

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Grand Tour of Great Britain

15 DAYS: Saturday, July 6-Saturday, July 20, 2019

\$5,029 per person double occupancy; \$6,159 for single reservations*

***Prices include round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required.**

GREAT BRITAIN IS: FASCINATING history, cultured cities, glorious architecture and charming landscapes. Our two-week adventure starts in Edinburgh—with its medieval old town and loads of shops and pubs. In York, a stroll of the famous “Shambles” is like a “snap-shot” of the Middle Ages. In Liverpool we'll visit the Beatles Story Museum and enjoy Cardiff with its city-center castle and ultra-modern waterfront. A panoramic tour of London highlights the regal landmarks and UNESCO sites including Trafalgar Square, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

Your tour package includes

- 13 nights in handpicked hotels, 13 breakfasts, 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 11 guided sightseeing tours, Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Edinburgh Castle, Alnwick Castle, Durham Cathedral, York Minster, Beatles Story Museum,
- Shakespeare family home, Cardiff Castle, Bath, Stonehenge, Trafalgar Square,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills and stairs.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston
- DAYS 2-4 Mercure Edinburgh Haymarket, Edinburgh
- DAY 5 Sandman Signature, Newcastle Region
- DAYS 6-7 Holiday Inn York City Centre, York
- DAYS 8-9 Mercure Liverpool Atlantic Tower, Liverpool
- DAY 10 Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel & Spa, Cardiff
- DAYS 11-12 Apex City of Bath Hotel, Bath
- DAYS 13-14 Hilton Kensington, London
- DAY 15 Return flight to Boston

or similar hotel accommodations



Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Edinburgh today.

Edinburgh

Day 2: Arrival in Edinburgh

Included meals: Dinner

Welcome to Scotland! Transfer to your hotel and get settled in before meeting your group at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh

Included meals: Breakfast

Get to know Edinburgh in all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert. • View the elegant Georgian-style New Town and the Royal Mile, two UNESCO World Heritage sites • See the King George statue and Bute House, the official residence of the Scottish Prime Minister • Pass the Sir Walter Scott monument • Enter Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone Spend a free afternoon in Edinburgh or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey** **+\$95/pp**

Travel through the Scottish Borders region to Abbotsford, where you'll enjoy an included lunch. Continue on to Abbotsford House, the 19th-century estate of Sir Walter Scott. The poet designed his home in the Romantic style to imitate the elaborate baronial estates of British aristocrats. Today it serves as a museum for the Scottish memorabilia and artifacts that Scott collected throughout his lifetime. Later, visit the ruins of Melrose Abbey, one of the most impressive of the four Borders abbeys. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$105)

Day 4: Free day in Edinburgh

Included meals: Breakfast

Spend the day exploring on your own or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion **Stirling Castle & Loch Lomond** **+\$105/pp**

Travel through the Scottish countryside to Stirling Castle, dramatically perched high above the surrounding area on the steep cliff Castle Hill. This fortress has played an important role in Scottish history, first to protect the crossing of the nearby River Forth and later as a coronation site for royalty, including Mary, Queen of Scots. Enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of the castle and grounds, view the iconic Robert the Bruce statue and enjoy free time for lunch in the town of Stirling. Then, take a scenic drive

along the placid lake that is the centerpiece of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, the country's first national park. Stop along the way to soak up views of the lake and mountains of the Scottish Highlands. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$115)

Newcastle Region

Day 5: Newcastle Region via Alnwick

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

En route to Alnwick, stop for photos in Berwick-upon-Tweed, the northernmost town in England. Then, continue along a scenic coastal route to Alnwick for a guided tour of the historic castle and gardens before making your way to the Newcastle region.

York

Day 6: York via Durham

Included meals: Breakfast

Today, head to the famed college town of Durham for a sightseeing tour. • Stroll through the old city along the banks of the River Wear • Enter the UNESCO-recognized Durham Cathedral, known for its Romanesque style and beautiful Norman architecture Later, drive through the charming English countryside as you continue on to York.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of York

Included meals: Breakfast

Embark on a walking tour of this historic walled city with a local guide. • Enter York Minster, home to largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world • See the York Museum Gardens, which occupy ten acres in the city center • View the Roman wall, the oldest section of the city's historic fortifications • Visit the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey and the King's Manor Enjoy a free afternoon in York or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion Whitby

