

AST Excursions Newsletter & List

Winter 2009 /10

Welcome to our first offerings under our new banner for "Day Excursions". Our new programme is unashamedly aimed at our customers who might share some of the more esoteric interests of the Directors & Staff. In these difficult economic times, having tried "populist and cheap" to boost revenue and failed, we are now concentrating on trips that, even if they fall into the category of "charity days", we shall be less inclined to cancel because of low numbers!

You will note the use of "AST" again after many years. It stands for "Academic & Specialist Tours". Slightly pompous we admit, but a very accurate description of what we are trying to achieve. It was only dropped because, unfortunately, people were under the impression that the Company only served educational institutions!

Richardson Travel has had a very busy year so far, with Private Hire revenue and profits virtually matching 2008, which is all very encouraging. However it does mean that due to time limitations, many ideas for trips have still not reached maturity. Therefore, you are going to get more than the promised two mailings, with another one later in 2009 around 1st November. This one has been rushed through to try to meet the 1st September deadline and incorporates some of the venue requests we have received. Treat this Newsletter as the "Overture". If you have any ideas yourself, especially if you have a group of friends who are like-minded, please contact either Kate Knights or myself (Mr Richardson) with your suggestions.

Finally, to clarify the "Subscriber Discount"; the £1.50 reduction applies to every seat booked in your name. So, if you personally book a group of your friends (say 4), you will all make a saving of £1.50 per seat and be sitting close together. Your "subscriber" status remains while you keep booking at least two seats in any twelve-month period.

If you are not already a subscriber, you will have received this because you have booked at least two seats in your name (at full price) from the web site or an advertisement. You are now deemed to be "Subscriber" for mailing purposes, unless you fail to book a further two seats in the twelve month period starting NOW.

How To Book Your Seat(s):

Phone 01730 812867 between 09:30 & 16:00 Mon. – Fri.

You will be given your seat number(s) and a unique booking reference.

Payment can be made by Credit / Debit Card at the same time or by Cheque within five working days. Don't forget to claim your subscriber discount!

CHEQUES SHOULD STILL BE MADE PAYABLE TO RICHARDSON TRAVEL LTD.

On receipt of payment, your ticket(s) will be posted to you.

We have tried to give as much detail as possible for each Excursion; some Fares INCLUDE Admission(s), others do NOT. Please study carefully and deduct £1.50 for "subscribers".

PICK-UP POINTS: In order to reduce time spent travelling for everyone and keep fares to a reasonable level, each Excursion is listed with the THREE PRINCIPLE POINTS that determines the route of the Excursion Coach. "Feeder(s)" to the main coach will be available at a cost of £2.00 per person; if more than 6 passengers book from the same point "off MAIN route", your feeder service will be FREE!!

All times given are provisional and are best estimates at time of printing.

**Richardson Travel Ltd (Dept AST)
Russell House, Bepton Road, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9NB**

Saturday 26th September Weymouth OR Portland Fortifications

Weymouth itself is always a popular destination in it's own right. The Coach will drop off in the Brewers Quay Car Park and you have the whole day to explore the town and (hopefully) enjoy the Beach.

However, for something entirely different, why not join members of the Palmerston Forts Society and visit nearby Nothe Fort (Entrance not included) and later in the day, drive over to Portland to visit the "High Angle Battery" (Free) adjacent to what used to be the Verne Citadel (now the Verne Prison). If nothing else, you will get a really superb view across the Harbour from the highest point on Portland Bill and learn something of the Victorian Fortifications (NB NOT a guided tour).

Chichester 08:15 (19:30), Midhurst 07:50 (19:55), Haslemere 07:30 (20:20).

(For Bognor Petersfield, Liss, & Liphook Pick-ups, see above. Motorway Comfort Stop each way.)

Fares (EXCL. ADMISSIONS): Adult: £18.50 OAP / Child: £16.50

Sunday 27th September Imperial War Museum Duxford (& Showbus'09)

Don't be put off by the reference to "Buses"; this is a great opportunity to visit the IWM Duxford to see one of the Premier Aviation Collections in the UK at a Bargain Price. With no less than 8 undercover displays plus outside exhibits this will keep both aviation enthusiasts and the merely curious enthralled for the whole day (check www.duxford.iwm.org.uk for further information).

