



In the Footsteps of John and Charles Wesley

Part of the American Celebration of Music in Britain

Standard Tour #1 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

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



Day 2 Sheffield

Upon arrival at one of London's airports, meet your MCI tour manager and touring coach before traveling north to Sheffield. Check-in to hotel and enjoy dinner before relaxing for the remainder of the evening.



Sheffield is the fourth largest provincial city in England, and has a reputation for the production of fine cutlery stretching back to the 14th century. Although some of its traditional industry has declined, Sheffield remains an important manufacturing centre and the commercial and cultural home of a large region.

Day 3 Sheffield

Visit the nearby town of Epworth. Enjoy a Wesley sightseeing tour, which will highlight the key Methodist related sights in the town. See the Old Rectory, where John and Charles Wesley grew up, the Wesley Memorial Church, which was built as a memorial to the Wesley brothers in 1888-1889, and St. Andrew's Church, where Samuel Wesley ministered to his flock from 1696 to 1735. Lunch (on own, perhaps at the Red Lion Inn, where John Wesley used to lodge). Afternoon visit to either the nearby market town of Gainsborough, or the garden town of Scunthorpe



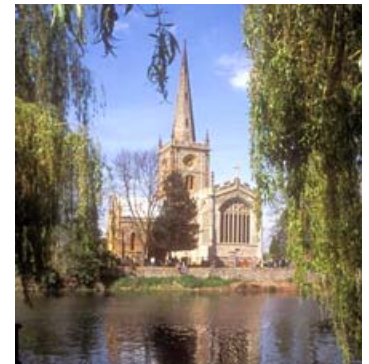
Evening concert in St. Andrew's Church or the Wesley Memorial Church

Day 4 Oxford

Transfer south to Oxford, stopping en route in Stratford-upon-Avon. Stratford-upon-Avon, a small and delightful Tudor market town, is one of Britain's most visited towns due to its association with the playwright William Shakespeare. Visit 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. Also visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage, which is situated around 1 mile outside Stratford. In truth, the cottage is more a farmhouse than a cottage. ***Possible midday recital in Holy Trinity Church.*** After lunch (on own) and some free time in Stratford, continue to Oxford for dinner and overnight.



The famous university city of Oxford is found North West of London, on the north bank of the River Thames. Oxford University is the oldest in England, dating from around 1200. The city itself was developed in Saxon times around the 8th century nunnery, now Christ Church, and still maintains its original street plan and parts of its city walls.



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Day 5 Bristol

This morning after breakfast, Methodist heritage sightseeing will continue. Oxford is the city where John Wesley first started the Methodist movement while he was a fellow of Lincoln College. Visit Christ Church College (where Wesley was an undergraduate) and its chapel, which doubles as the cathedral of Oxford. Also see Lincoln College, with its Wesley Memorial Room and beautiful chapel. **Possible noon recital in Christ Church Cathedral or University Church of St. Mary the Virgin.** Afternoon visit of the Wesley & Methodist Studies Centre, which was founded as Westminster College in 1851. The centre contains Methodist archives of national and international importance. Then visit the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, where John Wesley preached his sermon 'Scriptural Christianity' on 24th August 1744. Transfer to Bristol for dinner and overnight.

Bristol flourished due to its port, and in the Middle Ages it became England's second city. Today, although it is no longer a great port, Bristol remains the most cultured and cosmopolitan city in the 'West Country'.

Day 6 Bristol

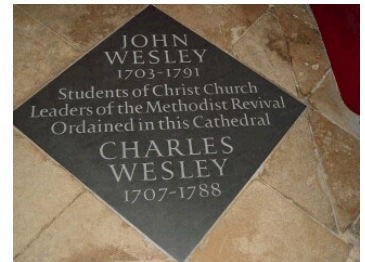
Morning guided tour of Bristol. This will highlight the Clifton Suspension Bridge, the SS Great Britain (the first iron-built, propeller-driven Atlantic liner) and St. Mary Redcliffe Church. The tour will feature a visit to John Wesley's Chapel (The New Room), which is the oldest Methodist building in the world, known as the 'cradle of Methodism'. It will also feature a visit to Hanham Mount, where a flagged cross marks the spot where the field preachers once stood, and Wesley College. **Possible performance in John Wesley's Chapel or Bristol Cathedral.** After lunch (on own), continue to nearby Bath. Bath is admired the world over for its architectural beauty. It was originally the Roman town Aque Sulis, established in the first century AD, with a great religious spa at its heart. Visit the Roman Baths and Museum, after which of course Bath is named. The baths are fed by a spring, which pours out around 280,000 gallons a day! This will be followed by a visit to the Costume Museum and, time permitting, the Wesley Centre. **Evening concert in St. Mary's Church Bathwick or St. Mary Redcliffe.** Return to Bristol for overnight.

Day 7 London

Morning transfer to London. Stop en route in the small town of Windsor, famous for its castle. Tour 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. Continue into London for dinner and overnight.

London is originally of Celtic origin, although the city itself began to take shape under the control of the Romans. In fact, London was not the official capital city of England until the mid 12th century and today, it is the vibrant commercial, political and artistic capital of the United Kingdom, and one of the greatest financial centers of the world. London is alive and well and always waiting to welcome you -- any time of year! Stay in London and you'll find culture, centuries old customs and the affable Cockneys. Look around and you'll be awed by some of the architecture, surprised by some of the shops and stores and inspired by the galleries, theaters and museums.



Day 8 London

A 6-hour tour of London includes the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge. A visit is made to Westminster Abbey, where most English Kings and Queens have been crowned since 1066, and where many are buried. The Abbey also contains a memorial tablet to John and Charles Wesley. Pass Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace, where we 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 we also view the Crown Jewels. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Day 9 London

This morning, the Methodist heritage sightseeing will continue with a tour of London's Wesley related sights. Begin with a visit to Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece St. Paul's Cathedral. Even now, the cathedral's enormous dome (second in size only to St. Peter's in Rome) dominates the city skyline. St. Paul's is the fifth cathedral to stand on this site, and was completed in 1708. John Wesley worshipped in the chancel on several occasions in 1738. See his statue in the north-west corner of the churchyard. Then visit Wesley's Chapel on City Road, which is the mother church of world Methodism, built in 1778. The tomb of John Wesley is in the churchyard. See the nearby house where John Wesley lived and died from 1779 to 1791, which has been refurbished to as it was in Wesley's day. The Museum of Methodism tells the story of Methodism from the 18th to the 20th century. ***Possible midday recital in Wesley's Chapel, City Road or St. Paul's Cathedral.*** Afternoon at leisure in London. Visit a museum, perhaps do some shopping, or simply take in the atmosphere of this cosmopolitan city. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Day 10 Depart for the USA

Transfer to one of London's airports for the return flight home.

