

# American Celebration of Music in Britain

Standard Tour #1 (6 nights / 8 days)

## Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to London

## Day 2

**London / Stonehenge / Cardiff (D)**

Arrive in London

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Cardiff. Stop at Stonehenge, located around 30 minutes north of Salisbury on the beautiful Salisbury Plain. It is Europe's most famous prehistoric monument and you can sense the mystery that shrouds the ancient stones that were constructed over 5,000 years ago!

Continue to Cardiff for late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Cardiff, the capital city of Wales since 1955, is one of the UK's fastest growing cities. It has developed from being a pleasant capital with a fine maritime history into a vibrant state-of-the-art city with an exciting future. It is also an ancient city, and the legacy left by the Romans, Normans, and the Industrial Revolution is clearly visible*

## Day 3

**Cardiff (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a morning guided tour of Cardiff Castle, which stands in the very center of the city. The castle contains some of the most important historic interiors in Britain and occupies the site where a Roman fort once stood. Also visit the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagan's on the western outskirts of the city. Here, travel back in time and experience how life in Wales would have been at various stages over time. The outdoor museum contains cottages, farmhouses, a chapel, school, an Elizabethan mansion, etc.

Lunch, on own

***Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain***

Evening dinner and overnight

## Day 4

**Cardiff / Gloucester / Stratford / Warwick (B,D)**

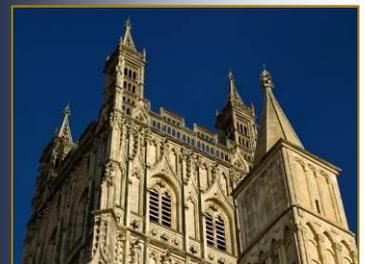
Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Stratford-upon-Avon. Enroute, stop in Gloucester to visit the historic cathedral

Lunch, on own

Upon arrival in Stratford, enjoy a tour of the Shakespeare properties. Start with the half-timbered house that is Shakespeare's Birthplace. The house itself is part museum and part shrine. Then, visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage. See the Hathaway bed in addition to the beautiful gardens, orchard and Shakespeare tree garden. Also, visit Holy Trinity Church, which occupies a truly magical setting amongst some trees next to the river. Shakespeare is buried on the north side of the chancel

***Lunchtime performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain***



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We continue to Warwick for dinner and overnight

*Warwick was the ancestral seat of the Earls of Warwick, who played a pivotal role in the Wars of the Roses. Despite a devastating fire in 1694, Warwick remains a treasure-house of medieval architecture with rich veins of history and charming streets, dominated by the soaring turrets of Warwick Castle*

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**Day 5** **Warwick / Oxford / Windsor / London (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to London via Oxford to tour the world-famous town. The city of Oxford grew up around the University of Oxford - one of the world's oldest and most prestigious seats of learning. The importance and wealth of the university is projected through the scale and grandeur of the college buildings throughout the city. Pass some of the oldest colleges such as the 13th Exeter College, the impressive Bodleian Library and Baliol College, which is something of an assembly line for British Prime Ministers

Lunch, on own

Continue to Windsor for a tour of Windsor Castle, built 900 years ago by William the Conqueror to guard the western approach to London. Today, it is England's largest castle and also the largest inhabited stronghold in the world. Highlights of the visit will be St. George's Chapel and, subject to royal commitments, the State Apartments

Continue to London for dinner and overnight

*Established 1,250 years ago by King Aethelbald, London became an important Roman city. It was resettled by the Saxons in the fifth century, after the end of the Roman occupation. London has been scourged by the plague (1665) and was almost entirely destroyed by the Great Fire (1666). World War II's "Blitzkrieg" tore up the city considerably. She stands today as a monument to perseverance, culture, excitement, history, and greatness*

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**Day 6** **London (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A guided tour of London includes the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge. Pass Westminster Abbey, where most English Kings and Queens have been crowned since 1066, and where many are buried. See Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, pass Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace, and possibly see the Changing of the Guard. Continue along Fleet Street to St. Paul's Cathedral, and also see the 900-year-old Tower of London, whose construction was initiated by William the Conqueror

Lunch, on own

*Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain*

Evening dinner and overnight

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**Day 7** **London (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a day at leisure in London. Tour Manager is at the group's disposal. You may like to visit a museum, do some shopping, or take in the atmosphere of this cosmopolitan city. Ask your guide how to get to the shops of Oxford and Bond Street, or perhaps Harrods

Lunch, on own

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 8

Depart for home

(B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to one of London's airports for return flight

***This is a very flexible itinerary.*** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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