

CANHIST
15 DAY TOUR TO ENGLAND AND FRANCE
OCTOBER 12 – 26, 2024
 (ET #511-24)

Revised Preliminary Itinerary – January 22, 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 3 months beyond your return date. 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 – Saturday, October 12 IN FLIGHT

M

- 8:00pm - meet your **tour manager** at Pearson International Airport and **check in with Air Transat** for your overnight flight (groups are to check in 4 hours prior to flight time)
- 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.
- 11:50pm - **depart on TS 206 for Manchester, England**
- **meals** served at the discretion of the airline

Day 2 – Sunday, October 13 HEXHAM, UK M/D

- **breakfast** on board
- 11:40am - arrive at Manchester Airport – clear customs/ immigration and collect your luggage
- make your way to where the coach is waiting for you
- 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)
- 12:30pm - board your awaiting **coach** and transfer to **Hexham** – a rest stop will be made along the way (approx. 3 hour drive)
- 4:00pm - **check in at the Twice Brewed Inn or a 4-night stay**

- time to freshen up before dinner
- 6:00pm - **group dinner** where you will be joined by **Anna from Discover Lakeland** who will be your guide for the next 3 and a half days
- 8:00pm - board the coach and return to the Twice Brewed Inn
- settle in for the night after 2 long days

Day 3 – Monday, October 14 HEXHAM

B/pL

- 8:00am - **breakfast** included at the hotel
- pick up your **packed lunches** before leaving the hotel
- 9:00am - Anna will meet you at Twice Brewed Inn – board the coach and transfer to Lanercost
[Day 1 - Lanercost to Gilsland.pdf](#) click for map – the solid blue line is the coach route and the dotted line is the walking route
- 9:30am - arrive **Lanercost Priory** - there is still much to see in this best-preserved of Cumbrian monasteries. The east end of the noble 13th-century church survives to its full height, housing within its dramatic triple tier of arches some fine monuments.
- 10:00am - enjoy a tour of the priory buildings – visit the cloisters, undercroft of refectory, and the chancel and its elaborately carved tombs
- 11:00am - board the coach and continue to **Banks Turret**
- 11:15am - Anna will give you an introduction to Hadrian’s Wall – who built it and why, structures along and across it, who manned it and how it operated (coach departs to pick up at Gilsland)
- 11:45am - Begin the 2 mile walk east towards Birdoswald, stopping at **Pike Hill Signal Tower, Turret 51B, Turret 51A** and at **Wall Bowers** – this is an easy gentle walk
- 1:15pm - a stop will be made at **Birdoswald** to enjoy your **packed lunch**
- 2:00pm - enjoy a **tour of the fort** – visit the gateways, granaries, drill hall, evidence of post-Roman occupation (introduce Border Reivers and need for defence)
- 2:45pm - continue the walk east along a fine section of Hadrian’s Wall (1 mile), encountering 2 phalluses and a centurial stone built into the wall, ending at **MC 49** where the turf and stone walls reconverge
- 3:00pm - descend to the Roman bridge at **Willowford** (this is a steep descent to the river on loose gravel and walking poles are recommended) - get an overview of 3 Roman bridges, why the first one failed, and aspects of Roman engineering
- 3:30pm - continue walk along HW to **Gilsland** passing two more turrets and noting narrow Wall on broad foundation
- 4:00pm - arrive Gilsland for a break at House of Meg
- 4:45pm - board the coach and return to the Twice Brewed Inn
- purchase dinner at Twice Brewed Inn
- perhaps do some stargazing tonight (optional – price to be advised)

Day 4 – Tuesday, October 15 HEXHAM

B/pL

- 8:30am - **breakfast** included at the hotel
- pick up your **packed lunches** before leaving the hotel
- [Day 2 -Steel Rigg to Housesteads.pdf](#) click for map - the dotted line is the walking route / the pink dotted line is the easier route to follow
- Note: For those who prefer not to walk today, Neil will travel with you to the city of Carlisle where you will explore on your own.
- 9:30am - travel by coach to **Carvoran Roman Army Museum**
- Anna will meet you at the museum – you will tour the site and take in the 20-min **Edge of Empire 3D film**
- 11:00am - travel by coach back to **The Sill**

