

GRAND CIRCLE TRAVEL

England, Scotland & Wales

Escorted Tour
2006

Your Day-to-Day Itinerary

England, Scotland & Wales

16-Day Escorted Tour – 2006

Glasgow * York * Snowdonia * Cotswolds * London **With Optional Pre-Trip Extension in Edinburgh** **Plus Optional Post-Trip Extension in London**

Overview of Your Escorted Tour

The real history of the island of Britain is a saga more fascinating than most fiction, and you'll delve deeply into it on this exploration of England, Scotland, and Wales. Begin with three days in Glasgow, a lively cultural capital graced with the architecture of native son Charles Rennie Mackintosh. A guided tour introduces you to the city, including its eclectic, world-class Burrell Collection of fine art, and you can steep yourself in Scottish culture at Discovery Series events showcasing Loch Lomond on a cruise, Inverary Castle, a discussion of stained glass art in York and a Home Hosted Dinner in Wales.

Then travel through England's beautiful Lake District to York. York's history goes back nearly 2,000 years and almost summarizes England's general history: from Roman occupation, to the Anglo-Saxons, to Viking rule and up to more recent times. The historic Medieval period walls and York Minster are central to the city. Enjoy independent discovery, or choose an optional tour to the North Yorkshire highlights of Castle Howard and Whitby. You'll also travel through the high moorland plateau of the North York Moors, the largest expanse of heather moorland in England.

Then cross into Wales to sojourn in the dramatic mountain landscapes of Snowdonia. Here, you'll ascend Mount Snowdon via a cog railway. On departing Wales, you'll visit Chester, where you'll find more layers of history going back to Roman times.

Return to England for three nights in the Gloucester area, where you'll have a chance to visit Warwick Castle and Shakespeare's hometown of Stratford on an optional tour. We'll have time to stop in a village in the delightful Cotswolds. Tour the monumental Stonehenge on Salisbury plain, and then the historic spa town of Bath. Continue on to tour Oxford, with its famed colleges and history. Then, cap off your English experience with two nights in London, where you can choose an optional tour that takes you cruising on the Thames. Enjoy a final Farewell Dinner with your traveling companions.

If you choose our optional Pre-Trip Extension, you can experience Scotland in even greater depth with three additional nights in Edinburgh. You can also extend your stay in London with our optional Post-Trip Extension.

What's Included in Your Trip Cost

- Roundtrip international air transportation as stated in your final air itinerary (included with your final document package), and all related private, round-trip airport/hotel transfers (if you have purchased flights through Grand Circle)
- Exclusive Discovery Series events as described in this itinerary
- Accommodations for 14 nights as specified on your final hotel list (included with your final documents package).
- Sightseeing tours as described in this itinerary 20 meals—14 breakfasts, 6 dinners
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- Exclusive services of a resident Grand Circle Program Director
- Private motorcoach land travel
- Automatic common carrier accident insurance with coverage of \$250,000
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit applicable towards the next Grand Circle Travel or Overseas Adventure Travel program on which you depart in one year. After the first year, your credit is adjusted to 3%. Frequent Traveler Credits expire after two years.
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person from arrival to departure, including tips

Not Included

- Optional sightseeing tours
- Tips to your Program Director, motorcoach drivers, and local guides on optional tours—for guidelines, see the "Final Information" pamphlet included with your final document package.
- Items of a personal nature, including laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, etc.
- Any domestic or foreign departure taxes, airline taxes, or government fees and taxes (shown separately on your invoice)
- Passport charges

An important word about your vacation

This is the itinerary we strive to follow, but due to local circumstances (such as moveable holidays, museum/site closing days, and weather conditions) it is important for you to understand that we may not always be able to follow this plan in this exact order. The sequence of places visited, the days on which included features occur and Optional Tours are offered may vary.

In addition, the described Optional Tours require a minimum participation level. Grand Circle Travel may choose to cancel any tour that does not reach that level. If any tour that you pre-purchased is cancelled, you will receive a full refund in the form that you paid.

