



# London, Bath & Oxford with WILL

*CHR Travel*

**9 Days August 29-  
September 6, 2020  
From \$4982\***

- Windsor Castle • London:
- Thames dinner cruise • British Museum • British Library
- Somerset • Bath: • Roman Baths • Tea at The Pump Room
- Oxfordshire • Cogges Manor Farm • Oxford: • Bodleian Library
- Blenheim Palace

**T**HIS WILL TOUR combines culture, history, and visits to settings featured in your favorite WILL-TV programs. We take our unique, easy-paced

approach visiting numerous English sites we have not visited on previous WILL trips. On a WILL custom tour, we have two-night minimum hotel stays. This also gives the possibility of more free time than the average tour allows. Best of all is traveling 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!



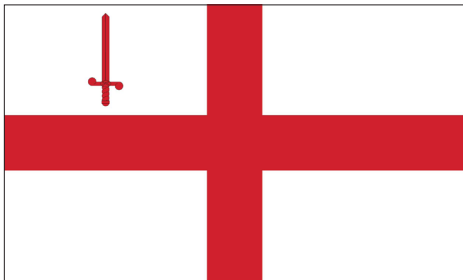
*Above: Big Ben & Parliament;  
at right: Roman Baths*

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Illinois Public Media™    
*Unique tours since 1986*





Above: Windsor Castle; below: the flag of London



## Itinerary

### Day 1 Saturday: Central Illinois-Chicago-Flight

Erin Lippitz of WILL welcomes you aboard our private motor coach to Chicago where we board our over-night non-stop flight to London.

### Day 2 Sunday: Arrival-Heathrow-Windsor-London

Welcome to England! We arrive in London's Heathrow airport this morning and meet our favorite tour manager, Victor Seedman. He takes us to nearby Windsor Castle for a guided tour of the State Apartments. While there, you may notice a French flag on the 17th-century French writ-

ing table that will connect us to our visit on day 8 to Blenheim Palace. We have a bit of free time for lunch and exploring the palace more. Then on to our London hotel located minutes from three rails stations: Euston, King's Cross and St. Pancras.

### Day 3 Monday: London

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

The rest of the morning and afternoon is free for independent exploration. We will have suggestions about what to see and do.

## Your Tour Host

Erin Lippitz,  
is WILL's  
Major Gifts  
Director







As the sun sets and the lights come on, enjoy a dinner cruise on the Thames River. (B, D)

#### **Day 4 Tuesday: London**

This morning we head next door to the British Library for a tour of the treasures there such as the Magna Carta and Shakespeare's Sonnets. This afternoon is free and we will provide suggestions—perhaps the Garden Museum, Victoria & Albert Museum or Harrods, the world's most famous department store with its many Food Halls.

We will choose a play and include admission to the theatre with transportation to and fro. The performance will be decided on once summer options become available. (B)

*At top: British Museum; at right: Enjoy a private tour of the British Museum's Egyptian sculpture gallery.*

#### **Day 5 Wednesday: London-Bath**

Today we head west from London to Bath in the county of Somerset, a city that has been welcoming visitors for two millennia. We stay at no. 6-11 Queen Square in the Francis Hotel, made up of six Grade I listed Georgian houses like the rest of this historic square. A group dinner is included tonight. (B, D)

#### **Day 6 Thursday: Bath**

Designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Bath presents some of the finest architectural sights in Europe, such as the Royal Crescent, the Circus and Pulteney Bridge. Expanding our awareness of



*At left: near our hotel is the historic St. Pancras rail station, gateway to the chunnel & Europe;*

*below: our dinner cruise on the River Thames*







Above: Bath's Pulteney Bridge over the River Avon; below the flag of Somerset county



## Your Tour Manager

**Victor Seedman** has led the last eight **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.

the Romano-British fusion of Celtic and Roman cultures in Britannia, we feature a guided tour of the complex of Roman Baths centered on a natural spring of hot water.

This afternoon enjoy included admission and free time to the Fashion Museum, Assembly Rooms and Victoria Art Gallery. Or explore The Jane Austen Centre (entry fee not included) until time for a traditional Afternoon Tea at The Pump Room with music included. (B, T)

## Day 7 Friday: Bath-Witney-Oxford

We drive northeast to Oxfordshire. Our first stop is a visit to Cogges Manor Farm, a Downton Abbey film location. Cogges Manor Farm, a

National Trust property, pretends to be a Downton farmhouse in the series, and is where little Marigold, Lady Edith's daughter, was raised by a Downton farm family. Farmed since before the Domesday Book, Cogges Manor dates to the 13th century.

Continuing to the city of Oxford, we experience a guided tour of the famous Bodleian library, one of the oldest in Europe. See Duke Humfrey's medieval library; this younger brother of King Henry V gave the university his priceless collection of more than 281 manuscripts.

