

Sample Itinerary

JOHN WESLEY & METHODISM

Born in 1703, John Wesley took holy orders in 1725 at Oxford. He returned home to become his father's curate in 1727, returning to Oxford in 1729 as tutor, then moving to become Fellow at Lincoln college. Meanwhile, at Oxford John's brother Charles formed a group of undergraduates who strictly followed the ordinances of the church, and were dubbed 'Methodists'. John joined this group and became its leader. This group were also the cause of much merriment to their contemporaries, many of whom described them as '*The Holy Club*'. Rev. Wesley, John & Charles' father, helped them through this ridicule with his staunch support. On Tuesday October 14th 1735, John and Charles, Benjamin Ingham, and Charles Delamonte sailed for Georgia, in the American colonies. Soon after his return to England John had a personal conviction of salvation, and began to develop the Methodist movement. In 1739 he began preaching in Bristol. In 1742 he went to Newcastle Upon Tyne. In 1743 the Wesley's went to Cornwall, where it is claimed that John gave over 40,000 sermons. Wesley made Bristol his head quarters and divided his followers into regional classes, with rules of conduct. In 1784 Wesley wrote the 'Deed of Declaration', which has since been termed the beginning of Methodism. At his death in London in 1791, his followers numbered over 100,000.

Day 1 FLY (*Overnight flights to UK*)

Day 2 LONDON

After customs formalities at Heathrow Airport in London, the group will be greeted and escorted to their London hotel by private motor-coach. After check-in, the rest of the day is at leisure. An evening welcome meal is included at the hotel tonight at which time your tour guide will be introduced, and will answer any questions you might have. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 3 LONDON *Wesley's Chapel, Museum World Methodism, Wesley's House, Bunhill*
Following breakfast, we embark on a *full day Wesley tour of London*, incorporating a visit to *Wesley's Chapel* on City Road. Wesley's grave lies at the back of the chapel, and an impressive Wesley statue stands in the forecourt, a building essentially unchanged since Wesley himself used it. The foundation stone was laid in 1739 ACE, one year after Wesley began his open-air ministry. Today, Wesley's Chapel is a shrine not only of Methodism but of the entire Nonconformist movement in London. Inside the Chapel stands Charles Wesley's original organ. Charles was famous for the hymns that he wrote, some 7,270 such compositions, among them 'Hark, the Herald Angels Sing', still popular today. We continue our tour with a visit to the *Wesley Museum of World Methodism, Wesley's House*, and the *Bunhill Fields Burial Ground* directly opposite Wesley's Chapel. In Bunhill Fields lies an impressive tombstone marking the grave of Susanna Wesley (1669-1742) the famous mother of John and Charles Wesley. It is said that Susanna Wesley's influence on her children had much to do with the character of early Methodism. Evening at leisure. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 4 BATH *St Paul's Cathedral, Avebury Stone Circle*

This morning after breakfast we check out of our hotel and visit *St Paul's Cathedral* – one of the world's great cathedrals. There is free time for lunch before continuing our journey to *Bath*. En route, we stop at *Avebury*, a medieval and very 'English' village of thatch and brick, and site of the enormous prehistoric stone circle which straddles the village green. Continuing to the Roman City of Bath, the remainder of the day is at leisure. There may be time this afternoon for participants to arrange private visits to the Roman Baths and Pump Room, Bath's beautiful Abbey, or the Royal Crescent where the film 'Oliver' was made. Your tour guide will be on hand to assist. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 5 BATH *Bristol Cathedral, Charles Wesley's House, John Wesley Chapel*

This morning we drive to *Bristol* where we tour Bristol's Wesley sites. Our first stop is not Wesley-related, but is the impressive *Bristol Cathedral*. Founded by Robert Fitzhardinge as the Abbey of St Augustine in 1170 ACE (parts of which can be seen today), the building became a Cathedral in 1542 ACE and is one of the world's finest examples of a 'Hall Church'. There is free time for lunch before we visit *Charles Wesley's House*, also located in the city, and *John Wesley Chapel* (The New Room). This was the first Methodist chapel in the world, founded in 1739 ACE. Before returning to Bath we stop at Kingswood to see where John used to open-air preach. There should be more leisure time this afternoon to arrange private visits to the sites of Bath. Evening at leisure. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 6 CORNWALL *Wells Cathedral, Glastonbury Abbey & Tor, Trewint Cottage*

