

23 DAY ENCHANTING
UK & IRELAND

4TH - 26TH SEPTEMBER 2011

 *holidays*
on location



Stratford-upon-Avon



Cotswolds

Itinerary

September 2011

Sun 4 Sep: Melbourne - Singapore - London

1545 Depart Melbourne SQ228
2135 Arrive Singapore
2330 Depart Singapore SQ322

September 2011

Day 1 | Mon 5 Sep

Arrive London - Stratford-upon-Avon 05:55a.m.

Arrive London (LHR) then meet with your tour escort, board the tour coach and transfer to Stratford. The Cotswolds is a typically English part of the country and the area is well-known for its rolling hills, honey-coloured stone and delightful villages and towns such as Cirencester, Burford and Bibury. The limestone hills of the Cotswolds are strewn with countless picture-book towns and villages built by wealthy cloth (especially wool) merchants. Many of the Cotswolds' fine manors and churches were built between the 14th and 16th centuries. Numerous churches are decorated with beautiful Norman carvings and the local limestone was ideal as it is soft and easy to carve when first quarried, but hardening after long exposure to sunlight. En-route enjoy morning tea at a mid-way point to Stratford-upon-Avon which sits on the banks of the River Avon in the heart of the English midlands. A market town dating back to medieval times, Stratford is today most famous as the birthplace of the Elizabethan playwright William Shakespeare, and there are numerous buildings still surviving which he would have recognised. Likewise, there are world-famous theatres with an excellent schedule of performances, and many very good pubs and restaurants. This evening enjoy a traditional Pub dinner.

Overnight in Stratford-upon-Avon (D)

Day 2 | Tue 6 Sep:



York Minster, York

Stratford-upon-Avon – Warwick Castle Start 9:00a.m.

Enjoy a full day in Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick. Visit historic Warwick Castle. Centuries of secrets hide in the shadows of the Castle. From the days of William the Conqueror to the reign of Queen Victoria, the Castle has provided a backdrop for many turbulent times. Join the mediaeval household in the Kingmaker attraction, enter the ghost tower, descend into the depths of its dungeons then marvel at the grandeur of the Great Hall and State Rooms. Visits to two Shakespearean properties have been arranged. Shakespeare's Birthplace is a half timbered house, where Shakespeare was born in 1564. The house offers a fascinating insight into life as it was when Shakespeare was a child. Just outside Stratford lies Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the childhood home of Shakespeare's wife. Enjoy afternoon cream tea at the Cottage Teas Gardens located opposite Anne Hathaway's cottage. This picturesque thatched cottage has a charming cottage garden and a tree and sculpture garden including a maze. Overnight in Stratford-upon-Avon (B)

Day 3 | Wed 7 Sep:

Stratford-upon-Avon - York - Edinburgh Start 8:00a.m.

Depart for Edinburgh this morning. Stop at York for some sightseeing en-route including the York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe. The Minster is a glorious medieval architectural achievement with one of the finest collections of stained glass in existence. We can also explore history underground in the Minster's Undercroft. Enjoy a light lunch at the Mason Arms, before you continue your journey to Edinburgh. Edinburgh is one of the world's finest cities. Its magnificent architecture shifts from the lofty buildings of its medieval Old Town as they tumble down the Royal Mile, to the graceful houses of the Georgian New Town. Overlooking it all perches Edinburgh Castle. A traditional Pub dinner is provided this evening. Overnight in Edinburgh. (B,L,D)



Itinerary

Day 4 | Thu 8 Sep:

In Edinburgh

Start 9:45a.m.

Visit Edinburgh Castle, the medieval fortress which dominates the city's skyline. Perched on an extinct volcano and offering stunning views, this instantly recognisable fortress is a powerful national symbol, and part of Edinburgh's World Heritage site. Return to your hotel around lunchtime. Afternoon and evening is at leisure. Possibility to enjoy by night on your own. Overnight in Edinburgh (B)

Day 5 | Fri 9 Sep:

Edinburgh –Dunkeld

Start 9:00a.m.

