



ENGLAND AS THE CUSTODIAN OF THE JEWISH PAST

Led by world-renowned scholar

Professor Gary A. Rendsburg

Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History

Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University

July 31 – August 11, 2023

12 Days / 11 Nights

SABABA TRAVEL

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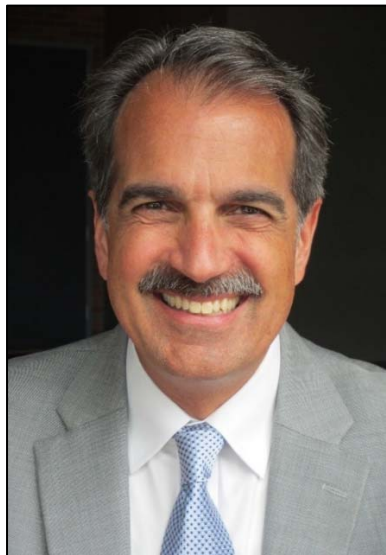
<https://sababatravel.com/>

Scholar-in-Residence **Professor Gary A. Rendsburg**

Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair in Jewish History
Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University

Gary A. Rendsburg is one of the world's leading experts in the Bible, Jewish history, and Hebrew manuscripts. He has lived in both Oxford and Cambridge and has conducted extensive research both at the Bodleian Library (Oxford) and at the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit of the Cambridge University Library.

In addition, he knows the collections at the British Library and the British Museum well, plus he has visited all the other sites on our itinerary, from Stonehenge to Blenheim Palace and beyond.



Welcome to England!

Monday, July 31, 2023

Arrival – Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Upon arrival at London Heathrow Airport (LHR), you are transferred as a group to the city of Oxford. From lush green rolling hills to this medieval town, this pretty country surprises and delights at every corner. Tonight, get to know your fellow travelers, Travel Director, and Scholar-in-Residence over a Welcome Dinner at your hotel.

Overnight: Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Meals Included: Welcome Dinner with wine at the hotel

<https://www.graduatehotels.com/oxford-uk/>



Tuesday, August 1, 2023 **Walking Tour of Oxford**

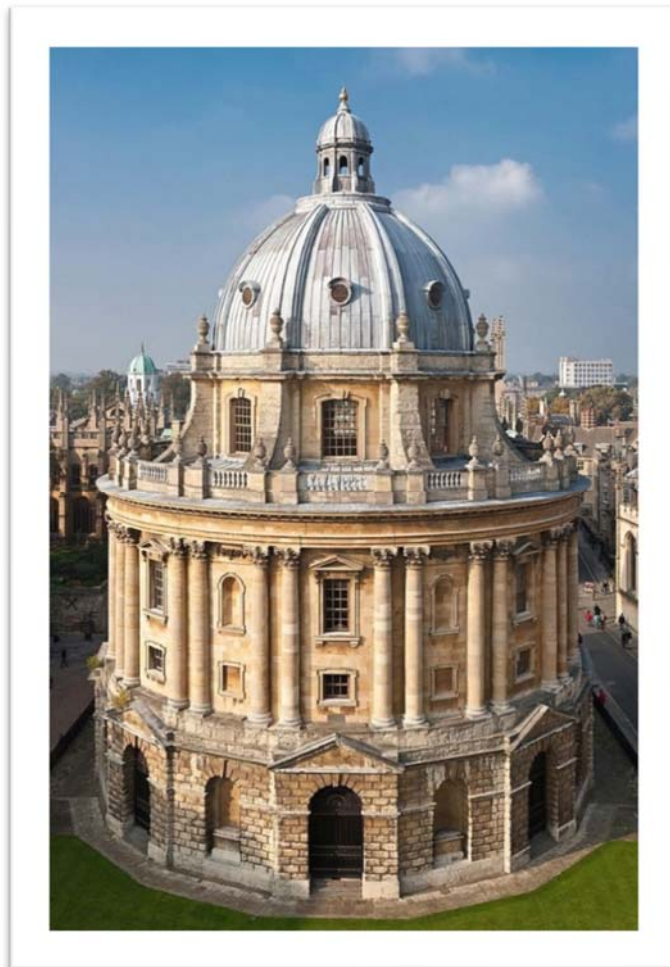
Breakfast at the hotel

Join Gary Rendsburg this morning for a walking tour to discover Oxford. Highlights include: New College, the Bodleian Quad, the Radcliffe Camera, Christ Church College, Dead Man's Walk (along which the medieval Jewish community would convey its dead), and the Oxford Botanic Garden (site of the medieval Jewish cemetery).

