ASGCLA 2020 Literary Tour of Southern Scotland & Northern England

May 9, 2020 - May 16, 2020

Tour Overview

This seven night themed tour of Southern Scotland & Northern England focuses on some of the greatest writers to come from the region. These writers include William Wordsworth, Beatrix Potter, The Brontës and J.R.R. Tolkien.

The rich panorama of the United Kingdom has for centuries inspired writers and poets to re-imagine the landscape in their works. This tour will take you to the writer's birthplaces and final homes. Literary and epic scenery will be taken in each day to delight and wonder the visitor to this ancient and wildly beautiful region of Scotland and England.
Tour Inclusions

- 1 x Night in the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel
- 2 x Nights in the Macdonald Swan Hotel
- 3 x Nights in the Doubletree by Hilton York
- 1 x Night in the Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spa
- 4 x Group Dinners
- 3 x Gourmet lunches
- Entry to Dove Cottage, Hill Top Farm, Bronte Parsonage Museum, The Bar Convent, Whitby Abbey, Rydal Mount & Gardens, Withernsea Lighthouse, Hornsea Folk Museum
- Literary Walking Tour in Hull City
- Talking Tasting @ Grasmere Gingerbread

Price: €2,500 Euros Per Person Sharing (Single supplement €750 Euros Per Person & Pre night of €200 Per Person, Per Night)
Trip Summary

May 9 - Saturday
Arrival Flight into Edinburgh Airport
Private Guided Walking Tour of Edinburgh City
Suggested at Leisure: The National Library of Scotland
Suggested at Leisure: The Writers Museum
3:00 PM Check in to Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh - Macdonald Holyrood Hotel
7:00 PM Group Dinner in Hotel

May 10 - Sunday
Check out of Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh
10:00 AM Meet your Driver Guide with Mercedes Coach
Dove Cottage & The Wordsworth Museum
Group Lunch
The Grasmere Gingerbread Experience
Check in to Macdonald Swan Hotel, Grasmere - Swan Hotel

May 11 - Lake District
10:00 AM Scenic Private Touring - Beatrix Potter’s 17th-century farmhouse
Rydal Mount & Gardens
7:00 PM Group Dinner in Hotel
Overnight in Macdonald Swan Hotel, Grasmere

May 12 - Tuesday
Check out of MacDonald Swan Hotel
10:00 AM Scenic Private Touring - Brontë Parsonage Museum
Group Lunch
Scenic Private Touring - Harrogate Town
Check in to Double Tree by Hilton York - Doubletree by Hilton York
**May 13 - Wednesday**

10:00 AM | Scenic Private Touring - York City Orientation & The Bar Convent
Afternoon at leisure to explore York City
Suggested at Leisure: York Minster Cathedral
Suggested at Leisure: Cliffords Tower

7:00 PM | Group Dinner in Hotel
Overnight in Double Tree by Hilton York

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**May 14 - Thursday**

10:00 AM | Scenic Private Touring - The Tolkien Triangle

11:30 AM | Hull Literature Trail
Withernsea & Lighthouse
Hornsea Folk Museum
Overnight in Double Tree by Hilton, York

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**May 15 - Friday**

Check out of Doubletree by Hilton, York

10:00 AM | Scenic Private Touring - Whitby Abbey
Suggested: Alnwick Castle, Alnwick
Check in Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spa, North Berwick

6:00 PM | End of Private Driver Guide Touring

7:00 PM | Farewell Group Dinner in Hotel

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**May 16 - Saturday**

Check out of Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spa, North Berwick
Departure Flight from Edinburgh Airport
May 9 - Saturday

Arrival Flight into Edinburgh Airport
There will be one scheduled private airport transfer from Edinburgh Airport to the hotel at a time to be determined.

- For those who wish to arrive into Glasgow Airport, there are alternative services we can recommend to get you to Edinburgh.

Private Guided Walking Tour of Edinburgh City
With a dark and mysterious history, woven through narrow alleyways and cobbled streets, it’s not hard to see how J.K Rowling found inspiration while writing Harry Potter here. On this private walking tour, you will discover an Edinburgh beyond the reach of tour buses and guidebooks. Your guide will take you to the places where history was made – the wynds, closes, courtyards and homes of Edinburgh’s Old Town.

