




# “Stepping Westward”: Rambles with the Poets in Wales 2026

1 MAY – 8 MAY 2026

Code: 22617

Tour Leaders Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, Sarah Price

Fitness Level 

**Level 2 - Intermediate**

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

Ramble through Wales from Swansea to Monmouthshire, the Wye Valley and the Black Mountains and discover landscapes that have inspired many poets and writers.

## Overview

Ramble through Wales' ancient landscapes with [Susannah Fullerton](#), President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, and lowland walk leader, [Sarah Price](#), to discover the famous bards, poets and writers who have been inspired by its lyrical language and spectacular scenery.

- Featuring 7 walks through the picturesque Welsh landscape chosen for their literary associations.
- In and around Swansea, explore the life and adventures of Dylan Thomas, the most important and turbulent Welsh poet of the 20th century.
- Journey through the glorious Wye Valley listening to William Wordsworth's great poem *Lines Written a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey* as you travel.
- In the Black Mountains, follow the trail of Henry Vaughan and discover the landscapes that have inspired J.R.R. Tolkien's for *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*.
- Wander through the ruins of the Augustinian Llanthony Priory in the secluded Vale of Ewyas and view the chapel of Capel-y-Ffin, where Allen Ginsberg found inspiration for his *Wales Visitation*.
- By special appointment, visit the Arts and Crafts garden at High Glanau Manor and learn about the life and work of H. Avray Tipping. Meet **Professor Timothy Mowl FSA** for a lecture on Jane Austen.
- Follow artists like Gainsborough and J.M.W. Turner to the picturesque ruins of Tintern Abbey and walk along the lovely stretches of the Wye River.
- Explore charming historical towns such as Chepstow, with the oldest stone castle in Britain; Monmouth, the birthplace of King Henry V; and Hay-on-Wye, the 'Town of Books'.
- Enjoy a private evening of poetry reading with local author and poet [Owen Sheers](#).
- This tour is limited to 16 participants.

### A Literary Rambles Tour

This tour is designed for those who wish to pursue their passion for literature while exploring the picturesque Welsh countryside on foot! It is suitable for travellers who have a reasonable fitness level and can manage up to 3–4 hours walking for a distance of up to 8–10 kilometres. All rambles are graded as either 'easy' or 'easy/moderate'. A detailed description of each ramble is provided in the day-by-day itinerary given below.

Overnight Swansea (3 nights) • Abergavenny (4 nights)

### About the Tour

Wales is not a large country, but it has an enormous literary tradition that stretches back through centuries and is a source of great pride to the Welsh. Wales is the only country in the world that makes a poetry competition and crowning of the bard into the centrepiece of its biggest national event. The country has such a rich literary heritage - the tales in the 11th century *Mabinogian*, the 12th century historian Geoffrey of Monmouth (who promoted the story of King Arthur), Gerald of Wales, a very early travel writer who produced *Journey through Wales* in 1188, medieval poet Dafydd ap Gwilym, right through to Richard Llewellyn's best-selling coal-mining novel *How Green was my Valley* and the turbulent and emotional poetry of Dylan Thomas. Wales has a rich history of music, internationally famed for its choirs and Eisteddfods, and music and poetry go well together. There have been many wonderful Welsh poets, from George Herbert and Henry Vaughan to R.S. Thomas, Edward Thomas, W.H. Davies, Vernon Watkins, and Dannie Abse.

Writers from other lands have been drawn to Wales because of the stunning mountain landscapes and lush green valleys. Wordsworth and Coleridge delighted in walking along the Wye, Shelley exhorted his friends to "steal, if possible ... one summer from the cold hurry of business and come to Wales", Dr Johnson



toured the dramatic landscapes of northern Wales in the 1770s, Beatrix Potter's visit to an aunt resulted in a tale about 'flopsy' bunnies, George Borrow walked many miles each day when he went to Wales and wrote *Wild Wales* as a result, Tolkien visited and remembered his visits when he created a 'Shire' in his fiction, while for Gerard Manley Hopkins, his time spent in a Welsh seminary was crucial to his poetic style and awareness of God in nature.

