

Join us to discover quintessential England, from historic Oxford to the photogenic Cotswolds region, from private mansions with precious art collections to opera performances at a glass-sided theater set within the natural beauty of the Chiltern Hills on the Wormsley Estate, ending with four days in London.

The tour includes a performance of your choosing at the **Garsington Opera Festival** and *Madame Butterfly* at the Royal Opera House in London. (Additional performances are available in both houses and at the London Proms, at extra cost.)

The **Garsington Opera Festival** takes place in the spectacular Opera Pavilion, which sits within the rolling landscape of the Chiltern Hills, about 20 miles from Oxford. The highly regarded **Philharmonia Orchestra** and period instrument orchestra **The English Concert** accompany all the operas.

Also included in the cost of the tour is *Madame Butterfly* at the **Royal Opera House**, Covent Garden. Our visit coincides with the Proms season; we'll provide the information you will need to book tickets, once the schedule is announced.

If you would like to join us, don't delay; this program is limited to 23 participants.

A blank reservation form can be found on the last two pages of this PDF.

Reservations will be honored in the order completed forms and deposits are received.

**DO NOT MAKE ANY NON-REFUNDABLE FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS
UNTIL YOUR RESERVATION HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY US!**

*Prices per person
for the two-week tour:*

\$6,750

sharing a double/twin



\$8,825

single occupancy



Prices are stated in
U.S. Dollars
calculated on an
exchange rate of \$1.25
to the British Pound

Day-by-Day Tour Itinerary

Tuesday, July 13: Departures from the U.S. Both United and British Air offer two daily non-stops from Houston to London. We suggest the evening departures, which arrive at London Heathrow around noon.

Wednesday, July 14: Arrivals and transfers to Oxford. Our contemporary hotel (it opened in July 2019) is nestled in the heart of Oxford city center, within walking distance of the iconic city's attractions. Opening night dinner is included.

Thursday, July 15: This morning we discover Oxford and its world-famous university with our expert guide, an Oxford graduate with degrees in Modern Languages and History. She has written a couple of books focusing on insightful and intriguing walks that bring Oxford to life.

This evening you will have the option of attending **Garsington Opera Festival's *Der fliegende Holländer*** conducted by Douglas Boyd, artistic director of the festival.

The venue has glass sides offering breathtaking uninterrupted views across the landscape. In addition to the 600-seat auditorium, there are five private boxes with the opportunity for private dining on the Upper Terrace. You can have a pre- or post-event drink at the bar on the Lower Terrace while enjoying artworks displayed in the New Gallery. The Opera Garden — directly adjacent to the Opera Pavilion — is designed to bloom specifically during the Opera season. A complimentary bus is available for ticket holders to take a

short journey to the Walled Garden. Originally designed in the 18th century, the Walled Garden has been rebuilt in true Chiltern style, by knapped-flint paths and brick with buttressed Yew hedges. It is divided by two floral-lined avenues to create four garden rooms: the Green Theatre, Croquet Lawn, Flower Garden, and a Kitchen Garden designated for organically grown fruit and vegetables.

Friday, July 16: Visit Kelmscott Manor, the historic summer home of designer, writer, and political activist William Morris (self-led visit, with volunteer room stewards in most rooms to answer any questions); and **Buscot Park**, an 18th-century mansion set in formal gardens and parkland. Its renowned art collection includes Old Master paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Botticelli and Murillo, and a particularly fine collection of works by Victorian artists including Dante Gabriel Rossetti, G.F. Watts, and Edward Burne-Jones's 'Legend of the Briar Rose' series. Lunch is included.

This evening (and other evenings when you are not attending a performance at Garsington), you will have the opportunity to attend **Evensong at Christ Church**, featuring world-class choral music spanning Renaissance polyphony to modern masterworks.

Saturday, July 17: Free day for you to visit Oxford's museums:

Britain's oldest public museum, the Ashmolean Museum for art and archeology; Oxford University Museum of Natural History; Pitt Rivers Museum for natural history, archeology, and ethnography; and Story Museum for literary insights on classics, some penned by Oxford alumni. Given sufficient interest, we can arrange an optional specialty tour focusing on Oxford's women, Oxford's Jewish heritage, or the city's extraordinary gargoyles and grotesques.