- 11:30am - begin your walk along the **craggs**, a highly scenic section of Hadrian's Wall (2.5 miles) (Travellers who would prefer to walk along the Roman Military Road will find an easier more gentle route – this will be escorted by one of the group leaders.)
- a stop will be made to enjoy your **packed lunch**
- stop at **Sycamore Gap** to pay your respects to the felled tree
- 2:00pm - arrive at **Housesteads Fort** to look around the small museum and have a break
- 2:45pm - enjoy a **tour of the fort**
- 4:00pm - return to the Twice Brewed Inn
- perhaps dinner tonight in Wark or Haltwhistle

Day 5 – Wednesday, October 16 HEXHAM

B/pL

- 8:30am - **breakfast** included at the hotel
- pick up your **packed lunches** before leaving the hotel
- [Day 3 - Brocolitia to Chesters.pdf](#) click for map - the solid blue line is the coach route and the dotted line is the walking route
- Note: For those who prefer not to walk today, you will visit the Corbridge Roman Village this morning and then re-join the group at Chesters Fort.
- 9:30am - Anna will meet you at the Twice Brewed Inn - board the coach and travel to **Brocolitia** where you will view the **Mithraic Temple** and site of **Coventina's Well**
- 10:15am - from here you will walk to **Limestone Corner** to see where the Romans abandoned the attempt to dig out the North Ditch (this is an easy gentle walk)
- 10:45am - continue the walk eastwards with expansive views to the north, and remnants of Hadrian's Wall visible
- 11:00am - arrive at **Black Carts Turret**
- 11:15am - Continue past MC 29 to **Tower Tye** where the coach will be waiting to transport you to Chesters Fort/Clayton Museum
- 11:30am - enjoy a **tour of Chesters Fort** - Built almost 2000 years ago to house a Roman army garrison guarding the nearby bridge across the River Tyne - Chesters Roman Fort is the most complete Roman cavalry fort in Britain
- 12:30pm - enjoy your **packed lunch**
- 1:30pm - visit the **Clayton Museum**
- 2:15pm - board the coach and travel to **Corbridge**
- 2:30pm - enjoy some free time in this attractive village – be sure to visit St. Andrew's church where in the nave you can see a full-height Roman gateway arch supporting the tower
- 4:30pm - return to Twice Brewed Inn
- dinner and the evening at leisure

Day 6 – Thursday, October 17 to YORK

B/pL/D

- 8:00am - **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out
- 9:30am - pick up your **packed lunch** - board the coach and depart for **Vindolanda**
- visit the **Vindolanda Fort and Museum** - Although first built by the Roman army before Hadrian's Wall, Vindolanda became an important construction and garrison base for the Wall, a Hadrian's Wall fort in its own right. During this time Vindolanda was demolished and completely re-built no fewer than nine times. Each re-build, each community, leaving their own distinctive mark on the landscape and archaeology of the site.
- time to **enjoy your packed lunch**
- 1:30pm - early afternoon board the coach and travel to York (approx. 2 hrs & 30 min)
- 4:00pm - **check in at the Park Inn by Radisson for a 2-night stay**
- **group dinner** at the hotel or a nearby restaurant
- the remainder of the evening is at leisure

Day 7 – Friday, October 18 YORK

B

- **breakfast** included at the hotel
- this morning enjoy a **guided walking tour in York**
- **visit Yorkminster**
- remainder of the day is at leisure to explore as you wish

Day 8 – Saturday, October 19 overnight ferry to ROTTERDAM, NL

B/D

- **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out
- 10:00am - board the coach and travel to the seaside town of **Whitby** (approx. 1.5 hrs)
- 11:30am - time to explore and purchase lunch – You might want to visit St. Mary’s Church, take a walk up to Whitby Abbey or visit the Whitby Museum with a collection of artifacts dating back to the Jurassic era. (admissions not included)
- 3:00pm - board the coach and travel to **Hull** (approx. 2.25 hrs)
- 5:30pm - check in for your **overnight trip to Rotterdam, The Netherlands**
- **dinner** included on the ferry
- 8:30pm - ferry departs
- settle into your cabins for the night

Day 9 – Sunday, October 20 to BAYEUX, FRANCE

B/D

- **breakfast** included on the ferry
- 9:00am - arrive Rotterdam and disembark
- board the coach and travel to **Bayeux, France** – a full day on the coach with rest stops along the way
- 7:00pm - arrive in Bayeux and **check in at the Hotel de Brunville for a 4-night stay**
- **group dinner** at a the hotel or a nearby restaurant