Following breakfast we check out of the hotel and drive to *Cornwall*. En route we visit the exquisite 12th century *Wells Cathedral* (Cathedral Church of St Andrew) where you can see one of the greatest galleries of medieval sculpture, a unique 600-year old working clock, and scores of 12th century carvings. Wells Cathedral was built in stages between 1180 and 1508 ACE, and is the first completely Gothic Cathedral in Europe. The magnificent West front contains over 300 statues, each in its individual niche. Along with the Bishop of Canterbury, for centuries the Bishop of Bath & Wells was the ecclesiastical powerhouse of English politics. The grand décor and architecture reflect this. The Cathedral also contains a mechanical clock dating from the 14th C. The moated Bishops Palace is located adjacent to the cathedral and the gardens are open to the public. Close by is the *Vicar's Close*, built around 1360 ACE to accommodate the Vicars Choral (men of the choir) – and said to be the oldest existent inhabited street in Europe. We also visit *Glastonbury Abbey* – in any comprehensive discussion of the early legends of Britain, the name of Glastonbury Abbey must certainly come up. Over the years, the abbey has become the gravitational center of Britain's legendary universe, largely because of its role in the creation and development of the legends of Joseph of Arimathea and King Arthur. Joseph of Arimathea is said to have visited the market town of Glastonbury after the Crucifixion to establish the first Christian church in England. A great Abbey subsequently grew up, but was destroyed by Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Legend has it that under the Abbey ruins lies the graves of King Arthur and Guennivere. Our next site is the dramatic *Glastonbury Tor*, which dominates the Somerset Levels and offers spectacular views over Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire. At the summit an excavation has revealed the plans of two superimposed churches of St Michael, of which only the 15th-century tower remains. When the legends of mystical Avalon began, Glastonbury was thought to have been a site for pre-Christian worship. Continuing south, we visit *Wesley Cottage* in *Trewint* on the edge of Bodmin Moor. This 18th Century Cottage was used by Wesley and his associates as one base from which they extended Methodism into Cornwall. A small display of Wesley related memorabilia is well kept by the guardian, who may well offer us a very British cup of tea before we continue to our Cornish hotel. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 7 CORNWALL *Special Lecture on 'Wesley and Britain'*

This morning after breakfast we attend a *lecture on 'Wesley and Britain'* at the Institute of Cornish Studies. The Institute will provide a lecturer who will give insight into the effects of Methodism in Britain in the 18th and 19th Century – particularly in Cornwall, considered the cradle of Methodism. Rest of the day at leisure. There are many optional independent activities participants may wish to pursue. Your guide is on hand to advise and assist with arrangements. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 8 CORNWALL *Wesley Museum and Gwennap Pit. St. Micheal's Mount, Penzance*

After breakfast we have a embark on a full day tour of the *Wesley Sites of Cornwall*. These include the *Wesley Museum and Gwennap Pit* – an amphitheater where Wesley preached hundreds of sermons. Our Gwennap Pit tour is led by the Rev. Tom Shaw, a colorful local expert on John Wesley. We then continue to Penzance, where there is free time for lunch. Following lunch we drive back to our hotel stopping at the dramatic and historic *St Michael's Mount* en route. This magical island fortress is the jewel of Cornwall's crown. The great granite crag which rises from the waters of Mount's Bay is crowned by an embattled medieval castle, home of the St Aubyn family for over 300 years. The mounts flanks are softened by lush sub-tropical vegetation and on the water's edge there is a harbor side community which features shops and restaurants. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 9 OXFORD *Drive Oxford*

After breakfast this morning we drive through Devon and Somerset into England's Home Counties arriving for our overnight in Oxford. The remainder of the day is free. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 10 OXFORD *Pembroke, Balliol, & Queen's College. Christ Church Cath'l*

After breakfast we go on a walking tour of Oxford, which includes the University Colleges of John Wycliff, John Owen and George Whitfield (subject to opening times). George Whitfield attended *Pembroke College* and John Wycliffe attended *Balliol College and Queen's College*, John Owen (tbc). See *Christ Church Cathedral*. Other famous personages attended university here, including Bill Clinton, Margaret Thatcher, former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and William Penn (founder of Pennsylvania), to name but a few. We see (time permitting) the *Sheldonian Theatre* capped by a green-domed cupola, built in 1669 ACE by Christopher Wren. On the one side of the theatre is the Bodleian Library, which receives a copy of every book published in Britain and on the other side is the Museum of the History of Science which can claim to have housed the oldest public museum in the world. Evening free. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 11 LONDON *Stonehenge. Old Sarum*

This morning we check out of our hotel and drive to London. En route we visit *Stonehenge*. Looming over Salisbury Plain, this Neolithic monument with its 50 ton pillars, part calendar, part place of worship, dates back over 3000 years. We also visit the *Old Sarum*, built around 500BC during the iron age, and the former site of the first Cathedral and ancient city of Salisbury. Continue to London for our farewell dinner at our conveniently located Heathrow hotel. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 12 FLY *Tour ends*

Transferred to the airport for group flight to USA.