Award-winning biographer Claire Tomalin has stated that if you really want to understand a writer, you have to walk where they walked. So many authors have loved to walk – Coleridge and Wordsworth often managed thirty miles in a day, Robert Graves declared he was "Welsh by adoption" after he'd climbed Welsh hills and descended into Welsh valleys, while Dylan Thomas's walks inevitably ended at a pub. In order to fully understand the literature of Wales, we too are going to walk, or 'ramble' in the footsteps of poets, seeing the vistas that inspired them, visiting the homes where they wrote when the weather was inclement, and walking through the landscapes they knew and loved.

This 8-day tour will include scenic rambles, visits to literary museums and birthplaces, a poetry reading and a concert, pub lunches and a picnic, and talks about the richness of Welsh literature and about the visiting writers. It's a tour for those who like to stretch their legs, immerse themselves in glorious landscapes, and learn more about writers both familiar and unfamiliar.

Those born in Wales often have music in their blood and poetry in their hearts. They are a proud people, eager to keep their native language and customs. "This land of song will keep a welcome", on the hillsides and in the vales. Join me in being warmly welcomed to "wild Wales" for a tour of walks and wonderful words.

*"Walk and be happy; walk and be healthy. The best way to lengthen out our days is to walk steadily and with a purpose."* - Charles Dickens

## Leaders



### Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN

President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia, Susannah has published several books on Jane Austen and has lectured extensively on famous authors, their lives and works both in Australia and overseas.

Susannah Fullerton, OAM, FRSN, majored in English Literature at the University of Auckland. She then completed a postgraduate degree in Victorian fiction and prose at the University of Edinburgh. For over 25 years Susannah has been President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia. She has lectured extensively on Jane Austen in Australia and overseas and has published many articles about Jane Austen's works. She is the co-author of *Jane Austen – Antipodean Views* and published *Jane Austen and Crime* in 2004, and *Brief Encounters: Literary Travellers in Australia* (Picador) in 2009. Susannah's latest books are *A Dance with Jane Austen*, *Happily Ever After: Celebrating Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* and a memoir *Jane & I: A Tale of Austen Addiction*. Susannah is very well known on the Australian speakers' circuit as a literary lecturer. She gives talks on famous authors, their lives and works, and on history and art, at the Art Gallery of NSW, State Library of NSW, ADFAS, WEA, schools, for a great variety of clubs and societies, and on zoom. Susannah uses her training in drama to delight her audiences with dramatic readings from novels and poems. Her interest in literature is wide ranging. She is a member of the Dylan Thomas Society of Australia, the Australian Brontë Association, the NSW Dickens Society and she is Patron of the Kipling Society of Australia. She has worked on literary prize committees, organised literary conferences and is a most experienced lecturer and group leader.



### Sarah Price

A qualified lowland walk leader, Sarah founded her own business 'Walk Hay' in 2022. She enjoys sharing her passion for countryside walking in the area where she lives which is on the Welsh/English border.

Sarah is passionate about introducing others to the stunning countryside in the area where she lives which is on the borders of England and Wales. In September 2022, she founded the professional walking company 'Walk Hay' which offers guided walks in the Golden Valley in Herefordshire, the eastern Brecon Beacons, the Gower Peninsula, and the Hay-on-Wye areas.

Married to a local Welsh farmer's son, she has two children and a dog, and her focus away from the family is to share her passion with as many people as possible and introduce them to the stunning countryside in her part of the world.

As a qualified Lowland walk leader, insured, and certified in Outdoor First Aid, you can relax knowing you're in safe hands. Sarah specialises in leading walks through the valleys and hills rather than the mountains, understanding that many visitors to the area prefer gentler terrain. Whether you're unable to tackle mountain trails or not confident with maps, Sarah is here to guide you.

Just because there are no mountain tops involved, doesn't mean all her walks are going to be easy though! A lowland guided walk can be long, can be high up, and have plenty of hills and tricky terrain.