If you have planned an activity on your own during the leisure time of your itinerary, and unforeseen circumstances result in a change that may conflict with those plans, we will make our best efforts to accommodate you for any missed included features. Please understand that this may not always be possible. You may be in the position of having to choose between participating in a group activity or carrying on with your "on own" plans. We appreciate your understanding that any changes made to your program are in the interests of ensuring you the best possible trip.

Tipping Guidelines

All tipping on your trip is optional, and the amounts you give are strictly your own decision. Your trip cost includes gratuities for servers at included meals. Any additional tips for servers, airport/transfer assistance, and hotel staff are purely at your own discretion.

For those of you who have asked for suggestions, we offer the following guidelines. Tips can be paid in U.S. dollars or converted to local currency at the current exchange rate:

- It is customary to express a personal "Thank You" to your Grand Circle Program Director or Hotel Representative at the end of your trip or extensions, especially if⁴ he/she has provided you with individual assistance. We recommend \$4-\$6 per person, per day. Please note that tips for our Program Directors can only be in the form of cash.
- A tip to your motorcoach driver (and local tour guide, if one accompanies the tour) is customary, and the following are the suggested amounts for each of them: \$2 per person for each half-day tour/\$3 per person for each full-day tour.

Your Trip Leader will tip hotel porters, local cultural guides, and waiters in restaurants. For your hotel housekeeping staff, if you want to give something extra, a tip worth about \$1 per day is sufficient. If you are low on local currency, you can use U.S. bills for tips.

Your Itinerary

Day 1

September 7

All Day:

Overseas Flight

Depart U.S.

Leave Kansas City 5:10 PM – Arrive Chicago 6:40 PM – Flight 607

Leave Chicago 8:00 PM – Arrive Glasgow 9:15 AM – Flight 52

Hotel: GLASGOW, SCOTLAND - Thistle Glasgow

Depart from the U.S. today on your flight to Glasgow. Please refer to your individual air itinerary for exact departure and arrival times.

Day 2

September 8

Morning &

Afternoon:

*Arrival, Transfer
& At Leisure*

Glasgow, Scotland

Arrive this morning or afternoon in Glasgow. A Grand Circle Representative meets you at the airport and helps you transfer to your hotel where you'll meet your Program Director. The balance of the day is at leisure to relax after your overseas flight or do some exploring on your own.

Glasgow originated in the 6th century A.D., when St. Mungo built the first church to stand on the site of what is now the imposing Glasgow Cathedral. The city's prosperity following the Industrial Revolution is still evident in its many fine Victorian houses and buildings, which gleam anew following recent restoration efforts. Today, Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland and an international cultural capital as well as a financial and industrial center. A lively arts scene, friendly residents, and an abundance of pubs and restaurants animate this most Scottish of cities from its gracious, historic east end to its more rambunctious west end.

Later in the afternoon, join your Program Director for a short, guided walk in the vicinity of your hotel if you wish.

Evening:

Welcome Drink

In the early evening, gather with your Program Director and traveling companions over a drink for a welcome meeting.

Dinner is on your own this evening..

Day 3

September 9

Morning:

*Included
Glasgow Tour*

Glasgow / City Tour

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy a guided tour of Glasgow including the Burrell Museum, one of Scotland's cultural highlights. This collection of 8,000 art objects (with some 3,000 on display at any one time) was amassed by millionaire ship owner Sir William Burrell over 80 years of his life and donated to the city of Glasgow in 1944. Since 1983, this rich and varied collection has been housed in a striking L-shaped building specially built for it and located in the beautiful Pollok Country Park.

Here you'll find everything from Chinese porcelain and medieval furniture to paintings by Renoir and Cezanne. Some of the exhibits—which include

ceramics, prints, carpets, tapestries, and paintings—are built into the fabric of the gallery, helping to display stone Romanesque doorways and stained glass windows in their full splendor. There are also reproductions of three richly furnished rooms from Hutton Castle (the Burrell residence).

