

2019 15-DAY HIGHLIGHTS OF BRITAIN

Day 1: LONDON ARRIVAL & WINDSOR CASTLE

Tour begins at 2 PM in your hotel. Visit Windsor Castle, residence of the Queen and the largest inhabited castle in the world. Enjoy a welcome drink with your group before dinner. Then take a brief walk around this compact and historic town with a local guide.

(D)

Day 2: STONEHENGE & SALISBURY

Marvel at the prehistoric circle of vast monoliths of Stonehenge and learn about the primitive builders who managed to create such an enduring monument. Stop in Salisbury, a charming old city where the cathedral boasts the tallest spire in England. Arrive in Tavistock, a market town on the edge of the Dartmoor National Park.

(B, D)

Day 3: BODMIN MOOR & LANHYDROCK HOUSE

Travel through Bodmin Moor, an area of unspoiled natural beauty, stopping for photos at Jamaica Inn, made famous by Daphne du Maurier's tale of smugglers. Explore Lanhydrock House, a late-Victorian country house with grand rooms and servants' quarters. Back in Plymouth, see the Mayflower Steps and take a cruise from the Barbican, along the beautiful River Tamar.

(B)

Day 4: ST MICHAEL'S MOUNT & MINACK THEATRE

Visit the coastal village of Marazion to see the majestic outline of St Michael's Mount, an important pilgrimage destination. Visit the open-air Minack Theatre with views of the sea and home of many RSC productions. In St. Ives, enjoy a walking tour of the main sights and admire the array of beautiful sandy beaches surrounding the town. Enjoy some free time before returning to your hotel in Tavistock.

(B, D)

Day 5: ROMAN BATHS & CARDIFF CASTLE

Explore Bath, popular with the Romans for its natural hot springs 2,000 years ago. Tour the wonderfully-preserved Roman Baths. Head to Cardiff for a sightseeing tour around the city center. Tour Cardiff Castle before sitting down for a Welsh banquet with dinner and lively entertainment.

(B, D)

Day 6: HAY-ON-WYE & SHREWSBURY

Travel through the Brecon Beacons National Park to Hay-on-Wye, a town famous for books. Continue to Shrewsbury, a picturesque town near the English/Welsh border. Take a walking tour with the town crier to see black-and-white buildings that line the narrow streets. Travel through Cheshire to your hotel in Chester.

(B, D)

Day 7: NORTH WALES & CHESTER

Drive through the town of Llangollen and across the Horseshoe Pass for wonderful vistas. Visit a farm to see trained dogs herding sheep and travel to Conwy, a medieval town dominated by a huge castle. Enjoy a walking tour around the picturesque streets and see the smallest house in Britain. In Chester, another walking tour will reveal medieval buildings and Roman walls.

(B, D)

Day 8: LAKE DISTRICT & SCOTTISH EVENING

Travel through the glorious Lake District, which inspired many of Beatrix Potter's children's books. Visit the village of Grasmere, where Wordsworth lived and is buried. Stop at the Famous Blacksmiths Shop in Gretna Green, a popular shopping venue for quality Scottish goods. At your hotel, enjoy a drink with your fellow travellers before a lively Scottish evening with dinner and entertainment.

(B, D)

Day 9: EDINBURGH CASTLE & CITY TOUR

Explore central Edinburgh, starting in the 200-year-old "New Town" with planned streets and elegant Georgian houses where many famous writers and inventors lived. See the Royal Mile with its narrow medieval houses, then tour Edinburgh Castle to see the Crown Jewels of Scotland and the Stone of Destiny. The rest of the day is free. On July 29 to August 12 departures experience the world-famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

(B)

Day 10: EXCURSION TO GLAMIS CASTLE & ST ANDREWS WALK

Tour Glamis Castle, the legendary setting of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" and childhood home of the Queen Mother. Cross the modern Tay Bridge to the medieval town of St Andrews, "the home of golf". Enjoy a panoramic tour and spend some free time browsing on your own. Back in Edinburgh, head to a nearby pub for dinner with your group.

(B, D)

Day 11: HADRIAN'S WALL & YORK MINSTER

Visit Hadrian's Wall, built in 122 AD to mark the northern edge of the mighty Roman Empire. Upon arrival in York, visit York Minster, which is famous for its stained glass windows. In the evening dine in a centuries-old pub and then take a light-hearted ghost tour.

(B, D)

Day 12: HISTORIC TRAIN RIDE & CASTLE HOWARD

Head to Pickering or Goathland Station, which served as "Hogsmeade" station in the Harry Potter series, and travel on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway by vintage locomotive. In Whitby, take a guided stroll around the picturesque harbor, winding streets and quaint buildings. Tour the elaborate chambers of Castle Howard, an imposing 18th century mansion where "Brideshead Revisited" was filmed.

(B, D)

Day 13: SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE & LONDON

Travel to Stratford-upon-Avon and Shakespeare's Birthplace. Discover the world that shaped the man as you look through an exhibition about his life and work, and take in a short performance to see his words come to life. Take a cruise along the River Avon to admire the grand river-side houses. Drive through the scenic Cotswolds region, renowned for picturesque villages built of honey-colored stone with charming gardens. Arrive in London where the evening is at leisure.

(B)

Day 14: TOWER OF LONDON & CITY SIGHTSEEING

Take a panoramic London tour to see some of the famous landmarks including Piccadilly Circus, Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. Visit the mighty Tower of London to see the many fortresses, Beefeaters in their elaborate uniforms, and the dazzling Crown Jewels. The afternoon is free for independent activities. In the evening, join your group for a farewell drink before dinner at the hotel.

(B, D)

Day 15: TOUR ENDS IN LONDON

Your tour ends after breakfast.

(B)

B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner

All components of this tour (hotels, visits and attractions) for 2019 itineraries are subject to change until finalized in September 2018.