

Historic Highlights: England & Scotland
July 27th – August 7th, 2025
\$5,850 per person (flight not included)

Join us as we take in the rich history and traditions of England & Scotland while additionally stopping at some of the most formative sites in Christian heritage. During our 12 days together, we will blend leisure and sightseeing with protestant heritage and inspiration. We will get a glimpse of many formative moments of our faith and enjoy fantastic sites and breathtaking views while traveling with Alumni & Friends of Olivet.

The trip is designed to be a rich cultural experience as we visit many highlights throughout England & Scotland. The tour will start in Scotland's compact and hilly capital, Edinburgh, for three nights. We will experience the 1,000 year old Edinburgh Castle & St. Giles Cathedral, and The Palace of Holyroodhouse (the official residence of King Charles III when he is in Scotland.) We will make a daytrip to St. Andrews to visit the ruins of the Cathedral & Castle, while taking in the famous beach from the opening scene of Chariots of Fire. After time on the Royal Yacht Britannia, we will make our way to London for a four-night stay.

Highlights from our time in London include touring Buckingham Palace and viewing the changing of the guard, seeing the Crown jewels at the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Sung Eucharist at St. Paul's Cathedral, and many other sites. We will also take time to view the Museum of Methodism and Bunhill Fields Cemetery to get a better understanding of the movement created by John Wesley. Following our time in London, we will head out to the Cotswold villages for charm and a slower pace. We will make a day trip to Oxford to visit Blenheim Palace and the University of Oxford. It will give us another opportunity to learn more about our Christian heritage from past leaders of the faith.

**Many days will include a walking tour with uneven surfaces with stairs. Travelers must be prepared to actively walk 2-3 miles or more per day.

Itinerary for the Group:

Day 1: Sunday, July 27th – Group Flight

The group will depart in the evening for a flight from Chicago O'Hare Airport to Edinburgh Airport.

Day 2: Monday, July 28th – Flight Arrival, Panoramic Tour, Palace of Holyroodhouse

We will head straight into the heart of Scotland's capital to enjoy this hilly and historical city. We will get our bearings with a panoramic tour before stopping for lunch on the Royal Mile. Taking a guided walk, we ramble down to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scotland residence of His Majesty The King of England. We finish outside of the city at our castle stay to check-in before enjoying a bagpipe concert and dinner.

Meals: Lunch and Dinner

Day 3: Tuesday, July 29th – Edinburgh Castle, Free Time, St. Giles Cathedral, John Knox Home

Standing on castle rock, we visit Edinburgh Castle, which has been occupied by humans since at least the Iron Age. Scotland's crown jewels are among some of the national treasures on display. After our descent from Castlehill, we will enjoy time on our own before meeting to tour St. Giles Cathedral and the home of John Knox. St. Giles cathedral, founded in 1124 by King David I, has been a working church for almost 900 years. It was the center of the Scottish Reformation as John Knox's Parish Church. John Knox was a Scottish minister and father of Presbyterianism.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Wednesday, July 30th – Royal Yacht Britannia, St. Andrews Castle and Cathedral

Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia is the formal royal yacht of the British monarchy. She was in their service from 1954 until 1997. The Yacht is Tripadvisor's No. 1 UK Attraction in 2024. Follow in the footsteps of Royalty through the state department, see Queen Elizabeth II's favorite room, and discover the below decks of the Crew's Quarters. We then follow the coast up to St. Andrews, known as the home of golf, and for its historic university, and medieval streets. St. Andrews became the Ecclesial capital of Scotland. We take in the ruins of Scotland's greatest cathedral started in 1160.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 5: Thursday July 31st – Mid-day transportation to London from Edinburgh, Panoramic Tour, Fish and Chips.

After our final morning in Scotland, we make our way to London for our next four nights. The group will travel either by train, plane, or bus and arrive into London in the afternoon. We will take a short panoramic tour of London before checking in to our historic hotel. Taking a short guided walk, we will end the day with a fish & chips dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Day 6: Friday, August 1st – Westminster, Buckingham Palace - Changing of the Guard, Free Time, The Mouse Trap

We will make haste with our visit in London starting with the Changing of The King's Guard near Buckingham Palace. We will then slip inside Buckingham Palace for a guided tour of the State Rooms. You will be standing in awe of the White Drawing Room, Throne Room, Ballroom, Grand Staircase and more. Following lunch on our own and time in Convent Garden, we will have dinner together before enjoying the nightly production of Agathie Christie's murder mystery play, The Mousetrap. The Mousetrap is the world's longest running play.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 7: Saturday, August 2nd – Museum of Methodism, Westminster Abbey, Free afternoon in London

Starting the day at the Museum of Methodism, we take an in-depth look at the life of John Wesley. Wesley's Chapel was built by John Wesley in 1778 as his London base. The chapel is considered the Mother Church of the World of Methodism and has a thriving, cosmopolitan congregation. Charles Wesley's organ is in the "new" Foundry Chapel. Wesley's house is open for viewing and is a snapshot of day-to-day life in Wesley's time. Across the street we will stop in Bunhill Field Cemetery where John Bunyan, the author of Pilgrim's Progress, Susanna Wesley, & Isaac Watts are buried. Following this uplifting time together, we will visit Westminster Abbey, a royal church in the center of London with over a thousand years of history. It is a stunning example of Gothic architecture replete with soaring buttresses and beautiful stained-glass windows. Following our time in Westminster, we will have time on our own for the evening.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Day 8: Sunday, August 3rd –Sung Eucharist at St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London

We join in with others this morning for the Sung Eucharist service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Considered the grandest of services at St. Paul's cathedral with music from the choir, sermon, and communion. Following the service together, we will enjoy traditional Sunday Roast before visiting the Tower of London. From the Crown Jewels to the infamous Tower ravens, we will experience the history of where it all happened at the iconic tower. The tower has played a prominent role in English history. We will tour the grounds with one of the Yeoman Warders, more famously known as Beefeaters.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Day 9: Monday, August 4th – Windsor Castle, The Cotswolds

We will make an early start for the Cotswolds, renowned for its wealth of picturesque villages, each one with its own unique character and architectural splendor. On the way, we will stop at a tour highlight, Windsor Castle. Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. Founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century it has been the home of 40 monarchs. St. Georges chapel was founded in the 14th century by King Edward III. Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Phillip, Princess Margaret, and George VI are buried in the King George VI memorial chapel. After our visit of Windsor Castle, we will head to the thriving market town Moreton-in-Marsh for our manor stay and welcome dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner

Day 10: Tuesday, August 5th – Cotswold Village Tour – Free Day

Take your time in the morning and perhaps enjoy a stroll through broad High Street (under your feet is the Fosse Way, a major roman road from the south coast to Lincoln). We will hop from village to village today or perhaps enjoy time on your own in Stratford or other places nearby. We will share a group dinner in Moreton-in-Marsh.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11: Wednesday, August 6th – Blenheim Palace & Oxford

We make a short drive to Blenheim Palace, one of the largest residences in England. Built in 1705, the palace is notable as the birthplace and ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill. After our tour of Blenheim, we head to Oxford for a tour of the university and town. Founded in the 8th century, the town is home to University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world. We will visit sites frequented by the likes of C.S. Lewis, JRR Tolkien, and John Wesley.

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 12: Thursday, August 7th – Departure

The group will depart for London's Heathrow Airport.