

# *The Canterbury Tales Pilgrimage*

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME JOURNEY THAT TRACES THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHAUCER'S BELOVED PILGRIMS



**AN  
ACTIVE SCHOLAR  
SOJOURN**

JOIN NOTED CHAUCER SCHOLAR DAVID RAYBIN ON A SCENIC  
JOURNEY FROM LONDON TO CANTERBURY AS YOU REDISCOVER  
CHAUCER'S MOST CELEBRATED WORK

## TOUR DETAILS AT A GLANCE

### 2017 DEPARTURE

July 16—23, 2017

### PRICE

\$2,799/person (double occupancy)

\$3,199/person (single occupancy)

### TOUR BEGINS

London, England

### TOUR CONCLUDES

Canterbury, England

### OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,395/person\*

\*See page 10

### TO REGISTER

Call us at **1-800-419-3443** or  
Use the [online registration form](#)

[CLICK HERE TO  
REGISTER ONLINE](#)

### ABOUT ACTIVE SCHOLAR SOJOURNS

These exhilarating tours combine a love of learning with physical adventure. From hiking the English Lake District while exploring the Romantic Poets to sailing the Wine-Dark Sea while enjoying Homer's epics, Active Scholar Sojourns are designed to keep participants both mentally engaged and physically challenged.



## *"To Canterbury they wende..."*

### JOURNEY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHAUCER'S BELOVED PILGRIMS

Many of us fondly recall our first reading of Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*. Indeed it is hard to forget the colorful stories written in catchy Middle-English verse and told by a colorful group of pilgrims as they journey from London to the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket in Canterbury. But how many have considered why, beyond being a collection of compelling stories, this work continues to resonate over the centuries? And, although Chaucer's pilgrims are fictional, was it merely absolution alone that compelled throngs of actual pilgrims like them to make the journey to Canterbury?

Join us to consider these questions as we explore Chaucer's life and rediscover his greatest work while making our own pilgrimage by closely following the ancient route to Canterbury that many devout faithful would have taken during the Middle Ages.

Along the way, we all take part in retelling the tales while beloved literature Professor David Raybin helps us fully rediscover the richness of the work and its enduring resonance. Together we encounter beautiful scenery, discover medieval artifacts, and explore ancient monuments that help us to further appreciate Chaucer's medieval England—a country in the midst of the Hundred Years' War, engrossed with the complexities of social and religious maneuvering, and witnessing its separation from Europe and burgeoning national identity taking hold.

# Day-to-Day Tour Summary

**A note about our pilgrimage:** As an active sojourn, this tour is designed with a fair amount of physical activity in mind, mainly walking. As we make our way from London to Canterbury, each day will offer participants the opportunity to walk from 6 to 8 miles over fairly even, moderate terrain through the beautiful English countryside. But vehicular support is available for those who are not up to walking the entire distance. A vehicle will transport luggage while following the group each day and will be ready to collect any participants who choose not to continue walking. Thus, this program is appropriate for just about anyone of any skill or fitness level who wishes to join.

## DAY 1 ARRIVE IN LONDON

You arrive in London today and transfer to the London Bridge Hotel in the vibrant Southwark Borough of London. You are greeted by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who assists you with checking in. Your time is free to relax or explore until our welcome reception this evening where you meet fellow sojourn members and our tour leader, David Raybin. Afterward, you enjoy the opening dinner and keynote address at a historic restaurant nearby. An after-dinner walking tour to some of the most charming pubs along the Thames River is offered for those who wish to join. [R|D]

## DAY 2 LONDON

Following breakfast and our briefing this morning, we take on a unique challenge: we attempt to recreate the London of Chaucer's day. Although the bustling city around us is a 21st-century marvel, we seek to uncover its few remaining 14th-century artifacts. We explore its hidden nooks and crannies, traipse its back alleys, and visit its most historic structures. Our goal is to discover a side of this city that will provide us a fleeting glimpse of exactly what Chaucer's world was like. Our endeavor takes us to some of the most unique and atmospheric corners of this historic city as we attempt to immerse ourselves in the world of his pilgrims. The highlight of our day is a special tour guided by a local Chaucer expert which has us walking in the very foot-