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### *Combine this tour with*

#### **Sicily: A Dimension of the Imagination 2026**

10 APR – 28 APR 2026

#### **Spring Garden Masterpieces of England and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026**

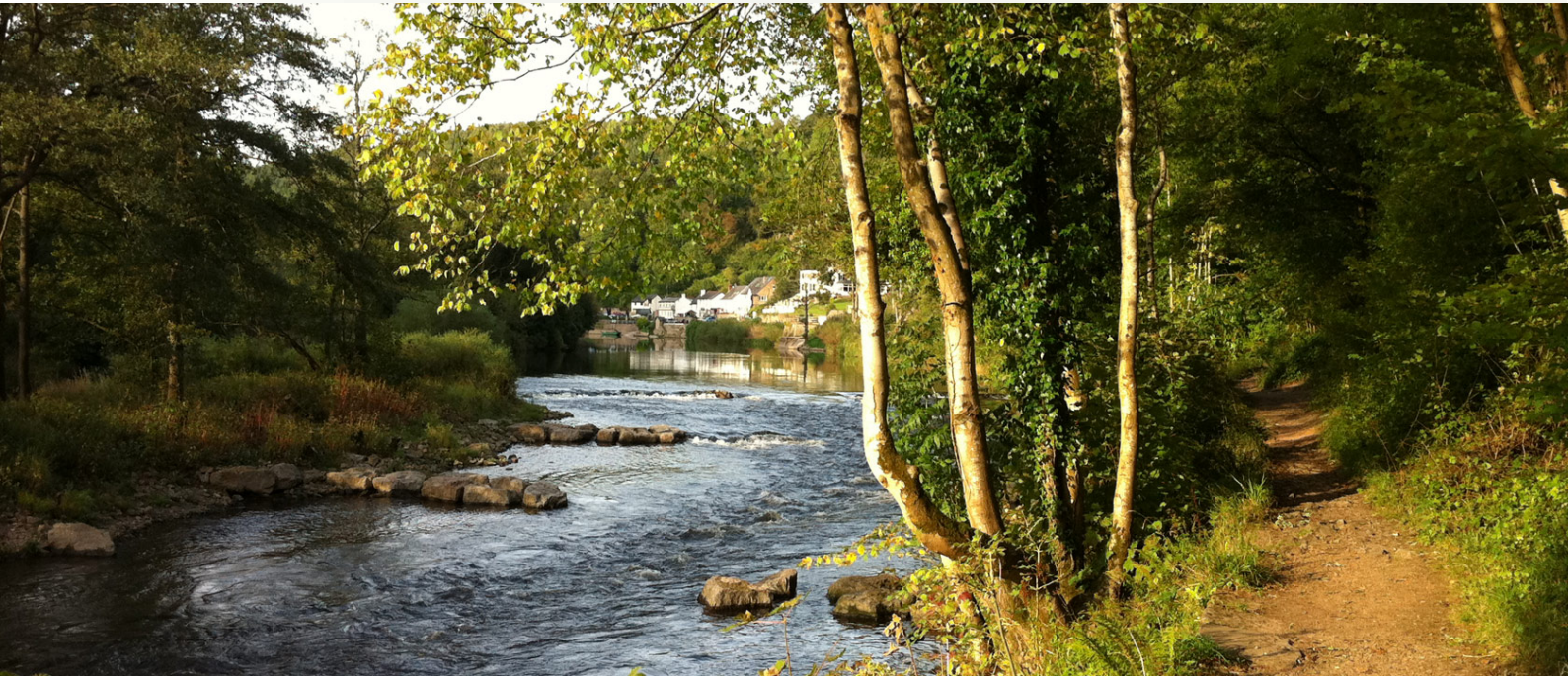
13 MAY – 22 MAY 2026

#### **Southern Japan: Ancient Forests, Mountain Shrines & the Spirit of the Samurai 2026**

13 APR – 27 APR 2026

#### **Türkiye Beyond the Euphrates: Discovering the Eastern Frontier 2026**

15 MAY – 2 JUN 2026



## Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of walks and sites which we plan to include. However, the daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in weather conditions, opening hours, flight/ferry schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunch and dinners as indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner.

### Swansea - 4 nights

Day 1: Friday 1 May, Swansea

- Dylan Thomas Centre
- Dylan Thomas Birthplace: guided tour of the house with the President of the Dylan Thomas Society
- Walking tour of Uplands area
- Dylan Thomas Birthplace: pre-dinner drinks and poetry reading
- Welcome Dinner

Meeting Point: in the foyer of Morgans Hotel, Swansea @ 10 am

Dylan Thomas packed a huge amount into his relatively short life – drinking, womanising, travel, friendships and, of course, writing poems, short stories and radio broadcasts. He liked to think of himself as a “roistering, drunken and doomed poet” but his works actually enjoyed huge popularity during his lifetime.

