Oxford • English Countryside • Cotswolds

Featuring
Downton Abbey • Blenheim Palace
Guest Speaker Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill
July 6 to 14, 2016
Dear Alabama Traveler:

For many, the unspoilt nature of England, Shakespeare’s “blessed plot,” lies in the ways of town and country life practiced for centuries on this storied island’s idyllic university towns, pastoral villages and picturesque countryside sides. Experience the time-honored quest for knowledge and the tradition-rich passage as played out in the hallowed classrooms, dining halls and quadrangles of Oxford University. Learn more about how the legacy of days gone by transcends time and forms the roots of contemporary country life as you interact with village residents. Meet Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, cousin to Sir Winston Churchill, when calling on their family’s stunning Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Uncover the deep history behind the authentic Victorian manor house now known as “Downton Abbey.” Savor the extraordinary experience of traveling in a small, merry group to the university town of Oxford and through the Cotswold region, town and country juxtaposed, discovering the great heritage and character of England’s historic academic centers, great country manor houses and enchanting villages.

Explore the age-old traditions of Oxford and become more familiar with the lives of great authors and icons of English history who were educated here or hailed from the surrounding region. Admire the picture-perfect scenery of thatched cottages, flower gardens and gentle streams, framed by the bucolic Cotswold landscape and dotted with haunting ruins and spectacular medieval churches built from the wealth of the wool trade. Hear about contemporary life from the local ladies and gents during the exclusive TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE FORUM®. Experience this most quintessentially English culture and region while staying in a historic, Five-Star hotel ideally located in the heart of a medieval city, and a deluxe, typically English hotel in the center of a quaint country village.

This comprehensive, one-of-a-kind, limited, small group travel program is the best way to experience the charm and beauty of English town and country life. It is an exceptional value and travel at the perfect pace. So don’t delay—this popular program sells out quickly. We encourage you to join fellow alumni and friends and make your reservation today while Early Booking Savings and space are available.

Sincerely,

Ashley Olive
Alumni Tour Coordinator
University of Alabama
National Alumni Association

Cover: Stroll through Oxford, the “city of dreaming spires” and see the impressive architecture of this world-famous university town.

Walk among quaint row houses in the tranquil Cotswold village of Burford.
Experience firsthand the storied destinations and steadfast traditions that have shaped English character for centuries in Oxford, the medieval town that serves as a beacon of academia, and in the quintessentially English villages of the Cotswolds spread across the seemingly endless verdant shires of England—Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire—where bucolic country life unfolds amongst charming villages, lush rolling vales and sylvan woodlands. Learn about the rhythms of daily life and the generations-old customs and ceremonies of the hallowed universities in England’s towns, chinwag with local village residents and chat with the ladies, chaps, nobles and gentry in the grand estates of the countryside. Enjoy an enriching and intimate small group travel experience like no other, including all excursions, deluxe accommodations and specially arranged meals—an excellent value. This exclusive program is one of the popular TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® series that immerses you in a comprehensive and intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS are specially arranged and only available on this custom-designed itinerary:

♦ Enjoy an authentic experience in historic English university towns and quaint, traditional Cotswold villages and countrysides.

♦ Immerse yourself in a carefully planned, balanced itinerary of all included, guided historical and cultural excursions and time on your own to partake in local daily rituals while sipping afternoon tea, watching punting boats glide along the River Thames or having a Pimm’s cup in a local pub.

♦ Meet Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, Sir Winston Churchill’s cousin and the brother of the 11th Duke of Marlborough, who will host your specially arranged visit to Blenheim Palace, with a private lunch in the stately Marlborough Room.

♦ Visit “Downton Abbey,” the splendid, authentic Victorian Highclere Castle, to explore the estate’s magnificent period state rooms, special Egyptian exhibition and extensive gardens; and the village of Bampton, a filming site for PBS’s popular MASTERPIECE series.

♦ Experience the venerable tradition of Formal Hall dining during the exclusive and private Farewell Dinner in one of Oxford University’s grand college dining halls.

