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Celebrate Christmas at Downton Abbey on Friendly Planet Travel's Newest Tour

Spend four nights in London and attend the Downton Abbey Christmas Ball at Highclere Castle

JENKINTOWN, Pa.—July 22, 2014—Celebrate Christmas like British aristocracy at Highclere Castle—the filming location of hit PBS TV show [Downton Abbey](#)—on Friendly Planet Travel's exclusive [London with Downton Abbey Christmas Ball](#) tour.

The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon will open their exquisite Jacobethan castle to host the annual Christmas Ball at Highclere Castle for a private group of select guests. Visitors can dress in black tie, perhaps inspired by their favorite Downton Abbey characters or in their favorite, modern-world dress-up outfits -- and will spend the evening sipping Champagne, touring the castle, and enjoying a sumptuous three-course meal prepared from the castle's centuries-old kitchens. The night will end around the Christmas tree, as guests listen to the Newbury Choristers sing favorite Christmas carols.

If purchased separately, a single ticket to the Christmas Ball at Highclere Castle costs \$700, and tickets to this exclusive, lavish event are extremely limited. But through Friendly Planet Travel, which has decades of experience securing the best international travel deals, travelers not only receive a ticket to the gala, but also enjoy a six-day, four-night trip to London, including airfare, private arrival and departure transfers, accommodations in a first-class hotel, breakfast daily, and a half-day vintage London bus tour and Thames River cruise, all for just \$2,399.

"Few experiences outshine London at Christmas time," said Peggy Goldman, President of Friendly Planet Travel. "The city transforms from a bustling metropolitan hub to a winter wonderland. Streets are strung with white lights, popup ice skating rinks emerge across the city, and Christmas festivals keep spirits high all season long. If that isn't enough of a reason to visit London during December, the [Christmas Ball at Highclere Castle](#) sprinkles the holiday season with vintage English charm and ceremony that's impossible to find anywhere else."

Travelers can also opt for a full-day luxury excursion to Paris. Guests will travel to Paris via Eurostar in reserved seating, and upon arrival they will embark on a panoramic tour of the city. After a tour of the Eiffel Tower, travelers will enjoy a Champagne lunch at the Eiffel Tower's Altitude 58 Restaurant, followed by a cruise on the Seine River. The Louvre, France's most revered museum, is the final stop before returning to London.

"Friendly Planet Travel continues to identify new and exciting tour options that craft once-in-a-lifetime experiences for our travelers," said Goldman. "The London with Downton Abbey Christmas Ball tour provides our travelers with rare access to one of the most famed castles in England, reenacting the Victorian age and walking throughout the set of one of television's most popular dramas."

[The London with Downton Abbey Christmas Ball](#) tour also includes flights from JFK or Newark airports (or other gateways at low through fares), all taxes and fees, and all arrival and departure transfers. The tour is available for one departure only, December 11, with limited tickets available for interested travelers, so book soon before the package sells out.

ABOUT FRIENDLY PLANET TRAVEL

Friendly Planet Travel makes high-quality exotic travel affordable for everyone. Since 1981, Friendly Planet Travel has been arranging all-inclusive escorted discount vacation packages and cruises to the most exciting destinations in the world at the lowest possible prices.

Each year, Friendly Planet Travel offers more than 30 different group travel packages to Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and South America—at discounts of hundreds of dollars off similar vacations. With no hidden charges, add-ons, or surprises, Friendly Planet Travel vacations include convenient flights and airfare; carefully selected, first-class and superior hotels; knowledgeable, English-speaking guides; many meals; planned itineraries; as well as friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Friendly Planet Travel offers its extensive, economical travel services to private groups, including universities, religious institutions, alumni associations, and families. Groups who wish to travel together can count on Friendly Planet Travel's three decades of experience to operate their group travel program expertly and always at the very best possible prices. Visit the company at www.FriendlyPlanetTravel.com. You can also follow Friendly Planet Travel on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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