



Great Libraries and Stately Homes of England 2021

4 OCT – 19 OCT 2021

Code: 22143

Tour Leaders **Shane Carmody**

Physical Ratings 

Unique, privileged access to England's great private libraries & visits to Britain's famous institutions, including the Bodleian Library, Magdalene and Trinity colleges, Lambeth Palace & Kew Gardens.

Overview

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

- 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 (*subject to confirmation in 2021*).
- Explore Westminster Abbey, its famous Library, its Chapter House with medieval paintings depicting *The Book of the Apocalypse*, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries set in the medieval triforium, hidden for over 700 years.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 remarkable 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, with its wonderful library of French books.
- 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 (*subject to confirmation in 2021*).

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 experience of Kew 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 and Stately Homes of England* and *Discovering Le Grand Nord: Eastern Canada & Boston* tours.

Combine this tour with

The Tyrolean Alpine Frontier: from Trieste & the Dolomites to Innsbruck 2021

15 SEP – 1 OCT 2021



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=dinner.

London - 5 nights

Day 1: Monday 4 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 5 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 (*venue to be confirmed*)

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 our Welcome Dinner. (Overnight London) BD

Day 3: Wednesday 6 October, London – Richmond – London

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

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 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 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.

Today's program concludes with 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. (Overnight London) BL

Day 4: Thursday 7 October, London

- Westminster Abbey: Library, Chapter House and the [Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries](#)
- 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 lead 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.

Opened in June 2018, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries are set more than 16 metres (52 feet) above the Abbey's floor in the beautiful 13th century triforium, an area that has remained hidden for over 700 years. Displaying 300 treasures from the Abbey's collection, many for the first time, the Galleries reflects the Abbey's thousand-year history. Highlights include the Westminster Retable (1259 – 69), the oldest surviving altarpiece in England from Henry III's Abbey; the Litlington Missal, a magnificent illuminated 14th-century service book made for the Abbey's high altar; and the 14th century Liber Regalis, a guide to staging coronations and royal funerals at the Abbey which still forms the basis of royal ceremonies today.

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 8 October, London

- Lambeth Palace Library (*to be confirmed in 2021*)
- Lambeth Palace: incl. State rooms, Chapel, Atrium & Crypt (*to be confirmed in 2021*)
- The Linnean Society of London incl. the Linnean Collections and Library
- Optional visit to 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. The

Palace architecture incorporates many styles, from the Early English chapel to the Tudor Gatehouse and 17th-century Great Hall. We shall visit Lambeth Palace's 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, and we will be shown some of its remarkable treasures. We also take a guided tour of the buildings, including the State Rooms, Chapel, Atrium and Crypt.

Following time at leisure for lunch, we enjoy a private tour of The Linnean Society of London in Burlington House, Piccadilly. Founded in 1788 by Sir James Edward Smith (1759–1828), it is the world's oldest active biological society and takes its name from the Swedish naturalist and taxonomist Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778) whose botanical, zoological and library collections have been in its keeping since 1829. It was at a meeting of the Society in 1858 that papers from Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace outlining the theory of evolution by natural selection were first presented. Our tour will include visits to the Meeting Room, the fascinating Linnaean Collections and the grand Reading Room of the Library to view some of its treasures.

The rest of the afternoon will be at leisure with the opportunity to visit Maggs Brothers, one of the world's oldest antiquarian booksellers, at their main premises in Bedford Square, Bloomsbury. (Overnight London)
B

Cambridge - 5 nights

Day 6: Saturday 9 October, London – Cambridge

- The Waddesdon Bequest at The British Museum
- Pepys Library, Magdalene College

This morning we transfer to the British Museum to view the Waddesdon Bequest, 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 further explore the British Museum's remarkable collection.

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)
B

Day 7: Sunday 10 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 11 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, which we will explore. (Overnight Cambridge) B

Day 9: Tuesday 12 October, Cambridge

- Old Library & Rare Books Reading Room, St John's College
- Wren Library, Trinity College
- 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*.

