



**Professional and
Alumni Programs**
Literary England

Day 1

Upon arrival in the UK you will be greeted at the airport by an experienced Tour Manager and guide, who will be accompanying you throughout your stay. An expert in British Literature, your guide will offer a unique and in-depth insight into the locations visited. You will board your luxury private motor coach which will transport you to London for your first night in the UK.

Upon arrival in London, the Tour Manager will take you on a literary tour of the capital via coach. You will tread the streets of Dickens, Pepys, and so many other major literary figures, and of course who can forget the famed Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ at London's King Cross Station. Regular stops for refreshments and photos will be incorporated

You will return to your hotel, where you will have free time to allow you to check into your room and unpack before meeting again for your first meal together.

This evening's meal will be at one of London's top hotels, and will include a lecture by a London based literary expert, to start the trip in style. You will proceed to the 17th century Wine Cellar, frequented by royalty and politicians of old; Prince Charles held his Bachelor Party in this beautiful vault. Housing over 8,000 bottles of fine wines, here you will have the opportunity to participate in a wine tasting with their Master Sommelier.



Day 2

The British Library is the most extensive library in the world. Holding -it is believed- more than 200 million items from around the globe, your first full day in London will start with a specialist tour, meeting staff and gaining an insight into the work of the conservationists, who work tirelessly to preserve and catalogue the millions of documents in the archives and collection.

From the British Library, you will make your way to Shakespeare's Globe. The original Globe was built in 1599, and destroyed by fire in 1613. In 1997 the theatre was rebuilt, and named Shakespeare's Globe. You will have a private guided tour of the theatre with an expert guide, followed by a production of one of the Bard's great works.

The evening will conclude an alumni networking event at the Charles Dickens Museum. Held after the Museum has closed for the evening, you will be able to explore at leisure whilst networking with fellow alums over drinks and canapés.



Day 3

Today your coach will transport you directly to the beautiful university town of Oxford which is home to so many literary greats, including JR Tolkien, CS Lewis and Lewis Carroll, to name few.

Starting the visit with a punting tour of the River Cherwell, a personal punting guide will point out various sights along the river, including some of the locations you will be visiting later in the day.

Upon finishing your punting tour, your Tour Manager will show you some key areas of the city, including Christ Church College, where you will find the inspiration behind not only the Great Hall in the Harry Potter series, but also Alice in Wonderland. Also included will be sites such as the Door to Narnia and the Oxford Botanical Gardens.

This evening's meal will be at the famed Eagle and Child pub. It was here that CS Lewis first handed out his draft of *The Lion The Witch and the Wardrobe*. A menu of great British delicacies will be provided, and may include fish and chips, wild game pie, or toad in the hole, followed by sticky toffee pudding or apple crumble and custard. Your Tour Manager and the bar staff will be able to assist in choosing a suitable ale to complement your meal.

Day 4

After breakfast, you will be embarking on a private tour of the Bodleian Library, where your experienced guide will take you to little seen places such as the Divinity School, Chancellor's Court and the 15th Century Radcliffe Camera.

A lecture with staff from the University of Oxford will follow the tour. You will learn about the ancient traditions of this world-famous institution, including the collegiate system, the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, and Subfusc!

Day 5

You will re-board your coach today, and make your way through the picturesque English Countryside to the home of arguably the world's greatest playwright: William Shakespeare.

En-route you will visit some of the small Cotswold villages, including Billbury, which is said to be one of the prettiest villages in England. The group will stop for lunch at one of the areas renowned restaurants, feasting on a Michelin recommended menu before arriving in Stratford upon Avon, where you will tour Anne Hathaway's Cottage before checking into your hotel. This evening you will see a production performed by the world-famous Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC).

Day 6

A customised workshop with the RSC Stratford will commence the day, before departing for Chatsworth House. Chatsworth was the inspiration for the great Mr Darcy's Pemberley as well as being the former home of Debo, one of the Mitford sisters. You will have a tour with a curator, who will provide an in-depth insight into life in a stately home, as well as a history of the literary connections.

From here you will proceed to the Yorkshire Moors, and the birthplace of the great Brontë sisters, where you will spend the night before continuing on your journey around literary Britain.

Day 7

This morning you will visit Haworth, meeting with a Brontë expert from the Brontë Society, one of the oldest literary societies in the world, at the Brontë Parsonage Museum. You will learn about the life and times of the three sisters, along with a detailed analysis of women's literature and subsequently will be visiting the Parsonage and local church which has numerous Brontë connections.

After lunch the tour will continue at the former home of Beatrix Potter, where she invented characters such as Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddleduck and the Tailor of Gloucester. This National Trust property is a delight to visit, with scenes you are sure to recognise from her illustrations.



Day 8

Dove Cottage was home to William Wordsworth from 1799 when he moved to Grasmere and fell in love with the area whilst on a trip to the Lake District. Here he produced many of his most loved works, and from your visit to the cottage this morning you will have a fascinating insight into life during this period.

After visiting Grasmere, it is time to head to the stunning Alnwick Castle. The seat of the 12th Duke of Northumberland, the Castle was the setting for a number of scenes in the Harry Potter Movies. You will be treated to an exclusive tour not just of the grounds, but also of the castle itself, going into areas not accessible to the public, and meeting with staff to learn more about their roles. A treat will be in store for you tonight, when you will have the opportunity to stay in the castle itself, something that is a truly unique experience. You will have drinks and canapés with your hosts and other locals.