We will begin our rambles by walking in the footsteps of this extraordinary writer and the most important Welsh poet of the 20th century. The Dylan Thomas Centre in the Maritime Quarter of Swansea was opened by former American President Jimmy Carter who was a huge fan. It is an arts centre dedicated to the life and writings of Dylan Thomas and we will view its permanent collection as an excellent introduction to our Dylan Thomas rambles.



After lunch we head to Dylan's birthplace. He was born in the front bedroom in a modest house at 5 Cwmdonkin Drive, Swansea, on 27 October, 1914. He would later describe himself as 'the Rimbaud of Cwmdonkin Drive' because, like French poet Arthur Rimbaud, he wrote his best poetry in his early years. Dylan's father was a senior English teacher and gave his son a love of fine writing. It was this home that features in *A Child's Christmas in Wales* and it was in what he described as "a small, not very well painted, gateless house" that he wrote about two-thirds of his published work.

Our visit ends with drinks and a poetry reading. Dylan, who once defined an alcoholic as "someone you don't like who drinks as much as you do", would certainly have approved of such a combination. His poetry is best when read aloud by someone with a lilting Welsh accent, and we can enjoy some of his finest poems, before we return to the hotel and our Welcome Dinner. (Overnight Swansea) D

Day 2: Saturday 2 May, Swansea – Laugharne – Fernhill Farm – Llansteffan – Swansea

- **Ramble 1:** Dylan Thomas in Laugharne incl. the Boathouse and the writing shed (7km)
- **Endurance:** Dylan's Walk to the northeast is over relatively level ground for most of the way. The route is surfaced as far as Dylan Thomas's writing shed and Boat House. Further along there are fields and short uphill sections on rough farm tracks. Sir John's Hill is hillier in nature, with a short flight of steps, grassy tracks, fields to cross and a short section of country lane. Distance: approx. 7km.
- Lunch at Brown's Hotel, Laugharne
- Fernhill Farm, home of Dylan's Aunt Annie
- Village of Llansteffan

This morning we drive to Laugharne (pronounced 'Larn'), gloriously situated by Dylan's "heron priested shore" and with its "castle brown as owls". In his brilliant play for voices, *Under Milk Wood*, he turned Laugharne into Llaregyb ('Bugger all' spelled backwards, almost). He moved to what he called "the strangest town in Wales", with his wife Caitlin, in 1938 and spent his last four years writing in what is now preserved as the Boat House, a blue-painted work shed overlooking the estuary. Here he wrote *Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night*, here he created the legendary characters of what he called his "Welsh Ulysses" (he was inspired by James Joyce to create *Under Milk Wood*, the 24-hour story of a town). His Boat House (that "seashaken house on a breakneck of rocks") is now a wonderful museum.

In Laugharne we will also visit Dylan's grave at St Martin's church, and take a special literary ramble that was created in 2014, the centenary of Dylan's birth. In 1944 Dylan Thomas wrote *Poem in October*, about his 30th birthday walk by the water, through the wood (Milk Wood) and up to the shoulder of St John's Hill. It's a poem about his love of Laugharne and about getting older and what the future might bring. Today the walk is marked with plaques that display quotes from this magical poem (find it on youtube and listen to Richard Burton read it!)

Dylan's 'extra' home in Laugharne was Brown's Hotel, where he spent too many hours drinking pints and propping up the bar (he even gave out the hotel's phone number as his own). Our lunch will be enjoyed in this Grade II listed building, where the landlady supplied Dylan with anecdotes for *Under Milk Wood* and which was the venue for his wake.

In the afternoon we visit Llangain, a small village between Carmarthen and Llansteffan. Dylan's mother came from this area and it is here visitors can find Fernhill Farm. Dylan's poem *Fern Hill* is a glorious evocation of childhood innocence and the inevitable loss of it. The poet described it as a poem "for evening and tears". The place also inspired a poem about his aunt, *After the Funeral (in memory of Ann Jones)*.

The magnificent beach at Llansteffan, with its castle on the cliff, was another important place for Dylan Thomas, who stated it was “a breeding box” for the Thomas family. Llansteffan features in his short story *A Visit to Grandpa’s*. He was a poet heavily influenced by the landscapes of his homeland – images of fields and shores, birds and buildings, seeped into his poetry.

