



Great Libraries and Stately Homes of England

2 OCT – 17 OCT 2017

Code: 21743

Tour Leaders **Shane Carmody, Matthew Poole**

Physical Ratings 

Unique, privileged access to England's great private libraries & visits to Britain's famous institutions, incl. the Bodleian, Magdalen & Trinity colleges, Lambeth Palace, Kew Gardens & Windsor Castle.

Overview

"Me, poor man, my library
Was dukedom large enough."
William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

Tour Highlights

- Visit the great libraries, famed institutions and fine stately homes of England with bibliophile and historian [Shane Carmody](#).
- Explore the magnificent libraries of the Church, State, universities and nobility in their sumptuous architectural settings, learning about the very special English relationship between famous people, grand architecture and beloved, often priceless, collections of manuscripts and books.
- Enjoy visits hosted by head librarians and specialist curators, who will introduce us to treasures in these collections.
- Encounter the work of England's great architects, such as Christopher Wren, William Kent, Sir John Soane, Sir Charles Barry and James Gibbs.
- Marvel at the great university libraries of Cambridge and Oxford, including St John's, Trinity, Merton and Magdalene colleges, assembled by luminaries like Samuel Pepys.
- Take a special private tour of the house of one of England's greatest architects and antiquarians, Sir John Soane, viewing his famous art and book collections.
- Visit the library at Lambeth Palace, home to the Archbishops of Canterbury since 1200; Dr Christopher de Hamel, retired librarian and fellow of Corpus Christi College (Cambridge), will introduce you to its greatest treasure, the 12th-century illuminated Lambeth Bible.
- Explore Westminster Abbey, its famous library and its Chapter House with medieval paintings depicting *The Book of the Apocalypse*.
- Take a private tour of the Parliament buildings of Westminster Palace, and explore Dick Whittington's 15th-century Library of the Guildhall; its oldest manuscript is from 1067, a year after William the Conqueror's invasion.
- Spend an afternoon in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, with Australian Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture; explore its gardens, greenhouses and fabulous Botanical Library.
- Discover Ham House, arguably the best preserved 17th-century house in Europe, and its unique library, the earliest to survive unchanged in a private mansion.
- Tour Anglesey Abbey house, its marvellous art collection (Canova, Lorraine, Constable, etc.), its fine library and its extensive gardens.
- Explore 17th-century Wimpole Hall, home of Lord Harley and his fabled book collection; its gardens were designed by masters like 'Capability' Brown and Humphry Repton.
- Visit the Fitzwilliam Museum, one of England's most important collections of antiquities and European painting, and home to some of the finest extant illuminated manuscripts.
- Enjoy the choir of Kings College, Cambridge, at Vespers – one of the world's best known choral groups.
- Visit Norfolk's Jacobean Blickling Hall and its remarkable library, with one of England's most significant manuscript collections.
- Explore Holkham Hall, private home of Viscount Coke, and arguably the finest example of Palladian country house architecture in England.
- Visit Wormsley House, with its library built by Sir Paul Getty to house his outstanding collection; our hosts' generosity has made this a tour highlight for past participants.
- Tour Waddesdon Manor, the great 19th-century French Renaissance home of the Rothschild family.
- In Oxford, visit the wonderful Bodleian Library to see some of its many treasures.

- End the tour in grand style with a visit to Windsor Castle and special access to Eton College's book and manuscript library, including Eton's rare copy of the Gutenberg Bible.

Testimonials

I was fortunate to be able to participate in the inaugural ASA Tour. I chose to participate because of the centers being visited rather than any particular interest or expertise in libraries or books. It was a truly amazing experience that I am likely to reflect on for a long time. We had access to libraries and collections that are otherwise inaccessible and the leaders' knowledge made it truly memorable. The outdoor experiences of Kew Gardens and Highgrove Gardens gave us the opportunity to refresh our minds and bodies. Sue, ACT

Each day brought something different, something exciting and something that truly stimulated my interest in arts, history and literature. Thank you to all involved in arranging this tour. Margaret, ACT

16-day Cultural Tour of England

Overnight London (5 nights) • Cambridge (5 nights) • Oxford (4 nights) • Windsor (1 night)

Leaders



Shane Carmody

A committed & articulate library historian Shane has called upon his many personal contacts to create a tour matching great public libraries with privileged access to special private libraries.

