

American Celebration of Music in Britain

Standard Tour #2 (7 nights / 9 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to Manchester, England

Day 2

Manchester / York

(D)

Arrive in Manchester

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to York for an orientation tour including time to walk the walls and ramparts

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

York - in AD 71, the Roman Ninth Legion built a fortress, Eboracum, later capital of the northern province. Here in AD 306, Constantine the Great was proclaimed Emperor. In AD 866, the Vikings captured the city which became Jorvik. Scandinavian influence, custom and street names continued long after the Norman conquest. Medieval York, its prosperity based on wool, was a city of 10,000 people and forty churches, the richest city in the country after London

Day 3

York

(B,D)

Visit York Minster (the largest medieval cathedral in England). Also visit the Shambles (the most visited among many streets with overhanging timber-framed houses), and many other attractions

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain

Day 4

Stratford

(B,D)

Morning transfer to Stratford-upon-Avon via Peak District National Park (Britain's first national park, established in April 1951) in Derbyshire. The Peak District also has many unique and friendly towns, all worth a visit. Whether you're looking to relax with a quiet stroll and lunch in one of the many renowned eateries, or hoping to pick up a bargain in the mix of High Street shops, factory outlets, craft fairs, farmers markets or individual specialist shops, the local towns and villages of Derbyshire are sure to delight

Stratford-upon-Avon, one of the most famous towns in England, is situated on the west bank of the River Avon, in the heart of the Midlands. It dates back to at least Roman times, but its appearance today is that of a small Tudor market town, with mellow, half-timbered architecture and tranquil walks beside the tree-fringed Avon. This image belies its popularity as the most visited tourist attraction outside London, with eager hordes flocking to see buildings connected to William Shakespeare or his descendants

Day 5

Stratford

(B,D)

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 and is of course, the house where the bard was born in 1564

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



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Then visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage, which is situated around 1 mile outside Stratford. In truth, the cottage is more a farmhouse than a cottage. See the Hathaway bed in addition to the beautiful gardens, orchard and Shakespeare tree garden

Also tour Holy Trinity Church, which occupies a truly magical setting amongst some trees next to the river. The church itself is typically English, demonstrated by the tower, transepts and the perpendicular nave and aisle. It is on the north side of the chancel that Shakespeare is buried



Day 6 **Oxford / Windsor / London** **(B,D)**

Transfer to London

Stop in Oxford to tour the world-famous university

Continue on 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 on to London for dinner and overnight

London is a cozy city, encompassing some 620 square miles and 7,000,000 hospitable people. 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



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

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, past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace, where we may 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

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain



Day 8 **London** **(B,D)**

Enjoy a day at leisure in London. Motorcoach and Tour Manager are at the group's disposal for additional sightseeing, shopping or other excursions. The city is yours!

Possible clinic/workshop, shared concert, or other musical experience as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain



Day 9 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Transfer to one of London's airports for return flight

Return home in the evening of the same day

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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