

Days out: August - December 2025

Date changed for Kew to 07AUG

v2 3rd June 2025

Dear Abbeyhalls,

Here we are! The latest set of Abbeyhall days out, taking us from August to December — that many of you have been asking about.

Disappointingly, we haven't been able to include the planned Elon Musk SpaceX trip in this set — not for want of trying. There was no group reduction for the £41.5million per seat. We felt that, with the coach fare added on, this would be too much for many of you.

However, the group bungee jump from Eagle Tower should be finalised for our January outing. Watch this space.

In the meantime, we have Kew Gardens, Mamma Mia!, a fab art museum and lots more. We'd love to have you with us.



Thursday 07 August 2025	Kew Gardens, Richmond
Wednesday 10 September 2025	Avoncroft Outdoor Museum
Monday 22 September 2025	Burn Hall Hotel, Huby, YORK – Full, wait list
Friday 10 October 2025	Compton Verney art museum, Wellsbourne
Thursday 13 November 2025	Mama Mia! matinee, at Bristol Hippodrome
Wednesday 10 December 2025	Wells city and markets

Details follow below:-

Thursday 07 August 2025 Kew Gardens, Richmond

Coach £32 (inc ULEZ), Entrance £19 (Total £51) per person

Join the Kew! Because we're off to this UNESCO World Heritage Site, where more than 50,000 plants flourish. (Unlike our kitchen, where plants seem to lose the will the minute they arrive.)

It sounds a bit of a cliché, but it really isn't: there's something for everyone!

There's the Temperate House, the world's largest Victorian glasshouse, filled with rare and threatened plants. (Again, they ought to see our kitchen.) This is home to 1,200 species from Asia, Australasia, the Americas and Africa — and amongst those are specimens from some of the most remote locations on Earth: Saint Helena, the Pitcairn Islands and Juan Fernández Islands. Here you'll see some of the amazing work that Kew does, rescuing plants that are not only rare but, in some cases, extinct in the wild.

The Princess of Wales Conservatory is dedicated to dry tropical environments, featuring orchids, succulents, cacti, and other plants from arid regions.

Surrounding the greenhouses is the arboretum, with 11,000 trees, including ones as old as the gardens themselves; many can't be found anywhere else in the country. Then there's the rock garden, mimicking the world's mountainous regions, with sandstone peaks and cascading waterfalls.

And plenty more!

This summer on our trip, you'll see the fabulous Rose Garden blooming — 170 species and cultivars; as well as the Vegetable Garden, selling some of its delicious produce.

There's a great variety of places to eat, with local food and produce foraged from the gardens; plus, all sorts of shopping opportunities.

<https://www.kew.org>

0850h	Begin pickups
1045h	Comfort stop 10mins
1130h	Kew Gardens
1530h	Leave for home

The logo for Kew, featuring the word "Kew" in a large, dark green serif font. To the right of the word is a stylized green leaf graphic.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS



Kew Gardens, Richmond



Wednesday 10 September Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings

Coach £28 and Entrance £13 Total £41

We'd never heard of Avoncroft until it was recommended to us. (Thank you, Kathy!) Which is surprising, considering it's England's oldest open-air museum. (And winner of Visit Worcestershire tourism awards.) There are more than 30 historic buildings on site, dating from the 13th century. Highlights include an impressive windmill, a phone box collection (you can actually use between boxes!), a medieval town house, a pre-fab and even a miniature steam railway. And set in 19 acres of land.

The tea room offers a delicious selection of home-made sandwiches, soup, cakes, drinks and ice creams. There is plenty of seating in the historic Shrewsbury Co-op building, and lots of picnic benches outside for sunny days.

<https://avoncroft.org.uk>

0900h Begin pickups
1030h Avoncroft
1500h Leave for home



More pictures overleaf...



Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings



Friday 10 October 2025 Compton Verney, Wellsbourne
beginning with scone, jam and cream! Art gallery in Georgian mansion

Coach £27, Admission & cream tea £25 - Total £52

So this award-winning Warwickshire gallery has six permanent collections: Naples, Northern European Art 1450-1650, British Portraits, Chinese, British Folk Art & The Marx-Lambert Collection. This includes the largest collection of folk art in Britain. Pretty impressive! What's more, it's based in a Georgian mansion set amidst 120 acres of 'Capability' Brown parkland. The scenery is breath-taking — as is the art you'll see.

We've booked a mini cream tea on arrival — scones, jam, cream and a cuppa — after which you'll be free to do whatever you like. There is a café, with fresh, local, seasonal food, as well as a gift shop.

<https://www.comptonverney.org.uk>

0900h Begin pickups
1030h Compton Verney
1500h Leave for home



Model of a Butcher's Shop

Artist: Unknown



Lile Clog Shop Trade Sign

Artist: Unknown



Compton Verney, Wellsbourne

The Kings Harms

Artist: Unknown



Thursday 13 November 2025 Mama Mia! matinee Bristol Hippodrome

Coach (inc clean-air fee) £25 and Centre Stalls ticket £69.80 Total £94.80

Get out your flares and platform shoes — we're going full ABBA! Yes, we've got premium seats (centre stalls) for a matinee performance of this fab musical. It's billed as the ultimate feel-good factor (Editor's note: Well, it will be if Ian promises not to sing along): set on a Greek island, it tells a story of love, friendship and identity.