Tonight's opera at **Garsington is Handel's *Serse*** conducted by David Bates, artistic director of the **early music ensemble Nuova Musica**.

Sunday, July 18: Visit Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to the Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of former prime minister Sir Winston Churchill. A rare and precious example of English baroque, the palace boasts statues, tapestries, sumptuous furniture, priceless china, and giant oil paintings in elaborate gilt frames. Its vast, lavish gardens and parklands include the majestic Water Terraces, the Duke's private Italian Garden, the Rose Garden, the Churchill Memorial Garden and the hidden oasis of plants that is the Secret Garden. The iconic view of the Grand Bridge and Queen Pool lake in the palace parkland was once described by Lord Randolph Churchill as "the finest view in England". Lunch is on your own in Oxford.

Tonight's offering at Garsington is **Verdi's *Falstaff***.

Monday, July 19: The Scenic Cotswolds part 1: Chipping Campden, Snowhill Manor and Garden, Broadway, and Winchcombe. This world-famous region is justly celebrated for its rolling hills, honey-colored stone villages, and rich medieval history. Our first full day there takes us to Chipping Campden, Broadway, Winchcombe, and Snowhill Manor and Garden. The latter is a treasure trove of quirky and curious objects assembled by artist and architect Charles Wade, set within delightful gardens. Wade used his own skill as an artist and architect to design the garden: it is an extension of the manor, set out in a series of rooms with far-reaching views and unexpected delights, including a historic miniature of Wolf's Cove, a Cornish fishing village. Snowhill was the filming location for the winter scenes in *Bridget Jones's Diaries*. Lunch is included.

Tuesday July 20: Scenic Cotswolds part 2: Burford, Bibury, Cirencester, Bourton-on-the-Water, Lower Slaughter. We continue exploring villages with honey-colored stone houses, churches, and lanes that look unchanged in three hundred years. Bourton-on-the-Water is known as the Venice of the Cotswolds for its low stone bridges over the River Windrush. Bibury's Arlington Row — originally built as a wool store and later turned into weavers' homes — is widely considered one of UK's most photographed sights; it was the filming location for a number of movies, including *Stardust*. Lunch is on your own in the historic market town of Cirencester, often called the capital of the Cotswolds.

Wednesday, July 21: Depart for London, visiting Waddesdon Manor en route. Built in the 1880s as a weekend retreat for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, the French-inspired château was built for beauty, for a collection, and for entertaining. It houses Baron Ferdinand's extensive collections of English 18th-century portraits by artists like Gainsborough and Reynolds, as well as French 18th-century boiseries, Savonnerie carpets, Gobelins and Beauvais tapestries, furniture, Sèvres ceramics, books, Dutch paintings, and Renaissance treasures. One of the highlights of the collection is the extraordinary musical automaton elephant, dating from 1774 and made by the French clockmaker H Martinet. The Victorian-style gardens boast ornate fountains, impressive statuary, and an ornate Rococo-style Aviary. Lunch follows the guided tour.

We continue to London to the Rembrandt Hotel, located in Kensington, within a 10-minute walk of the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, Hyde Park, Harrods, and the Royal Albert Hall. From here, District, Circle, and Piccadilly Tube lines take you straight to the City of London and the West End, allowing you to discover the city's picturesque landmarks and other world-class museums such as the British Museum, the National Gallery, the Tate Britain and the Tate Modern.

Thursday, July 22: Discover London at your leisure.

