

# Turkey & Tinsel in Shropshire

4th to 8th December

*A festive break in the lovely county of Shropshire, staying in a country house hotel. We spend some time in Birmingham at the Frankfurt Christmas Market, visit some of the museums in the amazing Ironbridge Gorge, spend half a day in the Victorian town of Blists Hill, visit Attingham Park and finish off with a visit to Cadbury World to stock up on last minute chocolate for stocking fillers and tummies...*



**£391.00 PER PERSON**

*Single Room Supp: £60.00  
(Nat Trust members less £9.50  
but must bring card)*


## What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- ✓ All bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, WiFi & hospitality tray.
- ✓ Time to explore Birmingham, Shrewsbury & Much Wenlock
- ✓ Entry to Ironbridge Gorge Museums
- ✓ Entry to Attingham Park
- ✓ Entry to Blists Hill Victorian Town
- ✓ Entry to Cadbury World

## BUCKATREE HALL HOTEL

The Buckatree Hall Hotel is set in scenic woodland at the foot of the Wrekin in tranquil Shropshire. Many of the rooms enjoy scenic views of the hotel's own lake and gardens, providing a memorable setting in which to relax.

**Monday 4 December** Departing Oxted we make our way to Birmingham, where we shall be at leisure to experience Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market and Craft Fair (Birmingham has been twinned with Frankfurt for more than 40 years) – dates of market



not confirmed at time of going to print. Mid afternoon we continue on to our hotel, arriving in time to relax before dinner.

**Tuesday 5 December** We spend the day at Ironbridge Gorge, where we shall visit the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron and discover the revolutionary techniques that made Coalbrookdale the most famous ironworks in the world. We move on to the Coalport China Museum where we shall find the finest examples of Coalport and Caughley china before visiting the Jackfield Tile Museum. Housed in one of the old factories, the museum is filled with room after room of beautiful tile displays and settings such as a pub, a butcher's shop and a tube station. Before we return to our hotel, we shall make a short stop to see the Iron Bridge itself.

**Wednesday 6 December** This morning we visit Attingham Park, where we shall have a brief introductory talk before being free to explore the mansion, garden and park. Built for the first Lord Berwick in 1785, Attingham Hall and its beautiful parkland were owned by one family for more than 160 years. As their fortunes rose and fell they proved themselves to be spenders, savers and saviours - providing a fascinating story of love and neglect whose mark still stands in Attingham's rooms today. Following our visit we make our way into Shrewsbury where the town centre is packed with timber-framed black & white buildings, steep narrow streets and alleyways. You will find a huge variety of shops in Shrewsbury, with all the usual high street names and an amazing range of unique independent retailers. Don't forget to explore the many backstreets and alleyways - you never know what hidden gems you may find! Dinner tonight has a Christmas theme.

**Thursday 7 December** After a leisurely breakfast, we drive to the fascinating Blists Hill Victorian Town, where we shall experience life as it was over 100 years ago through the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of a recreated Victorian Town. Victorian characters will give

us a fascinating insight into Victorian life as they go about their daily lives in their cottages, shops and places of work. Try traditionally cooked fish and chips, browse the unusual products for sale in the Grocers and the General Drapers and Outfitter or choose from a range of 'old favourites' in the sweetshop. Early afternoon we make our way to the quintessentially English town of Much Wenlock. Stroll around the town centre and it may seem you have stepped back fifty or more years. You won't find any 'big names', but you will find a great selection of traditional shops, all offering good old-fashioned personal service. Much Wenlock is a place where folk still have time for you. Tonight in the hotel it's New Year's Eve.

**Friday 8 December** This morning we take our leave of the hotel and make our way to Cadbury World, where we shall be free to discover the history, making, and magic of Cadbury's chocolate - see it, smell it and taste it. Visit the World's biggest Cadbury Shop packed with souvenirs, exclusive products and a great bargain corner. Following our visit we continue our journey home, arriving in Oxted early evening.

