

ENGLAND, WALES & SCOTLAND



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Travel

Music and literature tour with
Downton Abbey, Edinburgh Tattoo,
Welsh Choir and Shakespeare
in Stratford-upon-Avon

29 JULY - 24 AUGUST 2019

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Join us on this odyssey through some of the most picturesque villages in the world, the towering palaces and castles, the exquisite scenery, and music and literature experiences one can only dream of.

Experience the Exceptional...

- Special musical highlights, including a private concert of Welsh men's choir at Cardiff Castle, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo as well as shows on the West End.
- Literature highlights like Beatrix Potter's house and a reading at Wordsworth's house. Theatrical highlights include Shakespeare at the Globe Theatre and in his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- Wonder at the opulence and grandeur of Cardiff Castle, Buckingham Palace, Blenheim Castle and Edinburgh Castle and a special visit to Highclere Castle where Downton Abbey was filmed.
- Explore the beauty of the English countryside, drive through villages with thatched cottages lining the road and enjoy the tranquil setting of the Lake District, revelling in its peace and beauty.



PLACES WE STAY

Dukes Hotel, London, nestled in the heart of historic St James's and Mayfair, is a sophisticated and luxurious hotel only five minutes' walk from Buckingham Palace.

Ettington Park Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon is a 4-star Neo Gothic mansion set in 40 acres of parklands, furnished with exquisite antiques and furnishings.

Francis Hotel, Bath is a beautiful 18th century townhouse, beautifully situated in the middle of town, overlooking the gardens of Queens Square and is part of the MGallery by Sofitel collection.

Park Plaza, Cardiff is an award winning 4-star hotel located in the heart of Cardiff and within walking distance of Cardiff Castle and Victorian shopping arcades.

Royal Oak Hotel, Betws-y-Coed is a picturesque building overlooking the River Llugwy with luxurious rooms, but still keeping within the Victorian architecture.

Waterhead Hotel, Ambleside is a luxury, historic boutique hotel situated right on Lake Windermere in the iconic Lake District.

The Principal Edinburgh George Street is a historic and chic hotel, which boasts an enviable position close to all the main tourist haunts such as Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile.



Dukes Hotel, London



Ettington Park Hotel



Royal Oak Hotel



The Principal Edinburgh George Street



DUBAI (4 nights – stopovers on the way to and from UK, including early check in) **- Sheraton Mall of the Emirates Hotel**

We begin and end our tour with flights to and from Dubai on Emirates. As we arrive into Dubai early in the morning we have arranged another night's accommodation so we can go to our rooms immediately. On return we arrive into Dubai late at night so we will again have access to our rooms immediately.

LONDON (4 nights) **- Dukes Hotel**

London is the capital of England and the United Kingdom. London is also known as “The Forest City”, for its tree-lined streets, plentiful trails and more than 200 parks.

Highlights include:

- A very regal tour of Buckingham Palace and the State Rooms, predominately used for state, ceremonial and official occasions, as well as a chance to wander the gardens, made famous by royal garden parties.
- 2 shows: either a show at the West End, Globe Theatre or Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap.
- Cruise the Thames with gourmet dinner aboard the luxury *Bateaux* boat and enjoy magnificent views of London's architecture by night.
- Walking tour of Southwark, including George Inn (a haunt of Charles Dickens), Southwark Cathedral, The Globe Theatre with theatre and backstage tour, Tower of London and the Crown Jewels.
- A tour to the Whitehall area of London, including a tour of the beautiful Westminster Abbey and the Churchill War Rooms – only recently opened to the public – where Churchill and his war cabinet planned Britain's role in the Second World War.

DOWNTON ABBEY (Highclere Castle)

Today we leave London to visit one of the highlights of our trip.

Highlights include:

- Highclere Castle (booking confirmed is, of course, the location for the stunning period drama Downton Abbey. This afternoon it is our turn to be captivated by all the places that we have visited only



Westminster Abbey, London



Globe Theatre, London



Highclere Castle

through our TV and now in reality, our turn to walk the corridors and be part of the Downton Abbey family for an afternoon!