Shane Carmody is a historian with a great love of libraries and archives. He has worked for the National Archives, the State Library of Victoria and the University of Melbourne Library. He is widely published on the history of Libraries and collections. Shane has managed major international exhibitions including *The Medieval Imagination: Illuminated Manuscripts from Cambridge, Australia and New Zealand* (State Library of Victoria 2008) and *Love and Devotion: From Persia and Beyond* (State Library of Victoria, 2012). Shane has presented papers at many conferences and his most recent project is a paper on the complete printing of Piranesi that was formerly part of the Library of the first Catholic Bishop of Melbourne, James Alipius Goold. Shane holds a Bachelor of Arts with Honours with a double major in History and Fine Arts from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Arts in History and Historical Urban Geography from the University of Toronto. He leads ASA's *Great Libraries of England* tour (next departure in October 2017) and the *Eastern Canada & Boston: Discovering Le Grand Nord* tour (next departure in August 2018).



Matthew Poole

A British Psychology honours graduate now based in Melbourne, Matthew manages ASA tours to England and Canada.

Matthew Poole recently graduated from University of Hertfordshire, UK with First Class Honours in BSc Psychology. He will go on to study an MSc in Psychological Research. A keen traveller, Matthew undertook a study abroad year at Victoria University, Melbourne, in 2014, and has explored the east coast of Australia, Portugal and Samoa. Having lived in North London during his undergraduate degree, Matthew's knowledge of London and the surrounding area is vast. Matthew became involved with ASA in 2016 and manages tours to Canada and England.

Combine this tour with

Berlin Now

18 SEP – 26 SEP 2017

Silver Coast & Golden River: Art, Architecture & Culture of Portugal

8 SEP – 26 SEP 2017

Hidden Rome: Private Spaces of the Eternal City

11 SEP – 26 SEP 2017

The Renaissance in Florence & Tuscany

12 SEP – 26 SEP 2017



Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of libraries, museums, galleries, churches etc which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission, which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. The tour includes breakfast daily, and lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch, and D=evening meal.

London - 5 nights

Day 1: Monday 2 October, Arrive London

- Check-in St Martins Lane Hotel
- Welcome Drinks

On arrival in London tour participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight will transfer by private coach to the hotel. If you are travelling independently, you should meet the group at [St Martins Lane Hotel](#). The official check-in time is 3.00pm. This evening we meet to share a welcome drink at the hotel. (Overnight London)

Day 2: Tuesday 3 October, London

- The British Library, including a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Conservation Studios
- Sir John Soane's Museum, including Soane's private apartments and Research Library
- Welcome Dinner at the Savile Club

We begin our tour at the British Library, the national library of the United Kingdom and the world's largest library, with over 170 million catalogued items including books, manuscripts, journals, newspapers,

magazines, sound and music recordings, videos, play-scripts, patents, databases, maps, stamps, prints, and drawings. The library receives a copy of every book published in the UK and Ireland in addition to purchasing books from around the world, so adds over 3 million items to its collections every year, requiring 10 kilometres of new bookshelves. We will limit ourselves in this vast collection to an introduction to the historical King's Library of King George III, given to the nation by George IV. Since the 1970s, this collection has been housed in the King's Tower, designed by the new British Libraries architect, Colin St John Wilson. We also take a private tour of the Centre for Conservation, where the iconic treasures of the Library are treated.

Sir John Soane (1753-1837), architect of such famous buildings as the Bank of England, was Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy from 1806. Throughout his working life, especially on his Grand Tour, he collected paintings, drawings, books, plaster casts, architectural models, ancient artefacts, furniture and decorative arts, which he kept in his own house, now his museum, in Lincoln's Inn Fields. When he became professor he gave his students easy access to study the wealth of objects and gain inspiration from them. We shall explore some of the thousands of items like Hogarth's painting series of *The Rake's Progress* in Soane's townhouse in rooms carefully preserved as closely as possible to the way they were when he bequeathed his collection to the nation. Our tour of the private apartments will include Soane's famed Model Room, where forty of the finest architectural models in the world are on display – depicting ancient monuments and Soane's own buildings – and we also enjoy a special tour of the Research Library to view items from Soane's impressive collection of some 7000 books.

Our day will close with a fine dinner in the relaxed splendour of the Savile Club. The friendliest of the London Men's Clubs, the Savile was founded in 1868 and moved to its current premises in Brook Street, Mayfair in 1927. Comprising two conjoined townhouses, the Club boasts fine formal rooms, including an extraordinary Ballroom. This is elegantly fitted with beautiful French interiors installed by a previous owner, Walter Burns, brother-in-law to the great Financier, J. P. Morgan. The Savile's illustrious membership has included writers, playwrights, poets and performers such as Charles Darwin, J. M. Barrie, Max Beerbohm, and Stephen Fry. (Overnight London) BD

Day 3: Wednesday 4 October, London – Richmond – London

- Ham House and Garden, including private library
- Light lunch at the Orangery Restaurant
- Kew Library, Art & Archives
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Marianne North Gallery with Richard Barley, Director of Kew Garden's Horticulture

Ham House, designed by William Samwell (1628-1676), is considered one of Europe's greatest and most authentic 17th-century mansions. Its almost untouched interior houses a historic collection of textiles, furniture and paintings. Here we visit the earliest dedicated library room to survive in a private house. It dates from 1675 and was installed for the Duke of Lauderdale.

