



Stratford-upon-Avon



London

# England, Wales & Scotland

April 11 - 24, 2024 (14 days)

We will explore England's capital city, London, in which the River Thames flows through. We will discover majestic beauty and rich history during our journey. There will be castles, historic centres, & national parks. See the Crown Jewels, taste famous gingerbread, experience Britain's only natural hot spring, learn about an iconic playwright and a famous poet! Spend a day visiting Liverpool, the Beatles' hometown. In Scotland we'll thoroughly explore Edinburgh, including the Edinburgh Castle. Visit the Stirling Castle and cruise Loch Lomond. Step back & down into history when we visit The Real Mary King's Close. We'll end our journey with an authentic Scottish dinner & show!

## MAP AT A GLANCE



Conwy Castle

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Join R&J Tours as we discover three countries in the United Kingdom of Great Britain (UK)

## HIGHLIGHTS

**London Guided Tours including Victoria & Albert Museum, Westminster Abbey, & Tower of London**

**Windsor Castle & Royal City**

**Neolithic Stonehenge Prehistoric Monument**

**Roman Baths**

**Stratford-upon-Avon Guided Tour including William Shakespeare's Birthplace & Childhood Home**

**Snowdonia National Park**

**Conwy Castle Tour**

**Beatles' Liverpool Hometown Tour**

**Lake District Tour**

**Coniston Lake Cruise**

**Loch Lomond Cruise**

**Guided Tour of Edinburgh**

**Edinburgh Castle**

**The Real Mary King's Close Tour**

**Palace of Holyroodhouse**

**Stirling Castle**

**Traditional Scottish Dinner & Show**

Coniston Lake Cruise



Edinburgh Castle grandly sits high above the city!

### ENGLAND Facts

- Covering about 2/3 of the Island makes England the largest country comprising the Island of Britain.
- No place in England is more than 75 miles from the sea.
- Much of England is flat with meadowlands & pastures; southern England has gently rolling hills with chalk underlying the landscape; northern England has hard granite underlying the landscape which is the basis for mountains.
- Sparkling Wine was invented in England.
- There are more chickens than people in England.
- English people consume more tea per capita than anybody else in the world.

### WALES Facts

- At 3,560 Ft, Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales & England.
- Slate quarrying has been a major industry in North Wales.
- Wales has more castles per square mile than any other European country.
- The corgi dog (the Queen's favorite!) originates from Wales.
- Rugby is the national sport of Wales.
- Actor Anthony Hopkins was born in Wales in 1937.

### SCOTLAND Facts

- The raincoat was invented in Scotland.
- Official animal of Scotland is the Unicorn.
- Scotland has approx. 790 islands.
- The highest proportion of redheads are in Scotland.
- Edinburgh was the first city in the world to have its own fire brigade.



Loch Lomond - cruise through Scotland's longest loch!



The Royal Crescent in Bath - row of 30 terraced houses laid out in a sweeping crescent. Built between 1767-1774



Liverpool - home of the Beatles!

### Day 1 - Depart the United States

Today we depart the United States for our adventure to England, Wales & Scotland! An overnight flight transports us across the Atlantic. We'll enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service. An R&J Tour Director will be with the group the entire time.

**Included Meals: Inflight Meals as served**

### Day 2 - Arrive London, England

We arrive at the London Airport, where we're welcomed by our local expert guide that will guide us through some of the best parts of London. We'll see the most popular monuments, squares, streets, and learn about its history and cosmopolitan life through live commentary aboard a comfortable coach. Travel to the British countryside with a stop in Windsor, a historical city and castle, frequently used as a weekend home for the Royal family. Then we stop at the Victoria & Albert Museum, one of the world's most famous museums. It's a London favorite, and home to an astonishing collection of art and design artifacts. To end our first day in England's capital, we'll get better acquainted as we enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**Included Meals: Dinner**