- Short stop in Oxford to wander and drive around.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (2 nights)

- Ettington Park Hotel

Stratford-upon-Avon is the birthplace of William Shakespeare, set in the beautiful rural Warwickshire countryside, on the banks of the River Avon.

Highlights include:

- A performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.
- 2-night stay at Ettington Park Hotel, a neo gothic mansion set on 40 acres of land – a perfect place to enjoy its history and ghost stories.
- Visit all Shakespeare's houses and grave, Anne Hathaway's cottage as well as other sites of importance.

ON ROUTE TO BATH

Highlights include:

- Drive through the beautiful Cotswolds with its many thatched cottages.
- Chipping Campden - stop for a wander (well-known to Miss Marple and Graham Greene fans).
- Lunch at The Porch House, considered the oldest pub in England.
- Visit the ancestral home of the Churchills, Blenheim Palace, for a house tour this afternoon.

BATH (2 nights)

- Francis Hotel Bath – MGallery by Sofitel

Bath is a historic Roman and Georgian city and was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1987. Bath is famous for its hot springs, Roman period baths and medieval heritage.

Highlights include:

- A city tour of Bath's 18th century features: Queen Square, Circus, Royal Crescent and Great Pulteney Street.
- Visit and tour the Roman Baths complex.
- Tour of Jane Austen's House Museum, offering a snapshot into life in Regency times, Jane's writings and including a tour of Bath and the places that shaped Jane Austen's life.
- A performance at the Theatre Royal, erected in 1805 and considered a prime example of Georgian architecture (subject to availability).

CARDIFF (3 nights)

- Park Plaza Hotel

Traditional Wales is a melodic land of green hills, welcoming valleys and sweeping sandy beaches filled with towns that transport us to another age.

Highlights include:

- A premium private event, enjoying dinner in a private room at Cardiff Castle, followed by a private concert from the award winning 50 voice Welsh Men's Choir.



Pulteney Bridge and Weir on the River Avon in the historic city of Bath

- Cardiff Castle tour, including outer walls of Roman stone work and Norman buildings from the 11th century.
- Cardiff city tour includes Civic Centre, the Millennium Stadium, new Wales Millennium Centre and the impressive Cardiff Bay Barrage.
- St Fagans Museum, an open air museum of over 40 historic buildings plus the magnificent 16th century St Fagans Castle. It is one of Europe's leading open air museums and Wales' most popular heritage attraction.

BETWS-Y-COED VILLAGE (3 nights) **- Royal Oak Hotel**

Betws-y-Coed is North Wales' most popular inland resort. The area is enhanced by cascading waterfalls, lakes, river pools and ancient bridges.

Highlights include:

- Drive through the valleys of the Black Mountains, the centre of the coal industry in Wales, which employed over 270,000 men at its peak in the 1920s.
- Time to wander the bookshops and antique shops of the cute village of Hay-on-Wye which was transformed into a mecca of second hand book shops in the 1960's.
- Powis Castle, house and garden tour which includes a superb collection of treasures from India displayed in the Clive Museum, fine master paintings and one of Britain's only truly Baroque gardens.



Betws y Coed village, Wales

- National Slate Museum and then lunch at Castell Deudraeth.
- A visit to the unashamedly romantic village of Portmeirion. Prominent architect, Clough Williams-Ellis, built the village between 1925 and 1975 in the style of an Italian village. It is home to the famous Portmeirion crockery.
- A fabulous vintage steam train journey up Mt Snowdon, with magnificent waterfalls, viaducts, ancient forests, spectacular views and the centre of slate mining in Wales.
- Visit the famous Bodnant Garden, a 32 hectare garden with spectacular views over Snowdonia.

THE LAKE DISTRICT (3 nights) **- Waterhead Hotel Ambleside**

Windermere is the largest natural lake in England and is fed by numerous rivers. It has spectacular walks and views and historic buildings.

Before reaching the Lake District, we enjoy a half-day tour of Liverpool, including the Beatles Museum and a visit to Port Sunlight, a historically listed town built for workers of Sunlight soap.

Highlights include:

- We enjoy the tales of Beatrix Potter by visiting Hill Top. Full of her favourite things, this house appears as if Beatrix had just stepped out for a walk. Every room contains a reference to a picture in a 'tale'.



