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holidays

a breath of fresh air



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FESTIVE GETAWAYS

PART OF THE SPECIALIST JOURNEYS GROUP OF TOUR OPERATORS

Christmas comes but once a year

Hello again!

I'm sure Christmas may be the last thing on your mind right now, as we pass midsummer's day and our gardens reach the peak of their flowering, but for those of you that like to plan ahead we thought you might like to see what we have on offer this festive season.

Choose from pre-Christmas breaks to Belfast, Oxford and Yorkshire, each one packed full of gift shopping opportunities like a well-stuffed stocking; a relaxing cruise on the Rhine and visits to some of the best Christmas markets in Europe; or a stress-free break in a historic quarter of Edinburgh over Christmas itself.

Best wishes,

Alison Wilson

Managing Director

Latest Offers

10% DISCOUNT
off 2024 holidays

PLUS

SAVE A FURTHER 5%
on Nov/Dec departures when you
pay in full

**T&Cs: Save 10% on all new holiday bookings departing until 31st Dec 2024. Bookings must be made before 19th Jul 2024. Save an additional 5% on holidays departing between 1st Nov & 31st Dec 2024 if you pay in full at the time of booking. Bookings must be made before 19th Jul 2024. Offers are not combinable with any other offer apart from each other. Not applicable to one night breaks, private groups or travel agent bookings. Offer may be withdrawn at anytime.
Prices shown on the tour pages include the full discount available on each tour.*

Get in touch with one of our experts

Give our Specialist Sales Executives a call,
Monday to Friday between 9am and 6pm, on:
01334 804 700

Alternatively, send us an email to:
info@brightwaterholidays.com

For further details, please visit our website:
www.brightwaterholidays.com

Travel with the experts

We were delighted to win Gold for Best Travel Company for Coach Holidays at the 2023 British Travel Awards, and we were also voted Garden Tour Operator of the Year at the International Garden Tourism Awards in Canada.



Financial Protection

All our holidays are fully bonded and financially protected. Holidays with flights included are protected by ATOL and those without flights by ABTOT.



Experience Christmas with Brightwater Holidays

Nothing quite gets people into the spirit quite like a well-deserved break. This year we have a brand-new selection of tours where you can experience Christmas spirit the 'Brightwater way'. We have specifically designed the tours in the following pages to ensure you can make the most of this wonderful time of year. Travel, accommodation and exciting experiences have been carefully selected to ensure the most memorable of times, in the company of like-minded travellers, in smaller groups and fully escorted throughout.

Travelling Solo?

You can be confident of a warm welcome on any festive break with Brightwater Holidays. Look forward to included excursions, great company and superb meals as you relax on your chosen holiday. Some of our holidays offer single accommodation with zero supplement.

What our guests say of previous Brightwater festive breaks.

"Very enjoyable. Our guide David was very informative and looked after us really well. The hotel is of a high standard with very friendly staff including housekeeping team, receptionists, food and beverage staff. Our festive programme was a lovely way to spend Christmas and we all got on well with fellow passengers."

Christmas in the Scottish Borders – Dec 2022

"Went to lovely places, very comfortable coach, a nice number of pleasant people to travel with."

Christmas Delights of East Yorkshire and Lincoln – Dec 2022



Christmas Delights in Yorkshire

NEW

4 DAYS FROM
£675.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO
£119.25

£0 SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Spend a few days pre-Christmas with us as we explore the delights of Yorkshire's Festive celebrations. We explore the markets of York, Harrogate and Leeds as well as visiting the impressive York Minster and historic Castle Howard, immortalised in TV's 'Brideshead Revisited'. After a full day of browsing for special Christmas gifts for loved ones, what could be better than retreating to a cosy inn and settling in by a roaring open fire? Our inn, located in the market town of Knaresborough, is just a short stroll from the banks of the River Nidd and is the picture perfect place from which to explore the ancient walkways, cobbled alleys and secret passageways. The inn has recently been refurbished to a high standard while maintaining an authentic ambience and the characterful rooms offer all the comforts as the day draws to a close.

Tour Highlights

- Harrogate Christmas Market
- Castle Howard and its Christmas decorations
- York Christmas Market and York Minster
- Leeds Christmas Market

Day 1 We depart from our designated pick-up points (London, Luton, Northampton, Leicester and Nottingham) and head north. This afternoon on arrival in the spa town of **Harrogate** there is some free time to browse the **Christmas Fayre**. We later continue to our inn, located in the market town of Knaresborough. Dinner is served in the evening. (D)

