



Oscar Wilde's
DUBLIN • LONDON • PARIS
Starting in October 2014

Dublin, London, Paris. Cities of dreamers, poets and artists. Centers of love, light and literature. Capitals of empire, culture and fashion. And now, yours to discover as never before...

Join us for a journey unlike any other. On this tour, we will explore three of the great capitals of Europe, luxuriating in their cultural riches and steeping ourselves in their magnificent history. Yet we will see them from a unique perspective—through the lens of their rich gay history, so long hidden from view.

Our history, revealed

Following the life of our patron saint, Oscar Wilde, we will trace our way through the gay life of these cities in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will encounter their great monuments and breathtaking sights from the gay point of view. And we will uncover the hidden history of gay men and women who helped shape them—such greats as Marcel Proust, Gertrude Stein, Virginia Woolf and Benjamin Britten.

This tour will do more than just open your eyes to hidden gay history. It will open doors to sites that are closed to the public. And it will open your mind to the forgotten contribution of gay men and women—through special lectures and artistic performances—that highlight their cultural achievements.

And of course, in the spirit of Oscar Wilde, we will enjoy refinement and luxury—from sumptuous hotels and exquisite restaurants to fine wines and distinguished service.

It's the very least Oscar would expect of us...



Highlights



Visit places usually closed to (or overlooked by) the public, such as Wilde's rooms at Oxford, fascinating house museums in London, and one of Paris' last amazing Belle Epoque interiors.

Tour the National Portrait Gallery in London, where an astonishing array of famous gay people are immortalized, and visit Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris—final resting place of gay men and women who conquered the artistic world.

Luxuriate in stunning culinary experiences, from one of the loveliest afternoon teas in the British Isles to an elegant café in Paris frequented by such greats as Wilde, Lenin and Hemingway.

Treat your intellect to a brilliant array of lecturers: leading Wilde scholars from three countries; authors and academics specializing in gay history; actors and playwrights who explore gay identity in theater and art.





Itinerary



Oscar Wilde Tours spends considerable effort curating each departure, and we always offer unique experiences not mentioned in our itinerary. As a result, some specifics may vary—according to the seasonal hours of private collections or the availability of our carefully selected speakers. The Oscar Wilde experience is different each time, but will always contain extra surprises. Please contact us for the details of yours!

DAY 1 Arrive in Dublin, where you will be met by our welcoming staff. Attend a mini-orientation in the center of the city, followed by a welcome dinner at one of Dublin's finest tables, showcasing Ireland's succulent beef and produce, as well as fish from the Irish Sea.

DAY 2 Begin with a walking tour of central Dublin. From Trinity College to Christ Church Cathedral, delve into the great struggle for Irish independence and Ireland's astonishing literary history. We will see many landmarks of Wilde's early life: his birthplace, the church where he was christened, his childhood home. After lunch, a talk about Wilde's relationship to Ireland, delivered by one of Ireland's leading Wilde scholars. We finish our day with one of the loveliest afternoon teas in the British Isles. Dinner and evening at leisure.



DAY 3 Fly to London and drink in the majesty of one of the world's great cities. In addition to the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square and St. Paul's Cathedral, discover the many intriguing sites of London's rich gay history—from the Café Royal, a favorite haunt of Virginia Woolf and Noel Coward, to the Cadogan Hotel, where Wilde was arrested. In the afternoon, enjoy a talk by one of England's leading Wildeans, followed by a champagne reception. Dinner and evening at leisure.



DAY 4 Begin this morning with a tour of the magnificent National Portrait Gallery. Explore the entire history of Britain in portraits, including a parade of gay figures ranging from the Plantagenet king Edward II, murdered by barons over his royal "favorite," to the great contemporary actor Sir Ian McKellen. Then proceed on foot through the West End and Soho, two neighborhoods steeped in gay history. Lunch in a private room at Kettner's, famous for its role in Wilde's downfall and the favorite restaurant of Agatha Christie. In the afternoon, visit Bloomsbury and learn about the Bloomsbury Group, forerunners of the modern sexual revolution. Finish at the British Museum—one of the world's greatest cultural monuments and home to some fascinating gay artifacts. Dinner and evening at leisure.



DAY 5 In the morning, a tour of Chelsea, starting at Wilde's famous house in Tite Street. Then on to the historic homes of Lord Leighton (famous for its splendid "Arabian" hall) and Linley Sambourne, a celebrated cartoonist for *Punch* magazine. Both well-to-do artists were acquainted with Wilde, and their exceptionally well-preserved surroundings present a finely detailed picture of life in aesthetic fin-de-siècle London. Afternoon and evening are free. Explore everything London has to offer, from shopping and museums, to theaters, restaurants and bars. (Note that Wilde's plays, as well as other gay-themed works, are often performed in London, and we will keep you informed.)





