

# Best of Britain Tour

## Itinerary 2009



**Day 1** **Arrival in London**  
Arrival at own discretion in London. No services included.  
Please do contact us if we can assist with private airport transfers.

**Day 2** **Full day London & Windsor**  
In the morning we will explore London. Travelling along the banks of London's great river, you will see the Tower of London, Shakespeare's Globe, the Tate Modern, the London Eye, Houses of Parliament and Big Ben, before turning into Whitehall and driving past the Cenotaph and Downing Street, where the Prime Minister resides at Number 10. You will also see Buckingham Palace, official residence of Her Majesty the Queen.

Your tour today will take you to other familiar addresses such as Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus. You will travel through the Strand and Fleet Street, traditionally the centre of British journalism and on to Christopher Wren's great masterpiece, St. Paul's Cathedral from where you will see the new Millennium Bridge spanning the Thames over to the Tate Modern.

In the afternoon you will visit Windsor Castle, the largest inhabited castle in the world and Royal Residence since William the Conqueror. The castle is one of the Official Residences of the Queen, who spends Easter, part of June and the majority of her weekends at the Castle. On your visit you explore the Precincts and the State Apartments which were severely damaged by fire in 1992, the magnificent restoration of which took 5 years.

**Day 3** **London – Cambridge – area York**  
After breakfast we will leave London for the North of England. First stop today will be Cambridge. Cambridge has been an important town since



Roman times as it is sited t the first navigable oint on the Ricer Cam. In the 11th century religious orders began to be established in the town and when, in 1209, a group of religious scholars broke away from Oxford University after academic and religious disputes they cam here. Student life dominates the city but it is also thriving market centre serving a rich agricultural region. A visit to one of Cambridge's famous colleges is included during your walking tour. After lunch onwards journey to the area Leeds.

**Day 4** **York – Edinburgh**  
In the morning we will have time to explore York, the quaint town in the North of England. The city of York has retained so much of its medieval structure that walking into its centre is like entering a living museum. During your 2-hours walking tour you will enjoy this fabulous town and see the famous York Minster, the largest

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Gothic church north of the Alps. Onwards journey to Edinburgh

Dinner and overnight in Edinburgh

### Day 5 Half day sightseeing Edinburgh & afternoon at own discretion

Morning introductory tour of Scotland's majestic Capital city which is really made up of 2 smaller "towns". Edinburgh's medieval origins were in the narrow cobbled streets around the Royal Mile – a long road linking the 2 ancient royal residences. The city has been the home of great politicians, religious leaders and inventors throughout the centuries. Nearby is the university and the new Scottish Parliament while the city skyline is dominated by the imposing Edinburgh Castle. Later, in contrast, admire the elegant tree-lined crescents of the 18th century "New Town" - built by Robert Adam in the classical style of that era and representing the largest area of conserved Georgian architecture in Europe.

In the afternoon some free time for shopping in the city's boutiques – or further independent sightseeing in superb art galleries, tiny museums, or perhaps the restored period-style Georgian House.

Or take the local bus outside the city to the village of Roslin where you may visit 15th century Rosslyn Chapel. This is one of the loveliest and most historic churches in Scotland and renowned for its magnificent enigmatic sculpture work and Apprentice Pillar. It also featured in the movie "Da Vinci Code".

Dinner and overnight in Edinburgh.

### Day 6 Edinburgh – Aviemore

Departure from Edinburgh, pausing briefly to

view the impressive 2 bridges which span the estuary of the River Forth. Heading north into the Scottish highlands and stop for a little free time in the town of Pitlochry which is surrounded by typical mountainous and woodland landscape. Time to find lunch on your own here.

Later in the afternoon stop to meet a local farmer to see an entertaining demonstration with his sheepdogs. They will herd the sheep and there will be a chance to learn about agricultural life in Scotland.

Overnight in Aviemore.

