



**mission travel group**

**TRAVEL WITH HEART**

# Medieval Pilgrimage of the British Isles

England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Irish Republic and Wales.

21 May – 14 June 2012

Led by Revd. Samuel Marsden

Visit the holy shrines of the British Isles to experience some beautiful and unique places and to remember the Celtic and Saxon saints of old with the Revd. Samuel Marsden, the gt.-gt.-gt.-grandson of the famous Revd. Samuel Marsden.

Samuel Marsden is an experienced and respected pilgrimage leader, who has taken groups to the Holy Land, Europe (including Oberammergau) and 'In the Steps of St. Paul' from the UK and Australia over a period of nearly 40 years. He has lived in five countries and speaks a number of languages. Samuel leads pilgrimages as a ministry and does not earn a commission or fee from them. The groups he leads are always ecumenical.



We pray that this tour will create a desire to come closer to God to find the wonder of his love in ordinary daily life through the example of Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the saints and as well as being a marvellous holiday.

Samuel will arrange a pre-tour meeting to help group members get to know each other before travelling and to give them information about the Pilgrimage and hints on ways to get the very best out of the tour.

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**For booking forms and more information go to [www.missiontravel.com.au/marsden2012](http://www.missiontravel.com.au/marsden2012)**

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# Medieval Pilgrimage of the British Isles 2012

## Proposed Schedule

### Day 1 - 21 May

We commence our pilgrimage with a departure from Sydney for London Heathrow with Emirates Airlines via Dubai (meals on plane).

### Day 2 - 22 May

On arrival at Heathrow we make the short journey to the royal city of Winchester and the shrine of St. Swithun! This was also the West Saxon capital of King Alfred the Great and a centre of learning and Christian spirituality. We shall be able to visit the magnificent cathedral and wander around this beautiful ancient city. Then we, like Chaucer's characters, become Canterbury pilgrims as we take the Pilgrims' Way to Canterbury. Overnight in Canterbury.

### Day 3 - 23 May

Today we are able to visit Canterbury Cathedral, the centre of Christian worship for the Church of England and the worldwide Anglican Communion. It is also the site of the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas à Becket in 1170. In the afternoon there will be free time to explore the city. Overnight in Canterbury.

### Day 4 - 24 May

We now set off for the east coast. First we go to St. Peter's-on-the-Wall, Bradwell, the centre of Christianity founded by St. Cedd first bishop to the East Saxons. In the Middle Ages, the shrine of Walsingham in Norfolk - a tranquil and spiritual haven - was one of the three most important pilgrimage destinations in the whole of Europe. Overnight in Walsingham.

### Day 5 - 25 May

We continue up the east coast to Whitby famous for the Council in 664, when most of the Celtic Church adopted the practices of Roman Christians. St. Hilda was the renowned founding abbess of the convent there. Overnight in Whitby.

### Day 6 - 26 May

Today is a day of relaxation. We shall visit the abbey and then there will be free time to enjoy the old town: the Capt. Cook Memorial Museum is a 'must'. Overnight in Whitby.

### Day 7 - 27 May

We travel over the North Yorkshire Moors to Fountains Abbey. This is another ruin but this time set in beautiful parkland near the cathedral city of Ripon. In its heyday it was one of the richest monasteries in the country. There will be time to see the ruins of the Cistercian monastery and the mediaeval mill.

From there we continue to Durham. In the cathedral we can see the tombs of Cuthbert and Bede (the greatest scholar-monk of the Anglo-Saxon period) and view the relics associated with Cuthbert displayed in the Treasury. We continue on towards one of the great British centres of spirituality, Lindesfarne, off the coast of Northumberland. Overnight in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

### Day 8 - 28 May

Today we enjoy the solitude and spiritual atmosphere of the Holy Island. This was once the site of a major monastery and home to St Cuthbert and St Aidan. Overnight in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

### Day 9 - 29 May

We cross the border on our way to Edinburgh to get to know the Scottish saints. We begin with the Celtic Saint Mungo (or Kentigern) and St. Margaret, 11th Century Queen of Scotland. There will be free time later in the day to wander around the centre of the city. Overnight in Edinburgh.

### Day 10 - 30 May

A short journey today brings us to the towns of Dunfermline and Dunblane just over the Firth of Forth. Dunfermline, a former royal city, was the monastic centre established by St. Margaret, where she was buried. The charming old town of Dunblane with a magnificent cathedral was founded by St. Blane and became an important religious and political centre, where the remains of St. Mordoc were laid to rest. On then to overnight in the famous golfing centre of St. Andrew's on the east coast. Here was the shrine of St. Mary-the-Rock now swept away by the sea and here the ruins of the cathedral. Overnight in Edinburgh.

### Day 11 - 31 May

Today we turn westwards and make for the Island of Iona. It is a comparatively long trip but full of interest and beauty traversing the width of Scotland. Overnight on Mull.

