

# GREAT BRITISH HERITAGE

## 19 MAGICAL DAYS – LONDON TO LONDON

*IMAGINE... At last, a more sensibly paced tour offering a true insight into that great British heritage. Cleverly designed, this tour stringently avoids all those repetitive one night stops and cramped days on crowded motorways. Instead it boasts a three night stay in the heart of Georgian Bath, three more nights in Shakespeare's Stratford and another three nights in Harrogate, Yorkshire. There is also a two night stay in the glorious Lakes District, and as a highlight, a wonderful four night Scottish stay by the village green in picturesque Drymen. This unique programme is packed with included daily excursions, dozens of wonderful visits and entrances, unusual activities that bring out the full character and flavour of Britain's magnificent heritage. We have included selected visits to a wide range of castles, country mansions and beautifully landscaped gardens, and balanced the tour with quality free time in key towns and cities, delightful scenic drives and world class attractions. One day you will be relaxing in King Arthur's Glastonbury or following the River Wye along the Welsh Borderlands. On another day you will be in Scotland following in the footsteps of the legendary Rob Roy and William 'Braveheart' Wallace, or crossing the Yorkshire Moors following the Captain Cook Trail. Join us as we walk amongst Oxford's dreaming spires, spend a day relaxing in the honey coloured villages of the Cotswolds, and ride high on the famous London Eye. This thoroughly British tour has been designed specifically for Australians and New Zealanders and certainly has that essential Albatross Travel difference!*



### DAY 1 LONDON

Your tour commences this evening with a welcome drink and dinner in your central London hotel. This is an ideal chance to meet your Tour Manager and fellow travellers. (D)

*Your London Hotel – Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel. This excellent first class hotel is located literally on the side of the River Thames, opposite the Tate Gallery and within walking distance of Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament.*

### DAY 2 BATH

Travelling west we reach Salisbury Plain where we visit the remarkable megaliths of Stonehenge. Surrounded by 800 acres of National Trust property, this mysterious, ancient ring of enormous stones still baffles

mankind as to its origins and purpose. Later we continue to our hotel in the centre of Bath where we will stay the next three nights. (B, D)

*Your Bath Hotel – Mercure Bath Francis Hotel. This elegant four star hotel is located on Queen Square, in the centre of Bath, close to Royal Victoria Park and the Royal Crescent. All the main sights are within walking distance.*

### DAY 3 BATH

This morning we take a scenic drive into the Welsh borderlands. Our route takes us first to the market town of Ross-on-Wye and then we follow the picturesque River Wye to Monmouth (known in Welsh as Tefynwy) where King Henry V (who fought at Agincourt) and Charles Rolls (of Rolls Royce fame) were born. Passing through the scenic Royal Forest of Dean we reach Tintern where we visit the romantic ruins of the Cistercian abbey set in the peaceful forest. Crossing over the River Severn back into England, we return to Bath where we spend the afternoon. We have included entrance to the famous Roman Baths and Georgian Pump room. The rest of your day is free to explore Bath's picturesque cathedral, the Georgian crescents, sights and shops. (B)

### DAY 4 BATH

Driving into Somerset we spend the morning visiting Britain's earliest Christian sanctuary – the famous ruins of Glastonbury. Legendary burial place of King Arthur and his Queen Guinevere, Glastonbury was once the grandest and richest abbey in England. Look out for the costumed staff of monks, kitchen maids, pilgrims and even characters from King Arthur's court as they spin tales from the distant past. Later we continue to Wiltshire and visit magnificent Stourhead - the celebrated 18th century landscape garden and Palladian mansion. You will have time to explore the classical temples, the Pantheon and Temple of Apollo, all set amongst the woodland, around the central lake. Returning to Bath the remainder of your afternoon is at leisure. (B, D)

