

# 2022 PACKAGE & ITINERARY



## THE ENGLISH CHALKSTREAMS

JOIN SWEETWATER TRAVEL AND HOST GUIDE MARK BOLTON AS WE TOUR THE HEART OF ENGLAND  
AND FISH THE MOST FAMOUS CHALKSTREAMS IN THE WORLD



# JOIN US AND FISH THE MOST FAMOUS TROUT STREAMS IN THE WORLD

## TRIP OVERVIEW

Of the 210 chalkstreams in the world, 160 of them flow in the beautiful English countryside. The most famous of these, flow from the southern chalk stone hills, (downs) through the counties of Hampshire and Wiltshire, with legendary names like the Test and Itchen. Rivers, that have become the accepted birthplace of modern day fly fishing.

For 2022, Sweetwater Travel has put together an exclusive opportunity to fish these hallowed waters in the footsteps of early fly fishing pioneers Izaak Walton and F.M. Halford. We've packaged elegant accommodation, historical attractions and the very best of English dry fly fishing together, for a memorable, nostalgic journey set amongst the beautiful, unchanged countryside of old England.

Mark Bolton, our head guide in Livingston Montana, was born in England and has compiled some of the very best "beats" on four renowned streams. Mark's knowledge of his home country and guiding expertise will ensure an enjoyable and relaxed experience for all levels of anglers as well as soaking up some of the history, customs and charm that England has to offer.

The chalkstreams of southern England cover a relatively small geographic area, starting just an hours drive west



from the capital, London. Ancient historic landmarks such as Stonehenge and the beautiful Roman city of Bath are just short drives from our accommodations and visits can easily be incorporated into your stay.

## NON FISHING GUEST ITINERARY

We have a very informal guest itinerary available for spouses or clients who choose to fish a little less or not at all, and instead want to take the opportunity to explore the areas rich cultural history. Most of our fishing activities take place in between the cities of Winchester and Salisbury, which are easily accessible for day trips and are equally steeped in a variety of interesting attractions. We can easily arrange transport and accommodate most requests. It's a perfect opportunity to experience some of the countries most fascinating culture and history.

One of the many pleasures of this destination is driving around rural England—through movie-set 16th- and 17th-century towns with names like "Itchen Abbas", "Nether Wallop", and "Tolpuddle", with their Norman churches and ancient ale-scented pubs, their thatched-roof cottages covered in honeysuckle and climbing roses, their

crumbling stone ruins and narrow cobbled streets. Old England experienced at it's finest, in all of it's early summer glory.

## TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Our package begins with our first night accommodation, Lainston House, which is just outside the city of Winchester in the English county of Hampshire.

Winchester is approximately 1 hour west of the capital, London. The most convenient way of getting from Heathrow airport directly to Winchester and Lainston House, is by private taxi. These arrangements can be made for you by your host.

Guests should plan on leaving the US on Saturdays, which, with the approximately 7 hour time difference, places your arrival sometime during Sunday morning.

The first day of the package is Sunday, which is a non fishing day, allowing guest free time to recover from travel, prior to fishing Monday. (Arrival days may vary dependant on package week chosen)

Travel during the week from accommodations to fishing and dinning destinations will be provided by your host and guides.

# ENGLISH CHALKSTREAM PACKAGE & ITINERARY:

We offer one luxury package for a very limited number of clients, due to the exclusivity of the water fished and the unique combination of hosted dinners and four star accommodation provided.