♦ Hear it from the Experts! A local guest lecturer will discuss the glories, trials and expectations of student life at Oxford University. Experienced, accredited local guides will accompany you throughout the program and share their expertise of historical, cultural and contemporary England.

♦ Engage locals during the TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE FORUM®, where residents share their stories and discuss contemporary life in the Cotswolds.
Simply beautiful, Broadway was first settled by the Romans in Worcestershire and is often referred to as the “Jewel of the Cotswolds.” The home of William Morris, leader of the English Arts and Crafts Movement whose devotees settled throughout the Cotswolds, Broadway was once a major stage coach stop brimming with inns and public houses and today beckons travelers with its distinct authenticity and tranquility.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** During the exclusive **TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE FORUM**®, local residents will discuss life in the Cotswolds.

**Cotswold Villages**

The gentle, rolling hillsides, thatched-roof cottages and country paths found in the charming Cotswold villages are something from the pages of a time-worn, pastoral storybook. These scenic villages span the boundaries of multiple Old English shires—counties established during the Norman Conquest of England in 1066.

One of the Cotswolds’ best known villages, Stow-on-the-Wold is a delightful market town in Gloucestershire, located along Fosse Way, the first great Roman road in England. It was designed around its market square during the height of the English wool industry, where as Daniel Dafoe told it, up to 20,000 sheep a day were funneled to market along narrow-walled avenues, called tunes.
Nestled inside the scenic Vale of Evesham, medieval Chipping Campden was built on the “white gold” wealth of the wool merchants, who left behind the soaring 15th-century Gothic tower of the Church of St. James and honey-colored wool-tycoon manors, including the 14th-century Grevel House, the oldest house in Chipping Campden. Townspeople carry on along the village’s picturesque, arcaded High Street, which retains its old English character. The beautiful, rural Warwickshire countryside is home to Stratford-upon-Avon, located on the banks of the River Avon. The birthplace of poet and playwright William Shakespeare and the home of the Holy Trinity Church, it is one of the most important cultural and historic locations in England. Wandering through Stratford-upon-Avon is like taking a step back in time to Olde England, with its finely preserved 16th-century store fronts and half-timbered farm houses. The layout of the town has remained unchanged since it was founded as a bustling market town in A.D. 1200.

The magnificent Church of St. John the Baptist is tucked away at the bottom of Burford’s main road in Oxfordshire. Inside, a monument to Henry VIII’s surgeon-barber is said to contain the first depictions of native Americans in England. CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Visit the well-preserved childhood cottage home and gardens of Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare’s wife.

Blenheim Palace
Sir Winston Churchill remarked that he had made two of the most important decisions of his life at Blenheim Palace—to be born and to marry. He continued, in that dry wit of his, to say he was “content with the decision I took on both occasions.” Built in the 18th century by another national hero, Sir John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, with funds donated by a grateful Queen Anne after his victory at the Battle of Blenheim, this stunning Baroque masterpiece today is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of England’s most treasured stately country houses. The estate’s 2200-acre parkland and gardens were designed by the legendary English landscape architect “Capability” Brown. CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: By special arrangement, meet Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, who will give our group a private and personal introduction to his family home before an exclusive luncheon in the Marlborough Room.

Highclere Castle—“Downton Abbey”
The authentic Highclere Castle, featured as the Crawley family’s estate in the acclaimed international PBS MASTERPIECE television series Downton Abbey, is set in an Edwardian-period property among 1000 acres of spectacular parklands. It was built as a Victorian country house upon the foundation of a medieval palace owned for nearly 900 years by the Bishops of Winchester. The richly decorated state rooms and bedrooms have been restored with authentic elements including embossed Spanish leather wall coverings, 15th-century Italian embroideries, 18th-century silk bed hangings and 400 years’ worth of European and English paintings and furniture, including a mahogany desk and chair that once belonged to Napoleon.