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 13 October, Cambridge – Holkham Hall – Cambridge

- Holkham Hall: exclusive house tour including the Libraries – Manuscript, Classical and Long Library

Today there will be an excursion to Holkham Hall, residence of the Earls of Leicester for 250 years. With a stunning location on the north Norfolk coast, this fine 18th-century Palladian mansion, designed by William Kent (1685-1748) is known for its stately Marble Hall and great collection of Old Master paintings by Rubens, Van Dyck, Claude, Gaspar Poussin and Gainsborough. We shall take a private tour of the state rooms and, following lunch, enjoy an exclusive specialist look at the Manuscript, Classical and Long Library.

Time and weather allowing, we will also take a walk along Holkham's stunning panoramic beach, part of the Holkham National Nature Reserve which comprises a number of rare and precious habitats including salt marsh, sand dunes, pine woodland, beach and grazing marsh. (Overnight Cambridge) BL

Oxford - 4 nights

Day 11: Thursday 14 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 15 October, Oxford

- Walking tour of Oxford city and the University
- 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.

We shall also 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.

Following some time at leisure, we 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 13: Saturday 16 October, Oxford – Hereford – The Cotswolds – Oxford

- Hereford Cathedral incl. Medieval Garden, Mappa Mundi & Chained Library
- Lunch at the Castle House Restaurant, Hereford
- Scenic drive through the Cotswolds incl. Stow-in-the-Wold

Today we visit the cathedral city of Hereford. The seat of Putta, Bishop of Hereford, some time between AD 676 and 688, by the beginning of the 8th century Hereford had become the Saxon capital of West Mercia. In the following centuries the town was involved repeatedly in struggles between the Saxons, the Welsh and the Vikings. Its strategic location on the Welsh Marches led to the construction of a huge castle by the Earls

of Hereford (dismantled in the 18th century). Hereford Cathedral dates from the 12th century and the adjacent Bishop's Palace was constructed in 1204. The cathedral has a grand Romanesque nave and a fine Gothic ceiling and tracery windows in the aisles. It has a lustrously decorated Lady Chapel. Hereford Cathedral School is also one of the oldest schools in England.

We shall explore the cathedral and the library museum, whose greatest treasure is the magnificent Mappa Mundi (1300), the largest medieval map in existence. Although parts of Europe and Africa are identifiable in this map, which has as its centre Jerusalem, its real importance lies not in its accurate representation but in its portrayal of the medieval spiritual worldview, which includes paradise. In the cathedral's magnificent library books, such valuable items in the Middle Ages, were chained for security; the use of chains, of which Hereford has the most complete example, endured until the 18th century. Its oldest manuscript, one of 229 in the collection, is the extraordinary 8th-century Hereford Gospels.

We shall enjoy a late lunch at the nearby Castle House Restaurant overlooking the old Hereford castle's moat. In the early afternoon, we return to Oxford via the picturesque Cotswolds, making a short stop at the village of Stow-on-the-Wold, an important medieval market town and now a centre for English antiques. As well as the large market square, the town has some very early coaching inns, including the Royalist Hotel that has timbers that have been carbon-dated to 987; it is believed to be the oldest inn in England. (Overnight Oxford) BL

Day 14: Sunday 17 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 18 October, Oxford – Windsor

- Windsor Castle
- Eton College's rare book and manuscript library – by special appointment (*to be confirmed in 2021*)
- 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 19 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