Rochester Castle's mighty stone keep

## ITINERARY OVERVIEW

### DAY 1: SUNDAY

July 16

Tour begins in London

### DAY 2: MONDAY

July 17

London

### DAY 3: TUESDAY

July 18

London - Greenwich - Rochester

### DAY 4: WEDNESDAY

July 19

Rochester—Thurnham

### DAY 5: THURSDAY

July 20

Thurnham - Leeds Castle - Wye

### DAY 6: FRIDAY

July 21

Wye - Ospringe - Faversham -  
Canterbury

### DAY 7: SATURDAY

July 22

Canterbury

### DAY 8: SUNDAY

July 23

Tour concludes in Canterbury



Beautiful Leeds Castle is one of our stops in the Kent Downs

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Our sojourn leader, Professor David Raybin, is the editor of *The Chaucer Review* and has published four collections of essays on Chaucer in collaboration with his wife, Susanna Fein. He has also authored dozens of scholarly articles on Chaucer including a study of the Becket miracle windows at Canterbury Cathedral.
- ◆ Spend two days in London and enjoy private, guided tours to some of its most historic sites, including Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, and St. Paul's Cathedral
- ◆ Take a guided tour to beautiful Leeds Castle and enjoy a picnic in its stunning gardens



The George Inn



Our journey crosses the serene beauty of the Kent Downs

## Day-to-Day Tour Summary

steps of the great 14th-century bard. We conclude with a visit to stunning Westminster Abbey where we pay our respects to Chaucer at the site of his humble tomb in the abbey's revered 'Poets' Corner.' Later this afternoon, we enjoy some free time to further explore London on our own before gathering this evening at the last surviving galleried coaching inn in London, The George Inn—which lies just a few yards from where the Tabard Inn once stood. Here we enjoy conversation, comradery, and merriment much in the same way that Chaucer's pilgrims did, before setting off on our pilgrimage tomorrow. [B]

### DAY 3

#### LONDON—GREENWICH—ROCHESTER

Following breakfast, we pack our bags and depart the hotel to gather below the blue plaque which now marks the spot on which the Tabard Inn stood. It is from this location that we depart on our pilgrimage, setting our sights on Canterbury just as Chaucer's pilgrims. Our first waypoint is the ancient stream named Thomas à Watering, which is about one-half hour's walk along the ancient road from London to Dover originally built by the Romans. It was here Chaucer tells us that his pilgrims drew straws to select who would be the first among them to tell their story and we do likewise. Afterward, we head inside the Thomas à Becket pub—which now sits atop the stream—for both refreshment and to hear the first tale. Carrying on, we stop in Greenwich Park to enjoy a visit to the famous Royal Observatory before sitting down to a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic lunch. Afterward, we hear *The Cook's Tale* and then continue by motor coach to visit the ruins of Lesnes Abbey. This unique structure was built just after the Norman Conquest and would have been in the height of its glory in Chaucer's day. But it fell into financial difficulties and disrepair by the early 16th-century and was one of the first abbeys to close under the reign of Henry VIII in 1524. Perhaps it is appropriate that we enjoy *The Prioress's Tale* on these hallowed grounds. Our day concludes by walking the last two miles into the ancient city of Rochester—our resting place tonight—enjoying *The Friar's Tale* and *The Summoner's Tale* along the way. After checking into our hotel, the evening is free for us to explore the picturesque city and its many dining options. [B]

# Day-to-Day Tour Summary

## DAY 4

### ROCHESTER—THURNHAM

Following breakfast and our morning briefing, we take time to explore beautiful Rochester Cathedral and the fascinating ruins of Rochester Castle. There has been a church on this site since AD 603, shortly after St. Augustine's arrival in Canterbury on his mission to convert the Anglo-Saxons. The current Norman Cathedral dates from AD 1083, and surely countless pilgrims making their way to Canterbury would have worshiped here over the centuries. The amazing tower of the castle was constructed early in the 12th century by the Bishop of Rochester and would have still been in pristine shape when Chaucer's pilgrims passed by. After our visit, we take time to hear *The Reeve's Tale* in the castle's yard before departing Rochester and heading into the beautiful Kent Downs. A short walk leads us to one of the most celebrated megaliths in Britain—a Neolithic chambered long barrow known as Kit's Coty House, which dates from 4000—3000 BC and is, in fact, older than Stonehenge. Pilgrims have visited this site on their way to Canterbury for centuries; notable amongst them are Samuel Pepys in the 17th century and George Orwell in 1938. We hear *The Miller's Tale* here before enjoying a hearty pub lunch. Following lunch we visit the nearby Countless Stones (also known as Little Kit's Coty House), yet another Neolithic burial site, where we hear *The Tale of Melibee*. Forging ahead, we continue our journey along the ancient Pilgrim's Way while hearing *The Doctor of Physic's Tale*. Our path leads us right to our lodging for the night in the charming village of Thurnham. This evening we gather for an engaging seminar dinner during which Professor Raybin leads us in conversation and we hear *The Wife of Bath's Tale* and *The Pardoner's Tale*. Afterward, those who wish can continue the conversation while enjoying drinks in the lively local pub. [B | D]