### Day 7 Aviemore – drive along Loch Ness - Ballachulish

From Aviemore today a morning tour of a local distillery to discover the secrets of whisky making and have a small taste. Later the journey continues along the shore of Loch Ness famous for its legendary monster. Time to visit the remains of Urquhart Castle which stand on a promontory in the loch.

Lunch on your own today.

Follow the loch south passing the town of Fort William which lies in the shadow of Ben Nevis - Britain's highest mountain at 1344 metres.

Overnight and dinner at Ballachulish in the midst of the stunning Scottish highland landscape.

### Day 8 Ballachulish – Glasgow

From Ballachulish take the route inland via the dramatic valley of Glencoe whose name in Gaelic means "vale of tears". This was the scene of the tragic massacre of the Clan MacDonald in 1692. The countryside then opens out with a wide vista over Rannoch Moor before the road descends towards pretty Loch Lomond dotted with many small islands.

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Lunch on your own today.

Arrival in Glasgow and if time permits a short overview of the city and its landmarks will be included. Glasgow is Scotland's largest city situated by the River Clyde and the merchants built their fortune on the tobacco and trading with the "new world" countries, therefore shipbuilding was once a main industry. Modern Glasgow has a vibrant and cosmopolitan atmosphere and enthusiastically celebrates traditional and contemporary design throughout the city's diverse architecture.

Overnight and dinner in Glasgow.

### Day 9

#### Glasgow – Lake District – Chester

Depart from Glasgow, travelling south over the natural border to England's beautiful Lake District – Lake Windermere is the largest lake in England and the spectacular scenery in the surrounding areas inspired the writer and poet William Wordsworth who lived in the region.

Head south to Chester for overnight.

### Day 10

#### Chester – Stratford upon Avon – Bath

After breakfast and a short sightseeing tour of Chester we will leave Cheshire and travel via Stratford upon Avon towards London.

Situated on the west bank of the River Avon, in the heart of the Midlands, is one of the most famous towns in England. Stratford-upon-Avon dates back to at least Roman times but its appearance today is that of a small Tudor market town, with mellow, half-timbered architecture and tranquil walks beside the tree-fringed Avon. This image belies its popularity as the most visited tourist attraction outside London, with eager hordes flocking to see buildings connected to William Shakespeare or his descendants. We will

### Day 11

visit Shakespeare's Birthplace, which was almost entirely reconstructed in the 19th century, but in the style of the Tudor original.

Overnight and Dinner in Bath

#### Bath – Stonehenge - London

After breakfast we will explore Bath.

Bath owes its magnificent Georgian townscape to the bubbling pool of water at the heart of the Roman Baths. The Romans transformed Bath into England's first spa resort and it regained fame as a spa town in the 18th century. At this time the two brilliant John Woods, both architects, designed the city's fine Palladian-style buildings. Many houses bear plaques recording the numerous famous people who have resided here. After lunch we will leave Bath and visit Stonehenge en-route to London.

Stonehenge built in several stages from about 3000BC, is Europe's most famous prehistoric monument. We can guess at the rituals that took place here, but the alignment of the stones leaves little doubt that the circle is connected with the sun and the passing of the seasons.

Overnight in London

#### Departure from London

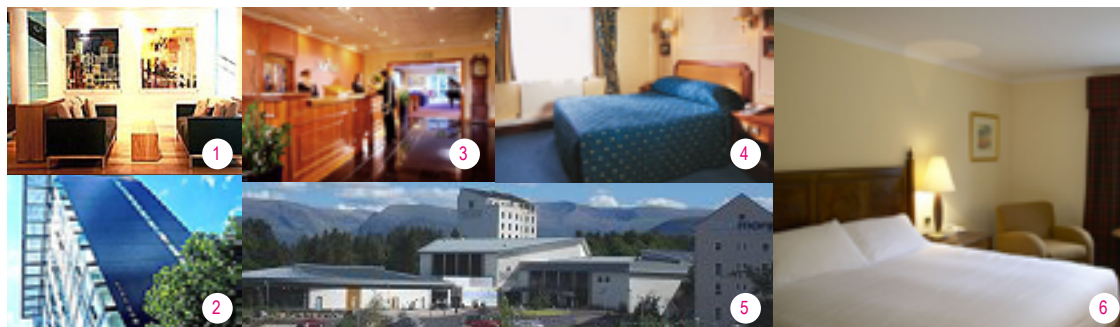
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## HOTEL DESCRIPTIONS