However, we are going to show off one of our new "09 reg" vehicles at "Showbus" and as an "exhibitor", everyone on the coach will get into the site for a greatly reduced price. Normal adult admission is £16.00 but we are charging only £27.50 ## for the FARE INCLUDING ADMISSION!!! You will be totally free to wander round viewing all the Vintage, Preserved and Modern Buses & Coaches, take rides on selected vehicles as well as taking advantage of all the facilities and displays of the IWM.

Chichester 07:00 (20:20), Midhurst 07:25 (19:55), Haslemere 07:50 (19:30)

(For Bognor Petersfield, Liss, & Liphook Pick-ups, see above. Motorway Comfort Stop each way.)

Fares (INCL. ADMISSION): Adult: £27.50 OAP / Child: £25.50

Sunday 18th October Swindon or Science Museum Wroughton

Not another BUS related excursion! I'm afraid so but there are alternatives. We must not forget the RAIL enthusiasts or "Lady Friends and Partners". So you have a wide choice.

First, the coach will drop off at the old GWR Railway Works Complex, home to the iconic "STEAM" Museum, which is a must for anyone vaguely interested in railways and the GWR in particular (see www.steam-museum.org.uk). For those not really interested (sad!), there is the giant McArthurGlen designer outlet right next door with real shopping bargains all within another of the restored old works buildings (see www.swindondesigneroutlet.com).

However, the real purpose of our excursion, and where the coach will spend the day (before collecting again in Swindon), is to visit Wroughton Airfield, a few minutes drive away. This is the site of the Science Museum "Reserve Collection" and a special Rally to celebrate 60 years of Ian Allan's "BUSES" Magazine (it used to be called "Buses Illustrated" in my younger days!). The reserve collection of vehicles and much more will be viewable in Hangers D5 and L4 (see www.busesmag.com)

There will be the usual display of vintage and preserved vehicles with rides, stalls etc. but in attendance will be **RT1, the prototype (well almost) of the 4625 built to serve London Transport immediately after WWII. This preserved "Icon" of British Bus Manufacturing is in danger of being sold abroad and like any great work of art there is an appeal to save it for the Nation! The Company will be donating £5.00 from every fare to this appeal. (** For the uninitiated, an RT Bus is what Cliff Richards and the Shadows drove to Greece in "Summer Holiday" and James Bond (Sean Connery) decapitated in "Dr NO"

Chichester 07:30 (19:50), Midhurst 07:55 (19:25), Petersfield 08:20 (19:00)

(For Bognor Haslemere, Liss, & Liphook Pick-ups, see above. Motorway Comfort Stop each way.)

Fares SWINDON (EXCL. admission to "STEAM"): Adult: £18.50 OAP / Child: £16.50

Fares WROUGHTON (INCL. admission to Museum): Adult: £22.50 OAP / Child: £19.50

Wednesday 28th October Sheffield Park Gardens / Bluebell Railway.

Something for all the family (young or old). Take a nostalgic trip back in time to the “steam-era”. Simply explore the station, museum and tearoom or time to take an “Autumn Tint Special” (every hour) on one of Britain’s first and most famous preserved lines. At Sheffield Park Station, access to Bar & Buffet is free; alternatively Entrance to the Bluebell Railway Museum can be with or without Steam Train journey; see www.bluebellrailway.co.uk. Alternatively, opt for the tranquillity of Sheffield Park Gardens (Free to NT members) for the spectacular autumn colours. In the eyes of some, either venue is equally romantic! Joint entrance tickets also available with the Gardens.

Chichester 08:05 (19:05), Midhurst 08:35 (18:40), Haslemere 09:00 (18:15)
(Possible other points depending upon numbers.)