Walking tour is included.

After your walking tour, you will have the remainder of the day at leisure.

Suggested at Leisure: The National Library of Scotland
As one of the largest libraries in the country, the National Library deserves some time set aside for a visit. This enormous building is located right up the street from Elephant House and serves as home to seven million books. The books include rare finds on display like the letter submitted by Charles Darwin with an original copy of his manuscript, *Origin of Species*, copies of the Gutenberg Bible, and the first folio of Shakespeare.
Suggested at Leisure: The Writers Museum

The Writers’ Museum is located in a 17th-century house in Old Town on Royal Mile. The Lady Stair’s House was built in 1622 for Sir William Gray and named after his granddaughter. The museum is a tribute to the lives of three famous Scottish writers—Robert Burns, Walter Scott, and Robert Louis Stevenson. It houses portraits, original manuscripts, and personal items. Adjacent to the house is Makar’s Court which incorporates quotes from famous pieces in Scottish literature throughout the pavement in its courtyard.

3:00 PM - British Summer Time

Check in to Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh

Macdonald Holyrood Hotel in Edinburgh is situated in the city's historic and beautiful old town, just a couple of minutes' walk from the world famous Royal Mile and the Scottish Parliament building. The hotel's convenient location in the city centre also means that you're within 15 minutes' walking distance of Waverley Railway station and the bustle of the city's main thoroughfare, Princes Street. Macdonald Holyrood Hotel is the ideal base for exploring this fascinating and unique city.

Room details: 10 x Double/Twin Rooms & 10 x Single Rooms on a B&B Basis
7:00 PM - British Summer Time

**Group Dinner in Hotel**

*Dinner is booked for 7:00pm*

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**May 10 - Sunday**

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**Check out of Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, Edinburgh**

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10:00 AM - British Summer Time

**Meet your Driver Guide with Mercedes Coach**

We look forward to introducing you to your Private Driver Guide today. At Ireland Chauffeur Travel, our Driver Guides become your personal travel experts. We are proud of their professional driving skills, expert touring knowledge and personal insights into the places you will be exploring and staying on your vacation.

A key strength of our Driver Guides is that they will use their local knowledge to deepen your experience of Scotland & England. They will recommend places to shop, eat, have a drink or the best photography stop - depending on your interests and wishes. Your Driver Guide works with the Ireland Chauffeur Travel in-office Travel Adviser Team to arrange activities and stop-offs. Traveling with our Driver Guides is consistently described as the most enjoyable, safe and insightful ways to tour the UK.

The Mercedes Touring Coach is a custom designed luxury coach with luxurious leather reclining seats and headrests. The vehicle is designed for optimum comfort and legroom with air conditioning with adjustable airflow and reading lights for each passenger and tinted privacy glass. It has a large separate luggage area for bags and golf clubs. There is the option of a fridge on request. The minibus has PA system with stereo speakers throughout the cabin.
Dove Cottage & The Wordsworth Museum

In 1799, William Wordsworth fell in love with Dove Cottage and Grasmere whilst on a walking tour of the Lake District. Within a few months, he had set up home here in the hamlet of Town End with his sister Dorothy. It was whilst living here that Wordsworth produced the most famous and best-loved of his poems and Dorothy wrote her fascinating Grasmere journal.

An entertaining guided tour of Dove Cottage gives a vivid impression of what day-to-day life would have been like for Wordsworth and his family. This traditional Lakeland cottage, still filled with the Wordsworths' personal possessions and warmed by glowing coal fires, creates an atmosphere that William and Dorothy would recognise as the place where they spent many years of 'plain living and high thinking'.

*Entrance to Dove Cottage is included.*

Group Lunch

*Lunch is included today.*

The Grasmere Gingerbread Experience

This fun Talking Tasting brings Cumbria’s unique culinary history and the story of Sarah Nelson to life. Presented by an experienced team member in Victorian costume you will hear how humble Victorian cook Sarah Nelson defied the odds and her poor working-class background to invent her unique Grasmere Gingerbread® in 1854.
As you would expect – with the mouth-watering aroma of sweet ginger hanging in the air – everyone will enjoy:

- A freshly-baked piece of Grasmere Gingerbread®;
- An oatcake spread with our delicious hand-made Cumberland Rum Butter;
- Cup of tea or coffee.

