

Suggestions kindly provided by Peter Barrow, Dorothy Watson, Mon Darborough, Ronnie Hall, Joanna Wallwork.

In London we could do one or two visits - some of these suggestions are already paired up.

Coach travel costs are approximate and very dependent on numbers. 30 attendees assumed.

No catering is included, except an approximate cost for the Romney Marsh trip

London self travel visits

Royal Opera House Covent Garden. Behind the Scenes .

Cost: £22-25 per person for a private tour. Train travel and catering not included. Self travel.

Description: 1 hour 15 minute tour: Take a look in the areas that are normally off-limits to the public, including rehearsal studios, costumes and production workshops.

The Globe Theatre Guided Tour

Cost: £26 per person for a private tour. Train travel and catering not included. Self travel.

Description: Running time approx. 2 hours (including a 50 minute guided tour and self-guided time in the exhibition space). A fascinating tour of the Globe Theatre auditorium, vividly recreating colourful stories of the 1599 Playhouse, and the Globe reconstruction process in the 1990s.

National Portrait Gallery private group tour.

Cost: £22-27 per person for entry and tour. Train travel and catering not included. Self travel.

Description: 1 hour tour: A choice of the following. Highlights of the National Portrait Gallery. Themed tour The Tudors. Themed tour Icons of Britain. Themed tour Queer stories.
Bespoke tour - please suggest if you have something in mind.

UK Parliament.

Cost: £34 per person for entry and tour. Train travel and catering not included. Self travel.

Description: 90 minute tour: Your 90 minute tour includes the House of Commons, House of Lords and Westminster Hall.
I believe it's possible to get an individual tour free through your MP?

Sir John Soanes' Museum.

Cost: £40 per person for 15 people per tour. (Individual entry without tour is free) Train travel and catering not included. Self travel.

Description: Our 60 minute tour across the Museum's ground floor and first floor drawing rooms. Includes the Picture Room, with paintings by Canaletto and Turner and the complete series of William Hogarth's An Election paintings.

Leighton House gallery plus possibly Sambourne House

Cost: £24 per person for 12 to 25 people per tour, or for both houses £45 per person. Train travel and catering not included. Self travel.

Description: Leighton House. 90 minute tour, stepping into the world of Frederic Leighton to learn more about the fascinating history of the house and the life of a Victorian artist.

Sambourne House. 90 minute guided tour throughout the historic interiors and collections in Sambourne House, the family home of legendary Punch cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne

Tucked away in Holland Park, a leafy neighbourhood in West London, stand Leighton House and Sambourne House. Combining living and studio space, the houses remain largely unchanged today. They are the extraordinary legacies left by two ‘celebrities’ of the late Victorian era – Frederic Lord Leighton (1830-1896) and Edward Linley Sambourne (1844 -1910).

Leighton and Sambourne lived as neighbours for over 20 years and had many acquaintances in common. They were widely known to their contemporaries; Leighton as the most prominent artist of his day, a celebrated painter and president of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sambourne as Chief Cartoonist at the infamous satirical magazine Punch. Their similar tastes were reflected in the furnishing of their homes, both filled with sculpture, blue and white ceramics and glassware. But if we delve beyond the physical artefacts, what do we know about these men, their lives and careers, and why do their former homes capture our imagination today?

The Garden Museum near Lambeth Palace and Lambeth Palace garden.

The Garden Museum

Cost: £12 per person for a self guided tour of up to 20 people. We’d be looking for one of our members to do the guiding. Train travel and catering not included. Self travel.

Description: The Garden Museum explores and celebrates the art, history and design of British gardens and their place in our lives today. At the heart of the Garden Museum is our courtyard garden. Designed by Dan Pearson as an ‘Eden’ of rare plants, the garden is inspired by John Tradescant’s journeys as a plant collector. The award-winning Garden Café at the Garden Museum serves up a daily changing menu of modern-British and European, light, fresh and seasonal dishes.

Lambeth Palace Garden

Cost: £5 per person for admission. Self travel. Opens once a month.

Description: Founded in 1197, Lambeth Palace garden covers just over 10 acres and is one of the oldest gardens in England. The extraordinary micro-climate of central London means we can be adventurous. The garden has many species native to England, as well as plants from all over the world to reflect the breadth and scope of the Anglican Communion.

Chelsea Physic Garden

Cost: £14 per person for admission and group tour. Train travel and catering not included.

Description: Established in 1673, by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, Chelsea Physic Garden is home to over 4,500 medicinal, edible and useful plants and historic glasshouses. It occupies four acres of land on the edge of the Thames and it has had wide reaching impact around the world.

