

20 TO 25 JUNE 2027 · WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND

The English *Drawing Room*

A private tour through ancient England

GREAT HOUSES · GARDENS · ANTIQUES · HISTORY

A more private England

SIX DAYS OF HISTORY, BEAUTY, HOSPITALITY AND CONVERSATION

"To be received as a guest rather than a visitor."

Every detail has been considered, so that nothing is required of you but the pleasure of being here.



This special tour gathers together some of the south west's most remarkable architectural and historical sights, from Stonehenge, begun around 3000 BC, to treasure houses, idyllic gardens, antiques and the celebrated Chalke Valley History Festival.



TEFFONT HOUSE · TEFFONT EVIAS

At the heart of the village

Dating from 1623, the boutique village hotel stands in Teffont Evias, one of south Wiltshire's prettiest villages. Medieval thatched cottages rest beside the River Nadder, in a settlement whose story reaches back to Anglo-Saxon times.

Teffont Evias has received Wiltshire's best-kept small village award more than once. Its timeless character makes it a fitting place to return to, with comfortable rooms, good food and the pleasure of settling into one English country home for the journey.



DAY ONE · STOURHEAD

A landscape composed as art

Gardens, connoisseurship and a house of treasures

We drive to Stourhead for a guided tour of its world-famous 18th-century landscape garden, where lake, temples and ancient woodland are glorious in June. In the 1740s, Henry Hoare, known as “Henry the Magnificent”, created this classical Arcadia.

Our walk takes in the Pantheon, Grotto, Temple of Flora and Palladian Bridge. We are joined by Audrey Hoare, descendant of the Hoare banking dynasty and chatelaine of Stourhead.

Audrey shares highlights from her ancestors’ “House of Treasures”. Designed by Colen Campbell and completed in 1725, the house holds the Pope’s Cabinet, dating from about 1585, paintings, a fine library and Chippendale furniture.

Lunch follows at The Beckford Arms, a Grade II-listed country inn on the edge of the Fonthill Estate. The wider estate is bound up with William Beckford's architectural ambitions and the family's fortune.

Architecture and inheritance

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL AND ST GILES HOUSE



ST GILES HOUSE

An ancestral house restored
We cross into Dorset to visit St Giles House at Wimborne St Giles, the Grade I-listed ancestral seat of the Earls of Shaftesbury. The title dates from 1672. Nicholas Ashley-Cooper, 12th Earl of Shaftesbury and his wife Dinah chose to rescue the critically endangered house rather than sell it.

Their work received both the Historic Houses Association and Sotheby's Restoration Award in 2015. We explore the parkland and grotto, and take lunch in the dining room. If the Earl is at home, we shall have the pleasure of meeting him. We continue through the old English landscape, calling at two hidden antique shops where many different dealers display their treasures. A traditional English tea follows at Compton McRae.

On Day Two, interior designer Emma Burns joins us at St Giles House and stays with our party throughout the day. Meet our special guest on the following page.



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

Completed in the 13th century in just 38 years, this singular architectural jewel holds the world's oldest working mechanical clock and the best-preserved surviving original copy of Magna Carta, sealed in 1215.

Guests may choose a privately guided ascent of England's tallest cathedral spire, with unmatched views across Wiltshire.

In the company of Emma Burns

ST GILES HOUSE · ANTIQUES · CONVERSATION

We are delighted to welcome the internationally admired interior designer Emma Burns as our special guest on Day Two. Emma will join us at St Giles House and remain with our party throughout the day, bringing her exceptional eye for art, antiques and English interiors to a memorable day of houses, discoveries and conversation.



EMMA BURNS

Interior designer

Emma Burns trained with Charles Hammond before joining Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler in 1984. Emma ran the Brook Street fabric showroom and worked with Roger Banks-Pye before establishing her own interior design team.

Inspired by her love of art and design, Emma is an avid collector of new ideas seen and noted on her worldwide travels. Her ability to absorb the new and to re-interpret it in a classically elegant context has won her an international following of new and returning clients.

Emma has worked on high-profile private commissions all over the world, including a villa in Mustique, town houses in Moscow and Paris, a chateau near Nice, chalets in Switzerland, as well as numerous town and country houses in the United Kingdom.

"Interiors should enhance the lives and sensibilities of those who live there, reflecting their taste in fashion, art and books. I can't bear impersonal interiors."

