



Oxford, York & London with WILL

CHR Travel

9 Days August 25-September 2, 2023 From \$5279*

- Windsor Castle • Oxfordshire
- Cogges Manor Farm • Blenheim Palace • Oxford • Yorkshire
- Thirsk • York • Chatsworth House • London • British Museum
- Thames dinner cruise

THIS WILL TOUR combines culture, history, and visits to settings featured in your favorite WILL-TV programs. We take a unique, easy-paced approach on a WILL custom tour, with two-night minimum hotel



Unique tours since 1986

stays. This allows more free time than the average tour. Best of all, travel with other Friends of WILL, who share a kinship from the first day. WILL tours fill up quickly because the group size is limited! Don't delay, reserve your seat now!

*Above: London's Big Ben & Parliament;
Below: The Shambles, York*





Windsor Castle

Itinerary

Day 1 Friday: Central Illinois-Chicago-Flight

Erin and Lillie of WILL welcome you aboard our private motor coach to Chicago where we board our overnight non-stop flight to London.

Day 2 Saturday: Arrival-Heathrow-Windsor-Oxford

Welcome to England! We arrive in London's Heathrow airport this morning and meet our favorite tour manager, Victor Seedman. We go to nearby Windsor Castle for a guided tour of the State Apartments. While there, you may notice a French flag on the seventeenth-century French writing table that will connect us to Blenheim Palace tomorrow. After our guided tour, we have free time for lunch and exploring Windsor on your own. Then on to Oxford, where our hotel rooms should be ready for us. The rest of the day is free.

Day 3 Sunday: Oxford-Cogges Manor-Blenheim Palace-Oxford

Today we visit Cogges Manor Farm, a Downton Abbey filming location for the Drewe family's Yew Tree Farm, where Lady Edith's child is brought up. Farmed since before the Domesday Book, the house dates from the 13th century.

Your Tour Hosts

Erin Lippitz, is
WILL's Major
Gifts Director



Lillie
Duncanson,
Director of
Broadcast
Operations





Above: Blenheim Palace;
lower left: Oxford Punting

This afternoon we visit Woodstock and the spectacular Blenheim Palace built as a reward for John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, to commemorate his

1704 victory at the Bavarian town of the same name. A grateful England awarded the land to build the only non-royal dwelling to be called a palace. Included in the rambling plan was a throne for the Duke that he would lord over a looted 30-ton bust of the defeated French King Louis XIV, he died before that detail was complete. Over the centuries, the family's limited funds saw the palace nearly fall into ruins. However, the ninth duke's marriage to the American railroad heiress Consuelo Vanderbilt provided funds for restoration, and she got to become a Duchess in return.

In case you saw the permanent exhibition about Winston Churchill mentioning his premature birth at Blenheim in the ladies' cloakroom, we see where his journey was completed at nearby Bladon's St. Martin's Church cemetery.

Our welcome dinner is included tonight. (B, D)

Day 4 Monday: Oxford-York

This morning we enjoy a guided tour of Oxford. Note that on arrival in Oxford we will each



Your Tour Manager

Victor Seedman has led the last nine *WILL* tours in Europe. He started leading tours in the 1980's and has continued to do so while being the Head of Travel, Tourism & Hospitality for the London campus of the University of Gloucestershire.



Oxford's Radcliffe Camera

receive headsets so that we do not miss a thing while on any of our tours. After free time for lunch on our own, we head north to York. The evening is free. (B)

Day 5 Tuesday: York-Yorkshire Dales-York

Today we enjoy a day out in 'James Herriot' country, the countryside so special to the world's most well-known vet! The Yorkshire Dales is well documented on our screens and brought alive to young and old

audiences through *All Creatures Great and Small*. We see the scenery, weaving the author's story through the landscape and visit some of the filming locations. Dinner is included tonight. (B, D)

Day 6 Wednesday: York-Thirsk-York

This morning, a visit to James Herriot's veterinary office in Thirsk is included. Then we return to York, for a guided walking tour where we will

Thirsk Market Place

Charitable Donation

This trip is designed as a fundraiser for **WILL**, your favorite public television and radio station. The more people who travel with **WILL**, the more funding the station receives. A non-refundable donation of at least \$200/person is included in your trip cost. After the trip, you will receive a charitable donation receipt to use as a tax deduction. **WILL** thanks you for your support!





Above: Yorkshire Dales

see The Shambles and York Minster, one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals. The Shambles is a narrow street where the tops of the leaning buildings on either side nearly touch.

A visit to England isn't complete with Afternoon Tea, which we will partake in after our tour.

The evening is free to explore York more on your own. (B,T)

Day 7 Thursday: York- Chatsworth-London

Heading south, we stop in Derbyshire at Chatsworth for a tour of this impressive stately house and 105-acre gardens. Home to the Devonshire family, Chatsworth has been passed down through 16 generations. It was featured in *Pride & Prejudice*, *Death Comes to Pemberley*, and *The Duchess*.

On arrival in London we have some free time to relax and freshen up. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner cruise on the Thames River as the sun sets and the lights come on over London. (B, D)

Day 8 Friday: London

This morning we head to the British Museum for a private guided tour of its Egyptian Sculpture Gallery before it opens to the public.

A Blue Badge guide joins us as we depart for a tour of the Tower of London where we see the Crown Jewels, a collection of more than 23,000 gem stones.