### DAY 5 LAKES DISTRICT

Travelling north we reach Liverpool for lunchtime. After a brief orientation tour including Strawberry Fields, Penny Lane and other sights made famous by the Beatles, we stop at the Albert Docklands to visit the Beatles Story Museum and see how the 'Fab Four' were propelled to the dizzy heights of worldwide fame and fortune, to become the greatest band of all time. Later we continue north to the picturesque Lakes District where we stay two nights in the market town of Kendal. (B, D)





Oban, Scotland

Your Lakes District Hotel – Riverside Hotel. The Riverside Hotel is situated on the banks of the River Kent in Kendal only a short walk from the famous market town centre. The origins of the hotel date back nearly 400 years. The hotel has 47 rooms and boasts an extensive leisure centre including indoor pool, gymnasium, spa and steam room.

#### DAY 6 LAKES DISTRICT

We will spend a delightful day touring the famous Lakes District. We will visit picturesque Lake Windemere, Ambleside and at Grasmere we will visit Dove Cottage and the Museum devoted to the poet William Wordsworth. Later we continue to delightful Hawkshead and visit the Beatrix Potter Gallery where the children's author once lived. (B, D)

#### DAY 7 DRYMEN

Crossing into Scotland we reach the revitalised city of Glasgow late morning. Glasgow's reputation has changed dramatically in recent years and this city is as cosmopolitan and sophisticated as any other in Europe. Its museums and galleries are home to world class collections. Mid afternoon we stop at Dumgoyne to sample a 'wee tippie' in the Glengoyne Distillery. Later we continue to the village of Drymen, on the edge of the Trossachs and close to Loch Lomond, where we will stay the next four nights. On arrival we will enjoy a welcome drink and there will be some entertainment on two evenings of your stay. (B, D)

Your Scottish Hotel – Winnock Hotel. This delightful hotel has been a favourite of ours for years. Nestled around the green in the pretty village of Drymen, you cannot help but be reminded of the magical romance of 'Brigadoon'. Sensitively extended and refurbished this hotel still retains its traditional style and décor. This award winning, family run, three star hotel offers excellent cuisine, superb hospitality and an enormous range of Scottish Whisky at the bar!

#### DAY 8 DRYMEN

After a hearty Scottish breakfast, we travel to Edinburgh where a local guide helps us to discover this city's rich history. There is so much to see, such as Parliament Hall and Holyrood Palace. Highlight of the day will be crossing the drawbridge and entering Edinburgh Castle, which dominates the city's skyline. Your afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps shop along Princes Street, or try a "wee dram" at the Scottish Whisky Heritage Centre (entrance not included). (B, D)

#### DAY 9 DRYMEN

Today a local guide will take us on a William 'Braveheart' Wallace and Rob Roy tour through Stirling and the Trossachs. Stirling, the ancient capital of Scotland, lies at the heart of the nation's history. The streets of the Old Town wind upwards towards the castle, 250 feet up on a craggy rock. Our guide takes us through this grand fortification, with its splendid views across the countryside to the Wallace Monument – built in commemoration of this legendary Scottish hero. We also visit nearby Bannockburn Heritage Centre on the site of Robert the Bruce's famous victory over the English in 1314. Later we continue over forested hills to the lochs of the Trossachs and our last stop will be in the town of Callander, in the heart of Rob Roy country, where we can visit excellent craft and woollen shops. (B, D)

#### DAY 10 DRYMEN

There is nothing like a day in the Western Highlands. The scenery today is spectacular. The mountains, lochs and islands have captivated artists, composers and poets for centuries. We follow the shores of Loch Lomond and then cross over to Loch Awe and Loch Etive to Oban. Known as the 'Gateway to the Isles' the town's winding streets lead down to the harbour where boats leave for the Hebrides and the nearby Island of Mull. On our return journey we visit Inveraray Jail. This superb attraction is a living Museum where costumed characters portray life in a 19th century prison. You can interact with jailers and common thieves, watch courtroom dramas and punishments. Later we 'escape' and return to Drymen for our final evening at the charming Winnock Hotel. (B, D)