4 NIGHT STRATFORD EXTENSION

Day 12 STRATFORD *Drive to Stratford-upon-Avon, via Hidcote Manor & the Cotswolds*

This morning we check out of our hotel and drive through the Cotswolds to *Stratford-upon-Avon*, home of William Shakespeare. We drive through quaint Cotswold villages such as Broadway, Chipping Camden and Stow-on-the-Wold. In the afternoon we visit *Hidcote Manor*, where there is free time to purchase your own lunch. Today a National Trust property, Hidcote was designed by Major Lawrence Johnston in 1907. The 280 acre gardens are actually many different gardens within one, showcased by vistas, doorways and constant surprises as one passes from one garden to the next. A defining feature of Hidcote is its living hedges of clipped hornbeam which inter-define individual gardens. Many landscape devices cleverly beacon one's eyes from one garden to the next lead you around from the Theater Lawn, White Garden, Red Borders, Pillar Garden, Long Walk or Rose Walk. We arrive in Stratford at late afternoon. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 13 STRATFORD *Full day leisurely tour of Shakespeare Tour of Stratford Upon Avon*

Beautifully situated on the River Avon, Stratford-Upon-Avon has multiple attractions linked to the Bard. There are five houses linked to Shakespeare and his family: Shakespeare's Birthplace, Hall's Croft where his daughter lived, and Nash's House the home of his granddaughter, Mary Arden's House - a rambling Tudor farmhouse which belonged to Shakespeare's mother in the neighboring village of Wilmcote; Anne Hathaway's Cottage in the nearby village of Shottery - the family home of Shakespeare's wife. In Stratford Old Town by the River Avon is Holy Trinity Church - one of the most beautiful parish churches in England - where you can visit Shakespeare's grave. Stratford is home to the internationally renowned Royal Shakespeare company (RSC). The RSC has long been recognized as the world's leading classical theatre company. Following breakfast embark on a full day tour visiting the main Shakespearean sites. During the tour there is free time to purchase our own lunch. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 14 STRATFORD *St Mary's Church at Lutterworth, Warwick Castle*

This morning following breakfast we head towards the *Lutterworth*, once a small coaching hamlet, now a modern English town. We visit *St Mary's Church* in Lutterworth and see the marble *Memorial to John Wycliffe*. Our next stop is at spectacular *Warwick Castle*, perhaps the finest Mediaeval Castle in England, rising majestically from the banks of the River Avon, just a few miles from Stratford, on a site chosen by William the Conqueror in 1068 ACE. Four hundred years later it fell into the hands of the Earl of Warwick, who's superb baronial Armory, portraits, paintings, furniture and other works of art can still be seen in the castle today. The 14th century Great Hall lies at the heart of the Castle, here you can see the death mask of Oliver Cromwell and Bonnie Prince Charles' shield. The Dungeon, chilling Torture Chamber and Ghost Tower will not let us forget the once grim reality of life, behind the towering castle There is also a haunted Tower, and a dungeon where countless prisoners have been held captive through the years. Return to Stratford. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 15 LONDON *Drive London. Free PM in London*

This morning we check out of our hotel and return to London. Overnight hotel and breakfast.

Day 16 FLY *Tour ends*

Transferred to the airport for group flight to USA.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION (England)

SEASONAL CLIMATE

There is only slight climatic variation between regions in the UK. The climate is much like that of western Washington State in the USA. Temperatures October-March are in the 0-18 degrees Celsius range, although occasionally temperatures do drop below zero. In July the average London temperature is 17.6 degrees centigrade (64 degrees F), although a good British summer is capable of much warmer weather. Rain keeps Britain beautifully green.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Entry visa are not required for US, CAN, UK, NZ, & AUS citizens. (other nationalities should consult the British consulate & travel agent).

VACCINATIONS & PROTECTION

Nothing compulsory.