Enjoy dinner at the Gardener's Arms, Oxford's popular vegetarian pub.

Overnight: Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Meals Included: Breakfast, dinner with beer



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Wednesday, August 2, 2023
The Bodleian Library

Breakfast at the hotel

Today is dedicated to visiting two of Oxford's libraries, starting with a visit to the Bodleian Library. Guided by César Merchán-Hamann, Hebraica curator, we will see its unsurpassed collection of Hebrew manuscripts, including Maimonides's Mishneh Torah bearing the author's signature, Maimonides's handwritten copy of his Commentary on the Mishna, and the exquisite Kennicott Bible, the crown jewel of all medieval manuscripts.

Continue to Merton College Library for some time to explore the oldest, continuously operating library in the world.

Overnight: Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Meals Included: Breakfast



Thursday, August 3, 2023
Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral, Bampton

Breakfast at the hotel

We begin our day with a ride through the English countryside to reach Stonehenge, one of the great archaeological sites in the world, with its stones dating to the same age as the great pyramids of Egypt.

We then take the short journey to Salisbury Cathedral, the unsurpassed masterpiece of all English cathedrals and the inspiration for Ken Follett's *Pillars of the Earth*. The Cathedral owns one of the four extant copies of Magna Carta, on prominent display in the chapter house.

As we wend our way back to Oxford in the late afternoon, we will make a brief stop in Bampton, the actual village which served as the fictional village of Downton in the television series "Downton Abbey."

Overnight: Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Meals Included: Breakfast



Friday, August 4, 2023 **Blenheim Palace**

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit one of the largest private homes in all of Britain and see its exquisite gardens. Blenheim Palace (9 miles north of Oxford) is home to the present 12th Duke of Marlborough, scion of the extensive Spencer-Churchill family. Notable members of the family include Sir Winston Churchill (who in fact, was born at Blenheim Palace), Consuelo Vanderbilt (who married the 9th Duke of Marlborough), and Lady Diana Spencer (later Princess Diana).

Next stop will be a visit to St Martin's Parish Church in Bladon, the burial spot of Winston Churchill.

Upon return to Oxford, the rest of the day is free until Shabbat services and Shabbat dinner, to be held at the Oxford Jewish Congregation (O.J.C.), a few short blocks from the hotel.

Overnight: Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Meals Included: Breakfast, Dinner



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Saturday, August 5, 2023 **Free Day in Oxford**

Breakfast at the hotel

For those who wish to attend Shabbat services, the O.J.C. is 0.4 miles from our hotel, a short 10-minute walk. Services will be followed by a catered Shabbat lunch (for those pre-registered) in the synagogue.

Overnight: Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Meals Included: Breakfast (and Lunch by special request)



Sunday, August 6, 2023 Bletchley Park and Cambridge

Breakfast at the hotel

Check-Out: Randolph Hotel, Oxford

Today we head to Bletchley Park Museum and heritage attraction, where we will discover firsthand the incredible achievements of Britain's World War II codebreakers, led by Alan Turing (portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch in “The Imitation Game” [2014], which you may wish to watch in advance).

Next grab lunch *al fresco* at Bletchley Park, before we travel to Cambridge, our home for the next 3 nights.

Overnight: Hilton Cambridge City Centre, Cambridge

Meals Included: Breakfast

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/stnhchi-hilton-cambridge-city-centre/>



Monday, August 7, 2023 **Walking Tour of Cambridge**

Breakfast at the hotel

Discover Cambridge this morning on a walking tour with Gary Rendsburg, as we walk down narrow medieval streets, admire old buildings, and enrich our knowledge with visits to two notable buildings: King's College Chapel and the Wren Library at Trinity College.