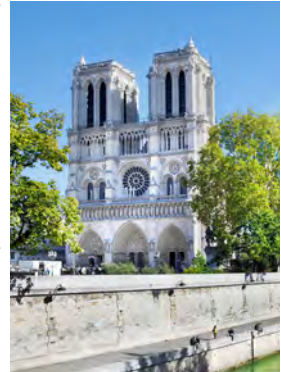
DAY 6 A day at Oxford, home to the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Start with a walking tour of the breathtaking architecture of the university's colleges, and follow in the footsteps of its famous gay graduates, such as poet W. H. Auden. Our tour of Wilde's college, Magdalen, includes a visit to his rooms (normally closed to the public) and some of the college's other Wildean treasures. In the afternoon, enjoy a talk on Oxford's central role in gay history. We have some free time in Oxford, to visit the Ashmolean Museum, the Botanical Garden, or Blackwell's—Oxford's main bookstore since 1879—followed by dinner in a charming Oxford pub, founded in the 17th century and frequently featured in *Inspector Morse*.



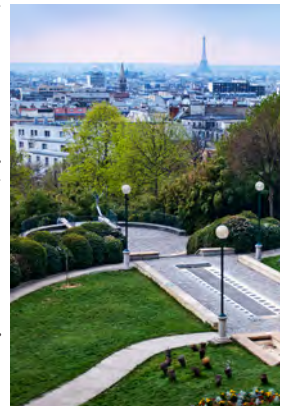
DAY 7 To Paris on the Eurostar. On arrival, a tour of the City of Light focusing on the Belle Epoque, when Paris was the epicenter of world culture, and the city's rich gay history. We stop to see one of Paris' few remaining Belle Epoque interiors—a rarely visited marvel from Wilde's period. After the tour, dinner at one of Paris' loveliest cafés, a favorite of poets and expats from Verlaine and Wilde to Lenin and Hemingway.



DAY 8 A walking tour of the Left Bank, with its many literary, artistic and gay associations—from Gertrude Stein's salon to James Baldwin's favorite café and the hotel where Wilde spent his sad last days. Further exploration of Paris, including the famously secluded Ile St. Louis, the Jewish ghetto and the city's main gay village. The evening is yours to explore Paris' many wonderful restaurants, bars or famous shows, such as the Folies Bergères or the drag revue Chez Michou (run by the man who inspired *La Cage aux Folles*).



DAY 9 Morning tour of the famous Père Lachaise Cemetery, starting with Wilde's grave (now behind plexiglass to protect it from lipstick!). See the final resting places of some of the world's greatest artists, both gay (Proust and Gertrude Stein) and straight (Chopin and Jim Morrison). On to the nearby Parc de Belleville, which offers a splendid view of the city, and perhaps a coffee on the terrace at L'O'Paris, a magnet for today's hip Parisians. The afternoon is free for your own exploration of the world's most beautiful city: museums, shopping, café life... In the evening, a farewell dinner in a charming 19th century restaurant with the kind of warm and attentive service you would expect in the French countryside—and magnificent regional food. An occasion to savor excellent French wines, and to toast new friends and the rich gay history of the three lovely cities we have visited!





Our Service



Luxury...that dares to speak its name

More than just a passport to gay history, your tour is an entry into a world of pampering fit for a king or queen. From sumptuous hotels that charm the senses, to exquisite cuisine that delights the palate, the Oscar Wilde experience remains faithful to the credo of our patron saint:

“Let me be surrounded by luxury, I can do without the necessities!”

Oscar Wilde Tours is a different kind of tour company. We are dedicated to bringing our guests a unique experience of gay history while ensuring they enjoy the finest in luxury travel. Founded by historian and author Andrew Lear, the company draws on Professor Lear’s expertise in gay history and literature as well as over 20 years of experience in designing and conducting tours.

Professor Lear conducts your tour, assisted by local guides chosen for their expertise in gay issues. With tours capped at 20 guests, you can rest assured you will never want for personalized service or attention. An Oscar Wilde tour is a truly exceptional experience—an exploration of the gay experience, whose memories you will cherish and whose sensations you will recall long after it is over.

Prices start at \$8500.

To book your Oscar Wilde experience,
contact our private telephone booking office at
(646) 560-3205

For additional questions, please contact
info@oscarwildetours.com

See website for terms and conditions.