We drive to Kew, where a light lunch will be served at the grand Orangery Restaurant, housed in a magnificent 18th-century Grade 1 listed building with stunning views over the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Next, we enjoy a visit to the 160-year-old Kew Library which forms one of the world's largest collections relating to botany. The Library, Art & Archives contains more than half a million items, including books, botanical illustrations, photographs, letters and manuscripts, periodicals, biographies and maps.

Today's program concludes with a unique opportunity to explore the Royal Botanic Gardens with Australian Richard Barley, Director of Kew Gardens' Horticulture since April 2013. With his great knowledge of their

day-to-day management, Richard will share deep insights into these world-renowned gardens. The original gardens were created for Augusta, Princess of Wales (1717-1792) around her home, Kew Palace. The estate was acquired by the nation in 1841 and enlarged to become a place for the scientific study of horticulture. It now contains the largest collection of plants in the world with tropical and sub-tropical plants being kept in appropriate conditions in magnificent Victorian glasshouses. The variety of plants is overwhelming but Kew has a magic far above the ordinary run of Victorian plant collections, perhaps because of its size and the underlying but unobtrusive formality of its structure. The Queen's Garden is a faithful copy of a 17th-century garden with parterres, sunken garden and pleached alleys. A new treetop walk by Marks Barfield Architects (who designed the London Eye) opened in May 2008. We also visit the recently refurbished gallery devoted to Charles Darwin's friend, featuring Marianne North's 833 paintings depicting more than 900 species of plants and landscapes including from Australia and New Zealand, which she visited on Darwin's suggestion. (Overnight London) BL

Day 4: Thursday 5 October, London

- Westminster Abbey: Library and Chapter House
- Guildhall Library: Guided tour incl. Old Library & the medieval Great Hall
- Guildhall Library: Welcome Reception & Display of some treasures from the Historic Collection

Our morning visit is to Gothic 13th- to 16th-century Westminster Abbey, Britain's coronation church since 1066. In the 10th century the Abbey was founded as a home to a community of Benedictine monks. Since the reign of Elizabeth I, Westminster has been a Royal Peculiar, that is, under the direct control of the Sovereign, and a Collegiate Church with a community of canons led by the dean. It is also a grand national memorial; many of Britain's greatest authors and poets are buried here and/or remembered in sculpted monuments.

The Abbey also has a significant library and archive. We will be given an introduction to the riches of this collection by a senior curator, followed by a viewing of some of the many valuable books and manuscripts it contains. Our tour includes the Chapter House, which has remnant wall paintings illustrating the *Book of the Apocalypse* copied from a medieval manuscript that is now part of the collection of Trinity College, Cambridge, which we will see later in our tour.

In the afternoon we visit the Guildhall Library. Founded in the early 15th century under the terms of the will of the legendary Mayor of London, Dick Whittington, the Library is now housed in modern buildings but boasts a collection that begins with a manuscript of 1067, the year after the Norman Conquest.

Following a tour of the complex and the opportunity to view important items from the collection, our day will end with a reception here at the Guildhall Library, in the very heart of the City of London. (Overnight London) B

Day 5: Friday 6 October, London

- Lambeth Palace Library
- Lecture by Dr Christopher de Hamel on the Lambeth Bible
- Lambeth Palace: incl. State rooms, Chapel, Atrium & Crypt
- Afternoon at leisure: optional visits to the Waddesdon Bequest at the British Museum and Maggs Bros. Ltd – dealers of rare books and manuscripts since 1853

We begin today at Lambeth Palace, London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury since c.1200, and visit its famous library, now housed in the Great Hall, rebuilt in 1663 by Archbishop Juxon after its

destruction by Oliver Cromwell. Juxon used medieval hammer and beam construction for the roof, recalling the earlier building. The library houses the major archive of the Anglican Church and many famous books. We will be shown some of the remarkable treasures of the Library including a Great Bible (i.e. large in size); a medieval manuscript possibly commissioned by King Stephen (c.1096-1154); and a rare copy of the Gutenberg Bible. Dr Christopher de Hamel, Fellow and former Librarian at Corpus Christi College Cambridge, and arguably the most knowledgeable and experienced specialist in the manuscript field today, will meet us and introduce the enigmatic Lambeth Bible.

