

The Last Plantagenet King

In the Footsteps of Richard III

June 21 – July 1, 2009

You are invited to join us for a delightfully different travel experience! Do come along with our friendly little band of Ricardians as we explore the England of Richard III. This unique tour fits the bill perfectly if you are a sociable person with a keen interest in Richard and in medieval England! Sites we will visit having associations with Richard III and his contemporaries include, among others, Middleham, Bolton, Pickering, Skipton, Conisburgh, Sandal and Ashby-de-la-Zouch castles, as well as the parish churches of Middleham, Sutton Cheney, Skipton and Pickering. Our travels will also include fabulous Tewkesbury Abbey and Minster Lovell Hall (the lovely home of Sir Francis Lovell), an entire day at leisure in ancient York, and an optional visit to Ludlow Castle. And, of course, we will make our annual pilgrimage to Bosworth Battlefield where Richard lost his crown and his life. The day will include the hanging of our memorial wreath at Sutton Cheney church, as well as several hours at the fine Battlefield Centre. Here we will be treated to an excellent presentation on the the most valid of the proposed battlefield sites, short jaunts to both the traditional site on Ambion Hill and the site nearer to Dadlington, and visits to both Richard's memorial stone and King Richard's Well.

This carefully crafted tour will also include a choice selection of Britain's other gems: picturesque Little Moreton Hall (England's most remarkable timbered-framed home), the splendid cathedral at Worcester, time in the historical city of Chester, the beautiful remains of Rievaulx Abbey (which we had to forego last year), and visits to two quite special medieval manor houses – Baddesley Clinton and Stokesay Castle, as well as a flying display of birds of prey, the fascinating remains of Chedworth Roman Villa – and much more! Also featured will be a short side-trip into scenic North Wales, where we will visit a fabulous surprise venue and two of Edward I's mighty castles – Caernarfon Castle, where the Prince of Wales is crowned, and legendary Harlech Castle, once stronghold of Owain Glyndwr.

Our journey will take us through some of Britain's most beautiful scenery, from the rugged north of England to the scenic mountains of Wales to more gentle, pastoral countryside in the Midlands and the Cotswolds. During the course of our travels, we will often be welcomed and accompanied on our sightseeing by Ricardian friends from various English branches and groups — always special occasions for all of us!

The Last Plantagenet King is a truly unique tour! Just sit back and enjoy 11 days of leisurely touring and real camaraderie in our comfortable mid-size coach. Most of our lodgings will be attractive, smaller hotels and coaching inns in market towns and villages, where you'll be met with a warm welcome, a comfortable room with full amenities, and delicious meals. We will enjoy many lunches at charming country pubs that are recommended for their tasty food. Your enthusiastic tour coordinator/escort will be long-time member Linda Treybig, who has planned and led 17 previous Ricardian tours.

Group size is limited to a maximum of 14 (minimum of 8) with space available on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Preference will be given to members of the Richard III Society, and English-speaking Society members from other countries are welcome as well! Our annual tour has become quite popular and draws many repeat members. Several persons are already committed to the 2009 tour, so **please register as early as possible!**

PLEASE SEE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR LAND TOUR RATE. (Single Supplement: is \$ 450.00) **Airfare and expenses in London are not included in this rate.**

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Deadline for registration and deposit of \$350.00 is February 12, 2009. Balance in full is payable by April 12, 2009.

CANCELLATION FEES:

60 days or more before departure: **Loss of deposit** plus any non-recoverable payments made on client's behalf.

45-59 days before departure: **35% of tour cost** plus any non-recoverable payments made on client's behalf.

30-44 days before departure: **50% of tour cost** plus any non-recoverable payments made on client's behalf.

Less than 30 days before departure: **Nonrefundable** (but any recoverable monies may be returned to client.)

**CANCELLATION PENALTIES APPLY,
SO TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.**

OUR ITINERARY

June 21: Welcome to Richard III's England! A remarkable journey awaits us as we meet this morning at Manchester Airport. Boarding our coach, we will make our way to the lively market town of Skipton in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. **Skipton Castle** is one of the most appealing and best-preserved castles that once belonged to Richard III, remaining roofed and floored throughout; and he is known to have done some restorations in the adjacent parish church. Soon after lunch, we will check into our comfortable hotel, and you will have the rest of the day free to get a little catch-up sleep, explore your surroundings, or just soak up the atmosphere of this lovely corner of England. Tonight we will enjoy the first of many excellent dinners together.