The village is also the burial place of Welsh poet Glyn Jones (1905 – 1995). We will return to our hotel in Swansea at the end of the day. **(Overnight Swansea) BL**

### Day 3: Sunday 3 May, Swansea – Gower Peninsula – The Mumbles – Swansea

- **Ramble 2:** Rhossili Bay, Worm’s Head and Mewslade Bay (5km)
- **Endurance:** coming soon. Approx. 5km
- Lunch at The King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston
- Neolithic tomb of Arthur’s Stone
- The Mumbles
- Evening concert by the Morriston Orpheus Choir (to be confirmed)

*National Geographic* voted the Rhossili coastline as one of the best in the world. Dylan Thomas knew and loved the Gower Peninsula and went camping at Rhossili “in a field above the sweeping five-mile beach”. His story *Extraordinary Little Cough* is set there. The ‘*Helvetia*’, what remains of a Viking ship, is still there, and we will walk to the great rock of Worm’s Head promontory, where “at the end of the humped and serpentine body, more gulls than (Dylan) had ever seen before cried over their new dead and the droppings of ages”. He often went there with his friend and fellow poet Vernon Watkins.

In the afternoon we will visit Arthur’s Stone, a large double-chambered Neolithic tomb dating from 4,400 BC. According to legend, King Arthur was travelling in Carmarthenshire when he was troubled by a pebble in his shoe. When he removed it, he threw the stone across Loughor Estuary and by the time it reached its final resting point at Cefyn Bryn, it had become a huge boulder. In whatever manner this 25-ton capstone got to the top of Cefyn Bryn Common, it is considered one of Wales’ most famous prehistoric monuments.

We return to Swansea via the fabulously named Mumbles. Here Dylan was a regular at the Mermaid Hotel and at the Antelope and he thought Mumbles “a rather nice village, despite its name, right on the edge of the sea”. His memories of Mumbles remained important in such writings as *Holiday Memory* – watching cricket at the pavilion, chatting up local girls, attending local fairs, and “rattling along” on the Mumbles Railway.

Music has always been a vitally important part of Welsh culture and the country is famed for its male voice choirs. Tonight, we hope to enjoy a concert presented by the Morriston Orpheus Choir. **(Overnight Swansea) BL**

### Day 4: Monday 4 May, Swansea – Black Mountains – Abergavenny

- **Ramble 3:** Henry Vaughan Trail, Talybont-on-Usk (5km)
- **Endurance:** Considered an easy route with some sections with slightly looser surfaces, slight gradients and gates but no stiles. It is a pleasant stroll through the beautiful countryside surrounded by abundant flora and fauna. 5 km in length with rising to a maximum elevation only 50m above its starting point on the canal bank in the village. Distance: 5km approx.
- Lunch at The Star Inn, Talybont-on-Usk
- **Ramble 4:** J.R.R. Tolkien Walk around Bwlch (4km)
- **Endurance:** At Buckland Hill near Bwlch village, short walk through some beautiful woodland,



emerging out onto a small moor that, if the weather permits, gives wonderful vistas over the Usk Valley and the mountains beyond where Tolkien was thought to have been inspired. Distance: 4km approx.

- Poetry reading with author Owen Sheers

The Black Mountains spread across southeast Wales, and the Brecon Beacons are in southern Wales – both spectacular regions have long been popular with walkers.

Today we walk first in the Brecon Beacons in the footsteps of Henry Vaughan (1621 – 1695), a Welsh metaphysical poet and doctor who was known as ‘the Swan of Usk’. He was born in the area and English was not his first language, although he chose to write in English. He published many religious poems, and yet also celebrated the landscape of his childhood, and his writings influenced Wordsworth, Tennyson and Siegfried Sassoon. The official ‘Henry Vaughan Walk’ leads us through Talybont-on-Usk and the Vaughan Garden (to see examples of the medicinal herbs he would have used), with interpretation panels along the way and the pretty Afon Caerfanell river to admire.

After enjoying a pub lunch, we move on to the Black Mountains. J.R.R. Tolkien holidayed in this area and much of his depiction of ‘the Shire’ in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* was influenced by the landscapes of this region. He even named the Hobbit settlement of Crickhollow after nearby Crickhowell. Our afternoon walk at Buckland Hill will offer superb views, a small moor, and views of the mountains that inspired Tolkien.

