

MISSISSAUGA FESTIVAL CHOIR
13 DAY PERFORMING TOUR TO SCOTLAND, ENGLAND & WALES
JUNE 27 – JULY 9, 2025
(ET #43-25)

Preliminary Itinerary – April 8, 2024

Note: It is the responsibility of all participants to be in possession of the correct documentation needed to meet the entry requirements of your destination and return to Canada. Failure to do so will result in participants being denied entry/boarding and returned home at the expense of the individual. Please check entry and transit requirements before you make a deposit. You may be required to travel to another city or province to obtain the correct documents.

Restrictions and requirements for all destinations, as well as re-entry requirements for Canada, are subject to change at any time. More details can be found at <https://travel.gc.ca> and <https://www.ellisontravel.com/sherpa>

~ **Canadian Citizens require a valid passport.** Authorities at your destination require that Canadian passports are valid for duration of your stay (<http://travel.gc.ca/>). Ellison Travel & Tours recommends passports are valid for a minimum 6 months beyond your return date.

~ **Non-Canadian travellers:** Please contact Ellison Travel & Tours by filling in this request form <https://www.ellisontravel.com/documentation>. Please note that wait times for visas and other documents can be extremely long. We suggest checking wait times before making a non-refundable deposit on your trip. We will provide information on the entry and transit and/or visa requirements. It is the responsibility of the traveller to have the correct travel documents for your trip.

NEW – Europe and the United Kingdom are launching Electronic Travel Authorization programs. Many travellers, including Canadian passport holders, will be required to complete/purchase the ETIAS authorization for Europe (as of mid-2025) or the ETA authorization for the UK (date to be determined) in order to travel to/transit through the European Schengen Zone and the United Kingdom. Further details will be provided as they become available

Day 1 – Friday June 27 flight day!

M

- For the safety of others, and for your convenience, consider bringing a mask in case you are feeling unwell and/or it is required for entry during your tour
- Meet your **ET Tour Manager** at **Toronto Pearson International Airport** and gather as a group to check in at the designated check in desk
- *Groups travelling internationally need to arrive 3 hours for check in prior to scheduled departure*
- Once you have received your boarding passes, make your way as a group through security and proceed to your designated gate
- **Depart on overseas flight from Toronto, ON to Edinburgh, Scotland** (connections possible)
- **Dinner/meal** served enroute, at the discretion of the airline

Day 2 – Saturday June 28 Edinburgh

M/D

- **Meal service** before landing
- *Reminder to set watches to local time*

- Arrive at the **Edinburgh International Airport** - proceed through customs and retrieve your luggage
- Meet coaches for loading
- A motorcoach safety briefing including the use of seat belts when available, will be completed prior to departure (always use seat belts when available and locate the emergency exits if your coach changes during your tour)
- *Pending flight time day will be scheduled accordingly*
- Meet your guide(s) for a **2-hour guided walking** tour of Edinburgh - Scotland's capital, a beautiful blend of history centered around the Old Town from the 12th century and the New Town, built in the late 18th century
- Free time to explore before heading to the hotel
- Check into the **King's Manor Hotel** (or similar) for a **2-night stay**
- **Welcome group dinner**

Day 3 – Sunday June 29 **Edinburgh**

B/D

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- Today we will visit **Edinburgh Castle** - explore the inside of this magnificent building. This Scottish icon comes alive with exciting tales of its time as a military fortress, royal residence, and prison of war. When you climb Castle Hill, you will walk in the footsteps of soldiers, kings, and queens – and even the odd pirate or two
- **Choir performance in Edinburgh or area** (venue to be advised)
- After concert remainder of afternoon at leisure to explore
Options: admissions not included
 - Old Town and The Royal Mile
 - Palace of Holyroodhouse
 - Edinburgh's Carlton Hill - gives you a beautiful view over Edinburgh and The Firth of Forth
 - New Town George and Princes Streets – shopping and restaurants
- Gather as a group, board the coaches and transfer to your dinner location
- Attend **The Spirit of Scotland Dinner and Show** includes a 4-course dinner and traditional Scottish music and dance
- Return to the hotel by coaches to pack for tomorrow's departure

