

REFORMATION IN BRITAIN

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Day 1: Fly to Scotland

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Day 2: Edinburgh

Arrive in Scotland: If you've arrived in Edinburgh, you'll head for the center of this classic medieval city; if you've arrived in Glasgow, you'll enjoy a short (but scenic) bus ride to the capital. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore on your own.

Reformation in Edinburgh: Get acquainted with historic Edinburgh during a walking tour of the city. Admire the rustic 15th-century architecture of John Knox's House, where the famous reformer lived. Not far from there, you'll find the 900-year-old St. Giles' Cathedral where Knox became minister in 1559—and where a disturbance over the use of the Church of England's prayer book sparked a series of conflicts that led to the English Civil Wars.

Day 3: Edinburgh

Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh: See the homes of Alexander Graham Bell and Robert Louis Stevenson. Explore Edinburgh's New Town, which was constructed in the 1800s and remains a shining example of modern city planning. At Calton Hill, take in views of the Lomond Hills of Fife. Pass by the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Royal Family's official residence in Scotland. End your tour with a stroll down the Royal Mile through the Old Town, a romantic jumble of medieval buildings.

Edinburgh Castle: Perched atop a dormant volcano, Edinburgh Castle is the enduring symbol of Scotland's capital. Here, Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to James VI, who would later rule England as James I.

St. Andrews: Take a guided walk through the Gaelic charm of St. Andrews University, one of the oldest Universities in the English-speaking world. As you approach the towering Martyr's Monument, take a moment to reflect on the likes of Patrick Hamilton, the first Scottish Protestant martyr to be executed in St. Andrews. You'll also get to visit the ruins of St. Andrews Castle: a battleground between Protestants and Catholics in the early years of the Reformation and the site of Scotland's first Protestant congregation in 1546.

Day 4: York

Travel to York: Today you'll explore the area where the most serious of all the Tudor rebellions took place—the Pilgrimage of Grace. Discover why the people of York had more to lose than most of the cities affected by King Henry VIII's break from the church, and walk where outrage, protest and violence ruled within this walled city.

Day 5: Epworth

Reformation in Epworth: Travel to the town of Epworth, a civil parish (an administrative parish unique to England) in the Isle of Axholme. Here, in the birthplace of Methodist founders John and Charles Wesley, the abundance of Methodist buildings will come as no surprise. You'll visit Epworth's celebrated Wesley Memorial Church and get a firsthand look at how this unique denomination has evolved over the past 300 years.

Reformation in Lutterworth: Take a southbound ride from Epworth to the historic market town of Lutterworth. Past the quaint village houses and local storefronts you'll find St. Mary's Parish Church, where its famous rector and reformer John Wycliffe is believed to be the first person to have translated the bible from Latin to English. Afterwards, you'll continue south along your trek through the center of Great Britain to Oxford, where you'll spend the night.

Day 6: Oxford

Sightseeing tour of Oxford: Explore the world's oldest university town and take in the "city of dreaming spires" that generations of thinkers have called their home. A stroll down St. Giles' Street will reveal Oxford's impressive Martyrs' Memorial Monument, commemorating three Anglican bishops who were executed by order of Queen Mary Tudor ("Bloody Mary"). Your local guide will introduce you to all of the sights, including Christ Church College—one of the largest colleges at Oxford University. Christ Church has a lengthy history in literature, serving as the setting for parts of Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, as well as Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Free time: If you'd like to digest something in addition to the rich history, stop by The Eagle and Child Pub for lunch. Throughout the 40s, the likes of C.S. Lewis and J. R.R. Tolkien used to meet here for literary discussion groups. Lewis's former home at The Kilns and his final resting place at the Holy Trinity Church are also close by. Later you'll travel to London, where you'll spend the night.

Day 7: London

Sightseeing tour of London: From Big Ben to the Houses of Parliament, Great Britain's royal tradition and rich history greet you at every turn. Admire architectural marvels like St. Paul's Cathedral, and check out the five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus and the regal splendor of Buckingham Palace. You may even get a chance to witness the ceremonial Changing of the Guard. Cap off your tour at the River Thames.

Free time: Spend your time exploring one of the world's busiest and storied cities. Set out through Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden, The Strand or Leicester Square on a quest to acquaint yourself with London proper.

Day 8: London

Reformation tour of London: Ready to see London's most iconic Reformation sites on foot? The first stop is John Wesley's Chapel, a stout Gregorian-style Methodist church nestled inside a cobbled courtyard, containing the reformer's former residence and final resting place. Next is a walk through the historic burial grounds of Bunhill Fields, a popular interment site for Protestant dissenters like John Hyatt and Susanna Wesley (John's mother). You'll also see where the larger-than-life Charles Spurgeon (the "Prince of Preachers") held baptist sermons in the Metropolitan Tabernacle—a cavernous edifice that fit 6,000 parishioners at a time. The last stop is the St. Giles-without-Cripplegate Church (which means St. Giles "positioned outside of" Cripplegate), one of the last medieval churches in London. Walk through this timeless church that has survived a citywide fire in 1666 and the bombing of the Blitz.

Day 9: Depart for home