



HARVARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2014 WORLDWIDE TRAVEL PROGRAM

TALES OF WALES

Final itinerary

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4 Independent departure from your chosen U.S. gateway. *Overnight: Plane*

THURSDAY, JUNE 5 Individual arrivals at Manchester Airport will be greeted for the transfer to your nearby hotel. There will be time to unpack, relax or take a stroll into the village of Alderley for lunch. Legend has it that King Arthur and his knights lie sleeping under the “Edge”, the red sandstone escarpment overlooking the village, and will awake in England’s time of need. Gather this afternoon for an introductory talk by Professor McKenna, followed by dinner. **(D)** *Overnight: The Alderley Edge Hotel*

FRIDAY JUNE 6 This morning set off across the border into Wales. Your first stop will be the town of Llangollen, home to an annual musical Eisteddfod. Visit the ruins of Valle Crucis Abbey, founded in 1201, and explore the town’s local Arthurian connections. Also visit Plas Newydd, a lovely half-timbered house that was home to the “ladies of Llangollen.” After time for lunch head out across mid-Wales, passing through Welshpool and Llandrindod Wells to Hay-on-Wye. Dinner at your hotel in Crickhowell. **(B, D)** *Overnight: The Bear Hotel at Crickhowell*

SATURDAY, JUNE 7 Take a day to explore the Wye Valley, rich in ancient woodlands, wildlife, and towns. The Wye Valley was the first “tourist attraction” in Britain, inspiring the Picturesque movement, including Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Turner. Visit Symonds Yat, famed for its river scenery and magnificent views, and spend time at Tintern Abbey and Chepstow Castle. After time for lunch, continue on to Caerleon, a major Roman settlement and, according to some (rather dubious) sources, the site of King Arthur’s Camelot. On the way back to your hotel, pass through Abergavenny and stop at Capel-y-Ffin, an ancient place of pilgrimage and the site of a short-lived monastery founded in 1870 by Father Ignatius. From Capel-y-Ffin take the Gospel Pass and drive alongside Offa’s Dyke, passing ancient stone circles and beautiful scenery, to reach your hotel. Dinner is included this evening at the hotel. **(B, D)** *Overnight: The Bear Hotel at Crickhowell*

SUNDAY, JUNE 8 Heading south this morning pass through Tretower and drive down through the coal-mining valleys of the Rhondda to Cardiff, Wales’ capital city. See the city center and then head down to the recently renovated waterfront area to admire the Welsh parliament building. Stop here for lunch and then drive just outside the city to St Fagan’s to visit the National History Museum, the largest branch of the National Museum of Wales. Continue to your hotel in Lampeter where dinner awaits. **(B, D)** *Overnight: The Falcondale Hotel, Lampeter*

MONDAY, JUNE 9 Today’s excursion takes you first to the scenic valley of the River Towy, where you’ll visit the estate of Dynevor (or Dinefwr), amongst other things famous as the site of Merlin’s grave. Continue into Swansea to pay respects at Dylan Thomas’ house (he was born 100 years ago in October of 1914). We’ll have lunch at the house and be treated to a performance of *Return Journey* by local theatre company, The Lighthouse Theatre. Then drive to Laugharne to visit the Boathouse where he did most of his later writing. **(B, L)** *Overnight: The Falcondale Hotel, Lampeter*

TUESDAY, JUNE 10 Spend the day exploring the haunting coastline of St. David’s Peninsula. First visit the birthplace of Wales’ patron saint in the 6th century, a deeply peaceful Celtic corner of Wales. Quite apart from the purple-stone Cathedral and ruins of Bishop’s Palace at St. David’s, the little peninsula is dotted with sites that possess a profundity and sanctity precisely because they have been ignored by the passing centuries. Stop at Pentre Ifan, an ancient dolmen in the heart of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, and at the Tregwynt Mill and also pay a visit to Pembroke castle. This evening we’ll enjoy a private recital by the Welsh harpist Llinos Daniel. **(B)** *Overnight: The Falcondale Hotel, Lampeter*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11 Head north up the coast to Aberystwyth, a thriving, seaside university city, to tour Wales’ National Library, home to some of the world’s most treasured manuscripts. Continue through Dolgellau, a delightful market town with excellent shops, to the strange village of Portmeirion. Portmeirion was the brainchild and life’s work of the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. The result was so extraordinary it was used as the film set for the 1960’s cult TV show *The Prisoner*. It’s a short drive from here, stopping briefly at Dolwyddelan, whose castle was the home of Llewellyn the Great, to your hotel, where dinner awaits. **(B, D)** *Overnight: Bodysgallen Hall, Llandudno*

THURSDAY, JUNE 12 Today experience a panorama of North Wales. Begin with the imposing Caernarfon Castle, then drive through the Llanberis pass, stopping briefly at the ruins of Dolbadarn Castle, into the heart of the Snowdonia National Park. With Mt. Snowdon on your right, descend to the town of Betyss-y-Coed, a center for hiking in the national park. Continue up the valley of the river Conwy to visit Bodnant garden, generally considered to be one of the finest in Britain. The evening is free to explore the town. **(B)** *Overnight: Bodysgallen Hall, Llandudno*

FRIDAY, JUNE 13 There will be some free time at the hotel this morning before driving the short distance to Hawarden to visit the Gladstone Library. After time for lunch here, cross over the border back into England. Along the way stop in Chester, an ancient Roman city with large sections of its city wall still intact. Visit the City Museum and explore the “Rows,” covered Victorian arcades of shops, before returning to Alderley Edge. A farewell reception and dinner this evening rounds out your tour. **(B, D)** *Overnight: Alderley Edge*

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
Morning transfers to Manchester Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**