Day 10 – Monday, October 21 BAYEUX

B

- 8:00am - **breakfast** included at the hotel
- 9:00am - begin the day with a **guided walking tour of Bayeux**
- 11:00am - remainder of the day is a free day in Bayeux to relax and explore at leisure

Day 11 – Tuesday, October 22 BAYEUX

B

- 8:00am - **buffet breakfast** included at the hotel
- 9:15am - board your coach and depart Bayeux for **Courseulles-sur-Mer** site of the **Juno Beach Centre** – Canada’s Second World War museum and cultural centre which pays homage to the 45,000 Canadians who lost their lives during the War, 5,500 of which were killed during the Battle of Normandy (359 on D-Day alone)
- 10:00am - enjoy a **guided tour of the beach & bunkers** with a Canadian Juno Beach Centre guide
- 12:15pm - board the coach and transfer into Courseulles-sur-Mer to purchase lunch (Hotel de Paris or other restaurant of your choice)
- 2:15pm - board the coach and continue your journey to **Bernieres-sur-Mer**
- 2:30pm - arrive at **Canada House** (formerly Queen’s Own Rifles House) which is one of the most iconic buildings in Canadian military history. It was one of the first houses liberated by Canadian soldiers on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and has since become a familiar historic landmark, standing in the backdrop of the many black-and-white photographs showing troops landing on the sands of this village in Normandy. Around the house, more than 100 Canadian soldiers were killed or wounded in the first minutes of the invasion (tentative to operating schedule)
- stop at **Beny-Sur-Mer** to visit the **Canadian War Cemetery**
- a stop will be made at **Abbaye d’Ardennes – Canadian War Memorial** where 20 Canadians were executed

- 5:30pm - estimated arrival back at the Hotel de Brunville
- dinner on your own and the evening at leisure

Day 12 – Wednesday, October 23 BAYEUX

B

- 8:00am - **breakfast** included at the hotel
- 9:00am - board the coach and depart for **Rouen** (approx. 2 hrs)
- 11:00am - on arrival **meet your guide for a city tour**
- 1:00pm - time to purchase lunch and spend the afternoon exploring at leisure
- purchase dinner at a restaurant of your choice
- 7:00pm - board the coach and return to Bayeux
- 9:00pm - arrive back at the hotel
- an option for today will be a guided hike in the Calvados region or a trip to Mont St. Michele (details to follow)

Day 13 – Thursday, October 24 to PARIS

B

- 7:45am - **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out
- 9:00am - board the coach and depart for **Giverny** (approx. 2 hrs)
- 11:00am - **visit the home and splendid gardens of Claude Monet**
- purchase lunch in Giverny
- 2:00pm - board the coach and continue to **Paris** (approx. 1.5 hs with extra time for traffic)
- 4:30pm - on arrival **check in at the Hotel Andre Latin for a 2-night stay**
- explore the Latin Quarter and purchase dinner at a restaurant of your choice

Day 14 – Friday, October 25 PARIS

B/D

- 8:00am - **breakfast** included at the hotel
- 9:00am - this morning enjoy a **guided coach tour of Paris**
- the afternoon is free to explore as you wish
- optional tour to Versailles will be offered this afternoon
- 7:00pm - **farewell group dinner**

Day 15 – Saturday, October 26 HOME

B/M/S

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>

- 6:30am - **breakfast** included at the hotel followed by check out
- 7:30am - board the coach and depart for the airport
- 8:30am - arrive at **Charles de Gaulle Airport** to **check in with Air Transat** for your flight (groups are to check in 4 hours prior)
- 12:20pm - **depart on TS 189 to Toronto, ON**
- **meals** served at the discretion of the airline
- 2:45pm - arrive Pearson International Airport
- clear customs and claim your luggage
- Welcome home!

**B - Breakfast / pB – Packed Breakfast / L – Lunch / pL – Packed Lunch / D - Dinner /
M – Airline Meal / S – Snack - denote meals included in tour cost**

Itinerary is tentative and subject to final confirmation

CanHist & Ellison Travel & Tours are committed to making our walking tours as accessible as possible to as many age & mobility groups. As such, each day on the 'Northumbria to Normandy' itinerary, our tour leaders will offer gentler touring alternatives to the planned hikes, for any customer who wishes to downsize their ambition for the day. These might include: easier walking routes / alternative (but just as interesting) activities or optional excursions using public transit. Whatever the case, our tour leaders will have your needs in mind each day.

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/>