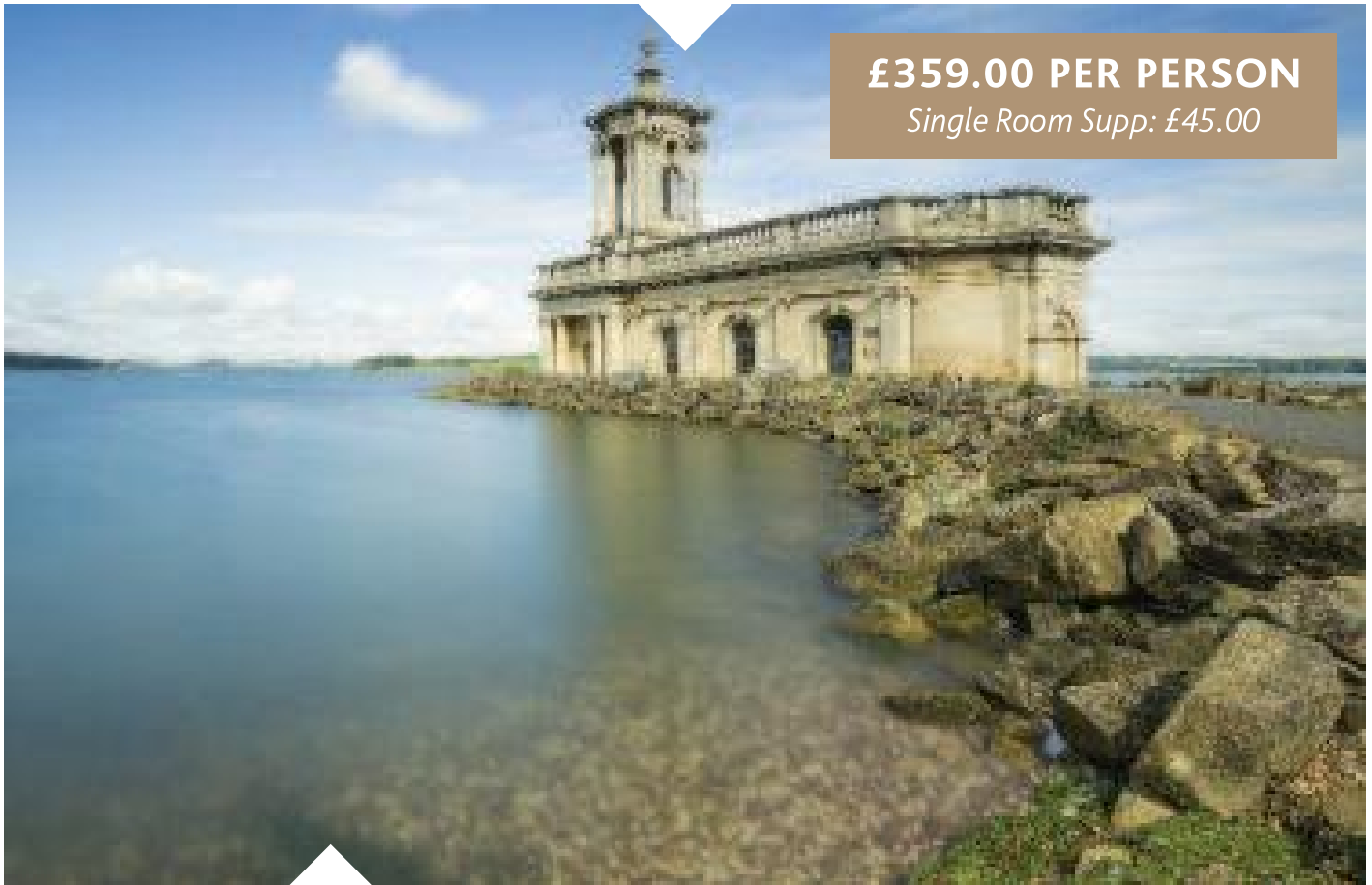


# Rutland and Beyond at Easter

14th to 17th April

*This tour includes a visit to Rutland, the smallest county in the UK, and home to some beautiful scenery, together with the spectacular Barnsdale Gardens created by Britain's best loved television gardener, Geoff Hamilton. We also offer a chance to visit the market town of Melton Mowbray to sample some of the famous pork pies and Stilton cheese*



**£359.00 PER PERSON**

Single Room Supp: £45.00

## What's Included

- ✓ 3 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- ✓ All bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, WiFi & hospitality tray.
- ✓ Time to explore Cambridge, Melton Mowbray & Stamford
- ✓ Cruise on Rutland Water
- ✓ Entry to Barnsdale Gardens
- ✓ Guided tour of Oakham Castle
- ✓ Entry to Burghley House

## RAMADA RESORT

### Grantham

This charming rustic hotel set in the beautiful countryside of Grantham has comfortably furnished and tastefully decorated rooms, an atmospheric restaurant, traditional bar and contemporary lounge. The hotel has an indoor 15M heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room & Jacuzzi spa.

**Good Friday 14 April** Departing Oxted 9.00am, we make our way to the university city of Cambridge, giving time to explore and find lunch. Mid afternoon



we continue our journey northwards to our hotel near Grantham.

**Saturday 15 April** This morning we drive to Melton Mowbray, well known for its pork pies and Stilton cheese, where we shall have time to browse the shops and find lunch. Early afternoon we make our way to Rutland Water for a relaxing cruise aboard the "Rutland Belle". During our 45-minute cruise we have a chance to enjoy the sights of Rutland Water whilst listening to a commentary highlighting the main points of interest and gives a chance to view Rutland's most famous landmark, Normanton Church. Following our cruise we shall have some time to maybe visit the café or just enjoy the views across the reservoir before returning to our hotel.

**Easter Sunday 16 April** After a leisurely breakfast, we travel to Barnsdale Gardens, the gardens created in

1985 by TV gardener Geoff Hamilton for the BBC's "Gardeners World" programme. With thirty-eight individual gardens set in eight acres, there is plenty to see and do, whether you're a keen gardener or just an armchair amateur! The inspiring variety of garden styles and planting schemes has been previously described as 'a theme park for gardeners': each offers practical concepts to use at home, as well as botanically labelled plants – ideal for taking notes. There will be time to enjoy lunch in the tea rooms and visit the nursery, before we make the short journey to Oakham Castle where we shall have a guided tour. More a Great Hall than a castle, it is perhaps the finest example of Norman domestic architecture in the country and is famous for its collection of enormous commemorative Horseshoes donated by Peers of the Realm. Following our visit we return to our hotel with time to relax before dinner.

**Easter Monday 17 April** Departing after breakfast we make our way to Stamford, where we shall have some time to explore before the short journey to Burghley House, the largest and grandest house of the first Elizabethan Age. Designed and built by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer of England, between 1555 and 1587, the House is still home to his descendants. Here we shall enjoy a self-guided tour of the 18 State Rooms and enjoy the wonderful history of the House, family and its impressive collection. Around the house are 1,400 acres of parkland (landscaped by 'Capability' Brown), the beautiful 'Gardens of Surprise', a deer park and sculpture garden. Early afternoon we take our leave of Burghley and make our way homewards, arriving back in Oxted early evening.