Local author Owen Sheers is a poet, playwright, actor and TV presenter, and he enjoys the distinction of being the first ‘writer in residence’ ever to be appointed by a rugby team. His award-winning novel (and film) *Resistance* imagines failed D-Day landings and a Nazi takeover of Wales. Owen will join us before dinner to read some of his acclaimed poetry, which conjures up the majestic landscapes of the Black Mountains. His 2016 work *The Green Hollow* was a heartbreaking tribute to the victims of the Aberfan disaster. (Overnight Abergavenny) BL

## Abergavenny - 4 nights

Day 5: Tuesday 5 May, Abergavenny – Llanthony – Hay-on-Wye – Abergavenny

- **Ramble 5:** Llanthony Priory Walk (8km)
- **Endurance:** description coming soon. Distance: 8km approx.
- Llanthony Priory, Vale of Ewyas
- St Mary’s Chapel, Capel-y-Ffin
- Scenic drive via the Gospel Pass
- Village of Hay-on-Wye, the Town of Books
- Pre-dinner talk on Wordsworth and Coleridge in the Wye Valley

The partly-ruined former Augustinian Llanthony Priory lies in the secluded Vale of Ewyas in the Black Mountains. It was once one of the great religious institutions of Wales, but it decayed after the dissolution of the monasteries. In 1807 the estate was bought by Victorian poet Walter Savage Landor (best remembered today for his poem *Rose Aylmer*), who began building a house there. Wishing to be a model country squire, he improved the roads and even imported sheep from Spain, but his home was never finished. However, there is still an avenue of trees known as ‘Landor’s Larches’. Landor was the model for the litigious Boythorn in Dickens’ *Bleak House*.

Later, one of Llanthony’s nearby buildings was lived in by artist and important type-face designer Eric Gill.

We will eat a picnic lunch in the ruins.

Hay-on-Wye, right on the border of England and Wales, is famed as a 'Book Town'. Since 1988 it has hosted the Hay Literary Festival, which attracts top writers from around the world. It was also a town well known to diarist Francis Kilvert, who recorded his outings there in *Kilvert's Diary*. There will be time to browse some of the many bookshops in Hay before we transfer back to Abergavenny and a pre-dinner talk on Wordsworth and Coleridge in the Wye Valley. (Overnight Abergavenny) BL

#### Day 6: Wednesday 6 May, Abergavenny – Tintern – Monmouth – Symonds Yat – Abergavenny

- Tintern Abbey
- Time at leisure in Monmouth
- **Ramble 6:** Monmouth to Symonds Yat along the Wye River (9.5km)
- **Endurance:** description coming soon. Distance: 9.5km approx.
- Afternoon tea at The Royal Lodge, Symonds Yat

Tintern Abbey, on the banks of the Wye, was founded by the Cistercians in 1131 and was a hugely important religious house. Today it is a ruin, but an incredibly picturesque one. It was painted by Turner, visited by William Gilpin, Robert Southey, Coleridge and, most importantly, by Wordsworth in 1798. His poem *Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey* is a founding work of Romantic poetry. We will see the "steep and lofty cliffs" which he praises, and his "sylvan Wye" and have time to explore the ruins and learn about the way monks once lived in this religious community.

The market town of Monmouth is situated where the Wye joins the River Monnow. King Henry V was born in its castle and the gated stone bridge is a lovely structure. Writer Geoffrey of Monmouth who wrote *History of the Kings of Britain* is believed to be from the town. It was his book which introduced the story of King Arthur to the world, as romantic invention rather than history. There will be time at leisure and for lunch in this charming town.

Our next Ramble takes us along the riverbank of the Wye, through an area designated as being of Outstanding Natural Beauty. En route, we will see 12th century St Peter's Church, ancient salmon fishing sites, a Roman hill fort, ruins of ironworks and King Arthur's Caves where evidence has been found of man's presence going back 12,000 years.

