A Welsh Journey
Castles, Country Houses, and Collections of Wales
JUNE 13–21, 2016
Dear Member,

Wales is a captivating part of Britain not to be missed. Rich in history and culture and steeped in myth and legend, it is as much an experience as it is a place. Home to spectacularly preserved UNESCO World Heritage castles, ruined abbeys, historical mansions, beautiful gardens, and magnificent art, Wales is blessed with a fascinating architectural past and rich artistic heritage. The charming towns of Conwy and Beaumaris are havens of peace and tranquility, and the Italianate fantasy village of Portmeirion offers a unique architectural experience. Wales also boasts some of the most beautiful landscapes in all of Europe, with its heather-clad mountains, sparkling waterfalls, and wild coastline.

From Cardiff in south Wales to Llandudno in the northern part of the country, local experts will guide you through secret gardens, captivating castles, and vibrant local art scenes. This custom-designed tour offers firsthand insight into the preservation of Wales—its castles and estates, its history, and its art.

We hope you will join us on this Welsh journey.

Sincerely,

Aleksandra Matic
Associate Director of Member Travel

Art Institute Study Leader

Gregory Nosan is the Art Institute's editorial director. A graduate of Kenyon College, he holds a PhD from the University of Chicago and has taught in the Liberal Arts Department at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His scholarly interests center on art history, English literature, and landscape history. He has published on these subjects, lectured at the Art Institute on the gardens of Britain and the urban landscapes of Paris, and served as a popular study leader on Art Institute travel programs to destinations including Croatia, England, Italy, and Wales.

This travel program is specially designed for Art Institute members. For more information or to become a member, please phone the Member Travel Department at (312) 443-3115.
CUSTOM ITINERARY

Monday, June 13
Departure

Travel on independent flights to London.

Tuesday, June 14
London arrival; transfer to Cardiff

Arrive at London’s Heathrow International Airport and take a group transfer to Cardiff, the capital city of Wales. En route, visit Monmouthshire’s High Glanau Manor, one of the finest and best-preserved arts and crafts houses and gardens in Wales. Enjoy lunch with the owner as well as a tour of her home and garden. Continue to Cardiff and check into the Park Plaza Hotel. Set out on a walking tour of Cardiff’s historic treasures, and return to the hotel for a celebratory welcome dinner.

Park Plaza Hotel, Cardiff (lunch, dinner)

Wednesday, June 15
Cardiff Castle

After a morning at leisure in Cardiff, join the group for lunch at a local restaurant. Spend time exploring Cardiff Castle. Originally a Roman fort and subsequently a Norman castle, it was transformed in Victorian times by the wild extravagance of the Bute family into the fascinating structure seen today. End the afternoon with a private tour at the National Museum of Wales, including the famous Gwendoline and Margaret Davies Collection. The Davies sisters bequeathed 260 works to the museum in the mid-20th century, completely transforming its art collection in character, quality, and range. Optional attendance at a matinee or evening performance at the Wales Millennium Centre follows.

Park Plaza Hotel, Cardiff (breakfast, lunch)

Thursday, June 16
Hidden Splendors of Cardiff

Spend the morning in Cardiff Bay. Visit the Wales Millennium Centre, home to eight arts organizations including the world-renowned Welsh National Opera, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and the National Dance Company Wales. Discover the connection between an inscription on the exterior of the building and Wales’s industrial and literary heritage. Continue to the Senedd, the legislative center for the National Assembly, for a guided tour of this high-tech and sustainable building. After free time for an independent lunch, head 90 minutes north of Cardiff to Llangoed Hall, a magnificent country hotel located in the stunning Wye Valley. Upon check-in, explore the Edwardian country estate on your own, then join the group in the evening for dinner.

Llangoed Hall, Llyswen (breakfast, dinner)
Friday, June 17
The National Library in Aberystwyth

Depart early for northern Wales. En route, stop by the National Library in Aberystwyth for a private visit. The library has an excellent collection of Dylan Thomas’s work and a wealth of books, photographs, and manuscripts from Wales. Items not usually on display will be shown, including paintings by Welsh artist Kyffin Williams. Enjoy a light lunch at Ynyshir Hall, owned by an artist whose work has been exhibited widely in the U.K. and is found in private collections throughout Europe and the U.S. In the afternoon, visit the Museum of Modern Art, featuring works by leading local artists. Dinner at the hotel begins upon arrival.

The Quay Hotel and Spa, Deganwy (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Saturday, June 18
Portmeirion

In the morning, set out for Portmeirion, the “Italian” village on the Welsh coast. Its creator, architect and iconoclast Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, built the town piecemeal from 1925–1976, proving that it is possible to build beautiful, colorful housing that compliments the natural landscape. After lunch, continue to Blaenau Ffestiniog for a private viewing of the work of David Nash, a renowned international sculptor notable for his use of unseasoned wood. In the late afternoon, attend a rehearsal or performance of a local male choir.