OVERNIGHT (4 nights): North Yorkshire

June 22: Let's pay a visit to Richard's favorite home! The attractive little town of **Middleham** has been dubbed "the Newmarket of the North" because of its many racing stables. Here, in the early morning, one wakes to the smart clip-clop of hooves, as dozens of sleek racehorses cross the market square on their way up to the gallops above the town for their daily exercise. Today, we plan to meet good friends from the Yorkshire Branch, and the morning will be devoted to exploring Richard's mighty **castle**, as well as the **parish church of St. Mary and St. Alkelda**. Following an enjoyable lunch with our friends, we will make the short drive to Lord Scrope's impressive fortified manor house, **Castle Bolton**. Visible from miles away, this impressive structure is truly more castle than manor house (even having the requisite dungeon!) and offers breath-taking views out across Wensleydale. Our day will conclude in Ripon, with time to visit its historical little cathedral or sample what's on offer in its shops. We should have plenty to discuss over dinner tonight!

June 23: Today will begin at the Birds of Prey Centre at Sion Hall near Thirsk, where we'll be treated to a flying display by falcons and other members of the hawk family used by hunting parties during Richard's era. We'll be able to observe many other varieties of these fascinating birds and, as an added bonus, may have a rare opportunity to handle some of them. Our next stop will be at your escort's favorite site in all England — the extensive ruins of Rievaulx Abbey, a splendid 12th century Cistercian monastic foundation of remarkable beauty and peace. At the award-winning museum here, one can gain real insight into medieval monastic life as lived up through Richard's era. Not far up the road lie the remains of **Pickering Castle**. Once widely used as a hunting lodge by medieval kings, this is yet another castle that was once in Richard's keeping. We will round off a full day with a visit to this fine castle, as well as a short stop at the parish church to view its interesting medieval wall paintings.

June 24: How about a full day in York to do whatever you like? Stroll through its maze of medieval streets, walk its ancient walls, browse in its fine shops, and visit some of its many attractions. You shouldn't miss magnificent York Minster (250 years in the building!) or the Merchant Adventurers Hall, Europe's most outstanding guildhall (with which Richard was doubtless well acquainted). This remarkable city also boasts the Jorvik Viking Centre, the ruins of Clifford's Castle, the National Railway Museum, the one-of-a-kind Castle Museum, and the York Museum with a good little exhibition on Roman Britain. And why not enjoy lunch at a riverside pub or treat yourself to afternoon tea at Betty's Tea Rooms?

June 25: Boarding our coach this morning, we bid farewell to York and take a turn towards the south. Originally an early motte-and-bailey castle, **Sandal Castle**, was rebuilt by Thomas Earl of Lancaster in 1320 as an impressive stone fortress. Here, during Christmas of 1460, Richard's father, the Duke of York, and his brother, Edmund, met their deaths. We hope to be joined here by a friend from the Yorkshire Branch who will give us an account of this sad misadventure as we view the castle remains. Our other venue today will be 12th century **Conisburgh Castle**, with the oldest surviving circular keep in England. Now overlooking a sprawling, largely modern town, this castle was the birthplace of Richard III's grandfather (and possibly of his father) and was the property of the Dukes of York for several centuries. Although one of the earliest stone-built castles in England, the exterior of this interesting castle appears strangely modern to your escort! Then, it's on to our attractive hotel in Leicestershire and a tasty dinner.

OVERNIGHT (2 nights): Leicestershire

June 26: Today is our banner day – the day we pay tribute to the life and death of Richard III! After hanging our lovely memorial wreath at little Sutton Cheyney church, we'll transfer to the Bosworth Battlefield Centre. Here, in the new exhibiton area, we will be treated to an outstanding presentation that will explain each of the likeliest battlefield sites and update us on the progress being made at the now-favored site nearer to Dadlington. The day will also include short visits to both this site and the traditional site on Ambion Hill, as well as stops at the memorial stone erected to the memory of Richard III and King Richard's Well, where tradition has it that he slaked his thirst before the battle. Though most of our day will be devoted to Bosworth, we'll also pay a mid-afternoon visit to Baddesley Clinton. This picturesque moated manor house is a Grade I listed building that is rich in history. Set in lovely gardens, it features an exquisite 11th century Catholic Chapel and quite a few priest holes!

June 27: First, let's go take a good look at **Ashby-de-la-Zouch Castle**. Built by Lord Hastings who was in the process of expanding it at the time of his death, this prepossessing, mostly 15th century castle presents a more contemporary face to the world than that of Richard's far earlier and less comfortable Norman castle in Middleham. As we head northwest, our other venue for the day will really catch your fancy! On first sight of Little Moreton Hall in east Cheshire, you are likely to say something terribly trite such as "Oh, isn't it just darling?" Another Grade I listed building and a protected monument, Little Moreton Hall (begun in 1450) is probably the finest example of half-timbering in England and ever so whimsical as well. You are sure to enjoy everything about it, inside and out! Then it's on to the attractive city of Chester with its medieval Rows (a unique sort of medieval shopping arcade), where we'll end a very satisfactory day.