Afternoon tea will be at Symonds Yat, a beautiful village just across the border in Herefordshire. Bones of mammoths and sabre-toothed tigers have been found in nearby caves, and Symonds Yat Rock offers spectacular views along the Wye Valley (both Rock and village have been popular film locations in recent years). (Overnight Abergavenny) BL

#### Day 7: Thursday 7 May, Abergavenny – Tintern – Chepstow – Abergavenny

- **Ramble 7:** Tintern Abbey to Chepstow in the Wye Valley (9.5km)
- **Endurance:** description coming soon. Distance: 9.5km approx.
- Chepstow Museum: curator-led tour
- Time at leisure in Chepstow
- Farewell Dinner

This morning we drive to Chepstow in Monmouthshire with its magnificent castle (often cited as the oldest stone castle in Britain). Travel writer William Gilpin visited when he was forming his ideas on the 'picturesque'. Our day's Ramble takes us to see such picturesque sites as The Grotto, Druid's Temple and

Lover's Leap, all overlooking the beautiful River Wye. It is such scenes that inspired Wordsworth to write:

"Therefore am I still  
A lover of the meadows and the woods,  
And mountains; and of all that we behold  
From this green earth; of all the mighty world."

After lunch we visit Chepstow Museum, where curator Anne Rainsbury will explain the past of this fascinating town, where wine and salmon were traded and ships were built. The museum's collection of 18th and 19th century paintings shows how often the gorgeous scenery attracted notable artists.

We return to Abergavenny for our Farewell Dinner of the tour. (Overnight Abergavenny) BD

Day 8: Friday 8 May, Abergavenny – Monmouth – Bristol

- High Glanau Manor: Guided tour of the gardens & private lunch in the manor (by special appointment)
- High Glanau Manor: *"A prettyish kind of wilderness" – Landscapes and Gardens in the Novels of Jane Austen'* by Prof Timothy Mowl FSA
- Transfer to Bristol Airport and train station

Our last visit is to High Glanau manor and gardens. This was once the home of H. Avray Tipping (1855 – 1933), historian, author of distinguished gardening books, and editor of *Country Life* magazine for 17 years. A friend of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens, he adored his home at High Glanau and the gardens he created there have been lovingly restored by the current owner, Helena Gerrish, author of *Edwardian Country Life – The Story of H. Avray Tipping*. Helena will tell us about Tipping's life and legacy in the drawing room, before we tour the gardens.

This morning, we welcome at High Glanau Manor Professor Timothy Mowl, architectural and landscape historian, and Emeritus Professor of History of Architecture and Designed Landscapes at the University of Bristol. He will give us a lecture on Jane Austen – *"A prettyish kind of wilderness" – Landscapes and Gardens in the Novels of Jane Austen'*.

We will have lunch at High Glanau Manor. It will then be time to bring our rambling to an end and transfer to Bristol airport and station. B



## Accommodation

ASA has selected 4-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom.