#### DAY 11 HARROGATE

Driving south we reach the New Lanark World Heritage Site, a sensitively restored 18th century cotton mill village in South Lanarkshire. Set in an incredibly scenic location, this award winning attraction is absolutely fascinating. The giant mill wheels still sit over the torrential river and the 200 year old terraced houses have been restored offering an intriguing look at the workers family life two centuries ago. Later we drive across the undulating Yorkshire Dales, made famous in the book and television series "All Creatures Great and Small", to reach the charming city of Harrogate where we spend the next three nights. (B, D)



The Winnock Hotel, Drymen, Scotland – where you stay 4 nights

Your Yorkshire Hotel - Old Swan Hotel. This excellent Victorian mansion is one of the most famous hotels in the region with a history dating back over 200 years. The Old Swan is set in over 5 acres of land and yet has an excellent location being only a short walk to the old town centre. The hotel exudes charm and even mystery as it was here the English author Agatha Christie was discovered after her famous 11 day disappearance in 1926.

#### DAY 12 HARROGATE

This morning we visit Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden. This World Heritage site comprises the spectacular ruins of a 12th century Cistercian abbey and monastic watermill, an Elizabethan mansion and one of the best surviving examples of a Georgian water garden. Later we continue to York where the afternoon is at leisure. Make sure you visit the Minster, the largest gothic church in England, stroll the 'Shambles' (medieval shopping street) or walk along the Roman built city walls. (B)

#### DAY 13 HARROGATE

Today we visit Castle Howard, the setting for the famous TV drama 'Brideshead Revisited'. Designed in 1699 by John Vanbrugh, this magnificent private home is set in 1,000 acres of gardens complete with water-features, fountains and a walled rose garden. Its 80ft high dome dominates the skyline and inside there is a remarkably rich collection of art, furniture and antiques. Rejoining our coach we head across the North Yorkshire Moors to the coast to follow the Captain Cook Trail to Whitby. Here we visit the Captain Cook Memorial Museum with its collection of exhibits and memorabilia from the time James Cook lived in Whitby, and from his worldwide travels. (B,D)

#### DAY 14 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

A leisurely start as we drive south into Derbyshire to reach Chatsworth mid morning. Here we visit Chatsworth House with its glorious interior, treasure rooms and gardens complete with an ornate maze and the 300 year old water 'Cascade', falling 200 metres down the hill in a series of 24 steps. Later we continue to Stratford-upon-Avon and visit William Shakespeare's birthplace and Anne Hathaway's cottage. Later we settle into our central hotel where we stay the next three nights. (B, D)

Your Stratford Hotel – Mercure Shakespeare. This delightful half timbered Elizabethan style hotel exudes all the character and style you would expect of a hotel set in the very heart of Stratford-upon-Avon. This 4 star hotel boasts an

excellent location, within easy walking distance of all the main sights, making the 'Shakespeare' a wonderful base for you to come and go at leisure.

#### DAY 15 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

This morning we visit nearby Warwick and its magnificent castle. Over a thousand years of secrets hide in the shadows of the castle – tales of murder, mystery, intrigue and scandal. Walk through Madame Tussaud's medieval household in the Kingmaker attraction, watch the Earl of Warwick prepare for his final battle, enter the eerie Ghost Tower, descend into the gloomy depths of the Torture Chamber and see Royalty and Dukes prepare for dinner in the Great Hall. Lunchtime will be spent in the countryside at the delightful Saxon Mill Pub, set beside a peaceful lake and weir, complete with weeping willows and ducks. The rest of the day and evening will be free to relax and wander the streets of Elizabethan Stratford-upon-Avon. (B)

#### DAY 16 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

A relaxing day is planned today! We spend the whole day leisurely wandering through one of the most beautiful and unique regions in England – the Cotswolds. The landscape is dotted with delightful villages with their honey coloured houses, stonewalls and thick hedgerows. We make stops in the famous villages of Broadway and Bourton-on-the-Water, plus we visit Sudeley Castle, romantically set in its beautiful gardens. (B, D)