We shall then enjoy a guided tour of the Lambeth Palace buildings, including the State Rooms, Chapel, Atrium and Crypt. The Palace architecture incorporates many styles, from the Early English chapel to the Tudor Gatehouse and 17th-century Great Hall.

Following lunch, the afternoon will be at leisure with an optional visit to the Waddesdon Bequest at the British Museum, a new gallery showing the priceless gift of Baron Ferdinand Rothschild and named after his rich estate that we visit later on tour. There will also be an opportunity to visit Maggs Brothers, one of the world's oldest antiquarian booksellers, at their new premises in Bedford Square, Bloomsbury. (Overnight London) B

Cambridge - 5 nights

Day 6: Saturday 7 October, London – Cambridge

- Houses of Parliament, including the Lord's Chamber
- Pepys Library, Magdalene College

This morning we take a tour of the Houses of Parliament, including the Lord's Chamber. Properly called the Palace of Westminster, it has occupied the site since the Norman Conquest. The current structure was largely built in the mid-19th century following a devastating fire in 1834; it was designed by Sir Charles Barry with interiors by England's greatest neo-Gothic architect, Augustus Welby Pugin. The chosen style was Perpendicular Gothic, not classical, because Gothic was deemed 'English' and conservatives felt that the classical style of the White House symbolised (unwanted) American democracy. Our tours first follow the route taken by the Queen at the State Opening of Parliament; from the Queen's Robing Room, through the Royal Gallery and Prince's Chamber, into the majestic Lords Chamber. We then move on through the Central Lobby, Members' Lobby and one of the voting lobbies before entering the Commons Chamber, scene of many lively debates. Passing through St Stephen's Hall, the tours end in 900-year-old Westminster Hall, a place where many historic trials have taken place and where Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama have addressed Parliament in recent years.

We then depart London for the university city of Cambridge to explore its College Libraries, including the Pepys Library at Magdalene, gifted by the great diarist Samuel Pepys (1633-1703). His eyewitness account of life in the London of Charles II includes a famous account of the Great Fire of 1666. Pepys believed the Library of an educated man need hold no more than 3000 books and once he had arrived at that number any addition meant a book had to be discarded! One book to survive his occasional culls is a manuscript translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* used by William Caxton (1422-1491). Our tour includes an introduction to Samuel Pepys as a collector, information on the very fine classical library building (1670-1703) and its furniture, and a chance to see and hear about a range of items from the collection.

We spend the next five nights in Cambridge, a centre of learning since the 12th century. (Overnight Cambridge) BL

Day 7: Sunday 8 October, Cambridge – Wicken Fen – Ely – Cambridge

- Wicken Fen
- Ely Cathedral
- Afternoon at leisure: optional visit to Kings College Chapel Evensong

This morning we begin to explore the country of Hereward the Wake (c.1035-c. 1072), the Saxon champion who successfully resisted the Norman armies in the marshland terrain around Ely. The Fens isolated this region until they were drained and tamed by Dutch engineers in the 17th century. Wicken Fen is the last remnant of the Fens of East Anglia, which at their greatest extent covered 2500 square miles. This reserve, which comprises 600 acres, is an artificially preserved wetland, managed by the National Trust since 1899. Our guided tour of Wicken Fen will reveal much of the natural and cultural history of this rich area and the technologies that have sustained it.

We next visit the Isle of Ely where St. Etheldreda, Queen of Northumbria, founded an abbey in 673 AD. Abbot Simon, who owed his appointment to William the Conqueror, began construction of the great Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity here in 1081. Romanesque Ely Cathedral rose like a giant ship in the middle of the dense marshes of the Fenlands and attracted many pilgrims to Etheldreda's tomb. Our tour of the cathedral will take in the west front with its impressive Galilee porch, the great Romanesque nave and the octagonal crossing with its distinctive lantern, the work of Alan of Walsingham and William Hurley (1340) and restored in the 19th century by Sir George Gilbert Scott. We shall also visit the Lady Chapel and enjoy the architectural delights of Cathedral Close and the surrounding town, where Oliver Cromwell was born in 1599.