Use the afternoon to explore Cambridge on your own or relax at the hotel.

Overnight: Hilton Cambridge City Centre, Cambridge

Meals Included: Breakfast



Tuesday, August 8, 2023
Cambridge University Library
(including the Cairo Genizah Collection)

Breakfast at the hotel

Join us today as we discover further the history of Cambridge. First on the agenda: our visit to the Cambridge University Library, home to the most extensive collection of Cairo Genizah documents in the world (c. 200,000, about two-thirds of the total). Your group will be privy to an exclusive guided tour led by Ben Outhwaite, director of the Genizah Research Unit.

Later, enjoy afternoon tea and scones at The Orchard in Grantchester, where Virginia Woolf, E. M. Forster, Bertrand Russell, John Maynard Keynes, and Ludwig Wittgenstein would gather during the summers of the early decades of the 20th century.

Overnight: Hilton Cambridge City Centre, Cambridge
Meals Included: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea



Wednesday, August 9, 2023

Cambridge to London, British Museum, and Globe Theatre

Breakfast at the hotel

Check-Out: Hilton Cambridge City Centre, Cambridge

After breakfast, journey to London for a visit to the world-famous British Museum, the greatest institution in the world for the study of the ancient past. Marvel at the Rosetta Stone, the Gilgamesh Epic, and numerous other artifacts which inform our knowledge of the ancient Near East.

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre – We have included tickets to the evening performance at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, for the most amazing Elizabethan theatrical experience!

Overnight: Radisson Blu Edwardian Kenilworth, London

Meals Included: Breakfast

<https://www.radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/radisson-blu-edwardian-london-kenilworth>



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Thursday, August 10, 2023
British Library

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy one last full day in the lively city of London. In the morning we will explore the Treasures of the British Library, one of the world's great cultural and educational institutions. You then will have the afternoon free to explore London on your own and/or to visit the other great museums (the Tate, the National Gallery, the Victoria & Alpert, etc.).

Celebratory Dinner

This evening you are invited to Sagar (pending confirmation), an Indian vegan-vegetarian restaurant a few blocks from our hotel, for a Celebratory Dinner with your travel companions, Travel Director, and Scholar-in-Residence.

Overnight: Radisson Blu Edwardian Kenilworth, London

Meals Included: Breakfast, Celebratory Dinner with wine



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Friday, August 11, 2023
Cheerio London!

Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, say a fond farewell to London and to your newfound friends as you prepare to return home after a memorable holiday. One group transfer to London Heathrow is included. Individual transfers to other London airports and railway stations are available at an additional charge.

Meals Included: Breakfast



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Cost Per Person based on a minimum of 20 participants: \$6799

Single Supplement: \$2230

HOTELS: Accommodation at hotels includes **breakfast daily** and hotel service charge. The pricing has been based on the following hotels:

July 31 – August 6 (6 nights) – Randolph Hotel, Oxford

August 6 – August 9 (3 nights) – Hilton Hotel, Cambridge

August 9 – August 11 (2 nights) – Radisson Blu, London

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

11 breakfasts, 1 afternoon tea, 1 lunch, 3 dinners

Audio Headsets for flexible sightseeing

Luxury air-conditioned coach with WiFi

Local coach bus or airport transfer only

Select hotels all tried and trusted

All portorage (1 bag per person)

Restaurant gratuities for included meals

Expert Travel Director and a professional driver

All hotel tips, charges, and local taxes

Gratuities to Travel Director, Coach Drivers, and Local Experts

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

Early check-in or late check-out

International airfares

Travel insurance, passport fees, visa fees, etc.

Laundry, phone calls, etc.

Items of a personal nature

Beverages, meals, and sightseeing not detailed in the itinerary

Excess baggage (beyond the 1 bag per person)

Optional Experiences

Shabbat Lunch (must pre-register)



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“This blessed plot, this Earth, this realm, this England.”

— William Shakespeare, *King Richard II*, Act 2, Scene 1

“Till we have built Jerusalem
In England’s green and pleasant land!”

— William Blake, “And did those feet in ancient time”