The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free. (B)

Day 9 Saturday: London- Heathrow-Flight-Chicago- Central Illinois

Victor accompanies us to Heathrow Airport, and we say our farewells before boarding our non-stop flight to Chicago. On arrival at O'Hare, we clear customs and are taken by private motor coach back to central Illinois with wonderful memories of England's rich history and charm. (B)

Included meals are noted each day with the initials for Breakfast, Tea, Dinner.



CHR Travel has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise. We have worked with the same people for 37 years, going back to when we visited Yorkshire on **WILL's** very first tour.

Physical Requirements

Travel in England requires walking on uneven cobblestones, steps and inclines that could be difficult or impossible for those with physical limitations. You need to decide whether you can accept that this may make you miss parts of the tour or stay at the hotel and be on your own. Each of our hotels has an elevator.



Above: Chatsworth House, Derbyshire Dales



Traveling Book Club

All Creatures Great and Small 5-book Series
First published in 1972, the first installment in the beloved series picks up with a young James Herriot, fresh out of veterinary school during the Great Depression and searching desperately for a job. He finally accepts a position as an assistant vet at a rural practice in the sleepy Yorkshire village of Darrowby, and is thrown in at the deep end treating pets and farm animals. The series follows Herriot as he settles into life in Darrowby, marries, begins military service in the British Royal Air Force, raises a family, and his trademark encounters with eccentric local townspeople.

The **All Creatures Great and Small** series on PBS began airing in 2021. All three seasons are available to stream on pbs.org and on the PBS Video app with Passport.

The **PBS Secrets Of** series includes episodes on Westminster Abbey, Tower of London and Selfridges. We don't have scheduled trips to these locations but the group will have free time while in London and may choose to visit.

All three episodes are available to stream on pbs.org

Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh
—Captures the dream of Oxford and full of nostalgia for the golden pre-war era. Holds the reputation of being the definitive depiction of undergraduate life.

An Instance of the Fingerpost by Iain Pears
— Set in the immediate post-Restoration period the novel is narrated by four different and unreliable narrators, each with a different perspective of events.

MASTERPIECE Churchill's Secret — Available by streaming on WILL-TV Passport. Already a Friend of WILL but don't have Passport? Give WILL a ring, and we'll walk you through the activation process.

Colin Dexter, "Morse's Greatest Mystery and Other Stories", 1993. — Short story versions of Inspector Morse mysteries by the wonderful Colin Dexter. Available wherever you find your favorite books; the Morse Bar at the Randolph Hotel was a favorite film location for the Inspector Morse and Inspector Lewis series.

MASTERPIECE VICTORIA — this series is available for viewing in its entirety on WILL-TV Passport. Windsor Castle exteriors are featured in Series One.

What's Included: • Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois
• Round trip flights • Tour manager, transportation, sightseeing (with headsets) and admissions per itinerary • Baggage handling at hotels • 11 Meals: 7 Breakfasts 1 Tea 3 Dinners • \$830 current total taxes & fees, subject to change • Hotel accommodations • Led by Erin Lippitz and Lillie Duncanson

Accommodations: (7) total number of nights
Oxford (2) voco Oxford Thames
York (3) Principal Hotel
London (2) Park Plaza Riverbank

What's Not Included: • Airline baggage fees if any • Tips to tour manager, driver and local guides • Travel insurance • Optional tours and meals not noted in itinerary

*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double or triple: \$5279, single: \$6299. • Document required for US citizens is a passport valid through the last day of your visit to the UK (longer is recommended); no visa or shots at this time. Other citizens should consult their consulate. • Insurance coverage is Vacations & Cruises Plan from Travel Guard at a cost of 7.2%. For coverage details, see [tourgroup-](#)



planners.com/insurance. Other terms at tourgroupplanners.com/terms incorporated by reference. • Based on a group size of 27 or more. If 26 or fewer, a small group surcharge of \$99 applies. Price and details are subject to change. Enjoy a \$50/person discount by paying your balance by check. Acct#30825r 20Feb23 16:30

Join us from • Springfield
• Decatur • Urbana • Chicago
O'Hare or call for a quote from
other cities.

Tour Coordinator is Amy or Becky,
email: Amy@TourGroupPlanners.com
or Becky@TourGroupPlanners.com.
Call **217-422-5002** to charge
your credit card for the \$1600 per
-person deposit. Or mail a check
(payable to **Rio Grande Travel**) to

Tour Group Planners, 363 S Main St
Suite 307, Decatur IL 62523. Final
payment due 4/25/23.

<https://will.illinois.edu/willtravel>



**TOUR
GROUP
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**ILLINOIS
PUBLIC MEDIA**



*Above: British Museum. Middle: Enjoy a private
tour of the British Museum's Egyptian sculpture
gallery. At left: our dinner cruise on the River
Thames*



Your Hotels

Nights in parenthesis shows the length of stay. See numbered photos:

1. Oxford (2) voco Oxford Thames
2. York (3) Principal York
3. London (2) Park Plaza Riverbank

James Herriot's desk at his veterinary office in Thirsk



1 The voco Oxford Thames is adjacent the Thames Path so you can take a relaxing stroll along the famous river that starts in the Cotswolds and ends at the sea. Go punting or enjoy the hotel's lavish spa (cost applies).



2 Principal York, on Station Road, is adjacent to the city walls with views of York Minster. It is just a few minutes walk to shops, pubs, restaurants, the River Ouse, and Jorvik Viking Center.



3 Our London hotel, the Park Plaza Riverbank, is across the street from the art museum Tate Britain. It's a 15 minute walk to Westminster Abbey or 9 minutes to Victoria's Vauxhall Underground station (which also serves the Southwestern Railway).