We return to Cambridge in the early afternoon and the rest of the day is at leisure. You may wish to attend the Sunday afternoon evensong service at the wonderful King's College Chapel to hear its famous choir and enjoy its soaring English Perpendicular Gothic architecture and beautiful stained glass, spared from destruction during the Reformation. (Overnight Cambridge) B

Day 8: Monday 9 October, Cambridge – Wimpole House – Anglesey Abbey – Cambridge

- Wimpole House, Library & Book Room
- Anglesey Abbey and Lord Fairhaven's Library

This morning we visit grand, classical Wimpole Hall (begun 1630) where Edward Harley, second Earl of Oxford, amassed the largest and most important collection of books and manuscripts ever assembled by a private individual in England; the manuscripts would later form the nucleus of the British Library collection. By 1720, Harley's guests were able to view his books in five beautiful, specially designed spaces, known as the Book Room, and later in the Library, an extension built by James Gibbs (1682-1754). Our tour will include a visit to the fine Library rooms and a display of the collections.

Following time at leisure for lunch at the Old Rectory Restaurant, we transfer to Anglesey Abbey, a beautiful Jacobean house built in 1600 on the site of a 13th-century priory. Here we shall explore the interior of the house in which Lord Fairhaven (1896-1966), son of an American Railway magnate, used great ingenuity in displaying his collections. His eclectic taste in art ranged from paintings by Antonio Canova and Claude Lorraine to those of John Constable. Lord Fairhaven also had a remarkable library and we will be given privileged access to this room and a guided tour of its collections. (Overnight Cambridge) B

Day 9: Tuesday 10 October, Cambridge

- Old Library & Rare Books Reading Room, St John's College
- Wren Library, Trinity College
- Old Library, Trinity Hall
- The Fitzwilliam Museum and Founder's Library

This morning we walk to St John's College to visit its Old Library, which houses the College's special collections. The College was founded in 1511 by Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of the first Tudor monarch Henry VII; the Old Library dates from 1624 and was a gift from John Williams, Bishop of Lincoln. Built in the Gothic style, its oak shelves each have a little door that, when opened, reveals the list of books that they contained. The collection is rich in manuscripts and early printed books and we will be able to view some of these during our visit.

We next visit the Wren Library, Trinity College (1676-1695), designed by Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723). This superb building contains a statue of Byron (who broke every college rule when he was a student there) and some of the earliest manuscripts in the world including the *Epistles of St Paul*, produced in the 8th century. It also contains Newton's own copy of the first edition of *Principia* with his annotations for the second edition, and manuscripts by Milton, Tennyson and Thackeray, as well as A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

The Old Library at Trinity Hall is one of the hidden gems of Cambridge and one of a handful of chained libraries remaining in Britain. Unusually, the interior and furniture are much as they were at the time of construction (1590): each lectern has the original locking mechanism intact and the Library still contains examples of chained books. The College's special collections of rare books and manuscripts are housed here and we shall enjoy a special tour with Fellow Librarian Dr William O'Reilly.

Our day concludes with a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum to explore its collections of art and antiquities of Greece, Rome, Egypt, the Near East and Far East, all bequeathed by Richard Fitzwilliam, 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam (1745-1816). The museum, one of the oldest in the world, was established in 1816. Along with antiquities, including a highlight, the bas-reliefs from Persepolis, it has a fine collection of paintings, including masterpieces by Simone Martini, Domenico Veneziano, Titian, Veronese, Rubens, Van Dyck, Frans Hals, Canaletto, Hogarth, Gainsborough, Constable, Monet, Degas, Renoir, Cézanne and Picasso and a fine collection of 20th-century art; miniatures, drawings, watercolours and prints. The Museum also houses a fine collection of books, including some of Britain's most famous illuminated manuscripts. We will enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the Founder's Library to view some of its treasures. (Overnight Cambridge) B

Day 10: Wednesday 11 October, Cambridge & Norfolk

- Blickling Hall: incl. Library in the Long Gallery
- Holkham Hall: Libraries – manuscript, classical and long library

Today there will be an excursion to Blickling Hall (1616), one of England's great Jacobean houses. The superb Long Gallery was converted into a library around 1745 (with the addition, in 1850, of a Pre-Raphaelite frieze painted above the bookcases). Blickling still contains one of the most historically significant collections of manuscripts and books in England. Our tour will include a talk by the Librarian John Gandy and a display of many of the fine books in his care.

After lunch at Blickling we continue to Holkham Hall, residence of the Earls of Leicester for 250 years. This fine 18th-century Palladian mansion, designed by William Kent (1685-1748) is known for its stately Entrance Hall and great collection of Old Master paintings. We will have an exclusive visit to the Libraries before returning to Cambridge. (Overnight Cambridge) BL

Oxford - 4 nights

Day 11: Thursday 12 October, Cambridge – High Wycombe – Oxford

- Parker Library, Corpus Christi College
- Wormsley Library, near High Wycombe

This morning we visit the Parker Library, the rare books and manuscripts library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The Parker Library, whose collection was initiated in 1376 was named after its greatest benefactor, Matthew Parker (1504-1575), Archbishop of Canterbury to Queen Elizabeth I. Parker built a rich collection known throughout the world for its medieval books. This includes the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, principal source book for early English history, and the best manuscript of Chaucer's *Troilus*. No less important are the Middle English, French and Latin texts on subjects ranging from alchemy and astrology to music and medicine.