### 4\* City Inn Westminster (image 1 & 2)

The Location... The award winning City Inn Westminster Hotel is located in the historical city of London and ideally positioned for guests to explore the many wonderful sites and sounds. Located in the historical city of London and ideally positioned for guests to explore the many wonderful sites and sounds in the nearby vicinity, this hotel is just moments from the Pimlico tube station and the Westminster station and is also accessible from Heathrow international airport via public transport. The City Inn Westminster Hotel is situated next to Tate Britain and the famous River Thames. There are many nearby attractions for guests to explore which range from historical sites such as Big Ben, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament to the more modern attractions such as the London Eye. Guest rooms at the City Inn Westminster Hotel are well equipped to ensure guests have a comfortable and enjoyable stay. Amenities provided in each guest room include air conditioning, flat screen television with satellite channels, DVD and CD player, phone with voice mail, internet access, safe, hair dryer, mini bar and bathrobe.

### 4\* Marriott York (image 3)

With its sweeping views of the famed York Racecourse and Knavesmire Parkland, the York Marriott Hotel is set just beyond the ancient walls of the city centre, with its delightful shops, cafes and quaint lanes. Walk past the lush gardens surrounding this premier York hotel, and you'll be greeted by our fine service and warm, welcoming atmosphere inside. Here, guest rooms live up to expectations, providing luxurious refinements such as plush, new bedding and business-savvy features like high-speed Internet access.

A tempting choice of dining awaits, with Cook's Brasserie serving snacks and refreshments, whilst Ridings Restaurant impresses with local and international cuisine enjoyed with racecourse views. Leisure hours can be spent on the putting green, in the pool, fitness centre or on the tennis court.

### 4\* Thistle Edinburgh (image 4)

This inviting hotel includes 143 rooms and suites. WLAN access is provided in the hotel. This hotel is centrally located on Princes Street within a short walk from Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and the National and Scottish Galleries. The stylish rooms come with an en suite bathroom with a hairdryer, a direct dial telephone, satellite/ cable TV, Internet access, a minibar/fridge, a hire safe and central heating. Wheelchair friendly rooms can be arranged on request. There are also tea and coffee making facilities and an ironing board on offer to guests.

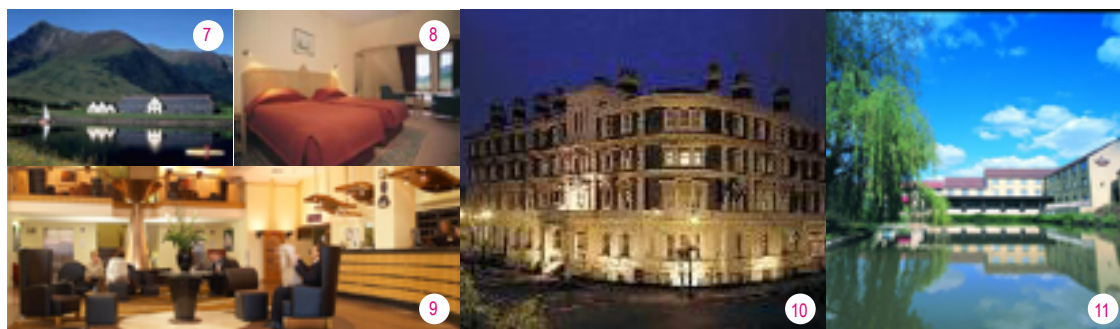
### 3\* superior MacDonald Highland Hotel Aviemore (images 5 & 6)