SPECIAL NOTE: Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

LUGGAGE / BAGGAGE

Although there may be some portorage included in your tour, generally participants are responsible for their own luggage - so don't overload. One suitcase or ruc-sac, and one day bag are recommended. All flights outside the USA are governed by the international luggage weight limit of 44lb /20kg. (US regulations are unique in that they allow travelers a larger allowance). If you intend to fly after or before your trip, please be aware of this when packing.

PERSONAL EXPENSES

You'll need some extra money to cover meals not included in the tour price, optional tours, airport taxes, souvenirs etc., and items of personal nature (laundry etc.).

TIPPING In the United Kingdom tipping is less standard practice than it is the US. Many restaurants include in their bill a 15% gratuity. (Tipping above this is not expected, but is appreciated). Restaurants that do not, will usually point this out. Generally, tips are given when service is rendered that transcends the expected levels of duty.

INCLUDED MEAL PLAN

Local food and drink; Meals other than those included in the itinerary are paid for separately by the traveler. Some examples of comparative costs are given below.

ITEM	USA	UK
Tea	\$0.50	\$0.90
Soft Drink	0.75	0.75
Beer	3.00	2.00
2 Course Meal*	5.00	8.00
3 Course Meal**	15.00	22.00

* Cheap local fare in small cafe/restaurant

**Typical food in mid-range restaurant.

PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

Clothing Although there may be some fine weather during all seasons, you should pack for warm-damp & damp-cool conditions, depending on when you visit. The temperature at night can drop, so you might want to bring pajamas. In the winter jeans or slacks, a jumper or jacket are appropriate. If you really suffer in the cold bring some gloves and a scarf. In the summer bring shorts, T shirts, light slacks etc. Waterproof clothing is advisable all year.

Footwear Bring a pair of comfortable walking shoes, and some thick socks.

OTHER USEFUL ITEMS TO BRING WITH YOU

- * **Medical Kit**
- * **Sewing Kit**
- * **Sunglasses**
- * **Torch**
- * **Sunscreen**
- * **Feminine Items**

INCLUDED SERVICES

Meet, greet, and arrival transfer; Welcome evening meal on day of arrival; 14 days exclusive Luxury coach & driver; 3 nights 4 star hotel (London) on twin/double share & breakfast basis; 7 nights 3 (plus) star hotels on twin/double share on room & breakfast basis; All specified Wesleyan sightseeing including entrance fees & local guide (when required); Special guided Wesleyan tour at Gwennap Pit conducted by Rev. Tom Shaw; Special Wesleyan lecture at Institute of Cornish Studies;. All non-Wesleyan sightseeing including entrance fees & local guides (when required); Donations at Wells Cathedral (GBP 4pp), Gwennap Pit (GBP 2pp), Wesley Museum (GBP 2 pp), Trewint (GBP 2 pp), and Oxford University (GBP 2 pp); Baggage handling (in & out) at airports and all hotels (1 piece per person); Fully qualified Blue Badge guide (Wesley specialist) to escort group throughout; Farewell evening meal on last night. Departure transfer to airport. (NOTE: prices offered give option of one, two, or no free places. Costs are NET, non commissionable)

Included in the tour cost

- i) The specialist customization services of **Extraordinary Places**
- ii) Meet, greet, and arrival transfer
- iii) 14 days exclusive Luxury coach for all ground transportation, as per the itinerary
- iv) 3 nights accommodation in 4 star hotels on twin/double share on room & breakfast basis
- v) 7 nights accommodation in 3 star hotels on twin/double share on room & breakfast basis
- vi) Welcome evening meal on day of arrival & farewell evening meal on last night
- vii) All Wesleyan sightseeing including entrance fees, donations, & local guide (if required)
- viii) Special Wesleyan lecture at Institute of Cornish Studies
- ix) Special guided tour at Gwennap Pit conducted by Rev. Tom Shaw
- x) All non-Wesleyan sightseeing including entrance fees, donations, & local guide (if required)
- xi) Baggage handling (in & out) at airports and all hotels (1 piece per person)
- xii) Fully qualified Blue Badge guide (Wesley specialist) to escort group throughout
- xiii) Departure transfer
- xiv) One or two free places (or no free places), according to costs specified above

Not included in Land Tour cost

- i) Insurance, inoculations and vaccinations, visas, airport taxes (if any)
 - ii) Any items of a personal nature (gifts, laundry, beverages, telephone calls etc.)
 - iii) Meals other than those specified in the itinerary
 - iv) International Airfare
 - v)
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