Day 4 – Monday June 30 **To Loch Lomond & Glasgow**

B

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- Check out of your rooms and board the coaches as we depart for Glasgow with a stop enroute at Loch Lomond
- Enjoy a **one-hour circular cruise of Loch Lomond's South basin**; enjoying views of the magnificent Ben Lomond and pass a number of Loch Lomond's stately homes and castles along the shoreline. Venture out towards Inchmurrin Island- the largest of Loch Lomond's 33 islands and home to the ancient remains of Lennox Castle, which in the 14th century sheltered a fugitive Robert the Bruce before he was to become King of Scotland
- After the cruise there will be a stop made to purchase lunch with time to explore
- We continue our journey towards Glasgow
- This afternoon we will have a **Whisky Tour** - Tour duration is approximately 1 hour and gives the group time to explore the visitor centre, with Glasgow Whisky Story. The group will also enjoy a guided distillery tour, discovering how the spirit is hand-crafted the time-honoured way. The final step is to enjoy lovingly paired with 3 Scotch single malt whiskies (10ml drams)
- Arrive at the **Radisson Blu Hotel** (or similar) to check in for an **overnight stay**
- Remainder of evening is free to purchase dinner in the area

Day 5 – Tuesday July 1 Glasgow, To Lake District & Liverpool – HAPPY CANADA DAY!

B/D

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- Check out of your rooms and board the coaches
- This morning, we will visit **Glasgow Cathedral**, one of Scotland's most magnificent medieval buildings, thought to have been built on the site of St Kentigern's tomb and marks the birthplace of the city of Glasgow
- **Lunchtime concert series choir performance at Glasgow Cathedral** (pending approval)
- After lunch we board the coaches and make our way through the Lake District to Liverpool
- A stop will be made at **Lowther Castle**, the spectacular shell of one of England's grandest Gothic mansions. Set in the Lake District National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, sits on the dramatic Knipe Scar with far-reaching views over the river Lowther and the Lowther valley below. Lowther Castle has enjoyed a rich and varied history
- We will also stop at **Grasmere Gingerbread** that will include a talk and visit with tea, coffee and a freshly baked piece of Grasmere Gingerbread and Cumberland Rum butter sample on an oatcake
- Continue to Liverpool to check into the **Ibis Liverpool Centre Albert Dock – Liverpool One** (or similar for a **2-night stay**)
- **Group dinner**

Day 6 – Wednesday July 2 Liverpool

B

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
 - This morning, we will enjoy a **self-guided** (with audio-guide) visit to **The Beatles Story**, Liverpool Museum. Located in the "Fab Four's" hometown of Liverpool, the award-winning Beatles Story experience is an atmospheric journey into the life, times, culture and music of the Beatles
 - **Choir performance today on the Albert Dock or local Cathedral** (could be a daytime or evening performance – to be advised)
 - Remainder of day at leisure to explore areas of interest in Liverpool, including shopping on Bolt Street
- Options: admissions not included*
- *Magical Mystery Tour – 2-hour sightseeing tour of the Beatles Liverpool*
 - *The British Music Experience - the UK's only museum dedicated to celebrating British music*
 - *Tate Liverpool Art Gallery*
 - *Mersey Ferry – hop-on-hop-off ride along the Mersey*
 - *Merseyside Maritime Museum*

Day 7 – Thursday July 3 To Coventry

B/D

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
 - Check out of your rooms and board the coaches
 - On the outskirts of Stoke-on-Trent, almost hidden in the urban sprawl, is **Trentham Estate**. The estate includes the famous Trentham Gardens, including the very important Italianate Gardens designed by Charles Barry in the 1830s, which have been lovingly restored using top landscape designers. The estate is also home to Trentham Garden Centre and the expanded Shopping Village, a unique experience with a unique blend of independent and nationally renowned high street leading names housed in over 80 timber lodges
 - You will have the opportunity to purchase lunch on site
 - Mid-afternoon arrival into Coventry with time to explore
 - Check into the **Ramada Coventry** (or similar) to check in for an **overnight stay**
 - **Group dinner**
- ** evening performance in Coventry at Coventry Cathedral or similar if evening performance allowable*

Day 8 – Friday July 4 To Cardiff & Bristol

B

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- Check out of your rooms and board the coaches as we depart for Bristol with a stop today in Cardiff, Wales, the Welsh capital
- You will have the opportunity to explore on your own. Suggest Cardiff Castle, nearly 2000 years old or take in the culture and food by weaving through the city is nearly a km of arcades, dating back to Victorian and Edwardian times where you can find independent shops, family-run cafes and cute boutiques. Check out Spillers Records - the oldest record shop in the world (opened in 1894). Visit Cardiff Market - under one great glass roof you will find a wealth of products Cardiff Market has been trading in one form or another since the 1700's
- Meet the coaches to continue to Bristol
- Check in at the **Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Bristol City Centre** (or similar) for a **2-night stay**
- Dinner and evening at leisure

