

# Stanford **TRAVEL/STUDY**

## **Wales, England and Scotland by Rail**

**June 21 to July 1, 2022**

Relive bygone eras on two day trips on board vintage private trains and a two-night train journey aboard the luxurious Belmond Royal Scotsman with English professor Elaine Treharne.

### **FACULTY LEADER**

#### **Elaine Treharne**

Professor Elaine Treharne, a native of Wales, joined the Stanford faculty in 2012 in the School of Humanities and Sciences as a professor of English. She is also the director of Stanford Text Technologies and the former director of Stanford's Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis. Her main research focuses on early medieval British manuscripts, Old and Middle English religious poetry and prose, and the history of handwriting. Included in that research is her current project, which looks at the materiality of textual objects together with the patterns that emerge in the long history of text technologies, from the earliest times (circa 70,000 BCE) to the present day. Regarding our program through Wales, England and Scotland, Professor Treharne says, "I'm very excited about this wonderful tour, which takes in some of the most beautiful scenery in the United Kingdom. Landscapes that are stunning, amazing sites that tell the story of Britain—this is bound to be an exceptional adventure, and I can't wait!" On our program, Professor Treharne will discuss the many cultures that crossed, colonized and cultivated the island of Great Britain, and she'll focus on all the Cs—castles and country houses, customs and class, churches and cathedrals, countryside and communication.

### **ITINERARY**

Tuesday, June 21

#### **Manchester, England / Llandudno, Wales**

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Manchester. Upon arrival on Tuesday, transfer to Llandudno and check in to our classic country house hotel, situated amid meadows and traditional gardens. Gather for a welcome reception before dinner this evening. BODYSGALLEN HALL AND SPA (D)

Wednesday, June 22

#### **Llandudno / Conwy / Snowdonia**

Explore the walled market town of Conwy, including a tour of Plas Mawr, an unusually well-preserved Elizabethan house dating from 1585, and a magnificent harborside castle, part of the UNESCO World Heritage site Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd. Conwy Castle was built in the 1280s by Edward I during his conquest of Wales and is considered one of the most atmospheric medieval castles in Britain; it has the most complete set of medieval walls, enveloping both the castle and its tiny town center. After lunch drive through the majestic Snowdonia mountain region, stopping at the village of Betws-y-Coed, with its stone cottages and cascading waterfalls. Enjoy a special private visit and afternoon tea at Gwydir Castle, hosted by the owners, whose ancient abode is regarded as one of the finest Tudor houses in Wales. BODYSGALLEN HALL AND SPA (B,L)

Thursday, June 23

#### **Llandudno / Ffestiniog Railway / Porthmadog**

The Ffestiniog Railway is the world's oldest narrow-gauge railway, constructed during the Industrial Revolution to transport slate from mountain quarries to the harbor in Porthmadog, where it was then shipped all over the world. Today at the Llechwedd Slate Caverns, we learn about the heritage of slate production in Wales, then journey down the mountain in a privately reserved vintage carriage aboard the Ffestiniog Railway through pastures and forests and past lakes and waterfalls. Upon arrival at Porthmadog, browse the railway's engineering sheds. BODYSGALLEN HALL AND SPA (B,L,D)

Friday, June 24

**Llandudno / York, England**

Enjoy a picturesque drive from Llandudno to York, a walled city at the confluence of the Ouse and Foss Rivers. Admire the impressive York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in northern Europe; its rose window commemorates the union of the houses of York and Lancaster in the late 15th century. Stroll along the Shambles, a narrow lane with overhanging timber-framed buildings, some of which date to the 14th century. Once lined with butcher shops, the Shambles and a surrounding maze of ancient, narrow, cobblestone streets now feature shops, cafés and restaurants. Take a scenic walk along York's beautifully preserved city walls. At a length of more than two miles, they are the longest medieval town walls in England and offer amazing views. THE GRAND YORK (B,L,D)

Saturday, June 25

**York / Pickering / Whitby**

Mix with locals at the weekly market in the Yorkshire village of Pickering, which lies at the foot of Norman castle ruins. From Pickering ride the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, a heritage railway and one of the busiest steam heritage lines in the world, through moors to the seaside town and port of Whitby. Wander around the ruins of Whitby Abbey. Located at the top of the East Cliff, this abbey was once the residence of England's earliest recognized poet, Caedmon. The town itself has been depicted in many literary works, including Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. THE GRAND YORK (B,L)

Sunday, June 26

**York**

This morning explore the National Railway Museum, which tells the story of rail transportation in Britain and its impact on society. This award-winning museum displays the national collection of 400-plus historically significant railway vehicles, as well as other artifacts and ephemera related to the railways. Drive through the lush Yorkshire Dales and stop for lunch at a private country estate. In the afternoon visit Fountains Abbey, one of the largest and best-preserved Cistercian monasteries in England and part of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Studley Royal Park. THE GRAND YORK (B,L,D)

Monday, June 27

**York / Edinburgh, Scotland**

Travel by standard train to Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland since at least the 15th century, and the current home of the Scottish Parliament and seat of the monarchy in Scotland. A center of education, finance and culture, Edinburgh boasts several outstanding historic sites: the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh Castle, and the Old Town and New Town, named together as a UNESCO World Heritage site. After lunch walk along the Royal Mile, Old Town's main thoroughfare, and attend a private demonstration of the intricate art of tartan weaving. Dinner is on our own this evening. THE BALMORAL (B,L)