Day 2 Today we head for **York** to enjoy the magical atmosphere that the Christmas Markets bring to the city centre. Wander between the Alpine chalet-style stalls that line the pavements around Parliament Street and St Sampson Square displaying all manner of gifts, from unique stocking fillers to larger speciality gifts, many of which are locally crafted. Let your taste buds run wild through the collection of tasty treats on offer from every corner of the globe, from tasty Thai to burritos bursting with flavour. For more traditional fare you will find delicious bratwursts, sweet and savoury crêpes as well as smoky roasted chestnuts. We



Handmade decorations

also visit the impressive **York Minster**, one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, where we can explore every aspect of this ancient building, from the handcrafted stonework to the exceptional collection of medieval stained glass. (B,D)

Day 3 After breakfast, we make our way to **Castle Howard**, which was designed by Vanbrugh and took a century to build. It is an 18th century palace with a towering dome encompassing stunning interiors, such as the Great Hall with its Pellegrini frescoes; the vivid Turquoise Drawing Room and the ornate Chapel. These rooms contain world class collections of furniture, paintings, statuary and porcelain, curated over generations by the Howard family. We enjoy the festive atmosphere of the castle and its grounds before returning to our hotel. (B,D)

Day 4 This morning we depart after breakfast and head for **Leeds Christmas Market**. We have another morning to spend enjoying the beginnings of the Festive Season and finishing our Christmas shopping before we return to our original pick-up points. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Knaresborough Inn
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

1 - 4 Dec **£795** **£675.75**

SINGLE ROOMS AVAILABLE WITH £0 SUPPLEMENT

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: **BXOY**

Christmas

Festive Foray to Oxfordshire

NEW

4 DAYS FROM
£675.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO
£119.25

£0 SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT

Festive lights and sites await on this break to Oxford, one of England's most visited cities, famous for its 'dreaming spires'. We enjoy a visit to Blenheim Palace, the home of the 12th Duke of Marlborough, where once again the palace and gardens will be transformed for the Festive Season. We also can enjoy a day spent in the historic city of Oxford where, in the lead up to Christmas, Broad Street is filled with local arts and craft stalls, perfect for purchasing unique gifts and traditional Christmas delicacies. You can also choose to join us for an afternoon performance of traditional pantomime at the Oxford Playhouse. Our final visit is to Waddesdon Manor, another impressive stately home that is transformed for the festive season.

Tour Highlights

- Visit to Sir Winston Churchill's birthplace, Blenheim Palace
- Christmas Markets in Oxford
- Shopping in Bicester Village
- Rothschild riches at Waddesdon Manor

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up points (*London and Reading*) making our way through the rolling hills and sleepy villages of the Oxfordshire countryside to our hotel. On arrival the remainder of the day is free to relax before dinner. *(D)*

Day 2 This morning after breakfast, we make our way to the historical market town of **Bicester**, where we spend the morning at the **Bicester Village**. Nestled in the heart of the countryside, the retail outlet village offers 150 luxury boutiques, the chance to dine in one of the lovely restaurants and the perfect place to pick up some Christmas gifts. Later, we make our way to Oxfordshire's most famous historic house, **Blenheim Palace**, a true national treasure. Today this 18th century baroque palace is home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family but one of the most famous former residents was of course Sir Winston Churchill, who was born here at his ancestral home in 1874. Blenheim Palace is transformed for the festive season, bursting with magic and make-believe for Neverland ® in the Palace. As the sun begins to set the grounds are illuminated by thousands of twinkling lanterns. *(B, D)*



Oxford

Day 3 After breakfast, we depart for the 'City of Dreaming Spires', **Oxford**, for a full day of festive frivolity. Spend the morning exploring the city, where attractions include the college quads of Britain's oldest university, the botanical gardens and of course a traditional **Christmas Market**. Packed with stalls, festive decorations and twinkling lights, here we will find a vast array of handmade gifts, from Christmas decorations to toys. This afternoon, you may choose to continue exploring Oxford, alternatively you may wish to join our optional excursion to the traditional pantomime at the Oxford Playhouse – **Sleeping Beauty**. *(B, D)*

Day 4 This morning we depart for **Waddesdon Manor**. Built by Ferdinand de Rothschild between 1874 and 1885 in the style of a French château, it is home to a vast collection of art including pieces by Reynolds and Gainsborough. At Christmas, the Manor is transformed into a magical wonderland filled with festive displays and decorations. Following our visit we return to our original pick-up points. *(B)*

Inc. meals: *B: Breakfast, D: Dinner*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Oxford Belfry Hotel
- ▶ All visits as outlined in the itinerary
- ▶ Comfortable coaching throughout
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024

8 - 11 Dec **£795** **£675.75**

SINGLE ROOMS AVAILABLE WITH £0 SUPPLEMENT

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: **BOXF**

Belfast

Festive Break

NEW

4 DAYS FROM

£845.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£149.25

Belfast's Christmas Market is renowned as one of the liveliest and most cosmopolitan in the UK, with over a hundred international and local traders bringing their wares to the extensive and colourful selection of stalls set up in the City Hall Gardens. Further attractions include the grand house of Mount Stewart, which will get us into the festive spirit straight away with its crackling log fires, twinkling lights and Christmas tree, and Belfast's most popular visitor attraction, the Titanic Experience. We continue with visits to the Ulster Museum, the Botanic Garden, Queen's University Belfast and the Ulster Folk Museum, which as this time of year provides a taste of Christmas past in the authentically recreated village of Ballycultra.

