

Great Cathedrals of England



Day 1 Depart US
Board your flight to London.

Day 2 Canterbury
Early arrival in London. You will be met by your professional tour guide who will accompany you throughout your trip. Board your luxury motorcoach for a ride to Canterbury. Upon arrival we will check into our hotel near the city center. Relax at the hotel or you may opt to spend the afternoon sightseeing. Savor a welcome dinner at or near hotel. (B, D)

Day 3 Canterbury
Breakfast at hotel. Free time to relax and enjoy the museums, cafes and shopping in Canterbury. Afternoon rehearsal for evening concert. This evening **perform a concert at a local church**. Dinner at or near hotel. (B, D)

Day 4 Canterbury / Stratford



After breakfast we visit to Canterbury Cathedral, which is the ecclesiastical center of the Church of England. Your guided tour of the interior will include a visit to the Shrine of St. Thomas á Becket who was martyred and buried in Canterbury Cathedral.

Following the tour, you will **present a short midday a capella performance at Canterbury Cathedral (pending confirmation)**. After the concert, we will board our coach to Stratford-upon-Avon. Settle into your Stratford city center hotel for the next four nights. Join the group for dinner and afterwards search out a pub with live music. (B, D)

Day 5 Stratford



Leisurely breakfast and time to settle into your wonderful hotel located in the center of Stratford. Enjoy the close proximity to the museums, cafes and shopping. You may choose to visit Shakespeare's birthplace

or to see Anne Hathaway's cottage in Shottery. This evening perhaps you will want to enjoy of the the "Great Bard's" theatrical masterpieces.
Dinner at or near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6 Gloucester



After breakfast, we board our bus for a short ride to the picturesque and idyllic Cotswolds. They are named after a man – Codwold – that owned this high forest land in the 12th century. We can expect to see quaint villages

tucked in rolling hills dotted with grazing sheep. The thatched roof houses and cobblestoned streets of the near lying villages bring us back into a time long gone. Continue on to Gloucester. Our local guide will give us a brief walking orientation tour of the city in the morning and then enjoy the afternoon free to sightsee and shop. Gloucester has plenty to see including its magnificent Norman cathedral -featured in Harry Potter, the National Waterways Museum, a house depicted in a Beatrix Potter story – "The Tailor of Gloucester", and the historic Gloucester docks - a collection of 15 restored warehouses now house specialty shops, restaurants, a military museum, an antiques center & cafe bars. You may choose to explore some of the canals with the available boat trips. **Afternoon informal performance at Gloucester Cathedra (pending confirmation)**. Dinner at or near hotel. (B, D)

Day 7 Warwick / Stratford

Optional visit to Warwick Castle, the best preserved castle in England. Restored to its original magnificence, we may experience a jousting tournament or other medieval celebration. Late afternoon we will rehearse for our **evening concert in a quintessential village**. (B, D)

Day 8 Chester



Breakfast at the hotel and then travel northwards to Chester where we check into our city center hotel for the next two nights. The rest of the day is yours to explore. We will join a local guide for

a glimpse of the town and arrive at the town center, known as the Cross, at noon to be entertained by the belting town crier. With over 2000 years of history – beginning with the Romans – Chester's walls envelop a vibrant array of architecture and culture. The walls provide a pleasant walk encompassing the city center. Breakfast at your leisure. The most distinctive medieval feature of the city is The Rows. These are double-level walkways with a continuous line of balconies and with shops at street and first-floor levels. The Rows are unique and were certainly in existence in the 14th century. Chester also boasts the largest zoo in the

country. Other sites are a Roman amphitheater and Roman gardens. Perhaps you would like to explore more of the city or take a cruise on a canal. Be sure to join the group for a traditional pub dinner. (B, D)

Day 9 Chester

Leisurely breakfast. **Perform an informal concert in Chester Cathedral (pending confirmation).** We will experience a traditional English Lunch in an historic pub or guesthouse. The rest of the day is yours to explore Chester or to relax and enjoy the bustle of its medieval streets. Our hotel is centrally located in the city center so you may use this opportunity to find a nice restaurant for dinner on your own. Overnight in Chester. (B, L)

Day 10 York



Early breakfast and then travel through the industrial part of England past Manchester to Fountains Abbey. One of the most enchanting Abbey ruins in Europe, you will enjoy the serenity of the grounds. There is also a stately home built and also a mill that has been in working condition for over 800 years. After lunch, continue on to York. York is a wonderful walled city to explore with its

Viking, Roman and medieval remains. There are many half timbered houses looming over the cobblestoned streets. Some buildings even date back to the first or second century BC. We will enjoy a walking tour of this historic city including York Minster, the largest Gothic church north of the Alps with its famous stained glass windows. Complete the tour with a traditional English tea with freshly baked scones and crumpets served with cream and country preserves, tea sandwiches, assorted pastries, traditional English trifle and tea or coffee. The rest of the evening is on your own to explore the city. Maybe you would like to find a pub with live

entertainment for a real taste of England. (B, afternoon tea)

Day 11 York

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast. This is a free day, easily filled exploring York's many outstanding sights or shops. You may choose to visit the Jorvik Viking museum, the York Castle museum, the National Railway Museum or the costume museum. Or maybe you prefer to see the city by horse carriage. Dinner at or near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 12 Ely

Breakfast at hotel. Leave early and savor the ride to Ely where flint cottages and Saxon churches pepper the landscape. The Cathedral City of Ely, officially founded in 673 when Princess Etheldreda, daughter of the Anglo-Saxon King Anna, adopted Christianity & founded a convent near there. Free time to enjoy the town before



enjoying an **afternoon organ concert in Ely.** Continue on to London where we will settle into our hotel for the next two nights. (B, D)

Day 13 London

Breakfast at hotel. Embark on a half-day bus tour of the major sites of London including the House of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace and the Mall, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London. Enjoy a farewell traditional English tea. The afternoon and evening are free to shop and explore. Perhaps you will take the opportunity to see a musical at West End. Overnight London. (B, farewell English tea)

Day 14 Return to US

Enjoy your last breakfast at the hotel before boarding your international flight where you will land on the same day.