

2012

England's Countryside & Wales



In the rolling hills of Yorkshire, time passes a bit more slowly.

DAY 1: FLIGHT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Your trip begins with a regularly scheduled overnight flight to London aboard an internationally recognized airline.

DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN LONDON

Welcome to London! A Go Ahead representative greets you at the airport after you clear customs and then escorts you to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to relax or begin acquainting yourself with the city. At an included dinner this evening, meet your fellow travelers.

Included meals: breakfast (in flight), dinner

DAY 3: SIGHTSEEING OF LONDON

An expert local guide leads this morning's guided sightseeing tour of London. Highlights of the panoramic tour include views of Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park, the Big Ben clocktower, the Houses of Parliament, Piccadilly Circus and a stop outside St. James's Palace, where you might glimpse the ceremonial Changing of the Guard (seasonal and weather dependent). After your sightseeing tour, join an optional excursion to Windsor Castle, the centuries-old retreat of Britain's Royal Family.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 4: TRANSFER TO YORK VIA CAMBRIDGE

Board a private motorcoach for a scenic transfer to York this morning. Along the way, you'll stop to visit Cambridge. Enjoy free time to have lunch and soak up the atmosphere of this famed university town. Continue on to York where you can begin exploring this small, bustling city.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 5: SIGHTSEEING OF YORK

This morning, embark on a guided walking tour of this historic walled city. Highlights include York Minster, home to a 500-year-old stained glass rose window symbolizing the conclusion of the War of the Roses, and The Shambles, a well-preserved medieval street with many shops and tea rooms. You'll also visit Whip-Ma-Whop-Ma Gate—the site of the ancient city stocks and whipping post—Merchant Adventurer's Hall, and Clifford's Tower, the magnificent keep of York Castle. You'll walk along the city's famed medieval walls, so be prepared for some steps and uneven stones. This afternoon, consider joining an optional tour to Whitby.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Included entrances: York Minster

DAY 6: CHESTER & CAERNARFON REGION

Journey from York to Chester this morning, where

10-DAY TOUR INCLUDES

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline and airport transfers
- The services of a Go Ahead Tour Director
- A licensed local city guide in London, York, Caernarfon and Bath
- 8 nights accommodations in comfortable, well-located hotels with twin beds and private bath or shower
- All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling and local taxes
- Buffet breakfast daily; 3 three-course dinners
- Private deluxe motorcoach
- Guided sightseeing and entrance fees to select sights as described
- Go Ahead travel gift and membership in our World Traveler Club, which includes credit toward your next tour

GUIDED SIGHTSEEING

DAY 3: London

DAY 5: York

DAY 7: Caernarfon Castle

DAY 8: Bath

Tour Highlight

Modeled after the Walls of Constantinople, the imposing defenses at Caernarfon Castle have protected northern Wales since the reign of Edward I. Today, the castle has been restored to give visitors the same sense of awe the Welsh might have felt in the 13th century.

Insider's Tip

The best views of York can be found from atop the city's walls; don't forget your camera!



Experience the awe-inspiring tranquility of ancient Stonehenge.



Admire London's Tower Bridge.

your Tour Director leads an informal orientation of the city, including the largest Roman amphitheater in England. Chester was a stronghold of the Roman empire, and its four main streets still lead outward from the site of the original Roman fortress to the four city gates. Then, continue on to the Caernarfon region in northwestern Wales, where you'll enjoy an included dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 7: SIGHTSEEING OF CAERNARFON

This morning, get to know the city of Caernarfon on a guided tour. The majestic Caernarfon Castle, featuring well-preserved walls and unusual polygonal towers, is the major attraction. Continue on to Snowdonia National Park, where you'll stop to admire the stunning scenery and enjoy a stroll near Snowdon, the tallest mountain in Wales. Then travel to Bath, where dinner is included.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

DAY 8: SIGHTSEEING OF BATH

This morning, you'll tour the town of Bath, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the Romans constructed a bathing complex and an imposing temple around one of Britain's few hot springs. As you stroll through the beautifully preserved ruins, imagine ancient Romans relaxing and sharing gossip. You'll also visit the magnificent architectural sights for which Bath is famous, including the Royal Crescent, a sickle-shaped row of tony townhouses and one of Britain's greatest examples of Georgian architecture. Your tour also visits The Cir-

cus, a structure inspired by the Roman Colosseum. Later, consider an optional excursion to Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare and the home of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Included meals: breakfast

