

CHATSWORTH AT CHRISTMASTIME & ILLUMINATED CASTLETON

November 23rd, 2009. 4 Days £195 HB

New Bath Hotel, Matlock

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Hotel



Chatsworth: We believe that Chatsworth's greatest attraction is that it has never stood still; on each visit you will find new things to see and do, as the collections grow, the seasons change and we offer

more tours and talks for groups. There is a vibrant events programme though the year, offering something for every taste and interest, and from early November each year, we decorate selected rooms in the house to bring the magic of the Christmas story to life.

Itinerary

Day 1: Monday

We make our way to the Derbyshire Dales and expect to arrive mid afternoon in the town of **Matlock Bath**. Our hotel is nicely situated in its own grounds, a short walk from the High Street. There will be time to take the short walk to the shopping village at Masson Mills for Christmas Shopping! Please note - there is no lift in the hotel and some steps although there are ground floor rooms and access via the rear of the building for disabled.

Day 2: Tuesday

This morning - it is a short drive to the town of **Bakewell**, a delightful town and one building is the Rutland Arms, overlooking the town square and built in 1804. Jane Austen stayed here in 1811 and in *Pride and Prejudice* she has Elizabeth Bennet stopping here to meet the Darcys and Mr Bingley. However the Rutland Arms' chief claim to fame is as the place where the Bakewell Pudding (Bakewell has never heard of tarts) was invented by a chef of 1859 who made a mistake. You can now buy Bakewell Puddings at several establishments across the town, all claiming to have the original unique recipe. After free time here we head for **Chatsworth House** and the beautiful surrounding countryside. We have included the entry for the house and gardens and you will have ample time to explore and see the Christmas displays.

We return to the hotel in the late afternoon.

Day 3: Wednesday

Today we make our first stop in the delightful village of **Hartington in Dovedale**. There will be time for tea or coffee, peruse the gift shops or even visit the creamery selling local cheeses. We continue on to the Spa town of **Buxton**, where you will have time to explore and have lunch. We will then make our way to the village of **Castleton** before dusk. (4pm) The village takes on a magical appeal with an amazing display of twinkling lights, decorations and Christmas trees. We return to the hotel in the evening and will be ready for a hot and hearty meal at the hotel.

Day 4: Thursday

We bid a fond farewell to the Derbyshire Dales and will make an interesting lunch stop on the way to commencing the drop offs. We are sure you will have enjoyed your short break in the festive Derbyshire Dales.

We do have availability on this tour as I write.

Price Includes:

All Coach Travel

3 Hotel nights on Half Board

Entrance to Chatsworth.

No single rooms now - sorry.



From 1 November to 23 December 2009, Chatsworth's Christmas decorations offer a unique experience for children and adults alike, with beautiful traditional decorations in the grand rooms on the two lower floors of

the house. In 2009, we take our inspiration from candlelight, and specifically from the intriguing Hans Christian Anderson tale, 'The Candle'. Many visitors come from far and wide every year to see the unique Christmas decorations and this will be another year not to be missed.

Throughout the winter season, there are craft activities in the farmyard, and weekend entertainment, as well as all the usual animals, and the fabulous woodland adventure playground. We offer live music every weekend, and on many other days there are musicians or other entertainers on hand to enhance your visit. On two November weekends we host a Christmas market, with more than 50 stalls selling a wide variety of gifts.

One of the most endearingly popular Christmas events at Chatsworth is our Farmyard Nativity Play every December, with a show-stopping cast that includes some of our own farm animals. Bring the children along for an enjoyably memorable re-enactment of the story of Christmas.

Chatsworth offers a growing range of shops, including the elegant interiors, garden and gift shops, to inspire you with ideas for presents for everyone on your Christmas shopping list. Contemporary craft by leading and up and coming makers is also available. The finest seasonal food and drink, from a hot drink on the move to a fabulous Christmas feast, and then a visit to the estate's famous farm shop in nearby Pilsley, will complete your visit.

Please note

Our Christmas opening is on the two lower floors of the house only, and therefore does not include the five state rooms or the film and Georgiana displays on the second floor, which closes for annual housekeeping and conservation. Our special seasonal decorations are likely to obscure some works of art, and with candles and other special Christmas lighting, there is much less light in many of the rooms. Please also be aware that after dusk, many parts of the garden are not lit.