## DAY 5

### THURNHAM—LEEDS CASTLE—WYE

Following a good night's rest and a hearty breakfast, we enjoy a morning briefing with our tour leader and listen to *The Knight's Tale* before setting off across the downs. A short walk brings us to imposing Leeds Castle, a structure world-



Tower Bridge—one of London's icons

### TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Experience the breathtaking beauty of the Kent Downs and visit some of the areas most celebrated landmarks
- ◆ Visit the historic city of Rochester and take a tour of its famous Norman castle
- ◆ Spend two days in historic Canterbury and enjoy a private, guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral—a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ◆ Explore the world-renowned Royal Observatory in Greenwich
- ◆ Visit the impressive Neolithic megalith known as Kit Coty's House—which even predates Stonehenge.



## WHAT YOU SEE

LONDON

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

CHAUCER'S TOMB

THOMAS À WATERING STREAM

GREENWICH PARK

GREENWICH ROYAL  
OBSERVATORY

LISNES ABBEY

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

ROCHESTER CASTLE

KENT DOWNS

KIT'S COTY HOUSE

COUNTLESS STONES

THURNHAM

LEEDS CASTLE

NORTH DOWNS

WYE

OSPRINGE

THE MAISON DIEU

HOSPITAL OF ST. NICOLAS

FAVERSHAM

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

BEANY HOUSE OF ART AND  
KNOWLEDGE

ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY

EASTBRIDGE HOSPITAL

CANTERBURY HERITAGE  
MUSEUM



The Neolithic long barrow, Kit's Coty, dates from 3000 BC

## Day-to-Day Tour Summary

renowned for both its beauty and its history. Construction on the castle began in 1278, and for over three centuries it was a royal residence. We enjoy a tour of the castle and gardens before sitting down to a Scholarly Sojourns signature picnic on the banks of the idyllic moat where we also explore *The Merchant's Tale*. After lunch, we continue our pilgrimage across the downs and hear *The Clerk's Tale* along the way. This afternoon we arrive at our historic lodging in one of the North Downs' most charming villages and enjoy some time to relax and explore before gathering for another lively seminar dinner. We hear *The Monk's Tale* and *The Nun's Priest's Tale* while enjoying our meal which features the best of classic British cuisine. [B | L | D]

### DAY 6

#### WYE—OSPRINGE—FAVERSHAM—CANTERBURY

We set off to walk for one last day across the beautiful North Downs this morning, enjoying *The Canon's Yeoman's Tale* en route, to the tiny village of Ospringe where we encounter a remarkable, historic structure—The Maison Dieu. This unique, flint and timber-framed building was originally commissioned by King Henry III in 1234, and served as a wayside hostelry and hospital for pilgrims making their way to Canterbury. The original structure contained chambers for the king, so it is not unreasonable to assume Chaucer himself may have stayed here while traveling on official business while working for the crown. After enjoying our privately-guided visit to the historic monument, we take time to hear *The Parson's Tale* before continuing to the lovely town of Faversham where we enjoy some free time to shop and have lunch in its atmospheric streets. Continuing the final leg of our journey, we arrive in the beautiful village of Boughton-under-Blean where we hear *The Clerk's Tale*. We continue to the village of Harbledown on the outskirts of Canterbury where we visit the ancient Hospital of St. Nicolas—founded in 1084 as a lepers' hospital. The inmates here once supported themselves by displaying a slipper that had been worn by St. Thomas Becket as passing pilgrims would provide a donation for the opportunity to view it. It is here that we enjoy *The Manciple's Tale*, which includes a direct reference to the village. Afterward, we are treated to a welcome site—the soaring spires of Canterbury Cathedral in the distance. Continuing toward the shimmering edifice, we