The Quay Hotel and Spa, Deganwy (breakfast, lunch)

Sunday, June 19
Collections and Castles of Llandudno

Behind an impressive 1901 terracotta façade is the Mostyn Gallery, Wales’s leading gallery of contemporary art, where you’ll spend the morning. The building was significantly enlarged in 2010, with ultra-modern extensions skillfully integrated to create a stunning overall design. Its six galleries regularly feature exhibitions of the best contemporary art in Wales alongside items from all over the world. After independent time for lunch, visit Conwy Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the finest examples of late 13th- and early 14th-century military architecture in Europe. The castle and town walls were built by King Edward I during the conquest of Wales between 1283 and 1289 as part of his “iron ring.” Continue to the Bodelwyddan Castle, now home to the National Portrait Gallery. Take a tour of the museum, enjoying restoration stories and highlights of the collection, then move on to the Welsh art galleries for a curator-led tour of the exhibition.

The Quay Hotel and Spa, Deganwy (breakfast, dinner)
Monday, June 20
Bangor and the Isle of Anglesey

Hear from Professor Jerry Hunter, author of *Sons of Arthur, Children of Lincoln: Welsh Writing from the American Civil War* and a renowned Celtic scholar with international perspective—particularly on American-Welsh writing. After an independent lunch, travel across the famous Menai Strait to the Isle of Anglesey. Visit World Heritage Site Beaumaris Castle, featuring views of Snowdonia National Park. Finish the afternoon at local gallery Oriel Ynys Mon, Anglesey’s museum and arts center. The gallery contains a constantly changing rotation of special exhibitions as well as a permanent collection of work by Welsh landscape painter Sir Kyffin Williams, widely regarded as the defining artist of Wales in the 20th century. In the evening, join the group for a festive farewell dinner.

The Quay Hotel and Spa, Deganwy (breakfast, dinner)

Tuesday, June 21
Departure

Take a group transfer to the Manchester International Airport for independent return flights back to the United States.

(Breakfast)

For additional information, call the Art Institute’s Member Travel Department at (312) 443-3115 or ISDI at (202) 244-1448.
PROGRAM COSTS AND INCLUSIONS

Tour Cost:

Land Only: $5,495

Single Supplement: $1,195

Tour price is per person based on double occupancy and a minimum of 15 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of August 2015 and are subject to change.

DATES:

JUNE 13–21, 2016

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

MODERATE

CITY WALKING TOURS

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT:

A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant is required to guarantee participation in the program. This deposit may be paid by check or by Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on March 3, 2016 by check only to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrants will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis with payment in full by check only.

Mail application to:
International Seminar Design, Inc.
4115 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 101
Washington, DC 20016

FLIGHTS:

Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements into London, England and out of Manchester, England.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, the Art Institute of Chicago, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity which may be caused by any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and the Art Institute of Chicago reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date.

Cancellations and Refunds:

All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI and are subject to a nonrefundable administrative fee of $500 per person. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before March 3, 2016: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between March 4 and April 28, 2016: 50 percent of tour cost per person. Cancellations received on or after April 29, 2016: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not accepted. The tour cost is non-transferable. If ISDI or the Art Institute of Chicago cancels the tour, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments. A package of cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended.

Waiver and Release

In order to participate in this travel program, you will be required to complete an Art Institute of Chicago Waiver and Release form that will be provided to you prior to departure.

Travel Insurance:

All tour participants are strongly encouraged to purchase travel insurance, regardless of present good health. Should one need to cancel participation in this travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation terms outlined above. Purchasing travel insurance is the best way to protect your financial investment in the trip against unexpected complications. A travel insurance brochure will be sent upon receipt of registration and deposit.

Tour Price Inclusions:

7 nights as outlined in the itinerary; breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 5 dinners, wine at welcome and farewell dinners; services of an ISDI Tour Manager, local guides, and an Art Institute Study Leader; entrance to all visits on itinerary; land transportation by private coach; 1 group transfer from London airport upon arrival and to Manchester airport upon departure; gratuities to local guides and drivers.

Tour Price Exclusions:

Airfare, airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; individual transfers to and from the airport for individuals not using the group transfers; excursions, activities, or meals marked optional on the itinerary; personal items; personal services; travel extensions; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

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JUNE 13–21, 2016

Complete and return to:
International Seminar Design, Inc.
4115 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 101
Washington, DC 20016
Fax: (202) 244-1808 / email: info@isditravel.com

Name (as listed on passport)  Birth date

Name (as listed on passport)  Birth date

Address

City  State  Zip code

Daytime phone / Cell phone

E-mail address

$  

Number of persons  Amount enclosed

Deposit by:  □ VISA or MASTERCARD  □ Check (payable to ISDI)

Card number  Expiration date (mm/yy)  Billing zip code (if different from above)

ROOMING OPTIONS (please select)

□ Double occupancy  □ I would like a roommate but will pay the price of the single supplement if one cannot be found.

□ (We prefer separate beds)  □ I will share a room with

□ Single supplement ($1,195)

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless the Art Institute of Chicago and International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN  Registration invalid without signature

Signature  Date

Signature  Date