Emma Burns

Five centuries of collecting

WILTON HOUSE AND THE TRANQUIL GARDENS AT HEALE

WILTON HOUSE

A living collection

The country seat of the Earls of Pembroke since 1540.



The 18th Earl of Pembroke and his family live in part of this remarkable house today. A private tour leads through the State Rooms and the magnificent Single and Double Cube Rooms designed by Inigo Jones.

The collection, assembled by the Pembroke family over 500 years, includes Roman and Greek sculpture, antique furnishings and Old Masters by Holbein, Rubens, Rembrandt, Bruegel and Ribera. Wilton also holds England's largest private collection of portraits by Van Dyck. A two-course lunch is included.

HEALE HOUSE GARDENS

In the afternoon, our hostess Frances Rasch guides us through the gardens she has thoughtfully shaped. The 17th-century manor overlooks terraces and clear, trout-filled streams. An authentic Japanese tea house and Nikko Bridge give the visit its tranquil character, and here in the grounds we shall take a traditional English tea.





DAY THREE · SALISBURY PLAIN

Within the stone circle

A private encounter with prehistoric England

We continue across Salisbury Plain to Stonehenge, the world-famous prehistoric monument whose earliest stages date from around 3000 BC. Its stones and earthworks, aligned with the movement of the sun at the solstices, have drawn wonder and speculation for generations.

A special access pass takes us beyond the usual visitor route and into the circle itself. That evening, a passionate archaeologist will be joining us for dinner and conversation at the host's house.

DAY FOUR

History, vividly brought to life

The Chalke Valley History Festival

A wonderfully rich programme brings distinguished historians, writers and broadcasters together in the Wiltshire countryside, with talks, performances and living history throughout the day. Guests choose whatever captures their imagination before gathering for a lovely lunch in the festival dining tent. A fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable day.



THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

DATES
20 to 25 June 2027

SETTING
Wiltshire and Dorset, England

STAY
Five nights at Teffont House
Teffont Evias, Wiltshire

TRAVEL
Private car throughout

PRIVATE ENQUIRIES

A more private England, beautifully arranged.

enquiries@englishdrawingroom.com +44 7967 822647

BOOKING INFORMATION

Terms & Booking

CONDITIONS OF BOOKING, DEPOSITS AND REFUNDS

PRICE AND BOOKING

The journey is priced per guest, with a reduced rate for couples and friends sharing a room. Prices are provided on application: please write to enquiries@englishdrawingroom.com or call +44 7967 822647. A quotation is held for fourteen days.

DEPOSIT AND BALANCE

A place is reserved on receipt of a completed booking and a deposit of fifty per cent of the journey price per guest. The balance is due sixty days before the journey begins, by 21 April 2027. For bookings made within sixty days of departure, the full amount is payable at the time of booking.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

The deposit is non-refundable, as houses, guides and tables are reserved and paid for on your behalf at the time of booking. Cancellations received on or before 21 March 2027 are refunded the balance in full. Within ninety days of departure, the deposit and balance are non-refundable. Should you be unable to travel, you are welcome to pass your place to another guest, with our agreement.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is required of every guest and is a condition of booking. Your policy must include cancellation, curtailment, medical treatment and repatriation cover. We may ask for confirmation before departure.

INCLUDED IN THE JOURNEY

Five nights at Teffont House in a comfortable en suite room; all breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners as described, with welcome tea on arrival; private car transport with an English driver-guide throughout; entry to every house, garden and cathedral on the itinerary, including the Salisbury Cathedral spire tour, the stone circle at Stonehenge with a special access pass, and the homes and gardens shown to us by their owners; entry to the Chalke Valley History Festival, including the festival lunch; and the company and advice of our antiques host throughout.

NOT INCLUDED

Travel to and from England; travel insurance; lunch, dinner and drinks on the day of arrival, when only welcome tea is served; antiques and other purchases, whose export packing and shipping are borne by the guest; drinks beyond those served with meals; and any personal expenses.

IF PLANS CHANGE

The houses and gardens on this journey are opened to us by families in their homes. On rare occasions a visit must be adjusted at short notice; where this happens, we arrange the nearest comparable alternative and tell you promptly. If events entirely beyond our control prevent the journey, we shall first try to move it to new dates; if that is not possible, all payments except the deposit are refunded.

The complete terms and conditions are available at englishdrawingroom.com/terms, or on request.