

The Arts Society North Yorkshire & South Durham Cardiff and South Wales 5/8 July 2020 (3 nights and 4 days)



INTRODUCTION

Join members for a 3 night, 4 day tour of Cardiff and South Wales. In the company of a professional guide in Wales, this specialist tour explores some of the cultural highlights of the city and the surrounding area. En route to Cardiff we will break our journey at **Charlecote Park (NT)** near Stratford. Situated by the River Avon, Charlecote Park has been home to The Lucy family for over 900 years and it is filled with treasures collected during European travels, particularly during the Victorian times. Charlecote Park is in a beautiful setting with pretty gardens.

Highlights of our stay in South Wales include an **Arts Tour at Fonmon Castle**, a fortified medieval castle in the Vale of Glamorgan. It is of great architectural rarity and it contains a collection of artworks purported to be by Reynolds, Van Dyck and Lely as well as a number of rare books. The Anglican Cathedral, **Llandaff Cathedral**, sits beside the River Taff in a peaceful conservation zone outside the city centre. It has wonderful Pre-Raphaelite art, Victorian and modern windows, with artists such as Rosetti, Burne Jones, Piper and Madox Brown represented.

A tour of **Cardiff Castle**, which started life as a fort before becoming better known as an ornate 19th century mansion, reveals the gilded ceiling of the Arab Room, the Octogan Tower with its scenes from the Canterbury Tales and the richly decorated Banqueting Hall. At the **National Museum Cardiff**, we will view magnificent paintings, drawings, sculptures, silver and ceramics including the Impressionist and Post - Impressionist Art Collection. Also works by notable Welsh artists including Stanley Spencer, L.S. Lowry and Wynford Dewhurst. **St Fagans National History Museum** is an outstanding museum and has just been awarded the Art Fund "**Museum of the Year 2019**" award. This indoor and open air museum chronicles the historical lifestyle, culture and architecture of Welsh people. We'll take a tour around Cardiff's impressive waterfront and see one of the most impressive and varied Roman sites in Britain at **Caerleon** on the banks of the River Usk near Newport.

ACCOMMODATION

The Hilton Cardiff Hotel ****

The four star Hilton Cardiff is located in an excellent position in the very centre of Cardiff, opposite the castle and with museums and the shopping area on the doorstep. All 197 bedrooms are spacious with TV, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities. Bedrooms are air conditioned with en suite bathrooms that have a walk in shower as well as a bath. There is an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna, steam room and spa.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Fonmon Castle: This Grade 1 listed building has its origins in the 12th century and is one of the few buildings that was drastically remodeled in the 18th century, but not Gothicized. It is believed to have remained under the ownership of just two families throughout its history. It has an impressive collection of art and beautiful gardens.

Cardiff Castle: With its history spanning over 2000 years, from a Roman fort to a Norman Castle and then as an extraordinary Victorian Gothic fantasy palace created for one of the world's richest men. Unique fairy tale apartments rich with murals, gilding and elaborate wood carvings were created by the art-architect William Burges for the 3rd Marquess of Bute.

St Fagans National History Museum: This award winning museum stands in the grounds of the magnificent St Fagans Castle and Gardens. **St Teilo**, a beautiful Catholic church, has been reconstructed in the museum and has impressive wall paintings depicting the story of Jesus.

Llandaff Cathedral: The present cathedral dates back to 1107 when the first Bishop appointed by the Normans instigated the building of a large church on the site - which already had an edifice. The West Front, built around 1220, is judged by many to be one of the two or three most notable medieval works of art and architecture in Wales.

The National Museum of Cardiff: This museum is one of Europe's finest with the Impressionist collection containing Venetian scenes such as *San Giorgio Maggiore at Dusk* and examples from *Claude Monet's Rouen Cathedral and Water Lilies* series. Post -impressionism is represented by Van Gogh's late work *Rain at Auvers* and by Paul Cézanne's first painting to be displayed in a British public collection.

Caerleon Roman Fortress: This is one of the most fascinating Roman sites in Britain, incorporating a Roman Fortress and Baths and a row of barrack-blocks - the only examples currently visible in Europe. With heated changing rooms, covered exercise rooms, hot and cold baths and an open air swimming pool, these remains indicate that Roman life was at times bloody yet luxurious. The nearby National Roman Legion Museum displays a remarkable collection of finds from Roman Caerleon including one of the largest gemstone collections found anywhere in the Roman Empire.