Day 9

After a light breakfast your coach will transport you to Edinburgh, stopping en-route in the ancient walled city of York. After a brief tour with your guide, you will make a quick stop at York Minster, one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, before winding your way from York across the border to Scotland.

After a stop to view Rosslyn Chapel, made famous in 2003 by Dan Brown's novel "The Da Vinci Code", you will arrive in Edinburgh, the last stop on the tour, which will begin with a Ghost Tour of the City.

Day 10

Your final day will begin with a walking tour of the city, viewing sights such as Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile. You will visit the café where JK Rowling wrote the first Harry Potter novel, as well as a variety of other locations with literary connections.

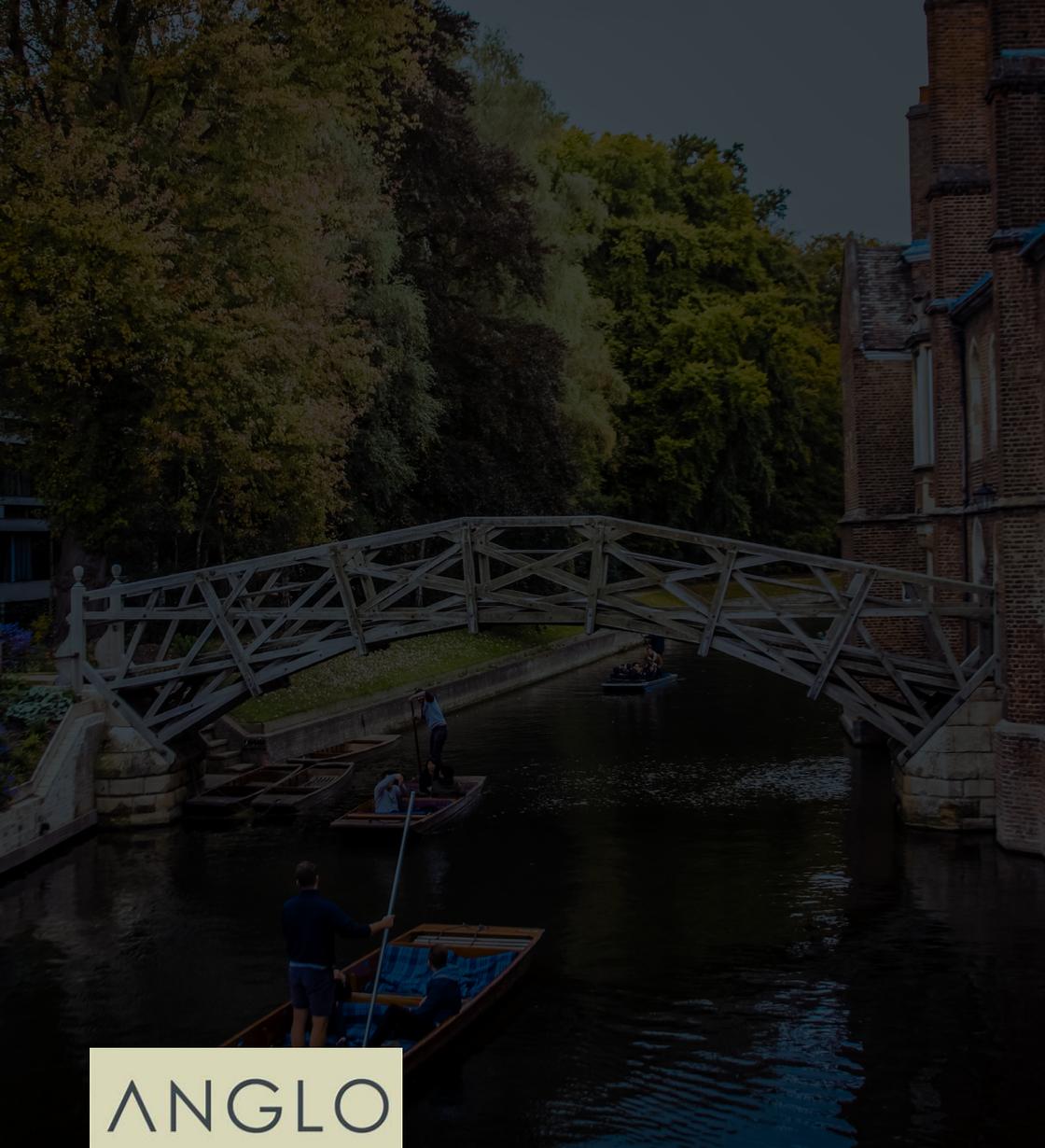
Following this tour, the group will have the opportunity to visit the historic fortress known as Edinburgh Castle, participating in a guided tour, learning about the most besieged location in the British Isles, and its gripping history.

This evening you will participate in a great Scottish tradition; a Ceilidh. You will see traditional dancing and singing, and alongside this be served typical Scottish fayre, including the much loved haggis.

Day 11

After a last breakfast you will be transferred to the airport via luxury private coach to make your return journey. Upon arrival at the airport your Tour Manager will leave you in the safe hands of your airline, having experienced a unique, fully customised academic and leisure experience in the UK.





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