

Wessex Fine Art Tours

**THE COUNTRY HOUSES
CASTLES and GARDENS
of NORTHUMBRIA**

20~26 June, 2027



Organiser:

Barbara Peacock MA, FRSA

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Nunnykirk

COUNTRY HOUSES, CASTLES AND GARDENS OF NORTHUMBRIA

Northumbria is one of the most spectacular and unspoilt of England's counties. Rugged moorland bordered by the Cheviot hills forms a dramatic landscape that contrasts with the fertile green well-watered dells. Famous as one of the earliest centres of Christianity, Northumberland is also known for the magnificent castles and numerous tower houses that characterise the countryside and reflect the county's turbulent history on the Scottish borders. Less well-known are the many fine houses and gardens that lie hidden in the sheltered wooded valleys.

Alnwick Castle, built from the 12th century, is splendidly situated above the River Aln. Its richly decorated state rooms boast a world-class collection of paintings. Mighty **Bamburgh Castle** is dramatically sited on a volcanic outcrop overlooking the sea with views to lonely **Holy Island** and **Lindisfarne Castle**.

Country houses of all periods abound, many still lived in by the families who have owned the estates since the Middle Ages. We visit **Capheaton Hall**, a delightful house of 1668, home to the ancient Browne-Swinburne family; **Seaton Delaval** (1718-29), one of Vanbrugh's most dramatic and powerful houses; **Wallington Hall**, with its sumptuous Italianate plasterwork (1740-42) and important Pre-Raphaelite paintings; **Bywell Hall**, a fine Palladian house of 1766 with many art treasures. At **Belsay Hall** and **Nunnykirk Hall** we see two chaste early 19th- century Greek Revival houses. For the 20th century, we visit dramatic **Lindisfarne Castle**, remodelled by the great architect Sir Edwin Lutyens as a romantic retreat for Edward Hudson, owner of *Country Life*.

Northumberland is also known as the cradle of Christianity. Lindisfarne was home to St Cuthbert c.634-687, the most famous of the monk bishops, whose healing miracles caused the remote island to become a leading pilgrimage centre. Here in the 12th-century a magnificent **Norman Priory** was built.

A characteristic of the county are the many delightful unspoilt market towns and villages which we shall see on our journeys. We also visit some notable **gardens**: the beautiful period gardens of **Wallington Hall**, the romantic richly-planted quarry gardens at **Belsay**, the Lutyens-Jekyll garden at **Whalton Manor** and the magnificent 'Capability' Brown park at **Alnwick Castle**. Here we also enjoy the spectacular **Formal Gardens**, the most ambitious garden project created in England since the Second World War.



Walton Manor



Ship room, Lindesfarne Castle



Bamburgh Castle



Alnwick Garden



Seaton Delaval Hall



Alnwick town



Wallington Hall



Belsay



Wallington



Seaton Delaval staircase

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Sun June 20 The programme will begin in the late afternoon (approx.4.00 pm) at **** Linden Hall Hotel and Spa

Sunday afternoon approx. 1715 Introductory lecture: *Castles and Country Houses of Northumbria* by Barbara Peacock

Mon June 21 Private visit to the State Rooms of **Alnwick Castle** (*Duke of Northumberland*), remodelled in sumptuous Italianate Renaissance style in 1847-65 with a magnificent collection of paintings and works of art. We also visit the castle exteriors and the splendid 21st-century gardens and walk through the delightful mediaeval town centre of **Alnwick**.

Afternoon visit to **Bamburgh Castle** (exterior only), **village** and **St Aidan's church**.

Tues June 22 Private visit to **Whalton Manor Gardens** (*Petre Norton*), designed by Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll in 1908. Afternoon private visit to beautifully situated classical **Bywell Hall** (*Viscount Allendale*), 1766, with fine paintings. Nearby we visit the Saxon churches of St Andrew and St Peter.

Wed June 23 Private visit to **Wallington Hall** (*National Trust*). The Georgian interiors have magnificent plasterwork and fine furniture and a superb ceramics collection, whilst the spectacular 19th-century Hall is decorated with Pre-Raphaelite paintings. Here we also enjoy the extensive and beautiful **gardens**. Afternoon private visit to **Capheaton Hall** (*Willy Browne-Swinburne*), the ancient ancestral estate of the Browne-Swinburne baronets, built 1688 by the local Newcastle architect, Robert Trollope.

