

Autumn Visit to Cambridge and Ely



Monday 21 - Thursday 24 October 2019

Cambridge has been an important town since Roman times, but today it owes its fame to the distinguished university that bears its name. Religious orders began to establish themselves here from the 11th century and were joined in 1209 by a group of scholars from Oxford, fleeing bloodshed after academic disputes. Peterhouse (1284) was the earliest college to be founded, followed by Clare, Pembroke, Gonville and Corpus Christi. The ancient beauty of these colleges, now thirty one in number, will form the backdrop of our study tour as we discover more about the history, art and architecture of this charming market town, world famous university and centre of some of the most advanced technology of the 21st century.

MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2019

We will depart from Bristol and travel to Milton Keynes for a free-flow visit of **Bletchley Park**.

Bletchley is the historic site of secret British codebreaking activities during WWII and birthplace of the modern computer. Lunch may be taken on an individual basis during the visit.

In the afternoon, we will continue the journey to **Bury St Edmunds** where we will check into **The Angel Hotel** for 3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. There will be time to freshen up followed by **dinner** which will be taken in the hotel restaurant this evening.

TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2019

After breakfast we will transfer to central Cambridge and meet our Blue Badge Guide(s) for a **walking tour** of Cambridge, which will include **Queen's College, Pembroke College** and **King's College**. King's College was founded in 1441 by Henry VI for scholars from his new school at Eton. The Chapel is a splendid example of English Perpendicular architecture, has the world's largest fan vault and some of the finest medieval stained glass. A coffee break will be taken at a convenient time during the morning.

We hope to visit the **Wren Library**, designed and supervised by Sir Christopher Wren, at Trinity College, however this visit is subject to availability and cannot be pre-booked. If a visit is possible, the group will be divided into smaller groups of up to 15 people. There will be free time for lunch.



Wren Library

The afternoon will continue with a **guided visit** of the **Fitzwilliam Museum**. The art museum of Cambridge University, it was founded in 1816 by an extraordinarily rich bequest. Richard, 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam of Merrion, left his superb library and art collections, plus £100,000 in South Sea annuities in order to further "the Increase of Learning and other Great Objects of that Noble Foundation". Through the years, the Museum has attracted further outstanding gifts and bequests as well as having been extremely fortunate in the calibre and acquisition powers of its directors. We will return to our hotel in Bury St Edmunds for an evening at leisure.

WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2019

This morning we will travel to Ely for a **guided visit** of **Ely Cathedral** and the **Stained Glass Museum**. On arrival our group will split into two smaller groups with one group having a guided tour of the Cathedral whilst the other group has a guided tour of the Stained Glass Museum. Once known as 'Eel Island', the town of Ely with its magnificent Romanesque Cathedral overlooks the vast expanse of the fens. Occupying the site of St Ethelreda's 7th century Benedictine abbey, the towering cathedral dates from 1083 and is surrounded by superb ecclesiastical and domestic buildings. The Norman Transitional style of the late 11th century is clearly visible in the striking West front with its Early English Galilee Porch at its base. The Cathedral is renowned for its central octagonal tower and lantern. The Nave is a fine example of late Norman work, its narrowness emphasised by the height of the arcades. The four bays at the eastern end of the aisle retain their 12th century colouring. Among the cathedral's later embellishments are the delightful 14th century Lady Chapel and the 16th century Chantry of Bishop West where medieval and classical motifs are combined.

The Stained Glass Museum is dedicated to the art of stained glass and charts the history and techniques of stained glass. There are displays of over 100 original panels dating from the early 13th century to the present day. We will continue to Cambridge where there will

be free time for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Members may wish to visit Kettles Yard, or explore the town. There will be the opportunity to attend **Evensong** at King's College, for those that wish to do so, followed by **dinner** in a local restaurant in Cambridge before returning to Bury St Edmunds.

THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2019

This morning we will depart from the hotel and travel to Waddesdon near Aylesbury for a visit to **Waddesdon Manor** (National Trust). The Manor was built at the end of the 19th century in the style of a French Renaissance Château, for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to entertain his guests and show off his vast collection of art treasures. It houses one of the finest

collections of French 18th century decorative arts in the world in addition to portraits by Gainsborough and Reynolds and works by the 17th century Dutch and Flemish masters. The Victorian gardens have a wonderful landscape of specimen trees, parterre and seasonal displays. We will enjoy a **guided tour** on arrival followed by free time for lunch. There will be further time for individual exploration in the afternoon, prior to departure.

Late afternoon, we will re-join our coach and continue the return journey to Bristol.

Please note that as this tour has been planned many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.



Waddesdon Manor (National Trust)



Charlotte House, 12 Charlotte Street,
Bath BA1 2NE
Tel: 01225 466620
heritage@grouptravel.co.uk

The Arts Society Bristol

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TOUR PRICE

£670 per person sharing a twin/double room
£90 single room supplement

PRICE INCLUDES

Executive coach travel throughout
3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation
Dinner in the hotel restaurant on the first evening
Dinner in a local restaurant in Cambridge on the final evening
Walking tour of Cambridge with a local guide
Guided visit of the Fitzwilliam Museum
Guided visit of Ely Cathedral and the Stained Glass Museum
All booking and entrance charges as per the itinerary (excluding National Trust properties)
VOX audio-guides
Gratuities

Please note that entrance charges to National Trust properties are not included as these are free of charge to National Trust members upon production of a valid membership card

HOTEL DETAILS

3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at:

The Angel Hotel (4 star)

3 Angel Hill

Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1LT

For further details please visit their website:

www.theangel.co.uk

MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of 25 paying participants.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

ABTOT provides protection for your booking as set out in the Financial Protection clause of our Booking Conditions.

OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking that each tour participant carries full travel insurance (optional for UK tours) and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate insurance for this tour. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Travel & General Insurance Services Limited who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 304788) full details of which can be found on the FCA website www.fca.org.uk. Please call Travel & General on 0203 794 2954 for a quote.

PAYMENT DETAILS

A deposit of **£200** per person is due **as soon as possible** and no later than **Friday 15 March 2019**. Please note that as places on the tour are limited, bookings will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. The final balance will be due by **Friday 09 August 2019**.

BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and deposit to Heritage Group Travel. You will receive a confirmation of your booking combined with an invoice for the final balance. The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details and luggage label) will be available approximately 10-14 days prior to travel.

