

In the Footsteps of John and Charles Wesley

A Performance and Historical Tour of England

Part of the *American Celebration of Music in Britain*

Standard Tour #1 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Departure via scheduled air service to London, England

Day 2

Sheffield

(D)

Arrive in London

Meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach before traveling north to Sheffield

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Sheffield is the fourth largest provincial city in England, and has a reputation for the production of fine cutlery stretching back to the 14th century. Although some of its traditional industry has declined, Sheffield remains an important manufacturing centre and the commercial and cultural home of a large region

Day 3

Sheffield / Epworth

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit the nearby town of Epworth. Enjoy a Wesley sightseeing tour, which will highlight the key Methodist related sites in the town. Visit the Old Rectory, where John and Charles Wesley grew up, the Wesley Memorial Church, which was built as a memorial to the Wesley brothers in 1888-1889, and St. Andrew's Church, where Samuel Wesley ministered to his flock from 1696 to 1735

Lunch (on own, perhaps at the Red Lion Inn, where John Wesley used to lodge)

Afternoon visit to either the nearby market town of Gainsborough, or the garden town of Scunthorpe

Concert in St. Andrew's Church or the Wesley Memorial Church

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Sheffield / Stratford / Oxford

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer south to Oxford, stopping en route in Stratford-upon-Avon. Stratford, a small and delightful Tudor market town, is one of Britain's most visited towns due to its association with the playwright William Shakespeare. Visit the half-timbered house that is Shakespeare's Birthplace. The house itself is part museum and part shrine and is where the bard was born in 1564.

Also visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage

Midday recital in Holy Trinity Church

Lunch on own

After some free time in Stratford, transfer to Oxford for dinner and overnight



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The famous university city of Oxford is found North West of London, on the north bank of the River Thames. Oxford University is the oldest in England, dating from around 1200. The city itself was developed in Saxon times around the 8th century nunnery, now Christ Church, and still maintains its original street plan and parts of its city walls

Day 5

Oxford / Bristol

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning Methodist heritage sightseeing. Oxford is the city where John Wesley first started the Methodist movement while he was a fellow of Lincoln College. Visit Christ Church College (where Wesley was an undergraduate) and its chapel, which doubles as the cathedral of Oxford. Also visit Lincoln College, with its Wesley Memorial Room and beautiful chapel

Noon recital in Christ Church Cathedral or University Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Lunch on own

Afternoon visit of the Wesley & Methodist Studies Centre, which was founded as Westminster College in 1851. The centre contains Methodist archives of national and international importance. Then visit the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, where John Wesley preached his sermon 'Scriptural Christianity' on 24th August 1744

Transfer to Bristol for dinner and overnight

Bristol flourished due to its port, and in the Middle Ages it became England's second city. Today, although it is no longer a great port, Bristol remains the most cultured and cosmopolitan city in the 'West Country'

Day 6

Bristol / Bath

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning guided tour of Bristol. This will highlight the Clifton Suspension Bridge, the SS Great Britain (the first iron-built, propeller-driven Atlantic liner) and St. Mary Redcliffe Church. The tour will feature a visit to John Wesley's Chapel (The New Room), which is the oldest Methodist building in the world, known as the 'cradle of Methodism'. It will also feature a visit to Hanham Mount, where a flagged cross marks the spot where the field preachers once stood, Wesley College, and John Wesley's House

Performance in John Wesley's Chapel or Bristol Cathedral

Lunch on own

Continue to nearby Bath. Bath is admired the world over for its architectural beauty. It was originally the Roman town Aque Sulis, established in the first century AD, with a great religious spa at its heart. Visit the Roman Baths and Museum

Evening concert in St. Mary's Church Bathwick or St. Mary Redcliffe

Return to Bristol for dinner and overnight

Day 7

Bristol / Windsor / London

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning transfer to London. Stop en route in the small town of Windsor, famous for its castle. Tour Windsor Castle, which was built 900 years ago 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

Lunch on own

Continue into London for dinner and overnight



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London is originally of Celtic origin, although the city itself began to take shape under the control of the Romans. In fact, London was not the official capital city of England until the mid 12th century and today, it is the vibrant commercial, political and artistic capital of the United Kingdom, and one of the greatest financial centers of the world. London is alive and well and always waiting to welcome you -- any time of year! Stay in London and you'll find culture, centuries old customs and the affable Cockneys. Look around and you'll be awed by some of the architecture, surprised by some of the shops and stores and inspired by the galleries, theaters and museums

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

Breakfast at the hotel

A 6-hour tour of London includes the residential and shopping districts of Kensington and Knightsbridge. A visit is made to Westminster Abbey, where most English Kings and Queens have been crowned since 1066, and where many are buried. The Abbey also contains a memorial tablet to John and Charles Wesley. Pass Whitehall and Trafalgar Square with Nelson's Column, past Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace, where we see the Changing of the Guard. Also see the 900-year-old Tower of London, whose construction was initiated by William the Conqueror

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities

Evening dinner and overnight

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

Breakfast at the hotel

This morning, the Methodist heritage sightseeing will continue with a tour of London's Wesley related sights. Begin with a visit to Sir Christopher Wren's masterpiece St. Paul's Cathedral. Even now, the cathedral's enormous dome (second in size only to St. Peter's in Rome) dominates the city skyline. St. Paul's is the fifth cathedral to stand on this site, and was completed in 1708. John Wesley worshipped in the chancel on several occasions in 1738. See his statue in the north-west corner of the churchyard

Then visit Wesley's Chapel on City Road, which is the mother church of world Methodism, built in 1778. The tomb of John Wesley is in the churchyard. See the nearby house where John Wesley lived and died from 1779 to 1791, which has been refurbished to as it was in Wesley's day. The Museum of Methodism tells the story of Methodism from the 18th to the 20th century

Recital in Wesley's Chapel, City Road

Lunch on own

Afternoon at leisure in London. Visit a museum, perhaps do some shopping, or simply take in the atmosphere of this cosmopolitan city

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10**Depart for home****(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to one of London's airports for the return flight home

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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