

# LITERARY LEGACIES



## Highlights

- *London City Tour*
- *Oxford*
- *Stratford-upon-Avon with play*
- *Dove Cottage*
- *Beatrix Potter's Home*
- *Edinburgh City Tour*
- *Abbotsford*
- *Brontë Sisters Home*
- *York Shambles Walk*
- *Sherwood Forest*
- *Dickens' Museum*
- *London Theatre*

## Itinerary

London (1), Stratford (1), Lake District (1), Edinburgh (2), York (1), London (1)

**DAY 1** Depart for England!

**DAY 2 LONDON** Welcome to England where your TSA Tours guide awaits to escort you on a London City Tour. See Piccadilly Circus, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Fleet Street, the Houses of Parliament, St. Paul's and Big Ben. You'll also visit Westminster Abbey to see Poets' Corner with its monuments to Chaucer, Dickens, Longfellow, Hardy and other literary notables.

**DAY 3 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON** Travel by way of Oxford, the famous university center and "City of Dreaming Spires." Then on through the enchanting Cotswolds to Shakespeare's birthplace, which still possesses the charm and atmosphere that inspired the Immortal Bard. Your Stratford City Tour takes you to his birthplace (1565), Holy Trinity Church (Shakespeare's burial site) and Anne Hathaway's Cottage in the picture-postcard village of Shottery. This evening enjoy a Shakespearean play.

**DAY 4 LAKE DISTRICT** Transfer to the pastoral Land of the Lake Poets in Cumbria. Many writers and poets sang the praises of the Lakes, in particular William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy, Robert Southey and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Visit Hill Top, home of Peter Rabbit, Benjamin Bunny, Jemima Puddle-Duck and retreat of Beatrix Potter, acclaimed for her children's books. Inside the 17th century house are her watercolours, dolls' house and mementos. Then visit Dove Cottage in Grasmere, home to the poet Wordsworth and magnet for the early 19th century romantics. Behind is a museum containing poetry manuscripts, memorabilia and Lakeland paintings. Wander in the village of Grasmere, enjoy the shops and visit St. Oswald's church where Wordsworth is buried.

**DAY 5 EDINBURGH** Today you proceed to the striking city of Edinburgh. It is here that Sir Walter Scott wrote his romances and Robert Burns met his beloved Clarinda. This is also the city of Robert Louis Stevenson and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Explore the highlights of Scotland's capital on a City Tour that includes a visit to dramatic Edinburgh Castle, an opportunity to view the Palace of Holyrood House, former residence of Mary Queen of Scots, and a

drive along the Royal Mile. The 200-foot Gothic spire on Princes Street was built in honor of Sir Walter Scott. Also visit Hawes Inn with its links to the Stevenson novel, *Kidnapped*, Stevenson's home in Edinburgh's New Town, and the charming Writers' Museum in Lady Stair's Close, dedicated to the lives and work of Scotland's great literary figures.

**DAY 6 EDINBURGH** A free day to explore the elegant Georgian streets and squares of "the most beautiful city in Great Britain" with your advisor. You may wish to visit Greyfriars Kirk, one of Edinburgh's most historic churches. Immediately outside the churchyard gates stands the celebrated likeness of Greyfriar's Bobby. The story of the faithful Skye terrier who followed his master's remains to the churchyard has had an extraordinary hold on public sentiment for more than a century.

**DAY 7 YORK** This morning you'll tour Abbotsford, a fantasy in stone and baronial home of Sir Walter Scott. Then on to Brontë Country, an area of Pennine upland in West Yorkshire, England. A windswept land of heather and wild moors, this area became the inspiration for the classic works of the Brontë sisters. Visit the town of Haworth and the Brontë Parsonage Museum, home to Charlotte, Emily and Anne. Continue on through the Yorkshire dales to the ancient walled city of York. Take The Shambles Walk

with your courier down the narrowest street in this city, past tiny shops and overhanging timber-framed houses, transporting you back to the Elizabethan period.

**DAY 8 LONDON** Return to London by way of Nottingham and Sherwood Forest, home to the legendary outlaw Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men. Arrive in time to visit the Dickens' House Museum on Doughty Street. Here you will see portions of the author's manuscripts, letters, preliminary drawings by his illustrators, and many other exhibits including Dickens' meticulously reconstructed drawing room. End your literary journey at a West End Theatre Performance this evening.

**DAY 9 DEPART** Board your flight home, with a new appreciation for the literary legacies of Great Britain.



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