

Day 9

Travel to Gloucester, lovely port city and home of a majestic cathedral on the Harry Potter trail since its gothic beauty inspired the film's location; Gloucester is also the birthplace of evangelist George Whitfield and home of Robert Raikes' Sunday school movement to educate poor children that was so enthusiastically endorsed and spread by Wesley. More whimsically, Gloucester is Beatrix Potter's (and thus Peter the Rabbit's) home. On to Bristol, the port city from which Francis Asbury first departed for America in 1771. In Bristol, tour the New Room Chapel, the oldest Methodist Chapel in the world (originally built in 1739) and the cradle of the early Methodist movement, built and used by John Wesley and the early Methodists as a meeting and preaching place and the center for helping and educating the needy members of the community. Wander the docks area of the city, now converted to interesting shops and tourist areas. First of three pleasant overnights in Bristol, with an included welcome dinner.

Day 10

Day trip to Bath, where John Wesley frequently preached and laid the foundation for a new Methodist Chapel in New King Street in 1777. Of general interest in Bath is the lovely symmetrical Georgian architecture and echoes of the lively society of Jane Austen's 18th century--and the impressive Roman sulfur hot-springs eponymous bath complex from their rule in England the first 400 years AD., which baths were themselves built over Druid temples and were later the height of Georgian fashion for medicinal bathing and society, with Beau Nash as master of ceremonies. Beautiful parks and gardens, museums, period houses to tour, shops.

Day 11

Day trip to Salisbury Village and Cathedral. Known as "the city in the countryside," Salisbury is surrounded by a landscape so quintessentially English it's almost too good to be true. Taking in the awesome sight of the Cathedral rising up from these lush green fields, it's easy to understand why Salisbury has been named as one of the world's Top 10 Cities to visit by the Lonely Planet guidebooks. Within the Chapter House at Salisbury Cathedral is the best preserved of the four original Magna Carta manuscripts dating from 1215AD. The village itself has timbered buildings, a thriving market, a buzzing arts scene, museums, and some of England's finest historic houses. The cathedral was the inspiration for Ken Follett's excellent historical novel Pillars of the Earth. Just outside Salisbury, visit mysterious Stonehenge with personal audio guide.

Day 12

Easy morning in Bristol before afternoon travel back to London for overnight near airport, then fly out the morning of Day 13, arriving home same day.



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In order to keep down cost and enjoy the adventure of new places, most travel in England will be by public transport—bus, tube (subway), and train. This use of public transportation means participants must be able to pack light and handle their own luggage at all times. A full-time tour escort will assist the group at all times. Before departure, all tour participants will receive preparatory educational guidance, including suggested readings and video resources.

#### Day 1 Depart USA from Kansas City

Arrive London, visit Windsor Village and Castle on way into London from the airport. Windsor, the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world, has been the family home of British kings and queens for almost 1,000 years. It is an official residence of Her Majesty The Queen, whose standard flies from the Round Tower when she is in residence. The village of Windsor that grew around the castle is interesting in itself with period buildings re-purposed as tourist shops and cafes on cobbled streets. After a full visit of the village and castle, on to London to settle in for three nights at a superior hotel in the Kensington Palace area of London, nearby museums, parks, shops, and restaurants. Welcome dinner this evening is included. Breakfast is included daily in all hotels. Each participant will receive a public transport pass good for unlimited travel in the central area of London on the “tube” underground and red double-decker buses above ground. The group will use public transportation for all sightseeing within London.

Day 3 Morning visit to the number-one tourist attraction in England, the Tower of London (including viewing the Crown Jewels and a guided tour by the famously-uniformed Beefeater guards). From the Tower take a narrated cruise down the Thames getting off at Westminster Pier. Across the bridge is the London Eye (giant Ferris wheel) with roomy stand-up or be-seated gondolas for a magnificent view over all of London. On the other end of the bridge is the famous “Big Ben” bell tower of the Houses of Parliament. Guided tour of Westminster Abbey, the 700-year old church that has been the site of royal weddings and every coronation since 1066 and burial place of kings, queens, statesmen and soldiers, poets, priests, heroes and villains. From Westminster stroll the Birdcage Walk and then along St James Park to the iconic view of Buckingham Palace (changing of the guard depends on day and weather). During the day, visit Trafalgar Square with its bronze lions and towering statue of Lord Admiral Nelson; those with artistic tastes may want to spend some time in the National Gallery while others shop in nearby streets. Spend time in Covent Garden, the former flower market as depicted with Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, now an open-air entertainment, shopping, and dining complex.

