

Trip Details for 2025 ABANA Trip to England

Think of this trip like a treasure hunt!

Activities and tours are organized so that each day offers something new to experience, but you will also have time to explore London on your own.

Official Activity Dates: June 2 – June 8, 2025

Cost: \$1,200 for ABANA members and \$900 for an accompanying spouse/partner.

The cost includes:

- Behind-the-scenes tour of ironwork and weaponry at the [Victoria and Albert Museum](#) (V&A). J. Starkie Gardner gate outside.
- Tour of ironwork in [Greenwich](#) by Brian Hall of Hall Conservation, who has done much of the conservation work there. Site of the Old Royal Navy College, Queen's House, etc. The Queen's House is the site of the Tulip Stairs, Britain's first self-supporting spiral staircase.
- Lunch in a pub or cafe while in Greenwich.
- Tour and talk at [Hampton Court Palace](#) by conservation blacksmith David James, a member of the Historic Royal Palaces team. This is the site of the 300-year-old Jean Tijou screen.
- Lunch in a pub or cafe at Hampton Court.
- Tour of [St. Paul's Cathedral](#) to view more work by Jean Tijou
- Tour of the [Globe Theater](#) where the main gates feature work from 150 artists worldwide.
- Transportation to and from the town of Hereford.
- Admission to the forging event at the [Hereford College of Arts](#).
- Food provided while in Hereford:
 - Friday night dinner at The Green Man pub. (Food only, drinks are on you.)
 - Saturday's breakfast and lunch will be catered. Dinner will be a BBQ meal on site.
 - Sunday's breakfast and lunch will be catered.

The cost **does not include**:

- Travel to or from your home and your accommodations (hotels) during the trip. You will be responsible for booking and paying for these items.
- Meals not already provided and any alcohol purchased.
- Side excursions, travel around town (bus, tube, etc.), shopping, and so on will be your financial responsibility.
- Travel insurance. We highly suggest you purchase travel insurance through a company like [Berkshire Hathaway](#) or [World Nomads](#). Make sure you are covered for trip cancellations, travel delays, medical coverage, etc. *Note: US Medicare cannot be used internationally.*

What now?

Step 1: Get your travel documents in order. Helpful links have been provided on our website for your convenience. Requirements vary depending on your country of origin, so ensure you know exactly what you need to travel.

Step 2: Arrange travel to London. Travel to and from the UK is not included in the price of this trip. We have potential travelers from multiple countries, so plan your travel so that you arrive in time to be ready for activities starting on the morning of Monday, June 2.

Pro Tip: If you arrive early enough, Mark Aspery and few hearty souls will be visiting the [Crossness Pumping Station](#) for the architecture and interesting history on Sunday, June 1st. *This is not an official part of the trip; it is just a friendly “come along if you like.”*

Step 3: Book your hotels.

- **London:** You will need accommodations in London from the date of your arrival through checkout on Friday, June 6. We suggest finding a hotel near-ish to Victoria Station. It is a good starting point as a central transportation hub, and we will plan a group meal or two nearby. Choosing your own hotel allows you to book accommodations that fit your lifestyle, taste, and budget, whether posh or economical. Please check reviews, as London has a wide array of options, from a bed in a windowless room to extravagant suites.
- **Hereford:** The group will travel via coach from London to Hereford on Friday, June 6, to participate in a forging event on June 7 and 8 at the Hereford College of Art (HCA) on the campus of Holm Lacy College. You will need accommodations for the nights of June 6 – June 7 in Hereford. We will likely have a meal at [The Green Man](#) (which also offers rooms). There are several hotels and B&Bs in town, and many are on a bus line.

Note: Coach transportation will be provided to and from Hereford. Consider if you plan to leave immediately upon returning to London or if you need a hotel room in London for the night of June 8 (or additional nights if you plan to extend your trip). You could also choose to continue your trip from Hereford (meaning you do not return with the group to London). This option does not reduce the price of the trip and you should notify ABANA of your plans so that we don't worry about you missing the bus back to London.

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If you have any questions, please email socialmedia@abana.org.