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| <p><b>7 nights / 5 days guided fishing</b> - Double Occupancy: \$6,300.00* per person<br/>                 Single Occupancy: \$7,200.00* per person<br/>                 Non Fishing Guest/Double Occupancy: \$2,850.00* per person</p>                        | <p><b>2021 Dates:</b><br/>                 Week 1: May 8th - May 15th    Week 3: May 22rd - May 29th<br/>                 Week 2: May 15th - May 22nd    Week 4: May 29th - June 5th</p> |
| <p>*Rate is based on current exchange rate GBP to US Dollar, September 2021, rates may vary slightly according to exchange rate at time of trip.<br/>                 *Rate does not include 6 nights dinner. *Rate does not include guide day gratuities.</p> |  |

|                  | ACCOMMODATION   | DAILY FISHING/OTHER ACTIVITIES  | DINNER OPTIONS  |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <p><b>Lainston House:</b><br/>                     Guests arrive at Lainston House, situated just 4 miles outside the historic city of Winchester. Lunch and afternoon tea are available.</p>                   | <p><b>No fishing scheduled:</b> Guests can explore the nearby historic city of Winchester (transport provided) or relax on the beautiful 65 acre wooded grounds of Lainston House.</p>                                | <p><b>Dinner option:</b> Dinner is available at Lainston House with its excellent "Avenue" restaurant. We will also have a local option, "The Pete Spade" quality gastro pub. Transport provided.</p>                 |
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | <p><b>Lainston House:</b><br/>                     Breakfast served between 7-00am &amp; 9-00am<br/><br/>                     Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-30am</p>                               | <p><b>The River Test:</b> Clients fish in pairs on one of two alternate beats either "Mottisfont Abby" or "The Bullington Manor". Host on hand.<br/> <b>Lunch:</b> Taken at local Inn/or streamside packed</p>        | <p><b>Dinner option:</b> "The Wykeham Arms", set in a 1755 coaching Inn, this upscale, town-centre pub is a 5-minute walk from Winchester Cathedral. Transport provided.</p>  |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | <p><b>Lainston House:</b><br/>                     Breakfast served between 7-00am &amp; 9-00am<br/><br/>                     Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-30am</p>                               | <p><b>The River Itchen:</b><br/>                     Clients fish in pairs on the "Shawford Park" or "Quing Ya Xi", beat each pair guided, or Host on hand. <b>Lunch:</b> Taken at local Inn/or streamside packed</p> | <p><b>Dinner option:</b> "The Greyhound", Great gastro pub on the banks of The River Test, in the village of Stockbridge, the heart of the local fly fishing community. Transport provided.</p>                       |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | <p><b>Lainston House:</b><br/>                     Breakfast served between 7-00am &amp; 9-00am<br/><br/>                     Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-30am</p>                               | <p><b>The River Test:</b> Clients fish in pairs on one of two alternate beats either "Mottisfont Abby" or "The Bullington Manor". Host on hand.<br/> <b>Lunch:</b> Taken at local Inn/or streamside packed</p>        | <p><b>Dinner option:</b> "The Chesil Rectory". A unique and historic restaurant located in Winchester which occupies a 600 year old grade II listed Medieval house of exceptional charm. Package dinner offered.</p>  |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | <p><b>Lainston House:</b><br/>                     Breakfast served between 7-00am &amp; 9-00am<br/> <b>The Beckford Arms:</b><br/>                     Arrival in late afternoon for dinner &amp; check-In</p> | <p><b>No fishing scheduled.</b><br/>                     Rest day. Guests are encouraged to explore the region. Optional excursion to the Roman city of Bath, transportation included. Host on hand.</p>              | <p><b>Dinner option:</b> "The Lamb Inn" A beautiful traditional English pub, located in the quaint village of Hindon, an ancient sheep drovers gathering place. Quality locally sourced menu.</p>                     |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | <p><b>The Beckford Arms:</b><br/>                     Breakfast served between 7-00am &amp; 9-00am<br/><br/>                     Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-30am</p>                            | <p><b>The River Frome:</b> Clients fish in pairs on some of the seven different beats available. Host on hand.<br/> <b>Lunch:</b> Taken at local Inn/or streamside packed as a group.</p>                             | <p><b>Dinner option:</b> "The Beckford Arms", is a traditional yet stylish country pub with a locally sourced gourmet food on the edge of the stunning rolling parkland of the Fonthill Estate in south Wiltshire</p> |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | <p><b>The Beckford Arms:</b><br/>                     Breakfast served between 7-00am &amp; 9-00am<br/><br/>                     Guides arrive and pick up clients approx 9-30am</p>                            | <p><b>The River Nadder:</b> Optional Day. Clients fish in pairs on the "Compton Chamberlayne Estate". Host on hand.<br/> <b>Lunch:</b> Taken at local Inn/or streamside packed as a group.</p>                        | <p><b>Dinner option:</b> "The Beckford Arms", is a traditional yet stylish country pub with a locally sourced gourmet food on the edge of the stunning rolling parkland of the Fonthill Estate in south Wiltshire</p> |