Scenes from Downton Abbey are also filmed in Bampton, one of the oldest villages in England. First established during the Iron Age, with later markings as the site of an extensive unwalled Roman settlement, the historic town is included in William the Conqueror’s Domesday Book of 11th-century shires and landholders. CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: Discover the authentic history of one of the great manor houses of England, where the Carnarvon family has lived since 1679. Explore the exquisite staterooms and bedrooms, walk the lush grounds and see the Egyptian antiquities on exhibit that celebrate the fifth Earl of Carnarvon’s love of Egyptology. The combined efforts of the benefactor Earl of Carnarvon and archaeologist...
Howard Carter led to the discovery and excavation of Egyptian King Tutankhamun’s tomb in 1922.

**Oxford**

Affectionately named the “city of dreaming spires” by adoring poets, Oxford is home to England’s most venerated university which counts Sir Thomas More, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Margaret Thatcher among its illustrious alumni. Steeped in eight centuries of history and erudition, Oxford continues to nurture great scholars while blending its revered traditions with cutting-edge research and instruction provided by many of the world’s brightest minds.

Here, the exclusive customs of a Formal Hall dinner require proper attire, or college gowns, and are still honored with a three-course meal and waiter service. Magnificent cobblestone squares, medieval alleyways and Renaissance quadrangles fill the grounds of the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:** Visit the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, founded in 1683 as the world’s first university museum; enjoy an exclusive lecture about student life at Oxford; and join your traveling companions for a specially arranged, exclusive and private Farewell Dinner in one of the college’s hallowed dining halls.

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**Cambridge** Pre-Program Option

Experience the iconic and prestigious British university town while walking in the pristine quad and along the sculpture-lined corridors of Cambridge. Visit the famed King’s College Chapel and tour Bletchley Park, the secret World War II intelligence site where the British cracked the German codes and ciphers. Accommodations for three nights are in the heart of the city in the comfortable **CAMBRIDGE CITY HOTEL**.

**Regal London** Post-Program Option

Experience stately London, where living history makes each successive visit more enjoyable than the last. Tour the fascinating Cabinet War Rooms in the Churchill Museum and visit the Royal Mews of Buckingham Palace, where history, tradition and modernity meet. Enjoy a tour of the British Museum and explore its vast, world-famous collection of art and artifacts, and visit the magnificent Palace of Westminster—a UNESCO World Heritage site—for a guided tour through the Houses of Parliament. Accommodations for three nights are in the Five-Star **ATHENAEUM HOTEL**, located just off of famous Park Lane and steps away from leafy Hyde Park.

The Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
Included Features
Meet Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, noted speaker and host at his ancestral home, Blenheim Palace.

In Broadway, England
◆ Three nights in the charming, centrally located, deluxe Lygon Arms Hotel.
◆ Breakfast each day and one dinner in the hotel.

In Oxford
◆ Four nights in the Five-Star Macdonald Randolph Hotel, located in the heart of Oxford.
◆ Breakfast each day in the hotel.

Exclusive Excursions Led by Accredited Local Expert Guides
◆ Walking tour of the legendary university town of Oxford.
◆ Tour of the typical and charming Cotswold villages of Broadway, Stow-on-the-Wold, Chipping Campden, Stratford-upon-Avon, Burford, Bibury and Cirencester.
◆ Visit to Sir Winston Churchill’s grave in Bladon.

Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
◆ Exclusive meeting in Blenheim Palace with Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, who offers a unique perspective on his ancestral home and the life of Sir Winston Churchill.
◆ Specially arranged private luncheon in Blenheim Palace’s Marlborough Room.
◆ Exclusive and private Farewell Dinner in one of Oxford University’s storied college dining halls.
◆ Specially arranged Town & Country Life Forum® of local residents who will share their stories and discuss contemporary life in the Cotswolds.
◆ Unique look at the English countryside’s architecture, cultural traditions and timeless way of life during visits to historic Cotswold villages, which lie across Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.
◆ Visit the well-preserved childhood country cottage and gardens of Anne Hathaway, William Shakespeare’s wife.
◆ Specially arranged visit to authentic Highclere Castle, also known as “Downton Abbey,” and the village of Bampton featured in PBS Masterpiece’s Downton Abbey.
◆ Expert lecture on Oxford’s colleges and student life with time to explore the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, the earliest established museum in England.