**Hotel: Holiday Inn Kensington High Street or similar (2 Nights)**

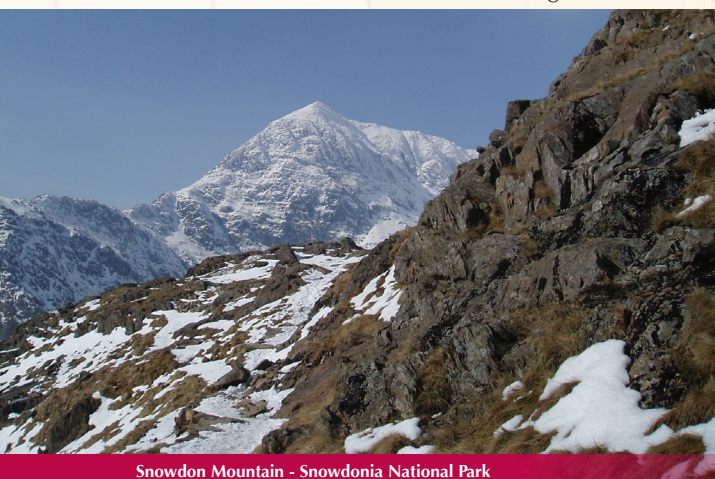
### Day 3 - London Sightseeing

Today we will have a more in-depth visit to two of the biggest attractions in the city. First is Westminster Abbey, a Gothic Abbey church steeped in thousands of years of history. This architectural masterpiece has hosted various Royal weddings, is the resting place for some of Britain's most famous and historic figures, and the most recent coronation of King Charles III. In the afternoon, we'll experience the Tower of London, a powerful and lasting fortress that has played many roles since its creation in 1078 - royal palace & armory to name a few! No visit would be complete without observing the famed and invaluable Crown Jewels.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### Day 4 - Stonehenge & Bath

After breakfast, we'll depart London & travel to the British countryside, with a stop at the Neolithic Stonehenge prehistoric monument, one of the most recognizable World



Snowdon Mountain - Snowdonia National Park

Heritage sites in the UK. This day wouldn't be complete without a visit to Bath, a UNESCO world heritage city founded by the Romans as a thermal spa. We will highlight the unmissable stops in this unique city, including entrance to the Roman Baths, a roman built bathing complex on Britain's only natural hot spring. This evening, we travel to Gloucester where we will stay the night.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Hotel: Holiday Inn Gloucester**

### Day 5 - Stratford-upon-Avon

Today we'll visit the medieval town of Stratford-upon-Avon with an expert local guide. We'll walk in the footsteps of England's most iconic playwright as we tour Shakespeare's birthplace, a 16th century half-timbered house where William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and spent his childhood years. Our lovely luxury hotel for the next two nights opened in 1854 and today, while they've made a few changes, the things that were a hit back then still delight visitors today: excellent service, incredible sea views, and surroundings so comfortable we won't want to leave. The Victorians knew a thing or two about relaxing by the sea, and there's nothing old fashioned about that!

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Hotel: St. George's Hotel (2 Nights)**

### Day 6 - North Wales

After breakfast we'll travel through Snowdonia National Park (subject to availability), which holds the highest mountain in England and Wales. We'll also enjoy Conwy, one of Europe's finest surviving medieval towns. The Conwy Castle, built between 1283- 1289, dominates the town and was Edward I's most striking and powerful castle. We'll thoroughly enjoy touring this magnificent fortress as



London - Palace of Westminster and Big Ben (the iconic national timepiece) overlooking River Thames



Stonehenge - World Heritage Site



Westminster Abbey - since opening in 1090, all coronations of English & British monarchs have been held here



St. George's Hotel



Bath - Roman Baths



Beautiful Lake District

we climb restored spiral staircases in its great towers, allowing us to walk a complete circuit around the battlements of Conwy Castle.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### Day 7 - Beatles' Liverpool

Today we travel to Liverpool, The Beatles' hometown, where we'll experience a guided Liverpool Beatles tour to explore the places linked to the Fab Four. We'll visit The Beatles Story attraction that's packed with memorabilia and replicas of Beatles' sites. We then will discover Liverpool's seafaring past and find out about life at sea, as we tour the Maritime Museum. We'll experience some free time before checking into our Liverpool hotel where dinner will be served.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Hotel: Novotel Liverpool Paddington Village**

### Day 8 - Lake District

We'll continue our amazing Britain exploration with a tour of the Lake district, where we will also be staying for the next two nights. Enjoy a picturesque Coniston Lake cruise to Brantwood House on the shores of Coniston Water. This was the home of John Ruskin, one of the greatest figures of the Victorian age. Lunch is served at Brantwood House, where we'll enjoy a tour of the house and gardens. We'll spend two nights at our Lake District Hotel close to Bowness on Windermere. Tucked away in the tranquil Lyth Valley, the Damson Dene Hotel is the best place for a relaxing break. With friendly staff, great spa facilities and delicious food, we'll hardly want to leave! Did you know that the hotel takes its name from the famous damson orchards nearby?