# LAINSTON HOUSE



Our first four nights of accommodation are reserved at Lainston House, a beautiful five star manor house, set in the heart of the English countryside

Everything you'd expect from a 17th-century country house. An imposing facade, lofty reception rooms with roaring fires, wood panelling (the magnificent Cedar Bar was carved entirely from a cedar tree that fell in the grounds) and lavish interiors.

A line of wellington boots greets you in reception, reminding you that the 63 acres of landscaped grounds are very much



part of the experience. Take a walk and discover the remains of a 13th-century chapel, a sundial and a walled Victorian kitchen garden.

Just outside the quaint historic village of Sparsholt, Lainston House is close enough to Winchester to enjoy all that the city has to offer, while retaining an idyllic countryside location.

The grounds themselves are superb, with the UK's largest avenue of limes providing the perfect manufactured 'vista' to enjoy while sipping on your G&T.

# THE BECKFORD ARMS



Our second location moves us a little further west to the Beckford Arms. This charming English Inn stands in Fonthill Gifford, opposite the distinctive stone arch that leads to the old Fonthill Estate, founded by the eccentric William Beckford in the late 18th century and now owned by Lord Margadale.

Many renovated and modernized inns pay scant attention to their overnight guests, giving over their entire public areas to diners. Not so the Beckford Arms, which has both a spacious and popular public bar and an equally



spacious and immediately welcoming sitting room, with sofas, fireplace and tables piled with books.

Dining areas include an elegant private dining room (gleaming antiques and silver), animated bar, pretty conservatory and garden.

Head Chef Nigel Everett produces just the right food for the surroundings: excellent pub grub that ranges from sophisticated dishes such as salmon with spiced fennel and clam broth, samphire and romanescos, to classics such as Ploughman's and fish & chips.



## THE RIVER TEST

**The Oakley beat:** This is the famous one, with the amazing Oakley Hut where Halford held court; every fishing great of the Victorian era came here at one time or another.

The bottom of the beat is fast, wide and shallow and a haven for wild fish. A little further up, the "Oakley Oak" (the oldest in Hampshire) presides over a lovely series of riffles over gravel and ranunculus and some deeper pools.

**The Bullington manor beat:** You will rarely find a more beautiful spot than these beats on the Upper Test, where the 4½ miles of unspoiled chalkstream fishing is always crystal clear.

Alternating over two days each angler will have the opportunity to fish both sections.

# THE RIVER TEST

## THE RIVER ITCHEN

**The Shawford Park beat** is a hidden gem in the grounds of the magnificent Shawford Park House that dates back to the fifteenth century.

The private estate employs full time river keeper Pete Glyn-Jones who has looked after the fishing for a decade with great care. There are two beats, both of which you will have access to fish.

At every twist and turn of these great rivers' history, Hampshire and fishing come together. Izaak Walton, who penned 'The Compleat Angler' in the seventeenth century, has a place in the history of the county. His tomb is in the Silkstead Chapel of Winchester Cathedral, a chapel dedicated to anglers and worth a visit for the special stained glass window.



# THE RIVER ITCHEN

# THE RIVER FROME



## THE RIVER FROME

Thomas Hardy made Dorset his own where the rivers of the county interweave through the pages of his Wessex novels, with Tess of the D'Urbervilles buried on the banks of the River Frome.