Friday, July 23: This morning we take a backstage tour of the Royal Opera House, gaining a unique insight into the many secrets and spaces of the ROH. We see areas that are normally off-limits to the public, including rehearsal studios, costumes, and production workshops. In the evening, we all attend ***Madame Butterfly***, the revival of the acclaimed 2003 production by Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier. "The Franco-Belgian duo drew inspiration from traditional Japanese art—its architecture and ukiyo-e landscape prints—and Japanese mentality to create a solid production where the drama of the text and the excellence of the music shine equally, achieving the perfect balance between horror and beauty." (quoted from <https://www.liceubarcelona.cat/en/articles/madama-butterfly-conflict>)

Conducted by **Henrik Nánási**, the cast includes **Hrachuhí Bassénz** as Cio-Cio-San, **Seok Jong Baek** as Pinkerton, **Lucas Meachem** as Sharpless, and **Jennifer Johnson Cano** as Suzuki. BTW, Cano studied in Houston and has appeared several times with HGO; Lucas Meachem will perform the role of Amonastro in HGO's *Aida* in January-February 2027 while Nánási will conduct the HGO's *Der Rosenkavalier* in April-May 2027!

Saturday, July 24: Discover London at your leisure. We'll all get together for our final meal, probably high tea, assuming some will want to attend this evening's performance of **Strauss's *Elektra*** at the Royal Opera. The cast includes **Ausrine Stundyte**, **Sara Jakubiak**, and **Violeta Urmana**. Chief conductor and artistic director of the Czech Philharmonic **Semyon Bychkov** conducts.

Sunday, July 25: Departures for the U.S. or extra days in London.

Please note:

We will offer two transfers from London Heathrow Airport to our hotel in Oxford:

one mid-morning, after the early arrivals from the USA,

the other following the mid-day U.S. arrivals.

Please be certain to book your arrival time not later than 2:00 PM on July 14th.

If you prefer to arrive a day before the group, to get a head start on recovering from the journey.

be advised that our Oxford hotel may not have space for you on the night of the 13th.

We advise you to spend that night at a hotel near Heathrow, returning to the airport

to join the group for one of the provided transfers on the 14th

Reservations will be honored in the order deposits are received.

Payment in full is due by March 15, 2027

<u>Prices per person</u>	<u>Sharing a double</u>	<u>Single occupancy</u>
Thirteen-day tour (11 nights in England)	\$6,750	\$8,825

For details, visit DeanDaltonTours.com or email DD@DeanDaltonTours.com or call 713-213-6447.

You should be prepared for plenty of walking, including on hills, steps, and uneven pavement.

To participate in our included guided tours, you will need to be capable of walking at least a half mile in 15 minutes and to be on your feet most of the time for periods of up to three hours.

If your mobility is impaired, please travel with a companion who can assist you and be prepared to sit out some activities.

Complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,500 per person payable to **Dean Dalton Tours** to:

Dean Dalton Tours
1904 Banks St.
Houston, TX 77098

Name 1 as it appears on passport (LAST/First): _____

Name 2 as it appears on passport (LAST/First): _____

Street address: _____ Mobile phone: _____

City: _____ St. _____ Zip _____ Email: _____

Passport # 1: _____ Issue date _____ Date and place of Birth: _____

Passport # 2 _____ Issue date _____ Date and place of Birth: _____

Name and phone of emergency contact: _____

If reserving for two: ☐ prefer one bed ☐ prefer two beds

If reserving for one: ☐ prefer a private room ☐ will be sharing with _____

☐ I/we would like descriptions and pricing of available upgrades.
(N.B. Sizes of the included rooms are 195 sq.ft. in Oxford and 160 sq.ft. in London.)

☐ I/we wish to pay by credit card; please send an electronic deposit invoice. (add 3.2% merchant fee)

Special needs: _____

I have read the brochure and accompanying "Terms and Conditions" and agree to their contents.

Signature (required): _____ **Date:** _____

We strongly encourage all participants to be covered by a travel protection plan, whether just for this trip or annual coverage. You should be covered at the very least for medical emergencies and evacuation. Since group policies are no longer available, we now offer a variety of individual plans through Travel Insured International, one of which can almost certainly provide coverage appropriate to your situation. Click or copy and paste this URL: www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=49076 into your browser address bar to compare coverage and costs, specific to you and this tour. We encourage you to explore other providers as well, to find the coverage that suits your needs. Once you have returned this reservation form and deposit check for the tour and have determined which plan you prefer, you should purchase it directly from Travel Insured International using the link above (or other provider) within the time limit indicated. **If you have questions**, Dean will do his best to answer them. Email him at dd@deandaltontours.com or call 713-213-7447.

