

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOOTHILLS CONSORTIUM

OPTIONAL CULTURAL PROGRAM: LONDON, FALL SEMESTER 2012

AIFS offers students the opportunity to purchase an optional cultural program, designed to help students see more of Britain's famous sights and more of London's cultural events at a greatly reduced price. The program includes 4 one-day excursions (including transportation, services of a private guide and entrance fees) and 6 cultural events (theater, sports). The fee is \$495, and students can sign up on the program application form.

DAYTRIPS

Daytrips are typically chosen from the following list:

Oxford

Oxford, most famous for being the home of Britain's oldest university, spent some time in the twelfth century as the royal residence. Students were first attracted to the town during the reign of Henry I - the "Scholar King." The University is split into colleges, many of which were first established by rich bishops. Oxford maintains its academic record today - one college alone has produced 13 prime ministers - with graduates including Sir Walter Raleigh, Oscar Wilde and Bill Clinton. This daytrip includes entrance to one of the Oxford University colleges, usually Christchurch College, where some of the Harry Potter filming has taken place.

Stonehenge and Salisbury

Stonehenge is probably one of the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain and one of the most famous World Heritage Sites worldwide. The tour also includes a visit to the magnificent Salisbury Cathedral, which has the highest spire in Britain. Travel is by coach and includes entrance to Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral.

Bath

An opportunity to visit this beautiful "spa" town, where Jane Austen wrote *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*, Gainsborough established himself as a portraitist and landscape painter, and the city's elegant crescents and Georgian buildings are studded with plaques naming the various eminent inhabitants from its heyday. Today, Bath ranks as one of Britain's top ten tourist cities, yet the place has never lost the exclusive air that its famous inhabitants evoke. The architecture and pristine condition of the city make it one of the most beautiful in England, and a real must-see. This daytrip includes entrance to the famous Roman Baths.

Brighton

Brighton is deservedly Britain's number one seaside town - a fascinating mix of seediness and sophistication. It's the perfect choice for day trippers from London, with great shopping, the infamous Palace Pier with its palace of fun - *the* place to be seen sticking your head in a cardboard cut-out of Prince Charles, and the best place to buy sticks of famous Brighton rock candy - and The Lanes, a maze of narrow alleyways crammed with antiques, jewelry and fashionable clothes shops. Brighton literally jumps with pubs, bars, clubs and good-value eating places. Entrance to the Royal Pavilion is included.

Stratford-Upon-Avon

No one can visit England without making the journey north to Stratford. Stratford-Upon-Avon is perhaps an unremarkable market town. The charter for its weekly market was granted in the twelfth century and still exists today. Essentially, Stratford was a stopping-off place for stage-coaches traveling between London, Oxford and the north. The town probably would have disappeared into little-known obscurity if it weren't for the fact that John and Mary Shakespeare's first son, William, turned out to be the most celebrated writer in the English language. The daytrip visits Shakespeare's Birthplace.

THEATER

The theater offerings depend upon the current London theater scene but always include a combination of musicals, drama and comedy. Typical examples are:

Phantom of the Opera

Hamlet at Shakespeare's Globe outdoor theatre

Billy Elliot

Wicked

Avenue Q

Warhorse

The Woman in Black

An opera or ballet

SPORTING EVENTS/WALKING TOURS

The program usually includes a ticket to a rugby game or football match (that's soccer to you!) plus a walking tour of Jack the Ripper's haunts.