For sheer variety the fishing at the Wrackleford estate is hard to better with eight beats that have bank or wading options, plus a good blend of wild fish supplemented by a healthy balance of stocking.

In recent years the Estate has greatly improved the fishing, with easier access, banks that are groomed without being manicured and huts for the fishermen.

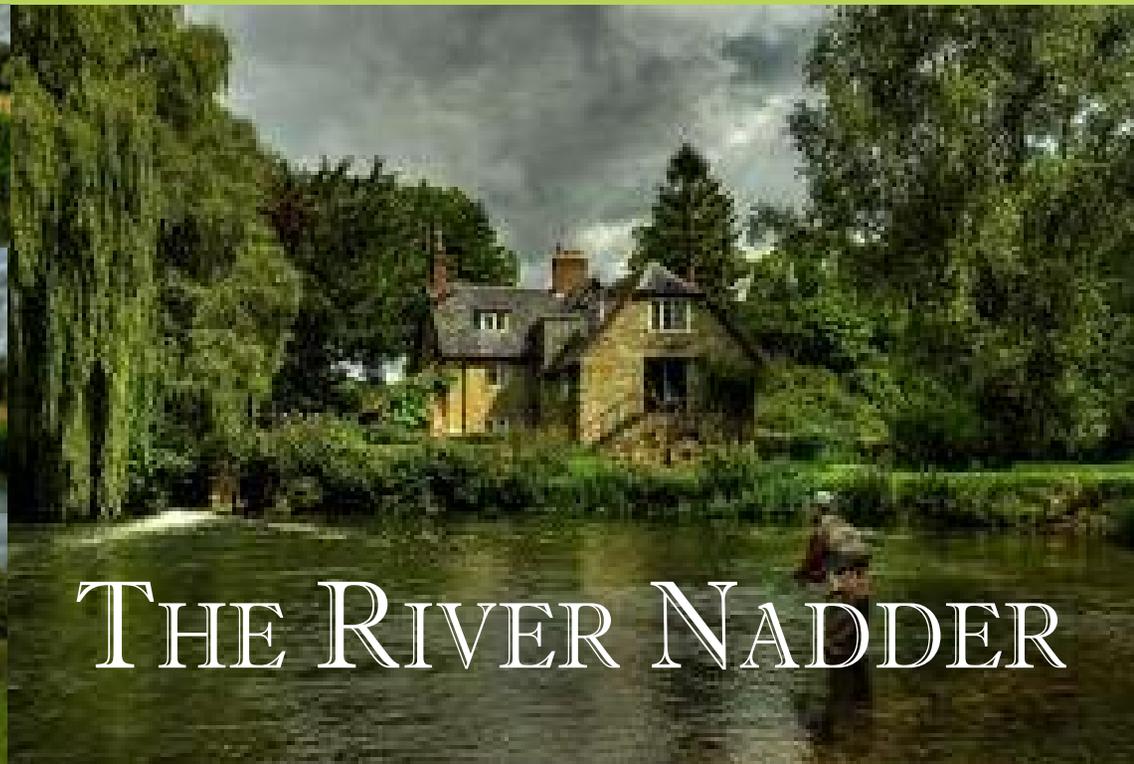
Seven of the beats are on the main River Frome, but the eighth is on the tributary the Sydling Brook, ideal for anyone who likes stealth and accurate casting.

## THE RIVER NADDER

Wiltshire has an amazing chalkstream heritage. It was the home of Frank Sawyer, inventor of the Pheasant Tail Nymph and has the most extraordinary variety of streams – the Nadder and Wylde are the best-kept secrets in dry fly circles.

Generally regarded as the finest stretch of the Nadder, the beats here – seven in all – are part of the Compton Chamberlayne Estate, which winds through lovely, sheep-grazed water meadows.

This is a county that welcomes visitors with its world famous landmarks: Salisbury Cathedral on the water meadows of the River Avon and the ancient druid Stonehenge.



# THE RIVER NADDER