OVERNIGHT (1 night): Cheshire

June 28: I can't promise you that there will be anything very Ricardian about the next day and a half, but we're now going to make a quick side-trip into North Wales. Passing through fantastic mountain scenery, we'll first visit Caernarfon Castle, architecturally one of Edward I's most impressive castles. Begun in 1283, Caernarfon Castle was intended from the beginning to be a seat of power and a symbol of English dominance over the Welsh, and it was here that Edward presented his son as the first Prince of Wales. (The later investitures of both Edward VIII and Prince Charles were held at this impressive castle as well.) This afternoon, there is a pleasant surprise venue in store for you. (And no, I can't be coaxed into telling!) We will close out the day in an attractive Welsh seaside hotel.

OVERNIGHT (1 nt.): North Wales

June 29: A little further down the road lies Harlech Castle. Superbly situated on a rocky crag, this powerful castle (another built by Edward I) is unrivalled as a piece of castle building. There is a great deal of Welsh history incorporated in Harlech Castle, with Owain Glyndwr taking it in the national uprising of 1404 and the English recapturing it after a long siege in 1408 by Henry of Monmouth, later Henry V. (Most of you are probably familiar with the famous song, "Men of Harlech.") And that is your small but (I hope) rewarding sample of Wales. Crossing back into England, our first stop will be at Stokesay Castle, probably England's finest fortified manor house. After exploring this wonderful 14th century dwelling in its lovely pastoral setting, we will make our way to Ludlow. Here you will have time at leisure to either explore **Ludlow Castle** (optional – admission charged), visit the fine Church of St. Lawrence or just enjoy a little shopping and lazing around.

OVERNIGHT (2 nights): Herefordshire or Worcestershire

June 30: We begin yet another rewarding day in the small city of Worcester, where we expect to be met by friends from the Worcestershire Branch for a visit to fabulous Worcester Cathedral. Founded in 680 AD, the present English Gothic cathedral which overlooks the River Severn dates from the 12th – 13th century. Its features include a number of excellent Victorian memorials, Prince Arthur's Chantry, the fine tomb of Sir Thomas and Lady Beauchamp (12th Earl of Warwick), a stained glass window of special interest to Ricardians, and the impressive tomb of King John who was buried here at his request. We plan to conclude an enjoyable visit to Worcester over lunch nearby with our Ricardian friends. The ancient town of Tewkesbury is steeped in history. Site of the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471, its most impressive building is magnificent **Tewkesbury Abbey**. Figuring prominently in that battle, this abbey is also one of only five in the country that remained intact after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Our afternoon will be devoted to exploring the abbey and visiting the battlefield site. Tonight we will doubtless find plenty to discuss over our last dinner together on the road.

July 1: On this, the final day of the tour, we will travel through the delightful Cotswolds, a land of mellow golden stone buildings with picturesque thatched roofs – a real feast for the eyes. Our first stop will be Chedworth Roman Villa, the best site in England for exploring and understanding the remains of a large country house of the Roman period. This site features several fine mosaics, two bathhouses, a hypocaust, a water-shrine and a small museum with artifacts from the villa. Next, in an enchanting little village, we will visit the extensive remains of lovely **Minster Lovell Hall**. Home of Sir Francis Lovell, one of Richard's most loyal friends, this romantic site is exquisitely situated on the banks of the River Windrush. Boarding our coach a final time, it's on to our hotel in the cosmopolitan city of London! Our tour now comes to an official end, but you are all cordially invited to join your escort for a final dinner together tonight before we all go our various ways. May you return home safely with your fond memories of our travels with King Richard III!

OVERNIGHT: Central London

NOTES: (1) Sites having known connections with Richard III and the House of York appear in *bold italic*. Others are underlined.
(2) Tour members will be provided with a full packet of background information on each site we plan to visit..

A FINAL WORD DON'T miss this opportunity to take part in a top-notch Ricardian excursion! DO say you'll join us! Traveling through England's beautiful countryside and villages with a small group of friendly fellow Ricardians who share your interest in the man called Richard III, enriching your knowledge of him and his times, exploring fascinating places off the beaten track, discovering the best of both medieval and contemporary England = AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Cost of land tour: **\$3,090.00 – \$3,250.00** in shared room (Single Supplement: \$450.00). ***Please note:*** Due to the uncertainty of the current worldwide economy, I am unable to confirm the exact price before the end of this year but, in no case will it exceed the above. ***Air extra*** (see below).

