

The North West Highlights

Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 September 2026

Specially arranged on behalf of West Norfolk National Trust

*We stay at the 4-star **Mercure Haydock Hotel**, which is set in a traditional Georgian mansion-style building, built around a central courtyard. The hotel is surrounded by its own beautifully landscaped grounds, There is an indoor swimming pool. Friendly staff and good food make this an ideal base for our stay in the area.*

*We leave on **Wednesday** morning around 0800 and head north west. Comfort stop en route, arriving in Macclesfield around lunchtime. Freetime for lunch (there is a Wetherspoons just round the corner!!) before we enjoy an afternoon visit to **Silk Museum and Paradise Mill**. The Silk Museum is located in the former Art School and follows the journey of silk making from cocoon to loom. At Paradise Mill you can step back in time to the 1930s to see 26 restored Jacquard looms and watch as they weave their magic! **We have a guided tour of the mill**, where most of the machine are still in working order. Continuing onto our hotel we arrive late afternoon. Time to relax before dinner, evening at leisure and overnight at the hotel*

Thursday – Today we head into **Chester** – the attractive, historical Roman city, complete with cathedral, walls, Rows (2 tiered shops), Museums, remains of the Roman amphitheatre, and so much more. The city is situated on the River Dee so boat trips are also available! We begin the day with a **local guide** who will takes us on a coach tour of the city and some of the local area. Free time to explore and enjoy lunch at leisure before we finish the day with a **boat cruise** on the River Dee. Return to the hotel late afternoon for dinner, evening at leisure and overnight

Friday – Morning visit to the **Hatworks, Stockport**. Housed in a restored Victorian mill, this is the UK's only museum dedicated to the hatting industry, hats and headwear. The late 19th century was the heyday of the hat, and Stockport's hatting industry became prosperous at this time. Discover the world of hat makers from humble beginnings in the cottage industry to the mass production of the early 19th century through reconstructions and interactive displays. We have included a guided tour (one of my favourite visits!!)

Leaving around 1230 we drive to **Lyme Park (NT)**. Set in the foothills of the Peak District, with magnificent views across the Cheshire Plain, the House sits in the middle of a medieval deer park. Originally Tudor, the House now resembles a fabulous Italianate palace. Inside there are incredible Mortlake tapestries, an important collection of clocks, beautifully furnished rooms, along with a colourful family history. Refreshments available. Return to the hotel late afternoon for dinner, evening at leisure and overnight

Saturday We leave after breakfast and drive to **The Tramway Museum, Crich**. The exhibition brings to life the history of the tram and includes a recreation of the 1905 Tramways Exhibition, whilst the Workshop Viewing Gallery allows you to see the ongoing restoration and repair work that is carried out each day. Trams run to and fro every few minutes so you can ride over the cobbles of the period street, past the original facades of historic buildings from around the country. Interesting insight into how it used to be! Refreshments available. Leaving early afternoon we continue south, arriving at our original pick up points early evening.

Tour Price approx. £549.00* per person includes:-

- *executive coach travel throughout*
- *3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the Haydock Mercure*
- *Admission to Macclesfield Silk Museum & Paradise Mill*
- *Guided tour of Chester*
- *Chester Boat Trip*
- *Admission to Hatworks plus guided tour*
- *Admission Crich Tramway Museum*
- *Escorted by an Avalon representative*
- *Driver's tip*

Supplements:

- *single supplement £66.00*

* Costs may increase if fuel prices continue to rise rapidly.