

From Tapestry to Tower: The Norman Legacy in London and Beyond

The Arts Society Worcester

£899 per person*

14th - 17th March 2027

4 Days 3 Nights

What's included

- Executive touring coach
- 3 nights bed & breakfast accommodation in central London
- Dinner on arrival night
- En-route visit to Dorchester Abbey for a guided tour
- Visit to the British Museum & timed admission to the Bayeux Tapestry
- Half day guided tour to include St Barts the Great & Temple Church
- Guided tour of The Tower of London
- Time at leisure to explore London as you wish

Extras

- Single supplement - £276pp (twin/double for sole occupancy)
- Gratuities

The exact order of excursions will be included in your itinerary, which you should expect to receive approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

*Based on a minimum of 25 members travelling. Should fewer travel the price will increase.

How to book

Please fill in the [TAS Worcester online booking form](#) and follow the instructions there to book with Success Tours to allow them to book the Bayeux entry tickets.

A £100 pp deposit is required.

If, upon the release of tickets, we are unable to secure a booking, the tour will be cancelled and all monies refunded.

Please ensure you have read our terms prior to booking
www.successtours.com/booking-terms-conditions



Tower of London



Bayeux Tapestry Courtesy of Landmark Tours

Explore the architectural and artistic legacy of the 1066 Norman Conquest and its impact on London. Visit The British Museum to view the Bayeux Tapestry exhibition, a 70-metre embroidery providing a detailed visual record of medieval warfare and Romanesque design. Discover the military stamp of the Conquest at the Tower of London, learn more about the defensive White Tower and step inside St John's Chapel, a pristine example of early Anglo-Norman architecture. Learn more from a guided tour, including St Bartholomew the Great, London's oldest continuous parish church, founded in 1123, with its original 12th-century Romanesque monastic arcades and heavy masonry.

Dorchester Abbey

Located in the historic village of Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, Dorchester Abbey stands on the prominent site of a 7th-century Saxon cathedral. Following the post-Conquest relocation of the historic bishopric to Lincoln, the church was re-founded in 1140 by Bishop Alexander of Lincoln as an abbey of Augustinian Canons, who rebuilt the structure in the transitional Norman style. Today, its early Norman heritage remains visible within the heavy masonry of the original north transept and its doorway. Beyond its Romanesque roots, the Abbey's primary architectural attractions include one of England's few surviving 12th-century cast lead fonts—ornately sculpted with figures of the Apostles under an arcade—and the magnificent 14th-century Jesse Tree Window, which seamlessly blends intricate stone carving and medieval stained glass.

British Museum & the Bayeux Tapestry

As a world-renowned hub for material culture, The British Museum becomes the global epicentre of Norman history and Romanesque art with its blockbuster exhibition hosting the Bayeux Tapestry from September 10, 2026, through July 11, 2027. Displayed in Room 30 (the Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery), this monumental 70-metre embroidered masterpiece marks its first physical return to British soil in nearly 1,000 years, a historic diplomatic loan made possible while its permanent home in Normandy undergoes extensive renovations. Through 58 intricately stitched scenes executed in crewel wool on linen, the tapestry represents a supreme achievement of secular medieval art, serving as a vital visual record of the 1066 Norman Conquest, the events leading to the Battle of Hastings, and William the Conqueror's seizure of the English throne. While commissioned by a Norman patron - widely believed to be William's half-brother, Bishop Odo - the craftsmanship itself belongs to English embroiderers, likely executed in Kent or Canterbury within a decade of the invasion. To expand the historical narrative, the museum pairs this centrepiece with highlights from its own permanent medieval collections and supplementary international loans, illustrating the profound socio-political changes, military strategies, and cultural synthesis of the Anglo-Norman era.

Tower of London

Discover the raw, stone-bound ambition of the Norman Conquest at the iconic Tower of London. Commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1078 and designed by Gundulf, Bishop of Rochester, the colossal White Tower was engineered specifically to awe, subdue, and intimidate the local population. Standing 27 metres tall with massive walls up to 4.6 metres thick, this masterpiece of Anglo-Norman military architecture

marked a radical shift from the single-story, timber-framed dwellings common among the Anglo-Saxons into an era of monumental stone fortresses. Ascend into the keep to uncover its crowning architectural and spiritual heart: St John's Chapel. Constructed around 1080 from fine-cut Caen limestone shipped across the Channel from Normandy, it stands today as London's oldest surviving complete chapel. The sanctuary offers a powerfully atmospheric encounter with pure Romanesque design. Wander through its tunnel-vaulted nave and groin-vaulted aisles, marvelling at the thick, round piers and simple stone capitals carved with classic scallop and leaf motifs. Stripped of later medieval paint, its bare stone reveals a wonderfully austere beauty—a timeless physical testament to the fearsome statecraft and religious devotion of England's first Norman kings.

St Bartholomews the Great

St ep into over nine centuries of living history at St Bartholomew the Great, London's oldest continuous parish church. Founded in 1123 by Rahere, a prominent courtier to King Henry I, this deeply atmospheric sanctuary stands as a magnificent display of pure Anglo-Norman Romanesque design, characterized by its massive stone piers and soaring rounded arcades. Having miraculously survived the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Great Fire of 1666, and the Blitz, its historic structure forms an enduring physical chronicle of resilience—spanning from its grand 12th-century monastic choir to the 16th-century Prior Bolton's Oriel Window and the 18th-century cloister print shop where a young Benjamin Franklin once worked.

Temple Church

Tucked away in a quiet courtyard between Fleet Street and the River Thames lies Temple Church, one of London's most historic and visually arresting medieval treasures. Consecrated in 1185 by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, this sacred sanctuary was established by the legendary Knights Templar as their headquarters in England and built with an iconic circular nave modelled directly after the rotunda of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Architecturally, the building acts as a magnificent hybrid bridge, seamlessly combining the robust, rounded arches of the Norman Romanesque era with some of the earliest pointed Gothic arches in the country. Visitors passing through the ornate Western doorway (which preserves the church's only original, unaltered 12th-century stonework) will walk among the famous stone effigies of crusader knights, including the great William Marshal, who defended the realm and negotiated the foundations of the Magna Carta. *Please note: internal access for visiting is available outside of service times.*

DoubleTree by Hilton London West End

Located in the historic district of Bloomsbury, a short walk from the British Museum, this hotel is beautifully housed in a Grade II-listed Edwardian building dating back to 1911. It offers an ideal base for exploring the city, at the gateway to the West End and a short stroll to Covent Garden. Comfortable en-suite bedrooms feature free WiFi, television, laptop safe, hairdryer and tea/coffee facility. Guests can relax at the end of the day in the Writing Room, a contemporary restaurant and bar.