*“The absolute most  
amazing vacation  
I've ever been  
on...”*

—Jessica H., San Francisco, CA

# Day-to-Day Tour Summary

arrive just before Evensong for those who wish to attend. The remainder of the evening is free to enjoy the vibrant, historic city. [B]

## DAY 7 CANTERBURY

Following breakfast and a morning briefing, we take an extensive walking tour of historic Canterbury guided by a local historian. Together we visit all of the sites that would have greeted Chaucer's pilgrims as they entered the ancient city, including Canterbury's Norman castle, St. Augustine's Abbey, and historic Eastbridge Hospital, which has been welcoming pilgrims for over 800 years. We conclude with a visit to the award-winning Canterbury Heritage Museum and the remainder of the afternoon is left free for you to explore the city on your own, perhaps doing some shopping in the high street or taking a boat tour along the great River Stour. This evening we gather for our closing dinner at celebrated Deeson's Restaurant, which specializes in classic English cuisine. Together we read Chaucer's *Retraction* which concludes *The Canterbury Tales* and ponder his motives for including it in the work. Following dinner, we gather for one last evening of comradery and merriment at a very historic hostelry nearby. [B|D]

## DAY 8 TOUR CONCLUDES IN CANTERBURY, ENGLAND

Following breakfast, we gather with Professor Raybin for one final morning briefing before making our way to the cathedral where we visit the shrine marking the exact spot where St. Thomas was martyred. We conclude with a tour of the historic structure guided by one of the deans before saying our farewells and making our way to the train station for departures. [B]



The ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey

*“We seemed to get special treatment everywhere we went. This made a good tour a fabulous tour.”*

- Richard H., Myrtle Beach, SC

### BOOKING IS EASY!

#### 1) CALL TO REGISTER OR USE OUR ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Call us at 1-800-419-3443. Our friendly customer service team is ready to assist you Mon—Fri, 9:00AM—5:00PM (EST). Or, you can complete the [online registration form](#) anytime.

#### 2) WE WILL CONFIRM YOUR REGISTRATION BY EMAIL

Within 24 hours you will receive an email confirmation of your registration along with some additional information and an invoice for the deposit due.

#### 3) RETURN THE PAPERWORK AND PAY THE DEPOSIT

Simply review the registration documents and pay the deposit within 14 days to finalize your booking.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

### SAVE WITH SOJOURN COMBINATIONS!

Save \$250 per person and receive a free transfer between locations when you book two consecutive sojourns.

THIS TOUR COMBINES WELL WITH:

[FELL WALKING WITH THE ROMANTIC POETS](#)  
[ROMAN BRITAIN](#)

## WEATHER & CLIMATE

In July, London's and Canterbury's average temperature is 19°C/67°F and hardly changes as the month progresses. Daily high temperatures are constant at 23°C/74°F. Daily low temperatures follow a similar pattern and are constant around 15°C/59°F.

This region experiences a fair amount of rain this time of year. Light rain is the most common type of precipitation. Participants are encouraged to bring a lightweight, waterproof jacket or a small umbrella. The humidity levels vary greatly depending upon location. Inland is hotter and drier, while the coastal climate is slightly cooler and more humid.

*"This was an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will take with me personally and professionally for the rest of my life."*

- Scott K., Waltham, MA



Rochester Cathedral

## Tour Map



# Lodging



## The Mad Hatter Hotel - London

Situated in the bustling Borough of Southwark, one of the oldest parts of London, and just steps from the mighty River Thames, the Mad Hatter Hotel offers guests unique accommodation and the perfect balance between traditional comfort and the latest facilities. The building was once a hat factory and the beautiful original exterior now houses comfortable and modern rooms.



## Historic Country Inns - Kent Downs

While completing our three-day pilgrimage between London and Canterbury, we lodge in a select group of historic country inns that create the perfect setting. These inns have been praised for both the comfort of their accommodations and their historic details. Some of the inns are also village pubs, not unlike what Chaucer would have envisioned for his pilgrims.



## Pilgrims Hotel – Canterbury, England

Situated within the Roman city walls of historic Canterbury, this family-run, boutique hotel dates to the 16th century. Its central location means it is only steps away from the city's numerous attractions—including renowned Canterbury Cathedral—and makes it the perfect abode from which to visit the city and enjoy the shops, historic sites and traditional architecture

For a complete list of lodging on this tour, please visit [www.scholarlysojourns.com](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com).



