

Sunday, September 6th

Overnight: Plane

Evening departure from your chosen gateway city to Manchester, England.

Monday, September 7th

Overnight: Conwy

Morning arrival at Manchester Airport, where you will be met by your Discover Europe tour director and your tour coach. Drive via Chester—one of England's premier medieval walled city—to Conwy, Wales. After time to unpack, rest, and settle in, Smith lecturer, Pamela Petro, will introduce the week ahead. Dinner at our hotel with Emyr Griffith, the ebullient founder of Welsh Rarebits, Wales' premier country house hotel group. (B, D)



Snowdonia National Park

Tuesday, September 8th

Overnight: Conwy

Today you'll visit two of Wales' most spectacular castles. Conwy Castle, called "one of the greatest fortresses of medieval Europe," was built at the mouth of the River Conwy in the late 13th century by Edward I of England. Caernarfon Castle, also built by Edward I, was intended as the supreme symbol of English imperial might in Wales. Today it's the site of the Prince of Wales' investiture. Travel back to Conwy through the incomparable Llanberis Pass, a rugged route around Mt. Snowdon, Southern Britain's highest mountain. Early this evening Pamela Petro will give the first of a series of talks, "How Green is My Country." The rest of the evening is free to sample a local restaurant. (B)

Wednesday, September 9th

You'll travel south today through Bedgellert, a scenic town in Snowdonia National Park with an outsized canine legend, and then visit Harlech Castle, the most spectacularly sited of all Edward I's castles. You'll stop in Harlech and have lunch with Europe's foremost minority language poet, Menna Elfyn, before driving via Dolgellau—a delightful market town with excellent shops—to Machynlleth, where you'll visit the Centre for Alternative Technology. CAT is Europe's cutting-edge development center for eco-friendly living. You'll dine tonight at your hotel with Gillian Clarke, the current poet laureate of Wales. (B, L, D)

Overnight: Aberystwyth

Thursday, September 10th

Today you'll visit the wild pasturelands of the Rheidol valley aboard the 1902 Vale of Rheidol Narrow-Gauge Railway. The ride concludes in Devil's Bridge high above the River Mynach. "Devil's Bridge" is actually three bridges atop one another, the oldest of which inspired an enduring, supernatural legend. Afterwards we'll visit Aberystwyth, a thriving, seaside university city, and tour Wales' National Library, home to some of the world's most treasured manuscripts. This evening Pamela Petro will give a second talk, "Wales: Learning Language and Larceny," before you dine at the Michelin-starred Ynyshir Hall. (B, D)

Overnight: Aberystwyth



Caernarfon Castle

Friday, September 11th

A magnificent drive today along a coastline of patchwork sheep fields abutting the sea, south to Aberaeron, a village of pastel-colored Georgian townhouses where you'll stop for lunch. From there you'll continue on to Pembroke via Aberglasney in the graceful Tywi Valley. Aberglasney is home to an impressive manor house surrounded by arguably the finest gardens in Wales, restored to the splendor of their 17th century design. We'll have dinner at our hotel in Pembroke tonight after Pamela Petro's third lecture, "Saints & Stones." (B, D)

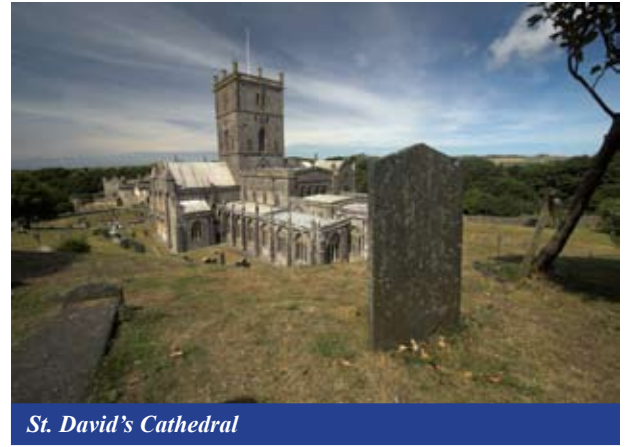
Overnight: Pembroke

Saturday, September 12th

Today you'll visit Britain's smallest city—St. David's—perched on the magnificent Pembrokeshire Coast. In St. David's you'll visit the eponymous

Overnight: Pembroke

cathedral, dedicated to Wales' patron saint—once the holiest site in Christendom, after Rome—and afterwards take a walk on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Path, one of Britain's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Conclude the day with a visit to the inspiring cromlech, Pentre Ifan, Britain's premier Stone Age monument. Return to Pembroke for dinner at our hotel. (B, D)



St. David's Cathedral

Sunday, September 13th **Overnight: Cardiff**

Today you'll make a short visit to Dylan Thomas' boathouse at Laugharne, before heading to St. Fagan's, the National History Museum of Wales, where you'll have lunch. St Fagan's is one of Europe's foremost open-air museums, with 40 buildings from different historical and geographical locations set on 100 acres of parkland. Afterwards we'll drive to Wales' vibrant capital, Cardiff, for an afternoon of sightseeing including two of Britain's newest architectural monuments, the Welsh National Assembly Building and the Millennium Centre. We'll celebrate our final evening by having dinner with Peter Finch, author of *Real Cardiff*, at our hotel. (B, D)

Monday, September 14th **Overnight: Home**

Early drive from Cardiff to Heathrow to catch returning flights to the USA. (B)

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner

Tour Hotels:

Conwy: The Castle Hotel.
www.castlewales.co.uk

Aberystwyth: The Conrah Country Hotel
www.conrah.co.uk

Pembroke: The Lamphey Court Hotel
www.lampheycourt.co.uk

Cardiff: The Radisson Blu Cardiff
www.radissonsas.com

Please note that all hotels are subject to final confirmation

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land only (no airfare included): **\$3470**
Single supplement: **\$580**

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 7 nights accommodation in first class hotels.
All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Full breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 6 dinners.
- Staff:** Services of Smith lecturer Pamela Petro and Discover Europe tour director David Phillips throughout the tour.
- Expenses:** Portage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Guests:** Private meetings with special guests (see itinerary).



Your Smith College Lecturer.

Pamela Petro is an award-winning writer who has a long association with Wales. She fell in love with the country and its language while attending a Master's Degree program at the University of Wales, Lampeter, and later returned to study the language. Due to the difficulty of practicing Welsh in Wales--where everyone speaks English--Petro embarked on a world tour seeking Welsh speakers. Her quest

resulted in the book, *Travels in an Old Tongue: Touring the World Speaking Welsh* (Harper Collins UK, 1997).

Since then Petro has written extensively on Wales for publications such as The Washington Post and The Atlantic Monthly, for which she covered the devolution movement, and in 2000 won the Bedford Pace Prize for Travel writing on Britain for her article, "The Eloquent Stones of Wales," in The Sunday New York Times. Petro has written two additional books of travel literature, and is currently working a book about Mt. Vesuvius and a novel set in Wales



Cardiff Castle