



# Grand Tour of Great Britain with the Kirkman House Museum

16 days | Jul 13 2023—Jul 28 2023

Discover what makes Great Britain truly great as you explore this delightful island from top to bottom. Start in Edinburgh, the Georgian Scottish capital, before heading south to Wales, passing through lovely English countryside and historic cities like York and Liverpool along the way. Then it's off to the Roman town of Bath and royal London—the perfect finishing touch on this quintessentially British experience.



## Your tour package includes

- 14 nights in handpicked hotels
- 14 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- Guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Edinburgh Castle
- Alnwick Castle
- Durham Cathedral
- York Minster
- Shakespeare family home
- Cardiff Castle
- Bath
- Stonehenge
- Trafalgar Square

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

# Grand Tour of Great Britain with the Kirkman House Museum

16 days

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Edinburgh today.

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## Edinburgh → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Edinburgh

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Edinburgh! Transfer to your hotel and gather for your welcome dinner this evening.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get to know Edinburgh in all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert.

- View the elegant Georgian New Town and the Royal Mile, two UNESCO World Heritage sites
- Pass the King George statue, Bute House, and Sir Walter Scott monument
- Enter Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone

Spend a free afternoon in Edinburgh or add an excursion.

+ Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

### Day 4: Free day in Edinburgh

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Edinburgh or add an excursion.

+ Stirling Castle & Dunblane Cathedral

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## Newcastle Region → 1 night

### Day 5: Newcastle Region via Alnwick

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

En route to Alnwick, stop for photos in Berwick-upon-Tweed, the northernmost town in England. Then, continue along a scenic coastal route to Alnwick for a guided tour of the historic castle and gardens before making your way to the Newcastle region.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

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## York → 2 nights

### Day 6: York via Durham

*Included meals: breakfast*

Head to the famed college town of Durham for a sightseeing tour.

- Stroll through the old city along the banks of the River Wear
- Enter the UNESCO-recognized Durham Cathedral, known for its Romanesque style and beautiful Norman architecture

Later, drive through the charming English countryside as you continue on to York.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of York

*Included meals: breakfast*

Embark on a walking tour of this historic walled city with a local guide.

- Enter York Minster, home to largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world
- See the York Museum Gardens, which occupy ten acres in the city center
- View the Roman wall, the oldest section of the city's historic fortifications
- Visit the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey and the King's Manor
- Enter the National Railway Museum and enjoy free time to explore the exhibits

Enjoy a free afternoon in York or add an excursion.

+ Whitby

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## Manchester → 1 night

### Day 8: Manchester via Ramsbottom

*Included meals: breakfast*

Today, stop in Ramsbottom as you travel to Manchester.

- Spend some free time exploring the charming town
- Visit the Helmshore Mills Textile Museum
- Enjoy free time for lunch followed by a lecture at the local library

Then, continue on to Manchester.

*Please note: The lecture is being organized by your Group Coordinator, not Go Ahead Tours.*

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## Liverpool → 1 night

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Liverpool

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Explore the UNESCO-recognized port city of Liverpool this morning with a local as your guide.

- View the neo-Gothic Liverpool Cathedral and the modern Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral
- Pass by the Liverpool Central Library and St George's Hall
- Head to the UNESCO-listed waterfront to see the Royal Liver Building, Cunard Building, and Port of Liverpool Building, known as the Three Graces
- Explore the Merseyside Maritime Museum to learn about Liverpool's role in the tragic voyage of the *Titanic*

Spend a free afternoon in Liverpool or add an excursion. Then, join your group for an included dinner.

+ The Beatles: History & Story Museum

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## Cardiff → 1 night

### Day 10: Cardiff via Stratford-upon-Avon

*Included meals: breakfast*

Drive southeast through the countryside to Stratford-upon-Avon, the town of Shakespeare's birth. Here, you'll step inside the Shakespeare family home with a local guide.

Continue on to Cardiff, Wales and enjoy a free evening in the city or add an excursion.

+ Cardiff Choir Performance & Dinner

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## Bath → 2 nights

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Cardiff & transfer to Bath

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Meet your local guide this morning for a sightseeing tour of the largest city in Wales.

- View the medieval Cardiff Castle, located in the city center
- Take in views of the beautiful Cardiff Bay

Then, take a scenic drive along the Severn River to the town of Bath. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Bath

*Included meals: breakfast*

For more information, contact

[grouptoursite.com/tours/britainkirkmanhouse](http://grouptoursite.com/tours/britainkirkmanhouse) | 1-800-438-7672

On a guided sightseeing tour, get to know the charming city of Bath, named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987.

- See the city's most famous architectural sites, including the Roman Baths, the Royal Crescent, and the Circus
- Enter Bath Abbey, to view its fan vaulting and striking stained glass window

Enjoy a free afternoon in Bath or add an excursion.

+ No. 1 Royal Crescent Museum & Afternoon Tea

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## Bournemouth → 1 night

### Day 13: Transfer to Bournemouth

*Included meals: breakfast*

Transfer to Bournemouth, where you'll enjoy a free day.