Afternoon & Evening:
At Leisure & Welcome Dinner

You get lunch on your own and have the early afternoon at leisure. Glasgow offers many exciting possibilities for independent discovery. Admission is free to the city's 13 major museums, including the Museum and Art Gallery in Kelvingrove Park, and the Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow nearby. Or you can easily combine a visit to the St. Mungo Museum of religious Life and Art with a visit to Glasgow Cathedral.

You can trace the influential career of Glasgow architect Charles Rennie * Mackintosh, a major figure in the Art Nouveau movement between 1890 and the 1920s whose works have shaped the face of the city. Begin at the CRM Center in the Mackintosh-designed Queen's Cross Church, from which you can proceed to other Mackintosh buildings such as the "Lighthouse" (the former Glasgow Herald Building, now an architectural museum). Plan a stop at the Willow Tea Room, which contains furniture designed by Mackintosh, and seek out the Glasgow School of Art and the Martyr's Public School if you wish, all handy in Glasgow's east end.

This evening enjoy a private Welcome Dinner of a truly Scottish nature at a Coaching Inn just outside the city.

Included Meals:

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4
September 10
Morning:
Included Discovery Series Loch Cruise & visit to Inverary Castle

Glasgow / Inverary Castle

Today you'll learn more about Scotland's natural wonders and distinctive landscapes on a loch (lake) cruise, where you'll see why this beautiful lake has inspired so many poets and artists - and why it became part of Scotland's first national park in 2002. Afterwards, visit the Duke of Argyll's ancestral home, Inverary Castle on Loch Fyne. Surrounded by 14 acres of parkland and two acres of formal lawns and gardens, the castle features a unique architectural blend of the Baroque, Palladian and Gothic and was originally sketched by Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of both Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard.

Afternoon:
At Leisure

You'll lunch on your own, and return to Glasgow in the late afternoon for some leisure time.

Evening:
At Leisure

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Included Meals:

Breakfast .

Day 5

September 11

Morning &

Early

Afternoon:

Transfer to York

Glasgow / York

After breakfast, check out of your Glasgow hotel and begin the transfer to York, England. We'll pause for lunch on your own in the beautiful Lake District along the way. Later, after entering the Yorkshire region, you will skirt the dales, before arriving in York and checking in to your hotel.

Dominated by its historic walled heart and York Minster, York center has a complex, medieval street plan of tiny lanes. The depth of the city's history is reflected in George VI's belief that: "York's history is the history of England."

Hotel: LEEDS, ENGLAND - Quality Hotel York

Late

Afternoon &

Evening:

At Leisure

Dinner tonight will be at your hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6

September 12

All Day:

*Included city
tour &*

Discovery

Series

*Stained Glass
discussion*

York

After breakfast, we're off for a tour of the city, where centuries-old city walls enclose the best-preserved medieval town center in England. York's history stretches back into ancient Roman times, when it was called Eboracum and served as the military capital of northern Britannia. Traces of Roman garrisons built before the 5th century A.D. survive throughout the city. By the 9th century, Vikings from what is now Denmark had succeeded the Romans, calling the town Jorvik and leaving one legacy you'll still see today: the suffix "-gate"—meaning "street" in the old Viking language—in many street names.

The centerpiece of this ancient city is York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in England. Within its soaring walls are magnificent panels of stained glass, and you'll learn about the art and craft behind them as you tour the Minster. A local guide will highlight their history and with reference to specific details and windows.

Evening:

At Leisure

You are free to choose a restaurant for dinner on your own this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 7

October 13

All Day:

At Leisure

York / Optional *Whitby & Castle Howard*

You have the day free to explore York on your own. Perhaps you'll take in the Shambles. Dating pre-Norman Conquest this was the meat-butchering area of the city. The cramped, ancient street now houses cafes and stores, and in some areas you can stretch out your arms and touch buildings on both sides of the lane. Or, visit the National Railway Museum - one of the world's best museums devoted to the legacy of steam engines and railway memorabilia.

