

# THE STATELY HOMES OF NORTH NORFOLK

8 – 11 SEPTEMBER 2025



FROM  
£1,750 PER  
PERSON

Tour Leader: Tania Illingworth

  
**The Ultimate**  
TRAVEL COMPANY

*Houghton Hall*



Join Tania Illingworth to enjoy the treasure houses of royal North Norfolk.

No county in England can rival the impressive stately homes of this east coast where the landed aristocracy built magnificent country 'seats' and prospered in the 18th century – and where their descendants live on today.

Each 'house' is remarkable for its history, architecture and superlative contents, completely intact. Set in spreading parkland, Holkham Hall is unique in its immense design with all its exquisite riches embodying the spirit of the age. Houghton Hall is famed for its exquisite English baroque interiors by William Kent.

Enjoy private lunches hosted by Tania's personal friends and finally see Sandringham House, gardens and St. Mary Magdalene Church.

Stay at the charming Hoste Arms Hotel (4\*) at Burnham Market, Norfolk's most famous pretty village, ideally located for this tour.



*Holkham Hall*





Raynham Hall

## 4-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

### 8 September King's Lynn / Burnham Market

Suggested train (not included in the cost of the tour) departing King's Cross St. Pancras at 11.42 hrs arriving King's Lynn Station at 13.30 hrs.

Group transfer by coach to Raynham Hall – still privately owned by the present (8th) Marquess and Marchioness of Townshend. Raynham Hall was completed by 1730 and is an architectural jewel of perfect proportions. Easily the prettiest of all the grand Norfolk stately houses it remains the seat of the Townsend family. The present heir (Thomas Townshend, Viscount Raynham) is supervising major renovations to the house. It may not be possible to enter the house. Drive on to Burnham Market, the most charming of coastal villages, largely 18th-century intact. Check in at the Hoste Arms Hotel (4\*) where three nights are spent. Dinner at the hotel.

### 9 September Holkham

Private tour with a curator of Holkham Hall, created by Thomas Coke who became the 1st Earl of Leicester in 1744. See Norfolk's largest private estate

of over 25,000 acres owned by the present heir, Tom Coke, who is the 8th Earl of Leicester. Holkham sprawls majestically a mile from the windswept coast. This 'palace' is unique in the UK and complete with its original superlative paintings collected by the young Thomas Coke who, aged 15, had set off on his 6-year Grand Tour. Enter through the magnificent Marble Hall with its amazing coffered ceiling and continue to the opulent Saloon and principal reception rooms. Each sumptuous room delights with treasures, tapestries and fabulous paintings (Batoni, Claude, Poussin, Gainsborough and Hondecoeter). With his vast fortune, a keen eye and a deep love of the arts, Thomas Coke also assembled a remarkable gallery of Roman sculptures. See the Library designed by William Kent and its Roman mosaics. Time permitting, walk by the lake to the 18th-century restored vegetable garden and the beautiful Grade II Victorian Vinery by Samuel Wyatt where citrus trees overwinter.

Lunch privately with Sarah, Countess of Leicester, former chatelaine of Holkham Hall. She lives on the estate at Model Farm some fields away. See Sarah's

Sculptures (personally made by Sarah) – these are highly finished reproductions of the original Roman sculptures at Holkham. Return to Burnham Market. Light dinner at a local restaurant.



The Hoste Arms Hotel, Burnham Market

### 10 September Houghton

Private tour with a curator of Houghton Hall. See the finest example of palladian architecture in the UK – the stately home of the 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley. Built without regard to cost in the 1720s for Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first Prime Minister, all the furnishings and interiors by the supremely talented William Kent are unusually well-preserved in the sumptuously English baroque State Rooms. Kent's masterpiece is the cube-shaped 'Stone Hall' with a remarkable plaster ceiling.





Sandringham Hall

See rare tapestries, exuberantly carved marble fireplaces and the White Drawing Room with Louis XV tables laden with Sèvres porcelain. This lavish country seat, surrounded by a 7,500-acre estate, is one of England's priceless jewels – a temple to classical sculpture. In 2013, the Exhibition Houghton Revisited was the focus of world attention when Walpole's famed art collection (sold in 1779 to Catherine the Great for her Hermitage) returned to hang in their original settings at Houghton Hall. The park is famous for its white deer and has become famous for its changing display of striking contemporary sculptures and art and installations. See the award-winning 5-acre walled garden winner of the Historic Houses Association / Christie's Garden of the Year Award.

Lunch privately, very close by, with the Earl and Countess of Romney (Julian and Cici) in their converted farmhouse. Return to Burnham Market. Time at leisure to explore Burnham Market. Dinner under own arrangements.

### 11 September Sandringham / King's Lynn

Visit Sandringham House – the house that Queen Victoria and Prince Albert bought in 1862 for their son, the Prince of Wales, and which has remained the much-loved home of the Royal Family. The rooms and furnishings have been left as when H.M. The Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh used them

when in residence (December to January for the pheasant shooting and Christmas). See the fine family portraits by Winterhalter and Luke Fildes, court painters of their era, in the drawing room. King Charles has had a new climate-friendly Topiary Garden planted (by the award-winning landscape designers Landform) on the west side of the house. Once the site of a formal 'Parterre' Garden and afterwards used for crops as part of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign during WW2, this acre of garden now has a decorative aspect. Walk to St. Mary Magdalene Church where the Royal Family worship when in residence. The pretty medieval church is one of the finest examples of carrstone buildings in north west Norfolk. Of note are the carved wooden angels framing the 17th-century silver altar, the 9th-century Greek font and the striking late 16th-century stained glass windows.

Lunch under own arrangements at Sandringham's café. Group transfer to King's Lynn Station. Suggested train departing King's Lynn at 14.42 hrs arriving King's Cross St. Pancras at 16.32 hrs.

#### TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£1,750
Single Supplement	£340

*Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.*

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 3 lunches; 2 dinners
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to guides/s; gratuities to driver/s; portorage
- The services of your tour leader throughout

#### PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights / rail tickets
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 04/10/24.



St. Mary Magdalene Church on the Sandringham Estate



The Walled Garden at Houghton Hall





## YOUR TOUR LEADER



### TANIA ILLINGWORTH

Tania Illingworth (nee Tolstoy) is one of our most long standing, experienced and popular tour leaders. From 1990-2020 she led hugely successful annual tours to the Russian Federation. She has travelled widely throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe. Her passions are the arts, history and architecture.



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