Offering cosy accommodation and convenient facilities, the Macdonald Highlands Hotel Aviemore is a perfect place for both business and leisure travellers. Situated at the foot of the spectacular Cairngorm Mountains, Macdonald Highlands Hotel Aviemore nestles amidst the ancient Caledonian pine forests, home to an abundance of wildlife. The resort's location in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, offers boundless opportunities to experience numerous outdoor activities all year round and to enjoy the best of Highland hospitality. The Macdonald Highland hotel is within the Aviemore Highland Resort. This hotel offers well appointed bedrooms.

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### 3\* superior Isles of Glencoe Hotel and Leisure Centre (images 7 & 8)

The Isles of Glencoe Hotel and Leisure Centre overlooks Loch Leven. This friendly, modern superior 3\* hotel offers spacious bedrooms with loch and mountain-views and a relaxed, convivial ambience. A perfect place to stay in this beautiful part of the Highlands of Scotland.

### 4\* Thistle Hotel Glasgow (image 9)

Thistle Glasgow is conveniently situated in Glasgow city centre. This popular hotel has 300 bedrooms, restaurant, bar and coffee shop offering guests a variety of drinks and dining. The hotel has a leisure club with swimming pool, sauna, steam room, spa pool and work out facilities.

### 4\* Best Western Queens Hotel, Chester (image 10)

The Queen Hotel, located directly across from the main line Chester Railway Station, opened on the 21st April 1860, costing £29,000.00 "built in the Italian style upon a beautiful piece of ground with sumptuous furnishings, a beautiful garden and offering the quietest and most spacious first class Hotel in Chester (21st July, 1860)". This prestigious hotel has had many celebrities and dignitaries through its doors including Charles Dickens, Lilly Langtry and Cecil Rhodes who it is

thought made his plans for Rhodesia whilst taking his walks through the gardens! The Feathers Group acquired the Queen Hotel in March 2003, and through a multi-million pound refurbishment have restored it to its former glory. Through the combination of modern first class services and wonderful newly created and enhanced facilities throughout we can guarantee from the moment you arrive, a quite wonderful experience in the true tradition of this grand marque hotel.

### 4\* Menzies Waterside Hotel, Bath (image 11)

Overlooking the peaceful Kennet and Avon Canal, yet a stone's throw from Bath's historic treasures, the Menzies Waterside is the perfect base for business or leisure.

Relax in the superb surroundings of one of the city's finest contemporary four-star hotels. Enjoy the cutting edge business and leisure facilities... soak up the peaceful, refined ambience... and treat yourself to a superb meal in our conservatory-style Brasserie restaurant as you gaze out across the water. Conveniently located just a few minutes from Bath railway station and only 11 miles from Junction 18 of the M4, hotel guests can also enjoy free car parking. Whether it's a memorable conference or a rejuvenating city break, the Menzies Waterside is the natural choice.

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### QUOTATION

03-14 May 2009    07-18 June 2009  
05-16 July 2009    09-20 August 2009

#### MIN PAYING PAX: 20 RATE IN GBP PER PERSON

Travel month:	May	J u n e
July	August	
Sharing twin or dbl:	<b>1,223.00</b>	<b>1,233.00</b>
	<b>1,245.00</b>	
Single suplement:	<b>448.00</b>	<b>460.00</b>
	<b>460.00</b>	

### INCLUDED:

#### Accommodation (18 twins/doubles, 4 singles)

2 nights accommodation in 4\* City Inn  
Westminster, central London  
Including bed and Continental breakfast

1 night accommodation in 4\* Marriott Hotel York  
Including 3-course dinner and full breakfast

2 nights accommodation in 4\* Thistle Edinburgh  
Including 3-course dinner and full breakfast

1 night accommodation in 3\* superior  
Macdonald Highland Hotel, Aviemore  
Including 3-course dinner and full breakfast