30 mins in duration and experience included.

Check in to Macdonald Swan Hotel, Grasmere
Built in 1650 as a coaching inn, and mentioned in a Wordsworth poem "The Waggoner", Macdonald Swan Hotel, Grasmere is one of the oldest hotels in the Lake District.

Nestled in the Cumbrian countryside, with views across the Fells, our cosy and inviting hotel is ideal for walkers and cyclists. With open sunny vistas in summer and blazing log fires in winter, it's the ideal base for exploring the wonders of the Lake District National Park.

Room details: 10 x Double/Twin Rooms & 10 x Single Rooms on a B&B Basis

Swan Hotel
Keswick Road, Grasmere, Cumbria, GB

May 11 - Lake District
10:00 AM

**Scenic Private Touring - Beatrix Potter's 17th-century farmhouse**

Hill Top is Beatrix Potter’s 17th-century farmhouse: a time-capsule of her life and her spiritual home.

Packed full of her favourite things, the house appears as if Beatrix had just stepped out for a walk. Every room contains a reference to a picture in a ‘tale’. As you stroll up the garden path, imagine playful Tom Kitten or Jemima Puddle-Duck hunting for a place to lay her eggs.

The lovely cottage garden is a haphazard mix of flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables and there’s a working farm night door. In the heart of Near Sawrey village, you’ll see why Beatrix loved this place.

Bought in 1905 with proceeds from her first book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, she used Hill Top itself and the surrounding countryside as inspiration for many of her ‘little white books’.

*Entrance to Hill Top is included.*

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**Rydal Mount & Gardens**

Rydal Mount was William Wordsworth’s best loved family home for the greater part of his life from 1813 to his death in 1850 at the age of 80. The house, which was a focus for romantic literature, continues to be owned by the Wordsworth family and retains the feel of a lived in family home.

*Included: Full house and garden tour with personal guide, complimentary Rydal Mount booklet, glass of wine and famous Grasmere gingerbread.*
Group Dinner in Hotel
*Dinner is booked for 7:00pm*

Overnight in MacDonald Swan Hotel, Grasmere

May 12 - Tuesday

Check out of MacDonald Swan Hotel

**10:00 AM - British Summer Time**

**Scenic Private Touring - Brontë Parsonage Museum**

The area of West Riding in Yorkshire is indelibly tied to the literary works of the Brontë sisters, three writers who, in their own individual ways, created a visionary depiction of the wildness of this region. Masterpieces such as Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights* and Anne Brontë’s *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* were highly charged romances imbued with a spirit of tragedy and desolation. The vision of Heathcliff wandering the remote moors in *Wuthering Heights* is just one of the indelible images the Brontës created of Yorkshire, and of what has now come to be known as Brontë Country.

The Brontë Parsonage Museum is maintained by the Brontë society in their former home in Haworth, and is a treasure trove of memorabilia, manuscripts and mementos of the sisters’ lives and times.

*Entrance to the museum is included.*

Group Lunch
*Lunch is included today.*

Scenic Private Touring - Harrogate Town
The spa town of Harrogate has also played proud host to a literary stalwart. In 1926, the best-selling novelist of all time, Agatha Christie, staged a disappearance that would have put Hercule Poirot himself in a quandary.

For ten days, the mistress of mystery managed to hide from the world under a false identity, leaving no clues to her whereabouts other than a letter saying she was going to Yorkshire. At last, the police discovered her in Harrogate.

Check in to Double Tree by Hilton York

Ideally situated in a prime location overlooking the historic City Walls, Double Tree by Hilton is within walking distance to York Minster, York Dungeon and York Castle Museum and other famous attractions.

Room details: 10 x Double/Twin Rooms & 10 x Single Rooms on a B&B Basis

Doubletree by Hilton York
St Maurices Road, York, North Yorkshire, GB
+44 1904 638086

May 13 - Wednesday

10:00 AM
**Scenic Private Touring - York City Orientation & The Bar Convent**

This morning, your Private Driver Guide will take you on an overview of York City to see the many wonderful sights before going to explore the secrets of England’s oldest living convent and its hidden chapel.