Included entrances: Roman Baths

DAY 9: STONEHENGE & SALISBURY

Board a motorcoach this morning for your transfer back to London. En route, you'll stop on Salisbury Plain for a visit to the mystical Stonehenge. Experience the awe-inspiring tranquility of this ancient site, gazing upon the vast monoliths placed in a circle. Then continue on to the magnificent medieval city of Salisbury, where your Tour Director will lead you on a guided tour. You'll see one of Britain's finest views, the tall spire of Salisbury Cathedral soaring into the sky. You'll have free time to discover the city's historic architecture, charming shopping streets and thriving artistic community. This evening in London, consider joining an optional excursion, the London Eye & Pub Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast

Included entrances: Stonehenge

DAY 10: RETURN HOME

Extend your stay with two nights in London, or transfer to the airport to board your flight home. Included meals: breakfast
(In the case of early morning departures, breakfast may not be provided.)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

London

2 nights

DAY 10: Spend the day at your leisure in London. Popular choices include watching the street performers ("buskers") of Covent Garden marketplace, buying discounted same-day tickets to a West End play or studying the many treasures housed at the British Museum, including the Rosetta Stone and the Elgin Marbles. You might choose to join an optional tour of St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 11: Enjoy another day as you please in London. If you missed the optional Windsor Castle tour, you might wish to visit this fabulous royal residence today. Or you could stroll through the lush grounds of Hyde Park, people-watch in Trafalgar Square or shop on lively Oxford or Bond Streets.

Included meals: breakfast

DAY 12: Board your flight home.

Included meals: breakfast

Extension is available on select departure dates, and space is limited. Please call early to hold your spot. Extension also requires a minimum of 10 travelers.



Travel Pace: 2

Travel pace levels are based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 - leisurely | 3 - active |
| 2 - comfortable | 4 - challenging |

Walking on Tour

Your tour is evenly paced to include fairly low-to-moderate walking with most sightseeing conducted by private motorcoach. There is some more uneven and hilly walking in Caernarfon and York, especially along the castle grounds. During your free time, each city you'll visit is best explored on foot, although using local buses can alleviate periods of walking.

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Climate

The following guide provides the average temperatures for a sampling of the regions on your itinerary.

LONDON

Jan-Feb	32°-44°F / 0°-7°C
Mar	34°-49°F / 1°-9°C
Apr	38°-54°F / 3°-12°C
May	43°-61°F / 6°-16°C
June	48°-67°F / 9°-19°C
July-Aug	51°-71°F / 11°-22°C
Sep	47°-65°F / 8°-18°C
Oct	43°-59°F / 6°-15°C
Nov	37°-50°F / 3°-10°C
Dec	34°-45°F / 1°-7°C

YORK

Jan-Feb	34°-44°F / 1°-6°C
Mar	36°-48°F / 2°-9°C
Apr	39°-54°F / 4°-12°C
May	43°-59°F / 6°-15°C
June	48°-66°F / 9°-19°C
July-Aug	52°-68°F / 11°-20°C
Sep	48°-64°F / 9°-18°C
Oct	45°-57°F / 7°-14°C
Nov	48°-37°F / 3°-9°C
Dec	45°-34°F / 1°-7°C

BATH

Jan-Feb	37°-46°F / 3°-8°C
Mar	41°-50°F / 5°-10°C
Apr	42°-54°F / 6°-12°C
May	48°-62°F / 9°-17°C
June	54°-66°F / 12°-19°C
July-Aug	57°-71°F / 14°-22°C
Sep	53°-65°F / 12°-18°C
Oct	48°-57°F / 7°-15°C
Nov	43°-51°F / 6°-11°C
Dec	40°-47°F / 4°-8°C

Pre-departure information for your tour

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

This tour includes the following countries: England, Scotland and Ireland. In order to enter these countries, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. The expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home. No visa is required for U.S. or Canadian citizens. If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country's consulate for your specific entry requirements.

