Itinerary

British Landscapes featuring Highclere Castle
Jul 25, 2020 - Aug 4, 2020

Pre Night: Leonardo Royal Hotel London City

Just steps from the River Thames, experience London from its heart at the Grange City Hotel. A modern, luxury hotel situated among ancient historic landmarks, the Grange City Hotel offers a unique London experience. Stroll along the River Thames. Visit the iconic Tower of London and Tower Bridge. Explore classic London, but return to modern oasis. Enjoy a state-of-the-art fitness center and spa, complete with a virtual golf simulator. Take advantage of the many fine-dining and lounge options. Take in views of England's classic city from luxurious rooms and plush beds. Enjoy London from the Grange City Hotel.

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Feel the vibrant energy of England, hear the unique sounds of Scotland, and see the rolling countryside of Wales on a trip that combines dramatic history and natural wonders.

Day 2: London, England - Tour Begins

Your tour opens in London, the cosmopolitan and historic capital of England. This evening, get a taste of contemporary British fare as you join your fellow travelers for a meal highlighting London’s culinary renaissance.

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| Leonardo Royal Hotel London City London | Dinner    | High 71°
|                            |          | Low 54° |


Venture out of London’s city center and travel to Highclere Castle. Home of the Earl of Carnarvon, this popular castle is also known for being the home of the fictional Grantham family on Downton Abbey. Immerse yourself in the atmosphere of a bygone era and wander through the halls of this opulent estate. As you tour the drawing room, dining room and library, you might recognize filming locations from the TV series and motion picture. Spend time in the castle’s gardens before returning to London in the late afternoon.

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Day 4: London
Start the day with a local guide and view London’s quintessentials sights. Make your way past famous icons including the Tower of London, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and the Royal Buckingham Palace. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore this dynamic city on your own.

### Day 5: London - York

**Say farewell to London and visit the 800-year-old university town of Cambridge en route to the medieval city of York.** Upon arrival in York, enjoy a brief orientation tour to get the lay of the land. Or, for a faster journey, choose to arrive in York earlier on your own by way of an optional high speed rail.* Climb aboard at London’s King’s Cross station and navigate the busy British train just as the locals do. Sit back and relax as you travel 125 mph through England’s stunning countryside, arriving in York just over two hours later. After your quick ride, meet up with a local expert and walk the labyrinth of quaint, narrow streets and see the city’s famous Minster.

### Day 6: York - Borders Region, Scotland - Edinburgh

**Travel north along the rolling hills to “bonnie” Scotland. Stop to see Hadrian’s Wall, built in the 2nd century to protect Roman Britain from the tribes of Scotland. Once the mark of the northern border of the Roman Empire, this ancient fortification stretches across the country. Make your way through Scotland’s Borders region before arriving in Edinburgh, where rocky hills tower in the distance and the shadows of history can be seen around every corner.** Discover Scotland’s capital and see how medieval crossroads blend seamlessly with a vibrant modern energy. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

### Day 7: Edinburgh

**Today, it’s your choice! Get acquainted with this regal city on a locally guided tour of the city via coach -OR- join a local expert and explore the city on foot. Both tours include visits to Edinburgh Castle, home to the Scottish Crown Jewels, and the Palace of Holyroodhouse,** the Queen’s official Edinburgh residence and the former home of Mary, Queen of Scots. The rest of today is yours to explore the city independently.

### Day 8: Edinburgh - Lake District, England - Chester

Your final stop in Scotland comes at the border town of Gretna Green, where generations of runaway couples came to get married. Return to England and travel through the picturesque Lake District. In the district’s heart, visit the charming village of Grasmere, home of the poet William Wordsworth. End the day in Chester, your home for the next two nights, where ancient walls enclose charming Tudor and Victorian houses.

### Day 9: Chester - Llangollen, Wales - Chester, England

**Choose how you discover Chester because today it’s your choice! Embark on a panoramic city tour and then walk through Chester’s Rows to peer into the city’s hidden secrets, hopping in and out of these iconic 2-tiered shopping galleries with a local guide -OR- follow in the footsteps of ancient Roman soldiers and medieval archers with an exploratory stroll on the city’s ancient walls.** Then, cross over into Wales and discover Llangollen, one of the country’s most picturesque villages. See the area from a different perspective when you sail along the top of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Admire the view from the tall, bridge-like waterway, towering more than 120 feet above the landscape below.
Day 10: Chester - Stratford-upon-Avon

Step back in time on a journey to Stratford-upon-Avon and visit the Bard’s birthplace – the childhood home of William Shakespeare. After touring the home, enjoy time at leisure to explore on your own. Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a private farewell dinner at Hall’s Croft, a 400-year-old Shakespeare family home. Toast the end of a wonderful journey while actors in traditional costume perform some of Shakespeare’s most renowned scenes.

Hotel
Hotel Indigo (formerly The Falcon)
Stratford-upon-Avon

Culinary
Breakfast & Dinner

Weather
High 72°
Low 52°
Rain 2”

Day 11: Stratford-upon-Avon - Tour Ends

Your journey through Britain concludes today.