We then leave Cambridge for the Chiltern Hills near High Wycombe for a private visit to 18th-century Wormsley Park by special arrangement. Sir Paul Getty, son of the great collector and philanthropist, J. Paul Getty Snr, created its library, which has one of the finest private collections in the country. Wormsley Library includes a range of illuminated and calligraphic manuscripts from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, as well as monuments of typography ranging from a fragment of the Gutenberg Bible, the Ulm *Ptolemy* on vellum and the only first edition of Caxton's *Chaucer* in private hands (there is also a Shakespeare First Folio). There are also the greatest British private press books, many of which are printed on vellum, such as the Kelmscott *Chaucer* and Ashendene *Dante*. Most spectacular is the collection of fine British and European decorative book bindings again ranging from the Renaissance to the 20th century. There is also an important collection of colour-plate travel books.

We continue to Oxford, where we shall stay for three nights. (Overnight Oxford) BL

Day 12: Friday 13 October, Oxford – Highgrove – Oxford

- Highgrove Gardens
- Time at leisure in Oxford

This morning we visit Highgrove House, near Tetbury, country home of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. The Prince purchased Highgrove in 1980, and has spent 30 years transforming its grounds into what have been acknowledged as some of the most brilliant and inventive gardens in the United Kingdom. "A series of interlinked areas, each with their own character and purpose, weave magically around the garden, with the house always visible in the distance. For the last 25 years the gardens and surrounding land have been managed to the organic and sustainable principles that His Royal Highness has for so long championed." In the afternoon we return to Oxford, where the remainder of the afternoon is free for you to explore the city at leisure. (Overnight Oxford) BL

Day 13: Saturday 14 October, Oxford

- Walking tour of Oxford city and the University with Peter Berry, Blackwell's Official Walking Tour Guide
- Tour of the Bodleian Library, including the 15th-century Divinity School, Convocation House, Chancellor's Court and Duke Humfrey's medieval library
- Merton College: Library, Chapel & Beerbohm Room

Oxford University (founded c.1167) is a vast corpus of stunning architecture such as Sir Christopher Wren's Sheldonian Theatre (1664-68). Over the centuries many famous writers, poets, novelists, critics and children's authors have studied or lived in Oxford; writers include Jonathan Swift, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lewis Carroll, C.S. Lewis, T.S. Eliot, Oscar Wilde, J.R.R. Tolkien, T.R. Lawrence, Thomas More, Aldous Huxley and Graham Greene. This morning we explore its rich intellectual and architectural heritage with a guided walking tour, after which there will be some time at leisure.

In the early afternoon, we shall take a tour of the Bodleian Library, one of the world's greatest libraries, established in the 15th century. It contains 6.5 million books, manuscripts and maps. The beautiful historic buildings of the Bodleian are complemented by a recent full redevelopment of what was known as the New Bodley into the Weston Library, which includes a major new exhibition space and public café and shop.

We then make our way to Merton College, founded in 1264, to visit the Old Library (1371-78), the Chapel (with Sir Thomas Bodley's memorial) and the Beerbohm room. The Merton Library is the oldest continuously functioning library for scholars in the world. Its fine collection includes medieval manuscripts, early printed books, and the papers of distinguished members of the College including T.S. Eliot. Our tour will include a display of some of these great treasures.

The evening is at leisure and you may wish to visit the Christ Church Cathedral for choral evensong.
(Overnight Oxford) B

Day 14: Sunday 15 October, Oxford – Waddesdon – Oxford

- Waddesdon Manor, including a private tour of the library

Today we visit Waddesdon Manor, one of the most extraordinary houses in England. Over 125 years ago, Baron Ferdinand Rothschild transformed a barren hill in the countryside outside London into the setting for this breathtaking estate, where he entertained family and friends, politicians and artists, royalty and writers. Over the years, he assembled an outstanding collection of French decorative art, and an extraordinary library rich in fine French imprints, to which his heir (his younger sister Alice) and in turn her heirs (their French cousin James and his English wife Dorothy) added many complementary furnishings, paintings and drawings. Today, Waddesdon Manor is admired not only for its architecture and luxurious and colourful French interior decor but also for its collections of superb English portraits and Dutch Old Masters, as well as its books, manuscripts and exquisite textiles. The extensive gardens are renowned for their seasonal flower displays, and the Parterre, in particular, has been restored using traditional techniques. Our visit includes a private tour of the library, which contains the collection of 17th- and 18th-century volumes created by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild. (Overnight Oxford) BL