Coach Fares ONLY: Adult: £15.50 OAP / Child: £13.50

Saturday 8th November Coventry

Coventry, a city of myth, legend and stark reality; famous for both Lady Godiva, a blitzed Cathedral and a decimated motor industry. The bombing of 1940 reduced most of Coventry to rubble. Whatever your opinion of the post war replacement, Coventry is worth a visit for it’s mixture of historic, rebuilt and modernistic buildings. Study the Architecture and Art of the “new” 1950’s Cathedral alongside the dramatic remains of the original Cathedral. The Priory Visitor Centre traces the history back to the Eleventh Century Priory of Lady Godiva and Earl Leofric.

Visit the Guildhall, the place where Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned in 1569, Holy Trinity Church, built in the 12th Century, with a recently restored Medieval Doom Painting that is now on view and the Herbert Art Gallery with eight permanent exhibitions as well as Lady Herbert’s Garden that lies beneath the Town’s ancient gates.

As well as ample shopping & eating places, Coventry also boasts one of the best and largest Transport Museums (what a coincidence!). By another amazing coincidence, it’s the day of the “Leyland Society” AGM being held at the Museum.

Most of the above have FREE admission but for additional information look at:

www.visitcoventryandwarwickshire.co.uk. Coventry (unusually) also recognizes the importance of the visitor arriving by coach; dropping off (and parking) is literally within yards of most of the above attractions.

Chichester 07:00 (20:50), Midhurst 07:25 (20:25), Haslemere 07:50 (20:00)
(For Bognor Petersfield, Liss, & Liphook Pick-ups, see above. Motorway Comfort Stop each way.)

Coach Fare Only Adult: £27.50 OAP / Child: £25.50

Friday 13th November Royal Albert Hall “The Music of Bond”

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Guest Singers

Let’s be honest; we may be a serious “Classic FM” listener but appreciation of the theme songs of the James Bond films can be quietly admitted without too much embarrassment in polite company. A concert with special guest presenter Honor Blackman (Pussy Galore!) and featuring classic songs from Goldfinger, Licence to Kill, Dr No, Diamonds are Forever, Live and Let Die, From Russia with Love and many more.

Cost INCLUDING Circle Seats: Adult: £39.50 OAP / Child: £37.50

ONLY 30 seats are available and bookings will close on 2nd October 2009.

View www.royalalberthall.com for more details of this concert.

Chichester 16:00 (00:35), Midhurst 16:30 (00:10), Haslemere 17:00 (23:45)
(Regretably, these will be the ONLY Pick-ups.)

Tuesday 24th November Temples of Art, Science & Mammon

Victoria & Albert Mus: Maharaja: the Splendour of India's Royal Courts et al.
Natural History Museum: The New Darwin Centre / Cocoon
Knightsbridge: Harrods etc.

For the cost and environmentally conscious; a choice of cultural, scientific or materialistic venues in the space of a few hundred yards. Keep your "carbon footprint" low and travel in the most environmentally friendly coaches in West Sussex! This really is a multi-purpose day to please everyone!

The V&A has the "sensational" (sic) Maharaja Exhibition (Entrance Charge). The free exhibitions include the "Future Fashion" collection from the RCA (Hilarious!) and the fabulous stage photography of Reg Wilson in "Capturing the Moment". A must for all theatre lovers. See www.vam.ac.uk

Across the road, what ever your feelings on the "Architecture", the new "Darwin Centre" (opening 15th Sept.) looks to be a real "Must" on the museums scene. FREE entry (but advisable to book ahead especially if you wish to visit the "Cocoon". See www.nhm.ac.uk for details of this and all the other attractions and exhibitions in the Natural History Museum.

Harrods is "Harrods" but take advantage of tough trading conditions and pick-up some real bargains. Check www.harrods.com, but plenty of other stores to browse in the area.

Chichester 08:00 (19:10), Midhurst 08:30 (18:40), Haslemere 09:00 (18:15)

(For Bognor Petersfield, Liss, & Liphook Pick-ups, see above.)

Adult: £18.50 OAP / Child: £16.50

Wednesday 16th December Oxford Street, British Museum or St Paul's

Another of our "multi-purpose" excursions up to London. Travel by coach, while relatively sedate, is so much more convenient. The first stop will be Cavendish Square behind John Lewis convenient for Oxford Street and Regent Street for last minute Christmas shopping. Onto the British Museum, a perennial favourite for a day in London (Free except for the special "Aztec Ruler" Exhibition; see www.britishmuseum.org). Final setting down point will be at St Paul's Cathedral. Now the Cathedral boasts a new and reasonable restaurant (note, not a café or refectory!) see. www.stpauls.co.uk

If you are feeling energetic, and the weather is clement, take the "wobbly bridge" to Tate Modern.