1 night accommodation in 3\* superior Isle of  
Glencoe Hotel, Ballachulish  
Including 3-course dinner and full breakfast

1 night accommodation in 4\* Thistle Hotel  
Glasgow  
Including 3-course dinner and full breakfast

1 night accommodation in 4\* Best Western  
Queens Hotel, Chester  
Including 3-course dinner and full breakfast

1 night accommodation in 4\* Menzies Hotel,  
Bath  
Including 3-course dinner and full breakfast

1 night accommodation in 4\* City Inn  
Westminster, central London  
Including bed and Continental breakfast

#### Coaching & Spanish speaking guide

Based on private, modern 48-seater  
touring coach with air conditioning

#### Day 2

##### Full day London & Windsor

Including Spanish speaking blue badge guide  
Time: 09.00-17.30 hrs

#### Day 3-11:

##### Nine days touring coach from/to to London

Including Spanish speaking blue badge touring  
guide  
Including accommodation and meals for driver  
and guide  
Times: 09.00-17.30 daily

#### Entrances

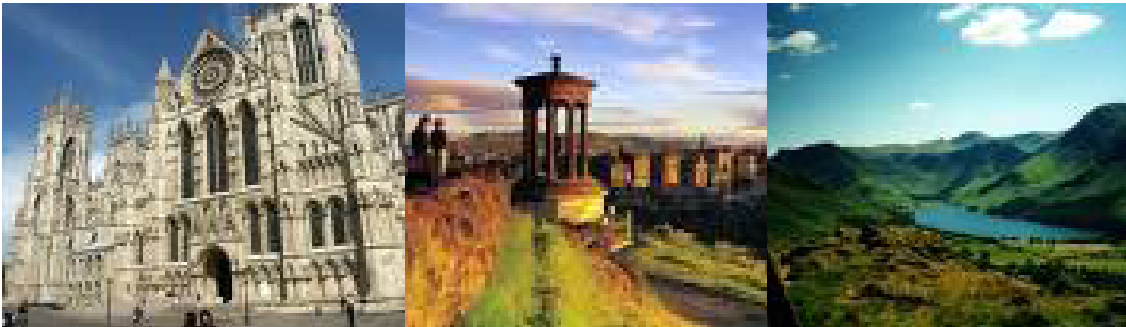
Windsor Castle, Cambridge College, York Minster,  
Edinburgh Castle, Sheep Dog Presentation,  
Whisky Distillery near Aviemore, Urquart Castle,  
Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaways  
Cottage, Roman Bath, Stonehenge

Visits to all attractions are subject to opening  
times!

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### Airport transfers for individual guests

Heathrow Airport – central London or vice versa

Based on sedan/  
up to 2 guests: GBP 59.00

oneway per vehicle

Based on people carrier/  
up to 4 guests: GBP 83.00

oneway per vehicle

Gatwick Airport – central London or vice versa

Based on sedan/  
up to 2 guests: GBP 83.00

oneway per vehicle

Based on people carrier/  
up to 4 guests: GBP 118.00

oneway per vehicle

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### CANCELLATION TERMS:

Cancellation can be made free of charge up until 6 weeks before arrival. We recommend that all clients take out relevant travel insurance to be covered for all reasons of cancellation

Full pre-payment of all guests confirmed 6 weeks prior to arrival

Please note that the departure will be guaranteed once 20 guests have been confirmed.

We reserve the right to cancel this trip up to 4 weeks prior to arrival if minimum number of guests has not been reached. We will certainly provide regular updates on the status of our scheduled tours

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Porterage at the airport and in the hotel has not been included

Above coaching and sightseeing rates are net and inclusive of VAT @ 17.5% and parking fees. Prices are based on current fuel costs and legal regulations. Hotelbeds reserves the right to increase charges in the event of an increase in VAT and/or fuel charges before the beginning of the programme.