Tuesday, June 28

### **Edinburgh / Embark / Boat of Garten**

Take advantage of early entry to Edinburgh Castle for a private tour. This historic fortress has served as both a royal residence and a military barracks. Its many roles today include housing the Scottish crown jewels and several museums. After a special presentation on the Scottish accent and Scottish slang, board the Belmond Royal Scotsman and depart for our rail journey among the rolling hills of Perthshire and the dramatic peaks and valleys of the Scottish Highlands. After dinner in one of the dining cars, over a wee dram, meet in the observation car with a local clansman who recounts tales that bring Scottish history to life. Our train remains stationary overnight at the quiet Boat of Garten Station to ensure a peaceful night's sleep on board. BELMOND ROYAL SCOTSMAN (B,L,D)

Wednesday, June 29

### **Boat of Garten / Cairngorms National Park / Inverness / Aberdeen / Dundee**

Experience the Rothiemurchus Estate this morning in the heart of Cairngorms National Park. This superb Highland estate offers stunning landscapes of lochs, rivers and moorlands, and one of the largest remnants of the ancient Caledonian pine forest that once covered most of Scotland. Give clay-pigeon shooting or fly-fishing a try, with the help of qualified instructors as needed, or opt to explore the estate. Return to our train for lunch, then set off for Inverness to visit Culloden Battlefield, site of the final confrontation of the Jacobite uprising of 1745–46 and the last pitched battle fought on British soil. Heading east toward Aberdeen, stop at the Strathisla Distillery, Scotland's oldest continuously operating distillery. Learn about the craft of whisky making and the art of blending as you tour this historical facility. This evening celebrate our railway adventure at an elegant formal dinner aboard our train, which stables overnight at the railway station in Dundee. BELMOND ROYAL SCOTSMAN (B,L,D)

Thursday, June 30

### **Dundee / Edinburgh / Disembark**

Ride by rail south through the former Kingdom of Fife and across the Forth Bridge to Edinburgh. Disembark our train and delight in an exclusive private showing of Hopetoun House on the River Forth, the stately and expansive home of the Marquess of Linlithgow. After lunch at Hopetoun House's old stables, check in to our hotel and enjoy time at leisure before a festive farewell reception and dinner. THE BALMORAL (B,L,D)

Friday, July 1

### **Edinburgh / U.S.**

After breakfast transfer independently to the airport for flights home. (B)

## **INFORMATION**

### **Covid-19 and Travel**

With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for our program will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study's general approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

### **Size**

This trip is limited to 34 participants. Single accommodations are limited.

**Cost\***

\$13,795 per person, double occupancy

\$16,795 per person, single occupancy

\*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add \$300 per person.

**About the Belmond Royal Scotsman**

Our two-night journey on Belmond Royal Scotsman takes us straight into the heart of the Scottish Highlands, through landscapes of towering, pine-covered mountains reflected in mirror-still lochs. The sleeping cars offer deluxe single-, twin-, or double-bed accommodations for a total of only 40 guests and are beautifully outfitted in rich woodwork. All cabins have fixed lower beds; private bathroom facilities with shower, wash basin and toilet; dressing table; full-length wardrobe; individually controlled heating; and windows that open. The on-board Bamford Haybarn Spa offers facials, massages, manicures, pedicures and more. Two lavish dining cars—with wood paneling, decorative marquetry, and custom-made dining chairs and tables—provide the setting for elegant meals, served with local, fresh ingredients and a wide selection of fine wines. At the end of the train, the observation car comfortably holds all 40 guests and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding scenery.

**Included**

- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and train crew for all group activities
- 8 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 2-night stay aboard the Belmond Royal Scotsman
- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 7 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance

**Not Included**

- Your personal flights to and from the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

**Air Arrangements**

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these

independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

### **What to Expect**

We consider this program to be moderately active. A variety of rail transportation methods will be used—narrow-gauge, vintage steam and the ultra-luxurious Belmond Royal Scotsman—carrying us across breathtaking Welsh, English and Scottish landscapes and spectacular settings. This program operates within the constraints of the railway network, therefore timing, routes and associated itineraries are subject to change. Daily activities involve as many as two miles of walking, usually on uneven and occasionally steep terrain, and may include extended periods of standing in museums and historical buildings. At Bodysgallen, as well as at many of the historic sites and restaurants we visit, there are stairs between floors and no elevators. The visit to the slate mines in Wales involves descending about 500 feet below ground aboard a steeply inclined cable railway, as well as time on foot within the mine, where footing is uneven and can be slippery. There are approximately 60 steps to climb, and wall and ceiling surfaces are uneven rock; helmets are provided. Participants must be physically fit, active, in good health, able to board trains using steps that may be steep and able to walk along narrow corridors as the trains are in motion. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

### **Eligibility**

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. The nonmember fee is waived for anyone traveling as a paid guest of a current member, as well as for emerita or emeritus faculty and staff. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit [alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership](http://alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership).

### **Deposits, Payments and Cancellations**

A \$1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 120 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a \$500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and we resell your place(s), in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

### **Insurance**

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with general medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

### **Responsibility**

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service.

of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, nor Stanford University, nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

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