

Tour  
Information



# Charles II - Civil War and the Great Escape

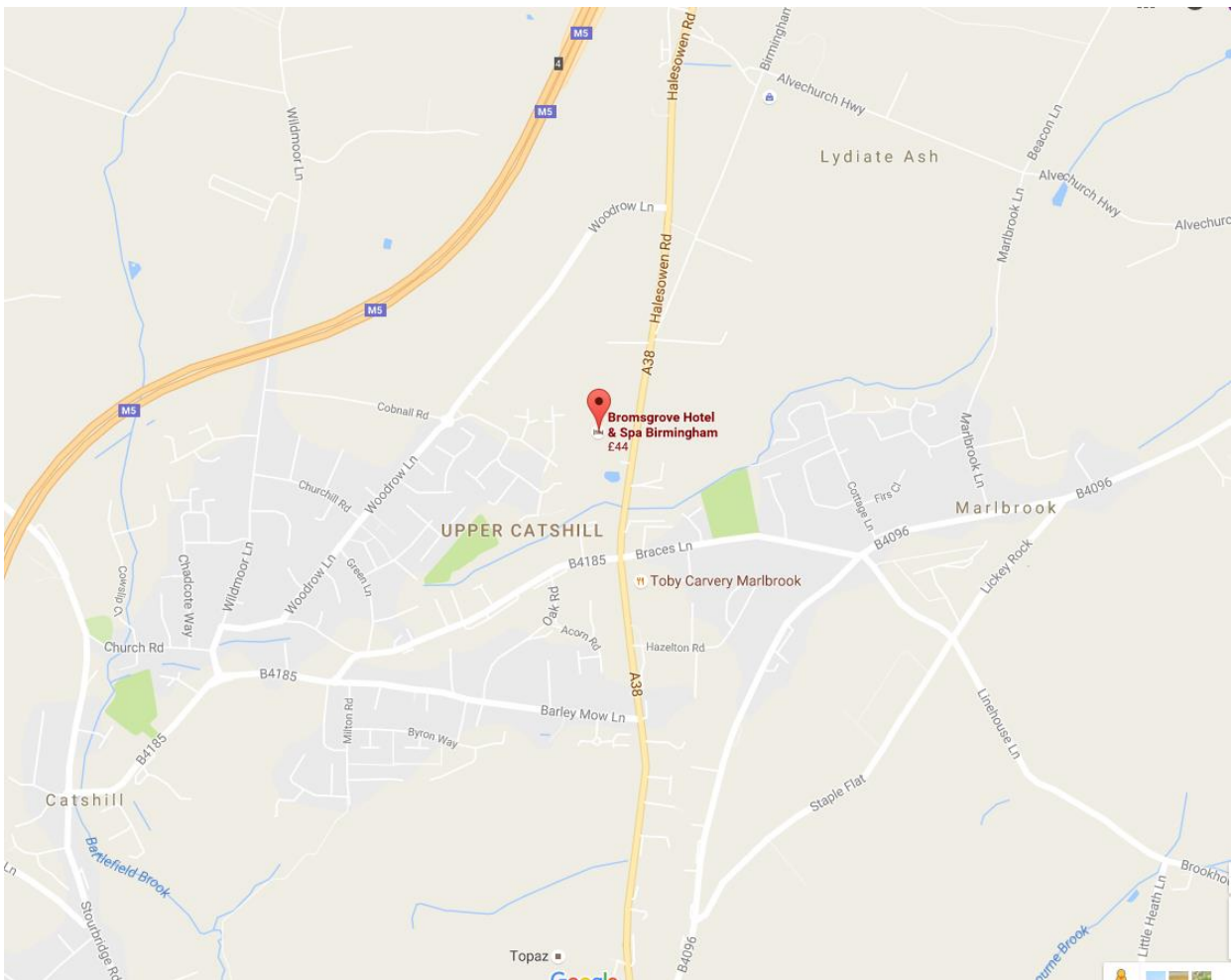




The tour starts and finishes at the **Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa, Birmingham.**

Birmingham Road,  
Bromsgrove,  
B61 0JB,  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44-121-447-7888

**Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.**



## Transport

**Travelling by car:** If traveling to the hotel and using a sat nav, please use the post code B61 0HS to reach the hotel. You can also use the points of interest search if you have the option and look for 'Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa'. The hotel is situated off Junction 4 of the M5, following the A38 for Bromsgrove, about 1/2 mile down the A38 on the right hand side.

**Travelling by Train:** Bromsgrove railway station is situated 10 minutes away from the hotel with links to local major stations.



# Accommodation

## **Bromsgrove Hotel and Spa, Birmingham**

Located 20 minutes from Birmingham Airport, the 4-star Hilton Bromsgrove Hotel is ideally located for the visits on this tour. Facilities at the hotel include a restaurant, bar, fitness centre, indoor pool and comfortable bedrooms with private bath/shower, TV and telephone. Complimentary car parking for Travel Editions clients is available at the hotel.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

[www.britanniahotels.com/Birmingham/Hotel\\_Deals](http://www.britanniahotels.com/Birmingham/Hotel_Deals)

## **Check In and departure from hotel**

You can check-in at the hotel from 15.00. The tour will start in the evening; meet you in the Bromsgrove Suite at 18:30 for the welcome reception, along with our expert guide Julian Humphrys

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.30 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

## **Extra nights**

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at midday.

