

## NTAB Trip to Cheshire - North Wales 2025

Association of National Trust Members & Supporters in Belgium

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

**Direct flights** Brussels – Manchester with Brussels Airlines (*incl. 23 kg checked-in luggage*)

*If you do not require the group flights but intend to arrange your own transport to Manchester airport or to the hotel in Chester, please state this clearly on the booking form.*

DATE	FROM	TO	FLIGHT	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
Monday June 9, 2025	Brussels Zaventem	Manchester	Brussels Airlines <a href="#">SN 2173</a>	10:00	10:20
Saturday June 14, 2025	Manchester	Brussels Zaventem	Brussels Airlines <a href="#">SN 2174</a>	11:15	13:25

**Accommodation:** Holiday Inn South, Chester (\*\*\*) 3-course dinner, bed & full breakfast

**Day excursions:** A comfortable local coach will drive us around the region

**Price:** € 1.350 p. pers., two persons sharing a room - Single room supplement € 290

The tour price is based on a minimum of 30 participants. We have reserved 35 seats on Brussels Airlines direct return flights to Manchester and 12 double and 12 single hotel rooms in Chester. These numbers can be adjusted until a given date, see “Cancellation - Refund Conditions”.

If you do not require the group flights but intend to arrange your own transport to Manchester airport or to the hotel in Chester, a **discount of €375** p.pers. applies. Please state this clearly on the booking form. Once canceled it can be difficult to rebook seats.

Included:

Direct flights Brussels-Manchester, 3-star hotel in Exeter with B&B and dinner, daily group excursions in a comfortable coach, group lunch in Chester on Thursday, driver's tip.

Not included:

Lunch on four days, drinks with meals, personal expenses and individual excursions outside the programme, entries to NT properties (participants are expected to be NT members), insurance, ETA-fee (10£) – see below.

All prices given are based on current costs and may be subject to amendments from the hotel, airline or coach company with fuel or other supplementary charges.

**Registration and Payment:**

You can sign up until latest **March 15** – confirm by paying **€ 400 deposit** p. pers. upon booking.

Your reservation is final as soon as we have received your deposit.

Payable to NTAB - IBAN: BE17 0016 2443 2021

The balance is due latest **April 15**.

**Cheshire**



The south and east of Cheshire are primarily rural, while the north is more densely populated. The county town is Chester, a major port town for centuries and, from the 70s AD, one of the most important Roman settlements in Britain (Deva Victrix).

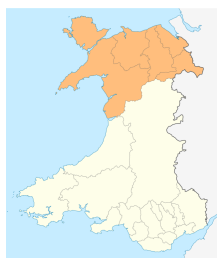
Chester boasts well preserved city walls, a unique medieval shopping gallery, a large Gothic cathedral and Roman archeological remains.

The landscape of the county is dominated by the Cheshire Plain, an area of relatively flat land.

Red sandstone forms the bedrock of much of the county and was used in the construction of many of its buildings.

The River Dee forms part of the county's border with Wales, then fully enters England and flows through the city of Chester before re-entering Wales.

## North Wales



Historically, North Wales can be referred to as simply "Gwynedd" after one of the last independent Welsh kingdoms. The region is steeped in history.

The mountainous stronghold of Snowdonia formed the nucleus of that realm and would become the last redoubt of independent Medieval Wales — only overcome in 1283 by English forces under Edward I. This has led to a stronger sense of Welsh identity and home to more Welsh-language speakers than the rest of Wales.

## Liverpool

Liverpool (*500,000 inhabitants*) became significant in the late 17th century when its port was heavily involved in the Atlantic slave trade.

The port of Liverpool also imported cotton for the Lancashire textile mills and became a major departure point for English and Irish emigrants to North America.

Liverpool rose to global economic importance at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century and was home to the first intercity railway, the first non-combustible warehouse system (the Royal Albert Dock), and a pioneering electrical railway.

## What to expect

We plan visits to several National Trust mansions and fine gardens including Lyme Hall, Dunham Massey, Powis Castle, Bodnant Garden, Plas Newydd House and Speke Hall, as well as to the cities of Chester and Liverpool and the Welsh town of Portmeirion.