OR

Optional Tour:

*Whitby and
Castle Howard*

Join our optional tour and spend the day exploring several fascinating sights , in Yorkshire.

Join our optional tour and spend the day exploring several fascinating sights in Yorkshire. The fishing village of Whitby, a former whaling port, is set on a glorious bay at the mouth of the River Esk. In 1747, Captain James Cook sailed the first ship that he commanded from this harbor, and all four of the ships he captained during his career were built here. Whitby also served as much of the setting for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

The long open views that sweep over the North York Moors National Park, are the best known geographic feature of this area. The moorland plateau sports heather, dales and forests; you'll travel through the area today.

Then, you'll see Castle Howard, one of the most striking grand manors in England, where the BBC series *Brideshead Revisited* was filmed. This has been the residence of the Howard family continuously since 1759, when it was completed following 100 years of construction. The cost of this optional tour is \$69 per person including lunch.

Evening; Dinner is on your own this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 8

September 14

All Day:

York / Snowdonia (Wales)

After an early breakfast, check out of your York hotel and begin the transfer.

*Transfer to
Snowdonia via
Chester*

to the Snowdonia region of Wales. You'll pass through Llangollen en route.

Wales is the third distinct realm that shares the island of Britain with Scotland and England. Until the time of English King Edward I in the 13th century, this was an independent nation whose Celtic people fiercely defended their sovereignty. Welsh identity remains distinct today, exemplified in the language, which is actually much easier to pronounce than it looks once you learn the sounds associated with the letters.

Our destination is the strikingly scenic and mountainous section of Wales called Snowdonia, which surrounds the region's highest peak, Mount Snowdon. Though its 3560-foot height may not sound impressive compared to the Alps, Mount Snowdon and the Cambrian Mountains around it are steep-sided and impressively rugged, presenting some of the most spectacular natural beauty in the British Isles.

Hotel: SNOWDONIA, NORTH WALES - Celtic Royal

Evening:
Included Dinner

This evening dinner is at your hotel.

**Included
Meals:**

Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 9
September 15
All Day:
At leisure

Snowdonia / Optional Portmeirion Village Tour

You have today at leisure to explore Snowdonia at your own pace. On your own, you could make an excursion to Caernarfon Castle, which dates back to the 13th century, when King Edward I of England installed his heir as the first English Prince of Wales. This tradition has continued at Caernarfon, most recently with the investiture of Prince Charles in 1969. The castle is an imposing edifice that looms over Caernarfon town with commanding polygonal towers, all constructed with bands of different-colored stone.

OR

Optional Tour;
*Portmeirion
Village*

Portmeirion Village is the unique creation of Clough Williams-Ellis, who purchased the peninsula on which it rests and designed and built an Italianate fantasy village to complement the seacoast and mountains of Wales. Williams-Ellis wanted to demonstrate that a naturally beautiful site did not have to be destroyed in the process of development. He believed and fought for beauty, which he called "a strange necessity." You'll have a chance to consider his success as you wander the village at your own pace. The cost of this optional tour is \$49 per person including lunch.

Afternoon:
At Leisure

We return to the hotel in the afternoon, and you have the remainder of the day at leisure.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Day 10 Snowdonia

September 16

Morning:

Included tour of Mount Snowdon

This morning, enjoy a tour that includes a ride on the Ffestiniog Railway from the coastal town of Porthmadog to the mountain village of Blaenau. The Ffestiniog Railway is the oldest independent railway in the world. It is a narrow gauge railway that was built in 1832 and has been carrying passengers since 1864. Your route will take you through 13.5 miles of Snowdonia National Park's spectacular scenery. Though this route will not take you to the summit of Mount Snowdon, you will experience a more complete view of the area by beginning at the coast and traveling high into the mountains. Mount Snowdon is the centerpiece of the 827 square-mile Snowdonia National Park, the second largest in Great Britain.