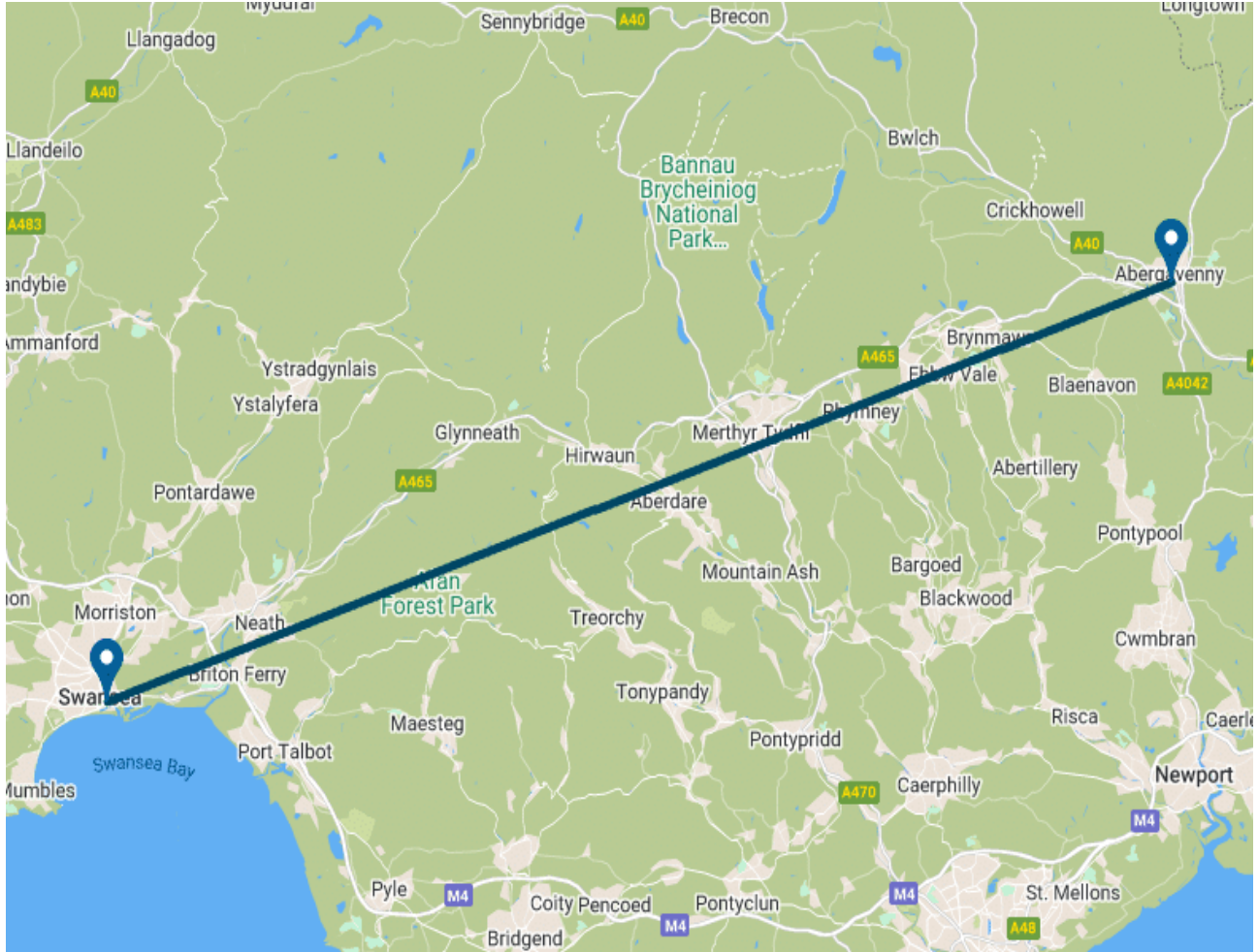
- Swansea (3 nights): [4-star Morgans Hotel](#) – located in the historic Maritime Quarter in a grade II listed building, a 5 minutes' walk from the city centre.
- Abergavenny (4 nights): [4-star The Angel Hotel](#) – housed in a former coaching inn located in the heart of the historic market town.

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

### 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.

## Tour Map



## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$6990.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 June 2025

AUD \$7390.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$1390.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4-star hotels
- Breakfast daily, lunches and dinners indicated in the tour itinerary, where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels where available (not at airports)
- Assistance from a qualified walk leader, insured, and certified in Outdoor First Aid
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour Handbook
- 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:

- Airfare: Australia-Swansea, Bristol-Australia
- Airport-to-hotel transfer in Swansea
- Personal spending money
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance





## Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level 

### Level 2 - Intermediate

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to six hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace over terrain which may include rocky, muddy and uneven paths, sometimes with steep inclines. The most challenging aspect of this tour are 7 rambles rated as easy to easy-moderate. These rambles involve 1.5 to 4 hours of walking for a distance of up to 10km.
- keep up with the group at all times.
- climb a few flights of stairs without duress.
- contend with a shower over a bath; walk-in showers may not be available at all hotels.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.

### Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at [www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/](http://www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/)

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

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. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please

read the fitness requirements carefully.

## Booking Conditions

### 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 \$1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.



# 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

**Covid Certificate** ☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

## Travel Plans

☐ 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.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](http://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](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) tel: 1300 658 444; [www.travelvax.com.au](http://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. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** 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. You do NOT 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? ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? ☐ ☐

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? ☐ ☐
- 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? ☐ ☐

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? ☐ ☐
- Are you insulin dependent? ☐ ☐
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? ☐ ☐
- Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

## 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 the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or 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 only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with 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 booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, 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 preparing for, 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; and
  - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

## 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, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

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

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

## Booking Conditions

### DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

### CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of \$1000.00 is non-refundable.\*\*

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

\*\*\$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) 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 or services 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. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to 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) \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 & 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 \_\_\_\_\_