Tour Highlights

- Visit to Belfast Christmas Market and the adjacent City Hall
- The award-winning, multi-media Titanic Experience
- Discover the rich culture and history of Belfast at the Ulster Museum
- Explore the Tropical Ravine and Palm House at the Botanic Garden
- Travel back in (Christmas) time at the Ulster Folk Museum

Day 1 We depart from London Gatwick airport on our flight to Belfast. Upon arrival we will transfer to our first visit, **Mount Stewart**. Though perhaps better known for its wonderful garden, the nineteenth-century mansion house is well worth a visit in its own right and is home to a world-class collection of paintings and many other internationally significant items. At this time of year there is a sprinkling of seasonal magic – the fire will be lit, the lights will be twinkling and the House is getting ready for Christmas. The shop is stocked with locally made Christmas presents and in the tearoom why not treat yourself to a warming hot chocolate and a freshly baked mince pie (*not included*). Following our visit, we continue to our hotel, the comfortable Dunadry Hotel, County Antrim. (D)

Day 2 Today, following a leisurely breakfast, we will travel into Belfast and visit the **Christmas Market**, located in the City Hall Gardens. With over 100 international and local



Belfast

traders in the festive village, the market offers an authentic feast of quality Christmas fayre. Later we visit the **Titanic Experience**, a state-of-the-art, six storey living monument to Belfast's moving maritime legacy, built at the head of the slipways from which Titanic was launched. We can expect festive lights and decorations and the Titanic Store will be stocked with Christmas gift ideas. Lunch is available here (*not included*). You may also wish to visit the nearby Titanic Distillers, located in the old pumphouse (*admission not included*). (B,D)

Day 3 We return to the centre of Belfast for three visits all within easy walking distance of each other: the **Ulster Museum**, **Belfast Botanic Gardens** and **Queens University Belfast**. This evening, we will enjoy a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings. (B,D)

Day 4 This morning we visit the award-winning **Ulster Folk Museum** which gives a vivid insight into the domestic life, trades and crafts, traditions and folklore of Ulster in days gone by. At this time of year there are a number of Christmas-themed events, demonstrations and exhibitions to enjoyed and the gift shop will have Christmas products on sale. In the afternoon we transfer to the airport in time to check in for our return flight. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Dunadry Hotel
- ▶ Return flights from London to Belfast
- ▶ Comfortable coaching and all visits
- ▶ Services of Trevor Edwards as tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
16 - 19 Dec	£995	£845.75
Single Supplement		£120

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: **BBCM**

Christmas in Edinburgh

NEW

4 DAYS FROM
£675.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO
£119.25

Ten Hill Place Hotel is the venue for this special festive break, where each year they can't wait to put the Christmas lights up and get the mulled wine simmering. Located in the historic Surgeons Quarter of Edinburgh's Old Town, it's within easy walking distance of Princes Street with its shops and Christmas Market on one hand, and Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat on the other. We are welcomed with seasonal treats before enjoying a delightful Christmas Eve dinner. A relaxed Christmas Day follows including a four-course Christmas lunch with all the traditional trimmings. On Boxing Day you can hit the shops and the sales, or alternatively join our complimentary excursion into the beautiful Border country to the south of Edinburgh.

Tour Highlights

- Visit to historic St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh
- Scenic coach tour of the Scottish Borders
- Mince Pies and Mulled Wine on arrival at the hotel
- Full Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings

Day 1 We depart from our pick-up point (*Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Forfar, Dundee, Perth, Kinross, Dunfermline and Edinburgh*) and head to central Edinburgh where we have arranged a guided tour of **St Giles Cathedral**, which has been a working church for almost 900 years and played a prominent part in both the Lying-in-State of Her Majesty The Queen and the 'Scottish Coronation' of His Majesty The King. Later we transfer to our accommodation at the 4-star Ten Hill Place Hotel, where a gift from the hotel team awaits. We will get into the Christmas spirit by relaxing in the cozy lounge and enjoying warmed mince pies and a glass of mulled wine or delicious hot chocolate topped with marshmallows. Later we will enjoy a delightful **Christmas Eve** meal in the hotel's Drinks and Dining Restaurant. (D)