Today we depart Edinburgh and head for Scone Palace, before shopping at the House of Bruar. Scone is a place that breathes history like nowhere else in Scotland. Today, in the 21st century, it is the home of the Earl of Mansfield, and a major attraction to visitors from all over the world. Fifteen hundred years ago, it was the capital of the Pictish kingdom and the centre of the ancient Celtic church. In the intervening centuries, it has been the seat of parliaments and the crowning place of Kings. It has housed the Stone of Destiny and been immortalised in Shakespeare's Macbeth. The House of Bruar is Scotland's most prestigious country store and for many, no trip to Scotland is complete without visiting 'The Home of Country Clothing'. Continue to Dunkeld. A traditional Pub dinner is provided this evening. Overnight in Dunkeld (B,D)

Day 6 | Sat 10 Sep:

Dunkeld - Lake District

Start 8:00a.m.

Head down to the Lake District this morning. En-route we stop at the Moffat Woollen Mill, and Gretna Green. Moffat Woollen Mill is famous for the very best in Scottish knitwear. Their wonderful knitwear collection extends from Arans that warm the chilliest days to the finest lambs wool and cashmere knitwear. Visit the Gretna Green Museum. The World-Famous Old Blacksmith's Shop is one of Scotland's earliest visitor attractions. Curiosity has attracted travellers to visit Gretna Green since the middle of the 19th Century. The first visitors would peer through the windows trying to catch a glimpse of a run-away couple marrying over the anvil. In the year 1886, the owner, Hugh Mackie decided to open the cottage and workshop to visitors thus creating one of the first visitor attractions in Scotland. A popular haunt for Britain's best loved artists and poets, the Lake District really is the jewel in the English crown. Lofty peaks, idyllic villages, tranquil lakes and award winning gardens confirm why the Lakes District is often referred to as the 'Most beautiful corner of England'. Overnight in Grange-over-Sands in the Lakes District. (B)

Day 7 | Sun 11 Sep:

Lake District - Chester

Start 8:30a.m.

Depart for Chester. En-route a scheduled stop at the Beatrix Potter Museum is arranged. This attraction includes all 23 Tales by Beatrix Potter, brought to life in a magical indoor recreation of the Lakeland countryside. Explore the life of Beatrix Potter with visual walks and a short film presentation. In the afternoon enjoy a cruise on the largest lake in England - Lake Windemere. No matter where you start your journey, be it Bowness, Ambleside or Lakeside the spectacular voyage gives the traveller magnificent views of mountain scenery, secluded bays and the many wooded islands. Afterwards we leave the Lakes, and head to Chester. A traditional Pub dinner is provided this evening. Overnight in Chester. (B,D)

Day 8 | Mon 12 Sep: In Chester

Start 9:00a.m.

In Chester, enjoy a guided tour of this Roman city. Soak in the atmosphere created by an abundance of black & white buildings set in a circuit of glorious city walls. Within the walls are the city's delights like the enchanting Eastgate Clock and the 1000 year old Cathedral, a haven of reflective tranquillity in a lively, bustling, cosmopolitan centre. Chester's crowning glory however is the 13th century Rows - two-tiers of shops running along the main streets. The coach is scheduled to return to your hotel. However you have the option to remain in the town and walk back at your leisure to your centrally located hotel in Chester. Afternoon is free. Overnight in Chester. (B)

Day 9 | Tues 13 Sep:

Chester - Dublin

Start 8:45a.m.

Depart Chester en-route to Holyhead to catch the ferry to Dublin. The services of your English tour-escort ends in Holyhead. The crossing on the ferry is with your Australian Escort. On arrival in Dublin, disembark and proceed to collect your luggage and meet with your Irish tour-escort. Board your tour coach and start your Irish touring. Welcome to Dublin, the capital of Ireland. This charming town with its history dating back to Viking times bubbles with creativity, culture and craic – the Irish for having a good time! Dublin is one of Europe's most popular city break destinations. Whether you come for business, the city's rich cultural heritage, the shopping, the restaurants or the famous Dublin nightlife, you are guaranteed a 'céad míle fáilte' or a 'thousand welcomes' in Irish. A traditional Pub dinner is provided this evening. Overnight in Dublin. (B,D)





Bath

Itinerary

Day 10 | Wed 14 Sep:

Dublin - Galway

Start 9:30a.m.

