

UW Alumni British Rock Stars 2025: Liverpool, London, and Cambridge

Sixty years ago, the Beatles touched down at JFK Airport and kicked off the British Invasion. In May 2025, join UW English professors Kent Drummond and Susan Aronstein as we turn the tables and invade Britain! We've designed an alumni and friends tour like no other, focusing on the marketing machinery that keeps Britain atop the rock pile. In Liverpool, birthplace of the Beatles, we'll stand in Paul McCartney's living room, where he and John Lennon wrote such hits as "She Loves You." In London, birthplace of the Swinging '60s, we'll brave the Abbey Road zebra crossing and dine with Pattie Boyd: fashion icon, wife of George Harrison and Eric Clapton, and rock's greatest muse. And in Cambridge, alma mater of Sir Isaac Newton, we'll gain behind-the-scenes-access to one of the world's largest brain trusts. Along the way, we'll learn that many of Britain's markets rock stars don't play guitars. The first 14 travelers who make a non-refundable deposit will be accepted on this journey.

Trip Dates: Depart U.S. Thursday, May 22, 2025, return to U.S. Saturday, May 31, 2025

Price:

Double room nightly plus all inclusions listed below = \$5,055

Single occupancy room plus all inclusions listed below = \$6,920

What's included:

Guide & transport:

- Expert guidance and insights from Dr. Kent Drummond and Dr. Susan Aronstein at every step along our journey.
- Charter bus from Heathrow to Liverpool
- Oyster Card
- London to Cambridge Train
- Transportation to Heathrow

Accommodation:

- 8 nights in rooms with private bathroom in Comfort-Class hotels [including Radisson RED Liverpool](#) and [Copthorne Tara Hotel London Kensington](#)

Meal plan:

- Daily breakfast included at each hotel
- One group lunch
- Two group dinners

Excursions and Entrances

- [Magical Mystery Tour](#) and [The Beatles Story](#)
- Walk along Liverpool's Waterfront
- [National Trust Child Homes](#)
- [British Music Experience](#)
- [Black Taxi Tour](#)
- Beatles Walking Tour led by Kent and Susan
- Drinks and Dinner with Pattie Boyd and Rod Weston
- Walk to [Primrose Hill](#) and [Camden](#) (optional)
- Punting on the [River Cam](#) in Cambridge
- South Bank Walk
- [Globe Theatre Premium Guided Tour](#)
- [West End Show](#)
- [Kensington Palace or Churchill War Rooms](#)

What's not included:

- Airfare/flights – best flight recommendations TBA
- Drinks other than cocktail night (coffee, hot tea, and juice included in breakfasts)
- Six dinners
- Most lunches except May 28, 2025 (we will stop for lunches, don't worry)
- Personal travel insurance
- Passport, Global Entry/PreCheck, or travel authorization fees.

Itinerary

May 22, 2025 - Depart Denver International Airport, see flight recommendation below. We strongly advise that you take the recommended flights; one bus will pick us all up at the same time from Heathrow.

May 23, 2025– Arrive Heathrow Airport, charter bus pickup. We'll travel to Liverpool and check in to the newly renovated Radisson Red Hotel, located in one of Liverpool's historic buildings. We then head out for our first group dinner at the Cavern Club Restaurant. For those who feel up to it, we'll walk down the stairs and catch some music at the Cavern Club itself, where the Beatles played hundreds of concerts and caught the eye of their eventual manager, Brian Epstein.

May 24, 2025 – We'll have breakfast (included) at the Radisson. Then we'll start the day with the Magical Mystery Tour, visiting iconic Beatles landmarks, including the four neighborhoods where the John, Paul, George and Ringo grew up. Next, we'll visit The Beatles Story Museum, followed by a walk along Liverpool's waterfront.

May 25, 2025 – We'll have breakfast (included) at hotel, then commence our day at the National Trust Childhood Homes Tour. This exclusive tour includes only two stops: the childhood homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Expert docents will guide us through the homes and provide colorful anecdotes of John and Paul's adolescent (mis)adventures. Next, we'll visit the amazing British Museum Experience, which places the Beatles in the context of Britain's rich and varied pop music scene.

May 26, 2025 – We'll have breakfast (included) at the hotel. This morning, a charter bus will take us from Liverpool to London. Upon arrival in London, we'll check into the Copthorne Tara Hotel, located in London's fashionable Kensington High Street. Then we'll take a Black Taxi Tour of London to acclimate ourselves to one of the world's great cities.

May 27, 2025 – We start with breakfast (included) at the hotel. Then we'll embark on the famous Beatles Walking Tour, culminating at the iconic Abbey Road zebra crossing. Photos will be taken! For those who feel up to it, we'll walk to Primrose Hill, the highest point in London, and visit nearby Camden, home of trendy boutiques and a still-edgy punk scene. Finally, our day concludes with an evening with rock legend Pattie Boyd and her charming husband, Rod Weston. Pattie, who was married to both George Harrison and Eric Clapton, inspired such iconic songs as "Something," "Layla," and "Wonderful Tonight." We'll start with champagne and hors d'oeuvres at their beautiful flat, then walk to one of their favorite neighborhood restaurants for dinner. Pattie and Rod's stories of their life and times among rock's greatest luminaries will leave you breathless -- guaranteed!

May 28, 2025 – We have breakfast (included) at the hotel. Today our adventure continues onto Cambridge, where legendary English Professor Emeritus Eric Nye, longtime resident of Cambridge, will be our guide. Eric will show us his favorite haunts in this world-famous university town. We'll also take a punting tour on the river Cam, poled along by some highly engaging Cambridge students. Travel back to London for a quiet evening.

May 29, 2025 – We start with breakfast (included) at the hotel; today we begin with a South Bank Walk led by Kent and Susan. Next, we'll enjoy a premium guided tour of the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Finally, we'll enjoy a West End Show.

May 30, 2025 – We have breakfast (included) at the hotel, then we continue our explorations with a tour of either Kensington Palace, once home to Queen Victoria and Princess Diana and now home to Prince William and Princess Kate; or the Churchill War Rooms, scene of one of the most pivotal moments in WWII history. You'll have free time in the afternoon. Next up is no-host pub tour to conclude our last night in London.

May 31, 2025 – Breakfast is available at the hotel, and today our journey comes to an end. But you'll still have time to pick up those last-minute gifts for friends and family! We'll check out of the hotel and return to Heathrow Airport (recommended flight TBA) on the long and winding road back home.

Flights –

We recommend that you fly out of Denver International Airport on flights TBA. This gets us all to **Heathrow Airport on May 23, 2025. One bus will pick us up as a group that morning. No additional pickup times are available.**

Recommended flights out of and into Denver International Airport are:

- United UA262, nonstop DEN to LHR, departure 8:20 PM Denver time May 22, arrival 12:20 PM LHR time May 23
- United UA263, nonstop LHR to Denver, departure 2:50 PM LHR time May 31, arrival 5:35PM Denver time May 31

Important details:

In order to enter the United Kingdom, you should:

- Make sure that your **passport does not expire earlier than December 1, 2025** (you must have at least 6 months of valid passport time left to enter the United Kingdom).
- **We also recommend that you purchase travel insurance in case of emergency or extraordinary circumstances.**

Deposit and full payment due dates:

Non-refundable deposit: \$1,000 USD is due at booking; deposit should be sent no later than Friday, January 17, 2025.

Balance of full payment: Due by Friday, February 28, 2025.