Lake Windermere, Lake District National Park

- Visit the Wonderful World of Beatrix Potter Museum plus cruise on lake.
- An after hours private reading in Wordsworth's house, Rydal Mount, with a glass of wine and a tour of his house and gardens.
- Expedition to Grasmere which includes visit to Wordsworth's grave, Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum.
- Visit Lakeland Motor Museum and enjoy a vintage steam train ride.
- Time to rest and enjoy our beautiful hotel and grounds.



Hill Top House

ON ROUTE TO EDINBURGH

Highlights include:

- Visit Hadrian's Wall at Chesters Fort.

EDINBURGH (4 nights)

- The Principal Hotel

Edinburgh is the inspiring capital of Scotland. Steeped in history with famous landmarks like Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Castle, Edinburgh is home to the famous festivals: Edinburgh Festival and Edinburgh Tattoo. We are delighted to enjoy both events as well as delve into the history of Scotland.

Highlights include:

- A show or play as part of the Edinburgh Festival.
- The spectacle of the Edinburgh Tattoo, one of the most iconic shows in the world and we see it from excellent seats!
- Walking tour of the old town, Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle.
- Visit the *Royal Yacht Britannia*, dubbed the most popular attraction in all Scotland with tea and scones in the the Royal Deck Tea Room.
- Visit Glenkinchie Distillery (John's favourite whiskey) for a tour and tasting.
- Final gala dinner at Prestonfield House with music.



Rydal Mount, home of William Wordsworth



Edinburgh Castle



\$18,620 *per person
twin share*

Single Room supplement add \$5,689

Initial Deposit on booking	\$2,000
Second Deposit due 30 January 2019	\$3,000
Final Balance due 10 April 2019	

THIS TRIP INCLUDES:

- Airfares Emirates Auckland - Dubai - London//Glasgow - Dubai - Auckland including all taxes.
- All accommodation at historic hotels, in beautiful settings: Dubai (4 nights includes early check-in), London (4 nights), Stratford-upon-Avon (2 nights), Bath (2 nights), Cardiff (3 nights), Betws-y-Coed Village (3 nights), Lake District (3 nights), Edinburgh (4 nights).
- Numerous musical experiences including a private concert of a 50 voiced Welsh Men's Choir in Cardiff Castle, Edinburgh Tattoo, Edinburgh Festival show, Shakespeare Theatre, Westend music theatre show, play at the Globe Theatre, show at Bath's Theatre Royal (operas and plays subject to availability).
- Literary experiences including Globe Theatre and backstage tour, visits to Wordsworth's house with after hours private poetry reading, visit to Beatrix Potter's house, Shakespeare's house and Jane Austen's House Museum.
- Numerous tours to historic towns, houses and gardens, many of which have been featured on Antique Roadshow including Blenheim Palace, Portmeirion, Cardiff Castle, Powis Castle, Windermere, Stratford-upon-Avon and Port Sunlight.
- All tours and entrances as listed on itinerary including Downton Abbey (Highclere Castle), Buckingham Palace, Powis Castle, Dove Cottage, Hill Top Farm, Shakespeare's house, Anne Hathaway's cottage and all other tours listed on itinerary.
- All breakfasts, 2 afternoon teas, 5 lunches and 9 dinners plus all tips, taxes, portorage.
- Escorted by John Cameron and Lynette Martin

MODERATE WALKING TOUR

This tour requires a better level of fitness with no wheelchairs or walkers. Generally, there may be times when we can't get the coach close.

We also will have much longer flights and long walks through airports.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All trips are subject to change but any changes will be of equal or greater value.
- Deposits refundable until final payment date minus any costs incurred, or an administration fee of up to \$150.
- Travellers need to be independently mobile and fit to travel.
- Travellers are required to obtain comprehensive travel insurance for all international trips.
- Please refer to terms & conditions on our booking form.



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Toll Free: 0508 886 489

email: travel@operatunity.co.nz | www.operatunity.co.nz

PO Box 132 150 Sylvia Park, Auckland 1644, New Zealand