If you are more comfortable dealing with these issues by phone than online, you may call Travel Insured International at 855-752-8303. Please identify yourself as a client of Dean Dalton Tours, agency # 49076.

Terms and Conditions of Sale — 2027 Summer Tour to England

A deposit of \$1,500.00 per person is required to guarantee your reservation; the date of receipt will determine the order in which travelers are booked, in the event of a sold-out tour. The balance of the tour price is due on or before March 15, 2027.

More than 120 days prior to departure: the deposit will be refunded,
less the cost of any unsaleable performance tickets and a service charge of \$100
From 120 to 90 days prior to departure: full deposit is forfeited
89 to 45 days prior to departure: 30% of tour cost is forfeited
44 to 30 days prior to departure: 60% of tour cost is forfeited
30 days or less, prior to departure: 100% of tour cost is forfeited

Included in quoted tour prices: All ground transportation by private vehicle, from arrival at London Heathrow airport on July 14, 2027 to departure from London Heathrow airport on July 25, 2027; luggage handling (1 piece, maximum 50 pounds, at owner's risk); accommodations in hotels listed in the itinerary or comparable, including taxes and daily breakfast; lunches and dinners, sightseeing, entrance fees, performance tickets, guide and escort services, only as indicated in the online itinerary.

Not included in quoted tour prices: Costs of passports, visas, or other travel documents; laundry; meals or beverages, optional performances and sightseeing not included in the itinerary; room service; travel protection; gratuities to drivers and guides; communication charges.

Exchange Rates: Dean Dalton Tours reserves the right to adjust prices to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange rates and any fuel or inflation surcharges imposed by providers. The listed prices for this program were calculated at an exchange rate of 1 GBP = 1.35 USD.

Dean Dalton Tours also reserves the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it, to make such alterations in the itinerary as it deems necessary or desirable, to refuse to accept or retain as a member of any tour any person at any time, and to pass on to tour members any expenditures or losses caused by delays or events beyond its control.

Passports and Visas: Passports and an ETIAS (online) are required; visas are not required for U.S. citizens.

Itineraries: Hotel accommodations, performances, and sightseeing are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Dean Dalton Tours guarantees the operation of this tour with a minimum of 15 participants, with exception only in case of "force majeure." That term refers to any major event, including but not limited to civil unrest, natural catastrophe, military action, public health emergency, etc. that adversely affects international travel patterns, or other circumstances beyond Dean Dalton Tours' control. In case of such cancellation by Dean Dalton Tours, refunds will be based on the actual cost of each traveler's tour package, less a proportionate share of any unrecoverable expenditures and a small overhead charge.

Health Measures: In light of evidence of the effectiveness of face coverings in limiting the spread of airborne pathogens, including the common cold, flu, and other respiratory viruses, participants in Dean Dalton Tours programs are requested to wear masks when traveling together on a coach or other enclosed conveyance and required to comply with any local masking requirements.

Claims and Refunds: Except for verifiable extenuating circumstances, refunds are not made for any missed tour services. For claims to be considered, they must be received in writing within 30 days of the termination of the tour and be accompanied by supporting documentation. Any adjustment will be based on the actual cost of the services involved and not on a per diem basis. Adjustments will not be made for sightseeing trips or meals not used at traveler's choice. Dean Dalton Tours will not accept any liability for any claims not received within 30 days of the termination of this tour.

Photography: Dean Dalton Tours reserves the right to take photographs or videos during the operation of any tour or part thereof, and to use the resulting photography for promotional purposes. By booking a reservation, tour members agree to allow their image to be used in such photography; tour members who prefer that their image not be used are asked to identify themselves to their tour escort at the commencement of the tour.

Limits on Responsibility: Dean Dalton Tours, LLC is a Texas corporation based in Houston. It purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from various independent suppliers that are not subject to its control. Dean Dalton Tours CANNOT, THEREFORE, BE LIABLE FOR DEATH, PERSONAL INJURY OR ANY OTHER LOSS that may occur (1) due to any act or omission of any such supplier, (2) by reason of any other event over which Dean Dalton Tours has no control.