Buckingham Palace

Cost: Group tour of state rooms £28.80 or to include tour of gardens £42.30. Train travel and catering not included. Min 25 people max 30

Description: State rooms to include the Picture Gallery, Throne Room, White Drawing Room and

Ballroom. Gardens include a beautiful herbaceous border, the wisteria-clad summer house, rose garden and the Palace tennis court, where King George VI and Fred Perry played in the 1930s. The itinerary allows time for groups to enjoy tea and cakes from the Garden Café and to visit the Garden Shop.

Self drive visits

Farley House and Gallery. Home of the Surrealists.

Cost: £24 per person for a house tour and entry to galleries and gardens. Self drive 12 miles from Eastbourne, and catering not included.

Description: 50 minute tour of the ground floor of Farleys House with a knowledgeable guide. Entry to the Lee Miller Gallery, Farley Gallery and Farleys Sculpture Garden.

Newlands House Art Gallery in Petworth and National Trust Petworth House

Newlands House Art Gallery

Cost: Probable cost for tour £14.50. Either self drive (1.5hours, 52 miles) or coach at appx £35 per head). Catering not included.

Description: Newlands House occupies an 18th century townhouse in the centre of Petworth, a beautiful market town in the heart of the South Downs. Comprising 12 rooms spread over 7,500 sq. ft. the gallery's ambition is to stage world-class exhibitions focused on the great artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. Exhibition: 07 June to 14 September 2025 - Andy Warhol: My True Story' curated by Jean Wainwright.

National Trust Petworth House

Cost: Entry £19 (free for NT members). Travel as above. Catering not included.

Description: A magnificent 17th-century house displaying one of the finest art collections in the care of the National Trust, including works by Van Dyck, Turner and Gainsborough. 700-acre deer park. Capability Brown gardens.

Ditchling Museum of Arts and Crafts

Cost: Probably around £10. self drive (50 minutes, 25 miles). Catering not included.

Description: Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft showcases the artists and craftspeople who made Ditchling a creative hub in the 20th century. Exhibition Sat 5 July 2025 - Sun 1 February 2026. This summer, explore our remarkable collection of over 20,000 art and craft objects like never before. As we mark 40 years of Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, It Takes a Village invites you to rediscover familiar works, uncover hidden treasures and play a role in shaping the museum's future.

Coach trips

Romney Marsh Churches

Cost: £15 per person for tour. Coach travel £35 per person. Total £50. Catering not included however a coffee stop and lunch would be organised, allowing another £30 for this the total cost would be approximately £80. It may be possible to reduce the cost depending on catering and numbers. Previous trips also included a tea by the WI which is no longer available.

Description: To visit four churches - suggested Fairfield, Brookland, Ivychurch, St Mary in Marsh. The last involves a walk across a field. There would be a stop for coffee, two churches in the morning, lunch, two churches in the afternoon. All guided by an expert from Romney Marsh Historic Churches Trust.

Strawberry hill House and Turner's House near Twickenham

Strawberry Hill House

Cost: £71 for tour of house and garden or £64 for the house only. Coach travel included but no catering.

Description: Strawberry Hill House & Garden, created by Horace Walpole in the 18th century, has been open to visitors for over 250 years. This extraordinary building is internationally famous as Britain's finest example of Georgian Gothic revival architecture and home to an increasingly important collection of paintings and objects.

Turner's House

Cost: £12 for tour of house. **Total cost of tour of Turner's House plus Strawberry Hill house (but not garden) will be offered at £70**

Description: Sandycombe Lodge was built in 1813, Turner used it as his retreat from the London art world. The house is J.M.W. Turner's largest artwork, restored to its original beauty. The architecture of this little building is quirky, reflecting Turner's own designs but also the influence of his good friend, John Soane, and is worth close attention.

Dulwich Picture Gallery

Cost: £16.50 per person gallery admission or £26.50 to include a temporary exhibition or collection tour. Coach travel (2hour 15mins) £35 - £40 per person. **Total max. £60.** Catering not included.

Description: The Gallery houses a collection of over 600 works rich in European masterpieces including Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Canaletto and Poussin.

Belmont House and Garden (near Faversham Kent)

Cost: £14 per person for admission and group tour plus appx £36 for 2 hour coach trip **total £50.** Catering not included

Description: The focus of Belmont is the elegant 18th century house (designed by Samuel Wyatt) commanding stunning views over the surrounding Estate and the rolling Kentish North Downs. Within the house itself lies three exciting collections: the armoury, collected by five generations of the Harris family (Lords of the estate for 200 years); the Cazabon collection, the finest collection of Cazabon paintings in Britain; and the Clock Museum, an extraordinary horological collection created by the 5th Lord Harris. There are magnificent gardens and the Old Stable Tea Room. No sandwiches etc, we'd bring our own.