



# KINGS COACHES

FOR THE ARTS SOCIETY COLCHESTER PRESENT A  
HOLIDAY TO

# DERBYSHIRE

**SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026 – FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

**£850.00 PER PERSON, SINGLE PERSON SUPPLEMENT £175.00**

**Non-Historic Houses members add £27.00**

**Non-National Trust Members add £42.00**

**5 nights Bed and Breakfast plus dinner on two nights to include a glass of wine per person.**

**All excursions and gratuities are included.**

## **Accommodation at the 3-star Old Hall Hotel in historic Buxton.**

Reputed to be the oldest recorded hotel in England, the oldest part of the building dates to 1573. The Hall was built with the sanction of Queen Elizabeth I, to provide accommodation for Mary Queen of Scots who was under house arrest in the keepership of the Earl of Shrewsbury. Its position in the heart of Buxton means that visitors can also explore a year-round programme of activities within the town.

### Day 1

Departure point TBA

Journey to **Peterborough Cathedral** where you have a guided highlights tour at 12.30. The Cathedral's striking Norman architecture, with its towering West Front and magnificent vaulted ceilings, inspires awe and peace in equal measure. Peterborough Cathedral is one of the finest Norman cathedrals in Europe. Founded as a monastic community in 654 AD, it became one of the most significant medieval abbeys in the country, the burial place of two queens and the scene of Civil War upheavals.

Following free time we continue to your hotel where dinner and a glass of wine await you.

### Day 2

Travel to the National Trust's **Calke Abbey**, where House, Garden and Church are. set in a peaceful woodland area, with a gift shop and second-hand bookshop and café.

With peeling paintwork and overgrown courtyards, Calke Abbey tells the story of the dramatic decline of a country house estate. The house and stables are little restored, with many abandoned areas vividly portraying a period in the 20th century when numerous country houses did not survive to tell their story. Discover powerful stories of a family who amassed a vast collection of hidden treasures. Visit the beautiful, yet faded walled gardens and explore the orangery, auricula theatre and the kitchen gardens. Escape into the ancient and fragile habitats of Calke Park and its National Nature Reserve. The coach park is a 15-minute walk from the house.

In the afternoon some free time in Bakewell, perhaps with time for a tea and their famous tart.

### Day 3

Travel to the National Trust's **Hardwick Hall**. A spectacular Elizabethan house filled with rich furnishings and tapestries preserved by successive generations of the Devonshire family. It was the formidable Bess of Hardwick who first built the house and developed the surrounding estate in the late 1500s. Her descendants, the Dukes of Devonshire, treasured Hardwick, while lavishing much of their attention and money on nearby Chatsworth. Their success – intimately associated with empire over 400 years and across the globe – preserved Hardwick, and their interests elsewhere saved it from significant alteration. In the 20th century, keenly aware of Hardwick's great significance and unique appeal, the Devonshires ensured that this remarkable building was passed on to the nation with its Elizabethan splendour intact.

In the afternoon we travel to the Historic House of **Haddon Hall**. Brimming with history and stories of old, a remarkable tapestry collection, an early English furniture collection reputed to be the best of its kind in England, and stunning Elizabethan walled gardens, recently redesigned by Arne Maynard, Haddon is one of the most significant and oldest heritage destinations in the country.

### Day 4

This morning you travel to Matlock for a boat cruise on the Cromford Canal. Birdswood is a club run by volunteers who man the historical narrow boat and shop, generating profits for furthering the conservation and restoration of the canal.

In the afternoon you have free time in Buxton.

### Day 5

All day visit to **Chatsworth House**, a magnificent stately home with over 30 lavishly decorated rooms. Nestled in the heart of Derbyshire's Peak District, Chatsworth House is one of Britain's most famous stately homes. The 1,000-acre park on the banks of the river Derwent was chiefly designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in the 1760s. Today the park contains historic and modern architecture and art. It is also home to red and fallow deer, sheep, cattle and many wild animals. Stand Wood contains an interesting diversity of trees and plants and there are many paths to explore.

At the end of the day we return to the hotel where dinner and a glass of wine await.

### Day 6

On the return journey we are stopping at **Elton Hall** near Peterborough. We have included a tour to start at 13.30. The house has been the home of the Proby family since 1660, although previous generations held land at Elton from the time of Elizabeth I. Elton Hall is enchanting and there is something romantic and magical about the building with its gothic south elevation set at a right angle to the classical, French inspired, entrance wing. Successive generations have embellished both the house and collection, which contains many Old Masters and fine examples of English portraiture by Reynolds, Gainsborough and Romney. A visit, which also includes the recently Award-winning restored gardens, provides the visitor with a fascinating insight into British history and taste.

The coach will park at the adjacent Bosworth's Garden Centre where there is a café

We shall arrive back in the Colchester area early evening.