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Hotel: Damson Dene Hotel (2 Nights)**

### Day 9 - Grasmere & Windemere

Today we will visit Grasmere, a village in the heart of the English Lake District as well as Windemere, England's largest natural lake. Here we will cruise to the town of Bowness-on-Windermere for some time at leisure and lunch on our own. In Grasmere we will see Dove Cottage, a charming English house once the home of one of England's most famous poets, William Wordsworth. Afterwards, taste the World's Best Gingerbread at the Grasmere Gingerbread Shop.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### Day 10 - Edinburgh, Scotland

After breakfast, our adventure to Scotland begins. Today we pass through the village of Gretna Green as we cross the border into Scotland. Check into our 4-star hotel, perfectly located in the heart of the Scottish capital, and unpack for our 4-night stay. This evening

Stirling Castle - beautiful stained glass windows in the Great Hall





Edinburgh skyline - the compact, hilly capital of Scotland, it has a medieval Old Town & an elegant New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings.



enjoy dinner at the hotel, where they serve a range of local and international cuisine, simple yet authentic. Perhaps you'll choose to sink into the heated pool this evening.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

**Hotel: Novotel Edinburgh Centre (4 Nights)**

### Day 11 - Edinburgh Touring & Edinburgh Castle

After breakfast, we set off on a guided tour of Edinburgh to see some of the city's magnificent highlights. During our tour, we will travel through the Old Town, and of course, along the Royal Mile. If time permits, we will also see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, St. Giles Cathedral, and even the National Museum of Scotland. Then we stop for a guided tour of the imposing Edinburgh Castle, perched high above the city on volcanic rock. Edinburgh Castle was involved in many historical conflicts including 26 sieges in its 1,100-year-old history! We return to our hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon free to relax, sightsee, shop, and dine on your own.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

### Day 12 - Loch Lomond Cruise

This morning we visit Stirling Castle, which has been featured largely throughout Scottish history. Many grand celebrations and milestones for the Stewart family were held at the castle as it was a favored residence for the monarchy. We then stop at the celebrated Loch Lomond, Scotland's longest loch. We'll embark on a cruise of the loch which offers wonderful views, such as the 30+ islands scattered within. One of the islands is the burial place of the Chiefs of the Clan MacGregor. We'll also enjoy live commentary about Scotland's most celebrated outlaw, Rob Roy, and tales of his colorful character - from fighting in the Jacobite Rising to being a respected cattleman. Tonight we will gather for dinner at a local restaurant.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### Day 13 - Edinburgh

This morning after breakfast we will literally step down below the Royal Mile and back in time as we visit The Real Mary King's Close. Explore the hidden history of Edinburgh's only preserved 17th century street as we follow in the footsteps of its former residents like Agnes, the maid; Robert, the poet; and Walter, the foul clenger. This afternoon you are free to enjoy some time on your own in Edinburgh. For our final evening, we'll gather together for an authentic Scottish dinner and show. The show is a traditional Scottish song and dance accompanied by a great selection of quality Scottish food to delight our pallets.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

### Day 14 - Scotland to Home

All too soon, our vacation has come to its final day. We'll depart Edinburgh Airport and fly across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. We'll fondly recall our exploration of England, Wales & Scotland!

**Included Meals: Breakfast**



St. Giles Cathedral - Edinburgh



Windsor Castle - construction started in 1070!

## England, Wales & Scotland

### 2024 DATES & PRICES



DATES:	April 11 - 24, 2024 (14 Days)	
PRICE PER PERSON:	\$7,499 Double	\$8,999 Single
PRICE INCLUDES:	Roundtrip airfare from MSP including all taxes, surcharges, & baggage fees; 24 Meals plus inflight meals, Hotels, All Activities as stated in brochure, Expert Local Guide.	
DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:	\$500 deposit p/p at time of reservation. Full payment due Jan. 2, 2024 (100 days prior).	
OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION P/P:	\$579 Double per person	\$655 Single
TRAVEL BUCKS:	\$75 Travel Bucks p/p earned on this tour	
TOUR PACE: <small>(See page 13 for description)</small>	Moderate to Extensive Walking	
CANCELLATION FEES: <small>(WITHOUT TRAVEL PROTECTION)</small>	Cancelling prior to departure between: 99-30 days: 50% Tour cost non-refundable; 29-0 days: 100% Tour cost non-refundable.	
IDENTIFICATION: 	A Valid Passport is Required & must be valid 3 months beyond April 24, 2024.	

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