

Planning Your Travel to the United Kingdom

Description

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For many pilgrims, this trip is their first time traveling outside of the United States â?? and even for those who have traveled internationally before, it is not something they do routinely. Our hope is that these instructions will be helpful as you plan your travel from home to the United Kingdom.

Note: This page provides information about traveling to the United Kingdom. For more information about what to expect once you arrive in the United Kingdom, including traveling from London to Salisbury, click here.

What to Do Right Now

Passport

Check Your Passport Expiration: Before you do anything else, **check the expiration date of your passport**. Passports generally need to have an expiration date at least 6 months after your arrival in the UK.

If you do not have a passport, or if your passport will expire sooner than 6 months after you will arrive in the UK, begin the application or renewal process **now** as passports can take up to several months to process. Note that post offices and libraries often serve as passport acceptance facilities and can provide assistance with applying for or renewing passports.

UK Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA)

Start Your ETA Application Now: ETA applications are usually approved quickly, but can take several weeks to process in some circumstances. ETAs are valid for two years from the approval date. Your ETA must be approved prior to arriving in the UK, and airlines may verify your ETA prior to boarding.

All visitors to the United Kingdom are required to have either an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) or a visa, with most visitors from the US requiring an ETA. An ETA costs Â£20 ($25 â?? $27), and is valid for two years. Note that your ETA is electronically linked to your passport, and you will **not** need a separate document when you arrive at the UK border at Heathrow.

Budgeting for the Pilgrimage

Once you arrive in Salisbury, you will find that most expenses are included in the pilgrimage cost. However, you are responsible for some expenses, including those before and after the pilgrimage and some activities during the trip.

To help with your budgeting, plan on **Â£50 â?? Â£60** ($60 â?? $80) for meals not covered by the pilgrimage. Most pilgrims choose to budget an additional Â£100 â?? Â£200 for excursions, souvenirs, and similar activities.

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To help with your planning, hereâ??s a summary of what is and is not included:

Whatâ??s Included

- Lodging for the duration the pilgrimage
- Most meals (in general 3 meals per day are included, though there will be select days during the pilgrimage when you will be responsible for lunch and/or dinner)
- Transportation to pilgrimage sites
- Admission fees to pilgrimage sites

Whatâ??s Not Included

- Transportation/airfare to and from the United Kingdom ($1,000 â?? $1,500)
- Transportation to Salisbury after arriving in the United Kingdom (Â£30 â?? Â£50)
- 2-3 meals that will be on your own
- Day trips/excursions such as to Stonehenge, Old Sarum, and Salisbury Cathedral tours
- Visits to pubs, coffee shops, etc. during free time
- Souvenirs
- Optional love offerings for our coach driver and Sarum College staff, typically Â£10 â?? Â£20 each â?? more details will be provided ahead of and during the trip, but you will have the opportunity to show your appreciation for those who take care of us during our time together

Booking Your Travel

Note: You are responsible for booking your travel to the United Kingdom, to Salisbury at the beginning of the pilgrimage, and from the United Kingdom at the end of the pilgrimage.

Booking Your Flights

Airport Selection

We highly recommend flying into and out of **Londonâ??s Heathrow Airport (LHR)**. Heathrow provides the easiest transportation options to Salisbury, and at the end of the trip, coach transportation directly to Heathrow will be provided. All major US airlines offer flights into Heathrow.

Arriving in the UK

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When scheduling your **arrival flight**, we encourage you to arrive **at least 24 hours prior to the start of the pilgrimage** on Day 1 to allow your body to adjust to the time change (EDT +5 hrs, CDT +6hrs, MDT +7 hrs, PDT +8 hrs).

Note: A limited number of rooms are available at Sarum College for pilgrims who wish to arrive the night before Day 1 of the pilgrimage. The cost of these rooms is **not** included in the cost of the pilgrimage, and will need to be paid directly to Sarum College. To arrange for a room for early arrival, email hospitality@sarum.ac.uk and let them know youâ??re part of the Discipleship Ministries Wesley Pilgrimage.

Keep in mind that most eastbound transatlantic flights are overnight, departing in the afternoon or evening and arriving in London in the early morning. If you will be staying in London overnight prior to making your way to Salisbury, you may wish to inquire about early check-in times.

On Day 1 of the pilgrimage, we will begin shortly after lunch (specifics will be provided in your pilgrimageâ??s itinerary, but usually around 1:00 p.m.). If you are not arriving the night before the pilgrimage, plan on a two- to three-hour journey from London to Salisbury. Click here for more details on getting from London to Salisbury.

Departing from the UK

When scheduling your **return flight**, we encourage you to schedule a flight departing **no earlier than noon**. Coach transportation will be provided to Heathrow at the end of the pilgrimage (departing Salisbury at approximately 7:00 a.m. am and arriving at Heathrow at approximately 9:00 a.m.), and a noon or later flight will offer ample time to clear security and make it to your gate. If you choose to fly out of another airport, you will be responsible for securing your own transportation either from Heathrow or from Salisbury to your departure airport.

When to Book Your Flights

You should plan to book your flight **2 to 6 months in advance**. It is often helpful to use a flight monitoring service such as Google Flights, Kayak, or SkyScanner to monitor changing prices.

Using a Travel Agent

Many pilgrims find it helpful to use a travel agent to book flights and other arrangements outside of the pilgrimage. Travel agents can be helpful in obtaining the best prices for travel, and are an advocate and resource in the event of travel disruptions.

Insurance

All pilgrims will be covered by Discipleship Ministriesâ?? group health and liability insurance through AIG International Services for the duration of the Wesley Pilgrimage in England. This insurance will cover you in case of illness or injury. Emergency medical treatment and, if needed, early transport home are provided through AIG International Services.

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Additional travel insurance is recommended for any travel abroad, including the Wesley Pilgrimage, and offers inexpensive peace of mind. Travel insurance often provides coverage for items that are not covered by Discipleship Ministriesâ?? group policy such as:

- Reimbursement for prepaid, non-refundable expenses in the event that you have to cancel or cut your trip short due to illness, family emergency, etc.
- Coverage for meals, lodging, etc. in the event of flight delays or cancellations
- Coverage for lost, stolen, or damaged baggage
- Reimbursement for items purchased if bags are lost or delayed
- Medical and other coverage before or after the pilgrimage

If using a travel agent, they can help you decide what will work best for you. Many travel credit cards also offer some level of travel insurance, so you may wish to evaluate that coverage as well.

Date
2026/11/11