Day 4 Guided tour of St Paul’s Cathedral, the 17th century creation of Christopher Wren as he remade the architecture of London after the Great Fire of London—and where John Wesley after his return from his disastrous mission to America and his trial of faith during a sea storm on the way back to London worshipped during the day before going “very unwillingly” to the society that met at Aldersgate where he felt his “heart strangely warmed” and began the transformation

that would change the world through the Wesleyan preaching of the Gospel. A statue of John Wesley is in the gardens of St Paul. See the original site of Aldersgate...then visit the John Wesley house, chapel, and Methodist museum. John Wesley built the Chapel in 1778 as his new preaching place in London (40 years after his first preaching at The Foundry). Next door in 1779 he built his own house (also used to shelter traveling preachers), where he lived the last 12 years of his life and died in his bed, his last words, “The best of all is God is with us. The best of all is God is with us.” The Methodist Museum is in the complex, with exhibits of Wesley’s life and works and the development of Methodism in England and the world. Across the street is Bunhill Burial Fields, a lovely park setting where many famous people are buried and memorialized, including John Wesley’s mother Susanna. Afternoon free for personal interests, with guidance and assistance from the fulltime tour escort (and with your included tube and coach pass). Attending a West End theatre performance can be arranged for those who desire.

Day 5 Travel to and through the lovely English countryside in the fabled Cotswold area, with visits along the way to calendar perfect Burford village with its High Street shopping and lovely, historic parish church set on the Windrush River, then the dramatic ruins at Minster Lovell. Arrive in the Cotswold village where the group will spend four restful nights with time to get acquainted with the neighborhood shops and sights. Welcome dinner in a local pub or restaurant is included.

Day 6 Day in Oxford, with Wesley sites in Lincoln College and Christ Church, as well as other touring of Oxford, including sites relevant to Lewis Carroll (Alice in Wonderland), C. S Lewis, and J. R. R. Tolkien, Martyr’s Memorial, and the Bodleian Library. You might wish to take High Tea in the lobby of the veddy-veddy classy Randolph Hotel, with its renowned Morse Bar instantly recognizable as the watering hole of Colin Dexter’s world- famous detective, Inspector Morse.

Day 7 Travel to the lovely village of Woodstock (famous originally for bespoke glove-making, now filled with little yellow birds) and then stroll down the path to World Heritage Site Blenheim Palace, the beautiful palace to rival Versailles built by Queen Anne and presented to first Duke of Marlborough. The 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough are still in residence and invite guests daily for tour of the palace, exhibitions, and extensive gardens (acres and acres of gardens) landscaped by the most-famous of all landscape architects, Capability Brown. Marlborough relative Winston Churchill was born (unexpectedly) at the palace, proposed to his wife Clementine there, and refused burial at St Paul’s or Westminster in order to have his final resting place the nearby parish graveyard at Bladon. Leisurely time to enjoy all that Blenheim has to offer.

Day 8 Day trip to Warwick Castle, a meticulously-restored and recreated fortress and palace originally founded by William the Conqueror and most-famously controlled by the Earls of Warwick, known as “King Makers” from the time of King Henry the VIII. The entire castle is filled with authentic recreations of life in the Olde Tyme England with costumed residents, demonstrations, shows, and tours. (Hint: if tiring of medieval pageantry, a gem of a garden is tucked away outside the Castle on the banks of the River Avon). A bit down the river Avon is Stratford-Upon- . . . birthplace of William Shakespeare, where the group is definitely going “to be” today, since it is “not to be” missed, such a lovely place that parting at the end of the day will indeed be “sweet sorrow.”