Thurs June 24 We visit **Holy Island** with **Lindisfarne Castle** (*National Trust*), remodelled by the architect Lutyens with fine Arts and Crafts interiors. We then see the magnificent ruins of the 12th century **Norman Priory** (*English Heritage*). Afternoon visit to the delightful village of **Etal** and the Victorian model village of **Ford**. At **Ford** we visit **Lady Waterford's School** with its Pre-Raphaelite inspired murals and finish the afternoon with a spectacular drive through the beautiful Northumbrian landscape back to the Hotel.

Fri June 25 Seaton Delaval (*National Trust*). Built 1718-29 by the architect Vanbrugh, Seaton Delaval is one of his most intense and compelling houses. Afternoon visit to **Belsay Hall & Gardens** (*English Heritage*), a magnificent Grecian house (1807-17) in a splendid Romantic setting.

Sat June 26 Private visit to Nunnyskirk Hall (*Dr and Mrs Jacques*), a noble Greek Revival house (1825) by the important Newcastle architect, John Dobson, in course of restoration.

TOUR LEADER

The tour will be led by **Barbara Peacock MA FRSA**, founder of Wessex Fine Art and Architecture Tours in 1982 . She has since led numerous successful tours in Britain and overseas. Her particular interest is the country house and its associated historic landscape. She lectures internationally for organisations such as the National Trust, the Art Fund and The Arts Society.



Landscape near Edlingham

PRACTICALITIES

The **** Linden Hall Hotel and Spa will be our base for the tour. Conveniently situated between Alnwick and Morpeth, the hotel was built as a family home in Regency Grecian style in 1813 and has many period features. Set within 450 acres of landscaped grounds, many of the well-equipped bedrooms have fine views. Since becoming a Hotel, the house has been extended to provide more bedrooms and a spa with swimming pool.

The nearest station is Morpeth, 10 miles away, on the main line from King's Cross. Participants coming by train will be returned to the station at the end of the tour, which will finish in the early afternoon of June 26, 2027. Taxis can be arranged for the day of arrival.

The 7 day tour will cost **£3190 per person** in a double or twin bedded room, and **£360 single supplement**. This will include accommodation B/D/D for 6 nights in **** Linden Hall Hotel, 2 Lunches, some coffees/teas , all coach transport, entrance fees and gratuities, and a detailed illustrated course booklet with background notes
Please note: The tour is limited to 20-22 people.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

CANCELLATION

Charges are as follows:

- 56 days or more before start of course - loss of deposit
- 55-43 days before start of course - 50% of the total
- 42-29 days before start of course - 60% of the total
- 28-22 days before start of course - 85% of the total
- 21-0 days before start of course - 100% of the total

It is a condition of booking that you arrange travel insurance to protect yourself against loss. In the unlikely event of cancellation by WFASC we undertake to refund you in full within 14 days all monies paid to us in course fees.



BOOKING FORM

(PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS)

I/We wish to attend the 2027 Summer Tour and would like to reserve accommodation in a **single/shared** room.

I/we enclose a cheque for **£400 per person** (a non-returnable deposit) made payable to: **WESSEX FINE ART STUDY COURSES**,

OR, I/we am/are paying £400 per person into the following account: Wessex Fine Art Study Courses, Account no.76898668 Sort Code: 30-99-71

Reservations should be sent to: WFASC Enrolments, Church Cottage, Beauworth, Alresford, Hants SO24 0PA or scanned and emailed to: wfasc-tours@wfasc.co.uk

[1] Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other *(please include first name)*

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Address:

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Postcode:..... Telephone:.....

Email:.....

Signature:

Date:.....

[2] Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other *(please include first name)*

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Address:

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Postcode:..... Telephone:.....

Email:.....

Signature:

Date:.....

How did you hear about this course?

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Please indicate if you wish to receive details of future courses and to be on our mailing list: Yes No

Please indicate if you are a member of: The National Trust
English Heritage The Art Fund Historic Houses

More photographs at www.wfasc.co.uk



In addition to this all-inclusive tour, a 40+ page, fully-illustrated Tour Guide will be provided describing the historical background for each of the visits, supported by plans of the buildings and describing transitions through the ages.



If you would like to be added to the waiting list, or receive information about future tours please email Barbara Peacock on **wfasc-tours@wfasc.co.uk** or complete and return the form below.

Please make contact if you would like to hear more about talks and lectures for your local society or group.

Stay in touch also by viewing the website at **www.wfasc.co.uk**

Name (*title & first name*)

Address:

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Postcode:.....

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Your area of interest:

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