Evening:

Included Home Hosted Dinner

This evening, enjoy an included Home Hosted Dinner and some of the legendary Welsh hospitality.

Included Meals:

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 11 Snowdonia / Chester / Cotswolds

September 17

Morning:

Included Touring

After breakfast, check out of your Snowdonia hotel and begin the transfer to Gloucester in England. En route, you stop for a tour of Chester, another ancient English town with Roman roots and a well-preserved medieval center.

Around 60 A.D. the Romans expanded their empire in Britain to the banks of the Dee River, where Chester is located. The town today still displays the Roman layout, extending from the Cross, where a Roman fortress stood, to four city gates. Commerce on the Dee River, particularly with Ireland, enriched the town in the 12th and 13th centuries. The prosperity of those times is still evident in one of Chester's unique features: "the Rows," a series of two-tiered shops along the ancient streets of the historic town center. Chester also holds a significant place in English cultural history as the town where, starting in the 14th century, the mystery plays of the Chester cycle were presented.

Hotel: GLOUCESTER, ENGLAND - Hatherley Manor

Afternoon & Evening:
At Leisure

We arrive in Gloucester around mid-afternoon and check in to our hotel. You have time to relax this evening. Dinner is at your hotel.

Included Meals:

Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 12

September 18

Morning:

At Leisure

Cotswolds / Optional Warwick Castle & Stratford

You'll have a full day to enjoy at leisure, with free time to enjoy the city of Gloucester.

OR

Optional Full

Day Tour:

*Warwick Castle
& Stratford Tour*

Join us this morning for a full day tour of Warwick Castle & Stratford. Warwick Castle is one of the finest medieval castles in England. Beginning as early as 914 (as a simple earthen rampart) the castle proper dates back to 1068 and William the Conqueror. Enlarged, revised, added to and participant in the Royal history of England, you'll have the chance to visit the State Apartments, dungeons, the rampart walk (including the towers), and the Waxwork exhibition.

Then you'll travel to Stratford, where, after an included lunch you'll have time to explore the town that formed the background of the Bard's youth, and informed much of his inspiration. Stratford, on the Avon River in England's Midlands, was a market town from Medieval times. Home to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, the town includes both Shakespeare's birthplace and the Holy Trinity Church, where he is buried, as well as contemporary buildings. Cost of this tour is about \$79.

Evening:

Your evening is at leisure. Dinner is on your own.

Included

Meals:

Breakfast

Day 13

September 19

Morning:

Tour

Stonehenge

Cotswolds / Stonehenge, Bath & Roman Baths

This morning you'll travel to Stonehenge, where the ancient and enigmatic standing stones suggest much, but reveal very little. As one of the world's most recognizable images of a pre-historic culture, Stonehenge creates a powerful impression. In addition to the complexity of design and construction, many visitors experience a feeling of power or uncommon mystery.

Afternoon:

Bath and

Roman Baths

Then, set out on your included tour of Bath, with a visit to the Roman baths. Bath is named for the springs that well up in this city, producing about five hundred thousand gallons of water per day at 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The lead lined bath, steps, column bases, and edging stones all date from Roman times. The town later became a prosperous, high-society vacation spot. You'll tour the principal sights here and have time for lunch on your own, perhaps in one of Bath's classic tearooms.

Stories abound as to the shopping in Bath being so upscale as to be legendary. It was so fashionable at one time that you could not stroll down some streets to see the stores unless you were acceptably attired in a gown or formal suit..

The striking and elegant architecture of the city, Roman baths, and Georgian terraces inspired the setting for Jane Austen's first novel, *Nonhanger Abbey*.

Evening:
At Leisure
Included Meals:

Your evening is at leisure.

Breakfast

Day 14
September 20

All Day:
Included Oxford Tour

Cotswolds / Tour Oxford/London

Check out of your Gloucester hotel this morning and begin the ride to London.