Enjoy a guided tour of Dublin before heading to Galway. The Book of Kells is an ornately-illustrated manuscript, produced by Celtic monks around AD 800. It is one of the most lavishly illuminated manuscripts to survive the mediaeval period and has been described as the zenith of Western calligraphy and illumination. It contains the four gospels of the Bible in Latin, along with prefatory and explanatory matter decorated with numerous colourful illustrations and illuminations. Today it is on permanent display at the Trinity College Library in Dublin. Overnight in Galway (B)

Day 11 | Thu 15 Sep:

In Galway

Start 9:00a.m.

Enjoy a tour of Galway City. Galway is a medieval city that is rich in culture. It is also a university city which is partly responsible for its vibrancy and love for the arts. It has much to offer visitors, both young and old. See St Nicholas Church - the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas is the largest medieval parish church in Ireland in continuous use as a place of worship. Visit the Old Quays, and then, reaching the river Corrib, you will visit the famous Spanish Arch before crossing to the ancient Claddagh, famed for its ring and unique culture. Dinner tonight in a local restaurant. Overnight in Galway. (B,D)

Day 12 | Fri 16 Sep:

Galway - Killarney

Start 9:00a.m.

The Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's top visitor attractions. The Cliffs are 214m high at the highest point and range for 8 kilometres along the Atlantic Ocean on the western seaboard of County Clare. O'Brien's Tower stands proudly on a headland of the majestic Cliffs. From the Cliffs one can see the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, as well as the Twelve Pins, the Maum Turk Mountains in Connemara and Loop Head to the South. The Cliffs of Moher take their name from a ruined promontory fort 'Mohtar' which was demolished during the Napoleonic wars to make room for a signal tower. Overnight in Killarney. (B)

Day 13 | Sat 17 Sep:

In Killarney

Start 9:00a.m.

The Ring of Kerry (or Iveragh Peninsula to state its correct name) is part of the mystical & unspoilt region of Ireland that has attracted visitors for hundreds of years. Its spectacular beauty is beyond question and it is a natural centre for outdoor pursuits including golf, water-sports, cycling, walking, riding and the very-best fishing in freshwater rivers for salmon & trout and at sea for bass, ray, pollack, conger eel, cod, flounder, wrasse, mullet, mackerel and tuna. The Ring of Kerry has some of the finest beaches in Europe that provide all the facilities for a traditional seaside holiday. Above all, the Ring of Kerry provides an amazing insight into the ancient heritage of Ireland - see the Iron Age Forts & Ogham Stones, Old Monasteries and a landscape carved out of rock by the last Ice Age 10,000 years ago. Enjoy some free time before boarding your coach back to Killarney. Dinner is served at a local restaurant. Overnight in Killarney. (B,D)

Day 14 | Sun 18 Sep:

Killarney - Waterford

Start 9:00a.m.

This morning head to Waterford. The House of Waterford Crystal is conveniently located on the Mall in Waterford City and open to the public seven days a week all year round. The new high-tech facility exclusively produces 40,000 luxury hand-crafted crystal pieces using traditional artisan methods for our most-discerning customers in addition to serving as a brand laboratory for innovation and modern design. Come and take a visual journey of over 225 years of glass-making and see how each individual piece of crystal is created by highly-skilled craftsmen using unique and traditional methods. Overnight in Waterford. (B)

Day 15 | Mon 19 Sep:

Waterford - Bristol

Start 6:00a.m.