Enhanced Travel Services
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, led by accredited, local expert guides.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotels.
◆ The services of an experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director throughout the program.
◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, scion of the house of Marlborough and the American Vanderbilt family, is a noted speaker and advocate for the preservation of UNESCO World Heritage-designated Blenheim Palace, his ancestral home and the birthplace of his cousin Sir Winston Churchill. Lord Charles was born in wartime London and spent many of his formative years at Blenheim. His brother, the 11th Duke of Marlborough, dedicated his life to preserving the palace for future generations. Lord Charles was educated at Eton College and later attended Vanderbilt University, endowed by his third great-grandfather, the railroad magnate Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Lord Charles personally greets you as a privileged guest before our privately guided tour through the Baroque grandeur of this splendid palace. During your special visit, learn more about the estate’s storied past and marvel at the priceless furnishings and artifacts. Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the life of one of history’s greatest figures, Sir Winston Churchill. Admire the double-vaulted ceilings and chandeliers in the elegant Marlborough Room during a private lunch. Outdoors, enjoy the tranquil beauty of Blenheim’s 2200-acre park—designed by the noted English landscape architect, “Capability” Brown—featuring the world’s second largest symbolic hedge maze and one of Britain’s most exquisite formal gardens. Afterwards, continue to the nearby village of Bladon where Sir Winston Churchill lies buried in a modest grave alongside his beloved wife.

In the company of Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill, see the splendor and learn more about the rich history of Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
LAND TARIFF

Early Booking Price through January 15, 2016

Regular Price after January 15, 2016

Per person, based on double occupancy

$3995

$4295

◆ Singles are available upon request for an additional $1100.

◆ Taxes are an additional $295 per person and are subject to change.

Highclere Castle, a spectacular Victorian family home, is the filming site for PBS MASTERPIECE’s popular Downton Abbey television series.

OXFORD • ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE • COTSWOLDS RESERVATION FORM

Send to:
Attn: Ashley Olive
Alabama Alumni Association
P.O. Box 861928
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0017
Phone: (205) 348-1547
Fax: (205) 348-5958
Email: aolive@alumni.ua.edu

For more information, please call Gohagan & Company at (800) 922-3088.

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double bed).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

Cambridge Pre-Program Option
- Double at $1295 per person.
- Single at $1895 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Regal London Post-Program Option
- Double at $1495 per person.
- Single at $2195 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I/We want you to book my/our air from (fill in departure city) to and from London, England, at additional cost to be advised.‡

- Economy Class
- Business Class
- First Class

‡ Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Cambridge Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Regal London Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $ as deposit.

Make checks payable to 2016 Town & Country Life® Oxford • English Countryside • Cotswolds.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $ to:

- Visa
- MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by April 1, 2016.

Send to:
Attn: Ashley Olive
Alabama Alumni Association
P.O. Box 861928
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0017
Phone: (205) 348-1547
Fax: (205) 348-5958
Email: aolive@alumni.ua.edu

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- Economy Class
- Business Class
- First Class

‡ Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
RESERVATIONS: Without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs (wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: LUGGAGE:

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, 60% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 44 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with trip cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage.

We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase your price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include a Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

Registration: CST#: 203186-8, WST#: 601 767 666, DRE#: TA 0905.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and a non-minor physical or medical condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair or van), or the presence of a medical problem which may require you to seek medical attention or physical assistance (for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or suppliers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As such, we cannot be held liable for acts or omissions, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities, any acts of war or civil unrest, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of public or private transportation, the loss of deposits on air tickets or hotel bookings, personal injury or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services which are not specifically mentioned in the “Included Features” section.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may be subject to change without prior notice. Gohagan is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged baggage. Luggage allowances are determined by each airline and are subject to change at any time. Luggage allowances are not increased for overnight stays. Gohagan is not responsible for any loss of luggage due to airline handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure.

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a non-transferable travel凭证 and with the exception of the “Included Features” section of the brochure; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure. Any change in itinerary, regardless of its cause, will be at the discretion of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible for any loss of luggage due to airline handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, 60% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 44 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

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