

Sidmouth Summer

11th to 15th June

We return to the elegant Regency town of Sidmouth for our summer visit, stopping at Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens on our way. During our stay, we visit Greenway House, Agatha Christie's holiday home and step back in time as we take a horse-drawn boat trip on the Grand Western Canal.



£578 PER PERSON

*(Nat Trust members less £11.50,
but must bring card)*

What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast with Afternoon Tea on arrival
- ✓ All bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone & hospitality tray.
- ✓ Entry to Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens
- ✓ Entry to Greenway House & Gardens
- ✓ Return ferry Dartmouth to Greenway House
- ✓ Time to explore Sidmouth, Bickleigh Mill & Lyndhurst
- ✓ Horse-drawn boat trip with cream tea

★★★ ROYAL YORK & FAULKNER HOTEL

Sidmouth

This magnificent Regency building, dating from 1810 enjoys an unrivalled position at the centre of Sidmouth's elegant Esplanade, adjacent to the picturesque town centre. Owned and personally run by the Hook family, resident proprietors for three generations, the hotel has earned a long standing reputation for hospitality and service.



Tuesday 11 June

Departing Oxted 8.30am, we pay a visit to the famous Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Gardens, established in 1765 and filled with rare and exotic plants from all over the world. The Gardens are a former HHA 'Garden of the Year' and have been described by Alan Titchmarsh as "One of the finest Gardens I have ever visited". After time for lunch in the Colonial Restaurant we continue on to Sidmouth, reaching the hotel in time for afternoon tea.

Wednesday 12 June

The day is yours today to relax and enjoy the delights of Sidmouth, with its parks, gardens and walks along the seafront and beside the River Sid.

Thursday 13 June

This morning we make our way to Dartmouth, where we board the Christie Belle ferry for a serene river cruise to Greenway House, Agatha Christie's holiday home, which she called 'the loveliest place in the world'. Get a glimpse into the lives of the famous author and her family and see the house as it was in

the 1950s, when Greenway overflowed with friends and family, gathered for holidays and Christmas. The informal woodland garden drifts down the hillside towards the sparkling Dart Estuary and the Boathouse, scene of the crime in *Dead Man's Folly*.

Friday 14 June

Leaving the hotel after a leisurely breakfast, we make our way to Blickleigh Mill, where we shall have time to find lunch and browse the shops. Early afternoon we make the short journey to the Grand Western Canal at Tiverton. Here we shall have a little time to pop in to the Canal Visitor Centre, which houses a fascinating range of displays, bringing to life the Canal's rich natural and industrial history before boarding one of the last remaining horse-drawn barges in the UK. Our 2½ hour return trip takes us to East Manley, where it turns around, then moors up, allowing you the opportunity to take a short walk to see the aqueduct (designed by Brunel's team of railway engineers), or talk to the horse as he rests for a while under the shade of a tree. During the journey, you will hear memorable tales, anecdotes and historical facts about the horse-drawn barge and the Grand Western Canal and enjoy a cream tea.

Saturday 15 June

This morning we take our leave of Sidmouth and make our way to Lyndhurst, in the heart of the New Forest. Here we shall have time to find lunch and browse the shops before continuing our homewards journey. Arriving back in Oxted late afternoon.