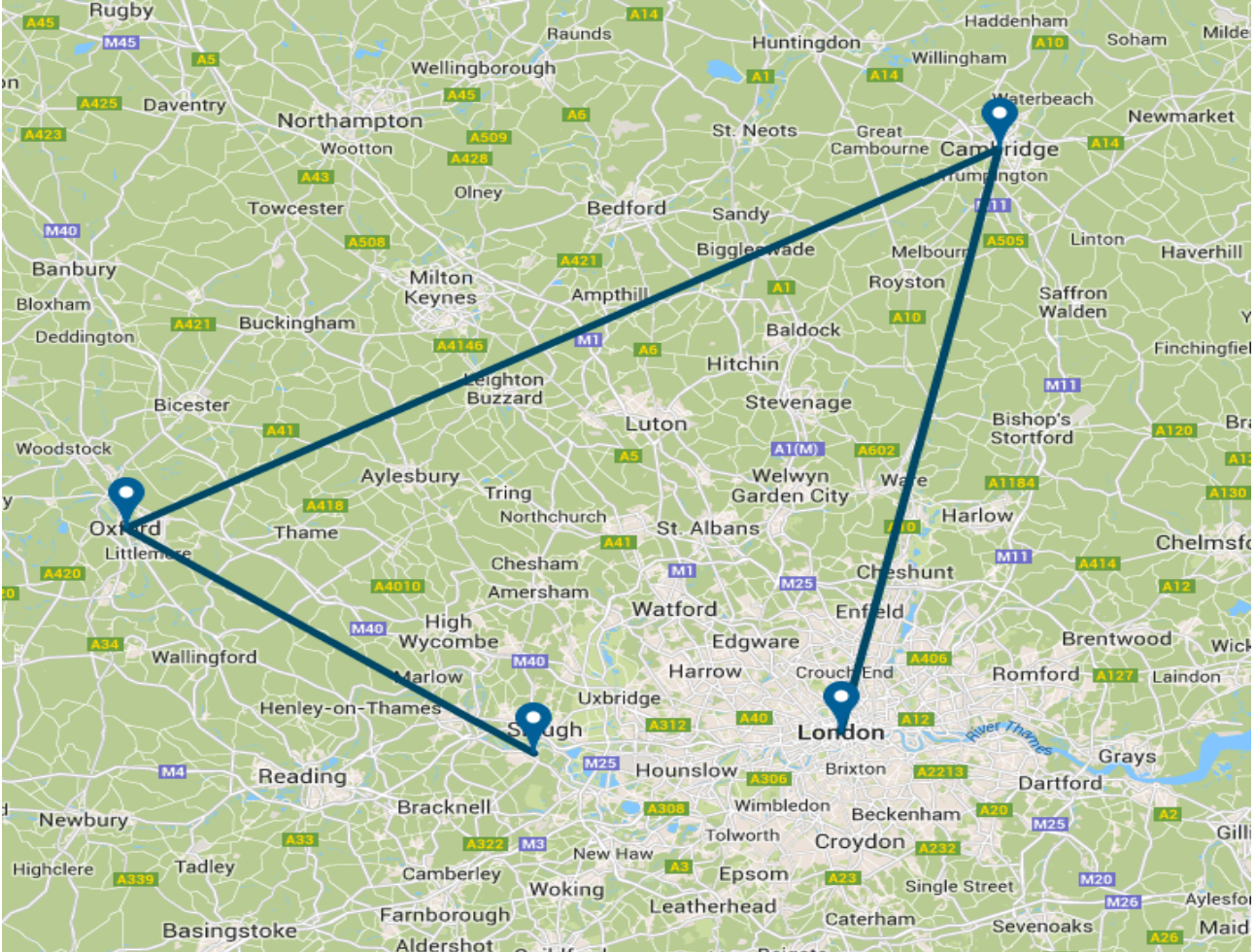
This 16-day Cultural Tour of England involves:

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 private facilities. 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 Starck, 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 \$TBA Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 Sep 2020

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only

AUD \$TBA 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=dinner
- 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 portorage 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

Making a Tentative Reservation before the tour price has been published

ASA INTENTION TO TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD \$100.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD \$400.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of AUD \$500.00 is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

Or

- CANCEL your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD \$100.00 per person deposit, less a \$33.00 service fee (including GST).

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. ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section. As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities without assistance or support:-

- walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces

- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15-20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation is for sole occupancy throughout the tour. The number of spaces available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



Intention to Travel Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Booking before the tour price is available

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OR

- Cancel your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD\$100.00 per person deposit, less a \$33.00 service fee (including GST).

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

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

Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

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- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1 km every 15 - 20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication.

Applicant's Signature _____

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

Payment by (please indicate): Cheque Direct Debit (see below) Credit Card (see below)

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

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 2%
 American Express 2%

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