+\$115/pp

Transfer across the North York Moors on your way to the charming fishing port of Whitby. Whitby was made famous by its associations with Captain Cook (who served his apprenticeship here) and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (Whitby is where the Transylvanian count first sets foot in the British Isles). You'll visit Whitby Abbey—the backdrop to *Dracula*'s killings in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church—and the 199 steps leading to the port and its small sandy beach. Spend some free time wandering around the port before heading to a restaurant for a fish-and-chips dinner. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs March through November. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$125)

Liverpool

Day 8: Transfer to Liverpool

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Bid farewell to York this morning as you set out for Liverpool.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Liverpool

Included meals: Breakfast

Explore the UNESCO-recognized port city of Liverpool this morning with a local as your guide. • View the neo-Gothic Liverpool Cathedral as well as the modern Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral • See the homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney before entering the Beatles Story Museum, a tribute to the legendary band • Explore the Merseyside Maritime Museum to learn about Liverpool's role in the tragic voyage of the *Titanic*

Cardiff

Day 10: Cardiff via Stratford-upon-Avon

Included meals: Breakfast

Drive southeast through the countryside to Stratford-upon-Avon, the town of Shakespeare's birth. Here, you'll step inside the Shakespeare family home with a local guide. Then, transfer to Cardiff, the capital of Wales. Enjoy a free evening in Cardiff or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion Cardiff Castle Banquet Dinner +\$129/pp

In the heart of medieval Cardiff stands Cardiff Castle, an 11th-century structure built by the Normans on the remnants of a third-century Roman fort. Upon arrival, you'll partake in a tasting of Welsh mead, an ancient drink made with fermented honey. Then, it's time to enjoy a three-course meal of local specialties as you listen to a selection of songs accompanied by a harpist and entertainers in traditional Welsh costume. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs January through November. Must book 20 days before departure

Bath

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Cardiff

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Meet your local guide this morning for a sightseeing tour of the largest city in Wales. • View the medieval Cardiff Castle, located in the city center • Take in views of the beautiful Cardiff Bay Then, take a scenic drive along the Severn River to the town of Bath.

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Bath

Included meals: Breakfast

On a guided sightseeing tour, get to know the charming city of Bath, named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987. • Investigate the city's most famous architectural sites, including the Roman Baths, the Royal Crescent and the Circus • Enter Bath Abbey, to view its fan vaulting and striking stained glass window Enjoy a free afternoon to explore Bath on your own or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion Historic Spa Visit +\$119/pp

Spend two luxurious hours in a historic spa in Bath. Step into a 12-meter heated relaxation pool or travel between hot and cold pools. You may also choose to spend some time in the sauna, steam room or hammam, or work out in the fitness room. You'll also have the opportunity to upgrade your experience upon arrival by adding a beauty, body or face treatment, or even afternoon tea. Use of robes, towels, and flip-flops is included. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$129)

London

Day 13: London via Stonehenge & Salisbury

Included meals: Breakfast

Travel to London today, stopping on the way to gaze upon the vast monoliths of the UNESCO-protected Stonehenge and visit its new visitor center before heading to the medieval city of Salisbury. • View the soaring spire of Salisbury Cathedral, then go inside to view one of the original copies of the Magna Carta • Marvel at Salisbury's historic architecture and wander through its charming shopping streets

Day 14: Sightseeing tour of London

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

With a local expert leading the way, take a guided tour of the regal landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage sites of the English capital. • Pass the grand Trafalgar Square and Baroque-style St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill • See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations and weddings • View icons like Big Ben, the London

Eye and the Tower of London • Stop by Buckingham Palace, where you may catch the Changing of the Guard Enjoy a free afternoon in London or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion Windsor Castle +\$105/pp

Led by a Blue Badge Guide, you'll travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longest-inhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the British Royal Family's preferred retreat for the past 900 years. Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where the Knights of the Garter ceremony takes place. View the exhibit of royal treasures on display within the castle. You'll then have time to stroll through the town of Windsor and have a look at Eton College, a prestigious prep school attended by Princes William and Harry. Please note: Windsor Castle is occasionally closed when in use by the Royal Family; a visit to Henry VIII's Hampton Court will be substituted when necessary. Additionally, St. George's Chapel is closed to the public on Sundays. Must book 20 days before departure

Day 15: Departure Included meals: Breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.