

Where culture, history, countryside and coast meet ...

DEVON & CORNWALL - THE TAMAR VALLEY

5 days – 4 nights. From £799 per person*

Our Tour



What's included

- * Executive coach travel throughout
- * 4 nights half board accommodation
- * En-route visits including Exeter, Buckfast Abbey & House of Marbles
- * Guided tour of Plymouth
- * Visit The Box Plymouth
- * Plymouth harbour sightseeing cruise
- * Visit Saltram (NT)
- * Visit Buckland Abbey (NT)
- * Guided tour of Mount Edgcumbe
- * Guided tour of Port Eliot
- * Lunch on two days
- * Gratuities

Extras

- * Single supplement (twin/double for sole use) - £120 per person
- * Admission to NT properties



The Arts Society Ashtead

9th - 13th September 2024

Port Eliot - The Round Room

Secluded along the border between Devon and Cornwall lies the delightful Tamar Valley. The ruined towers of its once significant mining industry have been evocatively reclaimed by the lush natural landscape, which meanders along the rivers Tamar, Tavy and Lynher. Designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the region is rich in both beauty and history, and provides a haven for a variety of wildlife. Nestled in the region are stunning gardens, refined historic properties and quirky towns, which combine to form the Tamar Valley's unique heritage.



Buckfast Abbey

*Price is based on a minimum of 35 travelling. Should fewer travel, the price will increase.

Day 1 – We depart our local area for the journey to Plymouth, with suitable en-route stops. We aim to spend a couple of hours at leisure in the vibrant city of **Exeter**; rich in history, with a magnificent Gothic cathedral, imposing Roman city walls and historic castle. There will be time here to obtain lunch (not included). Another stop will be **Buckfast Abbey**, home to a community of Benedictine monks and the only medieval monastery to have been restored and used again for its original purpose. As well as the Abbey Church, visitors can explore the fascinating physic and sensory gardens, plus perhaps sample the tonic wine for which it is well-known.

Day 2 – After breakfast a local guide will join us for a tour of the maritime city of **Plymouth**, part coach and part walking. This will include a visit to **The Box**, an award-winning museum, art gallery and archive. The series of galleries and exhibition spaces showcase international and local significance through thought-provoking collections, programmes and commissions. We also take a **scenic harbour cruise**, which



Plymouth Hoe

explores the beautiful Devon and Cornish coasts and takes in the Plymouth Sound, Plymouth Hoe and

Drake's Island, heading to the Royal Naval Dockyard and back.

Day 3 – Today our first visit is to **Saltram (NT)**. This magnificent and imposing mansion dates back to the early Georgian era. Overlooking the River Plym, it sits within acres of rolling parkland. The elegant Palladian façades shelter an incredible collection of paintings, including several by Joshua Reynolds, and the ornately crafted interiors are accentuated by sumptuous furnishings. Next we head to **Buckland Abbey (NT)**. Founded by



Buckland Abbey Gardens

the Cistercians and once owned by Sir Frances Drake, this ancient gem is now surrounded by the contrasting Elizabethan, Cider House, Kitchen and Abbey gardens. It has a striking Great Barn and enjoys wonderful views of the surrounding countryside.

Day 4 – Our first destination is the historic **Mount Edgcumbe Estate**, the former home of the Earls of Mount Edgcumbe, dating back to the 1500s. Today, the house is home to many notable works by famous artists including Sir Joshua Reynolds, Willem van de Velde and Gerard Edema. Other highlights include three large 16th century tapestries, two beautiful examples of Boulle



Mount Edgcumbe House

furniture, a pair of extremely rare Irish Bronze Age horns, various clocks, sculptures, silverware and some examples of Plymouth Porcelain. We then head to **Port Eliot**. This astonishing Grade I-listed house is believed to be the oldest continually inhabited dwelling in the UK. The ancient site dates back over 1,000 years and the house as it stands today is truly unique: it has 11 staircases, 15 back doors and 82 chimneys. It houses an incredible accumulation of artistic treasures from across its history, including works by Reynolds and Van Dyck. The park and gardens are also Grade I listed, and form a wonderful place to wander amongst woodland, pretty blooms and magnificent trees. A light lunch will be included today.

Day 5 – Checking out of the hotel, we head to Bovey Tracey, for a visit to the **House of Marbles**. As well as the glassworks where you can see traditional and modern glassmaking techniques at work, explore the museums of games, glass, pottery and marbles. After time here we continue homeward, with an included lunch en-route.

The exact order of excursions is subject to change.

Our Hotel

The **Copthorne Plymouth** is located in the heart of the city, a short walk from the Barbican and iconic Mayflower Steps. The hotel offers comfortable and well equipped en-suite bedrooms plus a contemporary, bright and airy brasserie restaurant and bar.

