

## In Transit



### A Guide to Intelligent Travel

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## 'Downton' Destinations

By TANYA MOHN



Bas Sijpkes

Fans of "Downton Abbey" feeling wistful after the season finale won't have to wait until new episodes air next year to get their fix. The drama — and its success — has sent travel outfitters and tourism boards scrambling to come up with ways to explore the lives of the noble classes and their servants, on both sides of the Atlantic. Below are a few options, ranging from high end to low.

Zicasso, an online luxury travel service, is offering an [eight-day journey](#) starting at \$3,250 per person (excluding airfare) that visits Highclere Castle in Newbury, England, home to a real earl and countess that doubles as the Downton estate in the show, as well as other filming locations in Oxfordshire, and a country home in Staffordshire. You can also channel (spoiler alert!) poor Matthew Crawley's last days by adding on an excursion to Inveraray Castle in the Scottish Highlands, a place that Season 3 viewers know as Duneagle.

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If you are less of a spendthrift than Lord Grantham, you can always skip the excursion and visit [Highclere](#) on your own. Tickets to the castle and gardens, about an hour by train from London, are available for a summer season that starts in mid-June. The cost is just £18 (about \$26).

There are a couple of trips closer to home. [Hotel Viking](#) in Newport, R.I. (home to Lady Grantham's mother on the show), is hosting a Downton Abbey Tea Time, presided over by the restaurant supervisor dressed as Mr. Carson (the butler) in full tux with coattails, on weekend afternoons through March 24. It is also offering a package that includes accommodations, breakfast for two, and two tickets to visit the Newport mansions, from \$224 per night. And the Preservation Society of Newport County is updating its [Servant Life Tour](#), which recounts the history of the more than 40 servants who lived and worked at the Elms, a Gilded Age mansion built in 1901. The cost of the tour for adults is \$15.

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