We continue to Oxford, the City of Dreaming Spires. The University colleges dominate the center of Oxford, as you can see by the spires and the numerous stone walls bordering college buildings. Oxford University was established in the 11th century, but there is evidence of structured teaching dating back as far as 872. Rather than orienting around a central campus, the University is a collection of more than 39 colleges and buildings spread throughout the city. Upon arrival in Oxford, we enjoy a walking tour through the city center, passing some of the legendary colleges that have been seats of learning for many Prime Ministers, great writers, and various scholars including Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift, and John Wesley. Oxford is also the setting for the *Harry Potter* movies and *Inspector Morse* television series.

We'll transfer to London and arrive there in the late afternoon to spend the night.

Hotel: LONDON, ENGLAND - The Millenium Gloucester Hotel

Evening:
Farewell Dinner

This evening, sit down with your traveling companions to enjoy an included Farewell Dinner.

Included Meals:

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 15
September 21

Morning & Early Afternoon:
London Tour

London

On an included tour this morning, you'll get an introduction to London's major landmarks, including Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and the Tower of London. As one of the world's largest and most diverse cities, all London visitors face the same quandary: the Victoria & Albert, the Tate, the British Museum, Buckingham Palace... Your included tour this morning may help to point you in an unexpected direction.

Afternoon:
At Leisure

After lunch on your own, you have the balance of the afternoon at leisure.

OR

Join us this afternoon for two distinct views of London. Cruise the Thames,

Evening: sailing beneath London's famous bridges, and getting a more fluid perspective
Optional on a city that's intimately connected with this special river. Disembark at the
Thames River & London Eye - the world's tallest observation wheel - for a private flight and
London Eye enjoy a bird's eye view of the city. Cost of this tour is about \$115.
Tour

Included Breakfast
Meals:

Day 16 London / Leave Tour / Move to Different Hotel

September 22

Morning: Change to our own Tour – Day 1.

Change Hotel

Included Breakfast
Meals:

Day 17 Our Own Tour

September 23

Our Tour– Day 2.

Day 18 Our Own Tour

September 24

Our Tour– Day 3.

Day 19 Our Own Tour

September 25

Our Tour– Day 4.

Day 20 Our Own Tour

September 26

Our Tour– Day 5.

Day 21 Leave For Home

September 27

Leave Heathrow 7:55 AM – Arrive Chicago 10:15 AM – Flight 99

Leave Chicago 11:45 AM – Arrive in Kansas City 1:05 PM – Flight 1573

Extra Cost Tours:

Day 7 - September 13, 06

Whitby and Castle Howard

The cost of this optional tour is \$69 per person including lunch.

Day 9 - September 15, 06

Portmeirion Village

The cost of this optional tour is \$49 per person including lunch.

Day 12 - September 18, 06

Warwick Castle & Stratford Tour

Cost of this tour is about \$79.

Day 15 - September 21, 06

Thames River & London Eye Tour

Cost of this tour is about \$115.

Meals:

Provided

We Purchase

Day 1	In Air	All
Day 2	In Air	Lunch, Dinner
Day 3	Breakfast, Dinner	Lunch
Day 4	Breakfast	Lunch, Dinner
Day 5	Breakfast, Dinner	Lunch
Day 6	Breakfast	Lunch, Dinner
Day 7	Breakfast (Tour Includes Lunch)	Lunch, Dinner
Day 8	Breakfast, Dinner	Lunch
Day 9	Breakfast (Tour Includes Lunch)	Lunch, Dinner
Day 10	Breakfast, Dinner	Lunch
Day 11	Breakfast, Dinner	Lunch
Day 12	Breakfast	Lunch, Dinner
Day 13	Breakfast	Lunch, Dinner
Day 14	Breakfast, Dinner	Lunch
Day 15	Breakfast	Lunch, Dinner
Day 16	Breakfast	Lunch, Dinner
Day 17		Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 18		Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 19		Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 20		Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 21	In Air	Breakfast