Cardiff City and Waterfront: Cardiff, the capital of Wales, was once the greatest exporter of coal in the world. Today the old docks and waterfront area have been regenerated and a city tour will showcase The Millennium Building, an arts centre and a building of unique design, in the Cardiff Bay area. We will see Cardiff's Principality Stadium and the Pierhead Government Building - impressive icons of modern Wales. Within the heart of the city is the beautiful Bute Park.

Please see over for further tour details including costs and booking information

TOUR COST AND INCLUSIONS

£520 per person in a twin/double en suite if NT member
£529 per person in a twin/double en-suite room non NT member
Supplement for single occupancy of a double room £100
Non Refundable Deposit: £120 per person payable on booking

INCLUDED

Executive air-conditioning coaching
Professional Tour Leader/Guide in Wales
3 nights' half-board en-suite hotel accommodation at The Hilton Hotel, Cardiff ****
All private visits, tours and entries as per the brief itinerary below
Refreshments at Cardiff Castle and Fonmon Castle
Tips/Gratuities
Porterage

NOT INCLUDED

Lunches any other refreshments not mentioned above although suitable stops will be made
You are required to have up to date Travel Insurance for this trip which will cover you for cancellation due to illness or any other eventualities.

Sunday 5th July 2020:

Departures are from Darlington at 0730 and Richmond at 0800, with suitable comfort stops en route. We arrive at Charlecote Park near Stratford where lunch/refreshments can be purchased in either the Wood Yard Café or the Orangery Restaurant. View the treasure filled rooms within the house or spend your time exploring the beautiful gardens before we continue our drive to Wales. Further comfort stops as necessary en route. On arrival in Cardiff we will be joined by our professional guide for a short orientation of the city, including the regenerated waterfront area with its iconic buildings. We continue to our hotel and, after settling into our rooms, meet up again for dinner in the restaurant. (Three course, three choice each course, dinner with coffee)

Monday 6th July 2020:

After a breakfast, our introduction to Wales continues with a visit to the award winning open air museum of St Fagans. Welsh history is showcased everywhere – in the Iron Age Roundhouses within the park, the Farmhouse, Woollen Mill, the traditional cottages, Smithy, School, Chapel, Gallery, Exhibition and so much more. All of this is within the grounds of St Fagans Castle with its extensive gardens to enjoy and various options for the purchase of refreshments and lunch are available on site. During the afternoon we take a drive to Fonmon Castle for an art focused tour followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. At the end of the afternoon we return to the hotel for a leisurely evening with dinner included.

Tuesday 7th July 2020:

Today, our first visit is to Cardiff Castle, just a short walk from the hotel. After an official welcome we will be given a tour of this twelve sided castle and its extravagant themed rooms, learning about the castle's fascinating history. Tea, coffee and biscuits are included after our tour. Our next visit is to The National Museum and Art Gallery where we can tour the galleries with our guide or independently and purchase lunch/refreshment. Our final visit of the day is to Llandaff Cathedral and we will take a drive out of Cardiff to explore this peaceful and remarkable place of worship beside the River Taff. Dinner is included at the hotel during the evening.

Wednesday 8th July 2020:

After breakfast, we will have a slightly relaxed check out and departure time. This will allow time to enjoy the hotel's leisure facilities or engage in a little retail therapy in the shops of Queen Street, just 200 yards away. We depart at 1030 and drive to Caerleon, a small suburban town on the banks of the River Usk that was once home to several thousand Roman soldiers. Known as Isca Augusta, it was one of just three permanent legionary fortresses in Britain. Inside a modern covered building you can see the open air swimming pool, which once held over 80,000 gallons of water. The Fortress Baths were a combination of state-of-the-art leisure centre and spa retreat and this can be appreciated by viewing the impressive ruins combined with an excellent film projected visual display. Bathers would have worn their rings to avoid them being pilfered and a superb collection of 88 engraved gemstones rescued from the bathhouse drain are among artefacts on display in the museum. The Barracks and Roman Legion Museum are a 5 minute walk from the baths and as well as a gift shop and on site refreshments, there are plenty of eating places within the town. After leaving Caerleon, we continue north with comfort stops en route and our approximate arrival time of return to Richmond is 1930 and 2000 in Darlington.

Note: This tour involves a fair amount of walking and standing, including walking on uneven surfaces. Unfortunately it may not be suitable for anyone with mobility problems. Please check with us if you are unsure about whether it is suitable for you or your travelling companions.

**This tour is designed and operated by Brookland Travel, Prospect House, Peverell Avenue East, Poundbury, Dorchester, DT1 3WE.
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