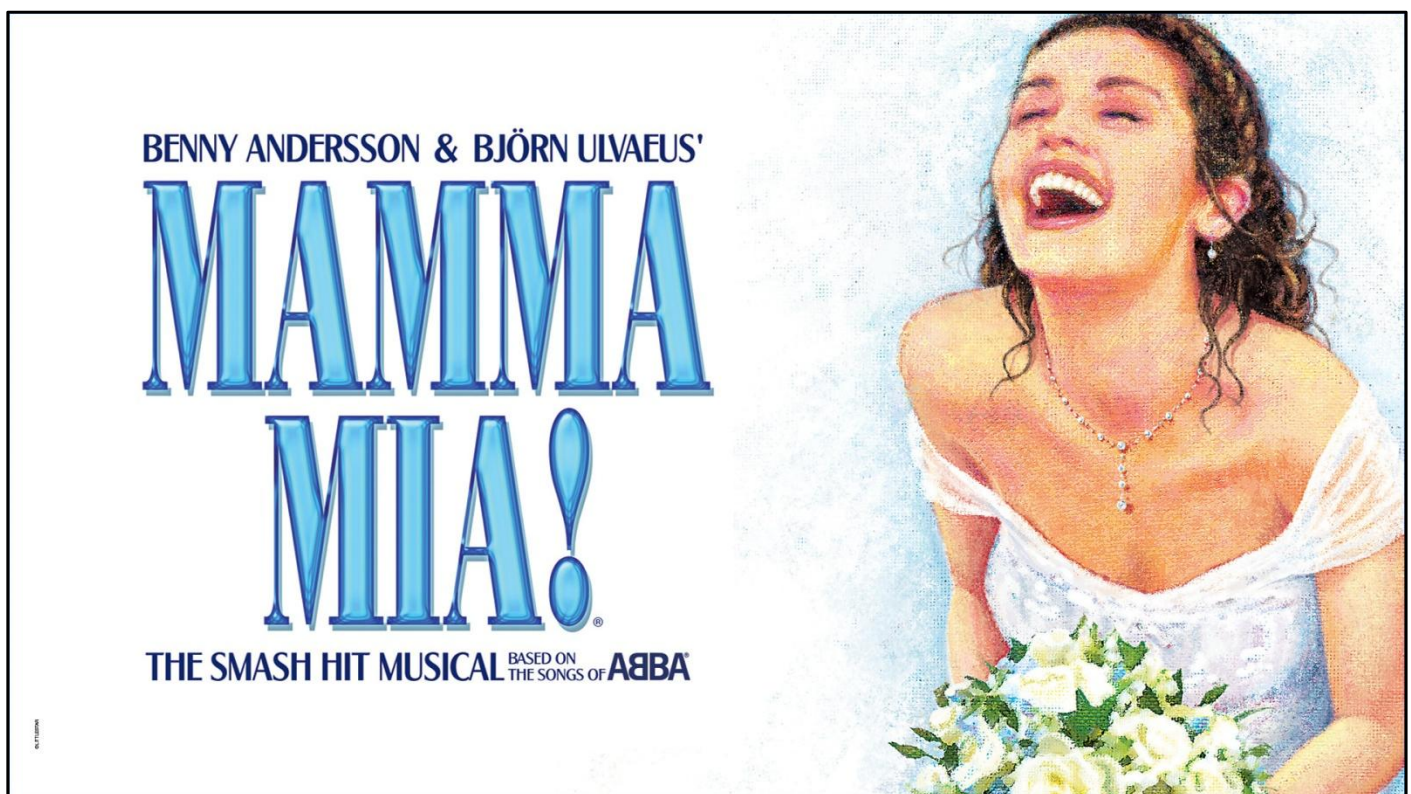
Sophie is trying to discover the father she's never known; so she does what any of us would do in the circumstances — she brings her mother face to face with three men from her distant romantic past on the eve of a wedding none will ever forget. (Ian and I will never forget our wedding, but mainly owing to one of the guests' hats.)

Let's not kid ourselves: the real attraction is the fact that ABBA's hits are cleverly interwoven throughout.

As usual, we'll be driven to and from the venue by the Dancing Queen.

<https://mamma-mia.com>

1215h	Begin pickups
1330h	Bristol
1430h	Mama Mia! Matinee (2h 35m)
1720h	Leave for home



Wednesday 10 December - Wells city, Bishop's Palace and market

Coach £25

We toyed with various ideas for our Christmas trip — but we love the city of Wells, with its Bishop's Palace, individual shops, and bustling town-centre market. There's no specific Christmas market, but the market stalls do tend to be seasonal; it's a lovely spot.

It's England's smallest city, nestling in front of the rolling Mendips; home to one of the finest collections of medieval buildings you'll find this side of the Channel. Of course, there's Wells Cathedral, right in the heart of the city. It's the earliest English cathedral to be built in the Gothic style (1175-1490), and attracts visitors from all over the world. Amongst its unique features are the beautiful 'scissor arches' supporting the central tower; and the Wells clock, probably the second oldest clock mechanism in Great Britain. The cathedral also houses a magnificent collection of stained glass.

Round the corner is Vicars' Close, the only complete medieval street left in England.

Don't miss out on the Bishop's Palace. You can pop into the café, browse the shop (and even use the loos) for free; but, if you buy a ticket (£14, including donation — do book online), you'll get access to the medieval palace itself, the undercroft, the ruined Great Hall, 14 acres of lovely gardens, and the Bishop's Chancel. Included is a daily guided tour (bishopsalace.org.uk).

Wells High Street is a wonderful place for unusual, independent shops (and cafes!). But don't just look in the windows; notice the narrow streets, the mix of building styles from over the ages, and the water channels that run down either side. The latter derive from a gift of water, given to the town by Bishop Beckyngton in 1451.

0900h **Begin pickups**
1100h **Wells**
1530h **Leave for home**



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Thank you, from Ian and Katie (Jarvis)

ends...