Land tour includes: 11 days of touring in comfortable midi-coach
Services of driver/courier and tour coordinator/escort throughout tour
10 nights' accommodation
Full English breakfast daily while touring
10 evening meals
All admissions, entrance fees, and donations to churches included in the itinerary
Full baggage handling throughout the tour
All service charges and value added taxes on the above
Driver's gratuity (a generous group tip)

Not included: **Airfare** (tickets arranged by your escort as a courtesy if desired)
Lunches, snacks, or beverages not included in price of meals
Expenses in London (meals, hotel, transportation, etc.)
Return airport transfers (assistance provided with individual arrangements)
Laundry, telephone calls, room service, individual tips, or other personal expenses

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Air arrangements: The land tour begins at Manchester Airport, where we'll all meet on the morning of June 21st, and officially ends in London the afternoon of July 1st. Linda Treybig will be pleased to assist you with your air arrangements, whether you prefer to join other group members for the flight to England or travel independently. OR you are free to make your own air arrangements if you like. ***Please note: Dates of both flights are flexible.***

Pre/Post-tour arrangements: Linda Treybig will select a central London hotel for the group for the first night and for any additional nights desired for each member. If you prefer to arrive a day early for the tour, she will also be happy to book a room for you near Manchester Airport for the night before the tour. Please ask if you would like assistance with additional travel arrangements – itinerary suggestions, hotel or B & B recommendations, and public transportation or car rental.

Lunches: Lunches are not included in the price of the tour, so that each person may choose from a varied menu according to his or her appetite. (Your expense budget should allow at least £6.00 to £6.50 per day for lunch.)

BOOKING CONDITIONS

(Please read carefully): Reservations are only considered confirmed on receipt of deposit of \$350.00 per person. Reservations and deposit must be received by **February 12, 2009**, but it is wise to book as early as possible. Remember that the early bird gets the worm! **DEPOSIT IS NONREFUNDABLE.**

Tour balances are due and payable by **April 12, 2009**. If later bookings are accepted, payment in full is required at time of booking. **ALL TOUR PAYMENTS MUST BE BY MONEY ORDER OR BY CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO LINDA TREYBIG.** Regrettably, credit cards cannot be accepted except for airfare or hotel room guarantees.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE

The Richard III Society, Inc. and Linda Treybig, tour coordinator/escort (who acts only as agent in arranging transportation, hotel accommodation and all other services included in this tour) decline all liability or responsibility for any loss or damage to personal property, personal injury, or any expense connected with the provision of services for this tour. The tour coordinator reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant and to make changes in the itinerary whenever deemed necessary for the convenience, comfort or safety of the tour participants. Luggage and personal articles are at the owner's risk unless insured. Should the number of participants not meet the minimum number stated (8), the tour coordinator reserves the right to adjust the tour price or to cancel the tour. However, the tour will not be cancelled less than six (6) weeks before the scheduled date of departure. If the tour should be cancelled, the limit of liability is the return of monies paid by the tour participant.

For further details, please contact:

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Cleveland, OH 44135
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June 21 – July 1, 2009

TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ ALLERGIES OR MEDICAL PROBLEMS: _____

(Please note that this information is helpful to tour escort and is confidential.)

I will be sharing a room with: _____

I am traveling alone but would like to share a room if possible. _____ Yes _____ No

Smoking _____ Non-smoking _____ I would like a single room (\$450.00 supplement). _____ Yes

** If, due to your physical condition, you require a shower rather than a bath, please check here. _____ (Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs.)*

I will require accommodation: (1) in London for _____ nights (2) at Manchester Airport on June 20 for 1 night _____ (Yes)

Name, address, phone number & e-mail of family contact in the U.S.: _____

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING WHERE APPLICABLE:

Please arrange my airfare, departing from and returning to:

(City) _____ (State) _____

Departure: June 20, 2009. Return: July 2, 2009. If you prefer an earlier departure or a later return, please complete:

Departing: _____ Returning: _____

I would like information about additional travel arrangements while in England. _____ Yes

I/We have read and agree to the responsibility clause and to the booking conditions as stated. Please find \$350.00 deposit per person enclosed.

SIGNATURE(S): _____ DATE: _____

Please mail registration form and deposit payment by check or money order to:

Linda Treybig
11813 Erwin Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44135
Phone: (216) 889-9392; E-mail: treybig@worldnetoh.com