

## **Insight Vacations: Best of Britain - Small Group**

### **Day 1 - Welcome to London**

Welcome to London. After checking into your hotel, the afternoon is free to enjoy a city that is famous for its pomp and pageantry. Perhaps relax with a walk along the Serpentine in Hyde Park or window shop in the elegant boutiques of Knightsbridge? Alternatively, you may want to stroll along the Thames to the iconic Tower Bridge and Tower of London.

Accommodations: Thistle Marble Arch, London.

### **Day 2 - London and Medieval York**

At 07:30, meet your Travel Director to begin your journey north to Stratford-upon-Avon, with its wealth of black-and-white, timber-framed houses. Discover how William Shakespeare and his incredible works continue to shape society today when you visit his birthplace, full of interesting memorabilia and artefacts relating to his life. Continue to historic York to stroll the narrow lanes including the Shambles and view York Minster, England's largest medieval cathedral. Later, join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner and the opportunity to mingle over a pleasant evening.

Accommodations: Hilton York.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

### **Day 3 - Hadrian's Wall to Edinburgh**

See a part of Hadrian's Wall, once spanning 80 miles from coast to coast, marking the northern frontier of the mighty Roman Empire. Continue past Jedburgh Abbey en route to the Scottish capital, Edinburgh, for your two-night stay in this stunning city.

Accommodations: Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa, Edinburgh.

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 4 - Edinburgh Sightseeing**

In the morning join a Local Expert to explore the Royal Mile. You will see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of His Majesty the King. Continue past the Sir Walter Scott Monument to the 18th century New Town with its neoclassical Adam facades. Visit Edinburgh Castle, home of the Honours of Scotland, to view Mons Meg, and see the Stone of Destiny. The afternoon is at leisure. In the evening, select departures will attend the spectacular Military Tattoo - a colourful mix of pipes and drums, dance and display, set against the floodlit backdrop of Edinburgh Castle.

Accommodations: Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa, Edinburgh.

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 5 - Loch Lomond to Glasgow**

Drive via historic Bannockburn and Stirling and enjoy the scenery of the Trossachs. Continue along the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, before arriving in Glasgow for an orientation of the city with your Travel Director. See the grand public buildings, including George Square and St. Mungo's Cathedral.

Accommodations: Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow.

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 6 - The Glorious Lake District**

Travel via Gretna Green to the English Lake District, with scenery so beautiful it inspired a host of writers. Learn about the life of William Wordsworth and visit his grave in the picturesque,

stone-built village of Grasmere.

Accommodations: Castle Green Hotel, Kendal.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

### **Day 7 - The Welsh Marches and Cardiff**

Stop in ancient Ludlow, one of England's most attractive towns, dominated by its castle, rich in tragic royal history. Why not spend time exploring the traditional open-air market, admiring the local crafts and perhaps sampling the produce? Afterwards, cross into southern Wales and head for the capital of Cardiff for an orientation of the port city, upon the River Taff. See Cardiff Castle and the impressive Principality Stadium.

Accommodations: Clayton Hotel, Cardiff.

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 8 - Georgian Bath and Devon**

Cross the Severn Bridge back into England and drive to the Georgian City of Bath, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the well-preserved Roman Baths, a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience, which serve as a hub of culture and education for the local population. Continue to Glastonbury, steeped in legend and reputed to be the final resting place of King Arthur and the Holy Grail. Continue on to your hotel in the heart of Plymouth.

Accommodations: Jurys Inn Plymouth.

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 9 - Dartmoor National Park Relaxed Start**

Explore Dartmoor with Insight Choice. Choose to join a scenic exploration of Dartmoor National Park. Spend time reconnecting with nature amidst the stunning landscape of towering granite tors, open moorland, beautiful rivers and lush, wooded valleys. Alternatively, enjoy a relaxing cruise of Plymouth Harbour and see the Mayflower Steps, Barbican, Royal Citadel and Plymouth Hoe. Later this evening, savour an unforgettable Celebration Dinner at Heskyn Mill during a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Join your Travel Director and newfound friends for the ultimate Farm-to-Table dining experience. Enjoy a mouth-watering meal prepared from organic seasonal produce, freshly picked from the surrounding fields, served with a glass of wine.

Accommodations: Jurys Inn Plymouth.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

### **Day 10 - Stonehenge and London**

Travel across Salisbury Plain to visit the pre-historic and mysterious Stonehenge, where the strange and awe-inspiring monoliths are reputed to be up to 5,000 years old. Return to London for a final evening at leisure.

Accommodations: Thistle Marble Arch, London.

Meals: Breakfast

### **Day 11 - Homeward Bound**

Your journey ends this morning.

Meals: Breakfast