Day 2 The day gets off to a festive start with a glass of Mimosa (*orange juice and sparkling wine*) with breakfast. The morning is free to relax or perhaps take a stroll through the streets of Edinburgh's Old Town to sharpen your appetite for the feasting to come. A traditional



Edinburgh

four-course **Christmas Lunch** with all the trimmings follows and after the King's Speech you are free to take a walk in nearby Holyrood Park, read your new book or even succumb to a postprandial nap, whichever is your preference. A light supper is served this evening. (B,L,D)

Day 3 After breakfast we depart on a scenic coach tour of the **Border Country**, which will see us visiting some of the delightfully old-fashioned little towns and villages. Alternatively you may prefer to relax around the hotel, go shopping in the Boxing Day sales or explore the local attractions in Edinburgh. Dinner is served this evening back at the hotel. (B,D)

Day 4 Enjoy your breakfast. Sadly it is time to leave Edinburgh today as we head for home, with arrival due at our original departure points during the afternoon. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Three nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Ten Hill Place Hotel
- ▶ Christmas Day Lunch
- ▶ Comfortable coaching and all visits
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
24 - 27 Dec	£795	£675.75
Single Supplement		£295

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: **BXED**

Christmas Markets on the Rhine

NEW

5 DAYS FROM

£1,185.75

SAVING PER PERSON UP TO

£209.25

Nowhere does Christmas Markets quite like Germany. The cold, crisp air is filled with smell of sizzling sausages and sweet, freshly baked pastries while thousands of coloured lights sparkle in the low light. The brightly decorated wooden booths are filled with authentic artisanal goods, from simple Christmas tree decorations to luxurious gifts for loved ones. Enjoy a cup of warming Glühwein and succumb once again to the welcome embrace of the festive spirit. Combine this with a gently-paced cruise on the River Rhine, on a comfortable ship with a relaxed ambience, and you have the perfect recipe for a pre-Christmas break that will live long in the memory. Our optional shore excursions offer visits to the Christmas markets of historic Heidelberg, romantic Rudesheim and Koblenz.

Tour Highlights

- The antique carousel in Heidelberg's Universitätsplatz
- The famous Mechanical Music Cabinet in Rudesheim
- Panoramic views over the Rhine and Moselle in Koblenz

Day 1 We depart from London St Pancras International on a Eurostar service to Paris Gare du Nord. A short 500m walk takes us to the Gare de l'Est from where we take a train to Strasbourg. On arrival we will transfer to our ship at her berth on the River Rhine. In the evening once you have settled into your cabin we will be introduced to the crew and enjoy a welcome cocktail before dinner on board. (D)

Day 2 We spend the morning cruising downstream to **Speyer** in Germany. After lunch on board, you are free to enjoy an afternoon exploring on your own in the city, which has a medieval centre and an imposing cathedral. Alternatively join our optional excursion to **Heidelberg** and its **Christmas Market**. We enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city followed by time to explore the enchanting Christmas market. Returning to the ship, we enjoy dinner and an evening of entertainment on board, mooring overnight here in Speyer. (L,D)

Day 3 This morning is spent cruising downstream to **Rudesheim** and enjoying lunch on board. In the afternoon we depart on a sightseeing tour of the city by road train followed by



Heidelberg

a visit to **Siegfried's Mechanical Music Cabinet**. Afterwards, we spend some time strolling through the **Christmas Market of Nations**, enjoying the special festive ambience. After dinner on board, for those who wish the **Drosselgasse** awaits, with its numerous cafés, bars and music. We remain in Rudesheim for the night. (B,L,D)

Day 4 This morning we pass through what is usually considered to be the most scenic and romantic section of the Rhine Valley. Keep an eye out for the **Rock of the Lorelei**, the siren of German mythology whose bewitching song seduced navigators and led to numerous shipwrecks. In the afternoon, we offer an optional tour of **Koblenz** and the **Ehrenbreitstein Fortress**. Located at the crossroads of the Rhine and Moselle regions and surrounded by several mountain peaks, Koblenz is a rich mosaic of culture and history. We then savour the last of our Christmas markets here in Koblenz. Tonight we enjoy a gala dinner on board, as the ship cruises gently to Cologne overnight. (B,L,D)

Day 5 After breakfast on board we disembark in **Cologne** and transfer the short distance to the railway station for our high-speed train journey back to London. (B)

Inc. meals: B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ▶ Four nights' full board in a main deck cabin on the MV Mona Lisa
- ▶ Standard class rail travel from London to Strasbourg/Cologne to London
- ▶ Comfortable coaching and all visits
- ▶ Services of a professional tour manager

DEPARTURES & PRICES PER PERSON

2024		
3 - 7 Dec	£1,395	£1,185.75
Single Supplement		£295

Price shown includes 15% discount and assumes payment in full at time of booking.

Tour code: **BRXM**