

British Airways Staff Association

Twilight Christmas at Hever Castle –19th November 2022

This is a day trip to Hever Castle, which will be decorated and lit up for Christmas, stopping on the way for free time at Pantiles Centre in Tunbridge Wells,

The coach will leave Bedfont at 09:30 and there is a £5.00 per car fee for parking at Bedfont.

There may also be the option of free parking at Commonwealth Coaches with the coach leaving at 9:15 for Bedfont, to be confirmed nearer the time.

The Pantiles Centre has a 400 hundred year history. A vibrant area with a tree-flanked colonnaded walkway, 70+ independent shops, cafes, restaurants and art galleries. There is also a Saturday Farmers & Craft market it has something for everyone.

We will have around 2 hours at Pantiles, leaving at 1pm for the 20 minute drive to Hever Castle where our tickets include entry to the castle and gardens.

Spanning 700 years, the history of Hever Castle is rich and varied. Built in 1270 it was the home of the Boleyn's, one of the most powerful families in the country, and was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon & changed the country from Catholicism to the church of England for Anne who became Queen of England for 1000 days.

The castle later passed to Anne of Cleves, another of Henry's six wives, but then fell into decline until Waldorf Astor bought it in 1903 and restored it to its former glory.

The castle will be beautifully decorated for Christmas with welcoming log fires & twinkling Christmas trees. There is a gift shop and a number of places where you can get something to eat and drink.

As dusk falls the house and gardens will be magically illuminated with uplighting and colour washes.

We will leave Hever Castle at approx. 5pm to return to Bedfont.

The cost is **£32.50** for members and **£34.00** for non-members. It includes entry to the castle and all gratuities, Please indicate if you will be parking at Bedfont in which case you should add the **£5.00** per car parking fee to your payment