



A VISIT FOR STUDY AND EXPERIENCE: ENGLAND (LONDON, SOUTH COAST AND OXFORD)

OVERVIEW

We aim to give students an insight into English life and history by visiting London, the English South Coast and Oxford University.

The rise to an imperial superpower, and then the gradual decline of the United Kingdom in the last two centuries, has been a global story. This visit is aimed at understanding and experiencing the country of Queen Victoria, John Lennon, William Shakespeare, Winston Churchill, Charles Darwin, Harry Styles and Boris Johnson!

We see dazzling culture, beautiful scenery and fine cities. We meet rich and poor, immigrants from the former empire and symbols of ancient greatness. This visit takes in the successes, the crises, the great achievements and the serious issues in England today.

We visit three English universities, and we take a look at how the English system works for local and overseas students.

Route



The group will reach Heathrow International Airport. First-Hand Experiences team will be at the airport to receive.



Itinerary



Day 1

Arrival

Settle into your accommodation in London

Day 2-5

London

Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral, the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace – there is enough to see on our first full day in London. We see the city of kings and queens, the seat of the first modern democracy, the capital of the British Empire and the financial capital of the world.

Then there is the focus on culture – we join the Young Barbican scheme to access the most modern art and entertainment: depending what's on at the time, we might experience cutting-edge film, music, theatre or dance. There are electronic artists pushing musical boundaries and exhibitions of the latest fashion, design and photography, all to fire the imagination.

We visit Parliament and walk from Piccadilly to Marble Arch past some of London's most famous shops. We stop to consider the city and its commerce in the 21st century. We see the boutique suburb of Hampstead to discuss wealth, poverty and multiculturalism in 21st Century England before moving on to Tottenham – 'Spurs' football club and home to many nationalities which have chosen London as their city.

Day 6-9

Brighton and Sussex

We head South, crossing the chalk hills, to reach the sea.

Brighton is the world's oldest seaside resort, built 200 years ago around a fishing village. We explore the pier built over the sea and full of entertainments and games; we see the chalk cliffs, the stunning architecture, the great railway viaduct, the seaside promenades and the famous pebbly Brighton Beach.

Itinerary



We visit the University of Sussex where there is a chance to meet students and professors and to look at opportunities for overseas students. We also hear about the South Downs National Park and its importance before heading for a guided hike and an opportunity to do some voluntary work getting rid of invading species from the beautiful Arun valley. On our way back to Brighton, we stop at the thousand year-old castle which dominates the old Sussex town of Arundel.

The idea of going on holiday to the seaside started in Brighton because an important prince had the idea that drinking sea water was good for his health. He built a palace in an oriental style and told his servants to pull him down to the sea in a 'bathing machine'. The rest of society followed. We learn about the tourism industry and how Brighton has adapted to people's ever-changing fashions and preferences over the last two centuries. We also make some time actually to be tourists on the beach and sea-front, and in the boutiques, restaurants and coffee shops of Brighton, a successful city built mainly for enjoyment and entertainment.

Day 10-11

Portsmouth, Salisbury and Stonehenge

We visit Portsmouth, headquarters of the UK's Royal Navy, to see the ancient ships and battlements. We also visit Portsmouth University – it is a university which is particularly welcoming for overseas students.

After looking around Salisbury with its fabulous medieval cathedral, we head for nearby Stonehenge.

Built around 2,500 years ago, the ancient stone monument of Stonehenge is a mystery. It was a burial site 5,000 years ago. Was it a holy place of pilgrimage? Was it an astronomical clock? Why do crowds show up at the equinox (and how do you deal with the crowds and the roads)? What is Stonehenge and why are people drawn to it?

Itinerary



Day 12-13

Oxford

No one can deny that it's hard to become a student at the world-leading University of Oxford. We tour the university's many famous colleges and faculties, and learn about the university and its history. We also learn about the important part it plays in education and research worldwide and how overseas students can join. It's quite possible for excellent students to join this top-ranked university, so we speak to students who have succeeded, and to professors and administrators whose job it is to make Oxford University accessible to the world.

Before returning to London, we take a tour into some of the beautiful countryside and villages around Oxford, including a short hike in the Cotswold Hills, a visit to on one of England's historic canals, and a chance to visit England's biggest designer retail outlet at Bicester!

Day 14

Departure

Farewell to England! Home again!

Project Fee



Project fee will be shared on request.

Inclusions

1. Accommodation
2. All placements and activities
3. Three meals a day
4. Airport pick-up and drop-offs, and all local transfers
5. Full induction and orientation by experienced staff
6. Evening cultural activities
7. Entry fee and guided tours
8. 24/7 in-country support by our English speaking local Team.
9. Travel and Medical Insurance
10. Free place for a chaperon with every 20 students

Exclusions

1. Flights
2. Spending money
3. Visa



Cancellation Policy



- 1) Notice of 3 months or more: Full refund
- 2) Notice of 2 to 3 months: One-third of the total programme fee will be held by First-Hand Experiences
- 3) Notice of 1 to 2 months: Two-thirds of the total programme fee will be held by First-Hand Experiences
- 4) Notice of less than one month: No refund.

Exceptions are entirely at the discretion of First-Hand Experiences and must be agreed in writing at the time when any postponement or cancellation is made.