## **Special requests**

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

## **Dining**

On the first night of your stay, a private three-course dinner complemented with wine is provided. During the second evening of the tour, dinner will be provided by the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on both days of your stay is included in the price and one light lunch but meals other than these stated are not included.



## Places Visited

### Worcester Cathedral

Founded in 680 and rebuilt in 1084, Worcester Cathedral has a rich heritage of religious and architectural importance. Located majestically above the river Severn, the Cathedral continues to this day to be a center of religious significance. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1651, Charles II arrived at Worcester Cathedral with his Army, he was then defeated at the Battle of Worcester on 3<sup>rd</sup> September by Oliver Cromwell and forced to flee into exile.

It was said that during the Civil War of 1651, King Charles II viewed the Battle of Worcester from the top of the Cathedral Tower and what he witnessed would have influenced his decisions and contributed to making the Battle of Worcester 1651 a turning point in British History.

[http://worcestercathedral.co.uk/Home\\_Page.php](http://worcestercathedral.co.uk/Home_Page.php)

### Commandery Museum

The Grade 1 listed building dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, is one of Worcester's oldest buildings, and has played a significant part in Worcester's history. Originally it was a hospital and a place of pilgrimage, the Commandery was sold as a residence by Henry VIII and later it became the Royalist Headquarters during the Battle of Worcester, the final and deciding battle of the English Civil War.

Today the museum has exhibitions focusing on six different period of history; including 'The Civil War' exhibit which focuses on when The Commandery was used by Charles II has a headquarters during the Battle of Worcester.

<http://www.whub.org.uk/cms/museums-worcestershire/the-commandery.aspx>

### Fort Royal Hill

This English Civil War fort was built by the Royalists in 1651. The fort is sited on a hill overlooking the city from where besieging artillery had been able to do much damage to the walls during the siege in 1646. During the Battle of Worcester on 03<sup>rd</sup> September 1651 the Fort was captured by Parliamentary forces, who turned the Royalist guns to fire on Worcester.

### Harvington Hall

Harvington Hall is an Elizabethan moated manor-house situated south-east of Kidderminster. It was built in the 1580's by Humphrey Pakington, and is now owned by the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The Hall has the finest surviving series of Priest-holes and hiding places in England, which were used to hide priests during a time in British history where it was illegal to practice Catholicism. The four main priest-holes at Harvington Hall are situated around the central staircase and were built by builder Nicholas Owen, at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

<http://www.harvingtonhall.com/>

## Boscobel House

Boscobel House, built in 1632, is a Grade II listed building in the Parish of Boscobel in Shropshire. It was converted into a hunting lodge by John Giffard of Whiteladies. The Giffard Family were Roman Catholics at a time when the religion suffered persecution and tradition holds that the true purpose of Boscobel was to serve as a secret place for the shelter of Catholics in times of need.

Following Charles II defeat in the Battle of Worcester in 1651, he had to flee for his life. As Cromwell blocked his route across the River Severn into Wales, Charles II sought refuge at Boscobel, hiding first in the tree, which is now known as The Royal Oak. On 06<sup>th</sup> September Charles II moved from his hiding place in The Royal Oak to a priest-hole in the attic of the Lodge where he spent one night. On 7<sup>th</sup> September Charles II and William Careless, accompanied by the five Penderel brothers and Humphrey Penderel left Boscobel and made it to Moseley Old Hall, home of Thomas Whitgreave

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/boscobel-house-and-the-royal-oak/>

## Mosley Old Hall

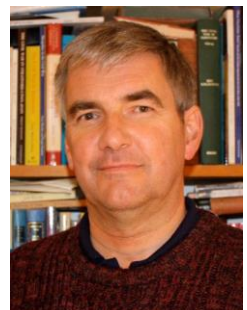
Mosley Old Hall, constructed around 1600 by Henry Pitt, is a timber framed house that provided a hiding space for Charles II during his escape following the Battle of Worcester. Charles arrived at the back door of Mosley Old Hall on 08<sup>th</sup> September after his journey from Boscobel House. He was hidden in a priest-hole that afternoon, and later rested on a four-poster bed in the Hall. He left the house 2 days later, having planned the rest of his escape, accompanied by the Catholic Priest John Huddleston.

Today, at Mosley Old Hall, you can see The Kings Door, the door which Charles II used to enter the house, and the door he later described when he dictated his memories to Samuel Pepys, The Kings bed; the original four-poster bed he rested on and the hiding place where Charles II hid when Parliamentary soldiers came to the house.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/moseley-old-hall>

## Your Guides

**Julian Humphrys** will be your guide during the tour. Julian is a historian, author and broadcaster. Julian is the Development Officer at the Battlefields Trust, and experienced guide and author of a number of books on English battles.



**Julian will give the following talk on the first evening of the tour:**

*"The escape of Charles II".*

**On the second evening, historian Professor Ronald Hutton will give the following talk:**


*"Charles II, Good King or bad king?"*

# Practical Information






**Tour manager** - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

**Tipping** –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

**Walking Content** – This tour has been graded a 5 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

**Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:**

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobblestones etc)	



## Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07805 880240 or

020 7987 5910 or

07831 133079 or

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

### **Travel Editions**

69-85 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4BD

Tel: Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [info@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:info@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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