Day 9 – Saturday July 5 Bristol & Bath

B/D

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- Board the coaches as we depart for **Bath**, the only city in the UK designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site and often said to be the most beautiful town in Britain
- **Choir performance in Bath at the Bath Abbey** (pending availability)
- Free time to explore areas of interest
 - Options: admissions not included*
 - visit the Roman Baths*
 - take in the sites from the scenes of Bridgerton or join a tour*
 - Jane Austen Centre*
 - High Tea at the Pump room (reserve in advance)*
- **Group dinner** in Bath or Bristol (location will depend on schedule of the day and driver hours)

Day 10 – Sunday July 6 to Windsor & London

B/D

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- Check out of your rooms and board the coaches
- Enroute to London we will stop in the Berkshires at Windsor, where will visit **Windsor Castle**
- The visit includes a multi-media tour of the castle. In the State Apartments you'll explore ceremonial rooms that are used today by the Royal Family, and you'll discover historical rooms that were built for Charles II and his Queen, Catherine of Braganza. Note: Sometimes the entire castle or State Apartments can be closed on short notice. St. Georges Chapel is closed on Sundays
- Free time in Windsor to purchase lunch
- Board coaches to continue to London, our final destination of the tour, the smallest city in the UK, known for the Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the Tower Bridge, Harrods and the black cabs and red double-decker buses
- Arrive at **Huttons Hotel London** (or similar) to check in for a **3-night stay**
- **Group dinner**
- Remainder of evening at leisure

Day 11 – Monday July 7

B

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- **London Travelcard – Zone 1-6 included while in London for 2 days**
- Today begins with a **guided walking tour** - this morning meet your local Blue Badge Guides who will accompany you (and assist you with the use of the London Tube) on a tour exploring the historic sites of London on foot and by tube. Sights you will see include Buckingham Palace (home of the British Royal Family since 1837 and now the administrative headquarters of the

Monarch), the magnificent Parliament Buildings with the clock tower housing Big Ben, Downing Street and the Horse Guards as well as Westminster Abbey, the most famous of British churches. Part national church and part museum, marvel at the gothic architecture while you visit the tombs of British monarchs through the ages and many of her most famous writers, artists and politicians

- Tour will end around Covent Garden where you can purchase lunch
- afternoon **self-guided** visit to the **Tower of London** – your Tower of London admission ticket includes The Crown Jewels, The White Tower, Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, Battlements, Medieval Palace, Bloody Tower, Torture at the Tower exhibition, Fusiliers Museum and Royal Mint exhibition
- Dinner on your own this evening
- The evening is free for attending a theatre production (schedules for performances on Monday evenings to be advised)

Day 12 – Tuesday July 8

B/D

- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- **London Travelcard – Zone 1-6 included while in London for 2 days**
- Today is a free day but a **Choir performance** will be scheduled so details will be advised (**coaching budgeted for roundtrip transfers for performance needs**)
Options: admissions not included
 - The British Museum, National Gallery or Natural History Museum
 - Westminster Abbey or Buckingham Palace
 - Cruise on the Thames
 - Royal Albert Hall, Royal Opera House, Shakespeare’s Globe or the National Theatre
 - Harrods
 - Hop-in-hop-off tour
- Group will gather at the hotel to head to the **London Eye** for a 30-minute ride in a capsule with moving views from the heart of the city with a **champagne toast**
- Then we transfer to our location for our **farewell dinner** sharing memories made along the way
- Return to the hotel to pack for tomorrow’s departure

Day 13 – Wednesday July 9

B

- When returning to Canada travellers 16 years of age and older can use the optional Advance Declaration feature in Arrive CAN to save time by submitting their customs and immigration declaration in advance of arrival <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/services/arrivecan.html>
- **Breakfast** included at the hotel
- Hotel check out and loading of the coaches
- Coaches will transfer the group to **London Heathrow Airport**
- Arrive and check in at the designated check in desk – groups *need to arrive 3 hours for check in prior to scheduled departure*
- **Depart on overseas flight from London, UK to Toronto, Ontario** (connections possible)
- Meal service at the discretion of the airline
- *Reminder to set watches to local time*
- Arrive at **Toronto Pearson International Airport**, clear customs and collect your luggage
- Welcome home!

B - Breakfast / L – Lunch / D - Dinner / M – Airline Meal - denote meals included in tour cost

Itinerary is tentative and subject to final confirmation

Please advise your group leader in advance of any allergy and/or dietary restriction, so that we can advise our suppliers of the request. Not every location may be able to accommodate allergy and/or meal requirements for unique circumstances.

Ellison Travel & Tours is a proud partner of [Sustainable Travel International](#) – use our carbon footprint calculator to calculate your travel emissions and purchase carbon offsets to benefit local communities, protect threatened forests and ecosystems, and accelerate the clean energy transition. To find out more and calculate your estimated travel emissions <https://ellisontravel.com/calculate-your-carbon-footprint/>