Founded in 1686, a time of great danger for all Catholics in England, a woman named Frances Bedingfield purchased a small parcel of land just outside York's walls. She signed the deed under an alias. The ladies who then lived and worked beneath the building's dull slate roof wore slate-coloured gowns, and called themselves the ‘Ladies of the Bar’.

Nobody knew the truth they concealed. For the early sisters of The Bar Convent, discovery meant punishment - and even death.

Over the three centuries that followed, the Community were no strangers to strife. Their home has been at times a school, a hospital ward, a refuge and a bomb-site, emerging into the present day in its current guise: the Living Heritage Centre. Every corner of the building has a tale to tell.

*The Bar Convent entry included*

**Afternoon at leisure to explore York City**

Take the morning to explore the city sights at your own leisure. Stroll through the historic streets & take in top sites of interest including Bedern Hall, Clifford’s Tower, Fairfax House, King’s Manor, the Multangular Tower, St. Mary’s Abbey, Stonegate, and St. William’s College.
Suggested at Leisure: York Minster Cathedral
This architectural and artistic masterpiece took more than 250 years to build. It is filled with unique and fantastic carvings and the greatest collection of intact, Medieval stained glass windows in the world.

See the best views in York after climbing the 275 steps up the Central Tower leading you to the highest point in the city.

Entry not included.

Suggested at Leisure: Cliffords Tower
Clifford's Tower stands as a proud symbol of the power of England's medieval kings. Originally built by William the Conqueror to subdue the rebels of the north, it was twice burned to the ground, before being rebuilt by Henry III in the 13th century. The tower takes its name from one grisly incident in its long history, when Roger de Clifford was executed for treason against Edward II and hanged in chains from the tower walls. With sweeping panoramic views of York and the surrounding countryside, it isn't hard to see why Clifford's Tower played such a crucial role in the control of northern England.

Entry not included.

7:00 PM
Group Dinner in Hotel
Dinner is booked for 7:00pm
May 14 - Thursday

10:00 AM
**Scenic Private Touring - The Tolkien Triangle**

J.R.R. Tolkien was voted the most influential author of the twentieth century. He spent 18 months in the Hull and East Yorkshire region during the First World War.

Tolkien spent time at Kilnsea and Easington & in 1917, his wife, Edith, danced for him in a wood at Roos while he was stationed at a nearby camp. He acknowledged that this event inspired the tale of Beren and Lúthien which he wove into the story of Middle-earth soon after.

During his stays in Hull and East Yorkshire, Tolkien wrote a number of poems and stories and he also created two mythological languages! Tolkien even directly copied some East Yorkshire place names into his work, with the village of Wetwang, for example, appearing in the Fellowship of the Ring.

It’s now generally accepted that the landscape and coastline of East Yorkshire informed Tolkien’s later writing. It has been dubbed ‘The Tolkien Triangle’.

11:30 AM
**Hull Literature Trail**

Hull was the UK City of Culture in 2017 & has a fascinating history (the English civil war started here), a shining literary heritage (Larkin, Stevie Smith, Andrew Marvell and Andrew Motion all have connections to Hull) a thriving music scene, quirky independent shops, eccentric pubs and an abundance of locally rooted art museums.

This literary trail brings together writers such as Philip Larkin, Alan Plater, Charles Dickens, Stevie Smith and many more against the backdrop of Hull's evocative Old Town and city center.

*Walking Tour included - 90 mins*
Withernsea & Lighthouse
Charming and more than a little defiantly eccentric – where else but Withernsea would you find a defunct town centre lighthouse housing a museum dedicated to one of England’s most glamorous movie stars? Kay Kendall, star of the London-to-Brighton ‘road movie’ Genevieve was born in Withernsea, and the town still pays tribute to her in the lighthouse, one of the few in this country built inland. You can also climb the 144 stairs to the top for breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside.

