

# American Celebration of Music in England

Tour #5 (9 nights / 11 days)

## Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to Glasgow, Scotland

## Day 2

Glasgow / Edinburgh (D)

Arrive in Glasgow

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting motorcoach for transfer to Edinburgh (time permitting, take an orientation tour of Edinburgh's highlights) for hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Edinburgh - with its striking medieval and Georgian districts, overlooked by the volcanic sill of Arthur's Seat to the south and the Calton Hill to the north Edinburgh is widely regarded as one of Europe's loveliest capitals. The city is famous for the arts (it was once known as the "Athens of the North"), a preeminence reflected in its hosting every year of Britain's largest arts extravaganza, the Edinburgh Festival. Its museums and galleries display the riches of many cultures*

## Day 3

Edinburgh (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day guided sightseeing tour of Edinburgh. Tour Edinburgh Castle, which, along with its rock, is probably the best-known view in Edinburgh. It has been a royal residence since the 11th century, although the majority of buildings you will see are those resulting from its use as a military garrison. We will see the Honours of Scotland (including the Scottish Crown Jewels) and the Royal Scots Regimental Museum. Also visit Arthur's Seat, Charlotte Square, St. Giles, the Royal Mile, Sir Walter Scott Monument, St. Andrew Square and other landmarks

Lunch, on own

*Afternoon Workshop/Clinic as part of the American Celebration of Music in England\**

Evening dinner and overnight

## Day 4

Edinburgh / Stirling (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Full day excursion to the Scottish Highlands, including a visit to Stirling with entrance to the Castle. Over the centuries Stirling has been a much-disputed stronghold. It occupies a strategically important position in the Forth valley 28mi/45km northeast of Glasgow. The earliest inhabitants were probably of Welsh descent, and it is thought that the name Stirling is a corruption of the term "Place of Striving." No fewer than 15 battlefields lie within close proximity of the castle

Lunch, on own

Return to Edinburgh

*Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in England\**

Evening dinner and overnight



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**Day 5****York****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to York

Lunch, on own

Visit York Minster and walk along the walls that embrace the whole of medieval York. Also visit the Shambles (the most visited among many streets with overhanging timber-framed houses), and many other attractions

Evening dinner and overnight

*York - in AD 71, the Roman Ninth Legion built a fortress, Eboracum, later capital of the northern province. Here in AD 306, Constantine the Great was proclaimed Emperor. In AD 866, the Vikings captured the city, which became Jorvik. Scandinavian influence, customs, and street names continued long after the Norman conquest. Medieval York, its prosperity based on wool, was a city of 10,000 people and forty churches, the richest city in the country after London*

**Day 6****Warwick****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to Warwick via the Peak District National Park (Britain's first national park, established in 1951) in Derbyshire. The Peak District also has many unique and friendly towns, all worth a visit. Whether you're looking to relax with a quiet stroll and lunch in one of the many renowned eateries, or hoping to pick up a bargain in the mix of High Street shops, factory outlets, craft fairs, farmers' markets, or individual specialist shops, the local towns and villages of Derbyshire are sure to delight

Lunch, on own

Continue to Warwick for dinner and overnight

*Warwick was the ancestral seat of the Earls of Warwick, who played a pivotal role in the Wars of the Roses. Despite a devastating fire in 1694, Warwick remains a treasure-house of medieval architecture with rich veins of history and charming streets, dominated by the soaring turrets of Warwick Castle*

**Day 7****Stratford / Warwick****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Stratford to enjoy a tour of the Shakespeare properties. Start with the half-timbered house that is Shakespeare's Birthplace. The house itself is part museum and part shrine and is, of course, the house where the bard was born in 1564. Then visit Holy Trinity Church, which occupies a truly magical setting amongst some trees next to the river. The church itself is typically English, demonstrated by the tower, transepts, and the perpendicular nave and aisle. Shakespeare is buried on the north side of the chancel

***Lunchtime performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in England\****

Lunch, on own

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping, or other activities

Return to Warwick for dinner and overnight

**Day 8****Windsor / London****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to London

Stop in Windsor for a tour of Windsor Castle, which was built 900 years ago



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by William the Conqueror to guard the western approach to London. Today, it is England's largest castle and also the largest inhabited stronghold in the world. Highlights of the visit will be St. George's Chapel and, subject to royal commitments, the State Apartments

Lunch, on own

Continue to London for dinner and overnight

*Established 1,250 years ago by King Aethelbald, London became an important Roman city. It was resettled by the Saxons in the fifth century, after the end of the Roman occupation. London has been scourged by the plague (1665) and was almost entirely destroyed by the Great Fire (1666). World War II's "Blitzkrieg" tore up the city considerably. She stands today as a monument to perseverance, culture, excitement, history, and greatness*

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**Day 9****London****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A guided tour of London includes the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge. Pass Westminster Abbey, where most English Kings and Queens have been crowned since 1066, and where many are buried. See Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, pass Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace, where we may see the Changing of the Guard. Continue along Fleet Street to St. Paul's Cathedral, and also see the 900-year-old Tower of London, whose construction was initiated by William the Conqueror

Lunch, on own

*Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in England\**

Evening dinner and overnight

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**Day 10****London****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Take a guided cruise on the River Thames. View all the most famous sights of London while learning rich historical facts about the city and the River. As the cruise sets sail along the gentle currents of the River Thames, passengers are immediately treated to a panoramic feast of London's architectural wonders. The city's skyline unfolds, revealing a seamless blend of historic and modern structures lining the riverbanks. Tower Bridge, an unmistakable symbol of London, stands proudly with its two majestic towers and intricate bascules, creating a dramatic entrance to the cruise. The Houses of Parliament and the iconic Big Ben (now officially known as the Elizabeth Tower) also come into view, standing proudly along the river. Throughout the cruise, informative commentary or guides onboard provide fascinating insights into the history and significance of the landmarks, enhancing the cultural experience

Lunch, on own

Enjoy a day at leisure in London. The Tour Manager is at the group's disposal. Options include a visit to a museum, doing some shopping, or taking in the atmosphere of this cosmopolitan city. Ask your guide how to get to the shops of Oxford and Bond Street, or perhaps Harrods

Evening Farewell Dinner, and overnight

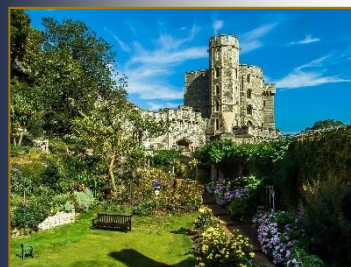
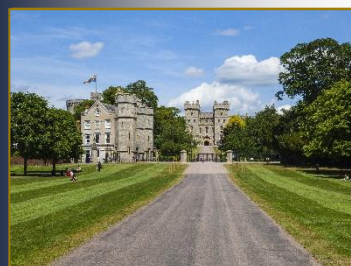
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**Day 11****Depart for home****(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Transfer to the London Airport for the return flight

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*\*Subject to confirmation*

**This is a very flexible itinerary.** Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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