Windsor - 1 night

Day 15: Monday 16 October, Oxford – Windsor

- Windsor Castle
- Eton College's rare book and manuscript library – by special appointment
- Farewell Dinner

This morning we explore the very seat of the Royal Family, Windsor Castle. Begun by William the Conqueror, the Castle has been home to successive monarchs and, in the case of Charles I, his prison. Our visit will include the State Apartments with their collection of paintings and artefacts.

Following time at leisure for lunch in Windsor, we will end our tour with a special visit to the Eton College Library, a rare book and manuscript library of international importance. Eton College was founded by King Henry VI in 1440 for the education of seventy King's Scholars. In addition to the King's Scholars housed in 'College', there are now over 1200 'Oppidan' boys at the school in 24 other boarding houses, making Eton the largest boarding school for boys in the United Kingdom. On display in the 18th-century College Library, will be a selection of treasures from the archives. These include a rare copy on paper of the Gutenberg Bible, notable for having retained a very early binding, made in the German university city of Erfurt.

This evening we gather at the hotel for a farewell dinner. (Overnight Windsor) BD

Day 16: Tuesday 17 October, Windsor – London Heathrow. Tour Ends.

- Airport transfer for participants departing on the ASA 'designated' flight

Our tour ends in Windsor. Participants returning to Australia on the ASA 'designated' flight will be transferred to London Heathrow Airport. Alternatively, you may wish to extend your stay in London. Please contact ASA if you require further assistance. B

