

ExeDFAS 4 day/3 night Extended VISIT

To

**Buxton, Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall & Haddon Hall**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Minimum of 30 persons – Maximum 40 people

Price Guide: £285 per person sharing a twin room, with a deposit payable on booking of £70.00 to include:

4 days luxury coach travel with dedicated experienced driver

3 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast at a 4 star hotel

No single supplement on the first 6 single rooms, then £70 per person thereafter

Entrance to Chatsworth House and Haddon Hall with full guided tour in each

Entrance to Hardwick Hall free to NT members (non NT members pay £11.50 on the door).

Optional travel insurance with Bath Travel at an extra cost of £9.00

**Itinerary**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011

We depart from Topsham and make our way north with comfort stops and lunch en route. We check into our hotel in the early afternoon. The Barcelo Palace Hotel is a beautiful Victorian building situated in the centre of the world famous spa town of Buxton, and is conveniently located to the wealth of shops and the magnificent architecture of the Concert Hall, Pavilion Gardens, Museum, Art Gallery and the Opera House. There is free time to take in all these sights before freshening up for dinner which is taken in our hotel where we will be based for the next 3 nights on a half-board basis.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011

After breakfast we set off for a visit to the fabulous Chatsworth House, the grandest expression of private wealth in the country. Dating back to the Elizabethan age, it boasts the largest private collection of neo-classical art in the world and tells the story of a single dynasty over 12 generations. Originally the home of Bess of Hardwick, (or more correctly, Elizabeth Countess of Shrewsbury) Chatsworth was transformed into the magnificent palace we see today by the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Devonshire in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Here we will enjoy a guided tour of the interior with its sumptuous furnishings, alabaster carvings and Italian sculptures before taking the opportunity to explore the magnificent Capability Brown-designed parkland. We will make our own arrangements for lunch and tea in one of the many lovely Cafeterias and Restaurants and then return to our hotel in time to freshen up for dinner.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Today we pay a visit to the magnificent Hardwick Hall, one of Britain's most overpowering and complete Elizabethan houses and a testament of the ambition, wealth and authority of its builder, (Bess of Hardwick again) and the skill of her architect Robert

Smythson who also designed Longleat in Wiltshire. The house dominates the surrounding countryside and stands besides the ruins of Hardwicke Old Hall, Bess's abortive first attempt at building a home here. The interior of Hardwick is unique among Elizabethan houses because it has remained remarkably unchanged since it was first inhabited and the contents are almost entirely original. The carved wooden furniture, elaborate plasterwork, and fabulous fireplaces are exactly as Bess would have known them. Lunch can be taken informally in the Cafeteria or from the Kiosk as you please, but we will return to our hotel for dinner at the end of the day.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Our day begins with a private visit to Haddon Hall, a fine example of a fortified medieval manor house dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century although there has been a dwelling on this site since the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It was built by descendants of William the Conqueror's illegitimate son, but later passed through marriage to the Manners family, (Dukes of Rutland) in whose possession it has remained. Haddon Hall has a magnificent banqueting hall and oak gallery, the pretty windows of which have diamond panes set at different angles to maximise the amount of daylight entering. It also contains a superlative collection of English, Flemish and French tapestries providing a fascinating glimpse of early English family life and history. After lunch at Haddon, we will finish our tour and return home, stopping for tea en route.

Your Hotel

The Four Star Barcelo Palace Hotel in Buxton is within easy walking distance of the town centre. All 122 bedrooms are of a good standard and furnished with all modern conveniences including tea-coffee making facilities, satellite television, hairdryer and trouser press. Single rooms may be small, and therefore it would be advisable to pay a supplement of £70 to avoid disappointment if more space is required for those travelling alone. I have heard good reports about the quality of the cuisine which apparently is above average for this type of hotel. ;-)

Dinner, bed and breakfast are all inclusive, but lunch and all other refreshments are not.



.....Please Enclose S.A.E. and Post To.....

**Caroline Allen, Visits Secretary**

**Pebbles Edge, 2 Marine Parade, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6NS**

**Tel:01395 446726 Email: trinesandsexiles@btinternet.com**

**Buxton, Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall, Haddon Hall**

I enclose my cheque for £70.00 deposit for the 3 night ExeDFAS extended visit to the Barcello Palace Hotel in Buxton from 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 with the balance of £215.00 payable by March 2011 directly to Bath Travel who will send me full details of the trip nearer the time.

My Name & Address

Telephone & Email Address