

Hillsdale Academy Alumni Tour

England - Scotland

Monday, June 5 – Thursday, June 15, 2023

- June 5 - Monday** Depart for Detroit Metro airport for flight to London
- June 6 - Tuesday**
tba Arrive at London Heathrow airport and transfer to Windsor
- 1:00 PM Visit Windsor Castle, a royal residence at Windsor in the English county of Berkshire. It is strongly associated with the English and succeeding British royal family, and embodies almost 1,000 years of architectural history. The original castle was built in the 11th century after the Norman invasion of England by William the Conqueror. Since the time of Henry I, it has been used by the reigning monarch and is the longest-occupied palace in Europe. Our visit includes St George's castle chapel which was originally founded in the 14th century by King Edward III and extensively enlarged in the late 15th century. It has been the scene of many royal services, weddings and, particularly in the 19th and 20th centuries, burials.
- Transfer to our hotel at Stratford upon Avon and check-in.
- 7:00 PM Dinner included
- June 7 - Wednesday**
- 8:00 AM Breakfast at the hotel
- 9:00 AM Our visit to Stratford-upon-Avon introduces us to a market town with more than 800 years of history with many buildings surviving which would have been familiar to the 'Bard', William Shakespeare himself. Stop at Stratford Guild House and Shakespeare's birth house and his grave at Holy Trinity Church.
- 2:00 PM Short drive to Warwick Castle and visit. Warwick Castle is a medieval castle developed from a wooden fort, originally built by William the Conqueror during 1068. The original wooden motte-and-bailey castle was rebuilt in stone during the 12th century. During the Hundred Years War the facade was refortified, resulting in one of the most recognizable examples of 14th-century military architecture. Our visit includes walking the Ramparts, the Falconer's Quest - the UK's largest birds of prey show, the Trebuchet, a colossal catapult is a replica of one of the biggest and most deadly medieval military machines and the Dungeon.
- 7:00 PM Dinner included
- June 8 - Thursday**
- 8:00 AM Breakfast at the hotel
- 9:00 AM Visit to Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. The palace is named after the 1704 Battle of Blenheim in Bavaria. It was originally intended to be a reward to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough for his military triumphs against the French and Bavarians in the War of the Spanish Succession,

culminating in the Battle of Blenheim. The land was given as a gift, and construction began in 1705, with financial support from Queen Anne.

Afternoon at leisure at Stratford upon Avon.

June 9 - Friday

8:00 AM

Breakfast

9:00 AM

The University of Oxford is a collegiate research university in Oxford, England. There is evidence of teaching as early as 1096, making it the oldest university in the English-speaking world and the world's second-oldest university in continuous operation. Walking tour of Oxford including a visit to Weston Library and Magdalen College.

3:00 AM

Transfer to London and check-in

7:00 PM

Dinner included

June 10 - Saturday

8:00 AM

Breakfast

9:00 AM

Depart for the British Museum. Its permanent collection of some eight million works is among the largest and most comprehensive in existence, having been widely collected during the era of the British Empire. It documents the story of human culture from its beginnings to the present. It was the first public national museum in the world. The Museum was established in 1753.

Afternoon visit to Westminster Abbey. The Abbey, formally titled the Collegiate Church of Saint Peter at Westminster, is a large, mainly Gothic abbey church in the City of Westminster, London, England, just to the west of the Palace of Westminster. It is one of the United Kingdom's most notable religious buildings and the traditional place of coronation and a burial site for English and, later, British monarchs.

June 11 - Sunday

8:00 AM

Breakfast at the hotel

9:00 AM

Depart for a scenic drive to the south England city of Canterbury. In 597, Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine to convert its King Ethelberht to Christianity. After the conversion, Canterbury, being a Roman town, was chosen by Augustine for his episcopal see in Kent, and an abbey and cathedral were built. Augustine thus became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. The city's cathedral became a major focus of pilgrimage following the 1170 martyrdom of Thomas Becket. Learn how a journey of pilgrims to Becket's shrine served as the frame for Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th century classic *The Canterbury Tales*.

6:15 PM

Witness the enchantment of London at night on an evening cruise along the historic Thames River. Aboard the glass-encased boat, enjoy the city's main attractions at dusk, including the Shard, Big Ben, the Tower of London and the HMS Belfast.

Savor sparkling wine and canapés as you cruise the river and delight in the magic of London's urban shoreline as night falls.

June 12 - Monday

8:00 AM Breakfast and check-out

tba Transfer to Edinburgh, Scotland

7:00 PM Dinner included

June 13 – Tuesday

7:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Scotland's most famous landmark Edinburgh Castle is a historic fortress which dominates the skyline of Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland, from its position on the Castle Rock. Archaeologists have established human occupation of the rock since at least the Iron Age (2nd century AD). There has been a royal castle on the rock since at least the reign of King David I in the 12th century, and the site continued at times to be a royal residence until 1633.

Afternoon visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Holyrood Abbey. Explore the Palace's close associations with some of Scotland's most well-known historic figures such as Mary, Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie, and learn how today it is used by The Queen when carrying out official engagements in Scotland.

June 14 – Wednesday

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM Excursion to Sterling and St Andrews. Two of Edinburgh's most popular day trip destinations into one day on this private full-day tour of Sterling and St Andrews. First, follow in the footsteps of Mary, Queen of Scots, with a tour of the medieval Sterling Castle, then explore the Kingdom of Fife and discover the home of golf in St Andrews. St Andrews is one Scotland's most historic towns. It may even be the town which gave Scotland its patron saint when a saintly monk named Rule, who lived in western Greece, travelled here with his most treasured possession: a box which contained a human arm bone, three fingers from a right hand, one tooth and a kneecap; all genuine relics of St Andrew.

June 15 - Thursday

8:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM A visit to Scotland and to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park would not be complete without experiencing Scotland's most popular produce, Whiskey. After a scenic Loch Lomond boat ride test one of the best Scottish Scotch Single Malt whiskeys.

7:00 PM Dinner included

June 16 – Friday

tba Depart Hotel for Glasgow Airport

tba Depart Glasgow for Detroit

tba Arrive at Detroit Metro airport

Payments:

Total cost for trip: \$4,900 per person in double occupancy including airfare from Detroit and five dinners and a sunset cruise on the Thames River with sparkling wine, canapes and live music. Breakfast daily is also included as well as all excursions listed in the itinerary. Lunches are not included.

1st payment \$1,000: November 15, 2022

2nd payment \$2,000: February 20, 2023

3rd Payment \$1,900: April 10, 2023

Cancellation and refunds:

If cancellation in writing is received more than 90 days prior to departure all but \$1,000 per person is refundable. For cancellations received within 90 days of departure, the following per person cancellation fees apply:

90 - 61 days prior to departure: \$2,000 per person

60 - 31 days prior to departure: 75% of total price

30 - 1 days prior to departure: 100% of total price

Travel insurance is not included in this price and is available at an additional charge.