Accommodation

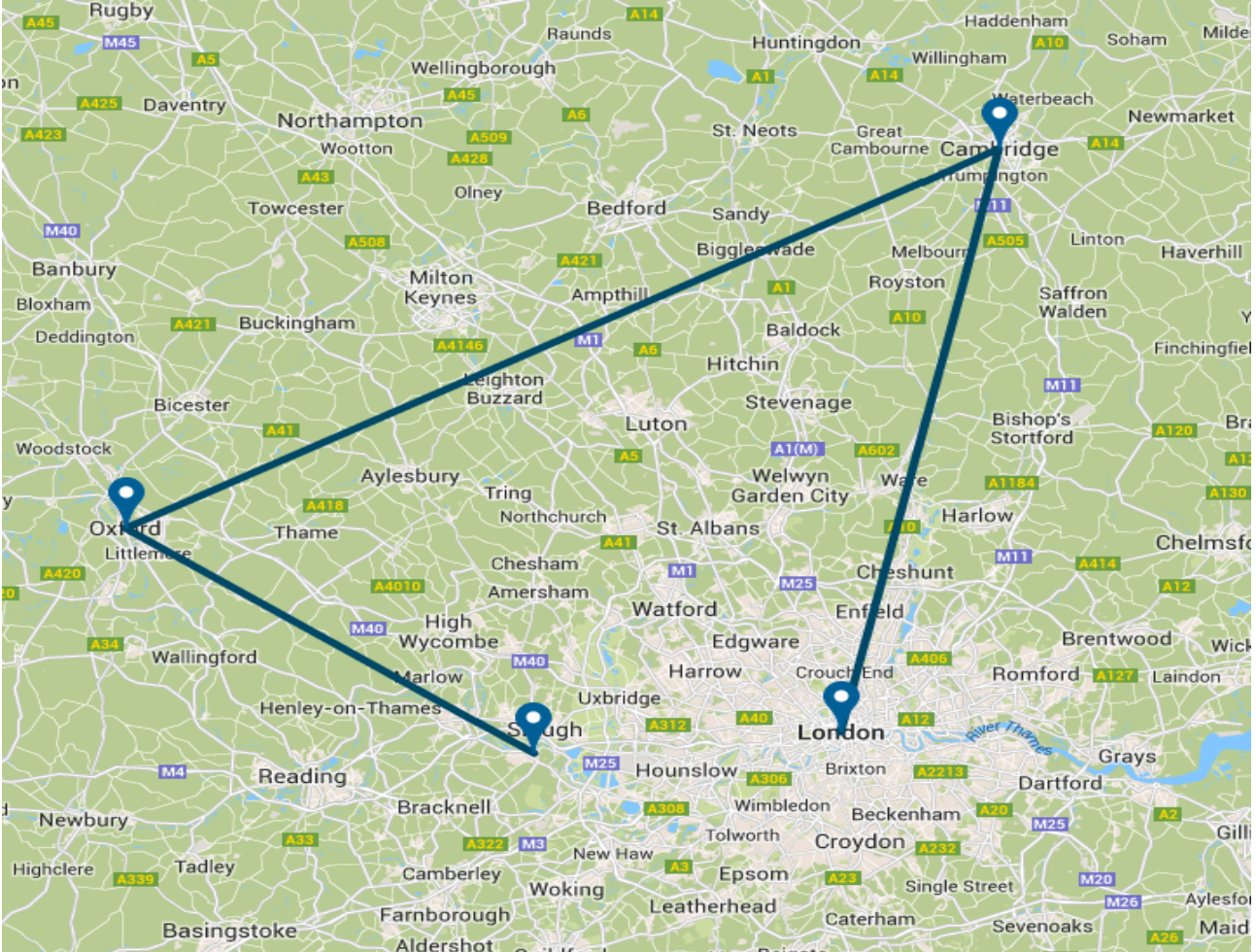
16-day Cultural Tour of England

ASA has selected 4- and 5-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom. Double/twin rooms for single occupancy may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the Double (as Single) Supplement. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

- London (5 nights): 5-star St Martins Lane – stylish, modern hotel, recently renovated with interior design by Philippe Starke, located near London's Trafalgar Square, West End theatres and Covent Garden. www.stmartinslane.com
- Cambridge (5 nights): 4-star Hilton Cambridge City Centre Hotel – stylish, modern hotel located in the heart of the city within easy walking distance to the colleges, Fitzwilliam Museum and King's College Chapel. www3.hilton.com
- Oxford (4 nights): 4-star Mercure Oxford Eastgate Hotel – recently refurbished hotel set in a 17th-century townhouse building that was once frequented by author J.R.R Tolkien, located in Oxford city centre a short walk from Merton College and the Bodleian Library. www.mercure.com
- Windsor (1 night): 4-star Macdonald Windsor Hotel – modern hotel in a townhouse dating from the 1700s, situated in the heart of this historic town just a few minutes walk from Windsor Castle. www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk

Note: Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$10,380.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 31 October 2016

AUD \$10,580.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2890.00 Double (as Single) Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4- and 5-star hotels
- Breakfast daily, lunches and evening meals as indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=evening meal
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach between cities and use of public transport in London
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour reference book
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- International Airfare: Australia-London, London-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 16-day Cultural Tour of England involves:

- A daily schedule often involving an early-morning departure (8.00-8.30am), concluding in the late afternoon (5.30-6.00pm).
- 2-3 site visits most days involving up to 1-2 hours of walking at each (sometimes on uneven terrain, cobbled streets, and steep slopes,) and/or standing (eg museum and libraries), interspersed with coach travel.
- Using the London Underground system, where participants may need to negotiate flights of stairs.
- The use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.
- 4- and 5-star hotels with three hotel changes.
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether

this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

Make a Reservation

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

Double (as Single) Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double (or twin) room for single occupancy throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ GENDER Male Female

Passport Number _____ Expiry date ____ / ____ / ____ Nationality _____

Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed I'm renewing my passport ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options. Business Class Economy Class

I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date ____ / ____ / ____

I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Frequent Flyer _____ Name of Airline _____ Airline Seat preference _____
Membership # _____ (please note request only)

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish poultry red meat dairy products

eggs pork nuts

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Other _____

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at www.asatours.com.au
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel: 1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? YES NO

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine? YES NO

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic? YES NO
 Are you insulin dependent? YES NO
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? YES NO
 Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.



Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services provided for the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of travelling to, on and from any tour.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Indemnity applies with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
 - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
 - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
 - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally.
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of my continued participation on a tour for whatever reason (refund conditions in ASA's Booking Conditions excepted).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products or services. If a service provider does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (eg. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any such service provider however caused (contingencies). You must take out adequate travel insurance against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour will be limited to the refund of amounts received from you less all non-refundable costs and charges and the costs of any substituted event or alternate services provided. The terms and conditions of the relevant service provider from time to time comprise the sole agreement between you and that service provider.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

- More than 75 days before departure: \$500*
- 75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due
- 45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due
- 30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due
- 14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. If an ASA tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all tour monies paid. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

- I accept the conditions on this booking form I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature _____

Print Full Name _____

Dated _____

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel Tour Deposit
- Balance of Payment Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- Travel Insurance Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

By Cheque

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code ANZBAU3M
BSB 013-423
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard & Visa 1.95%
American Express 2.80%

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

Postcode _____

State _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature _____

AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

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