

November 17, 2015

Discover the Grandeur of Downton Abbey with Collette

Collette is taking travellers to visit Downton Abbey, just in time for the new season which is set to hit Aussie screens in early 2016!

To coincide with the new season of the popular British period drama series, returning to Australian screens in early 2016, Collette is offering its guests on its England's Treasures and British Landscapes tours the chance to visit the stunning property of 'Downtown Abbey' on select departure dates*.

Built in Jacobethan style, the Highclere Castle (otherwise known as Downton Abbey) estate is located in Hampshire England and boasts 5,000 acres of pastoral beauty and architectural elegance. Wandering the hallways and rooms of the castle, furnished extravagantly with gilded cornices and richly coloured tapestries, travellers will be transported into the 'upstairs-downstairs' world of the Earl and Countess of Grantham, Sybil, Mary and Edith, Mr Carson the butler, bumbling Molesley and the notorious conspirators, Thomas and Miss O'Brien.

'We are delighted to be able to offer our clients special experiences like these visits to Downton Abbey that make travel so exciting. Access to the castle is very exclusive as it is shut for a large part of the year. Our British Landscapes and England's Treasures tours for 2016, have select departure dates that guarantee our guests a highly coveted behind-the-scenes sneak peak of the series' exquisite filming location - so we are encouraging people to get in early and book now.' - Alison Mead, Australian Business Manager, Collette.



Starting in the cosmopolitan mecca of London, Collette's England's Treasures tour will take guests on a journey to England's most iconic destinations, but most notably, to the majestic Highclere Castle, bastion of the aristocracy and traditional British charm. Travellers will visit stately Buckingham Palace, Salisbury's mysterious Stonehenge and the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey. There will be no shortage of photo opportunities while soaking up the magnificent views of

tranquil Cornwall and the beautiful fishing villages of Penzance. Other highlights of the tour include a visit to the ancient Roman town of Bath, renowned for its spas and natural hot springs, a day of exploring picturesque Grasmere, once home to the Romantic poet William Wordsworth, a breathtaking drive through Yorkshire National Park and a group dinner at a traditional English pub.

Guests on these tours will immediately recognise the opulent drawing room in which the legendary Maggie Smith's character the Dowager Countess of Grantham would look down her nose at many an unfortunate acquaintance. Or the window through which much-loved chauffeur Branson fell head-over-heels for the beautiful Sybil, who had swapped her post-Edwardian dress for a pair of cerulean harem pants.

Collette's British Landscapes tour offers a treasure trove of all the must-see attractions. Setting off from vibrant London, travellers will visit famous Cambridge University and stroll through the medieval city of York. Heading north, be mesmerised by the rolling emerald fields and landscape of Bonnie Scotland, or join a local expert and explore Edinburgh on foot. This walking tour includes a visit to Edinburgh Castle, home of the Scottish Crown Jewels and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Edinburgh and former home of Mary, Queen of Scots. With their newfound taste for royalty, guests on this tour will enjoy an overnight stay in Wales' beautiful Ruthin Castle, then journey to Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of England's most famous playwright William Shakespeare.

Discover the grandeur of Downton Abbey and times gone by with Collette's 2016 England's Treasures and British Landscapes tours.

* See the filming location of Downton Abbey!

On the select dates below, Collette's guests will experience an unforgettable visit to Highclere Castle, otherwise known as Downton Abbey.

England's Treasures tour: 16 July, 22 July or 26 August 2016

British Landscapes tour: 29 May, 29 July, 19 August 2016

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For details of the full tours or to book a trip:

Contact your local travel agent

Call Collette on 1300 792 195 or visit www.gocollette.com

About Collette

Established in 1918, Collette is a third-generation, family-owned worldwide tour operator. With headquarters in Rhode Island, Collette's recently-opened Sydney office adds to the company's global presence which includes offices in Vancouver, Toronto and London.

On offer is an extensive collection of four-star escorted tours, river and ocean cruises, rail journeys, small group tours, family tours and garden holidays. Renowned for connecting guests with cultural experiences which go far beyond those of an ordinary holiday, Collette prides itself on providing real value to its guests and agent partners. Knowledgeable tour managers, an industry-leading travel protection plan and inclusive touring are just part of the top-quality Collette experience. Just sit back, relax and be guided on your Collette adventure!

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