

IIMC Study Abroad Program

Oct. 17 – 25, 2009

Itinerary of Services

<u>DAY</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>OVERNIGHT</u>
FRIDAY 16th October	Travel day. Most will leave home to arrive in Manchester, England on Saturday morning.	None
SATURDAY 17 th October	<p>Individual arrival to hotel. Attendees will find own transportation to hotel.</p> <p>Famous for its proud industrial heritage, high profile music scene, world class football, prestigious theatres, historic architecture and influential artistic community, <u>Manchester</u> has entered the new millennium with vitality and confidence.</p> <p>Once everyone has checked into the hotel and settled in, we will meet each other for Dinner at the hotel this evening.</p>	Jarvis Piccadilly Htl
SUNDAY 18th October	<p>Executive tour coach service commences today.</p> <p>We depart Manchester and head for Snowdonia in North Wales.</p> <p>We enjoy a trip on the Snowdonia Mountain Railway. At Llanberis board the cogwheel mountain railway destined for the <u>summit of Mount Snowdon</u>, the highest mountain in Britain outside Scotland. A spectacular panorama greets us at the summit, with views over the Irish Sea, Cardigan Bay and the other peaks of Snowdonia.</p> <p>Travel up the Snowdon Mountain Railway with Katherine Owen (Caernarfon Royal Town Clerk), for a summit meeting with National Park wardens on Ecology & Tourism titled “The difficult balance in maintaining the number of tourists during challenging economic times yet conserving the national park and its wild life”.</p> <p>A 'Welcome reception' with SLCC representatives including: Nick Randle, CEO; Sam Shippen Chairman; Alan Fairchild MBE, External Affairs Officer; Mike Page, Assistant Chief Executive, Member Services plus 3 Welsh clerks who are meeting the tour throughout Wales.</p> <p>Overnight at the Royal Ship Hotel, Dolgellau</p>	Dinner & Full Breakfast

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

MONDAY
19th October

Enjoy a full day excursion to Aberystwyth. Aberystwyth is Mid Wales' main seaside resort, an established university town and an important administrative centre at the heart of Cardigan Bay.

Visit National Library of Wales in company of **Jim Griffiths** (Aberystwyth Town Clerk) and meet senior library representatives to discuss the '[The preservation and selection of rare books](#)'. The National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth contains a mountain of knowledge about Wales and the world, with millions of books on every subject, thousands of manuscripts and archives, maps, pictures and photographs, films and music, and electronic information.

Visit the University of Aberystwyth and meet with **Marion Arnold** (who worked with the SLCC to develop the Welsh version of our induction course) & colleagues to discuss the Welsh Language '[What is the cultural support for this minority language](#)'

This evening, we will attend a [local community council meeting](#), Jim Griffiths to assist with selection.

Overnight at the Royal Ship Hotel, Dolgellau

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

TUESDAY
20th October

Depart for Cardiff this morning. Cardiff is the Capital City of Wales. Cardiff is a vibrant city with world class attractions, a thriving cultural scene, and a diverse mix of entertainment and restaurants. Meet Mark Galbraith, Llannelli Rural Community Council.

Enjoy a tour of the National Assembly for Wales with its unique landmark building. Afterwards it may also be possible to meet Assembly Members, subject to availability. On business days (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday), visitors are shown the Neuadd, Oriel, Committee gallery and Siambr gallery. Presentations focus on the sustainable features of the building as well as the workings of the Assembly and last about an hour. A tour does not automatically include seats for Plenary sessions or Committee meetings. Meet with an Assembly Minister to discuss '[Political devolution from Westminster and the developing cultural differences between England & Wales, also Royal connections with the Principality](#)'

Enjoy a visit to Cardiff Castle and its grounds where we will receive a guided tour of this magnificent building. Your guide will lead you through the gothic towers to discover the magnificent rooms, each with their own theme, with decorative murals, intricate stained glass, gilded ceilings and elaborate carvings.



Meeting with local Society Branch members and, possibly some miners, to discuss 'The emerging industries to replace mining and whether this heritage is remembered with sufficient dignity'

Overnight at the Holiday Inn Cardiff City Centre

Dinner & Full Breakfast

WEDNESDAY

21st October

Depart for Gloucester, where we visit the University. **Full afternoon at the University of Gloucestershire**, together with their Principal Lecturers **Elisabeth Skinner & James Derouanian** on 'The future of Local Government - the many challenges and opportunities'

After our visit and tour of the University we head for Cheltenham, via the Cotswolds.

Antique shops abound in the multitude of small villages scattered to the north of Bath, and this area, known as the Cotswolds, is widely recognised as the hub of the antiques trade in the heart of England. Today you will visit the pretty villages of Broadway, Burford, Stow on the Wold, and Moreton in Marsh, where you will have time to browse amidst the numerous shops and hunt out the bargains.

Cheltenham Spa, England's most complete Regency town, is conveniently less than a hundred miles from London and an ideal base for touring into the Cotswolds, Stratford upon Avon and Bath. Most of the town centre lies within a conservation area of outstanding national importance. Regency town houses, characterised by intricate ironwork balconies and painted stucco facades, line the historic Promenade, squares and terraces. With its award-winning gardens, impressive range of stylish shops and restaurants, and its festivals of horse racing, music and literature, Cheltenham has a cosmopolitan ambience to beguile the most jaded spirit.

After checking into our hotel, enjoy a walking tour through the best of Cheltenham's fine Regency architecture, parks and gardens. Take a walk through the magnificent floral displays in the former pleasure grounds of Cheltenham's famous spas. The town justifiably has the reputation of being the 'Garden Town of England'.

Overnight at the Mercure Queens hotel, Cheltenham

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

THURSDAY

22nd October

Depart Cheltenham and head for Blenheim Palace, and then onto Oxford itself. About 8 miles from Oxford is the small and picturesque



village of Woodstock, situated on the edge of the Cotswolds and here you will visit Britain's largest stately home, Blenheim Palace. Blenheim is the ancestral home of the Dukes of Marlborough and the birthplace of Winston Churchill. Designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and built between 1705-1722 the house has in its many state rooms a stunning collection of paintings, furniture, bronzes and tapestries. Outside the original gardens were designed by Queen Anne's gardener, Henry Wise, with later additions by Capability Brown including the creation of the lake.

Visit to Blenheim Palace to discuss '[The responsibility for looking after the Nation's heritage - funding in difficult financial times](#)' with an Asset Manager from the local County Council and key members from the Blenheim Palace management team.

Oxford is known as the city of dreaming spires as it has been home to the many colleges of the world famous university of Oxford for over 700 years! Over this time many of the world's most influential writers, statesmen and thinkers have passed through the university.

Tour Christ Church College Oxford, originally founded as Cardinal College by Cardinal Wolsey during the reign of Henry VIII. It is Oxford's largest and most magnificent college and incorporates England's smallest Cathedral, which is also the college chapel. Former members include many British Prime Ministers and Lewis Carroll who wrote Alice in Wonderland here. More recently the college has been used in the filming of the Harry Potter movies.



Visit to Christ Church College, Oxford and whilst there enjoy a political debate with members of the Students Union on '[International politics and free speech - how democratic are the United States and the United Kingdom?](#)'

Depart for Daventry and join delegates at the [SLCCs '35th National Conference](#).

FRIDAY
23rd October

Attend and participate in the educational sessions of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) National Conference in Staverton Park (Daventry).

SATURDAY
24th October

Attend and participate in the educational sessions of the SLCC Conference.

SUNDAY
25th October

A guide and motor coach provided for transfer from our Hotel to London Heathrow Airport.