An early start from Waterford to ensure a timely arrival to Bristol by 4:30p.m., with scheduled refresher stops on the way. Board the coach and transfer to Rosslare. The services of your Irish tour-escort ends in Rosslare. The journey to Pembroke on the ferry is with your Australian escort. On arrival in Pembroke, disembark and proceed to collect your luggage. Meet your English tour-escort, Tim Hudson and board the tour coach to transfer to Bristol. Bristol is a lively and dynamic city and the largest city in the south west of England. The prestige of Bristol is reflected in its splendid architecture, a rich maritime heritage, a wealth of attractions and beautiful estates and parkland. A traditional Pub dinner is provided this evening. Overnight in Bristol. (B,D)



Roman Baths, Bath



Itinerary

Day 16 | Tue 20 Sep:

Bristol - Plymouth

Start 9:00a.m.

Depart Bristol this morning and travel to Plymouth. En-route we have arranged a scheduled stop at the Jane Austin Centre with time for viewing. The Jane Austin Centre at 40 Gay Street in Bath houses a permanent exhibition which tells the story of Jane's experience in the city between 1801-1806 and the effect that living here had on her and her writing. Continue your journey to Bath before heading onto Cornwall. Bath is one of England's most-beautiful, elegant and historic cities, and is classed as a World Heritage City. The Roman's were captivated by the area of Bath over 2,000 years ago, when Bath was a vast green valley with a miraculous stream of endless hot water. More recently, Bath became a fashionable health-resort (in the eighteenth century) and today the remains of the Roman Baths and graceful Georgian architecture combine to make Bath one of Britain's most popular attractions. In Bath, enjoy a visit to the Roman Baths. Perhaps the best-preserved Roman religious spa from the ancient world, there are four main features: The Sacred Spring, The Roman Temple, The Roman Bath House and finds from the Roman Baths. We'll also see the Georgian Pump Room. In the afternoon, depart Bath for Plymouth. As the regional capital of Devon and Cornwall, Plymouth is an extra-ordinary blend of a vibrant modern city and a historic seafaring port. Visit world famous heritage sites like Plymouth Hoe and Mayflower steps. In the Barbican, you can enjoy centuries of maritime tradition. Overnight in Plymouth (B,D)

Day 17 | Wed 21 Sep:

In Plymouth

Start 9:00a.m.

We enjoy a full-day exploring Cornwall, visiting Tintagel Castle, Zennor, Truro and Land's End, with a visit to the Eden Project! With its spectacular-location on one of England's most-dramatic coastlines, Tintagel is an awe-inspiring and romantic spot, a place of legends. Joined to the mainland by a narrow neck of land, Tintagel Island faces the full force of the Atlantic Ocean. On the mainland itself, the gaunt remains of the medieval castle represent only one phase in a long history of occupation. Even before Richard Earl of Cornwall built his castle, Tintagel was already associated with the conception of King Arthur. The connection was later renewed by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, in his Idylls of the King. Come and explore Cornwall's only City - Truro, wander through the streets and opes to discover independent retailers but also national chains. The maritime heritage is important, with river trips to Falmouth and to Trellissick Gardens, with its elaborate gardens, wide open spaces and fantastic views of the Carrick Roads which are a photographers delight. Truro Cathedral dominates the skyline and plays an important part in the City's story. It hosts lunchtime recitals, evening concerts and plays. The Eden Project communicates its story in a 'Living Theatre of Plants and People' based in a large crater in which nestle two vast greenhouses (Biomes). Inside these greenhouses, house plants, crops and landscapes from the humid tropics and warm temperate regions act as a backdrop to the temperate landscape. Lands End, the most westerly point of the English mainland. Looking out to sea (with an ice-cream maybe!) from here allows the mind to appreciate the scale of the Atlantic Ocean, seeming to stretch beyond the horizon forever. Enjoy a traditional Afternoon or Cream Tea. A traditional Pub dinner is provided this evening. Overnight in Plymouth. (B,D)





Palm Court at the Langham Hotel

Itinerary

Day 18 | Thu 22 Sep:

Plymouth - London

Start 9:00a.m.

