

LAST HOTEL WEEKEND - BATH TIME!

FRIDAY 24 September - Sunday 26 September



ORGANISER: JANE WATSON • T:07905 161883 • E: HUDDLESTONE@UKONLINE.CO.UK

Ride bikes, get naked (well almost) and bask in 18th century comfort.

The last hotel weekend 2010 will find you in the world heritage site of Bath and its surrounding countryside. You can bask in the Thermae Bath Spa on Friday afternoon and get scrubbed up and squeaky clean, only to get all dirty again biking on Saturday.

Bailbrook House Hotel has superb gardens, excellent accommodation and looks very romantic, which I am sure will go down well with all you chaps.

They've given us a generous rate to stay there (and you can extend your stay by booking direct if you wish to and get the PEMC preferential rate).

Bath has the only natural thermal spa in Britain, so after soaking in the warm mineral-rich waters on Friday, we'll have a drink or two and dinner at Bailbrook House.

On Saturday, there'll be at least two rides. A shorter ride will be a leisurely meander taking in local delights like Castle Combe village, Marlborough and Lacock. Two longer rides: one which will head north, a good option if the weather's horrid, biking around traffic free and scenic roads in the Cotswolds. This will include a coffee stop at Bourton on the Water and lunch at a riverside pub, with a brisk ride back skirting round Marlborough and across the Downs. The other will head south, if the weather's tolerable, across Salisbury Plain, with a coffee stop at an airfield, lunch stop not yet decided but there'll be time for an ice cream at the seaside.

For those who don't want to ride, you can explore Bath, possibly one of England's prettiest cities. You can visit the Pump Rooms (a very fine high tea), the splendid Bath Abbey, and the most famous of all Georgian crescents the Royal Crescent. Not to mention the great selection of small independent shops set in picturesque passageways. And as luck would have it, for all you Sense and Sensibility fans, this weekend also coincides with the Jane Austen festival with special events being held across the city (I know that's got you excited Nick and I'm sure you'll all be scrambling for the Pride and Prejudice book reading timings). For the walkers, a 15 minute walk puts you on the canal path that leads into Bath where it's possible to pick up the Bath Skyline walk, six miles of way-marked trails, passing through hidden valleys, tranquil woodlands and a patchwork of meadows rich in wildlife.

I hope you'll agree it looks like there's something for everyone on this weekend. Ice-creams and riverside pubs, good windy roads with beautiful views, not to mention Jane Austen. So I'm looking forward to hosting a trip in the south west by way of a change from more northern parts.

MAXIMUM 40 PERSONS

BATH TIME COSTS £140 EACH FOR 2 NIGHTS DINNER, BED AND BREAKFAST AND £180 FOR SINGLES.

DEPOSIT £50 PER PERSON

BOOKINGS BY END OF JULY PLEASE



SUGGESTED LINKS

BAILBROOK HOUSE HOTEL www.bailbrookhouse.co.uk/introduction

BATH THERMAE SPA www.thermaebathspa.com/

BATH SKYLINE WALK MAP www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-localtoyou/w-wessex/w-wessex-places-visit/w-wessex-places-coast-and-countryside-highlights/w-bathskyline/w-bathskyline-walk.htm