Our city tour of Chester with two Green Badge guides will include the city walls, the uniquely conserved medieval shopping area of The Rows and the Roman amphitheater (*the largest in Europe although not the best preserved*).

We also visit the cathedral, designed by the prolific English Gothic revival architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, who was also responsible for St. Pancras Station.

Another opportunity on our trips are the 'behind-the-scenes moments' at NT properties.

## Programme overview *(Minor changes are possible, subject to access schedules for groups.)*

June	Theme	Morning	lunch	Afternoon	Dinner	evening
Mon 9	A journey to Cheshire	Direct flight Brussels>Manchester. Coach ride to Lyme Hall NT	cafeteria at Lyme Hall	Coach ride to Chester, stop at Dunham Massey NT	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Tue 10	Into Wales	Powis Castle NT	Cafeteria at Powis Castle	Portmeirion town	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Wed 11	North Wales	Bodnant Garden NT	Cafeteria at Bodnant Garden	Plas Newydd House NT	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Thu 12	The City of Chester	Guided city walk	Group lunch in Chester	Free afternoon in Chester	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Fri 13	Liverpool	Speke Hall NT	Cafeteria at Speke Hall	Highlights of Liverpool	Hotel 7:30pm	free
Sat 14	Return	Coach ride from hotel to Manchester airport	Departure 11am	Arrival Zaventem 1:20pm	-	-

### **Lunches** during the daily excursions

Most lunches are at National Trust properties, and you can choose how much time and money you want to spend on them, as long as you are back on the coach at the departure time! The group lunch in Chester on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> is included in the tour price.

### **Dinners and free evenings**

The hotel rate covers half board, which includes a standard daily dinner menu which we will take at 7:30 pm, according to the day's programme.

Those who prefer to spend the entire evening in the city at their own pace, can skip dinner at the hotel provided the tour leader is informed no later than the morning before departure from the hotel. There is no discount for skipped HB dinners. If you are planning to eat out privately, we recommend that you make a reservation at a restaurant in advance.

After each day's trip, the coach will drop us off at the hotel. The distance to the city center is about 15 km.

### **Entrance to National Trust properties**

NT members have free access. Therefore, entrance fees to NT properties are not included in the tour price, as participants are expected to be NT members. Don't forget to bring your **NT membership card**.

If you are not an NT member, it may be worth **registering as a member** at the first property (Lyme Hall). Individual entrances are not cheap and the total cost for a couple can add up quickly. We estimate the total amount for NT entrances on this journey at about €115 per person (£95).

An 8-days **Explorer Pass** is available to non-UK residents, from the NT online shop, see:

<https://shop.nationaltrust.org.uk/gifts/national-trust-gifts/touring-pass.html>

Price: £41 for one, £71 for two persons.

Passes must be ordered & paid in advance.

Please note that **Herita**, the Belgian heritage association, is a member of INTO, the International National Trusts Organisation. INTO is a worldwide family of National Trusts and similar organisations that share expertise and act as a global voice on international conservation.

Therefore, members of Herita benefit from free visiting arrangements with several similar heritage organisations in other countries, such as the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### **Cancellation – refund conditions**

Both flights and hotel accommodation have a strict cancellation period

Cancellation of airline seats:

*Until April 8<sup>th</sup>: free cancellation (up to a defined maximum number).*

*Until May 8<sup>th</sup>: free cancellation for max. 20 % of the seats*

*From May 24<sup>th</sup> cancellation at 100% of the fare rate*

*Passengers list deadline: May 8<sup>th</sup>. A fee will be due for changes or corrections after that date.*

Hotel accommodation:

Cancellation free up to 45 days prior to departure (April 24<sup>th</sup>)

After that date, cancellation fees will be charged.

### **Insurance**

We trust all participants to take out their own cancellation and travel insurance. There is NO insurance contract linked to this trip.

You should have your insurance in order at least a month before departure, but preferably as soon as possible after booking. You can cancel the trip on the conditions of your insurance contract, e.g. when you become ill (and can present a doctor's certificate).

**Travel formalities:** EU citizens need an international passport to travel to the United Kingdom, but from 2 April 2025 an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) will also be required. See our website for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta>

If you are a dual citizen with British or Irish citizenship, and use a valid British or Irish passport, you do not need an ETA.