

PROPOSED ITINERARY

Thurs, March 20: Fly to England

We begin our adventure to Great Britain with an overnight flight from Minneapolis/St. Paul.



Fri., March 21: Manchester, Edinburgh

Visit the John Rylands Research Institution and Library for early Bible manuscripts, Gutenberg Bible and the earliest surviving fragment of the New Testament. Drive through the Lake District to Edinburgh for the evening with a stop along the way at Hutton-in-the-Forest Medieval-to-Victorian stately home with tearoom and gardens.

Sat., March 22: Edinburgh, Lindisfarne (Holy Island)

Tour Edinburgh Castle, walk the "Royal Mile," the main street linking the castle and the Royal Holyrood Palace. Along the street we will stop into St. Giles Cathedral, the home of the Scottish Reformation and the pulpit of the thundering John Knox. Be on the lookout for Scottish bagpipes and tartan kilts! Tour the Palace and throne room.

As we head south back to England, we'll climb Hadrian's Wall, the Roman border to Scotland.

We will then drive over (yes, driving!) across the seabed at low tide over to Holy Island, where Celtic monks established a wind-swept monastery. The Irish monks there illuminated the spectacular Lindisfarne Gospels and established an outpost from which to evangelize northern England.

Sun., March 23: Durham, York

We begin the morning with worship at the massive Norman (Romanesque) Cathedral in Durham. The afternoon we will step back in time into Medieval York. We can climb the medieval walls, tour the stunning "Minster" (the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe), explore the motte-and-bailey castle, and wander down medieval streets between "wattle and daub" (timber-frame) homes and shops.



Mon., March 24: Epworth, Chatsworth

This morning we explore Epworth, the childhood home of the Wesleys. We will tour the rectory where the children grew up under the watchful care of Susanna. We will visit St. Andrew's parish church, were their father, Samuel, was the rector. Outside is Samuel's grave, upon which John stood to preach to the people of the church after Samuel's successor forbade John inside the church. We will have lunch at the Red Lion pub, where John stayed during his return preaching trips, as well as the remains of the town cross, upon which steps John preached. We will see the Epworth Methodist Church before driving to nearby Wroote to visit the only church John served as pastor, from 1727-29 when he returned to Epworth to help his ailing father as curate.

We head deep into "our lovely Derbyshire" with the rolling moors and quilt-patchwork hills. Chatsworth is one of England's best preserved stately homes, and still the residence and ancestral home of the Duke of Devonshire. We will tour the expansive mansion and one of the best

English gardens in northern England (designed by the famous Capability Brown during Wesley's lifetime).

We drive to Birmingham for the evening stopping first in Bakewell for a Bakewell Tart (yum!).

Tues., March 25: Birmingham, Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon

We will begin our day touring Bishop Asbury's birth home followed by a chance to "storm the castle" of Warwick, one of England's best-preserved castles. Next we visit Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's hometown, birth home and church. Evening group entertainment TBD.



John and Charles preached their "Oxford Sermons."

We will then make our way to London for an overview tour including St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, etc. Followed by either a Medieval Feast or show in London's famous "West End"

Thurs., March 27: London

We will spend the morning at the British Museum, one of the world's premier museums, seeing archaeological, historical, and cultural treasures from the world over. Highlights include artifacts from many biblical references, the Rosetta Stone, British treasures, and some of the best Egyptian, Persian, Greek and Roman collections in the world.

The afternoon is at the British Library, containing must-sees like the Magna Carta, Handel's Messiah, first editions of the English Bible (including the King James Version), illuminated manuscripts, and two of the three earliest copies of the Bible (Codex Alexandrinus and Codex Sinaiticus).

After dinner we could take a spin on the London Eye in the evening.

Fri., March 28: London

Morning tour John Wesley's house, chapel, the "Mother Church of Methodism," grave and other historic Wesley London sites. We will then tour The Tower of London and view the nearby London Bridge before driving southwest to Salisbury.

Sat., March 29: Salisbury, Stonehenge, Bath

We will begin our day at the lovely Salisbury Cathedral, then proceed to Stonehenge, the most iconic of ancient stone circle monuments in the world.

Next we tour the famous Roman bath ruins in Bath, with the massive pool that is still water-tight! Bath Abby is a breath-taking example of Perpendicular architecture, and the Royal Crescent, one of the best examples of Georgian architecture (constructed during Wesley's lifetime).



Sun., March 30: Bristol

Morning worship in Bristol, then tour of the New Room, the first Methodist Chapel in the world. Afterwards we'll tour Charles' Bristol home and the nearby sites of Kingswood (where the Wesleys supported the famous children's home), Hanam Mount (where the Wesleys first preached in the outdoors) and Port of Pill (from where John sent the first Methodist preachers to America).

We next explore a ruined abbey in a breathtaking setting, Tintern Abbey, followed by dinner nearby.

Mon., March 31: Caerphilly, Manchester

Wales! Tour Caerleon Roman Amphitheatre followed by Caerphilly Castle. We then drive back to Manchester for tomorrow's flight home. Along the way we will stop and see where Charles Wesley married Sarah Gwynne, in Garth, Wales. We will celebrate our adventure with a group dinner to share highlights and reflections.



Tues., April 1: Fly home. USA!

Itinerary subject to change and more details will follow as definitive plans are made.