Chichester 08:00 (19:10), Midhurst 08:30 (18:40), Haslemere 09:00 (18:15)

(For Bognor Petersfield, Liss, & Liphook Pick-ups, see above.)

Adult: £18.50 OAP / Child: £16.50

Thursday 28th January 2010 Mayfair and Royal Academy

The Real Van Gogh and / or "GSK Contemporary "Earth"

"Mayfair" The very name conjures a wide variety of reactions. This area between Park Lane, Regent Street, Piccadilly and Oxford Street, offers fascinating buildings, upmarket and / or artistic shopping and refined dining, sometimes all at the same address. Your coach will allow you to alight on Piccadilly, almost outside the Royal Academy.

At the RA itself, billed as the first "major Van Gogh exhibition in 40 years"; around 65 paintings, 30 drawings plus 35 original letters and the links between them. For lighter relief (!?), walk round the back to 6 Burlington Gardens, for the GSK Exhibition of new and recent contemporary works. Aspley House and the Handel House Museum are just two of the other cultural attractions within yards of the RA as well as Bond Street, the Burlington Arcade and Shepherd Market for shopping.

Chichester 08:00 (19:10), Midhurst 08:30 (18:40), Haslemere 09:00 (18:15)

(For Bognor Petersfield, Liss, & Liphook Pick-ups, see above. Motorway Comfort Stop each way.)

Fares: Adult: £18.50 OAP / Child: £16.50

WEEKEND TOUR: 2 NIGHTS / 3 DAYS

“CHATSWORTH HOUSE CHRISTMAS”
11th – 13th December 2009

Based at the Novotel Sheffield (AA 4), located in the very centre of the City.
Accommodation will be on a Bed & English Breakfast basis in en suite rooms containing twin /
double beds. Transport by fully air-conditioned “Executive” Coach.*

Welcome to our “Roots” (the Company was founded in Sheffield in 1976).

*Our “Primary Objective” is to visit Chatsworth House for its stunning “Candlelit Christmas”
While only the lower two floors of the House are open (see www.chatsworth.org) there is much to
appreciate inside and outside in Gardens and Park . A single day-trip from Sussex would be a
marathon, so join us for a relaxing weekend.*

Entrance to Chatsworth is INCLUDED in the price below.

Provisional Itinerary

*Friday: Travel via the Motorway Network to arrive at Stamford for a lunch stop and optional visit
to Belvoir Castle (entrance NOT included).*

Onto our Hotel in Sheffield, unload, and evening meal (in or out, not included).

*Saturday: Drive out into the Derbyshire Peak District arriving at Chatsworth House & Park in
time for an early Lunch. In the afternoon, there will be ample time to explore the House & Park
at leisure before returning to the Hotel. Evening meal (in or out, not included).*

*Sunday: Depart Hotel to drive home via at least one interesting property, possibly Hardwick Hall
(NT), aiming to be south of the Trent by early afternoon. Arrival in Sussex by early evening.*

£119.00 per person sharing

(Sole Occupancy Supplement: £20.00)

Transport ONLY Option (to / from Sheffield only): £49.00 Return

All Payments are covered by our Bonding in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations.

INTERESTED? PLEASE CALL 01730 – 812867 FOR A BOOKING FORM

Other TOURS being considered and under development:

Warwickshire Castles (Based Banbury).....North Wales (Narrow Gauge) Railways.

Normandy Paris Holland (Fortifications)

Look out for our Winter Mailing or monitor the web-site:- www.richardson-travel.co.uk

Other EXCURSIONS under consideration and preparation for 2010

Dover Castle and the newly opened Henry II Apartments

Nash's London (An exploration by coach and foot).

Sheerness Dockyard (private tour) & Area.

Down House (special price for those who booked 24th Nov.)

Hampton Court Palace Ghost Tour (Evening)

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