### Day 12 - 1 June

In the 6th Century St Columba arrived from Ireland. He set up a community on the island of Iona from where he and his followers spread the Gospel into the Pictish communities. The island is the perfect place for quiet reflection and today is a major ecumenical centre. Overnight on Mull.

### Day 13 - 2 June

Our destination today is the small fishing port of Whithorn, the earliest pilgrimage shrine in Scotland. The church (Candida Casa) was built by St. Ninian around 397 and it is

claimed to be the first church built in Scotland, of which traces still remain. Overnight in Newton Stewart.

### Day 14 - 3 June

We cross the Irish Sea by a late morning ferry to land at Larne and continue to the city of Derry (Londonderry). On the way we call at Cranfield, where the ruins of an ancient Irish church and St Olcan's Holy Well lie on the northern edge of picturesque Lough Neagh. Overnight in (London-) Derry.

### Day 15 - 4 June

Today we have the time to uncover the secrets of the second city of Northern Ireland. St. Columba, after whom the town is named, founded a monastery there in the 6th Century. We shall visit St. Columba's Cathedral and then there will be free time to wander and enjoy the shops or city walls. Overnight in (London-) Derry.

### Day 16 - 5 June

From Derry we work our way southwards into the Republic, first to Croagh Patrick, where it is said that St. Patrick spent 40 days on the summit communing with God and praying for the people of Ireland, and then on to Clonmacnoise on the River Shannon, founded by St. Ciaran in 548 to become an important religious centre. Overnight in Tullamore.

### Day 17 - 6 June

We now make our way eastwards to Warrenstown in Co. Meath, where we shall also be able to visit St. John's Well (connected with John the Baptist) for a quiet time together. We continue to Kells, associated with St. Columba and the Book of Kells, and Faughart, where the 5th Century St. Brigid was born. We will visit her shrine before going on to Dublin. Overnight in Dublin.

### Day 18 - 7 June

We have time today to see the Book of Kells in Trinity College and St. Patrick's Cathedral and the well, where he is said to have baptised converts to the Christian Faith. After that we will have time to wander through the streets and soak up the Irish atmosphere or visit other places of interest. Overnight in Dublin.

### Day 19 - 8 June

We have an early start today to catch the ferry to Holyhead in Anglesey as we enter the romantic country of Celtic Wales. We make the short journey to Holywell, associated with Saint Winefride the abbess of a monastery and her uncle, Saint Beuno. Overnight in Abergele.

### Day 20 - 9 June

We travel south through the ever-changing Welsh countryside to the south

westerly point of Wales and St. David's, the smallest city in the UK. In its day St. David's was extremely influential. St. David himself was the main apostle to the Welsh. The Cathedral and its surroundings are entrancing and can be enjoyed at leisure. Overnight in Fishguard.

### Day 21 - 10 June

Today we return to England and go to mysterious Glastonbury, long associated with Joseph of Arimathea, where myth, legend and history intertwine. There will be an opportunity to climb Glastonbury Tor and visit the grounds of the former abbey. We continue now to St. Albans, where the cathedral is built on the site of the first English martyrdom. Overnight in St. Albans.

### Day 1 - 22 June

Today promises many possibilities - a trip to London (visit St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey?), stay quietly in our comfortable hotel, walk across the beautiful park or do some

last minute shopping in the attractive city of St. Albans. Overnight in St. Albans.

### Day 23 - 12 June

Our pilgrimage is coming sadly to an end. In the morning we are able to visit the abbey/cathedral and also go to the original Roman city of Verulamium for our last service together. We make our way to Heathrow for our evening journey home, full of admiration for those who witnessed to the Gospel and sometimes gave their lives for it and determined to keep the Faith better, as they have done.

### Day 24 - 13 June

Travel en-route to Australia. Meals on plane.

### Day 25 - 14 June

We arrive back in Australia with a myriad of memories and full of admiration for those, who at great cost to themselves passed on the Christian Faith in their own generation - an example to us.

## Cost

### PACKAGE RATES PER PERSON:

**\$8999.00 per person.**  
**Single supplement \$1050.00**

### What this includes:

- Economy class airfare flying Emirates inclusive of taxes, ferry fares, touring expenses in all countries visited with an English-speaking tour guide in air-conditioned coaches, entrance fees (including churches/cathedrals as outlined on the itinerary), accommodation in 3-4 star hotels with daily Breakfast and Dinner, some tipping.
- Highway tolls and ferrying fees
- Tips and gratuities to local tour-guides, escorts, motor-coach drivers
- Hotel service charges, local & municipal taxes, VAT

### Not included in the above package cost:

- Lunches
- Drinks
- Additional tipping
- Travel insurance
- Optional tours and taxis
- Personal expenses

### Changes/extensions

Additional extra trips are welcome but must be finalised no later than 60 days before departure. Conditions and restrictions will apply. Please speak to Mission Travel about this, if you wish to extend.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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