*Lighthouse entry included.*

Hornsea Folk Museum
A lovely traditional seaside town at the southern end of the Yorkshire coast, Hornsea has a charming seafront promenade, with a Floral Hall which hosts events throughout the year and, in the town center, an award-winning Folk Museum.

Situated on the main street of Hornsea, is Burns Farm. For nearly 300 years it was tenanted by the Burn family. The farmhouse has a country kitchen with an inglenook fire place, a parlour, bedroom, dairy and washhouse, all with Victorian furnishings. Three additional rooms in the farmhouse are used for exhibitions which are periodically changed.

Behind the farmhouse there is a large garden which is flanked by workshops with hand farm implements, joiners’ and wheelwrights’ tools and a blacksmith’s shop. Numbers 15 & 17 Newbegin display over 2000 pieces of pottery charting the history of the Hornsea Pottery company from 1949 to its closure in April 2000.

A visit to Hornsea Museum is a step back into the past where you can enjoy the informal displays and relax in the garden.

*Folk Museum entry included.*
Overnight in Double Tree by Hilton, York

May 15 - Friday

Check out of Doubletree by Hilton, York

10:00 AM

Scenic Private Touring - Whitby Abbey

Over 125 years ago, a man by the name of Bram Stoker visited the stunning seaside town of Whitby and left with an idea that would change literary history forever.

Inspired by the gothic charm of the town, Stoker went on to write one of the most famous horror novels of all time in the form of *Dracula*.

Not only was Yorkshire the inspiration for *Dracula* but much of the action took place here too. The ship bringing the vampire to England ran aground on the windswept North Sea coast at Whitby and the most famous vampire of all time took refuge in the beautiful and romantic ruins of Whitby Abbey.

It may be a work of fiction but visitors to Whitby can almost feel the novel come to life; many visitors to the town scale the 199 steps and search St Mary's Church graveyard in search of the infamous Count's last resting place.

*Entry included.*
Suggested: Alnwick Castle, Alnwick

Found in the north of England, in the county of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle is no stranger to the world of film and television. Everything from Downton Abbey to Transformers to Robin Hood has been filmed here in fact.

So naturally it will not come as a surprise to learn that this castle, which dates from the 11th century and is the family home of the Duke of Northumberland, has also featured as a Harry Potter filming location.

More specifically, Alnwick Castle featured in the first two Harry Potter movies.

As well as touring the castle and grounds yourself and seeing the various Harry Potter filming locations, the castle also offers a number of interactive experiences, including broomstick flying lessons.

Check in Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spa, North Berwick

Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spa in North Berwick is renowned for its beautiful coastal setting and glorious 19th century Victorian architecture. Situated on the East Coast of Scotland, it is also home to the award-winning Craigleith restaurant, where you can enjoy the finest Scottish cuisine in a very Scottish setting, with views of the Firth of Forth.

**Room details:** 10 x Double/Twin Rooms & 10 x Single Rooms on a B&B Basis
6:00 PM  
**End of Private Driver Guide Touring**
This evening marks the end of your consecutive days touring with your Private Driver Guide. He/she will drop you to your hotel after a memorable & exciting tour.

7:00 PM  
**Farewell Group Dinner in Hotel**
*Dinner is booked for 7:00pm*

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**May 16 - Saturday**

**Check out of Macdonald Marine Hotel & Spa, North Berwick**

**Departure Flight from Edinburgh Airport**
*There will be one scheduled private airport transfer from Edinburgh Airport from the hotel at a time to be determined.*

- For those who wish to depart from Glasgow Airport, there are alternative services we can recommend to get you there.

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**Information & Documents**

**Booking Terms & Conditions**
- A deposit of €600 Euros Per Person is required to secure a spot on the trip.
- The deposit is non-refundable if you cancel for any reason. Should the tour not go ahead, the deposit will be refunded.
• Balance is due 6 weeks before the tour start date.

• Price in other currencies may vary in accordance with exchange rate fluctuations.

• We are not liable for alterations to travel plans due to changes from third party suppliers e.g. flights but we will reschedule tour plans according to modifications without charge.

Detailed Terms & Conditions are on the following link: http://www.irelandchauffeurtravel.com/Terms-Conditions-html