AIRPORT AND DEPARTURE TAXES

All airport and departure taxes for your tour are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Airlines have varying weight restrictions on luggage. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. Bear in mind that your luggage will probably weigh more on your return trip due to souvenir shopping. We allow only one suitcase per person. One carry-on bag is also permitted, provided that it does not exceed 45 inches (length + width + height). There may be times when you will have to handle your own bags, and you'll find that lightweight luggage provides a distinct advantage. Make sure you label your baggage and carry valuables, medication and documents in your carry-on luggage.

CLOTHING AND PACKING TIPS

Light, loose-fitting clothing that provides comfort when exploring the sights is essential for your tour. A sun hat, sunglasses and a sturdy pair of walking shoes are recommended for sightseeing. It's always a good idea to be prepared for any eventuality—a lightweight sports jacket and rainwear are advised. If you plan to visit an especially elegant restaurant or attend the opera or theater, you will probably feel more comfortable in something more formal. Also, remember that it is preferable not to visit churches or other religious sites with bare legs and shoulders (entrance may be denied on this basis).

HEALTH

There are no major health risks when traveling to England, Ireland and Scotland. It is always advisable to check with your doctor or health-care provider for the latest updates and overseas travel requirements.

CUISINE

For traditional English fare at a reasonable price, try a pub meal. Stilton cheese, steak and kidney pie, and Cumberland sausages are specialties. Sip afternoon tea with delicious finger sandwiches and scones at Harrods for the ultimate in English tradition. Modern-day London also boasts an array of ethnic restaurants unmatched by almost any other city in the world for its diversity. Popular options for the adventurous palate include Indian, Thai, Chinese, Indonesian, Greek and West African cuisine.

Traditional Welsh cooking depends on local ingredients, including fresh vegetables from the abundant gardens, seafood from the vibrant fishing culture, and lamb and beef from the many sheep and cattle farms. Leeks and cabbage are staples, and along with lamb or bacon, they go into the traditional Welsh one-pot meal, *cawl*, a broth or soup. Fresh fish such as salmon and brown trout are common, as are white crab, lobsters and cockles. Some traditional delicacies include Welsh cakes (small pastries), crempogs (pancakes), laverbread (seaweed) and Welsh rarebit (toast with cheese and butter). Caerphilly, the best-known Welsh cheese, is a mild, crumbly white cheese that originated in South Wales. And, of course, the Welsh are fond of teatime. Traditional bara brith (bread with currants), teisen lap (a shallow moist fruit cake), teisen carawe (caraway seed cake), tease sinamon (cinnamon cake) and teisen mêl (honey cake) are specialties for the tea table. Last but not least, there are more than 20 fine vineyards in Wales and several excellent locally produced beers.

TRANSPORTATION

Round-trip flights arrive in and depart from London. Your transfer upon arrival in London is provided by Hotel by Bus transportation, and you can find them at a desk when you make your way through customs and baggage. Included transportation on tour is by private deluxe motorcoach.

ELECTRICITY

England and Wales use 240 volts.

TIME ZONES

Britain and Wales both operate on Greenwich mean time, which is five hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard time.

CURRENCY

The British pound is the currency you will use on your tour. Better rates of exchange are usually available in your destination country, although it's worth ordering some currency from your local bank to use when you first arrive. We advise that you take credit cards, ATM/bank cards and traveler's checks, which can be exchanged for cash at local banks. We suggest informing your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so they don't confuse your purchases for fraudulent charges.

TIPPING

At the conclusion of your tour, it is customary to offer your Go Ahead Tour Director and driver a gratuity. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalent of \$3USD/CAD per person per day for your driver and \$6USD/CAD to \$9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD/CAD per local guide. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.

PURCHASING OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS ON TOUR

If you have not yet purchased your optional excursions, you may be able to do so while on your tour. Your Tour Director will only accept cash (in U.S. dollars only), Visa, MasterCard or American Express as payment for optional excursions. Please be advised that if you pay for an excursion by credit card while on tour, it may take up to three months for your card to be charged. Some optional excursions may only be purchased in advance. See the separate "Optional Excursions" sheet for more information.

International travel is, by its very nature, unpredictable. We must therefore reserve the right to change this itinerary without advanced notice to meet with local conditions at the time of travel. We appreciate your understanding. Please refer to the current catalog for terms & conditions, dates and prices.