On return to the hotel adjacent to the Ashmolean Museum, how about a drink at Morse Bar? You may rec-

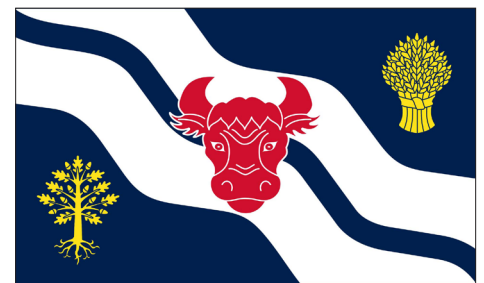
View of Bath from the Skyline Walk







*Above: Blenheim Palace; below: flag of Oxford*



ognize it as the watering hole of Colin Dexter's world-famous detective, Inspector Morse. (B)

### **Day 8 Saturday: Oxford-Woodstock-Bladon-Oxford**

We visit Woodstock and the spectacular Blenheim Palace built by 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 where he would lord over a looted 30-ton bust of the defeated French King Louis XIV. But the Duke 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 will complete his journey with a visit to his gravesite at nearby Bladon. Then we have some free time; the Ashmolean Museum (the first university museum dating from 1677) or

*Bath's Queen Square*



### **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 elevators.





Oxford's Radcliffe Camera

the Pitts River Museum (artifacts are arranged by type into a 'democracy of things', rather than by time or region) are worth a visit.

A Farewell Dinner is included tonight. (B, D)

### Day 9 Sunday: Oxford-Heathrow-Flight-Chicago-Central Illinois

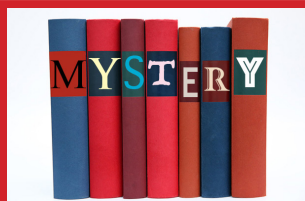
Victor accompanies us to Heathrow Airport for our farewell before boarding our non-stop flight back to Chicago. On arrival you are taken by private transfer back to central Illinois with wonderful memories of the rich history and charm of England. (B)

Included meals are noted with initials at the end of each day.

**What's Included:** • Round trip motor coach transportation from Central Illinois • Baggage handling • Round trip flights • Tour manager, transportation, sightseeing and admissions per itinerary • 11 Meals: 7 Breakfasts 1 Tea 3 Dinners • \$220 current total taxes & fees, subject to change • Hotel accommodations • Led by Erin Lippitz

**Accommodations:** (7) total number of nights London (3) Pullman St Pancras Hotel Bath (2) Francis Hotel Oxford (2) The Randolph Hotel

**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



### Traveling Book Club

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

*Persuasion* by Jane Austen — A touching and enchanting novel about a second chance in love set in early nineteenth-century Bath. Bath is an incredibly romantic city and Jane Austen's novels are the perfect romantic read.

*The Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens — Dickens' first novel working the serious subject of the justice system into a comic novel and vividly brings to life Georgian Bath society.

*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 Northanger Abbey** — one of two novels by Jane Austen to feature holidays in Bath. Available by streaming on WILL-TV Passport. Or read the novel (the first of Austen's novels to be published), available anywhere fine books are sold.

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





\*All prices are per person, based on occupancy, double: \$4982, single: \$5970. • Document required for US citizens is 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 Deluxe Group Plan from Travel Guard at a cost of 7.2%. For coverage details see [tourgroupplanners.com/insurance](http://tourgroupplanners.com/insurance). Other terms at [tourgroupplanners.com/terms](http://tourgroupplanners.com/terms) incorporated by reference. If fewer than 21 book, a small group surcharge of \$90 applies. • Price and details are subject to change. Acct#200829r 14Jan20 23:29

Join us from • Decatur • Springfield  
• Urbana • Chicago O'Hare or call for a quote from other cities. Tour Coordinator is Judy or Dawn, email: Judy [Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com](mailto:Judy@TourGroupPlanners.com) & Dawn [Dawn@TourGroupPlanners.com](mailto:Dawn@TourGroupPlanners.com); call **217-422-5002** to charge your credit card for the \$1500 per-person

deposit (the balance is due April 29 and you get a \$50/person discount if balance is paid by check). Or mail a check (payable to **Rio Grande Travel**) to **Tour Group Planners**, 363 S Main St Suite 307, Decatur IL 62523



**TOUR  
GROUP  
PLANNERS**

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

*We include a London theatre evening*



**CHR Travel** has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise. We have worked with the same people for 33 years, going back to when we visited Yorkshire on **WILL's** very first tour.

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*Bodleian Library*



## 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!



## Your Hotels

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

1. **London** (3) Pullman London St. Pancras
2. **Bath** (2) Francis Hotel
3. **Oxford** (2) The Randolph



1 Our hotel, the Pullman London St. Pancras, is half way between two famous train stations, Euston & St. Pancras, 500 yards to each. It is adjacent to the British Library where we will see the Magna Carta and Shakespeare's sonnets.



2 The Francis Hotel comprises seven terraced townhouses, among the first built by the famous Georgian architect, John Wood the Elder, in 1736. It is now Grade 1 listed by English Heritage. Notable residents of the Queen Square townhouses include Jane Austen and William Gainsborough.



3 The Randolph Hotel is in the city center across the street from the Ashmolean Museum. The hotel bar's name recalls one its best known guests, John Thaw, who portrayed Inspector Morse on Mystery!