The historic Maison Dieu in Ospringe dates from the 13th century



## YOUR TOUR LEADER

David Raybin is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English at Eastern Illinois University. The main focus of his teaching and scholarship is the writings of Chaucer, with occasional forays into medieval French literature. He is editor of *The Chaucer Review* and he has also produced four collections of essays on Chaucer, working in collaboration with his wife Susanna Fein. Their books include *Chaucer: Visual Approaches*; *Chaucer: Contemporary Approaches*; *Rebels and Rivals: The Contestive Spirit in The Canterbury Tales*; and the three-volume edition *The Complete Harley 2253 Manuscript*. Prof. Raybin has authored dozens of articles and chapters on Chaucer and other medieval subjects, most recently a study of the Becket miracle windows at Canterbury Cathedral. In addition, he has directed many seminars on *The Canterbury Tales* for the National Endowment of the Humanities. A highlight of these seminars has been a trip along the pilgrimage route from London to Canterbury.

An enthusiastic teacher-scholar, Prof. Raybin was named both Professor Laureate and Distinguished Professor at Eastern Illinois. In 2011 he was honored as Illinois Professor of the Year by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation. In his free time, he travels extensively in Europe and North America. Leading an Active Scholar Sojourn combines two of his greatest pleasures: enjoying Chaucer's poetry and walking through the English countryside.

# Tour Details & Registration Information

## THE CANTERBURY TALES PILGRIMAGE

### 2017 DEPARTURE

July 16—23, 2017 (Sojourn #1191729)

### PRICE

\$2,799/person (double occupancy)

\$3,199/person (single occupancy)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)

### TOUR BEGINS

London, England

### TOUR CONCLUDES

Canterbury, England

### OPTIONAL AIR PACKAGE

From \$1,395/Person\*

\*Includes round-trip, economy airfare, airport transfers in the UK, and 100% travel assurance. Price subject to change until booked.

## REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

### TO REGISTER

**Call us: 1-800-419-3443**—We are ready to assist you Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (EST).

**Visit us at: [www.scholarlysojourns.com](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com)**—Here you will find an online registration form as well as a printable version.

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Due within 14 days of registration: \$500/person deposit

Due 90 days prior to departure: Balance

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Scholarly Sojourns highly recommends that all of our tour participants purchase travel insurance to protect their trip. We will send further information once you have been confirmed on a sojourn.

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### PRICE INCLUDES

Eight-day travel program of briefings, presentations, discussions, sight-seeing, and guided tours led by Professor David Raybin; 7 nights hotel accommodation in superior, boutique hotels; 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners and 1 reception; visits, excursions and all other activities described in the day-to-day tour summary; all entrance fees; tour guides; ground transportation; train transportation; all gratuities (except for hotel porters). **Included meals are indicated in brackets following each daily description: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner; R = Reception.**

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

Airfare; airport transfers; meals not indicated in this detailed itinerary; beverage options other than water, wine, beer, or soft-drinks with group meals; local transportation by bus, taxi, metro or light rail; passport or visa fees and necessary photos; immunizations; excess baggage charges; airport taxes; travel insurance, medical, hospitalization, or evacuation costs; gratuities for hotel porters; laundry; other personal items, including incidental hotel charges; any other item not specifically indicated.

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

### MEETING LOCATION AND TIME

The meeting point for this sojourn is the Mad Hatter Hotel in London, England. Those making their own flight/travel arrangements must plan to arrive at the hotel between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 16, 2017. You will be greeted there by your Scholarly Sojourns Tour Director who will assist you with checking in. The program begins promptly at 3:00 PM on Sunday, July 16, 2017. The first scheduled activity is a special welcome reception with tour leader David Raybin and fellow sojourn members.

### CONCLUSION AND DEPARTURE

Your tour concludes at approximately 12:00 PM in Canterbury, England on Sunday, July 23, 2017. If making your own flight arrangements, please make sure to allow for enough time to travel to the airport after the program ends.

### EARLY ARRIVAL OR LATE DEPARTURE

Scholarly Sojourns is happy to assist you with booking additional nights prior to the start of your tour or following its conclusion. Often we are able to secure better rates than are available to the general public. We are also happy to provide itinerary suggestions should you wish to do additional travel in the UK.



SCHOLARLY SOJOURNS | [www.scholarlysojourns.com](http://www.scholarlysojourns.com)

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