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## London → 2 nights

### Day 14: London via Stonehenge & Salisbury

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to London today, stopping on the way to gaze upon the vast monoliths of the UNESCO-protected Stonehenge and visit its new visitor center before heading to the medieval city of Salisbury.

- View the soaring spire of Salisbury Cathedral, then go inside to view one of the original copies of the Magna Carta
- Marvel at Salisbury's historic architecture and wander through its charming shopping streets

### Day 15: Sightseeing tour of London

*Included meals: breakfast*

With a local expert leading the way, take a guided tour of the regal landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage sites of the English capital.

- Pass the grand Trafalgar Square and Baroque-style St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations and weddings
- View icons like Big Ben, the London Eye and the Tower of London
- Stop by Buckingham Palace, where you may catch the Changing of the Guard

Enjoy a free afternoon in London or add an excursion. Then, celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

+ Windsor Castle

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## Flight Home

### Day 16: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport in London for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [grouptoursite.com/tours/britainkirkmanhouse](https://grouptoursite.com/tours/britainkirkmanhouse) | 1-800-438-7672

## Day 3: Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

\$99/\$109\* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon with lunch)

Travel through the Scottish Borders region to Abbotsford, where you'll enjoy an included lunch. Continue on to Abbotsford House, the 19th-century estate of Sir Walter Scott. The poet designed his home in the Romantic style to imitate the elaborate baronial estates of British aristocrats. Today it serves as a museum for the Scottish memorabilia and artifacts that Scott collected throughout his lifetime. Later, visit the ruins of Melrose Abbey, one of the most impressive of the four Borders abbeys. Please note: Some areas of the Abbey are closed off due to masonry and damage repairs. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 3 days prior to departure.

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## Day 10: Cardiff Choir Performance & Dinner

\$125/\$135\* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Immerse yourself in Welsh musical traditions and take in a show by The Cardiff Arms Park Male Choir at a local restaurant. The celebrated choir will perform a wide repertoire of pieces—including solo performances, popular songs, and hymns—during their hour-long show. Then, you'll gather with your group in a private room at the restaurant to enjoy a three-course dinner paired with your choice of beer, wine, or soft drink. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 3 days prior to departure.

## Day 4: Stirling Castle & Dunblane Cathedral

\$109/\$119\* (6 hours, departs in the morning)

For generations, Stirling Castle held off British advances and served as a rallying point for rebellious Scots. It was within Stirling Castle that the infant Mary Stewart was crowned Mary, Queen of Scots. You'll learn more about the castle's extensive history as you follow along with an audio guide. Enjoy free time for lunch following the visit to the castle. Then, stop by the Robert the Bruce Statue. Next, you'll visit Dunblane Cathedral, a medieval church dating back to the 12th century before returning to Edinburgh. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 3 days prior to departure.

## Day 12: No. 1 Royal Crescent Museum & Afternoon Tea

\$135 (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Step into history with a visit to the No.1 Royal Crescent, a museum that has been decorated and furnished with Georgian period designs. You'll get a taste of the aristocratic life in Bath at an elegant, 18th-century style afternoon tea. Enjoy an unlimited selection of teas paired with plenty of traditional treats, including pastries, freshly baked scones, jams, and clotted cream. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 70 days prior to departure.

## Day 7: Whitby

\$125/\$135\* (6 hours, departs in the afternoon with dinner)

Transfer across the North York Moors on your way to the charming fishing port of Whitby. Whitby was made famous by its associations with Captain Cook (who served his apprenticeship here) and Bram Stoker's Dracula (Whitby is where the Transylvanian count first sets foot in the British Isles). You'll visit Whitby Abbey—the backdrop to Dracula's killings in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church—and the 199 steps leading to the port and its small sandy beach. Spend some free time wandering around the port before heading to a restaurant for a fish-and-chips dinner. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs March through November. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 3 days prior to departure.

## Day 15: Windsor Castle

\$115 (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Led by a Blue Badge Guide, you'll travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longest-inhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the British Royal Family's preferred retreat for the past 900 years. Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where the Knights of the Garter ceremony takes place. View the exhibit of royal treasures on display within the castle. You'll then have time to stroll through the town of Windsor and have a look at Eton College, a prestigious prep school attended by Princes William and Harry. Please note: Windsor Castle is occasionally closed when in use by the Royal Family; a visit to Henry VIII's Hampton Court will be substituted when necessary. Additionally, St. George's Chapel is closed to the public on Sundays. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 9: The Beatles: History & Story Museum

\$95/\$105\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Curious about how the Fab Four came to be? This excursion is your opportunity to discover the humble beginnings of the band that achieved global stardom. View special exhibitions, memorabilia, and photographs at the immersive Beatles Story Museum. Then, join a local expert for a guided tour of Liverpool, with special visits to Beatles-specific landmarks such as Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields. This excursion requires advance

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)