Head back to London today, and visit Stonehenge en-route. Stop to marvel at the great and ancient stone circle of Stonehenge, one of the Wonders of the World. What visitors see today are the substantial remnants of the last in a sequence of such monuments erected between circa 3000BC and 1600BC. Each monument was a circular structure, aligned with the Rising of the Sun at the midsummer solstice. London is one of the world's most popular cities! People have flocked to the city for tourism and business alike for over two thousand years. Today, London has the greatest concentration of major attractions in Britain, boasts four World Heritage Sites, and is renowned throughout the world for its shops, museums, parks and cosmopolitan life. Overnight in London. (B)

Day 19 | Fri 23 Sep:

In London

Start 9:00a.m.

A guide is provided for our full-day sightseeing tour of all the major sights of London. In London's vibrant West End enjoy famous sights such as Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and Big Ben. We'll see Westminster Abbey, an architectural masterpiece which has been the setting for every Coronation since 1066 and contains the tombs of many Kings and Queens. Then we'll move on to the Old City of London. Although now largely commercial, the city is packed with history and noteworthy buildings. We'll visit St Paul's Cathedral, designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Then our final visit of the day will be at the Tower of London, ancient London's most historic monument and home to the priceless Crown Jewels. At the Tower of London visit the White, Bloody and Martin Towers, where prisoners were held and often tortured. Also see the Crown Jewels, displayed in a specially-built jewel house, and don't forget the Ravens, without whom the White Tower would supposedly fall, and a great disaster befall the monarchy! Visit St.Paul's Cathedral, the largest cathedral in Britain. Designed by Sir Christopher Wren and built between 1675 and 1710, this magnificent building was designed to reflect its importance as the capital's leading church. The church has recently undergone a multi-million pound restoration. Afternoon tea is arranged in the Palm Court of the Langham Hotel with its afternoon tea tradition dating back 1865. From here transfer to the theatre district - Prince Edward Theatre - to enjoy a night at the theatre, to enjoy the long-running show JERSEY BOYS starting at 7:30p.m. The show ends at 10:00p.m. Return to your hotel by own arrangements. Distance between theatre and your hotel is 2.8km. A taxi ride is suggested. Overnight in London. (B)

Day 20 | Sat 24 Sep:

In London

Free day

Full day-at-leisure. Some of you will be visiting Buckingham Palace and what a wonderful time to visit with the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding gown on display. Also on display the masterpieces of Peter Karl Fabergé, the greatest Russian goldsmith and jeweller famous for his imperial Easter eggs and dazzling jewel-encrusted boxes. Dinner is arranged at one of London's most-famous restaurants - Simpsons-in-the-Strand. Departure from the hotel is with a transfer coach is scheduled at 5:45p.m. A return transfer is arranged from Simpson's to your hotel at 9:00p.m. For a true taste of all that is best in British cuisine there is no finer dining establishment than Simpson's-in-the-Strand. Only the finest seasonal ingredients are used by Master Cook, Gerry Rae in a Bill of Fare that offers a wide range of classical dishes, including the best Roast Beef and Lamb in the country, and game in season. Roasts are carved at guests' tables, from antique silver-domed trolleys, by Simpson's Master Carvers in a perfect example of restaurant theatre. Simpson's also serves the Great British Breakfast on weekdays, with the 'Ten Deadly Sins' for trencherman appetites. Overnight in London. (B,D)

Day 21 | Sun 25 Sep:

Depart London

Start 7:00a.m.

This morning, a motorcoach is provided for transfer from the hotel to Heathrow airport departing at 7:00a.m. Your tour escort will escort you to Heathrow Airport and assist with check-in to your flight. (B)

Please note: In view of early departure on Sunday, collect your freshly packed breakfast box from the hotel reception before boarding the coach.

1130 Depart London SQ317

Mon 26 Sep: In Transit

0720 Arrive Singapore
0955 Depart Singapore SQ217
1915 Arrive Melbourne

END OF PROGRAM



Palm Court at the Langham Hotel