#### DAY 17 LONDON

After breakfast, we travel south to Blenheim Palace, home of the Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. This magnificent palace is located on the outskirts of the small town of Woodstock and is designated a World Heritage site - one of the great buildings of the world with a superb art collection. There is an extensive 'Capability' Brown landscaped park and the Marlborough Maze - the world's largest symbolic hedge maze. Later we continue to nearby Oxford, home to one of Europe's oldest and most famous universities. The 'dreaming spires', honey-gold buildings and a riverside setting are just part of Oxford's unique appeal that, once visited, is unforgettable. A local guide takes us on a walking tour around the city and its colleges. Mid afternoon we depart for London where we stay the next two nights at the the excellent Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel. (B)





#### DAY 18 LONDON

This morning a local guide joins us for a panoramic orientation tour where we see the major sights from Buckingham Palace and the Tower Bridge to Westminster Abbey and Trafalgar Square. A highlight of your day will be a ride on the giant ferris wheel – 'the London Eye' – to take in the spectacular views down onto the Houses of Parliament and across London's unique skyline. Your afternoon is at leisure. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner at a traditional 'London Pub'. (B, D)

#### DAY 19 LONDON

Sadly, your tour comes to an end after breakfast. (B)

Compare the Albatross Difference

 <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Less time on coaches, average 157 kms travelled each day</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Maximum 30 passengers</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Over \$1,800 value of extras included - no hidden costs</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers</p>	 <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Book by 22 December and save \$300 pp</p>
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# Albatross gives you more...

## Highlights

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- Spend 3 nights in Bath visiting the Welsh Borderlands, romantic Tintern, King Arthur's Glastonbury and Stourhead Gardens
- Savour the Lakes District and discover Wordsworth country
- Enjoy 4 wonderful nights near Loch Lomond staying at the charming Winnock Hotel
- Visit Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling
- Experience a magical day among the Lochs & the Western Highlands
- Get locked up in Inveraray Jail, and enjoy a special guided tour following in the footsteps of Rob Roy and William 'Braveheart' Wallace
- Re-live life in an 18th century Cotton Mill village and explore Stonehenge
- Wander through York's 'Shambles' to the massive Minster
- Follow the Captain Cook Trail and cross the Yorkshire Moors and Dales
- Stay 3 nights in the heart of Shakespeare's Stratford
- Spend a day wandering through the enchanting Cotswolds
- Enjoy a walking tour around Oxford's dreaming spires
- Ride high on the London Eye and relive the Beatles Story
- Visit a fabulous range of selected stately homes, palaces, historic houses and magical gardens

## Inclusions

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- All the sightseeing, scenic drives and excursions (as per the itinerary)
- Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
- First class air-conditioned touring coach
- End of Tour tips to Tour Manager, driver and local guides
- 18 nights selected accommodation as described
- Hotel portorage (1 bag per person)
- English/Scottish breakfasts daily
- 14 dinners including a farewell dinner in a London pub
- Welcome drink in London and Scotland
- Local guides – Edinburgh, Stirling & the Trossachs, Oxford and London
- Entrances: Stonehenge, Tintern Abbey, Glastonbury Abbey, Stourhead, Bath's Roman Baths & Pump Room, Beatles Story Museum, Wordsworth Museum, Beatrix Potter Gallery, Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, Fountains Abbey and Studley Water Garden, Castle Howard, Captain Cook Memorial Museum, Chatsworth House, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Warwick Castle, Sudeley Castle, Blenheim Palace
- Glengoyne Distillery tasting, Bannockburn Heritage Centre, Inveraray Jail, New Lanark Heritage Centre, the London Eye
- Quietvox personal audio system whilst on tour

## Tour Price

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19 days only **\$5,187** pp twin share  
Single supplement \$979 (land only prices)

## Special 2011 Departures

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19 May; 14 July; 8 September

...come share our love of Europe

