



## United Kingdom 2023 Itinerary

Travel Dates: Friday, March 11 – Saturday, March 19, 2023

### **DAY 1 Saturday, 11 March**

Fly (night) to Manchester from Tampa

### **DAY 2 Sunday, 12 March**

Arrive Manchester, Transit to Liverpool

Welcome to Liverpool! With our Group Leader, explore the hometown of the Beatles and renown soccer – *football* – team, its “pitch” and fans. Putting on our literary hats, we’ll browse the Liverpool Central Library and Bluecoat, among other bookstores. Group dinner awaits after the city tour.

### **DAY 3 Monday, 13 March**

Continue discovering Liverpool, visit the iconic Tate Liverpool Museum with works dating back to the 1500’s. Take the Beatles “Magical Mystery Tour” and see places such as Penny Lane and Strawberry Field.

### **DAY 4 Tuesday, 14 March**

Travel to Stoke-on-Trent and visit Staffordshire University

Enjoy a lecture about the ethics of global interconnectivity at the “Connected University,” famed for its digital presence and e-sports management program. We’ll also visit Middleport Pottery, a thriving modern example of the pottery industry for which Stoke-on-Trent is known.

Travel to Birmingham, settle in at hotel and dinner on your own.

### **DAY 5 Wednesday, 15 March**

Visit the famous Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, home to fine art, ceramics, jewelry and more. See the “Staffordshire Hoard” excavated in 2009; recall the buried treasure described in Beowulf. Review readings and discuss the Birmingham (Midlands) Enlightenment in the 1700’s along with its emerging technologically-based, merchant economy. Explore during free time the modern-day shopping, museums and galleries Birmingham offers.

### **DAY 6 Wednesday, 16 March**

Depart Birmingham for London and settle at hotel

A Tour Director-led walking tour will help us get to know a bit of London along the banks of the River Thames, the Tower Bridge and famous Trafalgar Square, with a stop at the chic Covent Garden, where street performers (or “buskers”) amuse lively crowds.

Group dinner in the evening, local fish and chips

### **DAY 7 Thursday, 17 March**

Continue touring London, starting with the Tower of London, a complex of 20 towers surrounding Tower Green. The oldest tower, known as the White Tower, was completed in 1097, when it was the tallest building in London. The Tower buildings have had many uses over the years including a jail for political prisoners and vault for the Crown Jewels. Then, we’ll visit the Keats-Shelley House, where the poet John Keats lived from 1818-1820. This setting inspired some of his most memorable poetry such as 'Ode to a Nightingale', and "Ode on a Grecian Urn," and also marks the spot from which Keats travelled to Rome, where he died of tuberculosis at just 25 years old. We’ll finish the day at the Charles Dickens’ Museum on Doughty Street - the only London house still standing in which the great writer lived. We’ll see the study where Dickens wrote such classics as *Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Nicholas Nickelby*.

**DAY 8 Friday, 18 March**

Today is the day to enjoy exploring parts of London on our own. You might choose to browse through the countless stores along Oxford Street, visit the British Museum, walk the pilgrims' route in the Canterbury Tales, go to one or more of London's many museums, shop, and/or people watch.

In the evening we will all meet up for our final Group Dinner.

**DAY 9 Saturday, 19 March**

London airport, depart for Tampa, FL