the car be deemed unsuitable or inappropriate for this Tour.

9. Hotels

Reservations for hotel accommodation is the responsibility of the entrant. Hotel Booking Forms will be sent to entrants with the entry acknowledgement. Allocation of rooms are on hold until 20th March 2017.

The hotels being used on this tour are:

Sunday 11th June 2017

The Best Western Mount Pleasant Hotel,
Great North Road, Rossington near
Doncaster DN11 0HW (4 Star)

The rates per person are inclusive of Dinner, Bed and Breakfast based on two people sharing a room are:

Standard Room: £65.00/person.

Executive Room: supplement £10.00/room.

Junior Suite: £20.00/room.

Single occupancy Supplement: £20.00.

Monday 12th - Saturday 17th (6 nights)

Matfen Hall Hotel,
Matfen Village,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 0RH
(4 Star)

The rates per person are inclusive of Dinner, Bed and Breakfast based on two people sharing a room are:

Classic Room:

Mon - Thurs - £90.00/person/night

Fri - Sat - £120.00/person/night

Deluxe Room Supplement:

£25.00/room/night

Premier Room Supplement:

£50.00/room/night.

Principle Room:

£75.00/room/night.

Single occupancy Supplement:

£35.00/night.

Safe overnight parking will be provided at the tour hotels. Whilst every effort will be made to ensure the safety of your car, no responsibility can be accepted by Dalkeith Enterprises Ltd, trading as Merlin Events.

10. Assembly and Registration

Assembly is at The Best Western Mount Pleasant Hotel, Rossington near Doncaster from 3.00pm on Sunday 11th June 2017. Event Registration is from 4.00pm - 5.30pm.

11. Maps

Whilst maps are not required for navigational purposes, it is recommended that you take a map with you.

12. The Routes

Each day's route will include a mix of main and secondary roads with some unclassified roads adding to the variety. Steep gradients will be encountered in mountain regions.

The total distance of this Tour is approximately 680 miles. The maximum distance on any one day is not expected to exceed 150 miles.

13. Itinerary

The itinerary for this Tour is as follows:

SUNDAY 11th JUNE -

Event Registration from 4pm at The Best Western Mount Pleasant Hotel.

MONDAY 12th JUNE -

Route from Rossington to the Matfen Hall Hotel with inclusive coffee and lunch stops.

TUESDAY 13th JUNE -

Scenic route with inclusive coffee/visit at Naworth Castle. Lunchtime visit to Gretna Green.

WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE -

Free day.

THURSDAY 15th JUNE -

Scenic route with inclusive coffee/visit to Alnwick Castle and visit to Chillingham Castle.

FRIDAY 16th JUNE -

Scenic route with inclusive visit to the Roman Forts of Vindolanda, coffee/visit to the Roman Army Museum near Gilsland and a lunchtime visit to Lanercost Priory.

SATURDAY 17th JUNE -

Scenic route with inclusive coffee stop at Kielder Reservoir, visit to Abbotsford House, Melrose and Melrose Abbey.

14. Tour Finish

The Tour Finish will be at the Matfen Hall Hotel on 17th June 2017 with entrants leaving for home after breakfast on Sunday 18th June.

15. Tour Support

There will be no technical support on this Tour. Entrants are expected to belong to one of the established breakdown and recovery organisations who can provide a far more comprehensive service than we can. Entrants should help each other and are expected to carry reasonable spares and tools.

16. Souvenir Rally Plate

A traditional styled souvenir rally plate will be issued with Final Instructions. This must be securely and prominently affixed to the front of the car and must not be defaced in any way.

17. Road Book

A Road Book, containing detailed daily itinerary and Tulip diagram route instructions, will be issued at Registration.

18. Cancellation by the Organiser

The Organiser reserves the right to cancel or amend the Tour or any part thereof. In the event of cancellation by MERLIN EVENTS for any reason a full refund of

entry fees paid to MERLIN EVENTS will be made as soon as is practical. Should the Tour itinerary have to be altered for any reason we will endeavour to keep such changes to a minimum while still ensuring a similar level of services and facilities are provided. In order for this event to go ahead a minimum of 20 persons is required. Should this figure not be achieved the Organiser may decide to cancel the Tour. In this case any payments made to Merlin Events will be refunded in full. The deadline for cancellation of this Tour should insufficient numbers be achieved is 20th March 2017.

19. Cancellation by you

If you have to cancel your entry, the entry fee will only be refunded, less £10.00 per person administration charge, if the cancellation is notified in writing by the closing date of 20th March 2017.

20. Alterations by you

If you wish to alter any details of your entry, ie change of car or number of persons in your party, you must notify the Organiser in writing. If the changes are made after 20th March 2017 you may incur an administration charge. In addition if the alterations involve a reduction in the number of persons in your party then cancellation charges will be incurred.

Please refer to para 19.

Any alterations to your hotel accommodation arrangements may incur additional charges imposed by the hotels.

21. Insurance

The organiser has arranged public liability insurance to the sum of £2 million for those parts of the event which take place on private land. Entrants and drivers must have valid insurance in accordance with the requirements of the Road Traffic Act and relevant law applicable in Great Britain. Cars must also be insured to cover any non-competitive use on private land during this event.

22. Special Dietary and/or Mobility Requirements

Should you have any special dietary requirements, ie; diabetic, vegetarian etc. or mobility requirements please state on the entry form.

23. Dogs

Dogs are not accepted on this tour.

24. Final Instructions

The Final Instructions Pack containing the list of entries and souvenir rally plate, will be posted to entrants 10 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

If you have any queries regarding this tour, please contact Keith McGee at Merlin Events on:

Tel: 01935 474630 Mobile: 07767200744 Email: merlinevents@hotmail.co.uk

www.merlinevents.com



Another Event organised by
MERLIN EVENTS

The Trading Name of Dalkeith Enterprises Ltd.