

American Celebration of Music In Britain

Standard Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Departure from the USA via scheduled air service to London. Enjoy full meal/beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Atlantic flight.

Day 2 Cardiff

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 on to Cardiff for a Welcome Dinner.

Cardiff, the capital city of Wales since 1955, is one of Europe'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

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. The extraordinary interiors were designed by William Burges in 1868 and are in the Arab, Gothic and Greek styles. In the grounds of the castle see the 12th century Norman keep. 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 a fine collection of re-erected buildings from all over Wales, including cottages, farmhouses, a chapel, school, corn mill and village store, not to mention the Elizabethan mansion. *Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*

Day 4 Stratford

Transfer to Stratford-upon-Avon. Stop en route in Oxford to visit Christ Church College, founded in 1525 by Cardinal Wolsey. It is Oxford's biggest and grandest Renaissance college. The famous Christ Church College Chapel doubles as a cathedral, the smallest cathedral in England. Continue on to Stratford.

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 descendents.



Day 5 Stratford

Enjoy a guided 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. 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. *Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*



Day 6 Stratford

Half-day sightseeing to Warwick Castle. Warwick Castle is a massive fortress, crowned with battlements and belonging to the Earls of Warwick. The inner courtyard of the fortress is entered through the Gate House (1350) complete with the old portcullis. From the courtyard visitors first notice the imposing walls and the towers, which range in height up to 131ft/40m, all of which can be climbed. The fortifications date from the 16th century, while the fort itself was renovated in the 17th and 18th centuries into a castle-like country seat. Continue on to Coventry.



Day 7 London

Transfer to London. Stop in Windsor for a tour of Windsor Castle, which was 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 8 London

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 you might see the Changing of the Guard. Continue along Fleet Street to St. Paul's Cathedral, and then to the 900-year-old Tower of London, whose construction was initiated by William the Conqueror. Here, view the Crown Jewels. *Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain.*



Day 9 London

Half-day sightseeing tour, including a one-hour Thames River Cruise. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in London. Motorcoach and Tour Manager are at the group's disposal for additional sightseeing, shopping or other excursions. You may like to visit a museum, perhaps do some shopping, or simply 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! Alternatively, spend time in bustling Leicester Square, Trafalgar Square or Piccadilly Circus, or in the relatively quiet confines of the Natural History Museum. The city is yours! Evening Farewell Dinner.



Day 10 Depart for home

Transfer to one of London's International Airports for return flight to USA. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.



Tower Bridge (London)